

The Open Door Newsletter

January 2023



This Month's Fellowship Services

Sunday services are generally held at 10 a.m. in the Alvord Theatre on the Northland College campus in Ashland, however locations and times can vary— see individual service descriptions for information. Links to online services are on page two of this newsletter. Find us on the web at www.chequamegonuuf.org.

January 8—Speaker: Erin Tenney—A Heroine's Journey

Service Lay Readers: Erin and William Schlager

In person at 10 a.m. at the Alvord Theatre and on Zoom—see page 2 for Zoom link



The journey of life contains many unknowns and is often painful. Pain isn't always a bad thing, however, and loss is a necessary ingredient for growth. As we spiral out from the center and begin a new year, Erin hopes to bring some light by sharing reflections on the power and beauty of transformational times of loss.

Erin is a midwife, a mother, and a recent divorcee. She will share her unique perspective and parts of her story, while drawing on ceremonial and theological teachings to explore ways that we can embrace the beauty of falling apart.

January 22—Speaker: Stacy Craig—Finding Our Center

Service Lay Reader: Jen Weiler

In person at 10 a.m. at the Alvord Theatre and on Zoom—see page 2 for Zoom link

For today, choose the door that opens
to the inside.

Travel the most ancient way of all:
the path that leads you
to the center
of your life.

—Jan Richardson, *The Map You Make Yourself*



Like the birch trees that drop their lower branches each winter, this season encourages *letting go*. What needs to be dropped in order for new growth to occur? This will be the exploration of today's worship. In the very center of ourselves, we discover our own beauty, strength, insight, and gifts that we offer the world. Turn from this discovery within and carry your gifts of radiance back out into the world.

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

CUUF 2023 Winter and Spring Service and Gatherings Schedule

January 8	Sunday Service, 10 a.m.—Speaker: Erin Tenney—A Heroine’s Journey
January 8	Meeting for parents interested in OWL curriculum, noon-2 p.m.—Info on page 4
January 15	UU Women, 10 a.m. at Washburn Library
January 21	RE Outdoor Event—Gratitude’s Light—See page 4 for information
January 22	Sunday Service, 10 a.m.—Speaker: Stacy Craig—Finding Our Center
January 29	Disability Justice Learning Group Info Session, 10 a.m. at CUUF office
February 12	Sunday Service, 10 a.m.—Speaker: Stacy Craig—All About Love
February 26	Sunday Service, 2 p.m.—Speaker: David Saetre—Stacy’s Ordination Ceremony
March 12	Sunday Service, 10 a.m.
March 26	Sunday Service, 10 a.m.
April 9	Sunday Service, 10 a.m.—Speaker: Stacy Craig—Easter Service
April 23	Sunday Service, 10 a.m.
May 7	Sunday Service, 10 a.m.—Annual All-Music Service
May 21	Sunday Service, 10 a.m.—Speaker Stacy Craig—Flower Service

Attention UU Women

UU Women will continue to meet at the Washburn Library at 10 a.m. each month on the Sunday between the two UU services. Our upcoming gathering will be on January 15. The following month, the date will most likely be February 19. Sometimes things get shifted, so watch for announcements.

The group welcomes new people at any time and is open to anyone who identifies as a woman in a way that is meaningful to them. If you have questions, please contact Jill at 715-292-9163 (text or voice).

Men’s Breakfast

Men’s Breakfast is suspended for the balance of the year and will be possibly superseded with Cribbage and Conversation sometime in the New Year.



How to Remember CUUF in Your Will

Please consider joining others who have named CUUF as a beneficiary in their will or retirement or investment accounts. All you need is our EIN# 30-0248893 and our address:

CUUF, P.O. Box 641, Ashland, WI 54806.

All inquiries are confidential. For more information contact:

Lois Albrecht 715-779-5630 bayfieldlois@gmail.com

Ruth Oppedahl 715-292-3872 ruth@oppedahl.com

Access Information for Zoom Services and Meetings for January 2023

Please note: Zoom links for Sunday services and Board meetings will stay the same each month.

CUUF Sunday Services—January 8 and 22—In person at the Alvord Theatre or on Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting by Video:

<https://zoom.us/j/91687042498?pwd=TGpQWWl6bk0vM2ZHMVA4U0wrbnYwQT09>

Meeting ID: 916 8704 2498—Passcode: CUUF

Or, join us by phone: 312-626-6799—Meeting ID: 916 8704 2498—Passcode: 324633

CUUF Board Meeting—In person at CUUF office or on Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting by Video:

<https://zoom.us/j/98533490376?pwd=cTErZEF6R0tNVmVZWfPaURadHh2dz09>

Meeting ID: 985 3349 0376 —Passcode: CUUF

Or, join by phone: 312-626-6799—Meeting ID: 985 3349 0376 —Passcode: 095767

From the Minister's Desk

Dear New Year,

I greet you with gratitude
for peach freezer
jam and bright sweet moments
the whole winter long.

I greet you with hope
that this is the year we
address climate change
with humanity's gifts
of consciousness
and kindness
extended to strangers
yet to be born.

I greet you with love
for the soulhome I've
found at this fellowship
and the work we do
together.

—Stacy Craig



Small Groups Information

Soul Matters Sharing Circles—The theme for January is Finding our Center

Virtual CUUF and KUUF circle will meet on Monday, January 9 at 6 p.m. CST/7 p.m. EST

CUUF in-person circle will not be meeting in January but will be moving to Northland College's Wheeler Chapel beginning Friday, February 10.

All are Invited—Disability Justice Learning Group Forming in the New Year

At the national gathering of the Unitarian Universalist Association, the microphone stopped working and the program paused until it was working again. Persons with hearing impairment asked why the program was paused for the microphone, but when closed captioning had a glitch, the program just kept going. Across all cultures and geographic regions, at least 10% of every population is disabled. Disability justice, they reminded the gathering, is as important of a justice topic as all others. Especially in spiritual communities, disability justice calls us toward living ever more profoundly, inclusively, fully, and joyfully into our embodied existence and that of the earth. CUUF is developing a learning group that is open to all that aims to:

- learn about disability justice movements,
- consider how CUUF is and is not accessible, and
- share ideas, inspire one another, and come together as a group to advocate and educate around disability justice opportunities.

Join together for a discussion and information sharing session on Sunday, January 29 at 10 a.m. at the CUUF Office, Room 309 on the 3rd floor of Ashland's Vaughn Library. The group can decide how and when it would like to meet after that. The goal is to come together at least once per month to discuss. Please reach out to Stacy Craig or Jenise Swartley with questions or suggestions.

Religious Education News!

Attention all K-2 RE Families,

As most of you know, Erin Tenney and I have been in the process of organizing OWL for the K-2 group starting in January 2023. We did have a parent meeting and have chatted with most of you, but we know some of you weren't able to attend our last meeting on December 11. Look for an email from me with more information about the curriculum and upcoming mandatory parent/child meeting following the service on Sunday, January 8 from 12 p.m.–2 p.m. at Northland College.

If you have questions, please reach out to Erin Tenney or Ashley Smith. We look forward to sharing this amazing curriculum with your families in the year to come!

Ashley Smith
715-209-8200
smitha-02@hotmail.com

Hello all! We're back in the new year with a sweet outdoor religious education event. We'll meet at the fire ring on the Northland College campus on Saturday, January 21 from 10:30 a.m. until noon. The focus will be on gratitude, joy, and light in the quiet dark of winter. Our day will include a roarin' fire, a shared story, and a few special activities.

Parents and guardians are welcome to stay for the event or simply drop off participants. Please contact Catherine McComas-Bussa with any questions. Here is the link to the registration form: <https://cuuf.breezechms.com/form/f4ff564845>.

Hello!

We are set to launch the RE Program in earnest this month! Here's the general plan as of now for January and February. Please keep in mind, there might be a few tweaks to come.

<u>RE Group</u>	<u>Curriculum</u>	<u>Meeting Location</u>	<u>Volunteer Teachers</u>
Nursery Group	Play and Presence	Small room upstairs	
Pre-K	Chalice Children	Ponzio Room	Tracy plus another volunteer
K-2 nd Grade	Our Whole Lives	Conference room upstairs	Erin, Ashley, and Ayla
Grades 3-5	Moral Tales	Ponzio Room	Megan plus another volunteer
6 th Grade	Riddles and Mystery	Ponzio Room	One (rotating) volunteer

Middle/High Schoolers curriculum will be Building Bridges and they will meet outside of Sunday service time with Stacy and Doug.

There will also likely be a floating RE volunteer for each meeting, on deck to help if and as needed.

January 8 Service: All RE youth are invited to join a welcoming, whole group circle. We will all meet together upstairs in the Ponzio room to light the chalice, meet and greet one another, sing, and connect. All volunteer teachers are invited to join us for the entire time. This is a time to all be together, see faces, learn names, and welcome in the new year and RE program.

January 22 Service: All ages will meet in their respective group and location.

Along with the various Tapestry of Faith curricula, we will be weaving practices and activities from a Yoga/movement-based curriculum I've worked with over the last 10 years called Yoga Calm. This will include conscious breathing exercises, movement, games, and community-building experiences.

There is always room for more volunteer supports, so if you feel called to join the team in some way between January and May, let me know at tracy@chequamegonuuf.org.

Many thanks and here's to our individual and collective growth in this newly minted year!

—Tracy

Many Thanks!

A deeply felt and wholehearted thank you to all the volunteers who helped with this season's holiday pageant of *Emmet Otter's Jug-Band Christmas*. What a joy it was!

—The Religious Education Committee



Stewardship Committee—Member Testimonial: Monica Lee

Why is the Fellowship important to you?

UU is important to me because it gives my family a spiritual community that gathers people together without judgement or exclusion. All the children here benefit from knowing you. For myself, and I believe for many others, our talks provide a time for reflection and growth—guaranteed every two weeks!

Over the years our Fellowship has constantly surprised me with the quality and meaning that first David and now Stacy, along with community guests, bring to so many topics. I wouldn't make the time to cultivate this part of life without UU.

Why do you choose to financially support the Fellowship?

I support UU financially because I appreciate the time and effort that Stacy, staff, and volunteers bring to our Fellowship, and I want that to last. Communication, special programs, and education rely on our core staff to thrive, allowing volunteers to focus on their critical individual roles in the group.

Finance Report

As of December 19, CUUF spending was \$28,590 or 39% of this year's \$73,897 budget. We have received \$33,995 in contributions plus \$3,779 in other income for a total of \$37,774. Pledged contributions are \$53,941 for this fiscal year, of which we have received \$31,798 (59%). With fully paid pledges and \$7K in anticipated unpledged donations, our fiscal year income is projected to be approximately \$66,917.

The Fellowship expects to retain the local accounting firm Ehlers & Pierce to do payroll for our minister and fellowship assistant beginning in January. Benefits for eligible employees will be provided through the Unitarian Universalist Association. QuickBooks Online accounting software will be used to record and pay bills, to make and track expenses in the annual budget, and to prepare Board and congregation reports. Our existing church management software, Breeze, will be used to record contributions.

Please contact me if you have questions or would like additional information.

Ed Calhan, Treasurer
treasurer@chequamegonuuf.org
715-410-9746 cell

Board Update

The Board has been focused on getting ready for Stacy, our minister, and Adam, our Fellowship assistant, to transition in January to the Fellowship's first W-2 employees. The Fellowship will pay FICA and workman's compensation expenses as designated. Ed, our treasurer, has been in communication with UUA benefits staff for at least six months to set up a UUA benefits package for Stacy, who is eligible as a half-time employee. The benefits include medical and dental insurance, life and long-term disability insurance, and a 5% retirement contribution. This is a professional step for taking care of our employees and the Fellowship's future.

In this season of grace and gratitude, the board wishes to thank our devoted staff, the many dedicated volunteers, and our generous congregation for their gifts of time, energy, expertise, and financial contributions to support the loving work of our Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

Karen Crowell
Board President

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 ~

Caring Committee Corner

Happy New Year from the CUUF Caring Committee! We send sympathies to the friends and family of Bonnie Bergman. Bonnie passed away on December 9. She was an attendee of CUUF before moving to Florida in recent years. Many remember her art and her creative gifts that she shared with all.

Please join us in congratulating Curi and Zach Lawson, and big sister Isla. Welcome to their new baby, Emry Rime!

Do you know someone experiencing a difficult time or celebrating a life's joy? Please share with Stacy at stacy@chequamegonuuf.org to coordinate with the committee's members.

Directory Update

Our Fellowship Assistant Adam Haecker has completed the first draft of the CUUF directory of members, friends, and staff. A copy of it will be at the Sunday services Welcome Table for everyone to see and update. There are very few individual and/or family pictures in the directory so far. To that end, Jen Banowitz, our Board Secretary, has offered to take pictures at some services for anyone who wants to add a picture to the directory. The directory is useful for making contacts for volunteer activities, for worship services, hospitality, caring concerns, music, stewardship and finance, social action, and circle suppers, among other uses. If you don't connect with Jen at one of the services, you're welcome to send an email message to Adam at cuufad@gmail.com and he'll upload your photo for you.

Thank you!

IN OUR COMMUNITY

Washburn Chequamegon Bay PFLAG is grieving the recent suicide of Henry Berg Brousseau, one of the Human Rights Campaign leaders in transgender advocacy. We didn't know Henry personally, of course, but at age 24, their suicide is representative of what we all know is happening all too frequently: ostracized, humiliated, abused trans people who ultimately just can't cope, driven to suicide. The transgender community is under attack in so many ways, one being the recent concerns raised about gender affirming care.

Please join us on January 19 for WCB PFLAG "Third Thursdays" when volunteer executive director Dr. Kate Stolp will share a synopsis of what she learned attending the Mayo Clinic Transgender and Intersex Healthcare conference in October 2022. Gender affirming healthcare has been around for ages and is well established, with very specific world standards of care that must be followed. It spans many different healthcare disciplines with highly professional providers who are specifically trained, just like for any specialized area of care, in transgender care. Despite what some politicians and news outlets are spewing, children cannot walk into a clinic and demand hormones or surgery, and for those who do transition, examples of de-transitioning are extraordinarily rare. Please join us to find out more.



We wish everyone a safe, warm, happy holiday season!

WCB PFLAG Third Thursdays—Transgender and Intersex Healthcare—presented by Dr. Kate Stolp at Washburn Public Library or via Zoom on January 19, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. CST (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84816525794?pwd=TVJvYms5STErVzRFbm1lY1RxenlaZz09>

Meeting ID: 848 1652 5794

Passcode: PFLAG

Chequamegon Unitarian
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