



The Open Door Newsletter

November 2012

*Fellowship Services are at 10am on the Northland
College Campus*

Fellowship Service – November 11th – 10am, 2nd floor commons of the Ponzio Center Speaker – David Saetre – “Faith, Not Religion”

David Saetre continues his three-part fall series on the “spiritual virtues – faith, hope and charity” with his talk on “Faith” at our November 11th service. In his talk he explores the difference between faith and belief, as well as the differences between faith and religion, faith and dogma. Some of the questions we might ask include: what do we mean by “faith” given the insights of scientific discovery; what kind of faith are we talking about in world torn by religious violence and hate; how is faith different from either superstition or dogma; how is faith different from religion?

Come prepared to be challenged but also renewed with insights for daily living in a vibrant community.

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 – November 25th – 10am, 2nd floor commons of the Ponzio Center Speaker – Rick Dale – “Faith and Food”

Contemplating the relevance of faith to food, Rick Dale is less concerned for Bio-Dynamic production systems or Vegan diets than he is for global food security, matters of consumption and distribution, and the quality of human relationships. Wendell Berry once wrote, “You can eat *food* by yourself. A *meal*—is a communal event, bringing together family members, neighbors, even strangers. At its most ordinary, it involves hospitality, giving, receiving, and gratitude.” It is this sharing of “food”—a metaphor for all that sustains us-- which Rick will explore with us through stories from his life experience and travels.

A farmer and person of agrarian values for most of his adult life, Rick with his family has produced berries, honey, and maple syrup at Highland Valley Farm in Bayfield for more than 35 years. He has been a committed supporter of programs promoting sustainable agriculture and family farms, providing leadership for the successful Bayfield Township Farmland Preservation Program. Rick is also a traveler—a veteran of more than 30 foreign aid assignments in East Africa, Asia, the former Soviet Union, and most recently the troubled Balkan region of Europe. He has served as an elected representative in local government, as a member of various agricultural industry boards and committees and for five years served as coordinator and instructor for agricultural programs at WITC in Ashland. He recently completed a three-year term with the Agricultural Advisory Council for the US Federal Reserve, Ninth District.



Rick’s wife, Janet, serves on the board for the Bayfield Regional Conservancy. All three of the Dale’s adult children have returned to the area to continue the legacy of the farm on which they were raised.

ATTENTION STRATEGIC THINKERS

Who are we, as a congregation, and what is important to us? Why did we join the Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship and what keeps us connected to it? What do we see in our future and what do we want to make of ourselves over the next five or ten years?

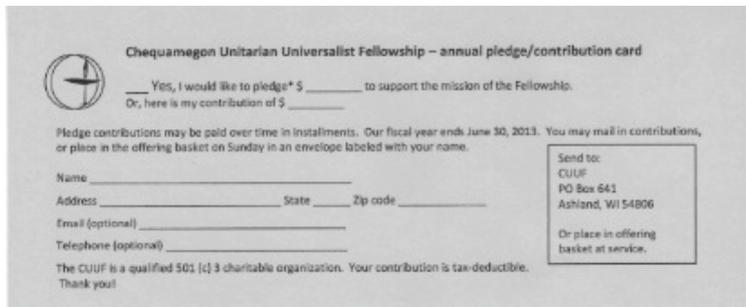
Asking these questions and crafting thoughtful, deliberate answers is critical to keeping our fellowship a source of personal support, spiritual growth and a voice for social justice and liberal religion. The answers will determine both our mission and our vision and be used to keep us on track whenever we have choices to make about the operation of the fellowship.

Some of these choices will need to be made in the next few years as we grow in numbers and programs. The “right” decisions will be those that reflect and advance the vision and mission of the congregation. *Now* is when we need to do the careful work of formulating a shared vision and a carefully defined, concise and focused statement of our mission. Our mission, especially, will be the measuring stick for all we do – a statement of who we are and what we value.

The CUUF board has been researching the process of Strategic Planning and found most sources recommend it be done by a team of committed people, representative of the fellowship as a whole, who will keep the entire congregation engaged in the process. Although board members and staff may be part of the team, we are looking for a chairperson who is not currently on the board. The process of developing a strategic plan is expected to take at least six months. It may possibly take a year to develop a plan for the future. The board understands that it will be a lengthy process and fully supports the endeavor. There is a wealth of outside resources available for guidance and support – we are not reinventing the wheel nor are we changing our current purpose as given in article 2 of our bylaws.

This is truly important work and the board is committed to following through on it - from vision to mission to objectives into the actualization of the congregation’s dreams. Please consider sharing your time, talent and passion as chair or member of this committee. Contact a board member for more information – e-mails and phone numbers are in this newsletter, on our website and in the order of service.

CUUF Board: Ed Calhan, Jan Perkins, Warren Kehn, Erin Tenney, Mark Perrine, Ashley Lokken and Patty Dufek



Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship – annual pledge/contribution card

Yes, I would like to pledge* \$ _____ to support the mission of the Fellowship.
Or, here is my contribution of \$ _____

Pledge contributions may be paid over time in installments. Our fiscal year ends June 30, 2013. You may mail in contributions, or place in the offering basket on Sunday in an envelope labeled with your name.

Name _____
Address _____ State _____ Zip code _____
Email (optional) _____
Telephone (optional) _____

The CUUF is a qualified 501 (c) 3 charitable organization. Your contribution is tax-deductible.
Thank you!

Send to:
CUUF
PO Box 641
Ashland, WI 54806

Or place in offering basket at service.

Please remember to
send in your pledge
card!

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?”

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.

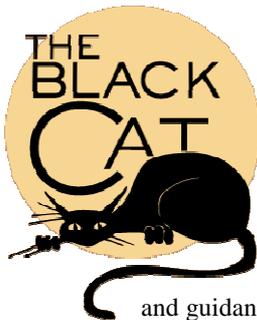
Please don't assume someone else will volunteer. Many of our long standing members are volunteering in a multiple of capacities and cannot take on anything new; the recent loss of members who were filling these positions and the need for folks to move on to others priorities has left us in dire need 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:

CUUF Members have an Art Show!



Kathy Tenney has invited Mary Rehwald to join her in a month-long art show at the Black Cat. The show will be hung November 4th and will be exhibited throughout the month of November.

There will be a reception **Sunday, November 11th, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Black Cat.** Please come and enjoy the show and find out how Kathy and Mary hooked up as art buddies several times this past year. Mary is hooked on doing small drawings in her little black watercolor books. This work will be displayed on the ledge in the Black Cat. Kathy's work is varied and eclectic and informed by many artists' styles and guidance. She will have a fine collection in oil and other media, ranging from luscious still lifes to mysterious landscapes and portraits. Mary and Kathy both stretched their imaginations and techniques these past few months by taking workshops from Karlyn Holman and Frank Luoma. Join the fun. Bring a munchy, if you are so moved. Stop in any time between 5 and 7 o'clock, **Sunday Nov. 11th.**

First Friday Dances

This season's First Friday Dance is 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: 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.

In Our Community, continued:

PFLAG Washburn:

"FAMILIES VALUED", Nov 4th, 6:30-8p.m. Special Event at Stage North,

A play with four actors, Directed by Noah Siegler

This play weaves together the stories of more than a half a dozen gay and lesbian couples into a dramatic presentation that utilizes the power of theater to educate and transform hearts and minds. The play gives audiences a glimpse into the full range of these couples' lives, from their falling in love, to their commitment ceremonies, to their ongoing lives together. The play demonstrates the ordinary domesticity of these couples' lives, as well as the unfairness of the discrimination they have to endure. Being the true stories of actual couples gives the drama an added degree of authenticity.

Discussion with David Saetre, Northland College's Campus Chaplain & Pete Boisclair,
Organizer for Minnesotans United for All Families. FREE performance. Donations welcome.

December 4th, MONTHLY MEETING at Washburn Cultural Center, 7-9 pm.

PFLAG board members Heather and Kat will facilitate a talking circle about dealing with family and friends during the holidays, which can be a tricky endeavor for LGBTQ people and their supporters. They will share stories, solutions that have worked for others, and how you can be more inclusive at your holiday celebration. They will also discuss how to handle discrimination in a family situation. This is a safe and open conversation - feel free to join in or just sit back and listen. We always have refreshments, so in December we will have holiday eats for treats!

PFLAG (Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) – Washburn reaches youth and adults throughout the Chequamegon Bay area. And now we have a website that contains chapters events and updates, news and links to other resources and news. The web address is <http://pflagwashburn.org>.

Prairie Star District:

Destination Workshops:

Worship Workshop for Small Congregations - November 2-3, 2012 in Mankato, Minnesota

Growth Workshop - November 3, 2012 in Palatine Illinois

Renaissance Module – Curriculum - November 8-10, 2012 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa

For more information see <http://www.psduua.org/Workshops/FutureWorkshops>

Online workshop: *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.psduua.org/content/onlineworkshops>.

Submit Meditations

Skinner House Books, the imprint of the Unitarian Universalist Association, invites members of UU congregations to submit original poems, prayers, or short prose pieces for consideration for a collection of meditations for congregational leaders. Deadline is November 15, 2012. More information at <http://www.psduua.org/Newsletter/70October2012/UUANews>

Annual Conference 2012, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, April 5-7, 2013

Our conference, "*Inspire the Future We Envision*", begins Friday night with a keynote lecture by the Rev. Stefan Jonasson, the UUA Director of Growth Strategies and Large Congregation Development. He will look back at what Unitarian Universalists have accomplished in our district's 50-year history. The Rev. Christine Robinson from Albuquerque, New Mexico, addresses the future when she delivers the Judy Memorial Lecture on Saturday. Much as plants and animals have to adapt to change, we must also adapt or risk extinction.

The day heats up with workshops and the District business meeting which will include a vote on regionalization, sizzles with a youth-led service Saturday night, and concludes on Sunday. Can you really think of any better company than 250 UUs? Join us!

Prairie Star District, continued:

PSD Awards, *Nomination Forms Available*

Every spring, at the District Conference, Prairie Star District acknowledges those hard-working UUs who bring life and vitality to our congregations. Maybe this year somebody from YOUR congregation will be honored with an award.

If you believe that someone from your group qualifies for one of the PSD awards, nominate him/her. Nomination forms are due by January 31 - <http://www.psdoua.org/Awards/NominatingForms>.

UUA (National Organization):

UUA in the News: <http://www.uua.org/news/index.php>

Letters to the Editor:

A Favor for the Ashland Chamber Music Society

Joni Chapman

Hello music lovers

The Ashland Chamber Music Society hosts a reception to meet the musicians after each of our concerts. The ACMS board works to provide this, in conjunction with the Daily Bread Bakery and Black Cat Coffee House.

If anyone out there would like to assist ACMS in preparing refreshments for the receptions, please reply to me. Even if you are only available to make something for one event, that would be incredibly appreciated.

There are other volunteering opportunities with ACMS. If you are interested in putting up posters (especially in Bayfield or Washburn), helping with set-up of concerts, future committee work, etc., we welcome your help.

Thank you for your patronage. And enjoy the music the way it was meant to be - *Live!*

Central Midwest District of UUA Presents Woman Spirit 2013 Conference

*Hosted by Unitarian Universalist Church West
13001 West North Avenue, Brookfield, WI 53005*

There Is Something About The Women: The Art of Activism

Featuring: Holly Near

Dates:

February 1st – Conference Opening Ceremony

February 2nd – Workshops, Lunch Included and Closing Ceremony

February 3rd – Sunday Worship Service

Holly is an entertainer, teacher and activist whose career as a singer has been defined by her passion for human dignity. She is a skilled performer and an outspoken ambassador for peace whose portrait hangs at The Freedom Center in Cincinnati, Ohio along with those of other social change artists including Paul Robeson, Marion Anderson, Pete Seeger, Dr. Bernice Johnson Reagon, Joan Baez, Harry Belafonte and Woody Guthrie – www.hollynear.com

Holly will present Saturday morning's keynote speech and will lead a workshop on the Art of Activism Saturday afternoon. Holly is the pulpit guest on Sunday morning.

Conference Cost includes Friday Opening Services, Saturday Workshops & Lunch

Early Registration: 140.00 through 12/31/12

Late Registration: 155.00 through 01/31/13

At the Door: 175.00

Saturday Concert: 35.00

Register at <http://www.womenandreligion.org>

Lodging

Radisson / (414) 257-3400

2393 Mayfair Road, Wauwatosa, WI 53226

Use code Woman Spirit Conference when registering

\$94.00 / night – reduced rate through 12/31/12

Holiday Inn Express / (414) 778-0333

11111 W North Avenue / Wauwatosa, WI 53226

Use code WWS when registering

\$79 / night – reduced rate through 12/31/12

Regionalization: Enriching Our UU Congregations in MidAmerica

from Linchpin, the transition committee to keep UUs in the loop regarding Regionalization

How can we remake our region's governance structure to strengthen our congregations and other spiritual communities to more visibly live our UU faith, create connections, grow our membership, and welcome all persons who share our UU values in what is a new era in Unitarian Universalism? In late August 2012 members of the boards of Central MidWest, Heartland, and Prairie Star districts, along with lead staff from each district, and the UUA Director of Congregational Life, met to explore exactly these momentous questions. "How" was the frequent focus. "Why" was a given -- to enrich our congregations in MidAmerica.

In her recent article, writing for the MidAmerica Steering Committee, Amy Taylor described the extensive preparatory work being done in the MidAmerica region, work on bylaws, on communications, on finances, and on smooth transitions to this new structure. When a family decides to build or remodel a home, the best architectural structure is one which supports the the lifestyle of the residents. Decisions are made about creating welcoming spaces, cozy spaces, spaces for work, and spaces for play. As we restructure our region, we are making similar decisions. How can we use our staff's skills and abilities, our available finances, our shared areas of interest to provide a structure which will enrich the congregations?

Our staff have, in fact, already begun to work regionally. They've realized the benefits of drawing on each of their strengths to meet the needs of the congregations working as a team of 6, rather than trying to work 2 by 2 by 2 as generalists. The opportunity for staff to deepening their skill sets, to bridge shared interests across the region where one congregation's experience can be drawn on to inform another's -- this is a tremendous opportunity. Staff are also already living into the realities of sharing resources thanks to technologies such as document sharing online, communications tools which allow face-to-face conversations without travel, and more.

Our ministers and congregational leaders have also seen the benefit of sharing across district lines for some time, especially, for example, in the Midwest Leadership School. For over twenty-five years, those who accept leadership positions in our congregations have had training available to help them grow their leadership skills. Online webinars are also such an example.

And for you in your congregation, what are the benefits of this movement toward regionalization? If you remember the first time you stepped into a UU congregation and knew that you were home, you know the answer. We are expanding our house beyond what we have known so far in our districts as we support connections among ourselves, enhance the possibilities of growing our UU congregations, whether in numbers or in spiritual deepening, and prepare to welcome and work with others who share our UU values.

At our District Assemblies in April, we will be asking delegates to vote to create our new region, MidAmerica. Decide to be informed. Decide to be a delegate. Decide to vote for MidAmerica.

From Nancy Heege and the regional Field Staff

If you're curious about the ways our current District Staff will be serving the new region, we have a draft document for you to read. To read the draft, go to <http://www.midamericauua.org/regionalization>

The document contains our philosophy, as well as more detail about the areas of responsibility we each will take on. This is a draft, and we welcome your comments. Our District Boards and the UUA's Director of Congregational Life have seen it.

Please contact any of us with your thoughts.

Nancy Heege at nheege@psduua.org, Phil Lund at plund@psduua.org, Ian Evison at ievison@uua.org, Dori Davenport Thexton at dthexton@uua.org, Lisa Presley at le@heartlanduua.org, Nancy Combs Morgan at fdd@heartlanduua.org

UU Calendar
November 2012

Fellowship Services:

November 11 Fellowship Service 10am – David Saetre “Faith, Not Religion”

November 25 Fellowship Service 10am – Rick Dale “Faith and Food”

Other CUUF and Community events:

November 2 First Friday Dance - Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute/Northland College – 7pm

November 4 PFLAG play and discussion at Stage North, “FAMILIES VALUED”, 6:30-8p.m.

November 11 Black Cat Artist Reception – Kathy Tenney and Mary Rehwald 5-7pm at the Black Cat

December 4 PFLAG monthly meeting at the Washburn Cultural Center, 7-9pm

See the newsletter for Prairie Star District destination and online workshops and conferences.

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

Contact Information:

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Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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