

NUUs Letter

Volume 23, No. 1 - June 2020

Northwoods Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship

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

715-356-3908 ~ www.nuuf.com



We are a Welcoming Congregation

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.

UPCOMING SERVICES

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



June 7, Betsy Schussler

June 21, Rev. Phil Sweet

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

MILESTONES

Kas & Don Roberts	06-06
Stephanie Perkins	06-18
Sue Ferguson	06-23
Faye and Lee Calvey	06-24
Cheryl Meier	06-26
Betsy Schussler	06-28
Alan VanRaalte	06-28
Barbara Bratcher	06-30
Howard Honig	06-30
Kas & Don Roberts	06-06
Stephanie Perkins	06-18
Sue Ferguson	06-23
Faye and Lee Calvey	06-24
Cheryl Meier	06-26
Betsy Schussler	06-28
Alan VanRaalte	06-28
Barbara Bratcher	06-30
Howard Honig	06-30
Kas & Don Roberts	06-06
Stephanie Perkins	06-18
Sue Ferguson	06-23

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Since March 29 the **Spirituality Committee** has arranged with scheduled Sunday speakers to present a virtual service. The intent is to release these services on our website, nuuf.com, on the Sundays they were originally scheduled. A notice goes

out to our members prior to the posting of the services giving a link directly to our website/service. After the service is posted it will remain on our website and can be accessed at any time. Hopefully soon our Fellowship will reopen and we can all be back together again.

- Thank you to Patty Buehler and Barb Buetler for making masks to keep us safe.
- Frederick Place in Rhinelander 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
- The **Social Justice Committee** will meet after the service on Feb. 2, 2020. Everyone is welcome to attend Social Justice Committee meetings.
- **The next Fair Trade day at NUUF is Sunday, March 1.**
The order form with available products and prices will be available. Don't forget about chocolate and tea.

NOTES:

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.

Send check made out to NUUF to: David Barnhill, 7164 Clawson Drive, Hazelhurst, WI 54531, 920-745-0842 or david.barnhill.925@gmail.com

A sampling of coffee and chocolate along with olive oil from Palestine will be available.

Thanks for supporting Fair Trade for small farmers.

- **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.

- Jennifer LaPorte, St. Kate Hospice Chaplain, has presented services at our Fellowship in the past and is scheduled again on Sept. 27, 2020. 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.

- Hello NUUFers!

I'm trying to create a second community garden in Rhinelander in the next month and a half.

The existing community garden supplies the food pantry; the new one is for folks who lack space or a sunny area at home.

My first hurdle is convincing the intended site that our area has enough management capacity to get a garden going and maintain momentum. A call is planned for this Friday to assess that. If you are interested in fundraising, organizing, volunteer coordinating, building and/or publicizing a garden, please let me know so you can join the call. This would be a short term commitment.

My next hurdle is fundraising. We'd need to install a simple deer/rabbit fence, convert the grass into a garden and get some other initial infrastructure paid for. If anyone wants to pledge financial support for the project, it would help convince the site that we can get this garden done.

Once the garden exists, we will assemble an ongoing Garden Committee to run it. If you want to be involved with that, please let me know!

Thank you for considering this grassroots effort! Pun intended.

Mike Haasl

haaslme340@yahoo.com

- NUUF Board of Directors regarding NUUF building re-opening

Below are the recommendations by the Ad Hoc Committee which the Board has agreed to accept. Randy Wendt

This committee met 5/29/2020 via Zoom video call. Those present included Randy Wendt, Mary Beth O Halloran, Dick Fields, Bob Hanson and Pam Thul-Immler.

Based on the review of the documents listed below, the group discussed current Wisconsin trends in Covid-19 transmission, the Oneida County Health Department recommendations to continue to Shelter at Home as we remain in Phase 1 and the careful examination of the issues by the Care Committee.

Concern was also expressed based on the large number of tourists in the area over the Memorial Day weekend and the potential for increased transmission in our communities which will take weeks to assess.

Of our 80 plus members, more than 50 of us are over 60 years of age and/or with chronic conditions and thus vulnerable for complicated Covid -19 infection and death.

Although we recognize that people may have varying degrees of risk tolerance regarding COVID 19, it is the committee's position that we do not want to create or encourage circumstances that might negatively impact the health and well-being of our members or the general public. The committee unanimously agreed that reopening now is imprudent.

- Ad hoc committee recommendations to the Board:
- Do not open the Fellowship building for any in-person meetings, services or community rental (i.e. Nicolet classes) at this time.
- Continue recorded speakers for Service weekends.
- Care Committee is exploring Zoom Check-In sessions on Religious Education (RE) Sundays.
- Members could be urged to take advantage of Zoom to meet for committees, discussion group around current events or topics of interest.
- Ad hoc committee is willing to meet monthly and report back to the Board with recommendations regarding Covid-19 trends, designated phases for reopening and current recommendations of UUA, CDC, Wisconsin DHS, Oneida County and other pertinent resources.
- References: UUA Guidance on Gathering In-Person when Covid-19 Subsides May 14, 2020 Wisconsin Counsel of Churches – Returning to Church April 23,2020 Oneida County Guidance on Safer at Home May 15, 2020 NUUF Care Committee Comments re: Reopening NUUF 5/27/2020

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 June 28 for the July 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!

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

From Randy Wendt:

It has been quite a challenging spring with the Covid-19 virus. My hopes all are healthy and following recommended guidelines. Due to the Pandemic the Board decided to close the building until we feel it could be opened safely. With that in mind the Fellowship had to come up with creative ways to reach out to our members and to provide services as best we could. The Care Committee and The Board made personal calls to members to let everyone know we as a Fellowship are here to support all.

Secondly the Spirituality Committee created a way for services to be presented on our web page. Speakers are asked to create their presentation in writing and/or verbally. We have had several presentations and they have been well received. Past services can be viewed on the web , NUUF.com under Services. Candy Sorenson sends out a link the day before of the day off which can be seen by clicking on the links she sends out. It will take you directly to the service. No log in or password is needed.

Thirdly the Board has been meeting via Zoom remotely and some committees are using phone conferences, Zoom or Webex video conferencing. The Board purchased a year membership for Zoom so they could have unlimited time for their meetings.

Fourthly in order to have our Annual Meeting in May, as directed by the By-Laws, the Board decided to do so by email, phone or personal contact with those that don't have internet access. The procedure they followed is in the minutes of the meeting below.

In order to create a safe procedure for opening the building the Board created an Ad Hoc committee to study the issue and make a recommendation to the Board. Five members have volunteered to serve on the committee. When a procedure is adopted members will be informed.

Our new Board will begin in July. I would like to congratulate Mary Ann Fields as our new President, Toni Polfus as a new member. Celeste Gonder as a new Endowment Committee member and Cheryl Hanson, Nancy Johnson and Rick Immler as our 2021 Nomination Committee members. The first meeting in July is when they set up the Committees for the coming year. If you would like to serve on any of the committees please contact the Committee Chair of interest.

Being this is my last month of serving as President I would like to thank the Board from the last two years for their service and dedication. They always had the Fellowship's

interest at heart in all of their decisions. A special thanks to Ted Rulseh, last year's Secretary, Pam Thul-Immler, this year's Secretary, and Kate Rahimzadeh, Treasurer who take on the extra work of those positions. It is greatly appreciated. I enjoyed working with each and every one. Thanks to Constance Downey who also will leave the Board and to Ginny Metzdorf, last year's Board member. It was an honor to serve as your President. I chose not to run again due to personal life commitments. My best wishes to the Mary Ann Fields and new Board.

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.

Northwoods Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Summary/Minutes of Absentee Annual Meeting

Completed May 18, 2020

On March 19, 2020, the Board of Directors decided unanimously "to close the NUUF building to all public activities, Fellowship meetings, Services and Religious Education until further notice due to the COVID-19 Pandemic emergency".

The Board of Directors, after much discussion, determined that it was also unsafe to conduct an in-person NUUF Annual Meeting due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the national state of emergency and the Wisconsin Shelter at Home orders effective through May 26, 2020.

Thus, it was decided that, according to the bylaws, decisions requiring majority of membership approval could be achieved via email and telephone.

The following steps were taken:

- May 2, 2020 Email / hand delivered letters sent alerting membership of new format, nominations for offices and committees, notice of Board and committee annual reports posted on the NUUF website for review.
- May 8, 2020 Proposed budget and 2019 Annual Meeting minutes emailed / hand-delivered to membership. Questions were to be directed to Kate Rahimzadeh, treasurer. One member emailed a question regarding the budget and response and clarification was handled in a telephone conversation.
- May 12, 2020 Ballot and Information for Annual Meeting sent to membership with voting to end May 17, 2020.
- May 18, 2020 The results of the election by a quorum of the members were shared with members as well as a request for people to vote for the nominated member, Celeste Gonder, to be added to the Endowment committee as her name was left off the original May 12th ballot.

Results are as follows:

- A voting quorum of 25 was achieved within the first 24 hours and ultimately 46 members voted unanimously for the following six items on the ballot:
 1. Annual Meeting Minutes 2019 were approved
 2. Motion made by Terry Hoyt and 2nd by Randy Wendt regarding Memorial Garden Improvement was approved as follows: "I move that since the membership at last year's annual meeting approved spending money out of our surplus monies to improve the capacity of the parking lot, and since the parking lot expansion did not spend all of the money approved for the parking lot, and, since the parking lot was expanded using Memorial Garden property, that we approve using the unused expansion money for the improvement of the Memorial Garden.
 3. 2020-2021 Proposed Budget- Approved for adoption
- Election of open positions: Nominating committee recommendations for
- 4. Mary Ann Fields for president (2-year term) - Approved

5. Member-at-large Toni Lieppert-Polfus (2-year term) - Approved

- Election of Nominating Committee:

6. Cheryl Hanson, Nancy Johnson and Rick Immler-All Approved.

- Election to Endowment Committee:

7. Celeste Gonder was approved 05/18/2020

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Thul-Immler

NUUF Board Secretary