



Marquette
Unitarian
Universalist
Congregation

DECEMBER 2015

CHRONICLE

1510 M-28 East, P.O. Box 687 Marquette, MI 49855
(906) 249-9450 ~ mqtuu.org



COMING UP...

December 6

9:45am Forum: "Congregational Conversations about..." Host: MqtUU Board of Trustees

11am Service:
"Christmas and UUs."
Service Leader: Tom Spencer

December 13

9:45am Forum:
"Theodore Roosevelt."
Host: Simone Chiodini

11am Service:
"Oh Little Town of Bethlehem."
Service Leader: gg gordon

December 20

9:45am Forum: NO FORUM

11am Service:
"Winter Solstice: Yule." Service Leader: Rev. Dea Kowalczyk

December 27

9:45am Forum: NO FORUM

11am Service:
"Food for Thought and Holiday Traditions."
(followed by brunch)
Service Leader: Tim VanderVeen.

A NOTE FROM MqtUU PRESIDENT:



The Holidays are upon us. Cold weather has swept in and snow is on the way. The next month holds for us the longest nights of the year. As we meet with family and are bombarded with advertisements for holiday shopping, let us all commit to taking a moment here and there to pause, enjoy the beauty of the pine trees, the chickadees, and the waves of Lake Superior. Do take the time to reflect on our gratefulness for our community, family, friends, and not having to want for the basics: food, clothing, shelter. Easily overlooked, or ignored, is love. How often do we ignore, or maybe even have disdain for, love for ourselves. Do we recognize that we, as individuals, need love, crave it. What happens to us, to our society, if that need goes unfulfilled? Violence, Internet narcissism, increase of mental illnesses? We need to love ourselves, to make sure that we feel that we are loved, as well as love those around us.

I am excited to share that our Leadership Conference had an attendance of 15 people and was a success! Thank you to all who were able to make it. The committees have some exciting things they are or will be working on. Keep an eye open for those announcements. Please remember, you do not have to be officially on a committee to help out. I hope everyone feels they can participate in a project or task at any level they feel comfortable doing.

As the week of Chalica unfolds, I hope that we are able to take in the beauty of the season, our gifts/talents we can give, and reflect on how we can honor each of the seven principles and hopefully do that one good deed a day that honors those principles.

Many Blessings and Happy Holidays to you and your loved ones.
Dea Kowalczyk



Here We Go A- Caroling

Thursday, December 17th @ 6:00PM

Meet at Norlite Assisted Living.

Please call Tim @ 346-2122,

if you have any questions or need a ride.

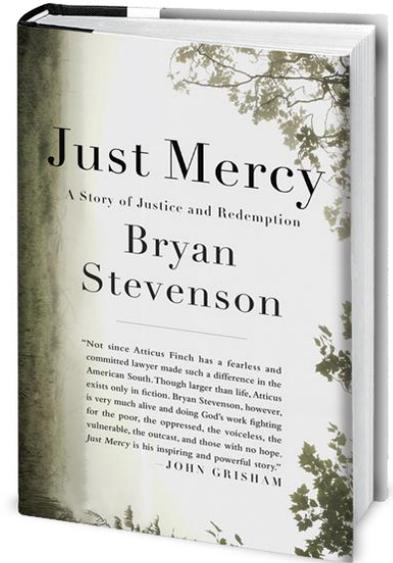


FROM: Adult Enrichment

Upcoming Program - 3 Sessions to Read & Discuss "Just Mercy"

I read the book "Just Mercy: A story of justice & Redemption" by Bryan Stevenson in September of 2014 and wrote the review below for Amazon; I was thus thrilled to learn that the book has now been chosen as the UUA Common Read 2015-16!

I am hoping that, as with prior common reads, a group will emerge from our congregation to read this book together. We will approach the book in three segments and choose get-together times best suited to the group. UUA will provide a discussion guide and some slides. The book retails for \$16.00 (paperback), there are a variety of discounts available, and congregational financial support is available for the purchases if needed. If you are interested in being part of a group to read and discuss this book together, please let me (g.g. gordon) know.



Here is my amazon review from 9/14:

I have a new hero . . . Bryan Stevenson. He joins my other hero lawyer, Morris Dees [founder of Southern Poverty Law Center], in my personal pantheon of those who fight for social justice.

Bryan Stevenson is the self-effacing author of this terrific book about the legal war he has waged against cruel, unjust sentencing practices in this country for over three decades now. His history of founding and working for the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Alabama, is told through real case histories of real people who were subjected to degradation and inhumane treatment that will shock you, anger you, and bring you to tears.

I spent a 25+ year career as a federal prosecutor, in the rarefied world of the federal courts, and am ashamed to say that I had no idea that such horrendous things were happening simultaneously in the state courts of our country. How Stevenson managed to stay on task for decades, to spend so much time simply connecting with his clients as human beings, and to accomplish such extraordinary results is amazing. I learned a lot, and the teachings of *The New Jim Crow*, by Michelle Alexander [another excellent book on the prison industrial complex in this country] were reinforced.

Perhaps my favorite chapter, for what it said about humanity, is entitled Mitigation. I will be using the facts from that chapter in a future talk at my Unitarian Universalist church. "Each of us is more than the worst thing we have ever done." This phrase echoes throughout this work, which, while fact filled, also has a strong spiritual component to it.

This is a great book. Please read it, and do as I did upon completion. Find the Equal Justice Initiative and give them some financial support. They work on a shoestring, and take care of some of the most helpless and needy among us.

For more info from UUA about Just Mercy, go to www.uua.org/re/adults/read.

Prior UUA Common Reads:

2014-15: Reclaiming Prophetic Witness

2013-14: Behind the Kitchen Door

2012-13: The New Jim Crow

2011-12: Acts of Faith

2010-11: The Death of Josseline



7 Principles of UU
Children

We believe:

that each and every
person is important;

that all people should
be treated fairly and
kindly;

that we should accept
one another and keep
on learning together;

that each person must
be free to search for
what is true and right in
life;

that all persons should
have a vote about the
things that concern
them;

in working for a
peaceful, fair, and free
world;

in caring for our planet
Earth, the home we
share with all living
things

FROM: Religious Exploration Committee

11th Annual Soup Dinner

(formerly known as Heifer Dinner)

Saturday, December 5 @ 5pm

Hosted by the Children of MqtUU

Please join us for a variety of delicious
homemade soups and desserts,
music & community.

Donations of all sizes are welcome.

ALL Proceeds go to JJ Packs, a local
nonprofit in Michigan providing nutritious
food and snacks for children of low income
families to have on the weekends.



Jill Mielcarek-RE Chair, Sarah Johnson-Secretary,
Cara Brunk and Tim VanderVeen-Members



From: Music Coordinator, Barb Michael

No evening choir rehearsal in December.
However, please look for emails regarding Sunday music to
rehearse at 10:30 am by the piano.

😊 If you are not on the choir email list and would like to be,
just zip me an email at: michael.barbara.102@gmail.com

See you on Sunday mornings, for caroling with Tim,
or at one of the holiday concerts in Marquette!

FROM: Social Action Committee

The Social Action Committee is busy acting to promote justice and equality in our local community and around the world!

The December “Share the Plate” Recipient is:



Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)

UUSC advances human rights through grassroots collaboration. In more than a dozen countries throughout the world, UUSC fosters social justice and works toward a world free from oppression. UUSC’s innovative approaches and measurable impact — in promoting economic justice, bolstering environmental justice, and protecting rights at risk — are grounded in the belief that all people have inherent power, dignity, and rights.

<http://www.uusc.org/>

The Next SAC meeting is scheduled for Sunday, December @ 12:30pm.

Is there a "Guest at Your Table?" That is, do you have a place at your table that includes a GAYT box? If not, pick one up at the Meeting House to take home and drop some coins and/or bills in it between now and **Sun., Jan. 3rd**. You can convert it to a check made out to UUSC and bring it in Jan. 3; or if you'd prefer, you can go directly online (uusc.org), click on **DONATE** and make your contribution there for the wonderful work that our **Unitarian Universalist Service Committee** does on behalf of **HUMAN RIGHTS**, helping refugees and others as they have done for 75 years here in the U.S. and around the world. It's a UU tradition - let's remember others and make it 100% participation from our congregation this year! UUSC has been given the excellent 4-star rating with Charity Navigator. For a 10-minute video, click [HERE](#).



MqtUU December Calendar

Sunday Services are listed on the front page and all other events scheduled are at the MqtUU Meeting House (unless otherwise noted).

December 5 @ 5pm Saturday	11 th Annual Soup Dinner
December 13 @ 12:30pm Sunday	MqtUU Board of Trustees Meeting
December 18 @ 7pm Friday	Siusan O'Rourke & Zig Zeitler Concert "An Irish Night Before Christmas:
December 20 @ 3pm Sunday	Yule & Full Moon Gathering

You are invited to enjoy a Gaelic evening of melody and song!

Friday, December 18 @ 7pm
Marquette Unitarian Universalist Church

Three-Time Irish Music Award Nominees
Siusan O'Rourke and Zig Zeitler

Present:



"An Irish Night Before Christmas"

a program melding Christmas and
the grand tradition of the Celts.

Donations in the form of a love offering will be accepted during the concert.



Yule and Full Moon Celebration!

Sunday, December 20 @ 3pm

MqtUU Meeting House

Come join us as we celebrate the return
of the sun, holiday lore, a small gift exchange,
and the warmth of community!

Yule gathering with Full Moon celebration
and folk dancing following.

PLEASE BRING: An event donation, a dish to share,
and 12 to 20 found objects, small homemade creation,
or other small inexpensive gift for the
annual festive gift exchange.

Coffee, tea, and hot wassail
(non-alcoholic) will be provided.

AND HEY! Don't Forget to have



Happenin' Around the Mqt Community...

It's all over the news and everyone's posting about it on social media!
Come get a local perspective on the topic of...

Immigration: A 21st Century Challenge

Thursday, December 3 @ 7pm in Room 101B of the Superior Dome.

Immigration attorney, Martha Jennings, along with retired bishop Jim Garland and executive secretary of NMU International Programs, Angela Maki will explore and the legal, religious and educational aspects of immigration and answer questions on this crucial topic.

Please call the office of the Northern Center for Lifelong Learning, 227-2979 to register for program #209 by Tuesday, December 3. Fee; \$3 for NCLL members; \$8 for nonmembers.

Also...

24th Annual Int'l Crafts and Alternative Gifts Fair

Friday, Dec. 4th from 5 pm - 9 pm & Saturday, Dec. 5th from 10 am until 4 pm
Saturday White Elephant Sale, Bake Sale and Soup Luncheon taking place on the lower level of the church.
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 201 E Ridge, Marquette

FROM: Marquette Interfaith Forum

NEXT MEETING: Friday, Dec. 4, at "Little Jimmie's" @ 11:30am

Our topic will be a continuation of our October discussion on Racism, Racial Reconciliation, Imbedded Cultural Bias and what we as communities of faith and as the MIF can do to promote racial, cultural and religious harmony and reconciliation. As in October, **Dr. Esiquio Uballe**, Former Associate Dean of Students at California State University at Fullerton **will facilitate a discussion on creating a comprehensive statement or mission statement** that would provide direction and focus on **what the MIF would encompass in regards to action on these issues.**

FROM: The Good Buy

This time of year, it's good to reflect on what we're thankful for. For most people, first thoughts turn to food on the table and roofs over our heads. Which is why — especially now — [our attention focuses on the plight of millions of refugees worldwide.](#)

People experiencing this growing crisis need our help, and one of the first small steps you can take is to light a candle in the darkness. [Prosperity candles](#) are made by former refugee women resettled in the United States. You can help them make a living by purchasing a candle from the [Good Buy, UUSC's online store](#), today.

On Prosperity Candle's website, you can even send a note of encouragement to the woman who made your candle. It's a powerful exchange to incorporate into your Thanksgiving tradition. Give thanks for your blessings and consider what you can do in your community to help people in need.



[Read about one candle artisan's journey](#) from hopelessness to opportunity, from refugee to entrepreneur. We're happy to share Moo Kho's inspirational story, knowing that our supporters played a part in helping her build a brighter future for herself and her family.

Message From Meg Riley, UU Church of the Larger Fellowship minister

Many people, both in CLF and everywhere else, have asked me why I say "Black Lives Matter" instead of "All Lives Matter." Certainly, "All lives matter" is a re-statement of the very first principle of Unitarian Universalism, which affirms "The inherent worth and dignity of all people." This principle is precious to me, as I'm sure it is to you.

Here are ten ways I have responded to such questions-ten out of dozens of starters for conversations I have had, when I am wearing a button or posting on Facebook. Perhaps one of these will speak to you with your own questions, or help you when people ask you the same question!



1. *Simple Logic (Syllogism)*. All lives matter. Black lives are lives. Therefore Black Lives Matter.
2. *Waxing Philosophic*: When Black Lives Matter, we'll truly know that All Lives Matter. Right now, that's not what the world looks like.
3. *Evoking Empathy*: If I had cancer, and I told you cancer sucked, would you respond, "All diseases suck?"
4. *Sticking with seven simple words*: "No one said, ONLY Black lives matter."
5. *Using the Socratic method*: Do all lives matter? Are Black lives lives? Then do Black lives matter?
6. *Evoking a less emotionally-charged comparison*: If a sign says, "Save the monarchs," is it implying lack of care for other butterflies or concern for an endangered species?
7. *Inserting context and information about racism in America*: Facts on economics. Facts on police brutality. Facts on history. Facts on voting rights. Facts on mass incarceration. Facts on education. Facts on housing. (That's not a short or easy conversation. This is why, at CLF, we teach classes and lead covenant groups and book groups on racism.)
8. *Clarifying why the question is being asked*: "I'm curious why, seeing this (sign, button, shirt) you say that to me. Could you explain that?" and starting the discussion from there.
9. *With other UUs, calling up the other UU principles*: Justice, equity and compassion for all...We are all part of an interdependent web.
10. *When there's time and it's a genuine conversation, sharing my deepest truth*: Because I aspire to stand on the side of love. Because it diminishes my own soul, my own capacity to love, to stand with the powers that dehumanize and degrade some lives, so that I can have personal benefits. Because I want every child to know that they matter, and that what they do matters.

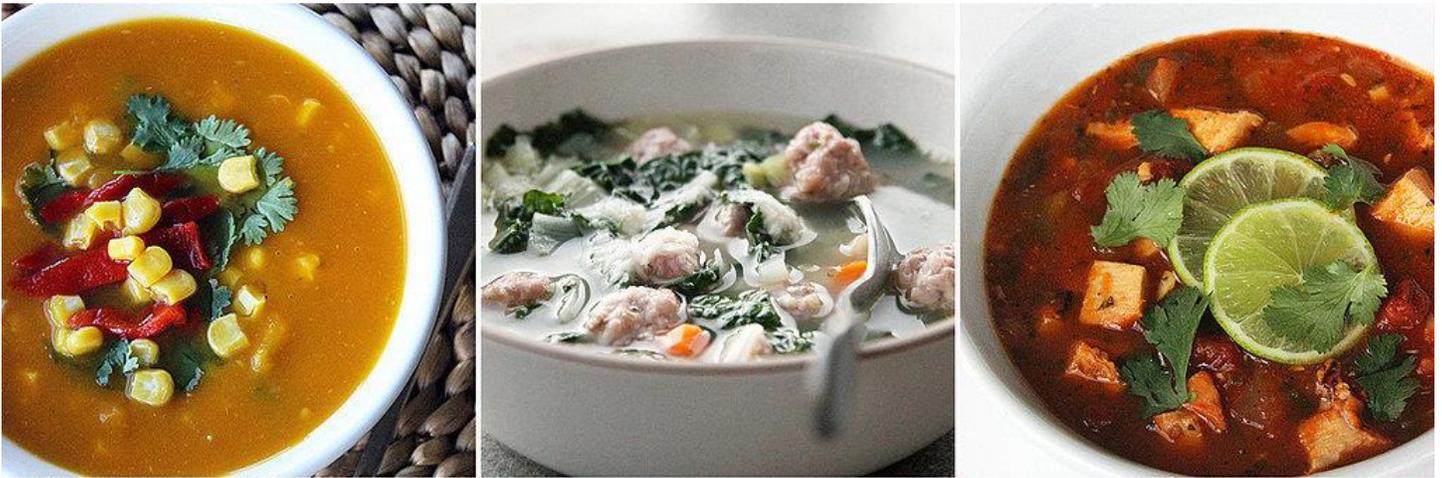
How about you? How has this conversation been going for you?

In Loving Solidarity,

Meg

Season's Greetings & Best Wishes for a Most Blessed New Year from MqtUU!





11th Annual Soup Dinner

(formerly known as Heifer Dinner)

**Hosted by the children of
Marquette Unitarian Universalist Congregation.**

Please join us for a variety of delicious homemade
soups & desserts, music & community.

Saturday, December 5th from 5:00-7:00pm

MqtUU Meeting House @ 1510 M-28 East
(located 2.5 miles east of the M-28/US 41 Intersection in Harvey)

Donations of all sizes are welcome.

ALL Proceeds go to:



JJ Packs

a non-profit in Marquette, that packs nutritious foods and snacks for
school kids of low income families, to take home for the weekend.

Feeding weekend mouths for better learning and living.