

The Open Door Newsletter

October 2015

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



This Month's Fellowship Services

October 11 — Speaker: Fr. Mark Ricker — “*Finding Peace and Solace at a Neighbor's Home*”

There's a special little story about a dog that lives in a home with many children and finds a place of peace and rest in a neighbor's house. It's important for us, as well, to find a place where we can seek solace from the storms of life. Churches and fellowships strive to be “a neighbor's home.” Likewise, Jesus began his ministry by sharing relief and release to those who need it—the poor, the brokenhearted, the captives, the prisoners, those who mourn, the blind—and we are entrusted to do the same.

Fr. Mark initially came to Ashland to become the Priest at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, which, like the CUUF, is an open and affirming parish where everyone is welcome. He was just named Chaplain at Northland College and will be helping in many ways around the campus, including finding more ways for the college and the community to work together.

October 25 — Celebration of Allhallowtide



Samhain—the ancient Celtic festival honoring the end of the harvest season; All Hallows' Eve—our modern Halloween; All Saints' Day—one of the principal feasts of the Christian church; All Souls Day—known in many places as the Day of Dead. All of these are distinctive celebrations rooted in diverse religions and cultures. Our Celebration of Allhallowtide seeks to honor these traditions, while creating our own U.U. rituals.

The creation of a sacred altar provides opportunities for everyone to contribute an item, with time during the service to speak briefly about what you have brought to this altar. You are welcome to bring items such as photographs, mementos, pumpkins, or other harvest foods, reflecting your unique beliefs. Music, prayers, reflections, meditation, and witnessing the lovely altar are our spiritual practices for this day. The service is conducted in a similar manner to the annual U.U. Water and Flower services where the

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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NEWS FROM OUR FELLOWSHIP



2016 CUUF Circle Suppers

Every year, on one Saturday each in January, February, March, and April a small group of UUs and our friends gather to share their evening meal. We call these gatherings “Circle Suppers.” Our Circle Suppers are a way for us to gather with other thoughtful people, sharing the bounties of our tables and strengthening our camaraderie.

Several groups meet in several different homes. One person (or couple) in each group of 6 to 10 participants hosts their group, a different home each month. Each member of the group brings a part of the shared meal. Some hosts might want to present a theme dinner, and they’ll contact their guests regarding the dinner menu. There are different groupings each month so that there is an opportunity to share time with varying couples and individuals. Not everyone needs to host a gathering or be available to every meal. Those who cannot make it to a dinner on a scheduled evening can either find a substitute or simply inform the host so that they can plan accordingly. If there are any food allergies or specific dietary restrictions, all the other participants should keep them in mind when planning their dishes. These dinners are meant to be fun and light—not a source of stress. An effort will be made by each group to provide transportation for those who are without transport, and we hope that Northland College students will participate, even if lacking the capacity to host.

Our CUUF Circle Supper coordinator for 2016 is George Busséy. You can reach him at (715) 682-7943(H), (203) 536-6990(M), or email at einar77@einar77.com. Contact George if you have questions, suggestions, and/or (if you have not already done so) to express your interest in participating. Don't

Bon Appétit!

HELP! WHY IS MY NEWSLETTER IN BLACK-AND-WHITE?

Well, if you’re reading the newsletter on-line, it’s still in full color. The paper edition, however, is not. In an effort to reduce costs, we’ll be printing most of our future editions in black-and-white. A few will still come out in color, especially if they contain photos.

We send out over 180 on-line newsletters each month and less than fifty print editions. We won’t be going completely paperless, but the less of it we need to use, the better. If you’re on the “paper” list and want to discontinue the mailing in favor of the on-line version, please let me know.

Hans Veenendaal
Newsletter Editor

CUUF Budget Update 2015 – 2016

A 2015 – 16 operating budget of \$26,459 was approved by the board at their September 17th meeting. This is an increase of 6% from 2014 – 15. While the amounts budgeted for most items decreased slightly, reflecting last year’s spending, they only partially offset increases in,

Newsletter editing & supplies	\$1,920	→	\$2,200
David Saetre Chalice (new line item)			\$400
RE Directors & new storage cabinet	\$3,050	→	\$4,540
Social Action	\$200	→	\$500
Insurance	\$380	→	\$500

Speaker and clergy costs for worship services and pastoral care are harder to forecast this year—our first without David Saetre—but actual spending is anticipated to be similar to last year. The board also kept contributions to the RE Project Fund, to Northland College, and funding for Conferences & Workshops at last year’s levels.

Historically, both our income and our actual expenses are only about 80% of our annual operating budget. With trimmer and more careful budgeting we expect this year’s expenses will be closer to the budget total. We will therefore need a similar increase in income to keep the Fellowship financially sound. When you receive your annual Pledge Campaign letter in the next few weeks, please consider increasing your pledge by 5% over last year’s level. This will help the Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship continue to be an active and effective advocate for liberal religious values in our community.

CUUF Social Action

I joined the CUUF Board this year because I wanted to set up some social action events that would increase our fellowship’s commitment to social justice. I announced this at our first September gathering and asked people to sign up for a Fall Community Dinner preparation at St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church in Ashland. Twelve people signed up (Jackie Rae Ledin, Linda and Ed Calhan, June Bavlnka, Joe Fernandez, Norm and Chris Engstrom, Karyn Watters and Lee Stadnyk, Devon Brock-Montgomery, and Kristen Quinlan)! I also put out a sign-up sheet for people interested in forming a new social action committee. Four of you signed up (Jackie Rae Ledin, Sue Aiken, Chase Matzinger, and Zach Jurewicz)! Thank you all!

Based on this first big response, I think we can safely say that the CUUF has the enthusiasm to do one or two more Community Dinners during the year. Warren Kehn and I attended one of these meals originally set up by Father Mark at St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church in Ashland to see what it was like—it’s a lot of work and a lot of fun. Of course, there will be a time when volunteers may sit down and eat too.

IN OUR FELLOWSHIP

UU Women

The UU Women gather every month for brunch. In general, it's on the third Sunday. It's a satisfying opportunity to connect and share news, book titles, opinions, and laughter. And food, with coffee.

We will meet at Cafe Coco in Washburn on October 18 at 10 am.

CUUF Sponsorship of the Free Community Dinner Friday, October 16

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Ashland feeds anywhere from 90 – 200 people per week, *every Friday and Sunday, all year long*. The folks who come and eat are a hungry bunch. For some of them these meals may be the only hot, real meal they've had all day, or sometimes for a few days. Everyone is welcome to come to these dinners. Many people who come are women or men who have no family, or whose family is far away. Even though they may have food or money enough to buy food, it can still be difficult to cook for themselves.

Our fellowship will be preparing food, serving it, and cleaning up for the **Friday Evening Meal on October 16**. The dinner runs from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. Our volunteers will work one of two shifts: from 4:30 to 6:30 or from 5:30 to 7:30. Food should be ready by 4:30 pm (whether it is cooked in St. Andrew's kitchen, or we cook it individually at home ahead of time).

There will be a **Dinner Menu Planning Meeting on Sunday, October 4**, from 5:00 to 7:00 pm at Mary Rehwald's house, 715 Ellis Avenue. If you have any

Help Fill Our Toy Box!

The preschool is hopping with young energy. We have some nice toys but need a few more to refresh the toy box. A few new puzzles, books, and toys (cleanable/washable items), enticing for the 2 year old mindset would be much appreciated! You can let Megan Perrine know if you have something to add to the mix:

Some Dates to Remember:

- ◆ ◆ **November 1** — Daylight Saving Time ends. Don't forget to set your clocks **BACK** one hour. (Yay! Extra Sleep!)
- ◆ ◆ **December 6** — Bough gathering at Nicole and Alan Brew's house directly

“How Can Human Beings Meet their Soul Needs in these Times?”

A lecture by Dr. James Ulness

The truths of the science of spirit which we are seeking should not form for us dead, abstract, theoretical knowledge, but a knowledge which lives and which really enters into life at every point—into life's most important concerns. Our present age brings us many challenges, but it is in overcoming these challenges that we grow. Our times create special soul needs. Come and learn how these needs can best be met.

Retired Psychology Professor from Concordia College, Moorhead, MN, Dr. James Ulness is back to Washburn to share more from his decades of study and experience. Now in his seventies, Dr. Ulness has more energy and passion than ever. His passion is for people to become more aware of their need for spirit and soul development, and how these soul-spiritual needs can be met.

Come to the Washburn Cultural Center on Sunday night, October 4th at 7:00 pm.

Community Rights Workshop

with Paul Cienfuegos

October 23 - 25, Washburn Cultural Center, 3rd floor

Paul Cienfuegos is a leader of the Community Rights movement which has inspired 200 U.S. communities to pass local ordinances to protect their ecosystems. This movement works to dismantle corporate constitutional “rights” and asserts the people’s inherent right to govern themselves. Paul has been leading workshops and giving public talks across the US since 1995. You can hear one of his talks on David Barsamian’s show, *Alternative Radio*, or read his blog at PaulCienfuegos.com.

The workshop will take people on a first-come, first-served basis. Cost is \$50; scholarships are available. Friday night is a potluck and introductory workshop from 6 to 9pm. Saturday, from 9am to 5pm we will learn about the history of this movement, while Sunday (9:30am until done) is an action-oriented workshop.

Paul inspired a group of us this past summer when he spoke at the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute. Most of those who attended had worked to stop the Penokee Mine or were involved in stopping the industrial hog farm south of Ashland. I felt a paradigm shift in my approach to community organizing after hearing him speak.

If you know you want to attend, send a \$50 check, made out to Paul Cienfuegos, to Ros Nelson at 76325 Church Corner Road, Washburn, WI 54891. If you have any

Faith In Action's Rake the Town Campaign

With that brisk autumn chill comes the preparation of the fall, and many seniors may need assistance. Faith In Action takes requests from seniors in need of help with fall tasks such as raking and putting on storm windows. Volunteers can assist with a variety of services including basic household chores, small fix-it jobs, shopping, respite, Arts/Sports Buddies, Pet N' Pals visits and companionship. Seniors in need of assistance or people interested in volunteering should contact the Ashland County Aging Unit for more information: (715) 682-4414, ext. 3



F A I T H
I N A C T I O N

Following the Oct. 25 service the CUMF will be raking a yard for Faith In Action. Rakes will be provided and all ages invited to participate. Email Stacy Craig at rc2@chequamegonuuf.org if you want to pitch in.

Faith In Action Mexican Dinner Fundraiser Tickets Available

Take a siesta from cooking! Faith In Action-Ashland County is holding its annual **Mexican Fiesta Feast**, Thursday, October 22nd at the Ashland Senior Center at 400 Chapple Avenue from 4:00-7:00. Cost \$9.00 adult in advance, \$10 at the door. \$4.00 ages 4-12 in advance - \$5 at the door. Ages 3 and under free. Carry out available. Wonderful raffle. A great meal for a great cause! Tickets available at the Ashland County Aging office, 400 Chapple Ave. or by calling (715) 682-4414, ext. 3. Proceeds from the

Faith In Action Invites Raffle Donations

Faith in Action – Ashland County invites craftspeople, artists, woodworkers, massage therapists and local businesses to donate an item or gift certificate to their Mexican Fiesta Feast and Raffle. The event is on Thursday, Oct. 22 at the Ashland Senior Center. Items can be dropped off a week in advance at the Ashland County Aging Unit, 400 Chapple Ave. For more

First Friday Dances Start Again!

An old time dance is scheduled for October 2nd at the Northland College Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute. This dance is open to everyone. Children's dances start at 7pm and these are followed by dances for adults at around 8. All dances are taught and called and no experience is necessary. Dances include reels, circle mixers, square dances and contras. This month's dance will feature Duck For The Oyster. Everybody is welcome and there is no admission fee. For further



A Letter from A.J. Galazen

September 23, 2015

Dear Members and Friends of the CUUF,

I'm writing you from Ottawa, Ontario, the capital city of Canada. I arrived at the end of August, and have been acclimating myself for four weeks. I serve two vibrant congregations as their intern minister: the First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa, and the UU Fellowship of Ottawa. I've already preached at both churches, and met many parishioners. They are both urban churches, about 20 minutes apart.

I miss my home in the pine barrens of Cornucopia, and I miss you hardy souls at the CUUF. I have made a few side trips to the rugged outback of Quebec, which reminds me of northern Wisconsin. Maple syrup and cheese are well known in these parts!

I'm fascinated by geography. I've been to Ottawa several times, and I already have a feel for the city by studying maps. I approach maps the same way as some might approach Holy Scripture. For me, maps are more than tools for getting from point "A" to point "B". Maps tell a story of what we value in each other and our environment. They show how we move together and how we create divisions. They provide clues to our history. On what side of the tracks do we live? Where do we gather and where do we avoid? How do we reflect our landscape?

For me, the past year has been one of tectonic changes.

I got married last December to my partner Matthew. We've been together for 29 years. He is staying in Wisconsin during my time in Ottawa. I miss him dearly, but someone has to take care of the poodle and the cats!

After 30 years of accounting, I quit my job at Walker Methodist Senior Services in December and completed my CPE (hospital chaplaincy requirement for ordination). I received my Master of Divinity (M.Div.) from United Theological Seminary in April.

And I was unemployed "on vacation" all summer long!

Actually, I spent the summer working harder than ever. I used the valuable "free" time to clean the basement, clean the garage, paint the house, build a screen porch and even erect a new outhouse. It was exhilarating AND exhausting!

Now I begin a new life. I left my village of 98 people for this city of 1.2 million. I left my great lake and embraced a raging river. I left behind my chainsaws and power tools and squeezed back into my scholar's robe.

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

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