

# *The Open Door Newsletter*

## *February 2024*



**The fellowship services on Feb. 11 and Feb. 18**

**Sunday, Feb. 11—** **Guest Speaker:** Dani O'Brien  
**Service Lay Leader:** Kate Ullman  
**Musicians:** Northland College Vocal Trio  
In-person at Northland College and live-streamed on Zoom at 10 a.m.

Dani teaches courses at Northland College on diversity in the classroom; classroom management; and curriculum, planning and assessment, among others. She also supervises student teachers and practicum teachers.

**Sunday, Feb. 18—***Religion and Justice: Repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery*  
**Speaker:** Rev. Stacy Craig  
**Service Lay Leader:** Mike Bunch  
**Musician:** Joni Chapman  
In-person at Northland College and live-streamed on Zoom at 10 a.m.

In 1452, a Papal decree was issued that theologically justified the right of Christian nations to conquer and confiscate Indigenous lands on behalf of Christendom. This practice eventually became international law known as the Doctrine of Discovery. The U.S. Supreme Court adopted this as the law of these land, and cases continue to be decided based on this legal precedent. For over 45 years, UU fellowships have worked to refute this doctrine's impact on current day policies and beliefs. Several other religions have taken this up in recent years. At this service, we'll explore some of the confluences of religious history, justice, and equity and lift up examples that are working towards reparations and the rights of Indigenous peoples.

### **Masking update**

Virus season is here! Please remember that if you are sick or experiencing symptoms, we encourage you to join services in an N95 mask or via Zoom. This time of year everyone is encouraged to practice extra hand washing. Take good care!

### **Zoom access information for the Sunday services on Feb. 11 and on Feb. 18**

Link: <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.**

## 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.  
\* Please note the back-to-back weekends for the services in February.

### 2024 Schedule

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: All Music Service

May 5: Speaker: Rev. Stacy Craig

May 19: Flower Service

## Small group gatherings in February

### Soul Matters Discussion Group

The February theme for Soul Matters is 'The Gifts of Justice and Equity'. We continue to explore themes that are part of the proposed purpose statement of the collective UUA, captured in the image of the 'flower' of themes. We've covered generosity and love. Future themes will be transformation (March), interdependence (April), pluralism (May), and renewal (June). The groups are currently full.

If you are interested in joining, please contact Rev. Stacy Craig at [minister@chequamegonuuf.org](mailto:minister@chequamegonuuf.org) for more information.

### CUUF and KUUF Online Group:

Monday, Feb. 12 at 7 p.m. EST/6 p.m. CST

### CUUF In-Person Group:

Tuesday, Feb. 13 at the Washburn Library, basement room, from 4 - 5:30 p.m. CST

### Reconnection Group

This support group will meet on the following dates in February: Wednesday, Feb. 14 and Wednesday, Feb. 28. If you are looking for a support group, please contact Rev. Stacy Craig at [minister@chequamegonuuf.org](mailto:minister@chequamegonuuf.org) for more information.

*Pre-Valentine's Day Bake Sale*

Sunday, February 11th, after the service

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

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



## Zoom access information for board meeting in February

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

### CUUF Board Meeting, Wednesday, Feb. 21 at 6:00 p.m.

In-person at the CUUF office or on Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting by video:

<https://zoom.us/j/95680285492?pwd=MkhJU3hSaWppQzBxZjNrenhyVWYxQT09>

Meeting ID: 956 8028 5492 —Passcode: 812516

Or, join by phone: 312-626-6799—Meeting ID: 956 8028 5492 —Passcode: 812516

## From the Minister's Desk

Mid-winter Greetings,

February 2nd is one of my favorite holidays. Some call it Imbolc, others Groundhog Day. Some celebrate with the Feast of St. Brigid, Ireland's patroness saint who promises the gifts of spring: new life, abundance, protection. Going to wells is one of the practices of this day, as the well is that symbolic source of life-giving and life-sustaining energy. Before electricity, people brought their candles to Sunday Mass to be blessed. They needed the candles to last through the winter, thus, the first Sunday service in February is sometimes called Candlemass. No matter which way you say it, it is a cross-quarter day, meaning we are halfway between the winter solstice and the spring equinox. It isn't exactly the season of hope. I would call it endurance. The black bears are giving birth in their dens, and both mother and cubs will live off the fat stores of her body from the fall. The rhythm of the seasons teaches us that if we burn through all our candles, all our energy stores now, there won't be enough to get up through the spring.

I am trying to listen to the lessons of this season, but I still feel myself getting 'fired up' as we enter into an election year. I was at a gathering making small talk with someone who has completely given up on democracy. He is so disgusted and dismayed as to believe his only course of action for himself and his young family is self-protection. He asked me how I can still believe in democracy and although I hadn't thought of this answer ahead of time, it came blurring out: because I am involved with religious fellowships and I see individual citizens using collective action to make a difference all the time. And in an elemental way, that is what democracy is: leveraging our collective power in the service on our values.

My hope is that this fellowship is one of the sources to help keep us all in that balance between dismay and burning out as we gather our collective power for another election year.

—In endurance, Rev. Stacy

## CUUF is hiring a childcare provider

CUUF is seeking a qualified childcare provider for children ages 0-3 during services, which are held in the Alvord Theatre at Northland College. This role will be responsible for providing care and setting up/taking down the space (a conference room near the theatre). The childcare provider will be supported by a volunteer when children are present. We meet for worship services two Sundays/month from September - May. This shift is for 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. on service days. Pay is \$15.00 per hour, paid in cash at the end of each shift.

The remaining service dates for this year are: 2/11, 2/18, 3/10, 3/31, 4/14, 4/28, 5/5, 5/19.

### **Job Duties and Responsibilities:**

—Arrive by 9:30 a.m. on service days to set up the childcare space with children's toys and crafting supplies that will be provided by the CUUF.

—Set up a provided laptop so that services can be streamed into the room.

—Care for children by being attentive to their needs, playing with them, and ensuring a safe and nurturing space.

Any snacks, drinks, or diapers will be provided by each child's parent(s)/guardian(s).

—The care provider will exchange cell numbers with parents/guardians so that they can be contacted during services should a need arise.

—Childcare services will close at 11:15 a.m. at which point parents will pick up their children. The staff member will be responsible for cleaning up the space and putting away all supplies.

—An orientation will be conducted before the first shift.

### **Qualifications:**

—Must be at least 18 years-old and have experience working with children

—Ability to be on time and available for each service

—CUUF will conduct a background check prior to hiring

Please send a brief explanation of relevant experience and contact information for at least one reference to Angela Stroud at [angela@chequamegonuuf.org](mailto:angela@chequamegonuuf.org)

## Caring Corner

Now that February is here with its promise of longer days, the Caring Committee on behalf of the fellowship sends well wishes to:

**Deb Aaron**, who suffered her mother's death on Dec. 5, followed shortly afterwards by a mild heart attack. She then contracted a severe case of Covid and is still struggling to recover from it.  
**Melodie Phipps**, who will be going to Mayo on Feb. 26.

**Cynthia Belmont**, who is healing from Achilles tendon surgery.

**Jill Lorenz**, whose brother died on Jan. 5.

**Marina Lackecki**, who is in the midst of radiation and chemotherapy for cancer.

**Laura Lokken**, who is recovering from knee surgery.

**Donn Christensen**, who is successfully continuing his recovery from hip surgery.

All those experiencing the severe respiratory illness that is so prevalent now or the many other ailments that come with winter.

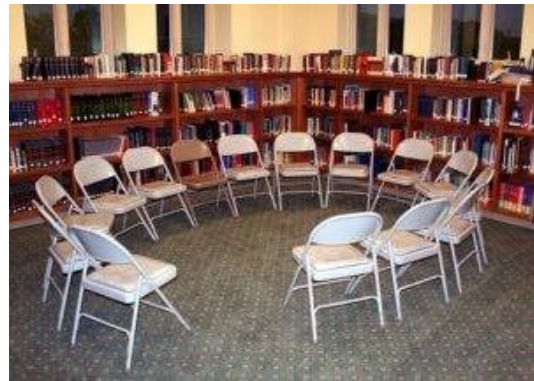
If you have a need, are experiencing a life-changing event of sorrow or joy or know someone who is, please contact Rev. Stacy. Her phone number is 715-413-1593 and her email address is [minister@chequamegonuuf.org](mailto:minister@chequamegonuuf.org). She and the Caring Committee members can connect you to resources and organizations that provide support services, including hotels in Ashland that offer discounts for Memorial Medical Center-related events.

May this month be a bringer of warmth to you and yours.

—Lindy Howe

## UU Women

UU Women is a group that meets once a month for conversation and support. Our next meeting is Sunday, Feb. 25 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.



## Science group to meet at Coco's

The science group will meet on Sunday, Feb. 25 at 10 a.m. at Coco's restaurant in Washburn. There are tentative plans for the group to visit the power plant in Ashland. All are welcome. For more information, please contact Mike Bunch at 715-209-5383.

## Caring Committee is available to celebrate or assist

The Caring Committee celebrates major life events, as well as assists when there is a fellowship need. Whether it's a birth, a graduation or another joyful event, the committee would like to help you celebrate. We are also available for those who have either a short-term or longer need. Please notify your minister, Stacy Craig, and she will share your news with this committee.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

### **Greetings!**

The RE crew is back together in our small groups this winter after a rewarding fall pageant season with all ages working, playing, and building community together. We're especially excited to have our new pre-K group, Chalice Children, up and running as of Jan. 28. All children who have turned 3, 4, or 5 and have not yet started Kindergarten are welcome to join the Chalice Children during the service on Sundays. Thanks to Irene Blakely for stepping up to facilitate RE for our youngest participants!

### **Building Bridges**

Building Bridges, our inclusive course in world religions, is in full swing for the winter/spring semester. We will continue to meet in the Washburn Library basement from 6:15 to 7:45 p.m. on alternating Tuesdays throughout winter and spring. We have a weekend field trip in the works—more information soon! Families, please email Andrea Ward with questions or conflicts with the schedule:

Feb. 13: Hinduism II

Feb. 27: Buddhism I

Mar. 12: Buddhism II

March 26: Shinto/Japanese Aesthetics

Apr. 9: Taoism and Jainism

Apr. 23: Indigenous

May 7: Final Session! Humanism and Celebration of Building Bridges

### **Coming soon: Family survey and RE registration for 2024-25**

We will soon be sharing a survey for RE families to provide feedback on their experiences and hopes for the RE program; at this time we will also open registration for the 2024-25 program year. Your feedback and registration are both integral to our ability to provide programming that best fits the needs of our fellowship. Please keep your eyes out for the survey and registration form, which will be shared both by email and at the welcome table.

—Andrea Ward, Director of Religious Education

### **Happy Winter!**

We are about half through our 4th-6th grade OWL group and it is going well! As many of you know we took a break over the holidays to give family time to focus on the holiday play and we re-started on Jan. 28th. We hope to wrap up in March, depending on weather and if we get any more snow days! Looking ahead to next fall, we plan to offer OWL for 8th-9th graders in September on Sunday evenings in Ashland. If your child is interested in participating, and you have not already connected with me, please reach out! We are also exploring offering a K-2 OWL group beginning in January 2025 and I will keep you posted as we get closer. If you have interest in becoming an OWL facilitator for either age group, we would love to hear from you! I can be reached at 715-209-8200! Thank you all for your continued support of the OWL program!

Warmly,

—Ashley Smith, Coordinator of Our Whole Lives

## Financial update from CUUF Treasurer Ed Calhan

### Faithify campaign

As you have likely heard, our UU crowdsource funding campaign through Faithify was amazingly successful. At the campaign end, our proceeds were double the original goal of \$5,000 pledged plus \$1,000 from a UUA MidAmerica region match. The additional income has narrowed the gap between this service year's anticipated income of \$80,400 and budgeted expenses of \$85,000 to just \$4,600. A heartfelt thanks to all Faithify contributors.

### A big thank you to our pledgers

Speaking of this year's anticipated income, the real core of the fellowship's financial health is the 51 members and friends who have pledged to make a total of \$50,300 in contributions this service year. Nineteen pledgers have made donations online and 11 of them have set up reoccurring monthly contributions. As of Jan. 19, over halfway through the fellowship year, we have received \$39,225, or 78% of the pledge total. Thanks to all who have pledged their support—you provide the financial foundation that makes the fellowship possible.

22 pledgers who have made partial donations: \$11,475

13 pledgers who have fully paid their pledge: \$14,260

3 pledgers who have overpaid pledges by \$6,790: \$13,490

13 pledgers have not yet contributed

### Zelle as a digital payment

Lastly, there is a new no-fee option for online giving. Zelle is a digital payment network that can be used to make one-time or reoccurring transfers to the fellowship directly from your bank or credit union. If it is not offered by your bank, there is mobile app available. You will need the Bremer Bank routing number, 096010415, and the CUUF account number, 0953950. Let me know if you need help or more information to set up Zelle transfers and we will both reach out to the canny member who got it to work for them!

—Ed Calhan, treasurer@chequamegonuuf.org

## Annual giving statements

If you gave a gift in 2023, you should have received a summary of your gifts for tax purposes. Most were emailed Jan. 15 with an attachment of your 2023 giving. Ten were mailed to a street address. Please contact me if you did not receive your annual giving statement and I can re-send. Thank you for all your gifts!

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

## A shout out for hymnals

If you have a *Singing the Living Tradition* hymnal at home and are no longer referring to it, please return to the fellowship book cart for use at our services. Thank you.

## CUUF seeks Chalice Lighters to support grant

CUUF is currently in the process of applying for a \$10,000 Chalice Lighter grant with an application deadline of mid-February. Board member Doug Liphart is coordinating the grant submission this round and is asking folks to consider becoming a Chalice Lighter to support our grant application (the Chalice Lighters are simply a group within UUA that supports fellowships and congregations throughout the MidAmerica region with financial and other resources).

Doug has met with Phil Lund, who has served as Congregational Life Consultant for the UUA MidAmerica Region, to discuss our application and how to increase the chances of a successful award for our grant submission. Doug reports that Phil suggested getting at least 10 folks to become Chalice Lighters, which will provide more backing for our application.

To be a Chalice Lighter (and thus support their work) you can make a small donation to the grant fund for regional UU congregations or simply sign up on the mailing list, in which case you only need an email address. If you donate, you will automatically be put on the email list as a Chalice Lighter.

Please copy and paste this link in your web browser to become a Chalice Lighter:

<https://www.uua.org/midamerica/giving/chalice-lighters>

For more information, please contact Doug at his email address. Thank you!

—Doug Liphart  
doug.liphart@wisc.edu

## IN OUR COMMUNITY

### **Participants needed for clinical trials study**

The University of Wisconsin-Madison is seeking participants for a research study on clinical trials as a way to prevent, find and treat disease. More specifically, this initiative is aimed at educating folks ages 18 and older in rural and underserved communities. It is open to anyone in the state of Wisconsin in an effort to bring awareness about the importance of these trials. Participants take a survey and receive a brief 10 –15 minute education on clinical trials via video, phone or in-person. Participants also receive a \$25 gift card to Amazon or Walmart for their time. To participate, please contact Ashley Smith via email message at aasmith28@wisc.edu or by phone at 608-262-6484.

### **Death Café to meet on Tuesday, Feb. 13**

A gathering for Death Café will be held at the Washburn Meditation Center (325 Washington Ave.) on Tuesday, Feb. 13 at 6:30 p.m. Death Café is an opportunity to meet in a confidential, safe and caring environment to discuss death and dying. Thoughts, feelings and experiences are all relevant. There is no cost or pre-formulated agenda. Please note: this is not a grief support or counseling group, although grief can certainly be discussed. Many people report that participating in Death Café reduces their anxiety about death and dying (their own or their loved ones'), which can enhance the way we live in the present. Thank you.

—Kate Miller  
847-204-9350

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