

# *The Open Door Newsletter*

## *November 2018*



### **This Month's Fellowship Services**

*Fellowship Services are held at 10 a.m. on the Northland College Campus, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Commons of the Ponzio Center unless otherwise noted below. Find us on the web at [www.chequamegonuuf.org](http://www.chequamegonuuf.org)*

#### **November 11 — Speaker: Tom Clowes — “*Learning From People Who Believe Differently*”**

As Unitarian Universalists, we believe in a free and responsible search for truth and meaning. But what do we do when other peoples' searches lead them to radically different beliefs, beliefs that may conflict with our own? Drawing on personal experiences in Haiti and at home, Tom Clowes will share how he believes we can not only meaningfully interact with people who believe differently from us but also be better off because of it. Tom, also our guest musician, will play Haitian cello music for the service.

Tom Clowes grew up attending Countryside UU Church in Palatine, IL. and is now a member of Second Unitarian Church of Chicago. As an undergraduate student at Lawrence University, Tom traveled to Haiti in 2000 to teach music and has been returning annually ever since. Frustrated by the difference between the Haiti he knew and the Haiti he saw on the news, he founded Crossing Borders Music in 2011. Crossing Borders Music is a non-profit organization that produces music that tells compelling stories by composers from under-represented cultures—music that invites audiences to challenge assumptions and learn more. Crossing Borders Music also presents educational programs to foster young people's awareness of the diversity and richness of cultures and their music.

Tom will also be performing in the afternoon of November 11 as part of the Ashland Chamber Music Society's concert *Celebrating Resilience: Music by Iranian Bahá'ís*. More information about Tom and about the afternoon concert can be found on page 9 of this newsletter.

#### **November 25 — Speaker: David Saetre —**

#### ***“The First Thanksgiving: A Hungry Mob of Illegal Immigrants”***

David's talk explores the myths and documents associated with the first Thanksgiving. Pilgrims and Indians, turkeys and all the fixings, brotherly love or an illegal invasion? We still have much to learn from our national myth of the early encounters and experiences of colonial Europeans and the indigenous Wampanoag nation.

The first Thanksgiving was a traditional harvest feast, hosted by the Plymouth Bay colonists in the early fall of 1621. It is a tale of starvation and survival, of extraordinary generosity of the indigenous nation, and of eventual betrayal and colonial conquest. Reconsidering one of our country's foundational myths helps us think about social justice issues in our own time, from immigrants at our southern border to our indigenous neighbors closer to home.

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

## CUUF 2018 Fall and Winter Service Schedule and Upcoming Events

November 1	Theology Thursday
November 4	The Other Sunday—Todd Rothe: Think Locally, Eat Locally
November 6	Vote!
November 8	Theology Thursday
November 11	Fellowship Service—Tom Clowes: Learning From People Who Believe Differently
November 15	Theology Thursday
November 18	UU Women, 10 a.m. at the Sandbar in Ashland Men's Group meeting, 10 a.m., 2nd floor of Northland's Ponzio Center
November 25	Fellowship Service— David Saetre: The First Thanksgiving: A Hungry Mob of Illegal Immigrants
November 29	Theology Thursday
December 2	Fellowship Service—David Saetre
December 16	Holiday Service—The Quiltmaker's Gift

### The Other Sunday—Think Locally, Eat Locally

The promise and potential for local food production and consumption has become an important part of new conversations related to sustainability, community, and the environment. The Other Sunday for November will feature Todd Rothe, Director of the Northland College Hulings Rice Food Center, an innovative research and applied science center dedicated to sustainable food and agriculture. The Hulings Rice Food Center hosts a variety of exciting new programs of research and production related to creating a local food economy. According to Northland College's website: "Our new Hulings Rice Food Center (HRFC), which combines certified kitchens, composting, and demonstration gardens, is a great example of this. HRFC provides the space and equipment needed to move towards our eighty percent local food goal while providing educational space for students."

The Other Sunday occurs once a month as an alternative gathering, focusing on single issues that are important to our community. The Other Sunday is even less formal than our regular worship services. We dedicate a bit more time to the topic and presentation and provide time for conversation with our speaker. Past presentations have focused on gun violence and prison reform. Please note that we do not provide childcare at this time, and we typically do not include hymn singing and the other rituals associated with our worship services.

The Other Sunday is meant to engage our wider community in issues that matter to us, providing new insights and opportunities to explore new ideas with greater depth. Invite a friend and join us on November 4 at 10 a.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Ponzio Campus Center, Northland College, for Todd Rothe's presentation on sustainable agriculture and a healthy, local food economy.

### Calling All Men!

A Men's Group can be a valuable community resource, permitting men to develop deep, enduring relationships while furthering the goals of religious fellowship. Let's try a new Men's Group for our congregation! Our first meeting will be an informal gathering on Sunday, November 18, at 10:00 a.m. on the second floor of the Ponzio Center, Northland College. All interested people are welcome to attend.

CUUF has supported a Women's Group for many years. Typically, the third Sunday of each month has been set aside for its meetings and activities. What about the rest of the congregation? Is it time to form a group for men and male-specific interests? What would such a group look like? What would it do? Some of the possibilities include social events, service projects, discussion topics, and building a network of mutual support. Some ideas for activities include eating out, sports, games, and hiking.

Rev. David Saetre has asked A.J. Galazen to help facilitate and provide leadership for this new group. Sign up after services or talk to A.J. to receive news and updates. Bring your energy and ideas! Questions and suggestions are always welcome.

Don't forget to set your clocks back!  
Daylight Savings Time ends at 2 a.m.  
on Sunday, November 4.



## Fall Adult Education Series—Theology Thursdays: A Journey Through Liberal Religion

The Theology Thursdays series continues with A.J. Galazen, M.Div., leading discussions of important figures in Unitarian Universalist history. All are welcome to attend! Come one week or all, each session is devoted to a single teacher and theme. We meet in room 112 of Wheeler Hall on the Northland College campus from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. No meeting on Thanksgiving Day. Upcoming topics for November:

Nov. 1—Sophia Lyon Fahs, Unitarian Universalist founding religious educator, theologian, and minister. Her personal experience of the emotional impulses that prompt people to be religious taught her that these feelings are part of human nature "everywhere and apparently always."

Nov. 8—James Luther Adams, beloved 20<sup>th</sup> century Unitarian theologian. His encounter with Nazism led to his understanding that our religious beliefs and our faith are reflected in our actions rather than in our words.

Nov. 15—Forrest Church, renowned theologian and minister. His personal discovery of the liberating feelings of awe and humility prompted him to preach, teach, and write his universalist theology for the twenty-first century.

Nov. 29 —William F. Schulz, celebrated human rights activist, author, minister, and third-generation Unitarian. His personal discovery of a steadfast "organic faith" can teach all of us how to stay the course through anxious feelings. His faith led him first as president of the Unitarian Universalist Association (1985-1993) and then as president of Amnesty International USA, (1994-2006).

## Vote November 6, and Note Your Values!

From our nation's founding to women's suffrage to voter registration across all 50 states, Unitarian Universalists have a long history of supporting our democracy. Often times, political debates can create fear and division. This election season, we encourage you to keep heart and vote your values by putting your Unitarian Universalist principles into practice when deciding which political candidate deserves your vote.



Here are seven questions based on our Seven Principles to ask candidates when choosing who will get your vote in this year's local, state, and national elections:

- Do your policy proposals reflect the inherent worth and dignity of every person?
- If elected, how will your everyday decisions demonstrate justice, equity and compassion in human relations?
- How will you encourage acceptance and growth in one another across party lines?
- What insights have you learned from your own search for truth and meaning that will guide you as a political leader?
- What ideas do you have to improve our democratic process?
- Within our international community, how will you work towards a goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all?
- Acknowledging our interdependence, how will your decisions impact our planet and future generations?

Thanks for voting your Unitarian Universalist values this election season.

—From the website of the Unitarian Universalist Association

## Hospitality Host Schedule

### Hospitality hosts for upcoming services are as follows:

	<u>Contact Person and Set Up</u>	<u>Snacks and Clean Up</u>	<u>Snacks and Clean Up</u>
November 11	Irene Blakely 715-373-2907	Chris and Norm Engstrom 715-292-6448	Paula & Mike Bunch 715-373-5232
November 25	Kathy & Kent Tenney 715-685-2577	Jacki Rae-Ledin & Terry Ledin 715-373-0347	Kristi Kiel 715-292-6219
December 2	Julie Sorensen 715-209-4998	Kim Suske 715-373-5931	Brad Lemire 715-209-2510

December 16 – Holiday Service potluck to which everyone contributes.

A few reminders—the person assigned as contact person brings snacks, prepares the table, and makes coffee. The other two assigned families bring snacks and assist with clean up. If you are unsure of what to do, please refer to the CUUF Hospitality Host Information Sheet on our website, [www.chequamegonuuf.org](http://www.chequamegonuuf.org). If you cannot be there on the Sunday you are scheduled please contact someone else on the schedule to switch Sundays.

## Attention UU Women!

For our November gathering, UU Women will be venturing out of Washburn! We'll meet at the Sandbar (formerly the Blue Wave) on Sunday, November 18, at 10 a.m.

UU Women is open to anyone who identifies as a woman in a way that is significant to them. Contact Jill with any questions at 715-373-5908 or [jill5908@gmail.com](mailto:jill5908@gmail.com).

## Circle Suppers

Signup for Circle Suppers is in progress! Suppers will be held on January 19, February 9, March 16, and April 20.

Sign-up forms will be available at regular CUUF services, or you can download a copy from our website, [www.chequamegonuuf.org](http://www.chequamegonuuf.org) (select Community Resources from the side menu). There is a form for the regular circle suppers and a second form for circle suppers with children. Completed forms can be emailed to Lee Stadnyk ([wrfarm@cheqnet.net](mailto:wrfarm@cheqnet.net)) or turned in at the conclusion of a service. Or, you can sign up by calling Lee at 715-765-4555. Deadline for signup is Dec 1.



Do you have an event that you feel would be interesting to our fellowship? Have it posted on our website! Suggestions can be sent to our webmaster, Dorota Bussey, at [uonline@chequamegonuuf.org](mailto:uonline@chequamegonuuf.org).

Check out our new Community Resources link on the CUUF website, [www.chequamegonuuf.org](http://www.chequamegonuuf.org).

## Religious Education News

We are very excited to present a newly developed play this year for our December 16 Holiday Service! Preparation for the play will take all of the RE time during November and December. It would be very helpful if all children/youth participating in the play would be in attendance for as many services as possible until the performance. There will likely be an extra weekday practice in December.

Thanks to all who make this experience possible for our youth. We are looking forward to our practices! Again, thanks to all those who have volunteered to help with RE. A sign-up schedule for 2019 volunteer needs will be out soon.

Deb Aaron and Kelsey Rothe  
Religious Education Co-Directors

## Passages—A New Section

A CUUF member recently suggested that I consider adding a Passages section to our newsletter. Great idea Megan! If you have had a recent life-changing event that you would like to share, please submit a short note for our newsletter. I'm thinking of announcements like a new baby in the family, marriage, retirement, that sort of thing. We'd love to hear your news!

(And Megan, I know you don't want me to mention you, but congratulations on your retirement from Faith In Action!)

## Save the Date—PFLAG December

PFLAG Washburn is happy to announce that Rev. David Saetre will be its December guest speaker. Please join PFLAG for a talk on the crucial question of identity on Tuesday, December 4, 6:30 p.m., at the Washburn Cultural Center, 1 East Bayfield Street, Washburn.

### Free To Be—Sex, Gender and Identity

Most adolescents and young adults struggle with the question of identity, often wondering “Who am I?” and “Where do I belong?” Even after our adolescence and early adult years, we continue to ask and answer those questions of identity. Throughout much of Western history LGBTQ folk have been forced to hide or suppress the question of identity in terms of sexual orientation. It has been barely one-half century since people have felt free to express themselves openly in terms of sexual orientation. Even now people still debate whether one's sexual/affectional orientation is a product of one's “nature” (is same-sex orientation genetic?) or a function of learning and social experiences. That's the old “nature vs. nurture” conundrum.

People who identify as transgender push the boundaries of freedom and identity another step. Many still believe that sex is a given, a product of “nature”, and not a choice. But the experience of people who identify as transgender suggests that both sex and gender expressions are choices – choices that lead to a greater sense of freedom and identity integrity. The old “nature and nurture” answers to the question of identity are giving way to a profound sense of freedom. How we define ourselves is critical for our sense of personal integrity. Using philosophy and religious explorations of identity, David's talk will explore how we define ourselves, how we define ourselves in relationship to others, and how the freedom to explore personal identity has opened up a whole new world of defining one's self.

Editor's Note: For more information about PFLAG, please see page 8 of this newsletter.



## 2018-2019 Treasurer's Budget Report

Our Fellowship operates on a service year beginning on July 1 and ending June 31. For 2017-18, our budget was \$46,645, our spending was \$39,354 and our income was \$36,361. Thanks to an \$8,000 grant from the UUA MidAmerica Region Chalice Lighter Fund, we were able to cover the \$2,993 shortfall without drawing on reserves. For the 2018-19 service year, the CUUF Board has approved a budget of \$53,626, a 15% increase. This budget adds funds to do the following:

- Increase Rev. David Saetre from one-quarter to one-third time (an additional \$3,776),
- Pay UUA and region dues for 79 members (up from 67 last year, an additional \$1,099),
- Compensate an intern who will work with middle and high school youth and the Northland College community (an additional \$1,000), and
- Upgrade our website to a UUA template that will be clearer, more informative, and easier to maintain (an estimated \$900).

Individual budget items are listed below. Thanks to careful planning by all the CUUF committees most are either the same or lower than last year. If you have questions about this budget, or about our fellowship's finances in general, please feel free to contact Ed Calhan, CUUF Treasurer, or any Board member.

Administrator hours	\$1,800
Office supplies, bank checks, general postage	\$150
Admin. PC software - license/subscription fees	\$300
Newsletter - editor hours	\$1,980
Newsletter - supplies/printing/mailing expenses	\$1,070
Publicity & social media	\$400
Website & e-mail hosting	\$255
Webmaster hours for site updates	\$450
Licensing & webmaster hours for new CUUF website	\$900
UUA dues	\$4,740
MidAmerica Region dues	\$2,054
Northland College donation	\$2,000
Minister compensation	\$18,776
Minister expenses	\$1,200
Office space rental - Vaughn Library building	\$720
Speaker fees/honorariums	\$1,900
Worship facilitator hours	\$1,440
Worship programs & misc. supplies	\$750
Worship space enhancement	\$600
Music - honorariums & fees	\$1,600
Music - piano tuning, 10 hymnals & misc.	\$530
RE directors hours	\$2,250
RE class supplies & misc.	\$500
RE intern	\$1,000
Childcare (non-RE events)	\$100
Additional holiday play expenses	\$400
Fall, winter retreats for middle/high school classes	\$650
RE projects fund (annual addition)	\$500

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## A Thanksgiving Poem

### A Prayer Of Thanksgiving

By Max Coots

Let us give thanks...

For generous friends...with hearts as big as hubbards  
and smiles as bright as their blossoms;  
For feisty friends as tart as apples;  
For continuous friends, who, like scallions and cucumbers,  
keep reminding us we had them;  
For crotchety friends, as sour as rhubarb and as indestructible;  
For handsome friends, who are as gorgeous as eggplants and  
as elegant as a row of corn — and the others — as plain as  
potatoes, and so good for you.  
For funny friends, who are as silly as brussels sprouts and as  
amusing as Jerusalem artichokes, and serious friends as  
complex as cauliflowers and as intricate as onions;  
For friends as unpretentious as cabbages, as subtle as summer  
squash, as persistent as parsley, as delightful as dill, as  
endless as zucchini, and who — like parsnips — can be counted  
on to see you through the long winter;  
For old friends, nodding like sunflowers in the evening-time,  
and young friends coming on as fast as radishes;  
For loving friends, who wind around as like tendrils, and hold us  
despite our blights, wilts, and witherings;  
And finally, for those friends now gone, like gardens past, that  
have been harvested – but who fed us in their times that  
we might have life thereafter;

For all these we give thanks.

Amen.

Submitted by Linda Calhan and reprinted without the author's permission. Reverend Max Coots was the Minister Emeritus of the Unitarian Universalist Church in Canton, New York. © Max Coots.

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Hospitality Committee	\$150
Caring Committee	\$265
Donations, memorials	\$250
Social Action Committee	\$500
Conferences, workshops & training	\$2,000
Pledge supplies & treasurer's postage	\$250
Membership Committee	\$300
Insurance	\$350
P. O. Box rental	\$96
Equipment & furniture	\$150
Miscellaneous	\$300
Total	\$53,626

## Go Green! Or, The Plastic Cup That Wouldn't Go Away

I was preparing some garden beds for winter recently when I noticed that some hens at the back of our yard were intently scratching and digging away at something Very Important (to hens, anyway). I went back and found that they were visiting our old compost heap, one that we started 5 or 6 years ago. We had already used most of it, but there was still a little bit left at ground level that could be worked into my garden. Yah! In went the shovel, out came... a plastic cup. You know the ones, they're not actually plastic but not recyclable. On them it says "Compostable at Industrial Facilities" or some such thing. What does that mean? I had optimistically tossed it into our household compost but 5 years later it looked the same as the day I threw it in.

So I sent a note off to Todd Rothe, friendly UUser and manager of the Hulings Rice Food Center on the Northland Campus, asking him for more information on Northland's composting facilities and whether or not they will take The Cup That Won't Go Away. Here is his helpful response!

Student volunteers initiated the campus composting program in 1993. Today, our compost program is still lead by work-study students who manage every aspect, including daily food scrap collection, monitoring the biological process, and final distribution. In the past five years this initiative has kept 140,000 pounds of food waste out of the landfill, and made usable compost for our gardens.

Northland College is expanding the use of compost in our community by developing an efficient one-stop, centrally-located composting facility to serve its citizens. Housed in the Hulings Rice Food Center, this large, state-of-the-art composter has the capacity to process 64,000 gallons of food waste per year. This results in 1.1 tons of organic waste product processed per day (one third of this being food waste and two thirds bulking agent). On a more relatable scale, there are roughly 3 pounds of quality finished compost generated per gallon of food waste produced.

You know those dinner wares and food storage containers that say "compost at an industrial facility"? Well, those can be brought to the Compost Center too. Also, if you have leaves all bagged up from your yard and can't haul them we'll come by and pick them up to add to the compost machine. We can never get enough leaves! (Editor's note: you can buy PAPER lawn/leaf bags at local hardware stores and they work great!)

Community members can now be a part of the action by signing up for our household bucket program. The program requires a \$25.00 security deposit on each 2 gallon compost bucket. You will take your bucket(s) home to collect food waste. Once the bucket is full or needs to be exchanged, simply return the bucket to the Hulings Rice Food Center during specified collection hours and exchange it for a clean one. It's that easy! As a member of this program you will be eligible for 25% off of finished compost purchases.

If you have a business that produces organic waste we can provide 32 gallon rolling trash cans for composting. We will work with you to decide how many receptacles you need and how frequently collection needs to be. We recognize that based on the season or even simply the week, your food waste output may vary. Compost collection and clean bucket return occurs once per week.

The Northland Compost Center, located at the Hulings Rice Food Center, is open 9 a.m. to 4.p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information please go to <https://www.northland.edu/sustainability/hrfc/compost-center/>.

PFLAG (Parents, Family, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays)—Washburn reaches out to youth and adults throughout the Chequamegon Bay area. We are a local chapter of a national support, education, and advocacy organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered (GLBT) people, along with their families, friends, and allies. PFLAG is a non-profit organization and is not affiliated with any religious or political institutions.

We usually meet every other month - for dates and times, please check our webpage [www.pflagwashburn.org](http://www.pflagwashburn.org) or contact Nancy Hanson at 715-209-1100 or [nancyhanson1958@yahoo.com](mailto:nancyhanson1958@yahoo.com). Meetings are generally held on the 3rd floor of the Washburn Cultural Center located at 1 East Bayfield Street in Washburn unless otherwise noted.

For information about our December meeting with speaker David Saetre, please see page 5 of this newsletter.

**A new hearing support group is forming!** Do you have difficulty hearing people in the next room? Do you have the TV or radio volume way up? Do you often ask people to repeat themselves? If so, this may be the group for you! Come and share your concerns and ideas, discuss hearing aid technology, and learn about tinnitus (ringing in the ear).

**First meeting is Friday, November 2**, from 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Vaughn Library in Ashland. For more information, contact Jo Bailey at 715-779-9712. No reservations needed, all are welcome, refreshments served.

### In Our Community—And Organized by Date—Music, Dancing, and Theater!

*Seussical the Musical* continues for a second weekend at the Rinehart Theater, Ashland. You will see MANY familiar CUUF faces in the cast! Performances are **November 1-4** with evening performances at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinee at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for kids 12 and under; Thursday tickets are \$13.50.

First Friday Dance—**November 2** from 7-10 p.m. at the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute on the Northland campus. Information can be found at <https://www.northland.edu/event/first-friday-dance/2018-11-02/>

Northland Symphonic Band Concert, *Suite November*, will be on **Tuesday, November 6**, from 7:30—9:00 p.m. in the Alvord Theater on the Northland Campus.

Come in from the gales of November to listen to Gustav Holst's *Moorside Suite*, Gordon Jacob's *Giles Farnaby Suite*, and John Lewis' *Three Jazz Moods* along with *Caccia for Band* by Norman Dello Joio and *Valerius Variations* by Philip Sparke. Hot cider will be served. All are welcome!

The Ashland Chamber Music Society is pleased to present *Celebrating Resilience: Music by Iranian Bahá'is* on Sunday, **November 11**, at 3:00 p.m. at the United Presbyterian-Congregational Church in Ashland. Don't expect Beethoven, Brahms or Bach!

The Bahá'í Faith teaches the essential worth of all religions and the unity and equality of all people. This concert will share music and stories of under-represented Iranian composers who have risked their lives and safety to pursue their musical education in Iran in the face of their government's systemic persecution of Bahá'is.

The ACMS concert will include works by Nikan Milani, Farid Javidan, and Badie Khaleghian performed by Crossing Borders Music performers Marianne Parker, piano; Rasa Mahmoudian, violin; and Tom Clowes, cello.

Tickets are \$15 at the door; children/students free. You can find more information at [crossingbordersmusic.org/](http://crossingbordersmusic.org/).

You don't want to miss *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* presented by Stage North in Washburn and the Groundlings. This sweet and funny play within a play shows us the Christmas story through new eyes. And, of course, there are a few UUsers in the cast (and yours truly in the crew). Shows are **November 30-December 2** and **December 7-9** with evening performances at 7:30 p.m. and matinees at 2 p.m.

Hey! Unto you a child is born! —Gladys Herdman

### 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

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