

# *The Open Door Newsletter*

## *April 2024*



### The fellowship services on April 14 and April 28

#### **Sunday, April 14—*Belonging to a Place Through the Lens of Poets***

**Guest Speaker:** John Bates

**Service Lay Leader:** Raina Ungrodt and youth

**Musician:** Joni Chapman

In-person at Northland College and live-stream on Zoom at 10 a.m.



Poets work to shine light on the world. *The work of any artist is to perceive the extraordinary within the ordinary by changing not the world but the eyes that look.*

(Jayne Hirschfield). What does living in this place, the Northwoods, mean to each of us?

How do we honor all the lives around us as well as our own? Let's see how Mary Oliver, Wendell Berry, and other poets use words to transform our experiences and help us belong to a place.

#### **Sunday, April 28—*All-Music Service***

**Service Lay Leader:** Kate Ullman

**Guest Musician:** Sarina Partridge

In-person at Northland College and live-stream on Zoom at 10 a.m.



Sarina Partridge is a musician, song-leader, educator and activist based in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She feels most alive when learning, creating and sharing songs—especially songs that grow out of time spent in wild places. Sarina sings with a wide variety of music projects: community song-leading, harmony-rich original music with folk trio Heartwood, and performing and teaching of Eastern European and Yiddish song—her own musical lineage. Sarina has a passion for connecting people with their own creativity and with community, and uses harmony singing as a modality to help folks develop a sense of wonder and belonging in this wild world around us.

**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 April 14 and April 28**

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.

April 14: Guest speaker: John Bates  
April 28: All-Music Service

May 5: Speaker: Rev. Stacy Craig  
May 19: Flower Service

### April 28—Annual All-Music Service—*Well May the World Go*

**Guest Musician:** Sarina Partridge

The annual CUUF All-Music Service welcomes singer/songwriter Sarina Partridge, a Minneapolis based musician, song-leader, educator, and visual artist. Sarina has a passion for connecting people with their own creativity and with community, and uses singing to help folks develop a sense of wonder for this wild world around us. Learn more about Sarina here: <https://sarinapartridge.com/> She's amazing!

Other talent will be provided by our own "CUUF Pete Seeger" — Donn Christensen, the RE children and youth, and the CUUF A Capella Ensemble, but we'd like to have more participation from the CUUF membership for the service. To add your talent to the All-Music Service, please contact Linda Calhan at [calhans@centurytel.net](mailto:calhans@centurytel.net) Thank you for considering.

### Get to Know UU

Are you curious about Unitarian Universalism? Would you like to explore becoming a member of Chequamegon Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (CUUF)? This session is for you! Learn a little history of this tradition, ask questions, and get to know others who are new to UU. Attend in person at the CUUF office, #309 on the 3rd floor of the Vaughn Library OR on Zoom. <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/95807329139>

**Tuesday, April 16 from 5:30 - 7 p.m.**

Refreshments will be served. Please register in advance by emailing Fellowship Assistant Adam Haecker at [cuufad@gmail.com](mailto:cuufad@gmail.com) Email Kristin or Henry Quinlan of the Membership Committee ([membership@chequamegonuuf.org](mailto:membership@chequamegonuuf.org)) or Minister Stacy Craig ([minister@chequamegonuuf.org](mailto:minister@chequamegonuuf.org)) with any questions.

### Soul Matters Adult Discussion Groups

The Soul Matters theme for April is "The Gift of Interdependence". The Unitarian Universalist language for interdependence as a spiritual value is: *We honor the interdependent web of all existence. With reverence for the great web of life and with humility, we acknowledge our place in it.*

*We covenant to protect Earth and all beings from exploitation. We will create and nurture sustainable relationships of care and respect, mutuality and justice. We will work to repair harm and damaged relationships.*

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

**CUUF In-Person Group:** Tuesday, April 9, Washburn Library, basement room, 4 - 5:30 p.m. CST

These groups are currently full. Please contact Minister Stacy Craig at [minister@chequamegonuuf.org](mailto:minister@chequamegonuuf.org) for more information or to join a waitlist.

## From the Minister's Desk

Dear CUUF Fellowship,

In 2020, you began again with a new minister. In 2020, you began again when The Great Pause kept us apart in person, and we met through our computers and in the outdoors. In 2022, you began again to meet in person at Northland College. In 2023, you began again to build a Religious Education program. In 2024, we are again in a time of unknowns, wondering what the way forward will be as our physical home at Northland College is full of so many questions. If there's anything I've learned about this fellowship, is that we can begin again and find a way, even when we don't know the way. I don't know where things will be when you read this article, and given how the news from Northland felt like an earthquake in Ashland, this poem has been a guide for me. I share it with you in hopes that, whether it is because of the current circumstances with Northland, or upheavals in your personal life, it can provide grounding and a way forward, even in tumult.

### **Fault Line**

**By Robert Walsh**

Did you ever think there might be a fault line  
passing underneath your living room:  
A place in which your life is lived in meeting  
and in separating, wondering  
and telling, unaware that just beneath  
you is the unseen seam of great plates  
that strain through time? And that your life,  
already spilling over the brim, could be invaded,  
sent off in a new direction, turned  
aside by forces you were warned about  
but not prepared for? Shelves could be spilled out,  
the level floor set at an angle in  
some seconds' shaking. You would have to take  
your losses, do whatever must be done  
next.

When the great plates slip  
and the earth shivers and the flaw is seen  
to lie in what you trusted most, look not  
to more solidity, to weighty slabs  
of concrete poured or strength of cantilevered  
beam to save the fractured order. Trust  
more the tensile strands of love that bend  
and stretch to hold you in the web of life  
that's often torn but always healing. There's  
your strength. The shifting plates, the restive earth,  
your room, your precious life, they all proceed  
from love, the ground on which we walk together.

—With Love,  
Rev. Stacy Craig

## Caring Corner

During this month of hopefully gentle showers, the Caring Committee on behalf of the congregation asks that you please keep in mind the following people:

**Melodie Phipps**, as she continues to recover from a collapsed lung.

**All those impacted** by the news that Northland College may shut down, especially those who are employed and enrolled, as their futures are so uncertain.

**Karen Crowell**, as she works to find a diagnosis and undergoes additional testing.

If you have a need, are experiencing a life-changing event of joy or sorrow 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.

May the new green of the reawakening world gladden you and yours, as well as the people mentioned above.

—Lindy Howe, Caring Committee

## Science group to meet at the Sandbar

The science group will meet on Sunday, April 21 at 10 a.m. at The Sandbar in Ashland. To date, the group has talked about fusion energy, entanglement (something Einstein called “spooky action at a distance”), Schrodinger’s cat, and gravitational time dilation and speed time dilation. The group hopes to tour the Ashland power plant for one of its meetings. All are welcome. For more information, please contact Mike Bunch at 715-209-5383.



## Mark your calendars for the UU Women’s Retreat - Saturday, April 20

Celebrate friendship and future friendships with other UU women at the UU Women’s Retreat. If interest is expressed, we will have a childcare option from 9 a.m. to noon. We are taking up an optional collection for Stone Soup Café. Bring \$5 to help offset the costs of their next community meal. Please follow this link to RSVP by April 10th: <https://forms.gle/K7xsRRJXSMPzxiH89>. You also may copy and paste this link into your web browser as well.

**Where:** Washburn Library, 307 Washington Ave., and some events at the next-door Washburn Meditation Center

**Who:** Women, or those so identifying, from the fellowship that would like to attend

**When:** 8:45 a.m. to 4-ish p.m., Saturday, April 20

**Why:** It will be fun, inspiring, and tasty

**Contact:** Beth Gehred at 920-728-3170 for more information

—Organized by Beth Gehred, Ellie Kolodzieski and Jan Perkins and with help from everyone!

## CUUF Board Meeting, Wednesday, April 17 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

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Happy spring, everyone! We are wrapping up our offering of 4th-6th grade OWL, with our last session/celebration on April 28th! We look forward to having parents join us for a portion of the celebration to reflect on all that we have learned! Thank you to all the parents and facilitators in this group for your support and dedication throughout the course. We couldn't have done it without you! Looking ahead, we will be offering 8th-9th grade OWL beginning in September. Please reach out if you would like your child to participate (and we have not already spoken). The middle school curriculum is robust, and includes 25 weekly sessions held on Sunday evenings in Ashland. We still have a few spaces available, so feel free to share within the larger Chequamegon Bay if you know of any youth that might be interested! Finally, thank you to the families that completed the RE survey. The results indicated a strong desire to continue to prioritize the OWL curriculum in our fellowship, so we are affirmed in knowing that these offerings are an essential part of the RE program. (More to come on this from Andrea.) As always, please reach out with any questions, comments, reflections!

—Warmly, Ashley Smith, Coordinator of Our Whole Lives (OWL)

### **RE Survey Results**

We had a very strong response to our RE Family Survey in February and March—big thanks to all the families who took the time to share their information and feedback with us! We are synthesizing the results and look forward to sharing and discussing them with our parent community. We will plan to convene all interested and available families to discuss the results around the service on Sunday, April 14—please stay tuned for an email with specific meeting details.

—Andrea Ward, Director of Religious Education

### **Building Bridges**

This comparative world religions course meets in the basement of the Washburn Library from 6:15 - 7:45 p.m. Our meeting dates for the remainder of the 2023-24 service year are:

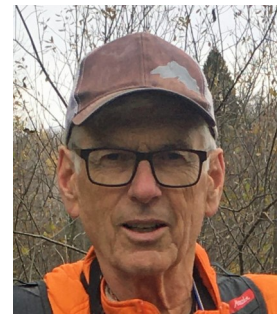
Tuesday, April 9 (Taoism/Jainism)

Tuesday, April 23 (Humanism/Agnosticism)

Tuesday, May 7 (Final class)

### **Peter Olson accepts interim position as board member**

CUUF member Peter Olson has accepted a temporary appointment to the CUUF Board of Directors until elections are held at our annual meeting on May 5. Peter has stepped in for CUUF member Tracey Snyder, who has accepted a new role as chair of the Worship Committee. Tracey feels that she needs to fully dedicate herself as the new chair, and thus, she has decided to vacate her position on the board. Thank you, Peter, for temporarily covering this vacancy. And, thank you, Tracey, for your time serving on the board.



## A note from the board on this year's annual meeting scheduled for Sunday, May 5

The fellowship's annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 5, and will be held in-person directly following the worship service. The meeting is an opportunity to review the achievements and concerns of this year, elect new board members, set achievable priorities for next year, and approve the 2024-2025 budget.

Achievements during the 2023-2024 service year offer much to celebrate! The continued growth of the Religious Education (RE) program is so evident each time we sing the children to their classes. The UU Women's group will hold its second annual retreat. The Soul Matters group continually experiences full enrollment. And there are many more rewarding and vibrant activities offered to, and by, the congregation. However, as I write this article, the future of Northland College is unknown. 20% of our fellowship members are directly linked to that future, both financially and professionally. Many of our RE participants are from families with one or more parents employed by the college. Depending on the April 3 outcome, we may also discuss a challenging topic of CUUF's precious and valued partnership with the educational institution.

The fellowship needs all of us to participate in the democratic process of governance. Our bylaws require 20% of the membership to be present for a quorum. In previous annual meetings, we have just barely that. Members will receive a packet of committee reports, board nominations, and the draft 2024-2025 budget. Everyone is encouraged to take the time to read the documents, leave comments, ask questions, and make suggestions. Feedback is welcome on our Facebook page, at [annualmeeting2024@chequamegonuuf.org](https://www.facebook.com/annualmeeting2024@chequamegonuuf.org) or email me directly: [beth@chequamegonuuf.org](mailto:beth@chequamegonuuf.org)

—In gratitude  
Beth Lowthian, CUUF president

## New members to be recognized at Sunday service on May 5

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. To that end, there will be a celebration and recognition for new members of the fellowship during the service on Sunday, May 5.

If you're wondering about exploring the possibility of a membership with CUUF, please see the 'Get to Know UU' article on page 2 of this newsletter. The article provides some details about a session on Tuesday, April 16, that will provide an overview about UU traditions and values, and allow time for questions.

## Summer worship and annual picnic schedule

During the summer, CUUF meets once per month for informal, outdoor services. Please join us!

**Sunday, June 9, 10 a.m.** at Bayview Beach Picnic Pavilion (north of Washburn).

"Opening to Pure Consciousness" with Tracey Snyder

**Sunday, July 14, 10 a.m.** at Memorial Park in Washburn. Child Dedication Ceremony and Annual Picnic (Brunch)

**Sunday, Aug. 11, 10 a.m.** at Memorial Park in Washburn—All Poetry Service



## Spotlight: Music Committee

If you're wondering what the CUUF Music Committee does to enrich and support Sunday Service themes, read on! In consultation with our minister, the Music Committee chooses hymns and songs from a variety of sources with a goal to build a body of familiar repertoire. The Music Committee invites guest musicians, including those from our membership, to perform special music at the services.

In conjunction with the RE Committee, the Music Committee plans the musical components of the Holiday Service and all aspects of the All-Music Service. In case you're wondering if the Music Committee welcomes new membership, we do! Consider adding your voice (you don't need to be a musician) and ideas to the Music Committee by contacting Linda Calhan at [calhans@centurytel.net](mailto:calhans@centurytel.net)

## Make a future gift to CUUF Chalice Circle

The Chalice Circle is a group of people who have remembered CUUF with a future gift. You may leave a gift to CUUF in your will, or name CUUF as a beneficiary of a retirement/bank/insurance account. Your future gift will help ensure that CUUF will build a solid, sustainable future for the fellowship and all we serve.

Click <https://www.chequamegonuuf.org/donate-2/> to see planned giving options. You, your attorney, or financial advisor can use this to draft your future gift to CUUF.

If you have done this, please let us know by returning this confirmation form:

<https://cuuf.breezechms.com/form/f95c20>

Please feel free to call or email Lois or Ruth on behalf of the CUUF Stewardship Committee.

All inquiries are confidential.

Lois Albrecht, 715-779-5630, [bayfieldlois@gmail.com](mailto:bayfieldlois@gmail.com)

Ruth Oppedahl, 715-292-3872, [ruth@oppedahl.com](mailto:ruth@oppedahl.com)

## PFLAG to celebrate 15th anniversary on April 18



Dear UU community,

Life is filled with things to celebrate and grieve. We grieve with you over the uncertainty of Northland College's future. We also thank you for such rich support of PFLAG over the years and invite you to celebrate our 15th anniversary on Thursday, April 18. Come to 522 Chapple Avenue in Ashland (first floor) at 5:30 p.m. to see our new office. Tamarack Health Ashland Medical Center will provide refreshments and mental health awareness. Then, come to Ashland's Bay Theatre for a 7 p.m. showing of the movie *Prayers for Bobby*. This movie was featured at PFLAG Washburn's **FIRST** meeting in April 2009. The film features a mother who first prayed that her son, Bobby, would be "healed," then anguished when he died by suicide.

Mary (played by Sigourney Weaver) became a crusader for LGBTQ+ people. Due to an anonymous gift, admission is FREE.

Because of a generous grant from Tamarack Health Ashland Medical Center, FREE copies of *The Little Book of Love from the Chequamegon Bay* and *The Divine Spark, Second Edition* will be given away. Call 715-209-1100 or go to [www.pflagwashburn.org](http://www.pflagwashburn.org) for more information.

Chequamegon Unitarian  
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