



The Open Door Newsletter ***October 2012*** ***Fellowship Services are at 10am on the Northland College Campus***

Water Service: children carrying the water pail to the stream.

Fellowship Service – October 14th – 10am, 2nd floor commons of the Ponzio Center

Speaker – David Saetre – Rethinking Virtue: A Series on Charity, Faith and Hope

Last year I created a mini-series on “reconstructive theology” – the effort to rethink classical themes and ideas, and reconsider religious tradition and theology in light of new insights. I want to follow that series with more thoughts on classical themes from the Western moral and spiritual tradition as we complete our study of new insights for today’s living.

The next three talks will focus on the “theological virtues”: *faith, hope and charity*. Western and Christian philosophy and theology posed the moral life as fulfilled in these three spiritual virtues. Living a moral life included the gift of these virtues as essential to living a good life. A person of “character” was a person who possessed the capacity for living a life of faith, filled with hope, and extending charity toward others. The influence of these motifs is still with us. However, *faith, hope and charity* may seem antiquated and dogmatic in current times, as they are exclusively associated with Christian moralism.

Yet, people still want to know what it means to live a good life, and how to contribute to the greater good. As a spiritual and religious community dedicated to “the free and responsible search for truth and meaning” it is good to re-examine the insights from earlier traditions. *Faith, hope and charity* still contain ideas that might guide and animate our search for meaning and serve as a moral compass point for our lives in community.

“*The Meaning of Charity*” is the theme for October. Charity, today, almost has a negative connotation. It is understood as a private virtue – privileged individuals giving monetary donations. But, a deeper look at the old idea of charity reveals a social meaning to the word. Charity is the necessary virtue for democracy, and should be understood as fundamentally social in character. It’s about our commitment and generosity to one another – *the way we care for one another in community*. Charity is not about private giving of the privileged; it’s the virtue that links our common lot together as one body. The presence or absence of “charity” defines the quality and character of any community more than it defines the character of an individual. I look forward to exploring these ideas with you. *David*

David Saetre, Northland College

Our services are a partnership between Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship and the Northland College Campus Ministry. Northland College Chaplain’s Office: (715) 682-1253, dsatre@northland.edu

Fellowship Service – October 28th – 10am - Alvord Theater

Speaker – A. J. Galazen – Honoring the Tradition: Day of the Dead

For those of you unfamiliar with the Mexican tradition of the *Day of the Dead*, it is a rare opportunity in our often death-denying society to acknowledge those who have died - to honor those who still live in our thoughts and memories. This will be a service dedicated, in part, to sharing our experiences. Please plan to bring artifacts of remembrance to place on our common altar, and to share stories and reflections of your loved ones. It is a special occasion that we can celebrate together as a family of faith. The dearly departed belong to all of us. They want to visit us, and not be forgotten.

Erin Tenney and I are planning the colorful, playful and moving portion of the service, which honors the *Day of the Dead*. The community is invited to help in the preparation of this special service. Please contact A.J. or Erin to help with decorations and set up. *A.J.*

A.J. Galazen, United Seminary Intern

ajgalazen@hotmail.com

The United Seminary Intern and the Lay Advisory Group *submitted by Brenda Brouder*

The United Seminary Intern, A.J. Galazen and the Lay Advisory Group had a great introductory meeting, sharing some individual histories as well as hopes, dreams and goals for the upcoming year. A.J.'s excitement and optimism on what this year holds for himself and for the fellowship coupled with David Saetre's guidance on the structure and expectations of an internship, led us all to a greater understanding of just how important this opportunity is. This is CUUF's chance to give back to the greater whole by providing the support needed for a person training as a minister and brings a whole new meaning to our relationship with the Northland College Campus Ministry. It's exciting to know that we are actually helping in the educational experience and the fact that A.J. is one of our members adds a little sweetness to the pot.

Through this internship the opportunity for weekly worship on the Northland Campus will become a reality. This overlap between CUUF and Northland is full of possibilities. A.J. sees his internship as a gift or tool for our fellowship. He is excited that, fellowship members, college students, and seekers from all walks of life who are interested in setting their spiritual clock "for every Sunday morning worship" will be able to fulfill that desire. An increased spiritual intimacy energized by the opportunity for experimental, experiential, worship and weekly gathering, is high on his list of hopes and goals.

The Campus Ministry Services, led by A.J. will begin Sept. 30th and will take place on the 1st, 3rd and possibly 5th Sundays of the month. Since these services are more spontaneous you'll need to keep an eye out on our website, chequamegonuuf.org, [facebook.com/Chequamegonuuf](https://www.facebook.com/Chequamegonuuf), twitter.com/chequuf.

Who knows what doors this could open for A.J., the Campus Ministry and for CUUF. David Saetre noted that this is an experiment for all of us just as his time with CUUF started as an experiment back in 1998. So let's make the most of it.

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Love Pledge

Submitted by George Einar Busséy

Has someone close asked you that question? "Do you love me?" Isn't it enough that you do love them and that it is perfectly obvious? Well maybe it makes them feel better about the future. Or, perhaps they just like the sound of it; need to hear it out loud. Does this have anything to do with why we ask members of our fellowship every autumn to make a financial pledge? And what does money have to do anyway with loving our fellowship? Well I'd guess it's just a practical matter of planning our year responsibly. But then, yes, it does make us feel better to know that the fellowship's finances are in good order ... so that we can pay attention to the things that really matter to us. "Do we love one another?"

CUUF Circle Suppers

Submitted by June Bavlnka

Food. Friends. What could be better? We are organizing CUUF Circle Suppers for this winter. They will be held once a month, January-April. **This is a chance to get to know UU members better.** The circles will be about 8 people, and the people in each circle will rotate to some degree monthly. Formally joining the Circle Suppers means that you will host one meal and try to attend three other meals. If your schedule doesn't allow that, you can be a *substitute* – fill in when others have schedule conflicts. Please email June Bavlnka by November 1st, at aknlvab07@gmail.com, if you want to participate.

Art and Beautification Committee – seeks members *Submitted by Birgit Wolff*

The CUUF is seeking individuals to serve on an "art and beautification of services" committee. It has become clear that our services will be in the Ponzio at least for the next few years and where the space is adequate; it does create some challenges to take an institutional setting and make it into a space of worship and spirituality. The CUUF has set aside \$500 to accomplish this during 2012-13. The committee would make recommendations to the worship committee and the board by the end of December based on membership and art committee feedback. Both practical and aesthetic aspects should be considered. Please volunteer by contacting Birgit Wolff at birgithwolff@yahoo.com FYI: (David has volunteered to be an ex officio member of this committee.)

Information from our intern, A.J., to the CUUF:

Good morning. My name is A.J. Galazen and I'm your intern minister this year. I've got a couple of announcements.

This fall we have already started our campus ministry worship services at 10:00 in the Ponzio Center. You don't need a calendar anymore. Every Sunday you can come to worship. I don't blame you if you're wondering about how all this works, but it's pretty simple. I serve two masters. The Chequamegon UU Fellowship, and Northland College. Actually, I serve three masters. Rev. David Saetre is my Field Supervisor. Actually, I serve four masters. Rev. Trish Greeves is my Context Coordinator. Actually, I serve five masters, Rev. Dr. Barbara Ann Keely is my Professor of Religious Administration. She or her delegate will be visiting our fellowship in the coming months.

So, back to how all this works. The Worship Committee is still in charge of coordinating the bimonthly UU fellowship services. That is, they choose readings, readers, speakers (frequently David or I), work with Joni on music selections and put together the order of service, etc.

On alternate Sundays, when CUUF services are not scheduled, I will be leading the campus worship services from 10:00 to 10:30. As my internship is a partnership between Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship and Northland College Campus Ministry, my primary focus for the non-CUUF services is the spiritual welfare of the students at Northland College. Just as students are welcomed to our CUUF services, the student services welcome UUs and the greater community. It's a two way street. Hope to see you at 10:00 next Sunday or any Sunday or every Sunday.

Small group ministry is really exciting to me. The campus ministry goal is to provide a sanctuary of free faith where everyone feels welcome. These new, experimental and experiential services are going to explore a variety of spiritual practices and philosophical ideas. On September 30th, we explored the Jewish "Days of Awe," - looking back, finding forgiveness and balancing our books.

Upcoming Campus Ministry Worship Services:

October 7

"The Empty Vessel"

Why do we search and find nothing? Where do we begin?

October 21

"The Fire of Commitment"

Suffering. Individuality. Grasping. Solitude. Goals.

*Please join us in the Chapel of the Ponzio Center (2nd Floor) from 10:00 to 10:30 for informal, thought provoking, ecumenical worship. **Student musicians and speakers are especially invited to participate in future student services.** Please email me at ajgalazen@hotmail.com or see me after the service for more information.*

A.J. Galazen, United Seminary Intern



Not wanting to waste a campfire, some CUUF members and friends roasted marshmallows after the water service.

Volunteers needed: PR, Social Media and Lending Library *submitted by Brenda Brouder*
As you know we are a small lay-led fellowship powered by volunteers and here is a great opportunity to get involved. The jobs we currently need filled are small, and not overly time consuming but INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT...

WE NEED someone to take over the PR position. This consists of generating an Area Report for the Daily Press twice a month, generating posters for local distribution once a month and generating a submission for the Fall Church Directory once a year, as well as, a quick follow-up to make sure our ads/articles appear as planned. All of these things have been done before and there are plenty of examples and folks to help you get started.

WE NEED three individuals to put up the posters generated by the PR person, one in Ashland, one in Washburn and one in Bayfield.

WE NEED a social media guru. This really needs to be someone who is familiar with social media as we have a Facebook account and a Twitter account that need to be maintained.

WE NEED a person to run the Lending Library. As with most positions in our congregation, someone has done this before and will be available to lend advice and get you started.

Please don't assume someone else will volunteer. Many of our long standing members are volunteering in a multiple of capacities and cannot take on anything new; the recent loss of members who were filling these positions and the need for folks to move on to others priorities has left us in dire need of volunteers. So, consider getting involved. *If you have any questions, contact me.*

Thank You, On behalf of the CUUF Board of Trustees

Brenda Brouder
CUUF Office Administrator
cuufad@gmail.com

In Our Community:



Faith in Action: Silent Auction Items Support Faith In Action

Faith in Action-Ashland County will be holding its 8th Annual **Mexican Dinner** and Raffle fundraiser on Thursday, **October 18th** from 4-7pm at the Ashland Senior Center.

Community members are invited to donate a handcrafted item or a service for this auction. If you are a quilter, painter, knitter, or woodworker consider donating to this silent auction. Donations of gift certificates for services (massages/manicures/snowplowing) are welcome too! **Items are requested by Oct. 10th.** For info call 682-4414x3, or fiavolunteer@ashlandaging.org.

Faith In Action's Rake the Town Campaign

A nip is in the air, and senior citizens may need help with seasonal chores. Faith In Action takes requests from seniors in need of help with fall tasks such as raking and putting on storm windows. Volunteers can assist with a variety of services including basic household chores, lamp repair, small fix-it jobs, shopping, respite, lamp repair, Arts/Sports Buddies, Pets 'N Pals visits, transportation, and companionship. Seniors in need of assistance or people interested in volunteering should contact the Ashland County Aging Unit for more information - 682-4414 x3 or fiavolunteer@ashlandaging.org.

Faith In Action Mexican Dinner Fundraiser Tickets Available

Take a siesta from cooking! Faith In Action-Ashland County is holding its 8th annual **Mexican Fiesta Feast**, Thursday, **October 18th** at the Ashland Senior Center at 400 Chapple Avenue from 4-7pm. Cost \$9.00 adult, in advance, \$10 at the door. \$4.00 ages 4-12 in advance - \$5 at the door. Ages 3 and under free. Carry out available. Wonderful raffle. A great meal for a great cause! Tickets available at the Ashland County Aging office, 400 Chapple Ave. or by calling 682-4414 x. 3. Proceeds will support this vital community program.

In Our Community, (continued):

First Friday Dances

This season's First Friday Dance schedule starts on **October 5th** – at Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute on the Northland College campus. The First Friday Dances are old time family and community dances. The dances are all taught and called - no experience is necessary. The dances include square dances, Appalachian circle mixers, reels, contras and a few waltzes and international dances. Dances for children start at 7pm and adult dances follow around 8pm. The music schedule for this fall is October 5 "Four Mile Portage" with Donn Christensen calling, November 2 "Duck for the Oyster", and December 7 "Omega Threes". For further info call 715-373-5013. Sponsored by Northland College Student Association and Chequamegon Folk Collective.

PFLAG Washburn Update:

PFLAG (Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) -Washburn reaches youth and adults throughout the area. We have a website that contains chapters events and updates, news articles like the amazing one Hope McLeod wrote for the Daily Press on Sept. 15 (check it out!) and links to other resources and news. The web address is <http://pflagwashburn.org>. Be sure to bookmark it.

PFLAG Washburn's **October 23rd** chapter meeting (**7:00 pm**, Washburn Cultural Center) will be a training opportunity designed to help prevent suicide. It's called QPR, which stands for Question, Persuade and Refer and covers 3 simple steps that anyone can learn to save a life from suicide. Participants will be given information that is easy to understand – QPR warning signs and methods to encourage a person to get help in our area. Presenter for this training will be *Dianne Heapy*.

Prairie Star District:

Registration is open for fall **online workshops**:

"The New UU" Webinar, **October 18**, 7:00 PM

Safety Planning for Congregations, **October 26 and 30**, 6:45 PM

Robert's Rules and Meeting Management, **December 6 and 11**, 6:45 PM

Participants will need a computer with high speed Internet access and a separate phone line. Registration is required but free. <http://www.psuua.org/content/onlineworkshops>.

UUA (National Organization):

October Bulletin - <http://www.uua.org/communications/bulletin/277234.shtml>.

The bulletin contains information and links, including books (adult and children's), information regarding multicultural growth and witness regarding racial and ethnic concerns, General Assembly and Conference Services, history, etc.

Letters to the Editor:

Creating a Welcoming Congregation: Rising to the Challenge

Sunday, September 9, David Saetre gave an inspiring talk at our first service, in which he challenged our Fellowship to create a "Welcoming Congregation."

Aren't we already such a congregation? Don't we greet everyone who walks through our doors and encourage them to join the mailing list and participate fully in our services and our activities? Of course.

But the term "Welcoming Congregation" refers specifically to UU congregations that commit to a deeper understanding of people who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or queer and to specific actions to fully include them in our fellowship life.

The Welcoming Congregation Program is a completely volunteer program for Unitarian Universalist congregations that want to take intentional steps to become more welcoming and inclusive of people with marginalized sexual orientations and gender identities. First launched in 1990, the program grew out of an understanding that widespread prejudices and ignorance about lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) people existed within Unitarian Universalism, which resulted in the exclusion of LGBTQ people from our congregations. (*Continued on next page.*)

(Continued from previous page:) In order for a congregation to be recognized by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) as a Welcoming Congregation, it must go through a Welcoming Congregation Program. Resources for how to do this are available through the national UU office.

The requirements for recognition as a Welcoming Congregation are: Measurable achievements in the areas of education, congregational life, and community outreach, using the Welcoming Congregation Guidelines and Action Steps as a guide, and a congregational vote in affirmation of being recognized by the Unitarian Universalist Association as a Welcoming Congregation. This vote occurs after accomplishing achievements.

Today, 64% of U.S. Unitarian Universalist (UU) congregations and 94% of Canadian UU congregations are recognized as Welcoming Congregations. In northern Wisconsin the Northwoods UU Fellowship in Woodruff has achieved this designation.

Several individuals in our UU Fellowship have expressed a desire for us to take up this challenge. I am willing to facilitate the steps involved in achieving this designation, with the help of everyone who wishes to be involved in some way or another, even if your time is very limited. If you haven't already spoken with me, please contact me at: **mary.wichita@yahoo.com** or 715-765-4132.

Let's rise together to David's challenge.

Mary Wichita

Editor's note: from the UUA Bulletin, link to more information - http://www.uua.org/documents/lgbtq/121001_wcbulletin.pdf.

Water Service and Installation of A.J.

Submitted by Marilyn Einspanier

For those of you who missed the water service...many people spoke about their connection to water during the outdoor CUUF on September 23rd. The role of water during summer travel was a common theme. Environmental awareness of our bountiful water supply, which is not available in many parts of the world, was also a common thread. Each speaker poured water into a metal pail, which brought images of an earlier time to mind. David installed A.J. as our intern minister with board members standing beside him and giving him their blessing. We sang water-related songs around the outdoor fire ring, while Tom Draughon lead us with his guitar. At the conclusion of the service, the children carried the water pail to the stream, emptying our water and stories into the stream, which flows into Lake Superior.

A.J.'s Words of Response to the Congregation upon Installation

The River of Life is improbable. Beginning with an almost indecipherable, hesitant trickle, it ebbs and flows continuously, etching out a twisting and sometimes perilous course. It is improbable that we have come together at this place. Even three years ago, I could not imagine standing here. Yet the River of Life moves everything in its wake. We cannot escape the flow.

We are destined to share an intimate relationship; as our passionate hearts move beyond the boundaries we have expected; as our dedicated minds create a home for our spirits; as our striving hands help bring justice to the world. I am filled with excitement, joy, and gratitude to be accepted into this community.



I've been waiting a long time. I've lived a long life of philosophical contemplation and socially engaged activism in preparation for this day. The promise of your covenant with me is intimate and personal, but the value of our covenant for Unitarian Universalism is essential and limitless.

You are preparing me to heed the call of liberal religious leadership wherever it may be, in service to the greatest needs of our movement.

Our time together will be short. Therefore, let us rejoice in our momentary good fortune through words of friendship, songs of praise, and acts of kindness. Amen.

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

UU Calendar

Oct 5 th	First Friday Dance – Sigurd Olson – 7pm
Oct 7 th	Campus Ministry Worship Service - <i>The Empty Vessel</i>
Oct 10 th	Items <i>due</i> for the Mexican Fiesta Silent Auction
Oct 14th	UU Fellowship Service - Rethinking Virtue: Charity
Oct 18 th	Mexican Fiesta - 4-7 pm Ashland Senior Center
Oct 18 th	PSD Webinar – <i>The New UU</i> – 7pm online
Oct 21 st	Campus Ministry Worship Service - <i>The Fire of Commitment</i>
Oct 23 rd	PFLAG meeting – Washburn Cultural Center – 7pm
Oct 26 th	PSD Webinar – <i>Safety Planning for Congregations</i> (also on Oct 30 th) – 7pm online
Oct 28th	UU Fellowship Service - Honoring the Tradition – Day of the Dead
Nov 1 st	Sign up for Circle Supper <i>Deadline</i>

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