

# *The Open Door Newsletter*

## *March 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](http://www.chequamegonuuf.org).*

#### **March 12—Speaker: Janet Bewley—*Unlikely Lessons in Politics: Purple Cathedrals and Nirvana***

Service Lay Reader: Fred Clark—Musician: Joni Chapman  
In person at 10 a.m. at the Alvord Theatre and on Zoom  
—see below for Zoom link



When we are open, honest, and vulnerable, our experiences uncover meaningful insights and even delight. Challenges themselves can contain the lessons we need to get through them. We can look beyond ourselves for hope and purpose while we look within to find our truths.

#### **March 26—Speaker: Stacy Craig—*Reconnecting After the Flood and New Member Service***

Service Lay Reader: Jen Weiler  
In person at 10 a.m. at the Alvord Theatre and on Zoom—see below for Zoom link

“We have all known the long loneliness and we have learned that the only solution is love and that love comes with community.”—Dorothy Day

The flood narrative in the Book of Genesis tells a story of the world in a watery chaos and a rainbow covenant at the end showing the way to right relationship in community: with one another, the holy, all of earth. Going through a global pandemic has a lot in common with this story. What have we learned about being in relationship? This service will use humor and guided meditation to ground and reconnect now that the flood waters are receding.

This service will also be our New Member Service. For more information on becoming a member of CUUF, please see the article on page 2 of this newsletter.

#### **Zoom Access Information for Sunday Services on March 12 and March 26**

Join Zoom Meeting by Video:

<https://zoom.us/j/91687042498?pwd=TGpQWW16bk0vM2ZHMVA4U0wrbnYwQT09>

Meeting ID: 916 8704 2498—Passcode: CUUF

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

**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

March 9	Get To Know UU Session on Zoom, 5:30–7:00 p.m. (link in article below)
March 12	Sunday Service, 10 a.m.—Speaker: Janet Bewley
March 14	In-Person Get To Know UU Session, 1:30–3:00 p.m., Vaughn Library room 309
March 19	UU Women, 10 a.m. at Washburn Public Library
March 25	RE Outdoor Program: Spirituality in the Sugarbush
March 26	Sunday Service, 10 a.m.—Speaker: Stacy Craig and New Member Service
April 9	Sunday Service, 10 a.m.—Speaker: Stacy Craig—Easter Service
April 15	UU Women’s Retreat
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

### Get to Know UU and New Member Sunday

Belonging is a journey. For some it is casual, for others it is a lifelong commitment. Membership with the Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (CUUF) is not required for belonging, but it can be an inspiring step to move over a personal and communal threshold towards connection and reciprocal relationship. There will be a celebration and recognition for new members of the fellowship on Sunday, March 26.

For those interested in learning more about Unitarian Universalism (UU), CUUF, or who are considering membership, explore the journey of belonging by attending a Get to Know UU session. These 1.5-hour sessions provide an opportunity to learn more about the history of UU, ask questions, meet newcomers, and connect with others in the fellowship. There will be one in-person and one Zoom session. All are welcome to attend.

Zoom session: Thursday, March 9 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. at <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/93232616529>.

In-person session: Tuesday, March 14 from 1:30–3:00 p.m. in the CUUF office, Room 309 on the third floor of the Vaughn Public Library in Ashland.

Please reach out to the Kristin or Henry Quinlan of the Membership Committee or Reverend Stacy Craig if you have questions or would like more information.

### Attention UU Women

UU Women will meet on Sunday, March 19 at 10 a.m. in the basement of the Washburn Library. In our meetings we get to know more about ourselves and each other by talking about what’s going on in our lives.

If you have questions, please contact Jill at 715-292-9163 (text or voice).

### Save the Date!

Saturday, April 15, 2023. This is the date for the Chequamegon UU Women’s Retreat to be held at the Washburn Library and Washburn Meditation Center.

The women’s retreat surveys are in. Thank you to everyone that responded. The April 15 agenda is being finalized and an online registration will be posted by the last week of March.

### Call for CUUF Musicians, Story Tellers, Dancers, and Other Talented Folks!

The CUUF All-Music Service will be on Sunday, May 7 at 10:00 a.m. in the Alvord Theatre with Vincent Schueren as our guest musician. Vincent coached the jug band members for the RE holiday play “Emmet Otter’s Jug Band Christmas”. He is founder of “Spoons for the People”, his project to get everyone involved in music whether it’s singing, playing the spoons, or in group choral improvisation.

An important part of the All-Music Service includes participation from the CUUF membership. Vocal, instrumental, or vocal and instrumental! Lead a song. Tell a story. Read a poem. We welcome family sing-alongs! Our supportive congregation will celebrate your courage. All ages and ability levels are welcome.

If you are interested in adding your talent to the service (and we hope you are!), please contact a member of the Music Committee.

Kristin Quinlan at [krstnquinlan@gmail.com](mailto:krstnquinlan@gmail.com)  
Karyn Watters at [karynwatters@gmail.com](mailto:karynwatters@gmail.com)

Megan Perrine at [meganperrine54@gmail.com](mailto:meganperrine54@gmail.com)  
Linda Calhan at [calhans@centurytel.net](mailto:calhans@centurytel.net)

## From the Minister's Desk

**Thank You** to the Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship for conferring me into Unitarian Universalist ministry and providing a service of ordination celebration. Below is the chalice reading I wrote and shared at the end of the service:

When I say *go in peace*,  
I mean the kind that starts in us.  
The intentional cultivation of awareness  
that suffering and harm happens.  
Yet we can control our response: standing up to  
injustice, replying with kindness, even having  
happiness.  
The peace that is hard work  
and worth working for.

When I say *go in care*,  
I mean that we don't have to hide  
our imperfections, we witness,  
accompany, and comfort through struggles;  
amplify blessings and celebrations  
as the interconnected web that we are  
and that is cared for by us all.

When I say, *go in love*,  
I mean the ultimate reality  
of being as beloved. I mean the love  
that cannot be destroyed. I mean the love  
that lives inside me and you and is all around  
if we just let it shine.

Go in Peace.  
Go in Care.  
Go in Love.

In Gratitude,  
Rev. Stacy Craig



**Thank You for Your Generosity!** The offering donations for Stacy's Ordination service totaled \$2,052. At Stacy's request and as a traditional practice for an Ordination gift, the collection will be split 50/50 between CUUF and UU Side With Love Climate Justice. All checks designated for pledge contributions will be recorded toward your pledge. Thank you so much for honoring the Reverend Stacy Craig's ordination with your generosity. It is most gratefully appreciated.

—Karen Crowell, CUUF Board President  
—Ruth Oppedahl, CUUF Stewardship Chair and Board Member





## Religious Education News

**Notes from the RE Nest**—As I write a few notes here I'm reflecting on the February 12 Religious Education classes—the rich conversation overheard with the Our Whole Lives class, the story being acted out by the Moral Tales kids, and the joy I experienced watching George and the Riddles & Mysteries youth explore how each of us are parts of a great whole. In a short time, big things have happened with Religious Education at CUUF, and I am certain they will continue to do so.

The RE teaching schedule and lesson plans are in place for March, and there will be great fun with Catherine for the Outdoor RE program. We will move into the season of spring, rebirth, and renewal. What could be better?

Thank you for the privilege of being a small part of the wholeness that is this Fellowship.

Every blessing,  
Tracy

### **Spirituality in the Sugarbush: An Invitation for RE Participants and their Families**

Saturday, March 25 from 11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Stacy and Alan Craig's house—58870 Noid Road, Mason

RE participants, parents, and friends are invited to a day of learning about maple syrup and some of the special lessons of the sugarbush. This will be the final outdoor RE program before summer! Join us for this special, closing celebration. The schedule will be as follows:

11:00-12:00 Potluck Lunch

12:00-1:00 Religious Education Lesson

1:00-2:00 Learning in the Sugarbush

You are welcome to come to all or just part of the program.

Mother Nature truly runs any maple syruping schedule, so we aren't sure exactly what this day will bring. But it will include as many hands-on opportunities as possible along with an exploration of the question: What does the earth ask of us when we receive abundant gifts from the trees?

Please register by Friday, March 24 if you plan to attend so we have enough supplies and food for the program. Registration link: <https://cuuf.breezechms.com/form/34a80162>.

Directions: From Ashland, go south on Hwy 112/Sanborn Ave. to County E. Go straight/right on County E. Turn right on Noid Road and go one mile to their driveway which will be on your right. Call/text Stacy at 715-413-1593 with questions.

## Small Groups and Programs

### **Soul Matters Sharing Circles**

The theme for March is *vulnerability*. While the online group is currently full, the in-person group is currently open to new attendees. Interested in joining? Please contact Stacy Craig to register.

Virtual CUUF and KUUF circle: Monday, March 13 at 6 p.m. CST/7 p.m. EST

CUUF in-person circle: Friday, March 17 from 10:00-11:30 a.m. at Northland College's Wheeler Chapel (4<sup>th</sup> floor of Wheeler Hall).

### **Disability Justice Learning Group Meeting**

All are welcome to join in this discussion and peer-to-peer learning group. March's focus will be looking at the word *disability*—its history and connotations and how it is being claimed by the disability justice movement.

Monday, March 20 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. on Zoom—<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/97277194531>.

If joining on Zoom isn't accessible for you, or if you have any questions, please contact co-facilitators Jenise Swartley or Stacy Craig.

## Caring Committee Corner

Warm greetings from the Chequamegon UU Caring Corner in this third month of 2023. Please join us in sending loving strength and condolences to Megan Perrine and family for the recent loss of her brother Dennis. Sending you beloved love and light, Megan!

Are you, or is someone you know, experiencing a life event, whether joyful or full of sorrow? Can the Caring Committee assist by organizing a meal train? If you have a need, please contact Stacy at [stacy@chequamegonuuf.org](mailto:stacy@chequamegonuuf.org).

## Board Report



The Board is happy to report hiring Ashley Smith for the position of Interim Director of Religious Education until June 30, 2023. Ashley has been a devoted participant of the RE Advisory Committee and programs, including OWL. We're so pleased that she is willing to take on these coordinating and organizing duties this year.

Kim Suske, our dedicated and talented newsletter editor, submitted her resignation effective this summer or as soon as a new editor can take over. Adam Haecker, our administrative assistant, will produce the April newsletter and may be able to add newsletter editor to his administrative duties. The Board wishes to thank Kim for her years of exceptional service. Her work as editor has been crucial for Fellowship communications.

The Board received a complete technology report from Doug Lowthian. Since the beginning of the pandemic, technological services have grown to be an essential part of our Fellowship operations. Here is an abbreviated summary of his report:

“As the Technology Support person for the CUUF, I support many different aspects of our Fellowship’s operations. I am always looking for and open to ways to leverage technology in service of the

Fellowship’s goals and mission. The biggest part of my job is livestreaming our Sunday services. I approach this with the idea of trying to get the ‘Room’ into the ‘Zoom.’ I want those at home to experience what goes on in the space where the service is being held.

This is a list of some of the things I am doing:

- Set up livestream for Zooming services and maintain equipment.
- Monitor and adjust audio and video for Zoom as well as for in-house sound at the Alvord.
- Process a recording of each service.
- Serve as administrator for Google Workspace for drive files, staff and volunteer communications, and documents; MS365; Quickbooks for finances; and Breeze for the Fellowship database. In this role I can create user accounts, provide tech support, change system-wide settings, reset passwords, and troubleshoot access issues.
- Provide occasional training on the use of any of our platforms. I can be available for in-person or online training for groups or individuals as needed.”

Ordination Service: An anonymous donor offered to cover the costs, approximately \$1,800, associated with the Ordination Service; this is in addition to the \$300 donated by the Keweenaw UU Fellowship. The Ordination Team is greatly appreciative of their financial support.

The Board is considering in New Business a date for the Annual Meeting in May and to begin a Strategic Planning effort next service year.

—Respectfully submitted by Karen Crowell, CUUF Board President.

## Stewardship Committee

### It's Not Too Late

Budget year versus calendar year: our Fellowship's budget year is July 1 through June 30. Our pledges of financial support fit the budget year. Our springtime pledge drive this year will help us plan the budget for the next upcoming budget year (July 1, 2023 thru June 30, 2024). But donations collected between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023 apply towards pledges previously made (last spring) for the current budget year. So it's not too late to meet or exceed our pledges for the current budget year; we have until June 30, 2023.

And it is never too late for your Stewardship Committee to say THANK YOU. Thank you for keeping the financial life blood of our Fellowship flowing. And please do respond to the spring pledge drive to help us plan for next year.

Your Stewardship Committee

### 2023-2024 Spring Pledge Drive Begins

As you may know, this is the second year that the Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship is holding the annual pledge drive in the spring instead of the fall. This alignment with the Fellowship's budget year, which runs from July 1–June 30, gives the CUUF Board advance notice of anticipated income to use while preparing the annual budget in March and presenting it for congregational approval at the annual business meeting in April or May.

Toward that end, we are asking you to make a pledge (not a gift) by April 15, if possible, that will inform our 2023-24 budget planning. Getting pledge intentions in the Spring also provides some peace of mind as we renew employment contracts and other responsibilities on July 1. It is important to remember that your current pledge for the Fellowship's 2022-23 budget year runs until June 30, 2023 and all contributions received before June 30 will be credited to your pledge for the 2022-23 budget year unless you specify otherwise with your donation.

You can complete the 2023-24 pledge form and submit it online at <https://cuuf.breezechms.com/form/ae600565>. Yellow pledge cards will also be available at services.



2023 is a banner year for the Fellowship. First, it has been 25 years now since a small group of people met at the Washburn Public Library and made the commitment to affiliate with the Unitarian Universalist Association. And second, February 26 will be our first formal ordination of Stacy Craig as our called minister. These milestones were made possible thanks to the ongoing support of members and friends like you.

We look forward to your joining us in continuing that support!

Questions? Contact Ruth Oppedahl 715-292-3872

The CUUF Stewardship Committee

*Lois Albrecht Edward W. Collier Ruth Oppedahl George Bussey*

**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](mailto:bayfieldlois@gmail.com) or Ruth Oppedahl 715-292-3872 [ruth@oppedahl.com](mailto:ruth@oppedahl.com)



On February 16, Washburn Chequamegon Bay PFLAG discussed “Transgender and Intersex Healthcare” with a presentation by Dr. Kate Stolp. Due to popular demand, if there are any other groups who would like to have Kate repeat this presentation for them, please reach out.



The next WCB PFLAG “Third Thursdays” presentation will be by Brian Heeringa, US Forest Service Wildlife Biologist, presenting on “The Environment in the Environment: Outdoor Jobs and LGBTQ+ Individuals”. The meeting will be March 16 at 6:30 p.m. at the Washburn Public Library, or you can join via Zoom at the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87877394162?pwd=OXFWVi8vaTJueE52dVhWbVNldlltZz09>

Meeting ID: 878 7739 4162—Passcode: PFLAG

—Submitted by Kate Stolp



Chequamegon Bay Arts Council will hold their Spring Art Show at the Washburn Cultural Center during the month of March. The theme is *Listening In: The Earth is Speaking*.

The show runs March 1 through March 31, Wednesdays through Sundays, from noon to 4:00 p.m. Opening reception is on Thursday, March 2, from 5–7 p.m. Also, "Listening In" Open Mic Night will be on Thursday, March 9, from 6–7 p.m. For more information, visit [www.cbayarts.org](http://www.cbayarts.org).

Wild  
the  
World



Wellspring of Hope



Radical Doors—Radical Future

Thank you Dorota for sharing this information about the show and for submitting pictures of your work that will be displayed there.

## Right to Die Information and Discussion

—Submitted by Jill Lorenz

When my mother was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s Disease in 2002, I became interested in learning about the right-to-die movement. It made sense to me that individuals should have the choice to take control of the time and manner of their death.

I became a member of Final Exit Network (FEN), which I learned about from an ad in UU World. FEN's mission is “To educate qualified individuals in practical, peaceful ways to end their lives, offer a compassionate bedside presence, and defend their right to choose.”

Last spring, I trained as a volunteer with FEN’s Exit Guide Program. Through the program, volunteers provide information and support to those who are considering ending their lives.

I’ll be hosting an informal forum on April 30 at 10 a.m. in the basement of the Washburn Library. I will talk a little about FEN and the Exit Guide Program. Then we’ll see what people want to talk about related to the right to die.

## 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

**CUUF  
CONTACT  
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