



## ***The Open Door Newsletter***

***January 2012***

***Time and Location of Services: Fellowship Services are at 10am on the Northland College Campus. Both services this month are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor commons of the Ponzio Center.***

### ***Fellowship Service – January 15<sup>th</sup> – 10 am***

#### ***Speaker: David Saetre “What About God?”***

As part of the year-long series on “Reconstructing Religious Thought,” it’s time to take on the big topic, “What About God?” In the January talk I will explore recent developments in popular culture and the philosophy of religion around the question of God. The writings of Richard Dawkins (*The God Delusion*), and the recently deceased Christopher Hitchens created something of a movement, called the “new atheism.” But, this was really part of a longer process of reexamining what the Western religious tradition means when it refers to “God.”

It is useful to remember that the Unitarian movement in North America began in the 19<sup>th</sup> century precisely around the definition of “God.” The question then centered on the idea of a Trinitarian versus Unitarian understanding of God. Modern theologians continued that reexamination when questioning the problem of language about God. What does the word “God” refer to? Is God a being? That doesn’t make sense. Then what is meant by “God?” Is the word a metaphor for some mysterious power or force? Does the word convey any real reference, or is it a product of religious nostalgia?

The topic is fraught with controversy and risks, and the idea of “God” can get obtuse and philosophically dense. But, the reference to “God” is nearly universal in our culture --- “God bless America,” has become the common political benediction as well the preferred song at events as American as baseball. So, what in the world does that term convey? That’s what we’ll talk about in January!

*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.” David*

### ***Fellowship Service – January 29<sup>th</sup> – 10 am***

#### ***Speaker: A.J. Galazen “The Great and the Small”***

In our society, bigger is usually seen as better. We’ve got big business, big boxes and big portions. I’m reflecting on the role of the small congregation in the life of the church. What does it mean to be a small group working for social justice? How can we nurture this still, small voice?

*A.J. Galazen is a queer, nonsectarian, vegetarian, Aquarian, Buddhist, Taoist, Humanist, Unitarian Universalist theologian. He has spoken for over twenty years on issues of social equality and religious freedom, and is currently pursuing the Unitarian Universalist ministry at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities.*



*Photos of our holiday service are found throughout the newsletter. They were thoughtfully offered by Karen Crowell.*

## 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.

## Caring Corner

Caring Committee Corner: Our sincere condolences go out to Mark Brouder and family in the passing of Mark's mother. Hugs and healing wishes go to Mary Bondeson as she recovers from surgery. If you like to read aloud, please consider giving some time to an elderly CUUF member in an Ashland nursing facility.

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](mailto:antiquegardeninn@hotmail.com). If you are interested in serving on the caring committee, please contact Jacki.



## Women's CUUF Monthly Lunch at Coco's

The third Wednesday of each month UU women are meeting for lunch at Coco's in Washburn. This month we will meet on **Jan 18th at noon**. The third Wednesday follows new books and coffee at the Washburn library. Feel free to call Jan if you have questions, (715) 373-1141.

## 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.

## We still have Podcasts

Several people have asked about podcasts in Travis' absence. Ruth Oppedahl reports that Travis, in cyberspace, takes the recording and waves the magic wand until ...

In Ruth's words: *The site where Travis posts the podcasts is through iTunes (if you want to go directly to it) is <http://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/chequamegon-unitarian-universalist/id392546299> iTunes has unlimited storage and will archive the podcasts so they don't take up space on our website.*

*We wanted to show the link on our new CUUF website, so we created a page on the CUUF website that will lead to the iTunes page: <https://sites.google.com/a/chequamegonuuf.org/frontpage/home/service-podcasts>*

*Either one could be advertised as a way to get to the podcasts. I like to share the CUUF podcast webpage because then users see our website and will hopefully check out other parts of our **new website!***

## After Service Snack Host/Hostess Schedule:

**Jan 15** Crowell, Gonderzik, Liphart-Reed, Ledin **Feb 12** Hassart; Ledder; Kehn; Lorenz; Wolfe  
**Jan 29** Bavlnka, Blakely, Burchill, Bussey, Wise **Feb 26** Saetre-Bewely; Perkins; Rehwal; Tenney

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.

*You can give without loving, but you can never love without giving. ~Author Unknown*

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

## 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](mailto:4lipreeds@centurylink.net) or Ruth Oppedahl at 715-292-3872 [ruth@oppedahl.com](mailto:ruth@oppedahl.com)

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:mary.wichita@yahoo.com); 715-765-4132). Chapter meetings are typically held on the fourth Tuesday of the month on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Washburn Cultural Center.*

**January 24**, 7 pm, Mental and Physical Health Concerns in the LGBT Community. A panel of health care providers and consumers.

**February 28**, 7pm, Gay-Straight Alliance: What it is and How to Start One in your School

**March 27**, 7 pm, Growing Up Queer in a Rural Community

*All meetings listed will be held at the Washburn Cultural Center.*

## UU Prairie Star District

For all PSD information please visit the website: [www.psduua.org](http://www.psduua.org)

### A letter from PSD President Kathy Burek:

As we near the end of December, we want you to know about an exciting new project in Prairie Star District! We are launching a program that will help us gather new groups of potential Unitarian Universalists in *locations where there's no UU presence!* Recently we received news that we have received a grant from the UU Funding Panel to cover much of the expense of this new project. You can fill the gap to make it possible for these groups to have the assistance they need by making a year-end tax-deductible contribution to *Friends of Prairie Star District*. If you have already contributed in 2011, we thank you.



Here's how the project will work: Partnering with the Church of the Larger Fellowship, we'll make it possible for these emerging groups to have Sunday morning service content featuring video sermons by CLF minister, Rev. Meg Riley, and other ministers. District staff will recruit and train volunteers to visit these emerging congregations to show them how to integrate the CLF resources into their regular worship and guide them in the many aspects of starting a congregation. We'll also work with these new groups to establish up to date web presences with web pages to attract liberal religious seekers. Using Facebook, Twitter, and online interactive programs, the groups will be able to give newcomers and potential UUs a taste of our ideas, our beliefs, and ways to develop themselves as religious people.

Since February, we've heard from new UU groups forming in Marshalltown, Iowa; Grinnell, Iowa; and western Wisconsin. This new program will help greatly as these folks work to bring a UU presence in those communities, which haven't had them before! These folks are committed to gathering with others to start new UU congregations in their communities. As evidence of their commitment, several of them joined teams from eleven of our small congregations recently in Des Moines for our first-ever weekend Small Church Conference.

If you'd like to see a preview of the Sunday morning service content that will be available to them from our partner, the Church of the Larger Fellowship, check out [www.livestream.com/questformeaning](http://www.livestream.com/questformeaning) on Sundays at 6 p.m. Central or Mondays at 12:30 p.m. Central. Your contribution to Friends of PSD supports the work of PSD including assisting new congregations. Please make your tax deductible contribution today at <http://www.psduua.org/GivingToPSD/FriendsOfPSD#ContributionForm>.

We are grateful to you for your contributions to Unitarian Universalism and send all good wishes at this holiday season.

Sincerely, Kathy Burek, PSD President

### 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](http://www.uua.org) is very educational.

### CUUF and local community Calendar

**Jan 15 Sun, Fellowship Service *What About God?* Speaker: David Saetre**  
Jan 18 Women's Lunch at Coco's in Washburn, at noon  
Jan 24 PFLAG 7pm at the Washburn Cultural Center  
**Jan 29 Sun, Fellowship Service *The Great and the Small* Speaker: A.J. Galazen**  
**Feb 12 Sun, Fellowship Service Speaker: David Saetre**  
Feb 28 PFLAG 7pm at the Washburn Cultural Center

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**

*\*\* Please note the change in June's phone number below\*\**

#### **Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship**

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

#### **CUUF Board Members and Staff:**

Brenda Brouder, Church Administrator, (715) 682-9556, [cuufad@gmail.com](mailto:cuufad@gmail.com)

Andrea Haugo, co- chair, (715) 682-9651, [haugoam@hotmail.com](mailto:haugoam@hotmail.com)

Diana Granger, co-chair, (715) 373-1133, [dianagranger@centurytel.net](mailto:dianagranger@centurytel.net)

Warren Kehn, treasurer, (715) 681-0447, [wakehn@gmail.com](mailto:wakehn@gmail.com)

Jan Perkins, secretary, (715) 373-5585, [perkworks9@yahoo.com](mailto:perkworks9@yahoo.com)

Patty Dufek, board member, (715) 682-9015, [pport57@charter.net](mailto:pport57@charter.net)

Erin Tenney, board member, (715) 209-2291, [etenney@gmail.com](mailto:etenney@gmail.com)

Ed Calhan, board member, (715) 682-0446, [elcalhan@centurytel.net](mailto:elcalhan@centurytel.net)

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

Birgit Wolff, Worship Planning, (715) 765-4888, [birgithwolff@yahoo.com](mailto:birgithwolff@yahoo.com)

Jacki Rae Ledin, Caring Committee, (715) 373-0347, [antiquegardeninn@hotmail.com](mailto:antiquegardeninn@hotmail.com)

Joni Chapman, Music Director, (715) 685-0076, [jonibchapman@yahoo.com](mailto:jonibchapman@yahoo.com)

June Bavlnka, Publicity Coordinator, (715) 209-1622, [aknlvab07@gmail.com](mailto:aknlvab07@gmail.com)

Karen Ruedi Crowell, Membership, (715) 373-2524, [dancingmoon01@centurytel.net](mailto:dancingmoon01@centurytel.net)

#### **Communications/Stewardship**

Beth Reed, Religious Education chair (715) 682-8385, [4lipreeds@centurylink.net](mailto:4lipreeds@centurylink.net)

Marilyn Einspanier, Newsletter Editor, (715) 372-4299, [uunews@chequamegonuuf.org](mailto:uunews@chequamegonuuf.org)

Patty Dufek, Hospitality, (715) 682-9015, [pport57@charter.net](mailto:pport57@charter.net)

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Scott Burchill, Communications/Webmaster, (715) 682-4681, [scott.burchill@gmail.com](mailto:scott.burchill@gmail.com)

## **Letters to the Editor**

### **Happy New Year and Blessings to our dear friends,**

Near the eve of a new year, rather than proclaiming resolutions I will surely fail to keep, I like to think of blessings from the past year that are already accomplished. In the deep down places of my life, I am aware of a kind of grace that breathes through my days – a loving kindness that sustains all things. I see it in the beauty of this place by the big lake; I feel it in the friendships and kindness of others; I experience it in the enduring love of partner and family; and I count myself blessed to know the grace of good work in a lively and meaningful community. So, I count my work with you as one of those graces and blessings that animate my life. Thank you all for that.

I am so thankful for our partnership and our work together between the college and the fellowship. Our services have become hallmarks of the college's campus ministry, and the CUUF has become that rare kind of community that regularly inspires and lifts the spirits of its members. I am so impressed by the education program, the dedication and wisdom of the teachers, and the life-shaping curriculum and activities. Mostly, I'm glad we gather together as we do, to explore the mysteries and meanings of our tragedies and triumphs; to raise another generation who will approach life and community with a positive and ethical outlook; and to provide a progressive alternative to many who seek "a common shelter" for religious, moral and spiritual exploration and expression. So, happy New Year and thank you. I look forward to our continuing work together. David

### **Thank for helping with the holiday feast!**

Jeff and Deb Lewis, Richard and Diana Granger, June Bavluka and her beloved Joe, Karla Hasart - I thank you all for your helping hands and loving hearts!

Thank you to all who helped by bringing "OH SO YUMMY" goodies and thanks to any others whom I may have missed.

What a delight to break bread with such a great bunch of folks!

Sincerely,  
Patty Dufek  
CUUF Hospitality

### **Newsletter**

Thanks to all for your continued support, feedback and contributions to the newsletter. I would like to give the newsletter a little more modern "pop," but lack the graphic art skills. If there is someone in the congregation with these skills please step forward and help me establish a template that looks 2012ish.

Also, we have gifted artists in our congregation. I am sure we have budding artists as well. I would appreciate your interpretation of the UU Chalice and other interpretive artwork of the natural world, our congregation, your mental images of life's journey...or a whimsical sketch of friends at lunch.

Attachments work best in submitting photos and artwork.

Thanks so much and I look forward to your contributions,  
Marilyn