

NUUs Letter

Volume 23, No. 4 - October 2020

Northwoods Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship

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



www.nuuf.com

We are a Welcoming Congregation

UPCOMING SERVICES

A virtual chalice lighting:

In This Time of Uncertainty

Courtesy of the WorshipWeb Library.

For more information, contact
worshipweb@uua.org.

by [Amy Williams Clark](#)

We gather in this time of uncertainty, full
of unknowns, as angst closes in upon us.

We light this chalice with a flame that
draws us together.

With this flame, we cut through the
dankness of isolation and are warmed by
the fires of our interconnection.

For this moment, this radical moment,
we find a certainty within the knowable
bonds of love and community.



www.nuuf.com/services.

**Sunday Discussions for November: all at
11:00am via zoom—watch for
invitations in emails**

**Nov 1 — It's All Saints Day – who are
“saints” in your life?**

**Nov 8 — personal reflections on the
service by Richard Olson**

**Nov 15 — Attitude of Gratitude for
Thanksgiving**

**Nov 22 — personal reflections on the
service by the Social Justice Committee**

**Nov 29 — stress/destress: how are you
handling all the stresses in our current
lives**

**If you need help accessing a Zoom
meeting contact Dick Fields,
715-385-2975**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

MILESTONES

Dana and Jerry Collins	11-01
Faye Calvey	11-04
Jana Mirs	11-09
Bob Polfus	11-12
Ted Rulseh	11-15
Herb White	11-16
Rick Immler	11-19
Richard Olson	11-20
Mike Haasl	11-23
Joan Junge	11-23
Celeste Gonder	11-25
Perry Junkermann	11-29
Patty Buehler	11-30

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

ELECTION 2020

ATTENTION MEMBERS! The 2020 presidential election will be held Tuesday, Nov. 3, polling hours are 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.. Please remember to vote.

Vote now by early voting or absentee. All are welcome. Find early voting information at myvotewi.gov or your helpful town clerks.

- What's on your ballot? Check here:
<https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/PreviewMyBallot>
- Not sure if you're registered already? Check here:
<https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/MyVoterInfo>



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- Not sure where your polling place is? Check here:
<https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/FindMyPollingPlace>
 - **Remember:** Wisconsin allows election-day voter registration. You may register at your polling place. You must bring a photo identification and proof of residence. You also must have been a resident for 10 days.
 - **IMPORTANT:** Wisconsin requires that you show identification to election officials and, yes, the law is currently in effect. You must bring along an approved form of photo identification. To see if your ID qualifies, check here:
<https://www.bringitwisconsin.com/do-i-have-right-photo-id>
 - If you do not have an approved ID, you are entitled to a free one.
<https://www.bringitwisconsin.com/how-do-i-get-free-state-id-card>

HIGHLIGHTS

This new initiative will highlight two NUUF members a month. Hopefully we can all learn a bit about one another and stay connected during the pandemic. Members will be contacted and asked to write a brief autobiography.

Toni & Bob Polfus

Written by Bob Polfus

I was born and raised in the southernmost part of the Upper Peninsula. I still go frequently to walk the land that has now been in our family for ninety years. It is made up of 320 beautiful acres of hardwoods interspersed with cedar swamps. Organized religion was never an important part of my life, although I was technically a Lutheran. Somewhere in his later years, my father said that the woods were his church and that sentiment pretty much sums up my spiritual viewpoint.

Toni came from Williamsville, New York, which is just outside Buffalo. She grew up as a Methodist and had a more active church life than me. She was also very active in girl scouts and later introduced me to cross country skiing, so she also has a long time love of the outdoors.

We met in Bowling Green, Ohio, of all places. We were both in graduate school, me in psychology and she in art. After going back to Williamsville to get married in the Methodist Church, we lived in northwestern Ohio where Toni was a professor teaching art at the Defiance College and where I worked as an alcohol and drug counselor.

I really wanted to get back up north and the deal was if I got a job, we could move. I sent out a lot of applications and got an interview and subsequent job working as a Master's level psychologist with the Lac du Flambeau Tribe. The Tribe hired Jack Hafner a year later which was fortunate for both the Tribe and for me in a number of ways. Jack was a great

boss and he was also knowledgeable about Unitarian Universalism and was central in encouraging me and Toni to get involved in what became the Northwoods UU Fellowship. Toni and I especially wanted to introduce our daughters to a liberal spiritual education which the fellowship provided.

I have now been retired for ten years after working for the Tribe for twenty nine. Toni is also retired after a teaching career but remains very involved in making art. Our daughter Jean lives in British Columbia after getting a PhD in wildlife biology and specializing in caribou. She and her husband Joe had previously lived in Tulita, Northwest Territory which is just south of the Arctic Circle. Even though they are far away, Jean and Joe's kids provide Toni and I with much needed pandemic relief over the internet. They are soon to be four and two years old. Our daughter Claire lives in northern Vermont. She has a master's degree in Ecology and works for an agency that maps, describes and publicizes trails of all kinds (hiking, biking, skiing, etc.). She had previously lived in Maine and worked for the Appalachian Trail Conservatory.

As you can see, our family appreciates being outside. Cross country skiing is a favorite activity among many others that get us outside. You are more likely to see Toni in activities and at services. You have a better chance seeing me in the woods.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- The **Sunday Morning Discussion Group**, co-chaired by Mary Beth O'Halloran and Mary Ann Fields, meets every Sunday morning, by Zoom, at 11:00 A.M. The Sunday we have a virtual service, the topic will be a discussion on the sermon and the alternate Sunday will be a topic to be determined. All are welcome to attend the Zoom meeting.
Candy will send an invitation to the Fellowship to attend the Zoom meeting.
- Frederick Place in Rhineland has a sizeable number of dates open for meals. If you can help out with one of these dates you can either call Frederick Place at 715-369-9777 or email Tammy Modic at tammymodic.frederickplace@gmail.com
- Hello all UUs in the North,
Hope you are all faring well during this difficult period of staying at home for everyone's safety. Some of the Care Committee and Board would like to continue our calling, emailing, and writing cards to all NUUF members to keep in touch with each other and offer friendship and support.
However, we need some new "blood" or volunteers to pitch in for this effort.

So, if you like chatting on the phone, or getting to know other members better, and would be willing to take a list of half a dozen people to contact weekly, please email either Toni Polus or Pam Thul-Immler.

Thank you so much!

Toni is at: skipols@newnorth.net

Pam is at: ptimmler@gmail.com

- **The Spirituality Committee** —Since July, our goal has been to produce Sunday services in both audio and video format. These will not be live streamed Zoom services; they will be placed on YouTube and will continue to be on our website as before and available any time after they are posted.
We hope you are enjoying the services we have been providing and if you have any comments or suggestions please let Dick Fields, or any other committee members, know.
- **Photos of Improvements to the Memorial Garden. (Photos provided by Terry Hoyt)**



- **Friends of Fair Trade,**
In need of some more energy? Looking for some sweetness? Of course you are! And you can help small farmers in the process. Order some Fair Trade coffee, chocolate, or tea. We need to get enough special orders to receive free shipping. Attached is the list of items. In ordering coffee,

>> Be sure to specify ground/drip or whole bean.

>> Note the difference between a BOX of six 10-12 oz. bags, and a CASE of five 2-pound bags (or it may be two 5-pound bags)

Let me know what you'd like. When I get enough orders, I'll let you know that I will be submitting it. When the order arrives, we can arrange for safe pick up and payment.

Thanks for supporting Fair Trade for small farmers.

David and Phyllis

david.barnhill.925@gmail.com>uu m

- **Building Your Own Theology**

Building Your Own Theology meets the first and third Tuesday mornings, 10am, via zoom. The homework for this week is to read Introduction and chapters 1, 2, and 3. Also write the first writing exercise in ch1 and the first two in ch2. The book is Writing Your Spiritual Memoir by Elizabeth J. Andrew.

This is the last zoom invitation for BYOT that will go to the whole Fellowship.

Future invites will go only to participants. If you want to participate but cannot attend this week's session, let the facilitators know.

- **Women's Group:** Fourth Tuesday, 10:00 am via Zoom – watch for email invitation. Nov. 24. All women of the Fellowship are welcome to participate. Topic is: if you are going to be reincarnated, who/what would you like to come back as?

- **Caritas-Minocqua** is a charitable organization established by local churches and civic groups in the Lakeland area. We assist people with paying small bills in emergency situations. We are closed for all face-to-face sessions with clients; however, we are now conducting interviews by telephone on Thursday mornings from 9-noon.

You must first leave a message on our voicemail at 715-356-9989. Your message should contain the following information. Please speak clearly and slowly. We need

your first and last name, your phone number, whether you are a new client or a returning client, and a very brief statement of your urgent need or how we can help you. Please be patient and we will call you to arrange an interview. Stay safe.

If you can be an empathic listener and want to make a difference in our community and the lives of our residents, this may be the volunteer opportunity for you! If interested, please contact our director, Beth Jacobson at bjgraphic2@gmail.com.

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- Jennifer LaPorte, St. Kate Hospice Chaplain, has presented services at our Fellowship in the past. She informed us that she is “available for pastoral care/meeting with any folks who may be in need of a chaplain during this time.” To set up a meeting with her call 715-240-0120.
 - **The Membership Committee** that oversees communications is making the following request of committee chairs. We would ask that you be responsible for sending communications directly to your committee members rather than sending them through Candy. We would also like to ask you to submit any committee news to our NUUSLetter editor, Carly Ratliff carly.j.ratliff@gmail.com. When submitting things to the NUUSLetter please use a font that is easier to read. And we would also like you to send notice of your meetings so they can be placed on the NUUF.COM calendar. These should go to Jason Hoff ic_boy@yahoo.com. If you have any questions, please call me at 715-614-0088. Thanks for your help in improving communication.

Our NUUF Community

If you know someone who is interested in joining the *Northwoods Unitarian Universalist Fellowship*, Terry Hoyt at thoyt@newnorth.net or call 715-3563908,

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.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Newsletter

Hello everyone, I will be compiling the newsletter for the foreseeable future! Please send announcements and updates to me, Carly Ratliff, at carly.j.ratliff@gmail.com or to Candy Sorensen at sorencan@yahoo.com by Nov. 28 for the December 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!

BOOK RECOMMENDATION — *ABE: Abraham Lincoln in His Times*

By Ed Stoevers

ABE: Abraham Lincoln in His Times, by David S. Reynolds, published Sept. 29, 2020.

This is a book that all should read. It not only brings the real Abraham Lincoln to life in a way that gives youth impression that he was really no different in potential than any one

of us, but was shaped by the cultures and history of his times to provide the leadership that the preservation of this United States of America so sorely needed at that time. It also invites new perspectives on the divisions in our country today. Available in hardcover, audio, and Kindle versions from Amazon, and hopefully will soon be in your local library. I am nearly finished with reading it, and it is a page-turner! Following are a few more comments about the book. Ed Stoeber.

David S. Reynolds, author of the Bancroft Prize-winning cultural biography of Walt Whitman and many other iconic works of nineteenth century American history, understands the currents in which Abraham Lincoln swam as well as anyone alive. His magisterial biography *Abe* is the product of full-body immersion into the riotous tumult of American life in the decades before the Civil War. – *Amazon*

"A marvelous cultural biography that captures Lincoln in all his historical fullness. . . . using popular culture in this way, to fill out the context surrounding Lincoln, is what makes Mr. Reynolds's biography so different and so compelling . . . Where did the sympathy and compassion expressed in [Lincoln's] Second Inaugural--'With malice toward none; with charity for all'--come from? This big, wonderful book provides the richest cultural context to explain that, and everything else, about Lincoln." --Gordon Wood, *Wall Street Journal*

A prodigious and lucidly rendered exposition of the character and thought of the 16th president as gleaned through the prism of the cultural and social forces swirling through America during his lifetime." —*The New York Times Book Review*

POETRY CORNER

As chosen as favorites by some of the NUUF Sunday Discussion Group. More to follow.

"Hope" is the thing with feathers - (314)

BY EMILY DICKINSON

"Hope" is the thing with feathers -
That perches in the soul -
And sings the tune without the words -
And never stops - at all -

And sweetest - in the Gale - is heard -
And sore must be the storm -
That could abash the little Bird
That kept so many warm -

I've heard it in the chilliest land -
And on the strangest Sea -
Yet - never - in Extremity,

It asked a crumb - of me.

From Sharon Reilly

Introduction to “Open Horizons”

by Sigurd Olson

In traveling great rivers and lakes, there are times when islands fade, hills and headlands recede, the water merges with the sky in a distant mirage of shimmering blue. These are the open horizons of the far north.

If it is calm, the canoes drifting through reflections with nothing to break the vast silence but the hypnotic swish of paddles, there are moments when one seems suspended between heaven and earth. If it is stormy and the lake alive with whitecaps and blowing spume, each instant is full of battle and excitement. When, after hours and sometimes days, the misty outlines of the lake take form again, islands slowly emerge and float upon the surface, headlands become real, one passes through a door into the beyond itself and the mystery is no more.

Life is a series of open horizons, with one no sooner completed than another looms ahead. Some are traversed swiftly while others extend so far into the future one cannot predict their end. Penetrations into the unknown, all give meaning to what has gone before, and courage for what is to come. More than physical feature, they are horizons of mind and spirit, and when one looks backward, we find they have blended into the whole panorama of our lives.

From Jana Mirs

A virtual chalice extinguishing:

We Are One

Courtesy of the WorshipWeb Library.

For more information, contact worshipweb@uua.org.

by Amy Zucker Morganstern

Never has it been more true than now:

We extinguish this flame,

But the sparks within us remain alight.

From each of us, in our supposed solitude,

The signals buzz and hum, sparkling through space one to the other,

Connecting us invisibly

But palpably.

We are one.

And from every window,

Our light shines.
