

The Open Door Newsletter

March 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

March 11— Speaker: David Saetre — “Welcome: The Spiritual Virtue of Hospitality” and New Member Service

The Abrahamic religions (Judaism, Christianity and Islam) all place a premium on the virtue of hospitality. Welcoming the stranger as if they were a member of the family was a foundation of community values and ethics going back to ancient times. Guests to the home were revered as blessings to the household. The New Testament Book of Hebrews says, “Be sure to welcome strangers in your midst, for in so doing many have welcomed angels unawares.”

The theme for our March 11 service reminds us of the principle of hospitality as we welcome new members to our congregation. Our congregation has many friends, and many friends decide to become supporting members. Additionally, our hospitality extends far beyond the household of faith. We welcome seekers, doubters, lovers, friends; those who look for a community of people that extend support to one another in our joys and sorrows, then turn around to extend that love to the many circles where we live out our lives. As Peter Morales writes, “Hospitality, true hospitality, is emotionally powerful. It touches something very deep in us—our profound human longing to feel accepted, to belong, to be loved, to feel safe, to be valued and respected.” And, “Hospitality, true hospitality, is not an obligation. It is not a duty. True hospitality is a spiritual practice, a religious practice. Like meditation or prayer, hospitality connects us with a deep truth and compassion that transcends ourselves.”

Welcome! I look forward to our gathering once more on March 11.

March 25— Speaker: Klara Hartfiel — “Infinite Boundaries Breast Cancer Recovery Retreats”

Infinite Boundaries Retreats is the flagship program of Breast Cancer Recovery (BRC), a Madison-based non-profit organization that serves the critical mission of providing supportive and nurturing environments for women breast cancer survivors to heal emotionally. The first Infinite Boundaries Retreat was held on Madeline Island. Now held in multiple locations, the retreats are transformative. Women are allowed the time to gain perspective in the company of others who are going through a similar experience. Breast cancer survivors volunteer at the retreats, giving support to attendees.

In October of 2007, Klara Hartfiel was diagnosed with Stage IIB breast cancer. She was just 28 years old. With two young children to care for, she dealt with the cancer and the challenges of family life and was able to graduate with honors as an RN in May 2008. Since her diagnosis, it has been Klara’s goal to work with other breast cancer survivors. In 2011, Klara went on a retreat organized by BRC. After attending the retreat, Klara volunteered with the group for 3 years before joining the staff as Program Director. Join us to learn more about Klara and the programs that BRC offers.

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

CUUF Service Schedule for Winter/Spring 2018

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—Flower Ceremony and Child Dedication

From David's Desk

Healing As Reconnecting: The Spiritual Dimension of Healing

Our February 25 discussion of healing as spiritual practice included a set of practices that help us reconnect to the deep sources of renewal. Recalling that the root word for “religion” means “to reconnect” we described the following practices for individual and community growth and healing. Here are some of my closing remarks.

We offer ourselves to the healing work of spiritual renewal. We do this as a religious community, remembering again that the root word for religion means “reconnecting”. Our tradition offers these opportunities for connections and reconnections:

- Connecting to an expansive and liberating set of shared values that has the capacity to provide a center without the false constraints of a fixed canon or uncritical set of commandments.
- Reconnecting with a spiritual community that takes our individual lives seriously and respects the deep integrity of each person.
- Reconnecting to a deep sense of mystery, affirming and encouraging the inwardness of personal experience, and developing a rich sense of wonder and gratitude as essential to happiness.
- Exploring the importance of “sabbatical” and “Sabbath”—finding time for reflection, rest, and affirming the value of solitude in the midst of our too-busy lives.
- Providing a safe space to critically examine religious ideas and challenging one another to grow while also affirming the struggle toward meaning.
- Encouraging the pursuit of justice, and connecting in solidarity with others regardless of their status, class, race, orientation, or identities.
- Discovering the myriad ways we connect with others across cultures and religions, intrigued rather than threatened by our differences.
- Reconnecting with our own creaturely nature and recognizing that we are woven into the very fabric of nature, and that our connections to animals, plants, the land and the seas cannot be separated from our existence and well-being—our healing.

Just as I believe we need to be there for one another in illness and grief, we also need to provide that place where each of us can find inner healing for those broken places that prevent us from experiencing the goodness and fullness of life. I believe that this congregation, and other progressive religious communities, need to speak to the many ways people experience their lives as broken, alienated or disconnected, anxious or pointless.

I really believe we have the resources for healing our broken spirits, helping us find wholeness even when our bodies are broken from illness, or our communities are broken by mindless division and delirious partisanship. There is a hidden wholeness within that I hope we affirm when we gather, a wholeness able to withstand the disappointments that certainly will come our way.

FELLOWSHIP EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Other Sunday

The “Other Sunday” offers our members and friends a new opportunity to get together and explore a topic of interest in a less formal setting. Our first “The Other Sunday” is March 4, and will feature congregation member Courtney Remacle and her work on letter writing and prison ministry.

Courtney’s work reaching out to incarcerated citizens in our local and state prisons reflects a deep commitment to the “inherent worth of each individual” – including those who have been ostracized and cut-off from the rest of society. I know you will be inspired by her work, and I look forward to having an extended conversation with Courtney and those who gather to explore prison outreach as part of our congregation’s work.

The focus on social justice also offers us time to reflect on the living tradition of justice work throughout Unitarian and Universalist history. We can use Courtney’s example and the history of our tradition to renew our congregation’s commitment to justice work in our own community as well.

So please join us on Sunday, March 4, at 10:00 a.m. in the Northland College Ponzio Center (the same time and place as our regular Sunday worship). The “Other Sunday” offers an informal gathering that may be of interest to community friends as well. We will not have the usual worship format, but will feature the topic and speaker of the day with ample opportunity for discussion.

—Submitted by David

The CUUF All-Music Service

Call for CUUF musicians, story tellers, dancers and other talented folks!

Mark your calendars now—the CUUF All-Music Service will be Sunday, May 6, 2018, at 10 a.m. in the Alvord Theatre.

We’re pleased to announce that author and storyteller Laurie Otis and her daughter, local performer Mary Stoddard, will be our guests at this service. An important part of the All-Music Service includes participation from the membership of our CUUF community.

If you’re interested in performing in the All-Music Service or if you need a pep talk, please contact any of us on the CUUF Music Committee.

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THE FOOD PAGE

UU Women—UU Women will meet on Sunday, March 18, at Café Coco at 10 a.m. Please join us for good food, good coffee, and great conversation.

Revised March Circle Supper Schedule—Questions about Circle Suppers? Please contact Lee Stadnyk at wrfarm@cheqnet.net or 715-765-4555.

Group I, Saturday, March 17

<u>Participants</u>	<u>Contact Info.</u>	<u>Please Bring</u>
Ann & Donn Christensen*	donannc@hotmail.com /715-373-5013	Entrée
Lee Stadnyk	wrfarm@cheqnet.net /715-765-4555	Salad
Karyn Watters	karynwatters@gmail.com /715-682-6589	Dessert
Kristin & Henry Quinlan	quinlan.hk@gmail.com /715-685-0041	Side Dish
Linda & Ed Calhan (V)	elcalhan@centurytel.net /715-682-0446	Bread
Richard & Diana Granger	granger1017@gmail.com /715-373-1133	Hor d'oeuvres

*Group I hosts are Ann & Donn Christensen, 812 Bratley Drive, Washburn.

Group II, Saturday, March 10

<u>Participants</u>	<u>Contact Info.</u>	<u>Please Bring</u>
Betsy & Jim Matzinger*	zinger1757@yahoo.com /847-651-6738	Entrée
Jill Lorenz	jlorenz@centurytel.net /715-373-5908	Side Dish
Courtney Remacle	courtneyremacle@gmail.com /920-860-6234	Salad
Hans & Julia Veenendaal	juliahansveen@gmail.com /715-373-0361	Dessert
Deb & Jeff Lewis (GF)	jeffdeblewis@charter.net /715-682-5686	Bread
Erin & William Schlager	ewas8811@gmail.com /612-741-7970	Hor d'oeuvres

*Group II hosts are Betsy & Jim Matzinger, 222 11th Avenue West, Ashland.

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>
March 11	Kathy Gang 715-373-0133	Courtney Remacle 920-860-6234	Kim Suske & Family 715-373-5931
March 25	Erin Schlanger	Aistis & Megan Tumas	Karyn Watters & Lee Stadnyk 715-682-6589
April 1	Sue & Roger Aiken 715-779-3579	Deb & Jeff Lewis 715-682-5686	Warren Kehn 715-681-0447
April 15	George & Dorota Bussey 715-682-7943	Beth Reed & Doug Liphart 715-682-8385	Ashley Smith 715-209-8200
May 6	Nicole & Alan Brew 715-746-2224	Heidi & Jeff Ungrodt 715-682-0103	Volunteer Needed!
May 20	Birgit & Roland Wolff 715-765-4888	Jill Lorenz 715-373-5908	Volunteer Needed!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Diversity in Faith Traditions



This year our middle school group has been working on the “Neighboring Faith Communities” curriculum. This curriculum focuses on expanding our understanding of other faiths and increasing our tolerance and appreciation for diverse faith traditions. Part of this curriculum requires our students to *visit and experience* the services of other faith traditions first hand. So, this year our CUUF-RE students in middle and high school will be taking an overnight field trip to the twin cities to visit three different faith traditions and experience their worship services.

David Saetre and Kelsey Rothe along with two Northland College students—Emma Holtan and Tommy Lewis—will be chaperones for our middle and high school youth as we experience the faith traditions of Judaism, Islam, and Hinduism.

David Saetre has led this trip in past years for Northland College students of his religious studies groups and we are so excited to offer this experience to our RE students.

RE Volunteers Needed

We are still looking for additional volunteers for our K-2 group as well as our childcare room.

If you are interested in helping there is always a sign up sheet at service, or feel free to email Kelsey at girlloftheearth@gmail.com

Thank you,
CUUF Religious Education Co-Directors
Deb Aaron and Kelsey Rothe



News From UUA

General Assembly 2018
June 20-24 in Kansas City, Missouri

Registration opens on March 1 for the UUA General Assembly meeting!

General Assembly is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Anyone may attend. Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the association.

There's lots of information at the UUA website including guides for first timers, schedules and programs, places to explore in Kansas City, and special youth and young adult opportunities. Check it out at www.uua.org/ga.



Unitarian Universalist Biography: Charles Spear (1801-1863)

An important Universalist leader in the movement to reform prisons, Spear was born in Boston and was dedicated in the Universalist church by John Murray. Spear's career began as a printer, a skill he would put to good use as a reformer. He moved on to the Universalist ministry, and was fellowshipped by the Northern Association in Vermont in 1827. Spear spent most of his career in prison reform after serving brief ministries on Cape Cod and in Boston. Influenced by the writings of Benjamin Rush, Spear became especially concerned about prison conditions, the reform of prisoners, and their lives after discharge. He taught Sunday School classes in both the state prison and the Charles Street Jail in Boston. His wife Sarah also became active in this work and traveled with him a great deal up and down the coast and as far inland as Michigan speaking on the treatment of prisoners. In 1845 he began to edit a periodical called *Hangman*, which opposed capital punishment. He also joined forces with his brother for a time and edited *Voices From Prison: Being a Selection of Poetry from Various Prisoners, Written within the Cell* (1847). They founded the Prisoners' Friend Association in 1845, which published a journal, *The Prisoners' Friend*, which lasted in various forms until 1861. This paper also introduced the first column devoted to the humane treatment of animals. Spear also spoke before numerous legislatures to implement penal reform. He became an outspoken advocate for the abolition of the death penalty in the early 1830s and later published *Essays on the Punishment of Death* (1844). In 1845 he was one of the organizers of the Massachusetts Society for the Abolition of Capital Punishment; he became its first recording secretary and later its chief agent. In 1851 the governor of Massachusetts authorized Spear to go to England to speak on capital punishment.

Spear was devoted to a number of other reform issues. He was an outspoken advocate for peace and, with his wife, spoke out for the rights of women to hold property. He wrote on the economic exploitation of women. Like his brother, he was active in the abolition movement and offered a resolution against slavery that was passed by the Massachusetts State Convention of Universalists in 1843. He was also interested in the water cure (hydrotherapy) and phrenology. Progress on prison reform was slow and Spear received scant support from the denomination. Spear made great progress in abolishing debt as a reason for being sent to prison. Penal reform continued to receive his devoted attention for his remaining years of life—his goal was to apply “the spirit of charity to all outcasts.” He died in 1863.



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 ~

IN OUR COMMUNITY

Music!

The Ashland Chamber Music Society presents Ensemble Nouveau. This exciting brass group from UW-Platteville returns to Chequamegon Bay for a diverse concert mixing classical, traditional, and modern music. The concert will be on Saturday, March 3, at 7:30 p.m. at the Presbyterian-Congregational Church in Ashland and features: David Earll—tuba, euphonium, bagpipes; Matthew Greg—french horn, mellophone, flugel horn, trumpet; Keith Lienert—percussion; Corey Mackey—clarinet family; David Cooper—flugel horn, piccolo trumpet; and Allen Cordingly—soprano, alto, tenor and baritone saxophone.

The Northland College Choir, Northland Chamber Singers, Accidentals, and LumberJacks bring you *Songs of Love and War*. Selections include everything from “How Do I Love Thee” to “The Battle Hymn of the Republic”. Several Northland College student soloists will be featured. The concert will take place on Thursday, March 15, from 7-8:30 p.m. in the Alvord Theater on the Northland Campus. Don’t miss it!

Dancing!

The First Friday Dance will be held on Friday, March 2, from 7-10 p.m. at the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute on the Northland Campus. Kids’ dances start at 7 p.m.; adult dances start at 8 p.m. All dances are taught and called—no experience necessary! This is old time dancing featuring reels, circle mixers, square dances, contras, and waltzes.

Theater!

Last chance to see Anton Chekov’s, *The Cherry Orchard*, featuring CUUFs very own Brad Lemire as Firs. Shows are at StageNorth on Thursday March 1, Friday March 2, and Saturday March 3 at 7:30 p.m. with a Sunday matinee on March 4 at 2 p.m.

4th Wall Theater Club presents Agatha Christie’s *The Mousetrap*. A group of strangers is stranded in a boarding house during a snow storm, one of whom is a murderer. Will the police be able to solve the case before another “mouse” falls? The world’s longest continuously running play for over 60 years, *The Mousetrap* continues to delight and intrigue mystery lovers of all ages. Shows will be March 16 and 17 at 7:30 p.m. and March 18 at 2 p.m. at the Alvord Theater on the Northland Campus. Admission is by donation.

A Powwow!

There will be a Spring Powwow on Saturday, March 17, from 1-9 p.m. at the Kendrigan Center on the Northland College Campus. For more information, contact the Indigenous Cultures Center at 715-682-1344.

Pizza!

Spring for Pizza for Faith In Action—Faith In Action is having a Spring for Faith In Action fundraiser at the Alley Restaurant on Monday, April 9, from 4-7 p.m. There will be a pizza buffet for \$12.99, which includes pizza, pasta, salad, and chicken wings. In addition, there will be a raffle of some really nice gift baskets—something for everyone. Donations of gift baskets or items for gift baskets are welcome! Take a night off from cooking and support Faith In Action. For more information call 715-682-4414 ext. 3.



FAITH
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