

The Open Door Newsletter

March 2016

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



This Month's Fellowship Services

March 13 — Speaker: Rev. Suzanne Wasilczuk — *The Heart of Unitarian Universalism*



Most every time that we gather in fellowship we recite the Unitarian Universalist Principles together. As with every ritual, though, no matter how vital, repetition can sometimes render things less meaningful. On March 13, Unitarian Universalist Minister Suzanne Wasilczuk will breathe new life into these eight principles in word and song. It's new member Sunday. For all of us—new members, old members, visitors, and long-time friends—this Sunday can be a day to rediscover what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist.

The Rev. Suzanne Wasilczuk is a 2007 graduate of Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago. Her previous career was as a registered nurse, primarily in Sitka, Alaska. In her journeys south and east she has lived in Vancouver, British Columbia where she was a docent at a maritime museum; and in Missoula, Montana where she volunteered at the local food shelf and as a

Court-Appointed Special Advocate for children who were in the judicial system because of abuse or neglect. She now lives in Duluth, Minnesota, preaches at the Mesabi UU Church in Virginia, Minnesota and serves as a part-time consultant to the Lakehead Unitarian Fellowship in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

March 27 — Speaker: Regina Laroche — *Awakening!*

Awakening! – celebrating the season's call to our earth and to our spirits. On this Easter Sunday, Regina Laroche beckons us, in story, dance, and song, to awaken to the beauty of this world and this life. All of us, children and adults alike, are invited to awaken and offer our own unique gifts.

Regina Laroche hails from Diaspora Arts & Diaspora Gardens on Madeline Island. As a small scale farmer she partners with the soil and other elements of the environment. As a storyteller, dancer, writer, and spiritual director, she helps us explore the connections between the seasons of the earth and the seasons of our spirit. Regina's offerings rise from the intersection of art and the unifying stories of humanity and earth's community. Her performances, retreats, workshops, residencies, and celebrations are inspired by InterPlay, her multi-cultural heritage, Afro-Caribbean dance, and spiritual direction training, as well as her life on the edge of Lake Superior. Regina has worked with a range of ages in the area,



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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FELLOWSHIP EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFICIAL NOTICE:



Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Annual Business Meeting

The CUUF Board has set the 2016 Annual Meeting date for Wednesday evening, April 20, at 6:30 in our regular service location, the Ponzio second floor commons.

If you have items for the agenda please send them to Mark Perrine, president1@chequamegonuuf.org or Henry Quinlan, president2@chequamegonuuf.org. You will receive a copy of the meeting agenda and minutes of last year's minutes via e-mail or regular post before the meeting. Some copies of these items, along with the treasurer's report, will be available at the meeting as well.

This is our opportunity to put into practice our fifth principle: "The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and society at large." You are part of what makes our lay-led fellowship work. Join us in a celebration of a full and productive 2015-16 service year and help set next year's goals and direction. Light refreshments will be served.

Thank you for your participation in the communal governance of our Fellowship.



We Welcome New Members!

Attention all of you who value the wisdom in open discussion, who enjoy the sense of unity and compassion 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 please contact Mark Perrine at (715) 278-3386, president1@chequamegonuuf.org or Henry Quinlan at (715) 685-0041, president2@chequamegonuuf.org.

CUUF HOSPITALITY SCHEDULE

Hospitality hosts for upcoming services are,

- March 13:** **Kathy Gang, Contact Person & set-up** — (715) 373-0133
Donn and Ann Christensen, snacks & clean-up — (715) 373-5013
Diana and Dick, snacks & clean-up — (715) 373-1133
- March 27:** **Kristin and Henry Quinlan, Contact People & set-up** — (715) 685-0041
Karen and Mike Ruedi-Crowell, snacks & clean-up — (715) 373-2524
Warren Kehn, snacks & clean-up — (715) 681-0447
- April 10:** **George Busséy, Contact Person & set-up** — (715) 682-7943
Deb and Jeff Lewis, snacks & clean-up — (715) 682-5686
Steve Kassof and Kevin Stranberg, snacks & clean-up — (715) 682-5018
- April 24:** **Jan Wise, Contact Person & set-up** — (715) 373-1141
Beth Reed and Doug Liphart, snacks & clean-up — (715) 682-8385
Carol Kjellander, snacks & clean-up — (715) 292-6399

If you're unsure of what to do, please refer to the CUUF Hospitality Host Information Sheet printed in his newsletter. Copies of this sheet and the full 2015 – 2016 Hospitality Schedule are available on our website, www.chequamegonuuf.org in an easy to print/download format. If you have any conflicts please get in touch with the contact person/people for your specific service date. You can also contact Betsy & Jim Matzinger at (715) 292-6126 or hospitality@chequamegonuuf.org.



Father Mark Ricker to Offer Pastoral Care Services to CUUF

Father Mark Ricker, Northland College Chaplain and Pastor of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Ashland, has graciously offered to provide pastoral care to CUUF members in need of such services. Mark's offer was accepted by the CUUF Board of Trustees at our January meeting and he is now available to CUUF members while the Board continues the process of moving towards hiring our own part-time minister.

Father Mark will be available for house calls and hospital visits as needed and for rites of passage. Feel free to call Mark at (352) 267-1044, or you can email him at rickma4@aol.com.

Religious Education Update

The UU Children's Religious Education Program continues its curriculum from last fall. Each Sunday, during part of the fellowship, our children and youth gather with adult volunteers to enable them to grow in the traditions of Universalist Unitarian philosophies and faith community. Pre-k children are invited to supervised play and interactive activities during part of the service.

Grade/age K-2 children continue the "Love will Guide Us" curriculum which provides guidance to explore by asking questions, such as "Where do we come from?" and that questions are valued as they begin to shape their own answers. The principles of Unitarian Universalism are introduced.

Grades 3-5 children continue the curriculum "Love Connects Us", which promotes love and gathering in spirit, embracing our responsibilities toward one another and the world at large. We encourage one another to search for truth and meaning in our lives. We strive to be active in peace-making and other efforts to improve our world. The group will be cooperating with the UU adults to service in the community supper scheduled for April 1st. Some have already made the commitment to help out on that evening at the Episcopal Church for the supper.

The Middle School age youth continue their exploration of World Religions. This will include native or indigenous religions and Hinduism in the coming weeks. Middle school youth are also welcome to join in the community supper on April 1st. Please contact Deb Aaron for more information.

The high school youth continue their Coming of Age discussions, developing their own credos and work for the May 22 presentations at the UU service. Any high school age youth are welcome to join in for a lesson with the understanding that this has been a 2 year project for the current high school youth.

We welcome *all* youth attending the services to come to RE for a portion of the service.

In Peace,
Deb and Stacy

Deb Aaron, Director of Religious Education, rel@chequamegonuuf.org
Stacy Craig, Director of Religious Education, re2@chequamegonuuf.org

Friday Community Dinners at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

The CUUF has signed up for two upcoming Friday Community dinners at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Ashland: April 1 and May 6. About fourteen people originally organized a community dinner back in October—we had so much fun that we're going to do it again!

The hot dishes are prepared in advance, and salads can be made at the church the night of the dinner. If you sign up to help in April or May, you can either help prepare a dish, set up the room, serve the meal, or help with the cleanup. We'll have a small meeting before each dinner about a week ahead of time to plan the menu. Father Mark Ricker of St. Andrew's Episcopal has helped get this program off the ground during this past year. Now, between seventy to one hundred people attend each Friday night.

Check your availability either Friday night April 1 or Friday night May 6. If you're interested in joining in a program that is having such a significant, positive impact in our community, contact Mary Rehwald, mary.rehwald@gmail.com or (715) 682-4662, or you can sign-up at one of our fellowship services.



Confronting Racial Injustice

- submitted by Mary Wichita and Angela Stroud

On Sunday, February 28, 2016, Angela Stroud gave an excellent talk on Confronting Racial Injustice. In 25 minutes or so she eloquently made the case that race continues to be one of the most significant forces shaping inequality in Wisconsin, in this country, and around the world. She challenged each of us to be honest about the role that race plays in our lives and suggested we do this, in part, by exploring the our own genealogy of white privilege. As you can well imagine, there was a lot of talk after the service. Several people commented that they wanted even more ideas about “what can I do?”

Putting our heads together, Angela and I came up with additional ideas. We want to share these and would love to hear your own thoughts in future newsletters, or in other ways you initiate. Angela made the point that how much time, money, connections, interest, good health, etc. a person has will shape what each of us is able to do. Each of us needs to figure out what we can do from where they are. Here are some of our thoughts. We welcome yours!

- Become conversant and talk about these issues and concerns in conversations with friends and families. Read widely, including books such as, Ta Nehisi Coates' *Between the World and Me* (Coates also writes many excellent articles for *The Atlantic*), Isabel Wilkerson's *The Warmth of Other Suns*, and Jeff Hobbs' *The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace*.
- Check out the following organizations, follow them on Facebook, and share posts from time to time: Standing on the Side of Love (www.standingonthesideoflove.org – a UUA initiative), Showing Up For Racial Justice (www.showingupforracialjustice.org – you can start a chapter in this area!), Color of Change (www.colorofchange.org) and Southern Poverty Law Center (www.splcenter.org).



- Write letters to editor and political candidates challenging them to deal with racial disparities in WI.
- Initiate small group conversations that explore how white privilege manifests itself.
- Contribute money to organizations that fight for racial justice and empower people of color
- Volunteer for or donate to any local organization that helps the poor. When you help the poor, you disproportionately help people of color, and, either way, you're helping.
- Develop a statement of commitment in addressing current injustices that links to our histories of exploitation of non-white communities and send it to the local tribes. Let them know that you want to be in communion with them on these issues (as opposed to defining the problem, determining "the solution," or otherwise imposing your/our views).
- Develop a congregational relationship with social justice organizations or other UU chapters in Duluth or in our area, in the capacity of helpers, not leaders; we need to support social justice groups led by the people who are most impacted.
- Develop a strategy for working with organizations that are trying to reform our broken criminal justice system, including changing our drug laws.

If you want to explore any of these or your own ideas together, please contact Mary Wichita at mary.wichita71@gmail.com or (715) 765-4132.



Faith In Action – Ashland County

Winter isn't gone yet. Through these cold months, Faith In Action volunteers can bring a bit of warmth into a senior citizen's life. Volunteers can provide such services as lamp repair and other fix-up projects, shopping, respite, light housekeeping, snow shoveling, companionship, and Arts/Sports Buddies. For more information about becoming a volunteer, receiving volunteer services, or giving a donation call the Ashland County Aging Unit at (715) 682-4414, ext. 3 or email: fiavolunteer@ashlandaging.org. Don't hesitate to call, Faith In Action is here to help!

Bam! African Mischief

Ashland Elementary Charter School students will bring African folklore to life in a play, *Bam! African Mischief*, and an African Dance at the Ashland High School Auditorium on Saturday, March 12, at 2:30 and 5:00 p.m. The event is a fundraiser. Tickets are \$5 at the door, and children 3 and under are free. There will also be a bake sale.

Service Schedule March 2016 - May 2016	
March 2016	3/13 — Rev. Suzanne Wasilczuk also, New Member Ceremony 3/27 — Easter with Regina Laroche
April 2016	4/10 — David Saetre 4/24 — Andrew MacGregor
May 2016	5/8 — All Music Service 5/22 — Coming of Age Credo also, Flower Communion & Child Dedication

**Regional Assembly 2016:
The Who in the New Era of Unitarian Universalism**

Who do we want to be as faith communities in the coming years? Who will we Unitarian Universalists need to be, to be relevant? How will we get there? Who will be joining us on this journey? The 2016 MidAmerica Regional Assembly will explore these questions and more. Three keynote presenters will share their thoughts on how Unitarian Universalism could be exactly what current religious explorers want from faith communities. There will be many great workshops and outstanding worship services led by ministers from across the region.



Registration is now open for the 2016 assembly, to be held this year in St. Paul, Minnesota on from April 29 through May 1. Some basic information on fees is listed below. The CUUF does have funds budgeted to provide assistance to members who may want to attend this conference. For a more detailed description of all the opportunities the Assembly has to offer visit www.midamericauua.org/events/regional-assembly.

Be sure to check out the volunteer opportunities for a reduced rate when you register!



2016 Regional Assembly Registration Fees:

Age group	Early-Bird	Regular
Adult	\$175	\$200
Young Adult	\$150	\$175
Youth (age 13-18)	\$100	\$100
Children (age 3-12) with child care	\$100	n/a
2 and under (no child care)	0	0
Volunteers (work 2 hours)	\$155	n/a

What is included in the registration fee?

- The adult, young adult and youth registration fees include all programming and four meals.
- The children's registration fee includes childcare and the same four meals.
- The four meals are breakfast, lunch, and dinner on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday.

Early-Bird registration ends March 31. The final registration deadline is Friday, April 22. Children must register before the Early-Bird date. Scholarship requests must be in by the Early-Bird date. Conference discounted rate for a room at the recommended hotel will be available until **April 11**. Registration will be possible at the door with no meals.

**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
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