



Marquette
Unitarian
Universalist
Congregation

February 2017

CHRONICLE

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

Sundays in February	
5	11am Service: "This is What Democracy Looks Like" Service Leader: Kathryn Klos with MqtUU Women Crusaders 1st SUNDAY FORUM @ 12:30pm "Responses to 11 Spiritual Questions" Host: Barb Michael
12	11am Service: "Valentine Tea Service." Service Leaders: MqtUU Children and Youth
19	11am Service: Stewardship Service with Ian Evison Service Leader: Mike White
26	11am Service: "Preparing to Take Action" Service Leader: Dharmini Robertson

THE HOLY WORK OF SHOWING UP

How is it with your soul?

This is the question that John Wesley, Anglican priest and the founder of Methodism, was known to ask of participants in small reflection groups. I ask you because, for me, this has been a hard week. So, beloveds, how is it with your souls?

If your response to that question is anything like mine, I want to invite you to pause as you read this. Take a deep breath, say a prayer, sing a song, light your chalice, feel the force of gravity pulling us all toward the same center—whatever helps you feel more rooted and less alone.

Now do it again. And again, and again.

And, once you feel that rootedness and connection, hear this:

You are loved beyond belief. You are enough, you are precious, your work and your life matter, and you are not alone. **You are part of a "we,"** a great cloud of witnesses living and dead who have insisted that this beautiful, broken world of ours is a blessing worthy of both deep gratitude and fierce protection. Our ancestors and our descendants are beckoning us, compelling us to onward toward greater connection, greater compassion, greater commitment to one another and to the earth. Together, **we are resilient and resourceful** enough to say "yes" to that call, to make it our life's work in a thousand different ways, knowing that we can do no other than bind ourselves more tightly together, and throw ourselves into **the holy work of showing up**, again and again, to be part of building that world of which we dream but which we have not yet seen.



Ashley Horan is a Unitarian Universalist minister who most recently served for two years as the Consulting Minister at The Universalist Unitarian Church of Joliet, IL, after graduating with a Master of Divinity degree from Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago, IL in 2012. She is a lifelong UU who grew up at Unity Church-Unitarian in St. Paul, where she is still a member.

FROM: Dea Kowalczyk, MqtUU President



For this month, and as a follow-up to last month's reflection on the New Year, I encourage all of us to reflect on the 1st UU principle: "The inherent worth and dignity of every person", and I get my inspiration for this note by Rev. Clay Nelson's sermon on Aug 21, 2016 "Can Love Trump Hate" (<http://aucklandunitarian.org.nz/can-love-trump-hate/>).

What does the 1st principle mean to you? How much thought have we given it, especially in what is going on in our world? "The inherent worth and dignity of every person." The sentence stops there.... There isn't an exception clause.

One silver lining of our world's social climate is that, as UU Rev. Clay Nelson wrote: It forces us "to examine my[our] own values. Do I really believe in the inherent worth and dignity of every person? Do I permit myself to footnote the exceptions?" This is a serious thing needing reflection for each of us.

Part of the difficulty with this, is realizing what has become normal in our society, and watching (in horror) where these trends are taking us. Rev. Nelson continues:

"Meanness has become pervasive in our western culture. Being mean has become a form of entertainment to be laughed at. You only have to read the comments section on the Internet following a story or opinion piece. I rarely do anymore."

How often are we aware when we say or do something hurtful, which goes against the 1st principle? Whether it be a "joke", assuming the character of a voter opposite of your opinion, to everything in between.

One way to combat this is through conscious compassion, Rev. Nelson wrote:

"Compassion can be easy when it is with someone with whom we can identify. It is not so easy with the stranger or someone who repels us. It is not something that we naturally feel universally. Being compassionate is something we choose to be. To some degree it is learned behavior.

To the degree we hate or despise another we degrade our humanity. When we choose not to give in to those impulses we create a crack in the wall between those whose inherent worth is not obvious and ourselves.

The crack in the wall is the place where people absolutely refuse to see each other as evil. To step into this place where we choose to see the other as good is essential to changing this division. To step into that crack is where we need and must choose to live, if we are to make any changes. For that crack is holy space.

To find that crack, that opening where we can see each other fully, we need to ask one simple question of the other and that is this...."what hurts?" In asking, we are no longer required to be right or wrong. It doesn't require us to agree. Asking "what hurts" of each other reveals what is at stake. It helps us to understand our beliefs and feelings in human terms

If we are to heal the moral atmosphere, we must create safe space so we can speak together honestly and relate to each other with dignity. It opens us up to seeing their vulnerability and fears in a much more human way."

I implore each of you to find that crack, to ask "what hurts" of yourself and others, and to be compassionate. It is in the times before us that this is most needed. May we stand together, forgiving ourselves when we make mistakes, reminding each other when compassion is needed, and doing that hard work, so that we truly can bend the moral arc of the universe. May it be so.





Dea Kowalczyk ~ February 5
Dharmini ~ February 26



Upcoming United By Light events:

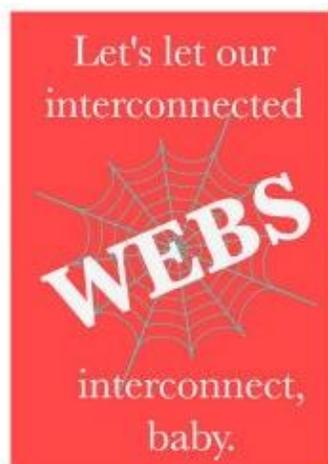
Sunday Feb. 5th at 3 p.m.
Imbolc



Also known as Brigid's Day, Imbolc is a time to celebrate light, and rekindle our fires. Brigid is a triple goddess: healing, smithcraft, and poetry. She is the artist, the healer, and the forge worker. This Imbolc we will be meditating on what we dedicate ourselves to, and how to keep our fires blazing. A sacred fire will be available for meditation, so bring warm clothes if this is something you would like to utilize. Please bring a dish to share and a small monetary event donation. Coffee and tea will be provided.

Friday Feb. 10th, 6-8 p.m.
Game Night

We'll gather together as a community for fun and games! Bring your favorite game, a snack, and have an evening of laughter. Coffee and tea will be provided.



FROM: Religious Exploration



Throughout January in Religious Exploration, we have been exploring African and African diasporic traditions, focusing on the power and wisdom within stories and story-telling. We learned about the importance—and rascally ways—of several tricksters, including Anansi and a Yoruba chameleon. Since tricksters can teach us how to behave and how *not* to behave through their antics, their stories offer great platforms of discussion.

~In the upcoming month, we will be exploring the ancient Greek and Roman traditions. We'll begin by learning about the Roman Lupercalia tradition, focusing on the honoring of *lupus*, the she-wolf that raised Romulus and Remus. To set the scene, we'll make a "den" out of sheets in our RE space. After that, we'll be exploring and recreating some aspects of Mardi Gras, labyrinths, and the Greek Pantheon!

~During our usual "Joys and concerns" time, when our kids share anything that is in their hearts, minds, and/or bodies that they are either feeling happy/joyful about or a little worried about, we often hear a lot about the joys of popular video and card games, so we've been aiming to emphasize the positive aspects of such—the building, creating, and the protective properties of certain sacred items that appear in some of the games.

~We also subtly continue to address the current socio-political culture of our times—that are kids our so very sensitive to—by encouraging instances of love and respect. We are working towards some self-soothing techniques too, via gentle mindfulness practices. Last week, for example, we began discussing the flame/light that exists within us all, that no one or no thing outside of ourselves can ever put out. We took some time to begin imagining what that "looks" and feels like to have that inside of us. We will be furthering this notion in the coming weeks, too, hopefully leading to more a full-fledged meditation practice for all ages.



ALSO:

- We are trying to get all kids who are in RE (even those who only come periodically!) registered for MUUC certification purposes, so please see Jamie two fill out two quick forms if you haven't already.
- Be on the lookout for our RE space to be
- soon include a "Growing Together" bulletin board that honors the birth-days of our children.
- **A few important dates to remember:**
Saturday, Feb 4th The kids will be serving an evening meal to our Room at the Inn guests. **Saturday, February 11th** Sledding party at Victor and Amadeus'! & **March** - Family bowling party!
- **A peek into the upcoming months in Religious Exploration:**
February: Ancient Greek and Roman spiritual beliefs March: The Hindu Religion
April: The Ba'hai Faith and Buddhism May: Buddhism & The Islamic Faith
- Our next Religious Exploration meeting is Thursday, February 16th at 5:45 in the kid's area of the Peter White Public Library.

Thank you for all you do for the MqtUU kids! :)
~Jamie



Faith in Action Gathering

Sun., February 19 @ 12:30pm

Please join us and share your concerns, including ideas for share-the-plate (local, national or worldwide)!

February “Share the Plate” Recipient:



MISSION STATEMENT

Lakestate Industries, Incorporated is dedicated to helping people recognize and maximize their abilities, overcome barriers, and support them in reaching their highest level of employment and community inclusion.

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

FROM: Stewardship

February is upon us. Two of the three coldest months are behind us, the days are getting longer, and we have survived two weeks under President Donald Trump. I still get nauseous when combining the word President with the name Donald Trump, but I can also be thankful that his presidency has so far increased attendance at Sunday services. In difficult and anxious times we need the support of a religious community and the steady state of mind that comes from a spiritual practice. It is my sincere hope that you will support our congregation with a generous pledge again this year. In order to make it easy for you to pledge, I have set up a stewardship service on February 19. We have a wonderful guest minister and we are going to eat some delicious food. Let this year's pledge not only be an expression of support for our congregation but make it a strong statement of resistance to the bully, braggart, and demagogue that now inhabits the White House.



Annual Stewardship Service:



On Sunday, February 19, we will be kicking off our pledge drive. Ian Evison, from our Mid America District will be our guest minister. Ian is a UU minister who has served in a variety of ministries, including parish ministry, theological education, a research project at the University of Chicago in Family and Religion, and service at the Alban Institute as Director of Research. He has interest and expertise in: leadership development; conflict transformation; staffing and human resources; finances; stewardship; congregations of the future; denominational structures.

After the service, we will be enjoying a luncheon catered by Border Grill. Everyone will have a chance to pledge for the next fiscal year. I am hoping to have a strong turnout for an excellent service and great food. I hope to have at least 20 pledges to jump start our pledge drive. Show your commitment to our congregation and have a good time.

Mike White
Stewardship Chairperson



First Sunday Forum:

An afternoon forum discussion in response to 11 spiritual questions

Join us for a discussion with middle school kids through senior adults at **12:30 pm on Sun., Feb. 5th**. Bring a sack lunch or have a cup of coffee or tea following the service. Child care will be provided. Ponder the questions ahead of time, knowing that it's okay to change your mind that afternoon. Even though the responses to these questions could be talked about for days, we'll keep this one short and stop at 1:15 pm.

From Meg Riley, sr. minister at our UU Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF): These provocative questions are from a 2004 blog from *UU World* editor Chris Walton. I think they're all important! Do you have answers for them? The religious questions I'm thinking about include:

For what am I grateful?
What sustains me?
What evokes my praise?
What stirs me to wonder?
What binds me to other people?
What tempts me to betray people?
What do I cling to at my peril?
Why don't things work out as I want them to?
Where do I turn when I am at my wit's end?
What propels me to acts of moral courage?
What inspires me to regard others with moral imagination? *

*It's a fascinating concept. Nate Walker wrote a whole book about it...Moral imagination, as he describes it, is "the ability to anticipate or project oneself into the middle of a moral dilemma and understand all the points of view." - which doesn't mean you don't also have your own point of view!



Dear Service Leaders:

When planning a service, keep the following questions in mind...1) How is this spiritual? How does this transcend you? 2) Tell a story (we connect through stories). 3) Keep the message of the morning to 15-20 minutes. 4) How does it relate to the 7 principles or UUism? 5) How can people feel engaged or personally invested? How can I feel connected to this topic? Thank you!



UU women! Mark your calendars for a **Winter-to-Spring Retreat**



Saturday, March 18, from **9am – 9pm** at the home of Barb Michael in Chocoday Township. Join UU women friends for a day including a book discussion, a craft with Nancy Sullivan, outdoor activities (late winter woodland hike, snowshoe labyrinth creation, etc.), poetry & meditation, solitude or time to chat with friends, candlelighting, drumming with Wendi Greer and singing...and of course, "food, glorious food!"

March 18th...a gathering of beautiful spirits!

MqtUU February Calendar

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

February 12 @ 12:30pm Sunday	MqtUU Board of Trustees Meeting
February 16 @ 5:30pm Thursday	Religious Exploration Committee Meeting in the children's area of the Peter White Public Library .
February 19 @ 12:30pm Sunday	Faith in Action Meeting

Our Mission Statement:

We, the members of the Marquette Unitarian Universalist Congregation, are:
Brought Together by a Core Belief in the Power of Love
and are Committed to Building Beloved Community.

We Care for, Nurture and Support the Spiritual Growth of One Another:
We Share Reverence for our Natural Environment and are dedicated to the
Respectful Stewardship of the Earth: and We Work Together to Bend the Moral Arc of the
Universe Toward Justice, Fairness and Compassion.

“Bumper Sticker” Version:

MqtUU...Building Beloved Community for ourselves and all beings.



**THIRTY
DAYS OF
LOVE**

...this moment is about everything we value, everything that matters to us, the very questions of who we are and our existence.

Many of us also feel that the moment requires more from us. That there will not be room for our pettiness, our egos, our impatience, our self-pity. There will not be room for doing things the way they have always been done, in the ways in which we are most comfortable. There will be no room for any of us to think we have the answers alone. As UUA President Peter Morales wrote about last week, this is not only about social justice (or our social justice ministries) this is about all we do and our deepest values."

<https://www.standingonthesideoflove.org/ourstories/30-days-of-love-2017-update>

Community Events:

Yellow Dog River Community Forest Celebration!

Wed., Feb. 8th 6-9 pm at the Ore Dock Brewing Co.

After years of hard work, the Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve and the Community Forest Committee invite you to come celebrate the establishment of the **Yellow Dog River Community Forest**. The event is being held to mark the completion of the project that resulted in the permanent protection of 688 acres in northern Marquette County along the Yellow Dog River. The Yellow Dog River Community Forest is only 1 of 3 community forests in the state of Michigan.

The area is now forever open to the public to:

- experience the natural beauty of the waterfalls and for silent sport recreation like hiking and skiing
- participate in environmental education programming (starting this summer)
- implement some sustainable forestry activities to benefit wildlife species as well as the local economy.

Pizza will be provided and Strung Together will be playing to get your feet moving (4-piece string band with mandolin, guitar, banjo, and bass) . Bake Sale and Raffle Baskets, too.

\$10 suggested donation at the door, \$7 for students and kids



A Peaceful Rally: a counter-protest will be held on Saturday, Feb. 11, 8 am-noon at **Planned Parenthood** on Third St. in Marquette . Arrive early to form a wall of acceptance and love.

FROM: Northern Climate Network

Friday, February 10 at Noon, Jamrich 1318
Climate Change Deluges and the Upper Peninsula w/ Greyson Morrow, Former helicopter pilot and climate activist. This presentation explores the science of thunderstorms and their impact over Lake Superior. From tornadoes to flood events, the Upper Peninsula may be the next ground zero for climate change deluges. Come learn more about the potential for climate impacts in our region.



The Marquette Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) will be meeting Saturday, February 11 from 12:30-2:30 pm in the Lions room of the Peter White Library. Any questions please e-mail Elizabeth Dell at: elizabeth.dell@citizensclimatelobby.org