



The Open Door Newsletter
January 2013
Fellowship Services are at 10am on the Northland
College Campus

Fellowship Service – January 13th – 10am, 2nd floor commons of the Ponzio Center
Speaker – David Saetre – “Reflections on Hope”

The January talk by David Saetre will focus on the theme of “hope.” This is the third and last in his series on spiritual virtues. You may have heard the popular saying, “hope is not a plan,” and the dismissive tone of that phrase sums up a cynical side to modern society. Indeed, hope is often synonymous with magical thinking or unrealistic expectations that avoid personal responsibility and the hard work of building a better world. Yet, while hope is not a plan, no one can plan without it. Because the future always includes ambiguity and surprise – things rarely turn out exactly how we plan them – all plans require some level of risk. Hope is the way in which we launch our dreams and visions into actions. All good plans have their roots in hope. But, hope in what? That’s what we will explore at our gathering on the second Sunday in January. The topic seems right as we begin a new year, filled with our own resolutions, dreams and expectations for our families and community. And, the topic of hope carries particular importance in the wake of the Sandy Hook school shootings, and our national sense of vulnerability and sorrow.

Join David and the faculty, staff and students of Northland as we begin a new year of worship, thoughtful reflection and building community together around the theme of “Hope!”

Fellowship Service – January 27th – 10am, 2nd floor commons of the Ponzio Center
Speaker – A.J. Galazen – “These Ruins Are Inhabited”

Unitarians and Universalists have a rich history of dissent. Many of us arrive from different faith communities, and we bring our own distinct views of religion. We must continually re-invent our “living tradition” in the context we find ourselves. This is both a blessing and a challenge. Our historic distrust of religious institutions has made us organizationally less effective than churches with strong hierarchical leadership.

Where do we see ourselves, as theologically independent congregations, in the time line of the greater liberal movement? What ideas and structures have we left behind? What forms and strategies will we use for the next generation?

Our special guests will be David Lauth, soloist at the First Universalist Church of Minneapolis, and Rev. Trish Greeves of United Theological Seminary.

“Celebrating Change” – A (not so) Short Letter From Your New Editor

--Hans Veenendaal

Hello to All. As most of you may know, the editor position of our newsletter has made a quiet transition. Over the past three months Marilyn Einspanier, the editor for the past three years, has patiently guided me into assuming her former role. Now that I feel sufficiently weaned I thought it time to introduce myself.



After moving to northern Wisconsin in 1998 I became a member of the CUUF while it was still young. The fellowship met in the basement of the Washburn Library. The Perrine daughters and the Hendershot family (whom some of you may remember) provided much of the music. And David Saetre, who was at that time a professor to me at Northland College, was just a neophyte in our fellowship.

I drifted in and out of this fellowship, and eventually away for a number of years. In the summer of 2011 I came back to Washburn, and, looking for ways to reconnect I returned to the UU's—this time accompanied by my wife Julia and our son Bas. Together we split our time between Messiah Lutheran Church in Washburn, where

Julia and Bas are members and I sing in the choir and the CUUF in Ashland. Bas refers to these as “Washburn Church” and “Ashland Church.”

This past December I had the opportunity to “come out” at Messiah Lutheran as a non-Christian who still likes going to church. As part of an Advent series my topic, specifically, was “A Skeptic Prepares for the Birth of Christ.” That was fun! The essence of our conversation came to this: Christmas, and Advent in particular, are for me a time to celebrate change, or rather, to celebrate the *opportunity* to change. An entire month is set aside in expectancy, contemplation and preparation for the birth of something new. That we are able to repeat this ritual every year reminds us that our lives (and even our deaths) are a constant re-birthing.

The Open Door is an important link in our dynamic fellowship allowing us to connect with each other and with people we have not yet met. Announcements, invitations, calendars and reminders are more easily at hand when we write them down in one place. These essentials will not disappear from this newsletter. I hope also that The Open Door continues to be a forum where all of us can express thoughts, feelings, needs, questions, and more. Sometimes writing things down is easier than saying them out loud. Send in your questions as well as your statements. Send in your musings as well as your calendars. I will do my best to ensure that you are heard (or read, as it were).

Whether it comes noisily with lights and banners or quietly like a soft winter snow, change always comes. I hope to be able to embrace this change; taking on the role of newsletter editor, gently and quietly (although ruffling a few feathers can be fun, too!). Don't expect any radical changes to The Open Door, but allow room for newness. It will always come.

Special Announcements

Men's Group Introductory Meeting – January 13th

All men are invited to a meeting on January 13th immediately following the service, to plan activities that will benefit the spiritual, intellectual and social needs of men in the fellowship. Come and share your ideas for future events. This is not a therapy or support group, but a small group ministry to help welcome members into our community and explore what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist man in the 21st century. We also want to have some fun!

The group will be facilitated by A.J. Galazen, Intern Minister. If you're interested in participating, but can't make our introductory meeting, please email A.J. at ajgalazen@hotmail.com.



Our Welcoming Congregation

submitted by Mary Wichita

News about our fellowship's journey as a Welcoming Congregation will now come out with every newsletter! Each month I hope to share information, resources and your stories related to issues, needs, events and opportunities for and about the LGBTQ community. If you have something to share for this column, please e-mail me at mary.wichita@yahoo.com.

This month I want to alert everyone to the opportunity for **high school seniors to apply for a \$500 scholarship through PFLAG Washburn**. Whether you are a parent of a high school student, a teacher or simply know people who would be interested in this opportunity, please read on.

Two scholarships are awarded each year. The recipients of these awards will be those who have contributed to their community in the area of gay, lesbian, bisexual and/or transgender (GLBT) advocacy, support and/or education. This scholarship is open to Ashland and Bayfield county seniors regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity/expression. The students must be intending to attend an institute of higher education in the fall.

Examples of student activities that might bring an applicant to the attention of PFLAG Washburn include, but are not limited to:

- A student who has been active in the formation or the continuation of a Gay-Straight Alliance.
- A student who has consistently included GLBT materials in his/her/hir coursework.
- A student who has organized an event that has promoted fair treatment and safety for GLBT people.
- A student who has been an active part of community efforts involving GLBT issues.
- A student who has faced and sought to overcome obstacles related to GLBT issues.

The January 22 PFLAG Washburn meeting (7:30 PM at Humble Bee Yoga Studio , 325 Washington Ave., Washburn) will be devoted to this topic, as well as provide information on how to start and sustain a Gay/Straight Alliance in high school. For more information, please feel free to call me (715-765-4132) or e-mail me.

Editor's Note:

At its November meeting, the CUUF Board voted unanimously to support "an initiative by members to begin the process of becoming certified by the UUA as a Welcoming Congregation." The meaning of this is summarized in the October newsletter (www.chequamegonuuf.org). You can also find out about the Welcoming Congregation Program in great detail on by visiting the UUA website:

www.uua.org/lgbtq/

In Our Community:

Campus Ministry Service Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. - January 20th – 10am, Student Chapel, 2nd floor of the Ponzio Center

On Sunday, January 20th Northland College Campus Ministries is holding a special service honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Join our Intern Minister A.J. Galazen and special student drummers, and reawaken Dr. King's remarkable dream.

In Our Community, continued



First Friday Dances

First Friday Dances will resume in **February**. The first Dance of 2013 will be held on February 1st and will feature the Red Pine Resonators. This is an old time dance where everyone is welcome and partners are not required. All dances are taught and called so no experience is necessary. The dances include reels, contras, square dances, circle mixers and waltzes as well as dances especially for kids. Children's dances start at 7pm and the dances for adults start around 8pm at the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute at Northland College. For more information, call 715-373-5013. Sponsored by Northland College Student Association and Chequamegon Folk Collective.

PFLAG Washburn: Upcoming Meetings

Everyone is invited to attend the monthly meetings of PFLAG-Washburn. Chapter members are a dynamic and supportive group that includes both parents and allies of gay, lesbian, transgender, bisexual and queer, as well as individuals who self-identify as one.

January 22 Monthly Meeting: "How to earn a \$500 Washburn PFLAG Scholarship!"

Please Note Time & Place Change

7:30 pm, Humble Bee Yoga Studio, 325 Washington Avenue, Washburn

Students who are seniors on track to graduate from high schools in Ashland and Bayfield Counties will learn how to qualify for a \$500 Scholarship! AND speakers will tell us how to start a Gay Straight Alliance and other ways to show support for LGBTQ students in high school. **Parents, Students & Everyone Welcome!** Treats provided by Washburn's Coco's Bakery. Thank You Humble Bee & Coco's for your support!

February 26 Monthly Meeting: "Two Spirits" Film and Discussion

7:00 PM; Washburn Cultural Center, 1 East Bayfield St.

This award winning documentary sheds light on the terrible tragedy of Fred Martinez, a two-spirit Navajo youth who was killed 3 years after Matthew Shepard's death. Two Spirits interweaves the tragic story of a mother's loss of her son with a revealing look at a time when the world wasn't divided into male and female and many Native American cultures held places of honor for people of integrated genders.

After the film, we will discuss two-spirit beliefs in native culture, as well as the influence of media coverage on events such as this. ****Please note:**** This film deals with the topic of murder and hate crimes. Come and go as you need, but please note that conversations may run a bit longer than our normal meeting time, depending on the group.

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

A Note From Northland College . . .

As a fellowship without a formal church, we are fortunate to have been granted a gathering place at Northland College for our services. The fee for this? Nothing. That's why the Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship makes an annual gift to the College in appreciation of its generosity. We received, last month, this note from the College President, Michael Miller:

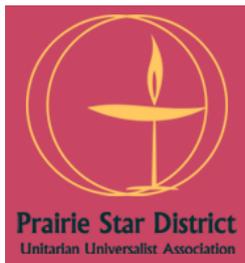
We extend a heart-felt thank you to the Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship for the generous gift toward the Northland Fund at Northland College. This gift makes an immense difference in the lives of our students and is greatly appreciated by all of us at the College.

Please know you are contributing to a strong and important college. We remain committed to making you proud, implementing your wishes thoughtfully and fostering Northland College's caring culture.

Thank you, again, for your partnership in the mission of Northland College,



News From Prairie Star District:



Your Gift Can Help

--Kathy Burek, PSD President

Prairie Star District offers your congregation and all the congregations in PSD:

- An rich array of leadership training opportunities
- Excellent consulting on many topics by an expanded regional staff
- Chances to learn about and interact with congregations similar to yours

After recent in-person consulting by our staff, church leaders commented:

"[The District Staff person] understood my issues and addressed them clearly. [I gained] confidence that we were beginning an important process, and assistance and advice were available. The planning committee used some of the suggestions and not others, but I felt like I had a better basis for suggestions that I brought forward."

This fall, after a workshop on worship, a participant said: "[I took away] lots of wonderful ideas and resources; a better understanding of how to integrate worship components into a seamless whole; a better understanding of how to utilize worship elements to reach a variety of learning styles and personal worship resonances. It was particularly effective to actually experience some of the different worship elements she discussed."

Your gift to Friends of PSD will help this type of excellence in programming continue and expand. The funds contributed by Friends have underwritten both small and larger efforts to serve congregation. In the last year, more people from more congregations have attended more District workshops, taking home more ideas for strengthening their congregations. Gifts contributed to Friends have allowed the District to be more responsive to congregational needs.

While District dues paid by congregations cover much of the cost of District programs, they don't cover it all. Your contribution will help us move forward in so many ways. Would you consider a gift of \$50 or more? Please make your tax deductible contribution online today

<http://www.psdoua.org/GivingToPSD/FriendsOfPSD>.

News From Prairie Star District, continued

Make Camp UniStar Part of Your Summer!

More than fifty years of Unitarian tradition located on Star Island in Cass Lake, Minnesota

Imagine ... An inter-generational camp with activities for all.

Imagine ... Never needing your credit card, no cars to contend with, no stores wanting your business, no TV.

Imagine ... Freshly prepared food three times a day, miles of trails to hike alone or with others, sailboats, kayaks, canoes and windsurfers to use as you like, a sandy beach and swim area, participation in a hands-on daily workshop or a thought provoking talk.



For further information: www.CampUniStar.org or contact Management Committee member Pam Johnson at [651-430-1738](tel:651-430-1738) or pam_doug.johnson@comcast.net .

Don't Forget!

- **Woman Spirit 2013 Conference – February 1st - 3rd – Wauwatosa, WI**
“There Is Something About The Women: The Art of Activism, featuring: Holly Near”
Register at <http://www.womenandreligion.org>
- **Annual Conference 2013 – April 5th - 7th – Cedar Rapids, Iowa**
“Inspiring the Future We Envision”
Can you really think of any better company than 250 UUs? Join us! For more information about the conference, please visit <http://www.psduua.org/AnnualConference2013>
- **Camp StarTrail Fifth Anniversary Celebration – July 28th – August 2nd**
Register at <http://www.psduua.org/Camps/CampStarTrail2013> . Send questions about camp StarTrail to campstartrail@psduua.org .



Regionalization: Sharing to Grow to Serve You Better

There have been a number of messages that have gone out about the Regionalization Transition in the past few months. If you missed any, you can read them at:

<http://www.midamericauua.org/regionalization>

UUA (National Organization):

To read more about the UUA, please visit <http://www.uua.org/news/index.php>



CHEQUAMEGON UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST COMMUNITY CALENDAR
JANUARY 2013

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES:

- January 13** Fellowship Service – 10am, 2nd floor commons of the Ponzio Center
Speaker: David Saetre - “Reflections on Hope”
- January 27** Fellowship Service – 10am, 2nd floor commons of the Ponzio Center
Speaker: A.J. Galazen - “These Ruins Are Inhabited”

OTHER CUUF & COMMUNITY EVENTS:

- January 13 **CUUF Men's Group Introductory Meeting**
immediately following the 10 am Fellowship Service
- January 20 **Campus Ministry Service Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**
10am, Student Chapel, 2nd floor of the Ponzio Center
- January 22 **PFLAG Washburn Monthly Meeting**
7:30pm, Humble Bee Yoga Studio, 325 Washington Ave, Washburn

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE WIDER UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST COMMUNITY

- February 1 - 3 **Woman Spirit Conference 2013**
- April 5 - 7 **Annual Conference 2013**
- July 28 – August 2 **Camp Star Trail 5th Anniversary Celebration**

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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