

The Open Door Newsletter

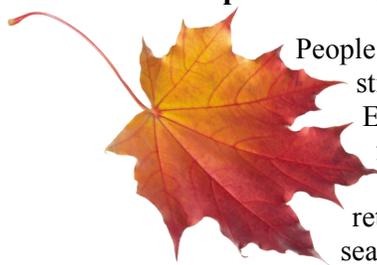
October 2014

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



Upcoming Fellowship Services

October 12 – Speaker: David Saetre – “Odes to Autumn: Poetry and Reflections on the Season”



People who live close to the earth develop a deep appreciation for the seasons. That’s still true, especially for those who live in northern latitudes near woods and water. Each season brings its own messages and gifts, but for many of us autumn is the favorite time of year. A time to harvest and gather in; a time to celebrate and dance over the bounty of grace; a season of color and light; days of diminishing returns. The many hues of autumn declare the complex moods and feelings the season evokes.

The service theme for October 12 features poetry and reflections on the season. David Saetre, Northland College Chaplain, will be our speaker with classic and newer poems for the season, with reflections on the joys and sweet sorrows associated with the shortening days.

You may wish to bring a poem yourself that captures the sense of the season. Turn to page 5 to read William Blake’s *To Autumn*.

November 2 – Speaker: A.J. Galazen – “Day of the Dead, Part Three: The Final Sacrament”

The Day of the Dead is not for us. We are still alive. The Day of the Dead is for our departed loved ones. Each of us is called to invite home the souls that we dearly remember, and share something from them that still lives. We will make room for everyone.

Memory usually doesn’t happen on the spur of the moment. That’s why we’re asking you to start now. Begin listening for recollections. You may be surprised! You are welcome to bring photographs and mementos to add to the community shrine, whether or not you wish to speak.

This service will also include musical guests Linda Calhan and Scott Burchill. Linda and Scott will be performing cello and base duets by Bela Bartok, eastern European composer, musicologist and Unitarian.

The dead haven’t forgotten you. Please don’t forget them.

See you at Day of the Dead!

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

IN THIS ISSUE:

◆ Fellowship Services

... Front Page

◆ Fellowship Events & Announcements

- CUUF Circle Suppers
- Religious Education
- Hospitality Hosts Info

... Pages 2-4

◆ Congratulations to Fellow UUs!

... Page 5

◆ Finding a UU *Lebensraum*

... Page 6

◆ Faith in Action Community Announcements

- Mexican Fiesta Dinner
- Variety Concert
- Let's Go Rake a Yard!

... Pages 6,7

◆ Calendar

... Page 7

◆ Contact Information

... Back Cover

FELLOWSHIP EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



CUUF Circle Suppers

What are CUUF Circle Suppers?

Circle Suppers potluck meals with other CUUF members that are scheduled one per month during January, February, March, and April. Groups consist of 8-12 members. Group participants switch up a bit every month to allow one to wine and dine with more CUUF members.

How does it work?

The 'HOST' provides the main part of the dinner and guests bring other assigned foods, together providing a complete balanced meal.

Who can Sign up?

Circle Suppers are for the adult members of the CUUF. In the past we have tried to organize family suppers but it proved to be a logistical nightmare with the busy schedules of families.

What if I have a small kitchen/dining space?

If you cannot host, no problem, there are others who will provide the dining table space and you can be the hostess in their home.

How can I plan so far in advance?

Well that is difficult for all of us, so sign up and if you cannot make a scheduled dinner due to unforeseen commitments that arise, a substitute can be found. If you can only make certain months, feel free to sign up for those months only.

Last year there were two groups that met but we certainly can make that three if more people want to sign up.

Please provide name, number attending from your household, email, telephone, household address, yes or no to hosting ability, number of dinner guests you can accommodate, any special dietary concerns, and the months that you would like to sign up for dining (Jan-Feb-Mar-April).

Great food, great company, great camaraderie. Don't deny yourself this opportunity for fun and delicious evenings out with some of the best people you will ever encounter ... fellow CUUF members.

Please contact: June Bavlnka, jbonline08@gmail.com

Religious Education at the CUUF

Here's a heads up regarding religious education, under a few new changes:

- ◆ Children who are not yet in school (approx 0-5 yrs) are welcome to join us in the 2nd floor chapel in the Ponzio Center for any and ALL services this year. The chapel will be opening at 9:45 each Sunday that we meet. Please pick up your little ones shortly after the service to relieve those who have volunteered to guide them in play focused on our UU beliefs. A Pack & Play is provided for sleepy ones. Diaper bags and/or a change of clothes need to be provided for your children in diapers or toilet training.
- ◆ Instead of teachers standing up to describe what each class will be working on that day, a take-home letter will be provided to each student which will tell you what we worked on and suggested activities you can do at home to continue the lesson.
- ◆ The RE program has lead teachers this year for each age group (preschool, K-2nd grade, 3rd-5th grade, 6th-8th grade and 9-12th grade). This teacher is the main point of contact for the group and creates lesson plans. However we can't expect them to be at every service and they do need assistants. Please email or call Shannon if you can assist for even just one service this year and include the age group(s) you are most interested in and preferred dates. If you are able to substitute for a lead teacher you can create the lesson plan if you'd like but we are happy to provide one for you, including any supplies needed. A few people can make a huge difference by becoming involved in our RE program in this way. No experience with children is necessary. You would all do a great job.
- ◆ We are looking for people who would be interested in helping to set up the rooms for classes before the service. If you can help please let Shannon know. This would only require a short amount of time and volunteering for even just one service would be delightful.

This year's Volunteer Appreciation Party for those who helped lead, assist, or set-up religious education for any of our services is going to be fantastic! So make sure you get invited by helping out. The kids appreciate everything you provide just by being present, and so do I.



Shannon Johnson, our new RE Director, and her family

We are accepting donations of infant or toddler toys, puzzles, books or games for our nursery. If you have anything you'd like to contribute, please contact Shannon at re@chequamegonuuf.org or (715) 817-5802.

— Shannon Johnson,
Director of Religious Education
re@chequamegonuuf.org

CUUF Hospitality Hosts – Information Sheet

Providing coffee and snacks after our services is an activity that's undergone some changes in the past few years. We now have a roster of households to provide the snacks for CUUF post-service fellowship. Three member households have been assigned to every service, with the exception of our Holiday Service Potluck. The most up-to-date roster for Hospitality Assignments is attached to the electronic copy of this newsletter. It can also be found at http://www.chequamegonuuf.org/uploads/1/3/4/1/13416932/hospitality_assignments_2014.pdf

The first household on the list is responsible for arriving early and starting the coffee and general set-up. The other two should arrive prior to service and assist where needed and be prepared to stay after for clean-up. Here's what to do...

Pre-Service Set Up:

- ◆ **Arrive at 9:00 a.m.** to start the coffee and get out the necessary table preparations. The two large totes in the hallway next to the CUUF cupboards contain plates, napkins, sugar, utensils, etc. Each tote is labeled as to its contents. The remaining supplies are under the counter in the small kitchenette. They are labeled CUUF. There you will find coffee cups, urns, pitchers, carafes, filters, coffee, etc.
- ◆ **Brewing the coffee in the Bunn coffee maker:** Place a glass coffee pot under the brewer port first, then set a filter in the coffee basket and use $\frac{1}{2}$ c. – $\frac{3}{4}$ c. coffee per 12 cups of water. Use the plastic pitcher on the counter to add 12 c. of water to the top filler port. **THE COFFEE WILL START DRIPPING IMMEDIATELY, SO BE SURE TO PLACE THE POT ON THE HEATER FIRST.** Turn the burners on that you will be using to keep things warm. For a large crowd at the service make 3 pots of regular coffee and 1 pot of decaf unless you know that members may not be staying for fellowship. Heat one pot of water for tea and put it in a carafe to stay warm just prior the end of the service.
- ◆ **Line up 2 tables in the atrium**, set with paper plates, napkins, forks, coffee creamer, sugar, juice, etc. Keep coffee on the end and juice a bit away from the coffee so children are not too close to the hot urns. Dirty cups and utensils can be placed in one of the empty pans from in the kitchen cupboard. If possible identify any food being served that contains nuts or seafood to protect those with allergies.

Post-Service Clean Up:

- ◆ Please wash the dirty cups etc. and return them to the storage bin. Wipe off the tables, clean up the kitchen and store all CUUF supplies in the totes and bins and return them to their places in the hall or under the cupboard to make it easy for the next fellowship kitchen crew. Take the wet kitchen towels and wash cloth home to launder and return it for the next service. **MAKE SURE ALL OF THE HOT PLATES ON THE COFFEE MAKER ARE TURNED OFF.** We try to leave the kitchen than how it is found, thus serving as positive PR for our fellowship.

Remember: Please use safety and hygiene practices when preparing and serving food.

If you cannot be there for your scheduled service please call a member to facilitate a swap or fill-in. If that does not work, call June Bavluka at 715-209-1622 giving her plenty of time to fill-in or make a call on your behalf.

If we are running low on supplies, coffee, creamer, plates, napkins, etc. please let June know.



Hospitality time will work best if it is a shared effort by all CUUF members. A small snack and coffee or tea or juice after the service is intended to give folks a reason to stay around and commune with fellow members. Whatever is contributed on any given Sunday is what will be shared. Thank you for doing your part to provide for fellowship hospitality.

Congratulations!



Ashley & Michael

... to Ashley Kamantaukas (née Lokken) and Michael Kamantaukas. Ashley and Michael were married on September 6, 2014.

... to Erin Tenney and Tony Jennings on their engagement. Plus, Erin and Tony are expecting a child due in March!

To Autumn

O Autumn, laden with fruit, and stain'd
With the blood of the grape, pass not, but sit
Beneath my shady roof; there thou may'st rest,
And tune thy jolly voice to my fresh pipe,
And all the daughters of the year shall dance!
Sing now the lusty song of fruits and flowers.



“The narrow bud opens her beauties to
The sun, and love runs in her thrilling veins;
Blossoms hang round the brows of Morning, and
Flourish down the bright cheek of modest Eve,
Till clust'ring Summer breaks forth into singing,
And feather'd clouds strew flowers round her head.

“The spirits of the air live in the smells
Of fruit; and Joy, with pinions light, roves round
The gardens, or sits singing in the trees.”
Thus sang the jolly Autumn as he sat,
Then rose, girded himself, and o'er the bleak
Hills fled from our sight; but left his golden load.

William Blake (1783)

Finding a Unitarian Universalist *Lebensraum*

There is a German word that's been on my mind recently: *lebensraum*. Literally it means "living space." The philosophy underlying the concept of *lebensraum*—that people and nations need increased amounts of territory in order to survive and thrive—was taken to an extreme by the German Nazi Party before and during WWII, and so it's taken on a very negative connotation (not that the actual philosophy was ever all that positive to begin with).

But this isn't why I was thinking of *lebensraum*. There is the broader definition: individuals need space in which to grow and thrive. Sounds self-explanatory, right? "Space," in this definition however, refers more to a psychological state than a physical one. "I just need some space." Are those words familiar?

Last week I needed to rediscover my *lebensraum*. At the end of September I attended a conference on Crisis Intervention, an area that focused specifically on suicide prevention. I am, for better or worse, personally familiar with this topic. Many of these experiences are now years in the past for me, yet I was wholly unprepared for the impact that spending two days surrounded by people talking about suicide would have. Last week was a rough week.

The road leading towards suicide is increasingly narrow and suffocating. There is no room in which to grow, in which to thrive, and—ultimately—in which to survive. There is no *lebensraum*, or so it seems. When your mental space is exhausted, what else is there? Perhaps there is still physical freedom (although often not), but does that matter?

There is always one avenue left open, though it is usually the most difficult to recognize. There is always spiritual *lebensraum*. The Christian theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, incarcerated and ultimately executed in Germany during the Nazi regime held fast to the idea of a spiritual *lebensraum* (although I don't think he ever used that specific term).

Exactly what a spiritual living space amounts to is difficult to define, and I believe that definition must come from within oneself as much as from without. I am a UU, after all—I don't like being told where my space (place?) is. Even the UU principles bug me sometimes, as they echo the idea of a Statement of Faith, but that's another matter entirely. My point, amongst all this rambling, is that in the CUUF is where I have found much of my spiritual living space. There is room here, among our fellowship, in which to grow and to thrive. There is a Unitarian Universalist *lebensraum*.

- Hans Veenendaal, Newsletter Editor

FAITH IN ACTION COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mexican Dinner Fundraiser — Tickets Now Available

Take a siesta from cooking! Faith In Action - Ashland County is holding its annual **Mexican Fiesta Feast**. The fest will take place on Thursday, October 16th at the Ashland Senior Center, 400 Chapple Avenue, from 4:00 - 7:00. Costs are \$9.00 for adult tickets in advance, \$10 at the door; \$4.00 ages 4-12 in advance, \$5.00 at the door. Children ages 3 and under eat for free. Carry out is available. There is a wonderful raffle with this event. If you have an item you would like to donate just let us know. This is a great meal for a great cause! Tickets are available at the Ashland County Aging office, 400 Chapple Avenue, or by calling 682-4414 ext. 3. They will also be available at the October 12 fellowship service. Proceeds will support this vital community program.



Variety Concert Benefits Faith In Action

Faith In Action - Ashland County will be having a concert at the Great Lakes Visitors Center on Sunday, November 2nd from 12:30 - 4:00p.m. Polka favorites, Jeff and A.J. Walker, will kick off the music at 1:00p.m. followed by Wayne Jellish performing acoustic old-time variety. Hot beef sandwiches, along with coleslaw, chips, and homemade desserts will be sold starting at 12:30. There is a \$7.00 admission fee, taken at the door. Enjoy an afternoon of good music and support a good cause! For more information call 682-4414 ext. 3 or email: fiavolunteer@ashlandaging.org

Let's Go Rake a Yard!!

Faith In Action - Ashland County (FIA-AC) has a lot of requests from seniors for help with fall raking. So let's pull a group of people together to rake on Sunday, October 26th (weather permitting). If you are willing to rake that day, please let Megan know by calling 715-682-4414, ext. 3, or email her at the FIA-AC office: fiavolunteer@ashlandaging.org This is a great intergenerational activity. If you or your family would like to take on a yard to rake independent from the Fellowship, please let Megan know as well. Many seniors living in Ashland County are in need of help with raking, shopping, transportation, respite, light housekeeping, Arts/Sports buddies, or companionship. Our fellowship can help support seniors in living independently.

Thanks!

-Megan Perrine, FIA-AC Program Coordinator



CHEQUAMEGON UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST COMMUNITY CALENDAR [MONTH & YEAR]

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES

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

October 12 **Speaker: David Saetre** — *“Odes to Autumn: Poetry and Reflections on the Season”*

November 2 **Speaker: A.J. Galazen** — *“Day of the Dead, Part Three: The Final Sacrament”*

CUUF & COMMUNITY EVENTS:

October 16 Faith in Action-Ashland County Mexican Fiesta Feast — Ashland Senior Center — 4 to 7 p.m.

October 19 UU Women — Coco’s Bakery in Washburn — 10:00a.m.

October 26 Let’s Go Rake a Yard! — contact Megan Perrine at markperrine54@gmail.com for more info

November 2 Faith in Action-Ashland County Variety Concert — Great Lakes Visitor Center — 12:30 to 4p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE WIDER UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST COMMUNITY

April 17 - 19, 2015 MidAmerica Regional Assembly — Naperville, Illinois

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

ADDRESS LABEL

CONTACT US:

Administrator and Board Members:

Kristin Quinlan, Church Administrator,
cuufad@gmail.com
Ed Calhan, President, (715) 682-0446
president@chequamegonuuf.org
George Busséy, Vice President, (715) 682-7943
vp@chequamegonuuf.org
Warren Kehn, Treasurer, (715) 681-0447
treasurer@chequamegonuuf.org
Cindy Van Horn, Secretary, (715) 682-3910
secretary@chequamegonuuf.org
Mark Perrine, Board Member, (715) 278-3386
bdmember2@chequamegonuuf.org
Ashley Lokken, Board Member, (715) 570-4553
bdmember3@chequamegonuuf.org

Chaplain:

David Saetre, Northland College
Northland College Chaplain's Office: (715) 682-1253
dsaetre@northland.edu

CUUF Committee Contacts:

Worship Planning, Birgit Wolff, (715) 765-4888
worship@chequamegonuuf.org
Caring Committee, Ashley Lokken, (715) 570-4553
caring@chequamegonuuf.org
Hospitality, June Bavlnka, (715) 209-1622
hospitality@chequamegonuuf.org
Membership, Diana Granger, (715) 373-1133
membership@chequamegonuuf.org
Communications
Webmaster, Kristin Quinlan, (715) 685-0041
cuufad@gmail.com
Social Media, Marilyn Einspanier (715) 372-5103
turtlebearmare@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor, Hans Veenendaal, (715) 373-0361
uunews@chequamegonuuf.org
Religious Education Director, Shannon Johnson, (715) 817-5802
re@chequamegonuuf.org
Music Coordinator, Hans Veenendaal, (715) 373-0361
music@chequamegonuuf.org
Finance/Pledges, Warren Kehn, (715) 681-0447
treasurer@chequamegonuuf.org



CHEQUAMEGON UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

PO Box 641, Ashland, WI 54806

Fellowship Website: <http://www.chequamegonuuf.org>

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

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