

The Open Door Newsletter

February 2013

Fellowship Services are held at 10am on the Northland College Campus, 2nd Floor Commons of the Ponzio Center



This Month's Fellowship Services

February 10th — Speakers: Nancy Hanson and Dianne M. Heapy — “Reconciling in Christ: One Church’s Journey Toward Healing and Acceptance”

“[We are] increasingly called to address the issues of anti-LGBT rhetoric and violence induced by Christian people.” These words, from *ReconcilingWorks: Lutherans for Full Participation*, echo the growing need for churches to address, openly, the issue of LGBT acceptance and discrimination. Dianne has a desire for the rejected, wounded and marginalized Christians currently experiencing anguish of the spirit to heal and return a safe place to worship. She and Nancy will share insights into what it means for a church to become formally welcoming to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people, and the process Messiah Lutheran church is going through.

Nancy Hanson is an ELCA pastor serving at Messiah Lutheran in Washburn and at First Lutheran in Port Wing. Dianne M. Heapy has worked as social worker and mental health professional and is currently attending Bethel Seminary.

February 24th — Speaker: David Saetre — “Lincoln’s Faith”

David Saetre will offer reflections on the prominent role religious faith played in Abraham Lincoln’s thought. Lincoln made more overt references to religious faith than any other President in the history of the land. Yet, Lincoln never joined a church and seemed rather skeptical in his views toward organized religion. The historian Mark Noll has noted that Lincoln never made a clear profession of Christian faith at all, yet his references to God and the search for religious meaning in the face of great tragedy occupies a prominent place in his oratory and writing.

With the popularity of the new film, *Lincoln*, and with a new round of Lincoln scholarship, this topic holds great interest even today. Join David in his review of the most complex, and perhaps most inspiring, political leader in our history.

ReconcilingWorks advocates for the full inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Lutherans in all aspects of the life of their Church and congregations. The **Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Program** of is a program of ReconcilingWorks for congregations, synods, colleges, seminaries, and other Lutheran organizations that recognizes Lutheran communities who publically welcome lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender believers. The Reconciling in Christ roster of congregations, synods, colleges, seminaries and organizations now exceeds 500.



IN THIS ISSUE:

- ◆ Fellowship Services
... Front Page

- ◆ Special Announcements
 - New Membership?
 - Think Tank Forming... Page 2

- ◆ Our Welcoming Congregation
... Page 3

- ◆ Fellowship Events & Announcements
 - Caring Corner
 - Regionalization
 - Men's Group
 - Help Wanted... Page 5

- ◆ In Our Community
 - Campus Ministry
 - PFLAG... Page 6

- ◆ Calendar
... Page 7

- ◆ Contact Information
... Back Cover

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS!



Are You Interested in Becoming a Member of Our Fellowship?

The Membership Committee is excited to announce a series of classes for those considering joining the Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. The classes will be facilitated by A.J. Galazen, Intern Minister, and will meet after services from 11:30 to 12:30. The topics for each meeting are listed below—attend one session or attend the whole series.

These classes are also beneficial for long-time members who are interested in meeting new people and deepening their commitments to the fellowship. Everyone is welcome. Mark your calendars and join us!

February 10 — Membership Class, Part 1: Spiritual Autobiography
Faith communities are filled with colorful characters. We will explore our religious “story lines.”

February 24 — Membership Class, Part 2: Faith, Tradition & Our Fellowship
What are the roots of Unitarian Universalism? How does our congregation function in the world?

March 10 — Membership Class, Part 3: Missions, Values and Covenants
What holds us together? What expectations do we have? To whom or to what are we accountable?

Fellowship Future Think Tank Forming

The CUUF Planning Task Force is up and rolling in order to facilitate the setting of some goals for this year and for several years to come. With years of experience as a facilitator Kevin Stranberg is volunteering his talents to guide us in this journey. A process has been outlined which will seek input from all members and interested folks at numerous points along the way. All meetings are open. We are hoping to move this process right along--full steam ahead.

Following some upcoming services, members of the Planning Task Force will be available to get your input. Also, there will be a Long Range planning retreat to look at the dreams and challenges facing the congregation. The Task Force would like to have a broad range of input at this session from members/friends of various perspectives, so please plan to attend. Watch the newsletter and check your email in the months to come to stay posted on what is happening as we move forward. The more inclusive the input, the more responsive the goal setting will be to the vision of the members. Please participate and help set the future for the fellowship.

If you are interested in participating or feel you need more information please contact Kevin Stranberg, stranberg@centurytel.net, home ([715](tel:7156925018)) 692-5018, work ([715](tel:7156855181)) 685-5181.

Read on to the next page and discover the
Task Force Plan of Action

CUUF STRATEGIC PLANNING 2013 TO 2017 – TASK FORCE PLAN OF ACTION Planning Milestones

January 2013

- CUUF Board agrees to move forward with a process to establish a CUUF Strategic Plan 2013 – 2017. (1/16/13)
- CUUF Board charters a Planning Task Force made up of Board members and interested members of the congregation. (1/16/13)
- CUUF Task Force establishes a process for strategic planning facilitated by Kevin Stranberg. (1/21/13)
- Task Force members answer questions concerning the planning process after Sunday services (January 27 – April 14).

February 2013

- Task Force members meet for a Planning Retreat (tentative dates: February 17, late afternoon or February 23 time yet to be determined).
- Task Force members seek input from CUUF members concerning the future of the CUUF congregation (personal interviews and possibly written survey).

March 2013

- Task Force formulates a draft of the Strategic Plan based on information collected from congregational interviews, pertinent data and retreat notes.

April 2013

- Strategic Planning draft presented at the CUUF Annual Meeting for review and potential approval.

OUR WELCOMING CONGREGATION —

What Can We Do To Become a More Welcoming Fellowship For The LGBT Community?

—submitted by Mary Wichita



WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR US TO BECOME A FORMALLY WELCOMING CONGREGATION?

To feel welcome in our fellowship, people need to know that our fellowship is a safe place for them to be themselves. Little things are often the most important.

WHAT WOULD A SAFE PLACE LOOK AND FEEL LIKE? It is a place where we always introduce ourselves to new people. It is a place where we make no assumptions about someone's sexual preference or gender identity, or their marital or partnership status. Moreover, we can...

- ◆ Include language such as, "CUUF seeks to foster a climate of purposeful inclusion of all people regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, religious belief or national origin" in our posters, newspaper announcements, orders of service and on our website.
- ◆ Consider how else we can make our website welcoming to LGBT visitors. Announcing our welcome lets LGBT people know that they and their families are valued and welcomed, and that they will be treated as a family.
- ◆ Provide written guidelines for inclusive language to all people who participate in your Sunday services (including ministers, lay leaders, guest speakers, readers of announcements and readings and greeters), contribute to our newsletter and/or website. Include inclusive language in our bylaws.
- ◆ Make information about LGBT people and issues available on our literature table.
- ◆ Incorporate awareness into the Religious Education programs.
- ◆ Acknowledge and respect individuals and families: Accord full acknowledgment and respect to each person and family, as defined by the person/family. This includes the definition of pledging units, listings in the church

(Continued on page 4)

OUR WELCOMING CONGREGATION, continued

(Continued from page 3)

directory, family events, and all other aspects of church life. There are few more demoralizing and alienating experiences for anyone than to be told (explicitly or implicitly) that their siblings, parents, children, partners, and so on are not really their family, or to have their name and/or pronoun preferences disrespected.

- ◆ Take special steps toward transgender welcome: Educate ourselves about understanding the difference between sexual orientation and gender identity, and take special steps toward transgender welcome and inclusion. For example, create single occupancy bathrooms and signs directing people to them. Use the words "children" instead of "boys and girls;" "people" instead of "women and men;" "siblings" instead of "brothers and sisters." Make education on transgender identity and welcome a priority, whether through a Sunday service, film screening, workshop, or more.
- ◆ Make LGBT issues a part of our worship: Hold services and sermons that address LGBT issues. Ask our Minister(s) and Director(s) of Religious Education to do supportive sermons. If LGBT people are out in our congregation, we could invite them to do a lay-led service or just the sermon, or we could invite friends and family members of LGBT people to discuss their experiences, invite community leaders to lead in worship around LGBT issues, or arrange for a panel discussion on an LGBT topic. There are so many possibilities.
- ◆ Do outreach and public witness around LGBT issues. Partner with PFLAG to offer programming.
- ◆ Extend our welcome beyond sexual orientation and gender identity: Extending our welcome to LGBT people is just one entry point into the conversation about how to truly be a Welcoming Congregation. LGBT people, like all people, have multifaceted identities. They are people of color, they are working class, they have
- ◆ disabilities, they are immigrants, they are children and youth and single parents and elders. Is our congregation a welcoming congregation to all of these people also? Do we say so out loud or do we just expect others to know that, since we are Unitarian/Universalists we inherently strive to be inclusive?
- ◆ Emphasize the interrelatedness of all forms of oppression and weave this into everything that your congregation does. Explore how homophobia and transphobia affect people with multiple oppressed identities differently. Offer Building the World We Dream About, a program about race and ethnicity, or check out more next steps to deepen our welcome.

The ideas listed here have been adapted from the Unitarian Universalist Association website. Do have any more thoughts? How do you feel about what we've written here? We've tucked a survey inside this newsletter—it's an opportunity to express your feelings about and interests in this effort.

—
If you receive and e-version of this newsletter, the survey will be sent as a separate attachment and you can print it in order to fill it out. Completed surveys can be mailed to our P.O. Box, they can be emailed to Mary Wichita, or you can bring it with you at any of our next Fellowship Services. Another copy will also be included in the Order of Service for February 10th.

Hope

*Hope is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul,
And sings the tune--without the words,
And never stops at all,*

*And sweetest in the gale is heard;
And sore must be the storm
That could abash the little bird
That kept so many warm.*

*I've heard it in the chilliest land,
And on the strangest sea;
Yet, never, in extremity,
It asked a crumb of me.*

—Emily Dickinson



These two chickadees alit at the CUUF Annual Holiday Service where the Religious Education program presented the folk tale, "The Wolf and the Good Woodsman." The poem was quoted by David Saetre in his January 13th message, "Reflections on Hope"

FELLOWSHIP EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



Caring Corner

Healing wishes go out to Mary Rehwald as she recovers from shoulder surgery. She enjoys visits and getting out occasionally.

A speedy recovery to Rudd Falconer recovering from back surgery.

Congratulations to all the UU Canski kids who have had a great season!

We have two members in area nursing homes. If you have time to stop by for a chat you can visit Mariann McGeehan at Golden Living Center in Ashland and Dory Christensen at Northern Lights in Washburn.

If you know of someone who is ill, needs help, or has a great joy to celebrate, we offer support to members and friends of our fellowship. Contact Jacki Rae-Ledin 715-373-0347 or at antiquegardeninn@hotmail.com.

Regionalization Discussion Brought to CUUF

The term “Regionalization” has been floating around our fellowship and this newsletter for quite some time now. The idea is to merge three districts in the geographic center of the U.S. (Central Midwest, Heartland, and Prairie Star) into one MidAmerica Region. But what exactly does it mean and how could it affect the CUUF? Phil Lund, from Prairie Star District will be with the congregation for the March 10 service and will speak very briefly about the issue of regionalization. Following the service, any friends or members of the fellowship that would like to discuss this issue are invited to stay for a discussion with Phil.



There will be more news regarding the history behind the Regionalization proposal and what plans there are for the future in the March edition of *The Open Door*. You can also visit <http://www.midamericauua.org/regionalization> for additional information.



Patty Dufek has been in charge of providing snacks, coffee, juice and all the other food & drink we enjoy after Fellowship

Services—any other after-church coffee hour pales in comparison. She is now eagerly looking for others to share in that task. Are you interested in helping out? Maybe you'd like to sign up for a specific Sunday, or share a month with other members? Any ideas and help are welcome. Please call Patty at 715-682-9015 or 715-292-1676 ; or you can e-mail her at pport57@charter.net.

CUUF Men's Group

After the January 13th introductory meeting the Men's Group is off to a ... well ... it's off to a start. We're busy men—busy doing manly things, right? Several interested members sat down together after that Sunday's service and met later in the week at Warren Kehn's House. What transpired there is shrouded in secrecy, but if you ask Warren he might divulge some details after a thorough vetting.

All joking aside (and that's hard to do), we're still looking for direction and input. As A.J. stressed, this is not a therapy or support group, so how shall we move forward? Several ideas were put forth: book readings, trips/outings, poker (yes, you read that right). I was not at the fellowship service this past Sunday (January 27th) and I don't know if there has been anymore discussion. Scheduling seems to be one of our main difficulties right now, and after more communication with each other our direction will likely become clearer. Do you have any ideas, questions, input or interest? You can contact Warren Kehn at (715) 681-0447 or e-mail him at wakehn@gmail.com; or contact A.J. Galazen at ajgalazen@hotmail.com.

IN OUR COMMUNITY

Campus Ministry Services

A.J. Galazen, our United Seminary Intern Minister, continues to lead services through Northland College's Campus Ministry. Services are held on alternate Sundays—that is, those Sundays on which there is no Fellowship Service—at 10am in the Ponzio Center Chapel. This month's topics:

February 3 — “The Poodle and the Porcupine”

Two creatures meet in the woods. How should they interact? How do our differences define us?

February 17 — “What's Love Got to Do with It?”

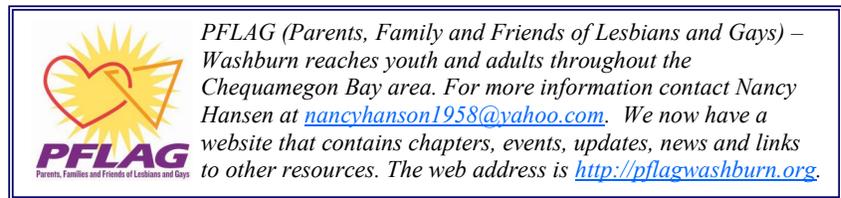
A look at the science of love. Do we have any conscious control over attraction and rejection?

All are welcome to attend! Thank you for supporting our campus ministry.

- A.J.

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.



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.

March 11 Monthly Meeting: Opening Discussion on the Future Direction of PFLAG-Washburn

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

Open to members and nonmembers, alike, this meeting will be a brainstorming session that helps us look at the programming and structure of PFLAG in the months/years to come. Everyone who has an interest in ensuring the vitality of this community organization that provides support, education and advocacy is welcome to attend.

**CHEQUAMEGON UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
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 COMMUNITY CALENDAR
FEBRUARY 2013**

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES

10am in the 2nd Floor Commons of the Ponzio Center at Northland College

- February 10** Nancy Hanson & Dianne M. Heapy — *“Reconciling in Christ: One Church’s Journey Toward Healing and Acceptance”*
- February 24** [David Saetre — *“Lincoln’s Faith”*

CUUF & COMMUNITY EVENTS:

- February 3** **Campus Ministry Service** — A.J. Galazen — *“The Poodle and the Porcupine”*
10am in the Student Chapel, 2nd Floor of the Ponzio Center at Northland College
- February 10** Membership Class, Part 1: Spiritual Autobiography
(following the 10am Fellowship Service)
- February 17** **Campus Ministry Service** — A.J. Galazen — *“What’s Love Got to Do With It?”*
10am in the Student Chapel, 2nd Floor of the Ponzio Center at Northland College
- February 17 or 23** CUUUF Strategic Planning Task Force members meet for a Planning Retreat (tentative dates: February 17, late afternoon or February 23 time yet to be determined).
- February 24** Membership Class, Part 2: Faith, Tradition & Our Fellowship
(following the 10am Fellowship Service)
- February 26** PFLAG Washburn — Monthly Meeting: *“Two Spirits”* Film and Discussion
7:00 PM; Washburn Cultural Center, 1 East Bayfield St.

To Risk

- anonymous

To laugh is to risk appearing the fool.

To weep is to risk appearing sentimental.

To reach out for another is to risk exposing our true self.

To place our ideas—our dreams—before the crowd is to risk loss.

To love is to risk not being loved in return.

To hope is to risk despair.

To try is to risk failure.

To live is to risk dying.

—*Singing the Living Tradition, no. 658*

I cannot leave well enough alone. And, in that perspective, I have already started tinkering with *The Open Door*. The content remains the same but the style is a bit different. I want your input. What do you like or not like? What would you want to read in this newsletter? Better yet, send me something that you want to see in print. This newsletter is as much about who we are as it is about what we do. Take that risk—this is the place for it—and, as Unitarians, we must be willing to risk becoming know as “Free-Tinkers.”

You can e-mail me or send in submissions to uunews@chequamegonuuf.org, or you can call me at 715-373-0361. And you can, of course, talk with me after fellowships. Let me know what you think.

P.S. After talking with and writing now and again for Messiah Lutheran in Washburn, I have discovered something: if people like what I have to say or how I’ve expressed myself, they will often tell me (or they will tell me wife and it will filter through). Thanks! I love compliments. However, if someone disagrees, or has a different perspective, or has been confused by what I’ve said; I might not hear a thing. It’s as if we quail thought of offending someone by offering a differing opinion. If you dislike something that you see in this newsletter, or if you feel that some changes might be wise, let me know. Be free to risk difference. Be free to speak your mind. Be free to be a Free-Tinker.

Chequamegon Unitarian
Universalist Fellowship
P.O. Box 641
Ashland, WI 54806

ADDRESS LABEL

CONTACT US:

Administrator and Board Members:

Brenda Brouder Church Administrator, (715) 682-9556
cuufad@gmail.com
Ed Calhan, President, (715) 682-0446
president@chequamegonuuf.org
Jan Perkins, Vice President, (715) 373-5585
vp@chequamegonuuf.org
Warren Kehn, Treasurer, (715) 681-0447
treasurer@chequamegonuuf.org
Erin Tenney, Secretary, (715) 209-2261
secretary@chequamegonuuf.org
Patty Dufek, Board Member, (715) 682-9015
bdmember1@chequamegonuuf.org
Mark Perrine, Board Member, (715) 278-3386
bdmember2@chequamegonuuf.org
Ashley Lokken, Board Member, (715) 570-4553
bdmember3@chequamegonuuf.org
George Busséy, Board Member, (715) 682-7943
bdmember4@chequamegonuuf.org

CUUF Committee Contacts:

Birgit Wolff, *Worship Planning*, (715) 765-4888
worship@chequamegonuuf.org
Jacki Rae-Ledin, *Caring Committee*, (715) 373-0347
caring@chequamegonuuf.org
Brenda Brouder *Communications*, (715) 682-9556
cuufad@gmail.com
Hans Veenendaal, *Newsletter Editor*, (715) 373-0361
uunews@chequamegonuuf.org
Patty Dufek, *Hospitality*, (715) 682-9015
hospitality@chequamegonuuf.org
Diana Granger, *Membership*, (715) 373-1133
membership@chequamegonuuf.org
Joni Chapman, *Music Director*, (715) 685-0076
music@chequamegonuuf.org
Beth Reed, *Religious Education*, (715) 682-8385
re@chequamegonuuf.org
Mark Perrine, *Facilities*, (715) 278-3386
bdmember2@chequamegonuuf.org
Warren Kehn, *Finance/Pledges*, (715) 681-0447
treasurer@chequamegonuuf.org

Chaplains:

David Saetre, Northland College
Northland College Chaplain's Office: (715) 682-1253, dsaetre@northland.edu
A.J. Galazen, United Seminary Intern, ajgalazen@hotmail.com



CHEQUAMEGON UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

PO Box 641, Ashland, WI 54806

Fellowship Website: <http://www.chequamegonuuf.org>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Chequamegonuuf>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/chequuf>