

**ZOOM: Friday, October 18 , 5–6:30 PM CDT:
Nichiren Shu Buddhism
with Kanjin Cederman Shonin**

Nichiren Shu Buddhism is a branch of Mahayana Buddhism that emphasizes the teachings of the 13th Century Japanese monk Nichiren Daishonin (1222–1282). Nichiren Shu practitioners focus on the Lotus Sutra, which Nichiren considered the ultimate teaching of the Buddha. The central practice involves chanting the Odaimoku, “Namu Myoho Renge Kyo,” which means “Devotion to the Mystic Law of the Lotus Sutra.”

Cederman’s teachings emphasize the importance of faith, practice, and study. He believes that by chanting the Odaimoku and studying the Lotus Sutra, individuals can awaken their Buddha nature and transform their lives.

Cederman often highlights the importance of Sangha, or community, in supporting individual practice and fostering

a sense of belonging. Through various activities, including meditation sessions, study groups, and community service, Nichiren Shu practitioners work together to embody the teachings of the Lotus Sutra in their daily lives.

**Zoom Info: Meeting Room 558 403 3057
Password: Swedenborg**

Kanjin Cederman Shonin, a prominent figure in Nichiren Shu, has dedicated his life to spreading these teachings. Born in Wheatfield, NY, Cederman became a Buddhist monk at 18 in the Chinese Tien Tai tradition. His journey led him to Toronto, where he met Tsukamoto Shonin, the head minister of the Toronto Nichiren Shu temple. He introduced Cederman to the Lotus Sutra, profoundly impacting his spiritual path.



Join in our sponsored Zoom programs by downloading a free copy of Zoom software at [Zoom.com](https://zoom.us). Click to “Join” a meeting, and then enter the meeting room number and password shown with each program. The Zoom rooms open 15 minutes prior to the meeting start time. All times are U.S. Central time.

**ZOOM: Tuesday, November 19; 7–8:30 PM CST
Swedenborg & The Inward Turn
with Rev. Robert McCluskey**

In the mid 1700’s, Swedenborg offered to the world a remarkable and profound gift: the internal sense of the Word. Not the objective, historical, literal sense re: events from long ago and far away. Instead, it was a turn to the subjective, personal, spiritual sense re: the inner life of the reader. His gift, and the means of attaining it, remains unique among the history of ideas.

But he also wrote that the Lord was effecting a sweeping renewal of religion in general, and the Christian Church in particular. He called it the Second Coming, in which the Lord is everywhere at work, moving to the re-establishment of his kingdom. In this way, we can say that Swedenborg was himself part of a larger, unfolding worldview known as the “inward turn.” A counterbalance to the world of scientists, which sees the world as “outside”: external, mechanical, and materialistic. A worldview which sees human life not as a historical event, but as a psychological experience.

We will briefly trace the history of this “inward turn,” Swedenborg’s contribution to it, and how it continues to inform modern consciousness. We are each called to turn inward, to find ourselves in the Bible and in the world, so that we might truly heed the advice of Socrates: know thyself!

**Zoom Info:
Meeting Room 558 403 3057
Password: Swedenborg
Time: 7 PM Central Time,
Tuesday, November 19**

Rev. Robert McCluskey served Swedenborgian churches in the Portland ME, NYC, and LA areas.



**IN PERSON:
Wednesday, October 24 ,
5–7:00 PM CDT
Johannite Spirituality
with Bishop William Behun**
William Behun is Primate of the U.S. in the Apostolic Johannite Church, a philosopher and an accomplished brewer.

Join us for this unique opportunity to explore the intricate connections between ancient Gnostic traditions and their modern interpretations. Bishop Behun will guide us through the mystical and transformative teachings of neo-Gnosticism, uncovering timeless truths that continue to inspire and challenge seekers today.

In the United States, Appalachia is often pigeonholed as an area without intellectual complexity and diversity, where grinding poverty mutes intellectual concerns. However this could not be further from the truth. Few recognize that Appalachia is the most religiously diverse area of the United States, and that theological discussion and debates are part of the very fabric of people’s daily lives.

**Zoom Info:
Meeting Room 558 403 3057
Password: Swedenborg
Time: 5 PM Central
Wednesday, December 4**

Jonathan Buttry is an Elder at the Holston Valley Church in Rogersville, Tennessee.



**ZOOM: Wednesday, December 4, 5–6:30 PM CST
Primitive Baptist Universalism
with Jonathan Buttry**

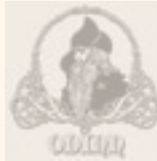
Elder Jonathan Buttry of the Holston Valley Church will introduce us to the Appalachian tradition of Primitive Baptist Universalism, one of the most fascinating American theological movements.

Originating in the late 19th Century, the PBU’s teach a highly original theology built on Biblical literalism, a unique reading of Calvinism, and the belief that God will eventually reconcile all beings back to himself.

The “No-Hellers” as they are often referred to pejoratively, due to their belief that Hell is not an eternal place of torment but rather a state experienced in this life, are one part of the unknown religious tapestry that is Appalachia.

ZOOM: Thursday, December 12, 5–6:30 PM CST
Völspa Saga: The End of the Gods
with Terry Gunnell

Join Terry Gunnell for a discussion of the Völuspá saga, the speech of the prophetess, and perhaps Ragnarök, the end of the gods. Völuspá is a central poem in Norse mythology, found in the Poetic Edda. It is narrated by a völva, a seeress, who recounts the creation of the world, its eventual destruction, and rebirth. Addressing Odin, she describes the primordial void Ginnungagap, the rise of the gods, and the golden age that follows. The poem also foretells Ragnarok, the apocalyptic battle leading to the world's end and its subsequent renewal.



Zoom Info:
Meeting Room 558 403 3057
Password: Swedenborg
Time: 5 PM Central Standard Time
Thursday, December 12

Terry Gunnell is a distinguished folklorist and Professor Emeritus at the University of Iceland and one of the country's most respected public intellectuals. Renowned for his extensive research in Old Norse literature, folk beliefs, and performance studies, Gunnell has significantly contributed to the understanding of Nordic folklore and medieval Scandinavian culture.



His work often explores the intersections of folklore, drama, and cultural history, with notable publications such as "The Origins of Drama in Scandinavia" and "Masks and Mumming in the Nordic Area." Gunnell's scholarship is characterized by a deep engagement with both historical texts and contemporary folk practices, making him a "Rock Star" figure in the field of folkloristics.

Prayer Gathering & Community Meal
Sunday, October 20; 3–6 PM

Join us in the Swedenborg Library for a prayer gathering and Bible reading, followed by a community meal. RSVP to Info@SwedLib.org.

The Swedenborg Library is open Wednesdays and Fridays from 1-5 p.m., and by appointment.

77 W. Washington St., Suite 1700, Chicago, IL 60602
 312-346-7003 SwedLib.org Info@SwedLib.org

Ofrenda Party for
All Souls' Day
Friday, November
1, 3–6 PM CDT



You are warmly invited to join us in the Swedenborg Library in setting up an ofrenda for All Souls' Day, a meaningful tradition that honors the lives and spirits of those who have passed on.

This year, our focus will be on celebrating individuals from the past who were inspired by the works of Emanuel Swedenborg, whose visionary writings have touched countless lives. We welcome you to contribute with photos, mementos, or simply your presence. All are welcome to participate in this meaningful celebration of life, memory, and inspiration.

All Times Shown in Central Time in Calendar:

- **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7**
 NOON–1:30 PM: Zoom and In the Library:
William Blake and Casper Schwenckfeld with Dell Rose

- **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18**
 5:00–6:30 PM: Zoom: *Nichiren Shu Buddhism* with
 Kanjin Cederman

- **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20**
 3:00 PM: *Prayer Gathering & Fellowship.*
 Join us for a prayer gathering and community meal.

- **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24**
 5:00–7:00 PM: *In the Library: Johannite Spirituality* with
 Bishop William Behun.

- **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1**
 3:00–6:00 PM: *Ofrenda Party*

- **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19**
 7–8:30 PM: Zoom: *Swedenborg & The Inward Turn* with
 Rev. Robert McCluskey

- **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4**
 5:00–6:30 PM: Zoom: *Primitive Baptist Universalism* with
 Elder Jonathan Buttry

- **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12**
 5:00–6:30 PM: Zoom: *Volspa Saga: The End of the Gods* with
 Terry Gunnell



*Illuminating the
 world of spirit*



Above, a view of Swedenborg's garden studio, where he spent much of his later years composing his work on Christian theology.

Founded in Chicago in 1877, the Swedenborg Library offers programs on spiritual topics and has on loan the works of 18th Century Swedish scientist and theologian Emanuel Swedenborg. Unlike the Christianity of his day, Swedenborg's theology emphasized an ecumenical, i.e. inclusive view of heaven.

All are welcomed to the Library's programs, discussion groups and workshops.

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