

The Open Door Newsletter

September 2023



The fellowship service for September 10

Sunday, Sept. 10—*"On the Water" ingathering service at Long Lake* **(northwest boat/kayak landing)**

Service Lay Reader: Denise Bosak

Musician: Ruth Oppedahl

Launch boats: 9 - 9:50 a.m.

Service: 10 - 11 a.m.

Gather on the shores and on the water of Long Lake for CUUF's Annual Water Service. All are invited to bring a small amount of water from a place that is special to you, and during the service, everyone has an opportunity to add their water to a collective bowl and share why it is special. A pitcher of water will be provided that can symbolize your special water if you are unable to collect a sample. This service symbolizes how we come from many different sources, yet come together to share in inspiration and fellowship. We are reminded that we are shared waters. Bring a canoe, kayak or paddleboard to float during the service, or a lawn chair to attend from the shore. A microphone and speaker will help amplify the service. This will be in-person only, as we are unable to livestream from Long Lake.

Gather with a little splash of fun and reverence for the waters of this Northwoods home.

Directions to Long Lake: Go west on Wannebo Road (just south of the City of Washburn). Turn right on to Forest Road 435. The service will be at the boat landing on the northwest side of the lake.

Launching a boat: Please arrive between 9 - 9:50 a.m. to launch a boat. You can launch from the beach area and paddle across the lake to the service or launch at the kayak/canoe landing.

Participating from shore: Please bring your own chair or blanket and arrive any time before 10 a.m. to locate a spot. Park at the canoe/kayak launch for a short walk or park at the beach area and walk 3/4 of a mile along the trails.

Fee: Carpooling is encouraged! There is a \$5.00/day charge per car. The fee is waived for those who have an annual pass, for tribal members, and for those who identify as financially insecure.

Safety: If the weather is unsafe for gathering outdoors, we will cancel the evening prior to the service and will send out an email message with more information.

Other information: Pets are allowed on a leash. There are bathroom facilities at the beach area and an outhouse near the service area.

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

The fellowship service for September 24

Sunday, Sept. 24—*Religious ‘Nones’: Trends in Un-churching Today*

Speaker: Rev. Stacy Craig

In-person and online on Zoom at 10 a.m.

Over the summer, the New York Times published a five-part series on religious “none’s”—defined as those who have no religious affiliation. One of the main takeaways from the reporting was that whether one attends a fellowship, church, mosque, gurdwara, temple, friends meeting or any house of worship, one of the key benefits is the fellowship of community. At this service, we’ll explore the shifting sands of religious identity in America today and reflect on whether this is a crisis or a revolution of the ‘spiritual leaking into the commons.’ We’ll look at the origins of this unique Unitarian Universalist fellowship and how abundant welcome and creating community have shaped its evolution and touched those who have dared to return to religion.

Zoom Access Information for Sunday service on Sept. 24

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

Services and Gathering Schedule in September

Sept. 10	“On the Water” service at Long Lake (west of Washburn) at 10 a.m.
Sept. 17	UU Women’s gathering at the Washburn Library at 10 a.m.
Sept. 24	Sunday service titled “Religious ‘Nones’: Trends in Un-churching Today”

Access Information for Zoom Board Meeting in September

Please note: The Zoom link for board meeting will stay the same each month.

CUUF Board Meeting, Wednesday, Sept. 20 at 6:00 p.m.

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

The Universe is Conspiring for Good, Right?

At the Sylvan Lake entrance, the park ranger took an extra minute to share updates about trails and to answer questions. At the end of the conversation, I said “thank you” and “take care”. She reflected the sentiment back to me. Then I hear my nephew from the back seat. “Take care? What does that even mean?” I explained that it is a well wish that you share at the end of a conversation with someone you appreciate. My nephew, whose arm was in a full cast from swinging on a vine that suddenly broke, scoffed, “Take care. Whatever. Why don’t you just say, ‘Send It?’”

My nieces and nephews let me see a summer vacation through child’s eyes, and it was an exquisite view! In their world, the universe is conspiring for good. Most of us are familiar with paranoia, or the belief that there are forces out to get you. Pronoia is the opposite and has risen to popularity as an attitude we can cultivate to see the good in humanity, nature, and the order of the universe. Yet, this trip had a bittersweet mission. It was a trip to remember.

Every year, my family went camping to the Black Hills of South Dakota in the most remote and beautiful places that my dad knew from his childhood growing up there. My dad would pick up overtime, saying he had to make the big bucks so we could get back to the hills. In 1990, when his cancer had metastasized, he asked my mom to capture the trip with our video camera. That video captures our last family camping trip to the hills, showing all my siblings and I oblivious to anything but crossing creeks on logs and running up ponderosa-studded hills. I think he knew what was coming and wanted us to remember the joy and beauty. But honestly, his suffering and death later that year would become the defining event in our lives. It brought a shadow of paranoia: that everything good could be taken away, that love was too big of a risk to take again.

A lot of healing has happened since his death and this summer. My mom orchestrated a reunion tour to introduce the next generation to the special places in the Black Hills that shaped our lives. We hiked to waterfalls and plunged into the cold waters. We scrambled on rocks that I knew like old friends. We drew new stories from memories of the past, and in the process, I felt an awakening pronoia about the world and our lives. Many receive this in church, but I have always felt it strongest in nature. The world is good. We are good. We can choose to live a good way.

My mom and I listened to Jan Goodall’s “The Book of Hope” as we drove across the plains. One of Goodall’s causes for hope is the human intellect. She shared that studying chimpanzees illuminated certain qualities of human nature that are truly unique that no other species possesses. For example, no other species can land a rover on Mars. This same intellect has caused great suffering. Human nature is often associated with plundering and devastation, but human nature is just as evident in kindness and joy. Hope is that our human intellect will be used in ways that lead to the latter.

There are a lot of worries in the world, and as we start this service year, I feel bathed in hope, the pronoia that perhaps the best is yet to come. As my nephew would say, “send it!”.

In community, Rev. Stacy Craig

Note: A version of this article appeared in the Ashland Daily Press Religion Column on Sept. 1, 2023.

Caring Committee Corner

We share with great sadness that Mike Bailey died at Memorial Medical Center in Ashland on Aug. 16 from complications with cancer and infection. Mike and his wife, Jo, have been active members of the Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship for several years. Please keep Jo, their children and family, and their wide circle of friends in thought and prayer. Jo is now living in Kentucky, where she is receiving memory care near family.

Condolences may be sent to her at:
445 Middle Bridge Road West
Bowling Green, KY 42103

The Caring Committee members can assist fellowship members in need. Please contact Stacy if you would find a ride to services helpful, need a short-term meal train, or need assistance in locating area community services.

Hospitality Committee seeks volunteers

Volunteers are needed for hospitality snacks for the two services on Sunday, Sept. 10 and Sunday, Sept. 24. Ideally, we would like three providers for each service. Please call or text June Bavlnka to sign up at 715-209-1622. Thank you.

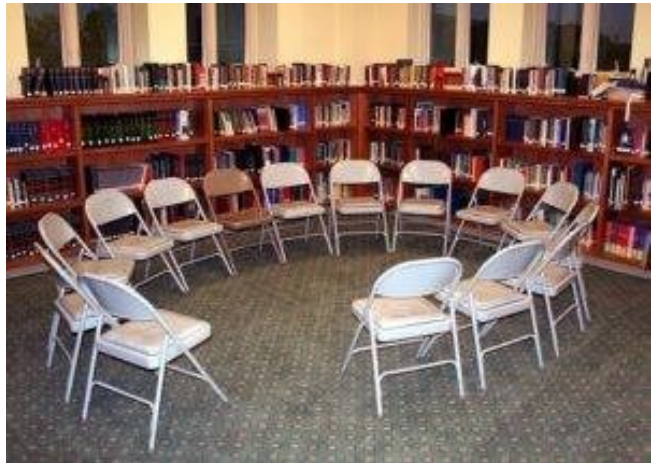
UU Women

UU Women is a group that meets once a month for sharing and listening. The group is open to anyone who identifies as a woman in a way that is meaningful to them.

UU Women will meet at the Washburn Library for this coming service year. We enter through the side door on Third Street.

Our dates through the rest of 2023 are Sept. 17, Oct. 22, Nov. 5 and Dec. 10. We meet at 10 a.m.

If anyone would like to receive a reminder email message a day or two before the meeting, please send your email address to Jill Lorenz at jill15908@gmail.com (Note that there are three 'l's in the email address.) You can also contact Jill at 715-292-9163 with any questions.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Happy Fall RE families,

We are looking forward to another fun-filled year of Religious Education (RE) activities with your children. Please complete the attached registration form for your children, so we can get an accurate count of participants.

<https://cuuf.breezechms.com/form/fld0dc4935>

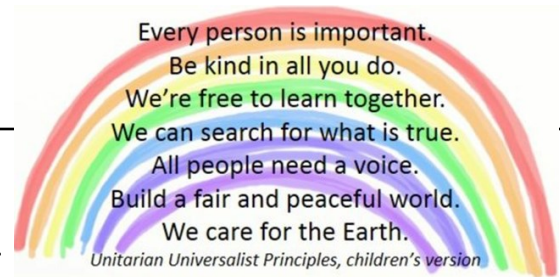
The summer went by way too fast, but we are excited about another year of RE and Our Whole Lives (OWL). There are some exciting new developments to share, but the biggest news is that we are pleased to announce that the search committee has selected a new Director of Religious Education (DRE).

Andrea Ward has graciously accepted the position of DRE and starts her work with the fellowship on Sept. 8. She brings a wealth of knowledge, including years of teaching middle school youth, and we are so grateful to have her on board. I will continue as the OWL Coordinator and will work alongside Andrea in a team capacity to keep all things RE and OWL running smoothly. Please help me in welcoming Andrea to her new role.

In other news, we are still seeking RE volunteer teachers. Please reach out and I can give you more information. As a reminder, the 4th - 6th grade OWL mandatory parent/child meeting is Sunday, Sept. 24 at 8:30 a.m. Please RSVP to Ashley if you have not done so already and don't forget to purchase those books. We look forward to seeing everyone for the "On the Water" service at Long Lake on Sunday, Sept. 10. New this year, we are offering a children's scavenger hunt/hike during the service, so bring the kids and your boats and we will see you on the 10th.

As always, please reach out with any questions/comments/reflections. I can be reached at 715-209-8200 or smitha-02@hotmail.com

—Blessings, Ashley Smith



OWL participants



Pictures from the Child Dedication Service and Annual Picnic on Sunday, July 16, at Memorial Park in Washburn.

Small Group meetings in September

Virtual Enneagram Community of Practice is coming

Are you interested in exploring the Enneagram and how it can help you live into your life more fully? A gathering on Zoom about learning and applying the Enneagram, in conjunction with the Keweenaw UU Fellowship, will be offered each month. Please contact Stacy Craig at minister@chequamegonuuf.org to register. Once we find a date and time that work for those who are interested, we'll begin meeting. Interested in learning more about the Enneagram?

Here are some of Stacy's favorite resources:

Websites

Enneagram Institute: <https://www.enneagraminstitute.com>

Narrative Institute: <https://www.narrativeenneagram.org>

Books

"The Essential Enneagram: The Definitive Personality Test and Self-Discovery Guide"
by David Daniels and Virginia Price

"The Road Back to You" by Ian Cron and Suzanne Stabile

"The Path Between Us" by Suzanne Stabile

Podcasts

"The Enneagram Journey" by Suzanne Stabile

<https://www.theenneagramjourney.org/podcast>

Soul Matters Discussion Group

Soul Matters is an invitation to explore spiritual themes and develop or hone spiritual practices. Participants receive a monthly packet with reflections, quotes, stories and videos to engage with on their own time, and come together to meet for 1 1/2 hours to share insights and encourage one another in the exploration. The themes this year will ground members in the six values with love at the center.

September: Welcome

October: Heritage

November: Generosity

December: Mystery

January: Liberating Love

February: Justice and Equity

March: Transformation

April: Interdependence

May: Pluralism

June: Renewal

There are two groups: an online group with the Keweenaw UU Fellowship and an in-person group. The online group has room for 1-2 members from CUUF. The meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. CST/7:30 p.m. EST.

The in-person group is being reconstructed and will meet at a time and location to be determined by participants. Interested in joining? Please register by contacting Stacy Craig at stacy@chequamegonuuf.org

IN OUR COMMUNITY

Workshop to provide first aid training for mental health of teens

The University of Wisconsin-Madison Extension and the Northwest Wisconsin Lung Health Alliance are providing a free workshop to the community on the mental health of teens. The workshop will teach you how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental health and substance abuse among teens who are 12-18 years old. The workshop is expected to build the skills and confidence you need to provide support to teens who are struggling. It will be held on Saturday, Oct. 28 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Bayfield County EOC Building, 116 East 6th St., Annex Building in Washburn. Lunch and refreshments are included. Please register for this workshop at: <https://go.wisc.edu/2841jv>
Please contact Tracy Henegar for more information at 715-395-1426.

Happenings at Copper Falls State Park

Mark your calendars to celebrate the beauty of nature and fall colors at Copper Falls Fall Festival on Saturday, Sept. 23. In addition, there will be an informative program and short hike on the mysteries of the rocks, formation and geomorphology of the park on Saturday, Sept. 30. For more information on these and other events, please visit <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/events> or call the park at 715-274-5123.



Greetings and news from Washburn-Chequamegon Bay PFLAG

The 100 Who Care organization voted to award Washburn-Chequamegon Bay (WCB) PFLAG with its quarterly gift of \$10,200, which will allow us to move ahead in opening an LGBTQ+ Resource Center and office. The center would be a 'home' for the LGBTQ+ community, where we hope to offer services such as one-on-one meetings, group meetings, peer support, guidance on mental health and legal resources, as well as ways to connect with the community in our area. We'll also need some office furniture and chairs/sofa for our 'comfy' room. We would appreciate any donations.

We open our monthly Third Thursdays series on Sept. 12 (which is a Tuesday). WCB PFLAG is joining together with the League of Women Voters on that day for a presentation and panel discussion at The Club in Washburn at 6:30 p.m. Dr. Kate Stolp will give the presentation titled "Demystifying Transgender Healthcare". The panel will include two transgender individuals, a pastor, a counselor, and the parent of a transgender child. Please join us. We'll have light appetizers and beverages.

Please visit the WCB PFLAG website at www.pflagwashburn.org for more information.

—Kate Stolp, Volunteer Executive Director

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