

The Open Door Newsletter

January 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. Find us on the web at www.chequamegonuuf.org

January 14 — Speaker: David Saetre — “*Spirituality and Activism*”

The spiritual life of Unitarian Universalists takes place within the tension between contemplation and social activism. Sometimes we contrast these two as mutually exclusive. What is the use of singing hymns, lighting candles, or praying in a world that calls for direct action? Why do activists committed to social justice so often feel a sense of futility and risk burn-out (some call it “compassion fatigue”)?

Those who view Unitarian Universalism from the outside often perceive the movement as either too political (the religious wing of leftist politics) or too spiritual (the home for new-age spirituality, ungrounded from the world). Add to that the long intellectual tradition of Unitarianism and chalk up another criticism – we are all talk and no action.

David’s talk for the first January service focuses on the link between the contemplative life (spirituality) and our commitment to building stronger communities and addressing social injustice. The two are interwoven into one fabric—the warp and woof—of our whole lives. One without the other leads to an unbalanced life subject to either false piety or despair. Join us as we begin a new year of worship together seeking renewed understanding and strength as we go about our busy lives in our own challenging age.

January 28 — Speaker: John LaForge — “*Dangerous, Useless, Expensive: Why Eliminate Land-Based Missiles?*”

Land-based, long-range nuclear weapons are accident prone, scandal ridden, destabilizing, and hugely expensive. The missile system has been criticized and targeted for elimination by high-level political and military officials across the political spectrum. The US Air Force still maintains 450 Minuteman III missiles, deployed in underground launch pads across large swaths of Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana and North Dakota. Should they be replaced at a cost of at least \$100 billion, or finally abolished?

John LaForge drove 30,000 miles over three months to confirm the locations of all 1000 land-based missiles for the 1988 Nukewatch book *Nuclear Heartland*. Now a revised edition, edited by John and Arianne Peterson, updates the state of the missiles and their place in the nuclear arsenal. Since 1992, John has been on the staff of Nukewatch, a nuclear watchdog and environmental justice group based in Luck, Wisconsin, where he edits its quarterly newsletter and contributes regularly to *CounterPunch* and *PeaceVoice*. He wrote Nukewatch’s report on the Army Corps of Engineer’s scandalous dumping of hazardous waste into Lake Superior, “*Drinking Water at Risk: Toxic Military Waste Haunts Lake Superior*.” (www.nukewatchinfo.org)

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

FELLOWSHIP EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CUUF Service Schedule for Winter/Spring 2018

January 14	Speaker: David Saetre—Spirituality and Activism
January 28	Speaker: John LaForge—Elimination of Land-Based Missiles
February 11	Speaker: Nancy Langston, author of <i>Sustaining Lake Superior</i>
February 25	Speaker: David Saetre
March 11	Speaker: David Saetre—New Member Service
March 25	Speaker: Klara Hartfiel—Infinite Boundaries, Cancer Recovery Camp
April 1	Speaker: David Saetre—Easter Service
April 15	Speaker: Dr. Erica Hannickel—Darwin and Natural Selection
May 6	All Music Service
May 20	Speaker: David Saetre, plus Flower Ceremony and Child Dedication

Attention UU Women!

UU Women will meet at Café Coco in Washburn on Sunday, January 21 at 10 a.m. for coffee, fine food and friendship. Please join us! For more information, contact Jill Lorenz at 715-373-5908.

Welcome Dorota!

Dorota Stypkowski Bussey is our new website manager. I asked her to tell us a bit about herself and to share why she is interested in working on our website. Here is what she shared.

I was born in Paris, France to Polish political refugees, and I moved with my mother from Paris to New York City when I was 13. I met George Bussey in NYC when we were both 27 years old. I subsequently lived in Madison, WI; Tehran, Iran; Stamford, CT; Detroit, MI; Rochester, NY; and Dublin, Ireland (not necessarily in that order!). I currently split my time between Ashland, WI (on the White River) and Amherst, MA.

I studied at the Lycée Moliere in Paris and the Dominican Academy in NYC and received my BA from Albertus Magnus College in New Haven, CT. I have worked as a Marketing Analyst for CBS (Columbia Records Club) in New York City and had a career in running non-profit organizations in Stamford, CT—Women in Management, Society for Human Resource Management, and Association for Talent Management, to name a few. I am currently retired from the business world and enjoy spending time with my three children and four grandchildren who live on both coasts. I enjoy painting (on canvas and on the outside walls of my house in Ashland) and am a member of the Chequamegon Bay Arts Council. I am fluent in English, French, and Polish.

I decided to devote time to work on CUUF's website not only because I want to keep up with the fast developing internet communication world, but also to help our fellowship project an informative and helpful image to our community and to those who visit us.

Prayer

God of the two lights,
I love the sun,
its revealing brilliance,
its lingering warmth;
but in the dark of night,
let me learn
the wisdom of the moon,
how it waxes and wanes
but does not die,
how it gives itself
to shadow,
knowing it will emerge whole
once more.

Jan Richardson, from *The Moon is Always Whole*
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Circle Suppers Schedule

Here is the schedule for the Circle Suppers for January 20, 2018. If you have any questions, please contact Lee Stadnyk at wrfarm@cheqnet.net or 715-765-4555.

<u>Group I Participants</u>	<u>Contact Info.</u>	<u>Please Bring</u>
Linda & Ed Calhan (V)*	elcalhan@centurytel.net / 715-682-0446	Entrée
Hans & Julia Veenendaal	juliahansveen@gmail.com / 715-373-0361	Side Dish
Deb & Jeff Lewis (GF)	jeffdeblewis@charter.net / 715-682-5686	Salad
Lewis Kubicek		Bread
George Busséy	einar77@einar77.com / 715-682-7943	Dessert

* Group I hosts are Linda & Ed Calhan—address 1119 Ellis Avenue, Ashland.

<u>Group II Participants</u>	<u>Contact Info.</u>	<u>Please Bring</u>
Karyn Watters*	karynwatters@gmail.com / 715-682-6589	Entrée
Lee Stadnyk	wrfarm@cheqnet.net / 715-765-4555	Bread
Irene Blakley	adahsdottir@gmail.com / 715-373-2907	Side Dish
Mary Rehwald	mary.rehwald@gmail.com / 715-682-4662	Dessert
Erin & William Schlager	ewas8811@gmail.com / 612-741-7970	Salad
Jenny & Bill Lavoisier	jenniferlmika@hotmail.com	

*Group II host is Karyn Watters—address 901 9th Avenue West, Ashland.

<u>Group III Participants</u>	<u>Contact Info.</u>	<u>Please Bring</u>
Richard & Diana Granger *	granger1017@gmail.com/ 715-373-1133	Entrée and Bread
Ann & Donn Christensen	donannc@hotmail.com/ 715-373-5013	Salad
Betsy & Jim Matzinger	zinger1757@yahoo.com/ 847-651-6738	Side Dish
Jill Lorenz	jlorenz@centurytel.net/ 715-373-5908	Dessert

*Group III hosts are Richard and Diana Granger—address 77820 N Houghton Point Rd., Washburn.

Hospitality Hosts for Upcoming Services

The CUUF Hospitality Team schedules all of our families to help provide food after our services. If you are schedule for a coming Sunday and are not able to attend, please contact another CUUF family to switch Sundays with someone who can fill in for 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>
January 14	Kristin & Henry Quinlan 715-685-0041	Chris and Norm Engstrom 815-627-3331	Rick Dowd & Joni Chapman 715-685-0076
January 28	Jacki Rae-Ledin/Terry Ledin 715-373-0347	Kristen Christensen 715-373-5972	Carol Kjellander 715-292-6399
February 11	Erin Tenney 715-209-2261	Erica Rosenfeld & Family 715-209-5190	Kim Suske & Family 715-373-5931
February 25	Julia & Hans Veenendaal 715-373-0361	Todd & Kelsey Rothe 715-278-3383	Ashley Smith



At the holiday service, I read three selections from Jan Richardson—The Map you Make Yourself, Blessing for the Longest Night, and Prayer. Jan is a poet, writer, retreat leader, and ordained minister. I received a lot of comments and questions about the readings, so here is one of them which Richardson composed as a blessing for the winter solstice.

—Stacy Craig

Blessing for the Longest Night

All throughout these months
as the shadows
have lengthened,
this blessing has been
gathering itself,
making ready,
preparing for
this night.

It has practiced
walking in the dark,
traveling with
its eyes closed,
feeling its way
by memory
by touch
by the pull of the moon
even as it wanes.

So believe me
when I tell you
this blessing will
reach you
even if you
have not light enough
to read it;

it will find you
even though you cannot
see it coming.

You will know
the moment of its
arriving
by your release
of the breath
you have held
so long;
a loosening
of the clenching
in your hands,
of the clutch
around your heart;
a thinning
of the darkness
that had drawn itself
around you.

This blessing
does not mean
to take the night away
but it knows
its hidden roads,

knows the resting spots
along the path,
knows what it means
to travel
in the company
of a friend.

So when
this blessing comes,
take its hand.
Get up.
Set out on the road
you cannot see.

This is the night
when you can trust
that any direction
you go,
you will be walking
toward the dawn.

—Jan Richardson
from [*The Cure for Sorrow*](#)

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janrichardson.com

**Our 2017 CUUF Holiday Play—The Great
Wolf and the Good Woodsman**



How My Family Found the CUUF

About three and a half years ago my kids came to me with a question. “Mom, what’s it like to go to church?” I took a deep breath. I considered various responses. I hesitated. I found I had no idea how to answer their question. I had attended a Lutheran church growing up but I could not find a way to describe for my kids either the service or the general church community. I talked to them and offered to take them to a church service so they could see for themselves, and we talked about a couple of churches in our area attended by families we knew, but my kids were uncomfortable about going. I thought about checking to see if there was a Unitarian church nearby, but I quickly discounted that idea. Here is where I need to back up a bit in my story.

Back in the mid-1990s I was living near Antigo, Wisconsin, and a co-worker of mine mentioned that she attended the Unitarian church in Wausau. I expressed an interest in attending and she laughed, “You’re an atheist, Kim. You have to believe in SOME kind of god to attend a Unitarian church.” Really? I had no idea. I would have looked on the internet to check for myself, but remember, this was back in the ‘90s and not everyone on the planet had a webpage. I believed her. I never went.

So here I was nearly 20 years later with my kids wanting to understand church but uncomfortable with attending one. Well, we are in a new era and it was effortless to do an internet search and find that indeed, not only was there a Unitarian church in Ashland, but there was nothing on their webpage that suggested that we had to believe in any god to attend. Unfortunately this was in June, right after the last CUUF service for the year. We were planning a trip to Milwaukee, however, and I found that there was a Unitarian church within a mile of where we were staying and that they would be having a service the weekend we were there.

A few weeks later we were in Milwaukee, and my kids and I set out on a sunny Sunday morning, walking to church in our nicest clothes (no holes in our jeans, shoes free of chicken poo) and feeling very Big City. I feel a little sheepish saying this, but I found myself hoping they wouldn’t like church. We are gone a lot as at is and I LOVE my Sunday mornings at home. We arrived at the church and found it was a huge, old and very beautiful stone building with many rows of long, wooden pews. We chose our seats and glanced through the program. The lecture for the day was lay led and had something to do with whether or not Buddha had a sense of humor. The lecture was mildly interesting to me but I thought it was a bit cerebral for my kids who were 9 and 12 at the time. We sat. The man talked. And talked. The bench became uncomfortable. My back hurt. My kids squirmed. My attention wandered. It went on for a long time. I felt guilty for not appreciating the amount of time this person had spent preparing his talk which lasted nearly an hour. Afterward we paused in the hospitality room but no one seemed to notice us. I glanced through a few brochures and then we left without talking to anyone.

As we headed back down the street I felt relieved. My kids’ question had been answered, and my Sunday mornings at home were safe. I knew my kids would never want to go to church, any church, again. “Well, what did you think?” I asked them. “We LOVED it!” They could hardly wait for fall so that they could try the Unitarian church in Ashland.

So here we are. We rarely miss a service. My kids love RE, the occasional lecture that they stay for, the treats, and the running around afterwards. I find the lectures interesting and appreciate that everyone is always nice to us. I don’t have to believe in any god to attend, plus, I still get to stay home every other weekend. What more could we ask for?

—Submitted by the editor



IN OUR COMMUNITY

Regional Hospice Sponsors Monthly Grief Support Group

Regional Hospice Services offers free monthly meetings for community members looking for support as they work through the loss of a loved one. This confidential grief support group offers understanding, education, support, and suggestions for coping. The group meets on the third Wednesday of each month. For times, locations, and additional information, please contact Regional Hospice Services at 715-685-5151. *Reservations are not required.*

Local Music

The Ashland Chamber Music Society presents the Bay Area Chamber Ensemble on Saturday, February 3, 7:30 p.m. at the Presbyterian-Congregational Church in Ashland. Ashland area musicians Sheila Mitchell, violin, Michelle Vyskocil, viola, Linda Calhan, cello, Scott Burchill, bass, and Joni Chapman, piano, will perform the lovely R. Vaughn Williams *Piano Quintet in c Minor* along with other selections from the classical repertoire.

The Northland College Jazz Ensemble will have its first concert of the new year on Monday, January 29, from 7-8 p.m. at the Alvord Theater on the Northland campus. Brave the cold and be entertained by a variety of jazz standards.

IN THE GREATER UNITARIAN COMMUNITY

Social Justice Webinars: MidAmerica UUA is partnering with the Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance (MUUSJA) to present a series of six social justice webinars beginning January 9, 2018. There will be one webinar on the second Tuesday of each month from January to June. MUUSJA's Executive Director Rev. Ashley Horan and Statewide Organizer Pastor Danny Givens will host. For more information, visit midamericauua.org.

Winter WomanSpirit 2018, Evanston IL, February 2-4: If you are struggling listening to the nightly news... Come hear Holly Near! Holly began her career of artistic activism singing protest songs about the Vietnam War — and she has been singing ever since. About ... *the disappeared in Central America; single mothers; peace and justice; and, women-identified women*. Holly Near gives voice to the dream of a world of equality and wholeness. Join us in creating an intentional women's community where we will listen to Holly Near, to each other, and to ourselves. Register at www.womenandreligion.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 ~

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

CONTACT US:

Administrator and Board Members:

Hans Veenendaal, Office Administrator, (715) 373-0361
cuufad@gmail.com

Henry Quinlan, Co-President, (715) 685-0041
president1@chequamegonuuf.org

Courtney Remacle, Co-President, (920) 860-6234
president2@chequamegonuuf.org

Ed Calhan, Treasurer, (715) 682-0446
treasurer@chequamegonuuf.org

Mike Bunch, Secretary, (715) 373-5232
secretary@chequamegonuuf.org

Mary Rehwald, Board Member, (715) 682-4662
boardmember1@chequamegonuuf.org

Jill Lorenz, Board Member, (715) 373-5908
boardmember2@gmail.com

Devon Brock-Montgomery, Board Member, (608) 695-2288
bdmember3@chequamegonuuf.org

Steve Kassof, Board Member, (715) 682-5018
bdmember4@chequamegonuuf.org

Zach Jurewicz, Board Member, (715) 685-2733
bdmember5@chequamegonuuf.org

Minister:

Rev. David Saetre, Tel: (715) 746-4100, home/primary
Cell: (715) 209-1706, cell
minister@chequamegonuuf.org



CUUF Committee Contacts:

Caring Committee, Devon Brock-Montgomery, (608) 695-2288
caring@chequamegonuuf.org

Finance/Pledges, Ed Calhan, (715) 682-0446
treasurer@chequamegonuuf.org

Hospitality, Betsy and Jim Matzinger, (847) 651-6738
hospitality@chequamegonuuf.org

Membership, Kristin and Henry Quinlan, (715) 685-0041
membership@chequamegonuuf.org

Music Coordinator, Hans Veenendaal, (715) 373-0361
music@chequamegonuuf.org

Newsletter Editor, Kim Suske, (715) 373-5931
uunews@chequamegonuuf.org

Religious Education Co-director, Deb Aaron (715) 373-0201
re1@chequamegonuuf.org

Religious Education Co-director, Kelsey Rothe, (715) 278-3383
re2@chequamegonuuf.org

Social Justice, Mary Rehwald, (715) 682-4662
mary.rehwald@gmail.com

Worship Planning, Birgit Wolff, (715) 765-4888
worship@chequamegonuuf.org

CHEQUAMEGON UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

PO Box 641, Ashland, WI 54806

Fellowship Website: www.chequamegonuuf.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/Chequamegonuuf
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/chequuf>