



The Open Door Newsletter

December 2011

Fellowship Service – December 4th – 10 am

Northland College, 2nd floor commons of the Ponzio Center

Speaker: David Saetre, “Incarnation: The Sacred is in the Profane”

This talk is the third in the year-long series, “Reconstructing Religious Thought: Classical Themes Reconsidered.” This month we explore the idea of the divine or sacred taking on earthly form. The idea of incarnation is central to the Christian celebration of Christmas. A 19th century English hymn ends each verse with the line, “God in flesh made manifest.” That’s the idea behind the incarnation: that the sacred, the transcendent, have entered into the immanent world of flesh and blood.

The idea of incarnation is not unique to Christianity. The Hindu figure of Krishna is an incarnation of the deity Vishnu, for example. What might we discover for our lives today in considering this classical idea from the world’s great religions? How does the search for the transcendent find its way into our own lives today? These are some of the questions and ideas we will explore together as we gather for the first Sunday in December.

David W. Saetre

College Chaplain and Assistant Professor of Religion, Northland College

“The world is deep, and deeper than the day could read. Deep is its woe. Joy deeper still than grief can be.” Nietzsche “The opposite of faith is certainty, not doubt.” DS

Fellowship Service – December 18th

Holiday Service – 6 pm, Alvord Theater in the Ponzio Center at Northland College

Speaker: David Saetre

On Sunday, December 18th at 6 pm in the Alvord Theater, Northland College, the CUUF will present our annual holiday service. Children, youth, and parents of the Religious Education program have prepared a holiday play of the Russian folk-story, “Baboushka.” As the tale goes, Baboushka searches still for the Christ Child she learned of once long ago from the traveling sages. As she searches, she leaves gifts of toys and baubles in the homes of children the world over. Northland College Campus Minister David Saetre will reflect on the poignant tale of Baboushka – what might we learn from her journey?

In addition to the play and David’s reflection, there will be congregational singing of traditional carols and special music by pianist Joni Chapman and soloist Amanda Shuga. The CUUF string ensemble will accompany our traditional walk through the spiral of greens. The service will close with a candlelight carol followed by fellowship and refreshments. *We hope you will join us for this special service.*

Please bring a dish to share for the potluck hospitality table- savory or sweet.

UU Principles:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Bough Gathering Time

Each year our holiday celebration includes a spiral of evergreen boughs. The spiral represents the eternal, the way time passes in circles, ever changing cycles. It also represents our spiritual journeys.

We will meet at the Brew family's property at **1:00 on Sunday, Dec. 4th** for the annual cutting of the boughs. The spiral, which is the centerpiece of the Holiday Service, is then created by binding the boughs together. This is a great way to get into the Christmas spirit and is fun for the whole family! Bring cookies to share (if you wish), clippers, sleds, and warm clothes.

Directions to the Brews: From the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center, take County Highway G west approximately 6 miles to Moquah. Just after passing the road sign for Moquah, turn right (north) onto Moquah Ski Hill Road. Our house is at the end of the road and our fire number is 70020 Moquah Ski Hill Road. (Our phone is 715-746-2224, if you have questions).

Youth Conference Attendee Report

On the weekend of the 12th of November, I went to a Youth Con with Ian Liphart and Nick Oppedahl in Minnetonka, MN. The theme of the Con was to try to learn about the homeless and sleep in cardboard boxes outside, like the homeless. I learned many valuable things and met new people; an all-around fun trip. Robert Quinlan

Caring Corner

Healing wishes go out to Peg Griese, who is recovering from eye surgery and June Bavluka, who is recovering from knee surgery. Prayers are with Mark Brouder and family as they attend to his mother's illness.

Ann and Donn Christensen were recently in a car accident. Don has suffered bruises. But, amazingly and thankfully, they're okay.

If you know of people in need of our thoughts and prayers or people who have specific needs please contact Jacki Rae-Ledin at 373-0347 or antiquegardeninn@hotmail.com. If you are interested in serving on the caring committee, please contact Jacki.

Hymnal Inventory

The Worship Committee would like to do an inventory of our hymnbooks, [Singing the Living Tradition](#), to see if more are needed for our services. If you have one at home and use it as a resource, please let someone on the Worship or Music Committee know. If it has been forgotten on top of the piano or buried under a pile of books, please return it so that it may be used on Sundays.

Hymnals – Order/own your own

Would you like your own UU Hymnal? The hardcover edition of [Singing the Living Tradition](#) is available for \$28 from the UUA Bookstore. A two-volume, spiral bound, large print version that is easy to use & read and lays flat for pianists & organists is available for \$45. Individual shipping is \$6 or \$7 and there would be a small savings if we ordered multiple copies at the same time. If you are interested please call or e-mail Ed Calhan at 715 682-0446, calhans@centurytel.net.

Save UU Money - Don't Pay Sales Tax

As CUUF is a non-profit organization, it is not required to pay sales tax. When you make a purchase for CUUF it is important to let the merchant know that the purchase is for a tax exempt organization and to provide the merchant with the tax exempt number. The Fellowship's Certificate of Exempt Status (CES) number is 038304. This number needs to be given to suppliers at the time the purchase is made. If you make regular purchases and would like a copy of the CES, please contact Brenda Brouder.

CUUF Website & Facebook page: Check them out....

The CUUF website is in the process of being updated – it will soon be unveiled. It will reside at the same location, URL <http://www.chequamegonuuf.org/>, but will have a new look. We are now a presence on Facebook... <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Chequamegon-Unitarian-Universalist-Fellowship/185720978179> . Since it is a fan page, you will have to “like” it to follow it.

Volunteer Poster Distributer needed in the city of Bayfield:

CUUF is seeking a person who is willing to put up monthly posters in the Bayfield community. The monthly poster advertises our two services for each month. The posters are available at the beginning of each month. Please contact June Bavlnka @ 715-682-5221 if you can contribute in this way.

After Service Snack Host/Hostess Schedule:

Dec 4	Granger, Quinlan, Bergeruhd-Quamme, Donn and Ann Christensen
Jan 15	Crowell, Gonderzik, Liphart-Reed, Ledin
Jan 29	Bavlnka, Blakely, Burchill, Bussey, Wise

If you can't serve when scheduled, please call Patty to alert her. If you want to bring something but are not on the schedule, feel free to contribute - you don't have to let anyone know. Please call Patty Dufek if you have questions: 682-9015 Or 715-292-1676

Have You Considered Making a Planned Gift to CUUF?

There are a variety of ways to make planned gifts or bequeaths to the Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Please consider designating a specific sum or percentage of your estate or life insurance policy to CUUF. Or, perhaps you are able to offer a planned gift while you are living. Contributions may be set aside for specific purposes, with recognition or anonymously. Please discuss any ideas you may have with a board member.

It is better to lead from behind and to put others in front, especially when you celebrate victory when nice things occur. You take the front line when there is danger. Then people will appreciate your leadership.
Nelson Mandela

Planned Giving is good stewardship. For more information contact Ruth Oppedahl at 715-292-3872.

Podcasts: In Case You Missed It

You may listen to services on the CUUF website: www.chequamegonuu.podbean.com. Technology is amazing. Thanks Travis!

Religious Education for 2011-2012

All youth are welcome to participate in our Religious Education (RE) programs.

K-3 *Picture Book World Religions* which uses children's books to teach about world religions.

Middle School with teachers Erin Tenney and Tom Mitchell using the curriculum “What Do You Stand For?” Discusses character traits with activities and discussions.

High School with teachers Beth Reed and Ruth Oppedahl. The older kids are ready to put their beliefs into action so we will focus on service projects of their choosing, possibly exploring Islam and Youth Weekends and making connections to the larger UU youth groups. This will be very youth directed.

For more information on Religious Education please contact Beth Reed at 715-682-8385, 4lipreeds@centurylink.net or Ruth Oppedahl at 715-292-3872 ruth@oppedahl.com

The Interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part

All Things Dull and Ugly

All things dull and ugly
All creatures short and squat
All things rude and nasty
The Lord God made the lot.

Each nasty little hornet
Each beastly little squid
Who made the spikey urchin?
Who made the sharks? He did.

Each little snake that poisons
Each little wasp that stings
He made their brutish venom
He made their horrid wings.

All things scabbed and ulcerous
All pox both great and small
Putrid foul and gangrenous,
The Lord God made them all.

AMEN

All things sick and cancerous
All evil great and small
All things foul and dangerous
The Lord God made them all.

Eric Idle (of Monty Python fame) as quoted
by Robert Fulghum in Words I Wish I Wrote
Submitted by Ed Calhan

“If all the insects were to disappear from the earth, within 50 years all life on earth would end. If all human beings disappeared from the earth, within 50 years all forms of life would flourish.” *Jonas Salk*, biologist

In Our Community:

Faith In Action

Faith In Action would like to thank the Chequamegon UU Fellowship for its generous donation to the program. Thanks also for the ongoing support in so many ways; outreach through the newsletter and announcements, the Religious Education youth taking on community service projects, CUUF members who serve as volunteers and members who support FIA fundraising events. This all-around commitment to Faith In Action helps the program connect caring volunteers with senior citizens. Thanks so much - *Megan Perrine, Program Coordinator*

Voter Registration

An effort to identify, educate, and assist voters in need of the new voter ID (now required under Wisconsin law) is underway in Ashland and Bayfield Counties. Debra Lewis is organizing a committee to reach as many voters as possible before the next election. A strategic plan is being devised and volunteers will be needed in the months ahead to help with educational efforts, phone calling, and transportation to the Department of Motor Vehicles to obtain the ID. For more information please contact Deb at jeffdeblewis@charter.net.

PFLAG (Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) – Washburn Chapter

If anyone has any questions, please contact Mary Wichita (mary.wichita@yahoo.com; 715-765-4132). Chapter meetings are typically held on the fourth Tuesday of the month on the 3rd floor of the Washburn Cultural Center. However, December's chapter meeting will be held December 6.

Tuesday, December 6: 7:00 p.m., **Washburn Cultural Center.** Holiday Party with special guests **Sara Thomsen.** Sara and her wife, Paula, will share their wedding experience with us.



UU Prairie Star District

November 12, 2011 marks a historic day for Prairie Star District. We took the first step toward building a governance structure for the 21st Century; one that leads a thriving, future-oriented religious organization. At our meeting, the PSD Board unanimously voted to work collaboratively with the Boards of the Central Midwest District and Heartland District to create a regional governance entity to replace the three individual districts. Our three boards are the first in the UUA to make this bold and creative proposal.

Creation of a new regional entity is an opportunity to form something more than a geographically larger district. The Board believes that by collaborating with our partner districts to the east, we can accomplish more than any one district can do by working alone. A regional entity, with one governance Board rather than three separate district boards as we have now, will also free more of our funds for programming.

The new regional governance structure will be on the agenda for approval by PSD Delegates at our 2013 Business Meeting. This gives us nearly 18 months for study, planning, congregational feedback, and communications. We will need to create entirely new regionally-oriented, processes for visioning, accountability, fiduciary responsibility, and communication.

I'm sure you have questions about how this transition will impact you and your congregation. I'll try to address some of these in this letter. *To read the rest of the letter: go to www.psd.uua.org. In the body of the home page scroll through the announcements. Click on "[letter from PSD President Kathy Burek](#)."*

UUA – National

Michael McGlone, Public Information Assistant for the Unitarian Universalist Association encourages UUs to find monthly Congregational Bulletins at: <http://www.uua.org/communications/bulletin>. Visiting the general website www.uua.org is very educational.

December CUUF and local community Calendar

- Dec 4 Sun, Fellowship Service**
 6 Tues, Sara Thompson; PFLAG holiday party–Washburn Cultural Center
18 Sun evening, 6pm, Holiday Fellowship Service, Alvord Theatre, Ponzio Student Center, Northland College – **Bring a dish to pass**
Jan 15 Sun, Fellowship Service
Jan 29 Sun, Fellowship Service

Fellowship service dates and descriptions are in bold.

MISSION STATEMENT - This fellowship exists to serve the human needs of its members and friends, to stimulate individual development of a positive and ethical philosophy of life, and to provide a common shelter for everyone's personal growth. -- Founded, February 22, 1998

Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Website: <http://www.chequamegonuuf.org> Mailing address: PO Box 641, Ashland, WI 54806

CUUF Board Members and Staff:

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CUUF Committee Contacts: (alphabetized, for no particular logical reason, by first name)

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