

The Open Door Newsletter

January 2024



The fellowship services on Jan. 14 and Jan. 28

Sunday, Jan. 14—*Moments of Joy, Eons of Sadness—*
Thoughts About the Abundance and Uses of Sorrow
Guest Speaker: Joel Glickman
Musician: Joni Chapman
In-person at Northland College and live-streamed
on Zoom at 10 a.m.



Joel Glickman is professor emeritus of music at Northland College, is well known in the region for his acumen on the clarinet and banjo. He is a published author of poetry and two children's books.

Sunday, Jan. 28—*The Value of Love*
Speaker: Rev. Stacy Craig
Musician: Susan Zeuske, English horn
In-person at Northland College and live-streamed on Zoom at 10 a.m.

Values are what live behind one's beliefs and principles. If engaged, they lead from behind, determining where we spend money, time and energy without even being a conscious decision. In the 1970s, a study was conducted by Robert Miller in the Religious Studies Department at Tufts University to discover if there was a unique value system for Unitarian Universalists (UU) that was different from other religious groups. The study concluded that yes, UU has a distinct value of loving that is different from all other religious and nonreligious groups. What does a value system of loving include? Given that the word love can be used in so many different ways, how would living out this value be actualized? These are some of the questions we'll explore together as we consider the value of love in our world today.

Zoom access information for the Sunday services on Jan. 14 and on Jan. 28

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

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

Small group gatherings in January

Soul Matters Discussion Group

Soul Matters is a monthly gathering for adult theological discussion. A different spiritual theme is introduced each month with a packet of information, songs, quotes, practices, and videos that participants can engage with before gathering together to discuss, share ideas and listen to one another about the theme. The theme for January is 'Liberating Love'.

There are two group options:

CUUF and KUUF Online Group: Monday, Jan. 15 on Zoom at 7 p.m. EST/6 p.m. CST

CUUF In-Person Group: Tuesday, Jan. 16 at the Washburn Library, basement room, from 4 - 5:30 p.m. CST

There is still room to register for these groups. Contact Stacy Craig to register by sending her an email message to minister@chequamegonuuf.org

Reconnection Group

Meets Jan. 10 and Jan. 24 at the Washburn Library from 10:30 - 11:45 a.m.

Caring Connections

In this season of long nights, short days and cold winds (not much of them so far!), the Caring Committee on behalf of the fellowship sends well wishes for continued health improvement to:

Donn Christensen, who broke his hip
Sandy Brue, who had a knee replacement
Joni Chapman, who had knee surgery
Melodie Phipps, who broke her collarbone
All others who have illnesses or injuries

For those who are alone or for whom the holidays are a struggle and you don't know where to turn, you may contact Minister Stacy Craig. Her phone number is 715-765-4214 and her email address is stacy@chequamegonuuf.org If needed, she can connect you to resources and organizations that provide support services. The Caring Committee on behalf of the fellowship also invites you to join us in any way that feels comfortable. Services are held in-person, as well as on Zoom.

At any time of year, the Caring Committee is there for anyone in the fellowship who is experiencing a life-changing event, whether joyful or full of sorrow. If you have a need or know someone who does, please contact Stacy. May the new year be one of light for you and yours.

Access information on Zoom for board meeting in January

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

CUUF Board Meeting, Wednesday, Jan. 17 at 6:00 p.m.

In-person at the 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 Ones,

I actually bristle at that salutation—*dear ones*. But I can't help myself; it is the only way I can begin this column. You see, I'm still reeling from a recent experience. After the holiday service, I had to pull over on a gravel road on the way home because I was sobbing. This is rare for me, and not something I expected. It happens when something touches my heart so deeply that I purge a grief or sadness that has been lingering. It heals it all the way through. Was it the haunting music contrasted by the beauty of the dancing snowflakes during a perilous journey of the skiers? Was it the solstice spiral, effervescent with the everlasting green of needles? Was it the conversations or new connections? The candles spanning from wall to wall at the conclusion? The 2023 holiday service volunteer hours and various contributions are too numerous to list here, but it's safe to say, this is the power and promise of a spiritual community. Dear ones, I hope this fellowship offers the kind of hope and inspiration for you as it has for me.

I know there is a gap between services and many programs from December to January. May this provide ample time for reflection and to digest some of the connections and insights made in 2023 so they can be transformed into energy and awareness. Sending you blessings for the New Year and all the promise that flourishes when we take that which has been and marry it to that which may be, and find peace in the present moment.

—In communion,
Stacy

What is the role of a Service Lay Leader?

Service Lay Leader for a Sunday service: what does that mean? I was asked to do this for the Oct. 29 service. I have been involved with the services for many years — starting with the time before we had ministers...and that was a lot of work! But we were proud to be a “Lay Led Congregation”...and then we were thrilled to move on to this next great level!

These are the main roles of the Service Lay Leader:

1. Coordinate the planning of the service with the Worship Committee chair (currently Jenise Swartley) and our Minister, Stacy Craig. They will assist the Service Lay Leader with all phases of guidance, suggestions and resources
2. Choose or create the readings for the Chalice Lighting and Chalice Extinguishing
3. Coordinate to find readers and candle lighters for item #2
4. Choose or create a reading, message or poem to set up the introduction of the speaker

The Service Lay Leader may also provide a responsive reading that pertains to the season or speaker. The Service Lay Leader is also welcome to make suggestions for the altar; or help plan it.

Our name is the Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship: we work together as a fellowship to plan and put on all of our services and activities. There will always be help available for anyone taking on a new role. Contact Jenise or Stacy if you want to try it out!

—Jan Perkins

Updated Breeze directory

In mid-January, Fellowship Assistant Adam Haecker will have an updated Breeze directory available for distribution. During the past several weeks, he has been working on getting the contact information for active congregants (including members and friends) as up-to-date as possible.

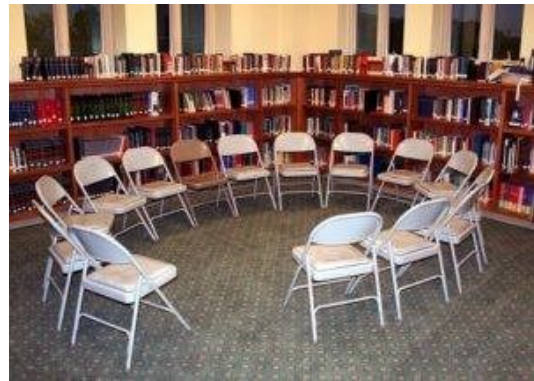
If you are reading this article, and realize that you have some new contact information, please let Adam know. This could include anything from a change of address, a new phone number or a new email address. It also might include an update to your family's information (if applicable).

Also, as many of you know, Adam is in need of many photos (head shots) from folks to make the directory look as sharp and complete as possible. If you're comfortable with it, please send your photos to Adam at cuufad@gmail.com and he will insert it into your profile on Breeze.

In summary, our directory serves as a means of communication and connection between all of us in the congregation. Given that, the more complete the directory, the more that communication and connection gets fulfilled.

UU Women

UU Women is a group that meets once a month for conversation and support. Our next meeting is Sunday, Jan. 21 at 10 a.m. in the basement of the Washburn Public Library. Use the side entrance. We welcome anyone who identifies as a woman in a way that is meaningful to them. Come check us out! More info: Jill @ 715-292-9163.



Volunteers needed for set-up and take-down at Sunday services

Having a shared worship space saves us thousands of dollars and reduces our carbon footprint, but it comes with a lot of heavy lifting. Are you able to help with set-up before a service and clean-up after the service? If so, contact Fellowship Assistant Adam Haecker at cuufad@gmail.com

Much of the work before the service includes setting up chairs, placing the Order of Service and hymnals (if applicable) on chairs, helping get tables out for the Hospitality Committee and the Membership Committee, and other miscellaneous tasks.

Much of the work after the service includes picking up the Order of Service and hymnals (if applicable) off of the chairs, helping move items back in the storage room, and making sure the Alvord Theatre is generally clean before heading out.

Also, please know that Adam is looking for four or five volunteers total, and it doesn't mean that you need to be committed to helping at every service. He wants to get on a rotational schedule for folks, so the same volunteers aren't needed every Sunday. Thank you.

Science group to meet at Coco's

There is a science group that has recently formed that will be meeting on the same date and time every month that the UU Women's group meets. Given that, the next meeting will be on Sunday, Jan. 21 at 10 a.m. at Coco's restaurant in Washburn. All are welcome to talk about science. We'll be talking about "Schrodinger's cat paradox". For more information, please contact Mike Bunch at 715-209-5383.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

The sparkles of magic from the holiday service are still with me as I write this update—deep gratitude for all the time put in by the volunteers, parents, and children of the fellowship whose efforts made possible a truly awesome holiday pageant!

As we look forward to the new year, there are just a few R.E. updates to note:

- Building Bridges will start up again with our first session of the new year on Tuesday, Jan. 16, 6:15-7:45 p.m., at the Washburn Library. Our focus for this session will be an introduction to Eastern religions.
- Our Chalice Children group for pre-K will meet for the first time at the Jan. 14 service. All pre-K children ages 3 and 4 are welcome to attend! Please contact Andrea Ward (andrea@chequamegonuuf.org) with questions or to register your child for R.E.
- Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 4th—6th graders will be starting up again in January. The group will be meeting during Sunday service time on Jan. 14 and Jan. 28. If you have any questions, please contact Ashley Smith at 715-209-8200.

—Andrea Ward, Director of Religious Education

—Ashley Smith, Coordinator of Our Whole Lives

Festive holiday punch

The following punch recipe is courtesy of Jan Perkins, who said it was a big hit at the recent holiday service on Dec. 17.

64 oz. of cranberry juice
64 oz. of cran-pineapple juice
8 oz. of frozen limeade, defrosted
2 liters of ginger ale

8 cups of ice. It can be made with fruit juice with frozen sweet cherries, or whatever, dropped in.

It makes 36 cups of punch or 2 1/4 gallons. Enjoy!

Pre-Valentine's Day Bake Sale

Sunday, February 11th

Volunteers are needed to donate treats! Please contact Jen Banowetz at 715-209-2825 or jen@chequamegonuuf.org if you would like to help out. A sign-up list will all be passed around at the services in January.

All proceeds go to supporting the sustainable growth of our Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

Calendar for the remainder of 2023-2024 service year

Services begin at 10 a.m. in the Alvord Theatre at Northland College unless noted otherwise.

2024 Schedule

Jan. 14 : Guest speaker: Joel Glickman
Jan. 28 : Speaker: Rev. Stacy Craig
Feb. 11: Guest speaker: Dani O'Brien
Feb. 18: Speaker: Rev. Stacy Craig
March 10: Guest speaker: Kelsey Rothe

March 31: Speaker Rev. Stacy Craig
April 14: Guest speaker John Bates
April 28: New Member Service
May 5: All Music Service
May 19: Flower Service

Faithify update—Goal Met!—and matching funds still available

Faithify – The Unitarian Universalist’s own crowdsource funding website – is where our fellowship has established a campaign to raise funds for the Religious Education and Our Whole Lives programs. We set a goal of \$5,000, which would have been matched by \$1,000 from the UUA Mid-America region for a total of \$6,000. We were \$3,485 towards our goal when we received an amazing \$5,000 donation – taking the campaign to \$8,485 - which will be matched by \$1,697 from the UUA for a current total of \$10,182!

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who helped make this campaign such a success. Further, with the UUA donation capped at \$2,000, up to \$1,515 in additional contributions, received before the Jan. 5 cutoff date, will still earn the 20% match.

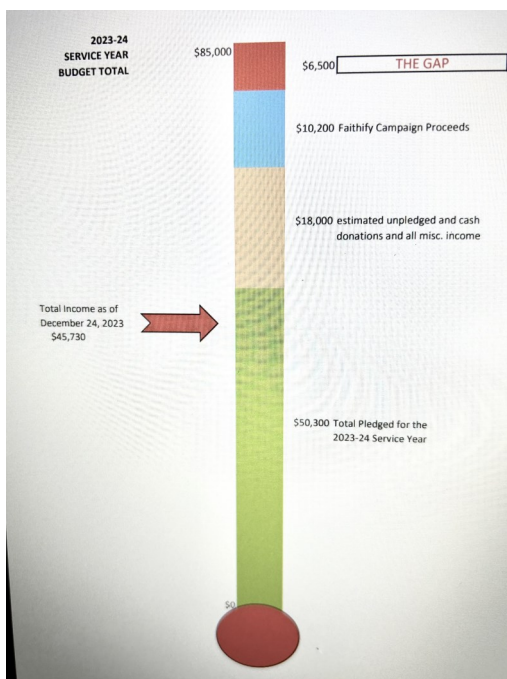
With \$6,000 of anticipated income from the Faithify campaign, “The Gap” between this year’s anticipated income and expenses was \$10,700. Thanks to the extraordinary Faithify donations The Gap has been reduced to \$6,518 and could go even lower if additional Faithify contributions are received before the campaign ends on Jan. 5. For more information on the CUUF budget, anticipated spending and service year, please read the other articles on this page and on page 7.

If you can help the Faithify campaign whittle away even further at The Gap, here’s how to do it.

Go to the Faithify website – just type Faithify in your browser and look for **Help expand our RE program for the youth of rural Wisconsin**. Or follow this link to go directly to the CUUF campaign: <https://www.faithify.org/campaign/295/help-expand-our-re-program-for-the-youth-of-rural-wisconsin>. Pledge your contribution using a credit or debit card. Your pledge will be recorded although your card will not be charged until after the campaign ends on Jan. 5, 2024.

An alternative to making a credit card pledge on the Faithify website is by sending a check to our PO box (to be received by Jan. 3, please!). The check (to CUUF) needs to have “Faithify” in the memo line. These donations will still be recorded on the Faithify website and best of all, CUUF will receive the full amount, with no card transaction fees deducted.

CUUF 2023-24 income



The Teeter Totter of Stewardship

I don't mean its ups and downs, but rather that it's a balancing act. As one member's view from the center of the Stewardship Committee universe, it's the goal of balancing the Spirit of Giving with the practicalities of the budget. I make my CUUF pledge (the promise, not the payment) in the spring to be applied to the service year starting in July. That helps with planning the budget for the next service year. I try to pay my pledge in the fall in the Spirit of Giving. It is in the Spirit of Giving because then I know that in the balance of things, I might have some extra to contribute sometime over the winter. There is a balance in nature. There is a balance in the budget. There is a balance in the Spirit of Giving.

—George Bussey
Member of the Stewardship Committee

The Gap has shrunk! From \$10,700 to \$6,500 as of Dec. 24!

What is The Gap, anyway? The Gap is the \$10,700 difference between what was projected for our total income after last spring's 2023-24 pledge drive, and the spending the CUUF board determined was necessary to support the people and programs core to our mission. With approval of this "stretch" budget, the board and the Stewardship Committee committed to raising awareness of our financial needs, pursuing grant opportunities, exploring internal fund-raising events, and seeking donations outside the CUUF community. An example of a broader-based appeal for contributions is the Faithify campaign that has already raised \$4,200 more than its \$6,000 goal.

During the past two service years, the fellowship has had to take \$7,800 from reserves to fill the gaps between expenses and donations. We are determined to avoid that course this year. With a steadily growing in-person and online congregation; an awe-inspiring RE program for youth and adults; a passionate and eloquent, fully credentialed, half-time minister; and our partnership with Northland College for facilities, members, and friends; we are well-positioned to take the final step to financial stability.

Help us keep whittling away at The Gap. As the thermometer chart on page 6 shows, it has already gone from \$10,700 down to \$6,500. Watch for it in our monthly newsletters and on the welcoming table at each service. As pledges are received, other income recorded, and the Faithify campaign concludes on Jan. 5, watch the red Income arrow climb and be ready for a celebration when we "top out".

A message from the Stewardship Committee

Pledge status

For those of you who make a pledge, mid-service-year statements were sent via email message on Nov. 5. The pledge period coincides with our service year of July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024. As you know, pledges made ahead of the service year help provide some predictability so the board can develop a realistic budget each spring. We are in the middle of a service year right now and appreciate your support. Thank you for making a pledge! If you are not on email or would like another update, please contact Ed Calhan or Ruth Oppedahl.

Calendar Year Giving Statement (for tax purposes)

In early January, you will receive a summary of your gifts to CUUF for the 2023 calendar year. This statement is a record of your charitable giving and may be used to document your income tax deductions. Please check your email Inbox or mailing address for this statement in early January. Your charitable giving is held in complete confidence. Thank you for supporting the fellowship and the many programs for youth and adults which happen in addition to the Sunday services. Your support makes this happen and your gifts are received with great appreciation. Please contact Ed Calhan or Ruth Oppedahl.

Making a future gift in your will

If you are interested in adding a future gift to CUUF in your will, we now have information online to make this easy to do. These gifts can be life-changing for our fellowship! We have established the "Chalice Circle" to recognize people who have named CUUF in their will—we now have five people! For more information, see <https://www.chequamegonuuf.org/donate-2/>. The online literature includes a "how to" handout and links to an easy form to notify us that you have added CUUF to your will, so we can recognize you (or you can be anonymous). For more information, contact Lois Albrecht or Ruth Oppedahl. All inquires are kept confidential.

Chequamegon Unitarian
Universalist Fellowship
P.O. Box 641
Ashland, WI 54806

**CUUF
CONTACT
INFORMATION**

PO Box 641, Ashland, WI 54806
Fellowship Website: www.chequamegonuuf.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/Chequamegonuuf
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/chequuf>



**Fellowship Assistant/Newsletter Editor/
Minister/Director of Religious Education/
Coordinator of Our Whole Lives**

Adam Haecker
Fellowship Assistant
cuufad@gmail.com
and
Newsletter Editor
uunews@chequamegonuuf.org
651-303-6931 (cell)

Andrea Ward
Director of Religious Education
andrea@chequamegonuuf.org
608-438-6156

Ashley Smith
Coordinator of Our Whole Lives
smitha-02@hotmail.com
715-209-8200

Stacy Craig, Reverend
stacymariecraig@gmail.com
minister@chequamegonuuf.org
715-765-4214 (home)
715-413-1593 (cell)