

The Open Door Newsletter

February, 2014

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



This Month's Fellowship Services

February 9 — Speaker: Les Alldritt — “*Buddhist Meditation Is for Smart People, Too*”

What's with all the recent interest in meditation in the United States? And, how do I get in on the action?

This presentation will serve as a primer on Buddhist meditation offering some reasons why meditation is becoming more popular. Les Alldritt will also provide some concise descriptions of the types of meditation that Buddhism offers to aspirants and speculate a bit on where this trend may lead us, as individual practitioners and as members of a community.

February 23 — Speaker: David Saetre — “*What What Are People For?*”

This Sunday David Saetre will explore what it means to be human in the technologically driven, virtual world we live in today.

The discussion's title, “What Are People For,” is borrowed Wendell Berry's collection of essays by that same title. But the current, Oscar-nominated film *Her* serves as the touchstone for this talk. The film portrays a not-to-distant-future romance between a man and his Smartphone operating system. As the drama unfolds, the man and his operating system find themselves falling in love—and starting to accept, along with the audience, the notion that having a body isn't a necessary prerequisite to having a relationship. This current hit begs some of the deeper implications and questions lurking in the “brave new world” of big data, virtual reality and technology that replaces people.

The Northland College Chamber Choir will perform as a special part of this service. See page three for more details.

We are only at the beginning of the new technological revolution – a massive, yet unexamined social experiment with life at the edge of the electron. Everything, from package delivery drones (Amazon) to Smartcars to the internet of everything, has implications for human activity and relationships, from our labors to our loves. Let's explore this as a courageous, morally alive, spiritually centered community of human beings!

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

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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS



Child Dedication Ceremony

A Unitarian Universalist Child Dedication ceremony welcomes a child into the fellowship. It is an opportunity for the fellowship to recognize each child and to offer support to the child as s/he grows.

The ceremony is brief but meaningful, and takes place in May during the flower service. Children (infant to twelve years) who participate, come forward with parent(s) or guardians during this part of the service. There are no special requirements of the children or their parents.



If you are interested in participating, please contact Irene Blakely Irene Blakely at adahsdottir@gmail.com.

We Welcome New Members!

Attention all of you who value the wisdom in Dr. Saetre's talks, who enjoy the sense of unity and caring which characterize our meetings and who like the camaraderie of being among people who care about our planet and the creatures which inhabit it. If you have not yet joined the Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist fellowship, think about becoming a member. To keep our fellowship vibrant, we need your support.

If you're interested let Diana Granger know and she will give your more information on membership. You can reach her at dianagranger@centurytel.net

IN OUR FELLOWSHIP

Northland College Chamber Choir to Perform at the CUUF

The Northland College Chamber Choir, an a cappella vocal ensemble, will provide special music for the February 23 service. Vocalists include Northland College sopranos Ashley Blahnik and Grave Vosen, mezzo sopranos Amy Cattelino and Marissa Neitzke, and altos Allison Boettcher and Kelly Grenquist. The Chamber Choir performs music from a variety of style periods, ranging from the Renaissance to the contemporary at campus concerts and as musical outreach in the community.

For the service, they will perform “Alleluia” by an unknown Middle Ages composer with the Latin text “Sing with loud rejoicing, sing with a heart full of devotion to God.”

They will also perform “Black Bird,” Paul McCartney and John Lennon’s allegorical song written in response to the American Civil Rights movement. According to Paul, “ ‘you were only waiting for this moment to arise’ was about the black peoples’ struggle in the southern states.”

The Northland College Chamber Choir is directed by Dr. Russell Thorngate, Northland College Director of Vocal Activities.



Join the UU women for breakfast and fun on February 16 at 10 a.m. at Coco’s in Washburn. The oatmeal is delicious!





CUUF GOODIE GUIDE REMINDER!

It's easy to forget to bring the cookies! The January and February assignments are listed below. If you have questions or conflicts regarding your assigned week, please get in touch with the **Contact/Set-up** person listed for that month.

February 2014 — Jeff & Deb Lewis (contact / set-up)

Feb. 9: Jeff & Deb Lewis, Nichols

Feb. 23: Jensch/S. Lewis, Voss

March 2014 — Perkins (contact / set-up)

March 9: T. Mitchell, Gonderzic, Johnson/Daam

March 23: S. Leigh, Lokken & Kamantauskas

The snack schedule is also posted on our website www.chequamegonuuf.org. Go to "Services" and click on "Snack Schedule" to find the updated list.

IN OUR COMMUNITY

Chequamegon Bay Area Community Fund

- submitted by Irene Blakely

The Chequamegon Bay Area Community fund was established in 2011 by and for the people of Washburn, Ashland, and Bad River. It is an affiliate of the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation. With the generous help of the Bremer Bank, the fund has raised over \$200,000 toward a goal of one million dollars to build an endowment that will award grants to non-profit organizations in our communities for generations to come. The CBACF has just recently met the match for a generous challenge grant from Bremer Bank. If you would like to help with projects, activities, and/or governance; or if you would like to donate to the fund, please contact Madelaine Herder at 715-779-7021, or email mkarwoski@dsacommunityfoundation.com

Please Note: The deadline for submission of proposals for the Apostle Islands Area Community Fund, serving Madeline Island, Bayfield and Red Cliff, is **March 1st**.

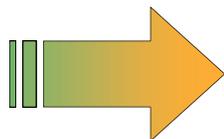
IN OUR COMMUNITY, continued

First Friday Dances

There will be an old time dance on February 7th featuring string band **The Omega Threes** (Tom Draughon on fiddle, Lisa McGinley on base and Bentley Brehm on guitar). This dance will be at the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute on the Northland College campus and is free and open to everyone. No experience or partner is necessary. The dances will include circle mixers, square dances, reels, contras, and waltzes. Caller Donn Christensen teaches all dances before the music starts. Dances for families and children start at 7pm and adult dances follow at 8pm. This dance is sponsored by the Northland College Student Association and the Chequamegon Folk Collective. For more information call (715) 373-5013 or (715) 682- 8018.



March's First Friday Dance will actually be held on the second Friday, March 14. Northland College students will be on Spring Break during the first week of the month. March's dance will feature the **Red Pine Resonators**.



DON'T MISS OUT — COMMUNITY FOLK DANCE IN WASHBURN

This Saturday, February 1 at 7:30pm Humble Yoga Studio (325 Washington Ave.) will host a Community Folk Dance. This is a great activity for kids and adults!

Winter Sunshine for Seniors

With winter looking like it has no plans of ending anytime soon, cabin fever can begin to kick in! For some senior citizens who no longer drive or dare to tread on snow and ice, these winter days can be very long indeed. Faith In Action- Ashland County works to connect seniors with caring volunteers from their community. Volunteers can provide a friendly visit and a game



FAITH
IN ACTION

of cards, request a Pets 'N Pals visit, or sign up for the Arts/ Sports Buddies program. Volunteers can assist as well with basic household chores, take on minor fix-it jobs, help with shopping, lamp repair, provide respite, or assist with snow removal.

New volunteers are always welcome! For more information call the Ashland County Aging Unit at 715-682-4414 ext.3 or email fiavolunteer@ashlandaging.org.

MidAmerica Regional Assembly 2014

The MidAmerica Regional Assembly, April 11 & 12, will be a weekend of coming together for enriching fellowship, inspiring lectures and workshops, and deepening worship. This year's theme, "Hunger for Justice" will be explored at four different locations throughout the MidAmerica Region. One of these sites is not that far from us: Wausau, Wisconsin.

There will be live workshops, worship, and entertainment at each location. The Assembly will open on Saturday with the traditional banner parade and welcome. In some locations there are pre-conference activities on Friday. Using live streaming over the internet, two of the events will bring together people on Saturday, April 12. Rev. Dr. Paul Razor, Director of the Center for the Study of Religious Freedom and Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies at Virginia Wesleyan College, will give a keynote address in Topeka, Kansas, which will be broadcast live on the internet so that participants in the other three locations can view the talk. Later that morning, the first ever MidAmerica Business Meeting will be broadcast live from Bloomington, Indiana. Congregational delegates sitting in all four locations will be able to see the meeting and participate in discussing, asking questions, and voting.

In addition to the two events being streamed live, there will be worship, workshops, social justice activities, and opportunities for getting to know other UUs in each location. While logistics are still being worked out, it's very exciting to be able to offer a conference that will serve people all over the Region. Stay tuned for more information in coming newsletters, and put April, 2014 on your calendar. See www.midamericauua.org/RA for details on the schedule.



UU Camps — An Excerpt From MidAmerica Messenger

The experience of attending a UU camp is something like no other – an intense immersion in "living Unitarian Universalism" that's difficult to find anyplace else. Spending a week with people who share your UU values can be life-changing, and if you haven't tried it, you might like it!

From camp to camp, you will find a diversity of programming, from camps that have scheduled activities from early morning until late in the evening, to one camp that has just two hours of scheduled programming each day, with plenty of time for relaxation, boating, and visiting with new friends.

There are a variety of UU camps in the MidAmerica Region. One camp is a "landed camp" – the camp property is owned by UUs. The others rent space at facilities owned by others. Two camps are for adults only; others are for people of all ages. One camp has two "youth weeks" for teens early in the summer. Some camps have a long history; others have come into being in recent years.

Meeting UUs from congregations other than yours is fun and a great way to build UU identity. We invite you to try it out!

Links to websites of UU camps in MidAmerica, including Camp UniStar in northern Minnesota, can be found at www.midamericauua.org/programs/camps. For more information about UU camps at a national level, go to www.cu2c2.org

**CHEQUAMEGON UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST COMMUNITY CALENDAR
FEBRUARY 2014**

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES

10 a.m. in the 2nd Floor Commons of the Ponzio Center at Northland College

February 9 **Speaker: Les Alldritt — “Buddhist Meditation Is for Smart People, Too”**

February 23 **Speaker: David Saetre — “What Are People For”**

CUUF & COMMUNITY EVENTS:

February 1 Community Dance in Washburn
7:30 p.m., Humble Be Yoga Studio, 325 Washington Ave., Washburn

February 7 First Friday Dance
7:00 p.m., Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute, Northland College

February 16 UU Women’s Breakfast
10:00 a.m., Coco’s Bakery, Washburn

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE WIDER UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST COMMUNITY

April 11 & 12 MidAmerica 2014 Regional Assembly
Wausau, WI and three other locations (see www.midamericauua.org/RA for details)

**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

Chequamegon Unitarian
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CHEQUAMEGON UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

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

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