

The Open Door Newsletter

May 2018



This Month's Fellowship Services

Fellowship Services are held at 10 a.m. on the Northland College Campus, 2nd Floor Commons of the Ponzio Center unless otherwise noted below. Find us on the web at www.chequamegonuuf.org

May 6 — Annual All-Music Service: “House and Home” — Alvord Theater, Northland College

Our guests at our annual All-Music Service will be Laurie Otis, local author and storyteller, and her daughter Molly Otis Stoddard, singer, song writer, and instrumentalist. Through words and music, they will tell the story of their family's move to remote northern Wisconsin and the challenges they faced and survived.

Our own CUUF members and friends will also bring their talents to the All-Music Service. They include new members Kathy Tietze, flute, and Mike Storms, flugelhorn, as well as long time members and friends folk singer Donn Christensen, Kristi Kiel, Erica Rosenfeld, and Kelsey Rothe of Braiding Sweetgrass, versatile pianist Joni Chapman, the CUUF Children's Choir with Zach Jurewicz and Kristi Kiel, song leaders, and Reverend David Saetre, service leader. Please join Laurie, Molly and our UU Fellowship for an uplifting morning of music and story.

May 20 — David Saetre: “The Places You'll Go”—Child Dedication and Flower Ceremony

One of Dr. Seuss's best selling works, and a perennial gift for graduates, is "Oh, the Places You'll Go". The book is a classic Seuss meditation on the uniqueness of each child and the importance of affirming the gifts of each young person and building self-confidence over the course of childhood into adult life. Our Child Dedication Service provides our congregation a day to offer our love and blessing to each child, sending them off into their whole lives with a sense of integrity and affirmation. Religious Education is one of the pillars of our UU congregation so we set aside one Sunday every year to focus our attention on our youngest members. We strive to affirm the unique gifts of each child and to instill a deep sense of self confidence while also affirming each child's connection to a larger community that is interested in them and to which they know they belong.

I know many of you share my great pleasure when we sing our children off to RE at our regular worship services. Sometimes I giggle out loud and sometimes a tear comes to my eye as our little ones wind their way through the arch of arms while we all sing a song of blessing, “go now in peace, may the light of love surround you.” While every Sunday is “child dedication Sunday” at our worship services, on this occasion we take time to reflect specifically on our commitment to our children and grandchildren and the many ways we seek to offer our love and blessing to each of them as they journey through life. Our hopes and dreams go with them every time they walk through the arch and then beyond when they leave our homes and take full hold of the story of their lives. May every place each child will go lead to a place of peace and blessing.



Note: Please bring flowers to share on this day as part of our annual Flower Ceremony. Bring flowers from your garden, the woods, or the store—all types are appreciated.



The Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship welcomes people of any age, race, gender identity, sexual orientation, language, ability, religion or cultural background.

FELLOWSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

CUUF Service Schedule for Spring 2018

May 6	All-Music Service: “House and Home”
May 20	Speaker: David Saetre—Flower Ceremony and Child Dedication

Annual Child Dedication—May 20—Please let us know if you would like to participate.

The Unitarian Universalist Child Dedication Ceremony welcomes our children into the fellowship. Through this ceremony we recognize the gifts that each child brings to our fellowship, and we express our willingness as a community to support them as they grow. This is a chance for us to recognize individual children in our fellowship and to pledge our support to their spiritual growth.

This year’s child dedication will be on Sunday, May 20. The ceremony is brief but meaningful; children (infant to twelve years) who participate will come forward with their parent(s) or guardian(s) during this part of the service. Kristi Kiel will lead the ceremony; there are no special requirements of the children or their parents.

For more information, or to express your intention to participate in the Child Dedication Ceremony, please contact Hans Veenendaal by May 14 at 715-373-0361 or cuufad@gmail.com.

Annual Flower Ceremony—May 20

First celebrated in Prague in 1923, the Flower Ceremony honors the universal beauty of nature and serves as a reminder of the unique gifts and talents that each person brings to this fellowship. Just as the individual flowers make a bouquet that is more beautiful than any single flower, it is the presence of every person that makes this a beautiful fellowship. Please bring flowers to share on this day—from your garden, the store, or from the forest.

Coming This Summer!

Let’s get together each month in the summer too! Save the dates—June 10, July 8, and August 12. Summer Sundays provide a chance for us to continue celebrating our UU community throughout the year. We hope to meet once in Bayfield, once in Delta (at David’s White River home), and once in Washburn. Mark your calendars and watch for more details to come!

Update on The Other Sunday

The Other Sunday will resume in September. We look forward to our first guest speaker, Joshua Morey, social worker for the Rice Lake School District, who will address issues related to gender identity and affirming LGBTQ youth. The Other Sunday provides an opportunity to explore issues related to our values and principles in an open, informal forum. If you have topic ideas for The Other Sunday please pass them along to David at dwsaetre@gmail.com.

The Great CUUF Garage Sale !

Our fellowship will be having its annual garage sale in conjunction with the Ashland City-Wide Garage Sale on Saturday, May 19, from 8 a.m.– 1 p.m.

Karyn Watters has once again graciously offered use of her garage. Thanks Karyn! Her address is 901 9th Avenue West—just turn onto 9th Avenue W. at Arby's to find it. Items may be dropped off from 4–8 p.m. the night before, May 18. If that time doesn't work and you need to arrange another time, call Karyn at 715-682-6589 or contact her by email at karynwatters@gmail.com.



Also, please let Karyn know if you would like to help with pricing, organizing, and/or set-up the night before, May 18, 4–8 p.m. or if you can volunteer to help the day of the sale. Also, contact her ahead of time if you have larger items so that they can be featured in our ad (deadline May 14).

Remember all proceeds will benefit our UU children's Religious Education program.

CUUF Charitable Donations

Each year the Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship sets aside money in its budget for charitable donations. This is not money collected at special offerings (such as those for Standing Rock or the family of Jason Pero). Rather, this money is allocated by the CUUF board for donations to programs affiliated with either our fellowship or with the Unitarian Universalist Association, or in response to special requests.

Earlier in April, the CUUF received a request from Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU) to help fund the BLUU Revival in Kansas City from April 27–29. Because of the great interest in the revival, BLUU experienced a budget shortfall and reached out to Unitarian Universalist congregations across the country for help. At its regular monthly meeting on April 11, the CUUF board unanimously approved a donation of \$250.

If you'd like more information on Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism, its mission, or its programs, please visit their website at www.blacklivesuu.com.

UU Women

UU Women will meet on Sunday, May 20, at 10 a.m. at Café Coco. Please join us for fine food, good coffee, and great conversation. UU Women is open to anyone who identifies as a woman in a way this is significant to them.



Hospitality Hosts for Upcoming Services

The CUUF Hospitality Team schedules all of our families to help provide food for after our services. If you are scheduled for a coming Sunday and are not able to attend, please contact another CUUF family to switch Sundays with you. Thank you for your help. If you are unsure of what to do, please refer to the CUUF Hospitality Host Information Sheet on our website, www.chequamegonuuf.org.

	<u>Contact Person and Set Up</u>	<u>Snacks and Clean Up</u>	<u>Snacks and Clean Up</u>
May 6	Nicole & Alan Brew 715-746-2224	Aistis Tumas & Megan Salmon	Linda Calhan
May 20	Volunteer Needed!	Jill Lorenz 715-373-5908	Julia & Hans Veenandaal 715-373-0361

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Thank You RE Volunteers! More Volunteers Needed!

Religious education for the children and youth of our community is an integral part of the CUUF mission and purpose. The RE experience is far richer and more diverse when we have participation from numerous members of our UU community. Thank you to all who have volunteered this year!

We would like to give special recognition to Nicole Brew and Matt Horning who volunteered for Pre-K care during the services on a very regular basis.

RE continues to need volunteers to teach Sunday classes and help with special activities throughout the CUUF year. If we had two or more people for each class level, teacher volunteers could schedule Sundays on a rotation basis. Each year, we hold a short training session for those considering or interested in volunteering. If you enjoy children, please consider this worthwhile and learning activity—you do not need to have children of your own to volunteer! Please contact Deb or Kelsey (contact info. on back page) if you would like to help us enrich the lives of our children and youth by sharing your skills and talents. Thank you.

—Deb Aaron and Kelsey Rothe, RE Co-Directors

Sharing Our Experience—‘Neighboring Faith Communities’ Retreat

We plan on sharing our experiences from our trip to Duluth and Minneapolis with the congregation during the May 20 service. Children who joined the trip should come prepared to share a memorable moment from the trip. What surprised you? How did you feel at the service? What did you learn?

Also, Kelsey is putting together a slide show. If you have any pictures from the trip, please email them to Kelsey Rothe at girlsoftheearth@gmail.com. Thank you.

NEWS FROM THE UUA MIDAMERICA REGION (THAT’S US!) AND ALSO FROM THE UUA

MidAmerica UU Buddhist Fellowship (UUBF) Retreat in Hartland, WI

Join us for the first ever one-day MidAmerica Unitarian Universalist Buddhist Fellowship retreat, May 5, 2018, 9-5, at Lake County Unitarian Universalist Church in Hartland, Wisconsin (a half hour west of Milwaukee).

Rev. Zenshin Florence Caplow will be the keynote speaker. Florence is the minister at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Urbana in Champaign, Illinois, and a Soto Zen priest and teacher in the Shunryu Suzuki Roshi lineage. She has been practicing vipassana and Zen for thirty years, is on the Board of the UU Buddhist Fellowship, and is the co-author of *The Hidden Lamp: Stories from Twenty-Five Centuries of Awakened Women*.

Join us for a day of camaraderie, meditation, dharma talks, and discussion with other Unitarian Universalists interested in meditation, mindfulness and/or Buddhism. Home stays will be available. For further information and to be added to the email list contact Terry Kinsey at mindful@unitytemple.org.

Registration is now open for General Assembly 2018, June 20-24, in Kansas City, Missouri! This year's theme is "All Are Called." Join us in Kansas City as we dive deeply into questions of mission for our Unitarian Universalist Association, for our congregations and communities, and for each of us as individuals.



A Poem for Those of Us Over a Certain Age...

How many of us struggle to remember the title or author of a book, the characters in the story, and sometimes even the plot? With frustration, all we remember is that the cover was blue. The poem *Forgetfulness*, by US Poet Laureate Billy Collins, 2001-2003, regales us to keep our good humor as specific details of books, the quadratic formula, and the order of the planets gradually and inevitably fade away.

Forgetfulness

The name of the author is the first to go
followed obediently by the title, the plot,
the heartbreaking conclusion, the entire novel
which suddenly becomes one you have never read,
never even heard of,

as if, one by one, the memories you used to harbor
decided to retire to the southern hemisphere of the
brain,
to a little fishing village where there are no phones.

Long ago you kissed the names of the nine Muses
goodbye
and watched the quadratic equation pack its bag,
and even now as you memorize the order of the
planets,

something else is slipping away, a state flower
perhaps,
the address of an uncle, the capital of Paraguay.

Whatever it is you are struggling to remember,
it is not poised on the tip of your tongue,
not even lurking in some obscure corner of your spleen.

It has floated away down a dark mythological river
whose name begins with an L as far as you can recall,
well on your own way to oblivion where you will join
those
who have even forgotten how to swim and how to ride
a bicycle.

No wonder you rise in the middle of the night
to look up the date of a famous battle in a book on war.
No wonder the moon in the window seems to have
drifted
out of a love poem that you used to know by heart.

—Billy Collins, US Poet Laureate, 2001-2003

Submitted by Linda Calhan

MidWest Leadership School for Youth and Adults



MidWest Leadership School (MWLS) will be held from July 15–21 on the campus of Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. Explore your spirituality and nurture the gifts you bring back to your congregation. MWLS is an immersive and rigorous week of learning designed to engage participants in all aspects of leadership in a safe and welcoming Unitarian Universalist faith community. There is an Adult School and a Youth School; we are unique among UU leadership schools in that the schools are designed to do several activities together and interact.

MWLS creates opportunities to learn about the history of Unitarian Universalism, about yourself as an individual, and your role as a member of a congregation in a larger movement grounded in liberal theology. Attendees come away from the experience with a better understanding of healthy organizational practices.

Is MWLS for you or someone you know? Anyone wishing to increase their leadership skills in a church context is encouraged to talk to us. Many incoming board members and presidents find this to be an excellent preparation for their service. Many youth enjoy being with like-minded peers, and the supportive environment enables them to help discern and activate their leadership passions.

Read more about MidWest Leadership School at www.mwls.org and follow us on Facebook for updates at <https://www.facebook.com/mwls.org>.



Speaking of Turtles...

Bob Hay, president of Turtles for Tomorrow and retired WDNR herpetologist, will be presenting “Turtles of Northern Wisconsin” at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center on Thursday, May 10, 7–9 p.m. Learn about the five species of turtles that live in northern Wisconsin and find out what you can do to help protect them. Doors open at 6:30—come early and visit special turtle-related exhibits. What’s not to like about turtle-related exhibits? Free and suitable for all ages.

IN OUR COMMUNITY

A Couple of Fundraisers!

Treat Yourself for a Good Cause

Culver's Restaurant will be having a Faith In Action night on Tuesday, June 12th from 4–8 p.m. Part of the proceeds during those hours will benefit the Faith In Action program. Plan on supper and a shake and support seniors in living independently at the same time. For more information call 715-682-4414 ext. 3.



FAITH
IN ACTION

Summer Projects for Seniors

Faith In Action is currently taking requests from senior citizens in the Ashland area who need volunteer help. The program takes requests from seniors for help with light housekeeping, minor fix-it projects, yard work, shopping and laundry, respite, friendly visits, lamp repair, Pet 'N Pal visits, or Arts/Sports Buddy companions. If you are a senior that could use a helping hand, call today. New volunteers always welcome. Call 715-682-4414 ext. 3 or email fiavolunteer@ashlandaging.org.



You are cordially invited to Books 'N Brunch, featuring Catherine Lange, local photographer and author of *Why This Place?* Books 'N Brunch will take place on Saturday, May 12 at 10:30 a.m. at the United Presbyterian-Congregational Church, 214 Vaughn Avenue, Ashland.

This event is sponsored by the Philanthropic Educational Organization (P.E.O.) Chapter EL, Ashland. Cost is \$20.00 per person; proceeds provide educational funding and help women of all ages "Reach for the Stars!" Tickets may be purchased at Salmagundi, 705 Main Street West, Ashland.

Caregiver Conference

The Faces of Caregiving: A Caregiver Conference, WITC–Superior, Tuesday, May 22, 2018

This caregiver conference looks AMAZING and, if you are caring for someone with Alzheimer's or dementia, I am willing to bet it is worth the drive to Superior to attend. Keynote speaker will be Martin J. Schreiber, former governor of Wisconsin, family caregiver, and author of *My Two Elaines*. Additional topics that will be discussed include: Wisconsin Power of Attorney for Health Care and Finances; the Long Term Care Regional Ombudsman Program; and Me, Myself, and I: How to Stay Physically and Emotionally Strong. Information and registration available online at www.courses.witc.edu or by calling 1-800-243-9482 ext. 6367.

Maintaining Peace of Mind

Lama Karma Drodhul will be at the Vaughn Library in Ashland on Monday April 30, from 5–7 p.m. to give a presentation on "Mindfulness and Well-Being." On Tuesday, May 1, from 6–8 p.m. he will teach "Maintaining Peace of Mind During Stressful Times" at the Washburn Meditation Center.

Lama (which means teacher) Karma Drodhul will offer many techniques for developing peace of mind. There is a famous saying that "The mind is like a jar of muddy water. Continue to agitate it and it will stay cloudy. Let it settle and its natural clarity will be present." With a clear and stable mind we are able to see our situation more accurately. This allows our actions to be more beneficial, both for ourselves and others.

For more information contact Amy Billman at 715-373-5836 or abillman@centurylink.net. View a complete listing of activities on the Hay River KTC website at www.ktcHayRiver.org.

Music!

There will be an advanced recital for students of Eric K. Sorensen on Sunday, May 6, 2018, beginning at 2:30 p.m. at the Presbyterian/Congregational Church in Ashland. The featured performers will include CUUF's very own Haydn Suske-Funk on hammered dulcimer, along with Kelton Couperus on piano, Helen Zuvich on organ, and Sasha Willand-Williamson on piano. There will be a special guest appearance by vocalist Drew Rekemeyer.

This event is free and open to the public.

Theater!

StageNorth will present a Groundling's Production of *Wit*. This Pulitzer Prize winning play explores mortality and probes the vital importance of human relationships. Plus, our very own Devon is in it!

Performance dates: May 4 and 5 at 7:30 p.m., May 6 at 2 p.m.; May 11 and 12 at 7:30 p.m. and May 13 at 2 p.m.

There will be talk backs after both of the Saturday *Wit* performances. On May 5, someone from the new Northwest Wisconsin Cancer Center will address the strides made in cancer treatment in the last 20 years. After the presentation, there will be a reception in the lobby with complementary refreshments; people are invited to stay and share their own experiences and ask questions. After the May 12 performance, Ann Boehler, co-chair of the Chequamegon Relay for Life of the American Cancer Society, will give a brief update on the history and accomplishments of Relay for Life. Ann will also share some personal family cancer experiences. Her talk will also be followed by a gathering in the lobby area with snacks and time for folks to discuss their own experiences and ask questions.

Each Talk Back session will have a donation bowl with contributions going to local support organizations.

Wit is not a play about dying; rather it is a play about putting meaningful life into living.

Native American Museum

There will be an open house at the Native American Museum of the Northland College Campus on Monday, May 7, from 3–6 p.m. View their new exhibit on Native American boarding schools and intergenerational trauma, and the Native American carved doll exhibit, now updated to educate about cultural appropriation.

Northland College established The Native American Museum with the goal of expressing the history, language, arts, and culture of the Ojibwe people and indigenous people from around the world for the educational benefit of community members and visitors to the Chequamegon Bay area. Located on the first floor of Mead Hall, the museum is open every Tuesday from 9 a.m.–5 p.m. For more information, call 715-682-1344.

Your Message Here!

Do you have an event to announce? Have you seen something interesting that is happening in our community that you would like to let the rest of us know about? Perhaps you've read an interesting book and you'd like to tell others about it. If so, call me! Send me an email! Let's make our newsletter a group effort and not just All About Kim! You can contact me at 715-373-5931 or uunews@chequamegonuuf.org.

CHEQUAMEGON UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP MISSION STATEMENT

**We are a welcoming spiritual community that nurtures lifelong journeys of mind and spirit
in the liberal tradition.**

~ Founded, February 22, 1998 ~

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