

NUUSLetter

May 2022

Northwoods Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship

8625 Peggy's Lane, P.O. Box 1881,
Woodruff, WI 54568



www.nuuf.com

We are a Welcoming Congregation

The Fellowship is open for services!

Our services are at 10:00 A.M. **Coffee hour to follow. Check our calendar for more info.**

The Board has set out the following guidelines:

- Full vaccination required to attend in person (the board may make exceptions)
- Masks are no longer required inside the building
- Social distancing inside the building



Upcoming Services

Sundays 10:00 a.m.

May 8, Richard Olson, "The Monster in the Mirror"

May 22, Barbara Kane. "Change and Transition"

Religious Education

Religious Education resumed in person for fully vaccinated people. We will be gathering at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays without services.

The series we are watching is entitled "The Meaning of Life". See our website for more information.

The kitchen will be open. We look forward to seeing you. The Board asks that we be vaccinated and continue to socially distance.

Announcements

For distribution of announcements between newsletters or email/address corrections, contact Candy Sorensen at sorencan@yahoo.com

Milestones

Barb Kane	05-03
Toni Lieppert Polfus	05-09
Kay Hoff	05-18
Bev Strauss	05-20
Walt Jones & Natalia Graf	05-21
Cheryl & Bob Hanson	05-21
Jeanine Semon	05-25
Jason Hoff	05-27
Alan & Sharon VanRaalte	05-28

Do you see a mistake that can be corrected? If so, please contact Candy Sorensen at (715) 892-2997 or sorencan@yahoo.com Thanks!

FROM THE BOARD:

Our Fellowship is finally seeing springtime light and hopefully warmer weather as we gather more and more. Thanks to Frank Patin who organized a bonfire with at least 30 attending. Felt like old times...certainly pre-Covid. **Covid Restrictions have been relaxed** in recent weeks. Now both vaccinations and masks are optional to participate in person at the Fellowship. *Congregational Singing* was just approved and there was singing on the 24th at Jerry Woolpy's Service.

Remember, our Annual Meeting is Saturday, May 7th at 9:30 am, beginning with coffee/tea and pastries. We will meet in person and via zoom. If you are unable to attend please complete a proxy ballot and either send to Pam Thul-Immler (ptimmler@gmail.com) or give your proxy to a member to bring to the meeting.

Packets were emailed April 22nd with agenda, committee reports, proposed budget for 2022-23 and nominations for Co-president (Jana Mirs) and interim Secretary (Bob Hanson) and other proposals.

Pastime Club has re-opened. It is a non-profit adult day program for persons living with dementia and respite for their caregivers. Located in Minocqua it has been serving our communities for 15 years. The program is in session Mondays and Thursdays from 9:30 am- 2:30 pm. They currently have openings for families needing their services. They are also looking for volunteers. Contact Rebecca Johnson, Program Director onsite 715-358-3404, cell 608-881-2117 or email:Pastimes2007@yahoo.com.

Our Fellowship **contributes to the UU Service Committee (UUSC)** annually. This year's \$500.00 gift was acknowledged with the following. "Please know how much we appreciate your congregation's vital ministry and your support for UUSC's work to uplift community-led human rights projects in over 20 countries around the world"

Movie Night May 10th at 6:00 PM. The plan is to have movie nights on the second Tuesdays of the month. Come and enjoy some food and a movie. BYOB.

The Spirituality Committee will meet May 9th at 10:00. Check our website for more details.

The Social Justice Committee will meet May 12 at 10:00 Check our website for more details.

The NUUF Board will meet May 27th at 10:00 AM. Check our website for more details.

The Membership Committee that oversees communications is making the following request of committee chairs. We would ask that you send notice of scheduled meetings, agendas, and minutes so they can be placed on the NUUF.COM calendar. These should go to Terry Hoyt thoyt@newnorth.net. If you have any questions, please call me at 715-614-0088. Thanks for your help in improving communication.

Our WI-FI password is> happyzebra609

The Hospitality Committee would like to hear your ideas for things we can do to keep us together during covid. Send your ideas to Candy Sorensen at sorencan@yahoo.com .

The Building and Grounds Committee encourages everyone to feed the birds if their feeder is empty. Bird seed is in the main floor storage room.

Our NUUF Community

NEWS FROM JOAN HAUER: My son in law Tom Morelli has been on dialysis for a while awaiting a kidney. The average wait is 6-7 years, unless one finds a suitable donor. This is an appeal to anyone who may be that generous. The program is through Froedert in Milwaukee. anyone interested, please contact me.
Joan Hauer

If you know someone who is interested in joining the *Northwoods Unitarian Universalist Fellowship*, contact Terry Hoyt at thoyt@newnorth.net or call 715-356-3908.

Check out our website <http://nuuf.com>. Also take time to "LIKE" us on Facebook. Click here on [Northwoods Unitarian Universalist Fellowship](#) for direct access if you already have a Facebook account. We're posting pics, reminders about events and more.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES

Membership Committee Meeting
Monday, April 11, 2022

Meeting called to order at 2:03 p.m.

Present: Terry Hoyt (chair), Barb Kane, Candy Sorensen, Cheryl Hanson

Discussion: Regarding review of the annual committee report to the board that Terry proposed.

- All agreed that the report was ready to submit.

Discussion: Regarding coffee hour following Sunday services and expectations for the annual meeting.

- As chair of the hospitality committee Candy sought direction as to how to reinstate coffee hour, whether to ask for members to sign up to provide food or to have the committee provide it.
- Candy also suggested that there should be modest fare, such as bagels and cream cheese or cookies.
- Terry stated that it would be easier to have the committee provide the food. That was agreed upon.
- Members should be solicited to help clean up after coffee hour.
- Candy will seek direction, via email, as to the board's expectations for hospitality for the annual meeting.

Discussion: Regarding the recruitment of new members and the retention of current members.

- The committee raised concerns about the lack of human connection at the Fellowship. Several factors were identified as to causes for this, including but not limited to the response to COVID, aging of members who have passed away or moved, a national trend toward no church affiliation, and separate group allegiances within the Fellowship.
- This committee plans to present these issues after the annual meeting to the newly constituted board with an eye toward finding solutions to the problems.
- The committee developed a list of issues to raise with the board which included the following:

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1. Improving the quality and consistency of the services in addition to selecting a single articulate service leader.
 2. Examining the disconnect of members with a shared purpose rather than our current segregation into committees and tribes.
 3. Attracting more men and couples.
 4. Getting to the root causes of why the apathy exists. In other words, diagnosing the problem.
 5. Encouraging the board to plan and lead a membership-wide retreat that is solution oriented. We feel strongly that this is a board responsibility and not the responsibility of an individual committee.

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Cheryl Hanson

Social Justice Committee

Human trafficking is a not only State and a Country issue but also a local one.

What Is Human Trafficking?

Human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act. Every year, millions of men, women, and children are trafficked worldwide – including right here in the United States. It can happen in any community and victims can be any age, race, gender, or nationality. Traffickers might use violence, manipulation, or false promises of well-paying jobs or romantic relationships to lure victims into trafficking situations.

Language barriers, fear of their traffickers, and/or fear of law enforcement frequently keep victims from seeking help, making human trafficking a hidden crime.

Traffickers use force, fraud, or coercion to lure their victims and force them into labor or commercial sexual exploitation. They look for people who are susceptible for a variety of reasons, including psychological or emotional vulnerability, economic hardship, lack of a social safety net, natural disasters, or political instability. The trauma caused by the traffickers can be so great that many may not identify themselves as victims or ask for help, even in highly public settings.

Indicators of Human Trafficking

Recognizing key indicators of human trafficking is the first step in identifying victims and can help save a life. Here are some common indicators to help recognize human trafficking.

- Does the person appear disconnected from family, friends, community organizations, or houses of worship?
- Has a child stopped attending school?
- Has the person had a sudden or dramatic change in behavior?
- Is a juvenile engaged in commercial sex acts?
- Is the person disoriented or confused, or showing signs of mental or physical abuse?
- Does the person have bruises in various stages of healing?

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- Is the person fearful, timid, or submissive?
 - Does the person show signs of having been denied food, water, sleep, or medical care?
 - Is the person often in the company of someone to whom he or she defers? Or someone who seems to be in control of the situation, e.g., where they go or who they talk to?
 - Does the person appear to be coached on what to say?
 - Is the person living in unsuitable conditions?
 - Does the person lack personal possessions and appear not to have a stable living situation?
 - Does the person have freedom of movement? Can the person freely leave where they live? Are there unreasonable security measures?

Not all indicators listed above are present in every human trafficking situation, and the presence or absence of any of the indicators is not necessarily proof of human trafficking.

The safety of the public as well as the victim is paramount. **Do not attempt to confront a suspected trafficker directly or alert a victim to any suspicions. It is up to law enforcement to investigate suspected cases of human trafficking.**

To report suspected human trafficking to Federal law enforcement:

[1-866-347-2423](tel:1-866-347-2423)

To get help from the National Human Trafficking Hotline:

[1-888-373-7888](tel:1-888-373-7888) or text **HELP** or **INFO** to BeFree (233733)

Source : Blue Campaign - U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Editor's Note

Newsletter

Please send announcements and updates to me, Terry Hoyt, at thoyt@newnorth.net or to Candy Sorensen at sorencan@yahoo.com by May 28th for the June newsletter. It is very helpful if your copy is written exactly the way you want it to read so that it can be copied and pasted. Thank you!