

The Open Door Newsletter

September, 2014

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



This Month's Fellowship Services

September 14 — Speaker: David Saetre — “Life Lessons: What Matters Most”

September in our community is the month of beginnings – a new school year, a new year of worship services – and the month of endings – harvesting the garden, end of summer. A little like our lives; beginnings and endings and the things in between. Our Unitarian Universalist community gathers to mark those passages, great and small; to lift up the things that matter in our lives; to celebrate our joys and stand together in our sorrows. This first talk of the new worship year offers a meditation on those things that matter most in our lives, the ways we make sense of life passages, and the support we offer to one another as a community of abiding love and hope. I so look forward to seeing you all again and working with the Unitarian Universalist congregation to lift up a progressive vision of faith for a whole community.

September 28 — Annual Water Service



Our second service of the new 2014 – 2015 season will be the annual Water Service. If the weather permits, we will gather at the Northland College Campus Fire Circle to share our stories of fun and renewal related to the waters that we have connected with this summer. Please bring any water that you gathered over the summer from special places to pour into our bowl of collective memories. Don't worry if you forget to bring it though—we will have a pitcher of water to share.

There will be no Religious Education as the children are welcome to participate in this intergenerational service. There is some permanent seating (concrete benches) at the Fire Circle, but you are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets to soften and expand the seating. If the weather is inclement, we will meet on the second floor of the Ponzio Student Center. We hope you can join us for this re-connecting service!

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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W elcome to the 2014—2015 Season of *The Open Door!*



I'm hanging on to these last vestiges of summer with tooth and nail. I cannot wrap my mind around the idea of September approaching with barely a handful of tomatoes to show for it. (But we were harvesting peas and spinach in July. I guess that's something, right?)

Oh yes, and then there's school. School?! A few weeks ago someone asked my son if he was excited for school to start again. His brow furrowed and his eyes got that far away look. I know that look. It's the sign of an inside voice saying, "Oh crap. I have absolutely no idea what to say right now." If you were to ask me how I feel about the approaching Fall, you would see my own brow begin to furrow...

Yet within the uncertainty of those feelings there is excitement. I am excited for our new service year. Being part of this Fellowship fills a space inside of me that I often only notice in its vacancy. It's the opportunity to be part of a community where I feel upheld, embraced, challenged, intrigued ... if I were to take the time to recall all the feelings that have come with being in our Fellowship, I would run out of room (and you would get tired of reading).

This newsletter is just one of the ways through which I feel connected to our Fellowship. The articles and announcements, the service descriptions and calendar of things to come, they offer a glimpse not just of what we do, but also of who we are. That is what I hope bring forth in our newsletter. It's like assembling an ever-evolving puzzle. You provide the pieces. Sometimes the pieces fit seamlessly and sometimes I leave a few scattered around the middle.

But that's not the point, is it? Perfectionist that I am, I have that tendency to fret over everything that does not look "just right." And then I have to remember that our Fellowship is not about looking just right. We are, at times, a grab-bag of free thinkers. And that's exciting. We take in whoever walks through our open door.

Welcome in.

— Hans Veenendaal, Newsletter Editor

Announcing a Major Milestone for the CUUF: Our First Director of Religious Education!

Beginning this service year, the Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship will work with its first Director of Religious Education, Shannon Johnson. Shannon accepted the newly created position with the CUUF to coordinate class curriculum, manage current and long term teaching schedules, prepare lesson plans & materials and provide ongoing support to our regular and fill-in RE teachers. Three pillars of the CUUF are our Services, our Caring Community, and our RE program. With Shannon's help we hope to significantly strengthen our pillar of Religious Education.

Shannon moved to the area this summer from Marshall, Minnesota when her husband, Blair Nelson, was hired as the new director of the Bayfield Carnegie Library. You may have met the family at the Flower Ceremony in May when they were here on a house-hunting trip. She and Blair (who is from Wisconsin) met while attending UW- Stevens Point. Her two loves are children and nature, and her life has alternated between responsibilities in both areas. Shannon has accumulated over 10,000 hours of working with children in child care centers, Girl Scout camp, elementary schools, home-based daycare, environmental outreach events, as a LEGO competition volunteer, Girl Scout leader, school bus driver, substitute teacher, and as mom to 9-year-old McKenna and 1-year-old Reed. Her most recent career path involved delineating wetlands for public, private and mining interests in Minnesota.

Shannon and Blair were raised in Catholic homes and attended RE classes for several years. While searching for something different for their children, they came across Unitarian Universalism in Duluth and attended UUCD for four years. They have also attended First Universalist Church of Minneapolis, White Bear UUC, Dakota UUC, and UUC of Minnetonka, UU Fellowship of Mankato, and Nora UUC in Hanska, MN. (*Phew—that's a lot of U's!*) McKenna has attended RE classes in Catholic, United Methodist and UU churches. In addition to the DRE position, Shannon is currently attending UW-Superior online to receive her teaching license in elementary education and working on opening a nonprofit child care center in Washburn.

Shannon has a very strong belief in the seven Principles and the six Sources of the UUA. She considers herself extremely lucky to be here with you wonderful people, getting paid to teach and share our beautiful religion. She would like to sincerely thank CUUF members for offering invaluable support to her family during this transition. If you have questions or would like more information, Shannon can be reached at re@chequamegonuuf.org.

PUT YOUR THINKING CAP ON

Are You Handy? Ingenious? Inventive? Crafty? Got any ideas how we can store our nametags so they can be found without rummaging through the current alphabetized tubs? We've outgrown the board where we used to be able to clip tags for easy viewing and it was too heavy and unstable to be safely propped up on the Visitors table. Perhaps a big flat plastic organizer box with a way to hold the tags upright? Or pieces of lightweight foam board that could stack or fold for storage? Maybe something in cloth that rolls or folds? Put on your thinking cap and share your ideas with Diana Granger on the Membership Committee.



Changes Ahead For Our After-Service Hospitality

Some of the most enjoyable time we spend together as a Fellowship is after a service with coffee cup in hand, meeting visitors, swapping news with friends, exploring the speaker's topic and sharing an insight or two on life. The time feels relaxed and effortless, but there's work behind the scenes to make it happen: tables moved, coffee made, juice and snacks served and everything cleaned up and put away for next time. For many years the heroine of this sacred time has been Patty Dufek, orchestrating and providing a delicious smorgasbord Sunday after Sunday and most often being the last one to leave after cleaning up.

Last year we began changing the way this hour is organized to give more people a turn in the kitchen. We've cut back on the quantity and variety of food, narrowing it to coffee/tea/juice, cookies/bars/cake, fruit/veggies, crackers/chips and spreads/cheeses/dips. We have a coffee hour host for each service to make coffee, get out supplies, organize the snacks and clean up afterward. Four or five families each service provide food, checking in with the host so there's some variety (not that I have any problem with 5 different kinds of chocolate chip cookies).

Many thanks to June Bavlnka who will set up this year's schedule of hosts and food contributors. We will all be contacted to sign up for dates when we expect to be available. A schedule will be created for the year, assigning members a date to share in the hosting of a coffee social after service. The schedule will be published in the newsletter and posted on our website, both as a reminder of our commitments and to help us swap dates with others if needed. There will be a checklist of what to do and where things are, and you can talk to a Host any Sunday before your turn. This season there are 18 services between September and next May, so if we each host and provide food once or twice, we'll be covered.

Thanks for your help – see you at our first service on September 14.

Join the UU Women This Season!

The UU Women had such a good time last year, meeting monthly for a simple meal at Coco's, that we've decided to continue again this season. We will be meeting on the third Sunday of each month at 10 a.m. at Coco's in Washburn. Our first three meetings dates are,

- ◆ September 21
- ◆ October 19
- ◆ November 16

For more information, contact Jill at jlorenz@centurytel.net or (715) 373-5908.



A whopping \$550+ was made during the Great CUUF garage sale. Thank you everyone who pitched in, especially David and Janet for the use of their garage, Karen, Terry, Kristi and all who helped with set up, sales and take down. Also, a big thanks for all your donated items. Please start saving goodies now for next year!

(This information is courtesy of Birgit Wolff, who organized and did a tremendous amount of work for the garage sale. Thanks, Birgit!)

CUUF Board Member Ashley Lokken Attends the First MidAmerica Regional Conference

I first joined the Chequamegon UU fellowship during my sophomore year at Northland College. Prior to joining, I had been raised through a conservative Lutheran church in my hometown which had seized to meet my spiritual needs. At the first UU service I attended, local story teller and activist Regina Laroche presented on the importance of MLK Jr. Day. As a Peace studies major and a student at an environmentally focused liberal arts school, I was very excited to attend the presentation. It was when I heard the UU principles that I knew that I had found the spiritual community that my life had been missing.



Since joining the church in 2008, I have enjoyed the topics presented, the community support and the freedom to explore different beliefs and practices. I currently serve on the CUUF board and, as a board member, attended the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) MidAmerica regional conference in Wausau. The theme for this conference was “A Hunger For Justice,” a topic fitting both to my personal interests and that fellow UUs. The day opened with joint worship, welcome, and keynote address, followed by the annual meeting of the of the Midwest regional of the UUA. Each congregation that was participating in the meeting was an official voting delegate during the meeting spread out over the Midwest with gatherings happening in Topeka, Ann Arbor, Wausau and Bloomington, Indiana. Through the advancement (and challenges) of modern technology delegates were able to vote in new members of the national UUA board. Though it was a bit challenging for the conference leaders, it was inspiring to see the execution of the 5th UU principle (Pro-Democracy) in action!

After lunch, there were workshops on various topics concerning UU congregations and social justice issues. I choose to attend the workshop on “Stewardship, Generosity and Fundraising,” led by the MidAmerica congregational life consultant Dori Davenport Thexton. I thought the topic may be prudent for our small congregation if we ever have a desire to acquire our own space or fundraise for other important items. Not only was the presentation Dori gave informative, but it was interesting to listen to the discussion from other participating board members, ministers and members on their experiences within their fellowships.

The second workshop that I attended was put on by the group “Unitarian Universalists for Fossil Fuel Divestment and Sustainable Reinvestment.” To put it simply, many Unitarians would like the UUA and their individual congregations to practice the 7th principal of making sustainable choices and caring for this planet we call home. One way to participate in this concept is to not invest funds in coal, natural gas and other fuels that produce destructive pollutants and create conflict. During the meeting the concern was brought up at the main meeting in Kansas and discussed with the board. I think it would be a nice idea to review the Chequamegon Unitarian Universalists’ investments to make sure that we have strong environmental and social filters on our financial assets.

Attending this conference was my first exposure to a UU congregation outside our area. I greatly enjoyed meeting other UUs and discussing the triumphs and struggles in their churches in the beautiful space provided by the First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau. I hope to implement some of what I learned at this conference in our fellowship and to continue to help our spiritual community prosper. Would you like to join me?

The MidAmerica Region of the Unitarian Universalist Association, of which our Fellowship is a part, includes nearly 200 UU congregations across Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, Kentucky, Ohio, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Kansas, and Nebraska. MidAmerica publishes a monthly email newsletter, articles of which are sometimes included in our newsletter. If you would like to receive regular copies of the MidAmerica newsletter, please contact Hans Veenendaal at uunews@quequamegonuuf.org. You can also learn more about MidAmerica and many of its resources and programs at www.midamericauua.org

Song-Leaders Needed!

Do you know why UUs don't have choirs? It's because each member is always looking ahead to the next line to see if they agree. (Insert groan here)

Last year the Music Committee implemented the idea of having a song-leader at each service. Our goal was to smooth out the process of integrating music into our services and to lead the Fellowship in song. The idea worked quite well, especially in introducing new music to our services.

Does this sound like something you would be interested in? It doesn't take much. First, we let you know ahead of time which songs are to be sung during a service and at what points they will be sung. Then you can familiarize yourself with the music. If you like you can do a quick run-through with the accompanist before the service.

During the service you can sit towards the front near the piano. When it's time to sing you'll stand up, announce the song, and invite the congregation to stand if they are willing and able. Then you'll get everyone started on the right note.

That's all there's to it! If you are interested in helping our Fellowship as a song-leader, or if you have any questions,



Annual Meeting Summary of the 2013—2014 Season

The Annual Business Meeting of the Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship was held following a 6:00 potluck on Wednesday evening, April 23, 2014. The meeting began at 6:25 p.m. with 18 members in attendance, meeting the quorum requirement of 20% of the current membership. After approval of the minutes from April 2013 and the Treasurer's report, Karen Crowell recognized the extensive contributions of volunteers in all of the Fellowship activities. Ed Calhan gave a summary of the Board activities for the service year, including Strategic & Contingency Planning, Website Upgrades, Welcoming Congregation, RE Support and Leadership Development. This was followed by Committee Reports from the Caring Committee by Jacki Rae-Ledin, Hospitality by Patty Dufek, Newsletter by Hans Veenendaal, Publicity and PR by Ed Calhan, Membership by Diana Granger, Religious Education by Erin Tenney & Beth Reed, Worship by Birgit Wolff, and Music by Hans Veenendaal. Following the Committee reports Henry Quinlan thanked outgoing board members Patty Dufek and Erin Tenney and nominated Kelsey Rothe for a three year board term beginning May, 2014. There being no additional nominations from the floor, Kelsey Rothe was approved by voice vote. New Business as introduced by David Saetre concerned the close relation between Northland College and the Fellowship and how strongly the connection between students and the UU community benefits both. David noted that this year saw a significant increase in both CUUF membership and service attendance and also greater attendance and a deeper involvement by Northland College students & faculty. The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m. The complete minutes of this meeting are available on the CUUF website at www.chequamegonuuf.org/annual-meeting-minutes.html

Editor's Notes: Kelsey Rothe was unable to serve on the CUUF Board this season.

John Paul Rutherford Falconer (1925-2014)

Rudd Falconer died peacefully at his Big Rock Road oasis on July 21, 2014 in his 89th year.

Rudd was born in Seneca Falls, New York on August 24, 1925. He was the eldest child of Navy Captain Jonathan Paul and Eloise (Brown) Falconer and the grandson of one of the first woman doctors in New York State, Dr. C. Anna Brown. He grew up in the Finger Lakes area of upstate New York. Cayuga Lake was his stomping grounds and perhaps the reason he was most happy living by large bodies of water. Fresh or salty, it didn't matter, as long as he could sail on it or catch fish from it.

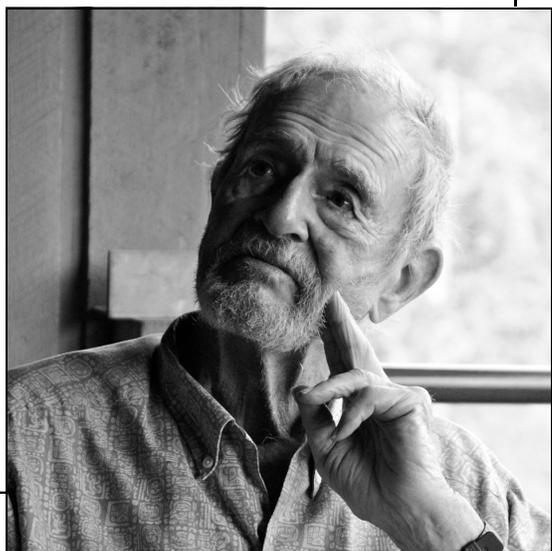
Rudd was a Navy guy, serving on destroyers in the Pacific at the end of World War II. He attended Brown and Cornell Universities to get his degrees in engineering and architecture; sailed small boats for Cornell's team; met and married "Dibby" Derby; became a father of (eventually) 4 children and moved to Greenfield, Massachusetts to set up his architecture firm Bednarski, Falconer & Stein. There he designed and built his first house for his growing family on a woodsy, undeveloped tract of land overlooking the Connecticut River. The Mountain Road home (though it lacked a large body of water) provided lots of fodder for his unbridled enthusiasm for doing cool things. He was an excellent downhill skier; saw the potential for a personal ski hill and proceeded to clear the woods by hand and make a rope tow using an old tractor for power. He even mounted lights on the trees for night skiing with his kids.

In 1963 he was ready for a new adventure and accepted a job teaching architecture in Kumasi, Ghana, West Africa. His focus was on using bamboo as a plentiful, renewable building resource. So he packed the steamer trunks, loaded up the family, and easily fell in love with the West African culture. In 1969 he became a professor of architecture at Washington University in St. Louis. Feeling landlocked, he took his students to the island of Culebra, Puerto Rico for hands-on learning of new building techniques. His marriage to Dibby ended, he got rid of his worldly "stuff" and bought Lotus, an old 32 ft wooden sailboat and called it home. It was in Culebra that he met and later married Jill Lorenz. They moved to the coast of North Carolina where they practiced together as architects. In 1993 they moved to Bayfield, having made frequent trips to visit Rudd's offspring, who had all migrated to Lake Superior's shores after daughter Leslie attended Northland College.

After a lifetime of adventures around the world he found the sweet spot of life on Big Rock Road, outside of Washburn. A flock of ducks, ponds, reflecting pools, willows, ferns, two incorrigible corgis, a loving partner, four kids and enough friends to span the planet. Who could ask for more?

Rudd was preceded in death by his parents, his brother Bruce, and sister Nancy. He is survived by his wife, Jill Lorenz; his children Jonathan Falconer, Leslie Falconer, Peter Falconer (Washburn), and Andrea Falconer (Bayfield); grandchildren Max (Amy) Brown, Zoe Brown, Noble Falconer, and Forrest Falconer; and great grandchild, Emily Jane.

A party in celebration of Rudd's life was held on August 16, 2014 at his home on Big Rock Road.



Rethinking the Newsletter Calendar...

I've never been completely satisfied with the calendar of upcoming events as it appears in our newsletter. You'll find—in this issue as in past issues—on the last page, right above the CUUF Mission Statement. (In this case, that would be the page just opposite of the one you're reading now.) Our calendar is usually divided into three sections

1. Fellowship Services for the current month
2. CUUF and Community Events
3. Upcoming Events in the Wider Unitarian Universalist Community

Our calendar provides most of information that's pertinent to our Fellowship, but, frankly, I find the format a bit difficult to read. It's not arranged as we usually see our calendars. This isn't necessarily a problem, but sometimes clarity can mean sticking to a well recognized template. Also, it doesn't allow us to plan ahead easily.

How might you envision the newsletter calendar? What information would you like to see? What would make a calendar to you both useful and usable? If you have any thoughts or suggestions, please contact me, Hans Veenendaal at uunews@chequamegonuuf.org or (715) 373-0361.

Listed below are the service dates for the 2014—2015 season. These are only dates; service descriptions are not included except for specifically notable services.

2014

- September 14 — First service of the season
September 28 — Annual Water Service
- October 12
October 26
- November 9
November 23
- December 7
December 14 — Holiday Service

2015

- January 11
January 25
- February 8 — Welcoming Service
February 22
- March 8 — New Membership
March 22
- April 5 — Easter
April 12
April 29
- May 3 — All Music Service
May 17 — Flower Ceremony & Child Dedication



**CHEQUAMEGON UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST COMMUNITY CALENDAR
[MONTH & YEAR]**

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES

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

September 14 **Speaker: David Saetre — “Life Lessons: What Matters Most”**

September 28 **Annual Water Service** — to be held at Northland College Campus Fire Circle, weather permitting

CUUF & COMMUNITY EVENTS:

September 18 CUUF Board Meeting — 2nd floor commons of the Ponzio Center — 6:30 p.m.

September 21 UU Women — Coco’s Bakery, Washburn — 10 a.m.

October 19 UU Women — Coco’s Bakery, Washburn — 10 a.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

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