



Marquette
Unitarian
Universalist
Congregation

January 2017

CHRONICLE

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

Sundays in January	
1	11am Service: "New Year Fire Communion" Service Leader: Heidi Gould
8	11am Service: "Prayer for Unitarian Universalists" Service Leader: Rev. Chris Rothbauer, KUUF
15	11am Service: "Letter From Birmingham Jail." Service Leader: gg gordon
22	11am Service: "Nurture our Spirits to Fortify our Souls" Flat Broke Blues Band. Service Leaders: Music Committee
29	11am Service: "The Power of Myth, Magic and Fantasy in Folk Tales and Songs" Service Leader: February Sky



Sunday, January 8 : "Prayer for Unitarian Universalists" Prayer is often a dirty word in Unitarian Universalist circles, often being associated with irrationality and the supernatural. In this service, Rev. Chris will examine a more rational approach to prayer that begs the question, "Do we all pray everyday whether we know it or not?" ~ **Rev. Chris Rothbauer, KUUF**

FROM: Dea Kowalczyk, MqtUU President



For “Times Gone By”, the song more commonly known as “Auld lang Syne”, this song makes me think about the past, and the MqtUU’s past. By remembering the past, even honoring it, it can help us mold our future.

For reflection:

The song is about friendships old and new, but the phrase, “times gone by” can be meditated on for broader topics. I can think of the meaning of “auld lang syne” / times gone by, and think of the history of our congregation;

For your MqtUU Congregation: friends who have passed on recently or years ago, friends who have moved away, or just no longer share Sundays with us. “Times gone by”: a time when members held community with each other in a basement, to the difficult decision of obtaining our own space. “Times gone by”: a time of larger membership of MqtUU, and times of much smaller membership. The new year is a time to think on the past, and what we want for the future.

What do you want for the future of the MqtUU? Financially we are ok, but in terms of participation, we are not. The Board of Trustees have been working hard these past 2 years to bring about positive change for our congregation, trying to think outside the box, and give people a time to rest. It is now time to act. We do not have enough people doing the day-to-day work of the congregation. We have a handful of very dedicated people who are doing a marvelous job of holding things together, but the few we currently have isn’t enough. In approximately the past 12 months, we’ve seen a few committees fade away. We don’t have a building and grounds committee, no Community Support and Outreach (doing TLC work), no choir, no adult enrichment.... We are down to Finance (who almost disbanded), Sunday Service, RE, Faith in Action, and Music. These few committees are bare bones with only a few people doing the work of many. This is too much to keep expecting! If we want the MqtUU Congregation to have a future, then we need your help: **ask any board member how you can assist with the work that needs to be done.**

This Congregation does a lot for our community, maybe more than you expect. Here is a list of things the congregation as done for our community in the past year:

- The annual soup dinner this year raised \$1500 for JJ Packs.
- Every single month Faith in Action chooses a charity with which to share half of our unpledged Sunday collection.
- Room At The Inn: RATI is a huge endeavor requiring resources and volunteer slots throughout the whole week we host, and I have heard so many stories about how meaningful this service is for our local homeless. - Congratulations to the young woman who found herself on her feet again!
- The support we give to our local LGBTQ folks with our participation in Pride Fest.
- The support we gave for the DAPL protestors.

- The support we gave for Rev. Pinkney.
- Our presence with the local Interfaith group
- Tabling at NMU's Fall Fest, making ourselves available and known to the students.
- Making voter registration available at the 4th of July parade end and the NMU Fall fest.
- Hosting The Babbas musical concert.
- Volunteering at the Noquemanon Ski Race station last winter, which was voted #1 Best aide station by the skiers!

This list is only the things for our community and doesn't count the things offered internally for each other, and I'm sure I've missed some! You may think that the MqtUU wouldn't be missed if our doors closed, but it would. It would be missed by many.

Unitarian Universalism is not a passive faith. UUism calls us to move, to act, to show up. Now more than ever we are needed in this world and within our community. We cannot make a positive change in the world from the comfortable safety of our homes.

Next year, when we sing "Auld Lang Syne" let's not have the memory be: when the Mqt UU was an option never utilized. Instead, let's sing it and remember when it was needed and how we stepped up to the plate and engaged.

For Wishes of a Happy New Year,
Dea Kowalczyk
BoT President



Dea Kowalczyk will be
"Holding Hearts"
on Sunday, January 1.



Blues Sunday Feelin' the need to hear some blues? Members of Marquette's **Flat Broke Blues Band** will lead us on Sunday morning, 11 am, January 22nd! "Nurture our Spirits to Fortify our Souls" Something a little different for a Sunday morning with this rock solid blues band featuring a guitar-driven mix of classic blues, R&B, swing, and good old rock n' roll. Join us at 11 am to see what comfort, inspiration and surprises they bring!



FROM: Faith in Action

By adding your signature to the Charter for Compassion, your name will be added to a list of others in the greater Marquette area who want to defy hate and support more compassion in our communities.

Karen Armstrong, world religions scholar and author, states that the purpose of this program for deepening compassion is "to bring forth the compassion that exists potentially in every human being so that it can be a healing force in our own lives and our world."

The Charter for Compassion will be published along with names of people living in the Marquette area in the February *Marquette Monthly* and a January issue of the *Mining Journal*. You may sign it on Dec. 25 or Jan. 1 before or after the service. Thanks to those of you who have already signed it!

Charter for Compassion

...in a beautiful, two-minute video <http://www.charterforcompassion.org/charter> or you may read below: The principle of compassion lies at the heart of all religious, ethical and spiritual traditions, calling us always to treat all others as we wish to be treated ourselves. Compassion impels us to work tirelessly to alleviate the suffering of our fellow creatures, to dethrone ourselves from the center of our world and put another there, and to honor the inviolable sanctity of every single human being, treating everybody, without exception, with absolute justice, equity and respect.

It is also necessary in both public and private life to refrain consistently and empathically from inflicting pain. To act or speak violently out of spite, chauvinism, or self-interest, to impoverish, exploit or deny basic rights to anybody, and to incite hatred by denigrating others - even our enemies - is a denial of our common humanity. We acknowledge that we have failed to live compassionately and that some have even increased the sum of human misery in the name of religion.

We therefore call upon all men and women to restore compassion to the center of morality and religion ~ to return to the ancient principle that any interpretation of scripture that breeds violence, hatred or disdain is illegitimate ~ to ensure that youth are given accurate and respectful information about other traditions, religions and cultures ~ to encourage a positive appreciation of cultural and religious diversity ~ to cultivate an informed empathy with the suffering of all human beings - even those regarded as enemies.

We urgently need to make compassion a clear, luminous and dynamic force in our polarized world. Rooted in a principled determination to transcend selfishness, compassion can break down political, dogmatic, ideological and religious boundaries. Born of our deep interdependence, compassion is essential to human relationships and to a fulfilled humanity. It is the path to enlightenment, and indispensable to the creation of a just economy and a peaceful global community.



January “Share the Plate” Recipient:

Bismarck-Mandan UU Congregation for needs of All Nations Camp



“As the banner at the entrance of our collective home proclaims, the Bismarck-Mandan Unitarian Universalist congregation is "Standing with Standing Rock." As a Lakota nation, Standing Rock peacefully and prayerfully proclaims that water is life and, since September 30, 2014, has asserted that the Dakota Access Pipeline would threaten Lakota ways of life -- past, present, and future. We respect these declarations by Standing Rock, as well as Standing Rock's sovereignty in making them. It is our honor to stand with Standing Rock, our neighbor and our friend.” ~ <http://www.bismanuu.org/>

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

December was an action-packed month in Religious Exploration: putting on our glorious play, The Best Christmas Pageant Ever, and focusing on some caretaking actions so essential for the holidays: fundraising for JJ Packs and holiday card-writing. For January, we'll get back to engaging with our RE theme for this year: "Exploring and Celebrating Diversity and Religions Around the World." For most of the month, we'll be delving in to traditional and modern African and African-American spiritualities.

Beginning January 1st, Barb Michaels will be teaching our kids about Kwanzaa; we'll then explore some Bantu beliefs, the Yoruba pantheon, and discuss the profound impacts of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In addition to all that learning, we'll be having some fun, too, by way of a sledding and cocoa party towards the end of the month!

The Religious Exploration Committee is always looking for additional support and ideas. Feel free to join us at our next meeting, Thursday, January 19th at 5:30 in the children's area of the Peter White Public Library.

"In Her Words" - Introducing Jamie Kuehnl, the Religious Exploration Coordinator and Co-Teacher:



I grew up downstate—north of Ann Arbor—in a very Catholic household, even going to Catholic school for a while. While there are many Catholic tenets I shed over the years, I retained some components for which I am grateful: the sense of the sacred, the deep satisfaction of celebrating seasonal rituals, having a community of people with similar values, and gratitude for all beings and non-beings (my favorite saints were always St. Francis of Assisi and St. Kateri

Tekakwitha—the only Native American saint).

When I discovered UUism about 22 years ago, it was a perfect match. In fact, I could not believe how deeply each of the Seven Principles resonated

within me. I also appreciated it's literary, intellectual, and transcendentalist origins. I started taking my son to occasional services at the Brickyard Road meeting house, and adored the minister, Kayle Rice. At that time, I was working my way through a B.S. in English with a minor in Native American Studies at Northern Michigan University (NMU). Then, I went on to attain a Master's degree in Literature (with an emphasis in Post-colonial and Native American Literatures. Now, I am currently a student in the Women's Spirituality PhD program at the California Institute of Integral Studies.

My research interests are aligned with many of the courses I've taught at NMU, in the English department: Ecofeminism, Environmental Literatures, Mythology, Good Books, and many different Indian- African-, and Native-American Lit courses. Since 2014, I've been teaching courses for NMU's Center for Native American Studies, my favorite of which is "Native American Cultures and the Dynamics of Religious Experience." I am currently a contingent faculty member at NMU, and for the last 10 years, have been heavily involved in the unionization of NMU's part time faculty. I was on the AAUP's negotiation team this the last contract round.

Over the course of my schooling and then teaching, my busy single-mom (twice over) status only allowed for us to be occasionally involved throughout the years, but especially after my son, Jessee, went through the OWL program, I endeavored to one day be in a position to give back to the congregation that has given so much to us. This year, I made a much-needed decision to trade in my political activism on campus for more spiritually fulfilling activism, with our UU kids, and it has been absolutely wonderful so far. I have so many ideas that I can't wait to implement, have been so grateful for Kathy Klos' wisdom and anecdotes as co-teacher, and am deeply honored to be able to be learning as much as I am from the kids. They are wondrous beings, and true testaments to the heart and soul of the people of this congregation. ~Jamie Kuehn

“In Her Words” - Introducing Kathy Klos, Co-Teacher:

I grew up going to Sunday School at the First Unitarian Society in Minneapolis and, as an adult, taught as a volunteer in the RE program there for more than ten years. When our family began attending First Universalist in Minneapolis, I taught the third grade program for three years and a junior high Justice program for part of a year. I come from a long line of teachers, and teaching was a big part of what I did as a nurse. I am honored to be participating in the program with our young folks at MqtUU. ~Kathy Klos



Marquette Unitarian Universalist Congregation's children hosted their **12th Annual Soup Dinner** on December 3rd. The dinner raised \$1453.00 and all proceeds went to JJ Packs, a local organization which sends less fortunate children home with nutritious food on Fridays so they can get meals on weekends when school is not in session. Thank you to Jilbert's, Sweetwater Cafe, Marquette Baking Company, Huron Mountain Bakery and Econo Foods for donations that supported the soup dinner.

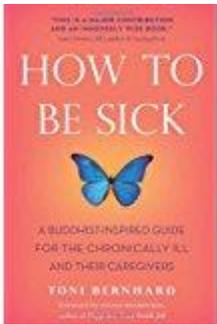


Sunday, January 29: “The Power of Myth, Magic and Fantasy in Folk Tales and Songs”

Since before the dawn of recorded history, human beings have shared and passed on stories and songs containing elements of myth, magic and fantasy. There seems to be a deeply ingrained human need for these stories, as witness the continuing popularity of the Lord of the Rings and Harry Potter stories with children and adults alike. We will explore the power of this type of tale in folk tales and songs, both ancient and modern.

~ Susan Urban, February Sky

A New Book Discussion Group Starting



How to Be Sick: a Buddhist-inspired guide for the chronically ill and their caregivers, by Toni Bernhard, is a book about how to have a worthwhile and meaningful existence even when illness seems to have stolen one's life away. In year 2000, Toni became ill with a devastating virus and an array of disabling symptoms that she has to this day. How to be Sick describes her path to finding meaning, purpose and joy in the midst of suffering.

Bernhard doesn't recommend long periods of meditation as she can no longer tolerate that. Rather she focuses her practice on very brief meditative exercises, and personal mantras to shift her perspective and lift her mood. Her ideas, practices, and suggested exercises are informed by Buddhist principles and years of prior meditation and study. I think she has developed an amazing skill in explaining some basic Buddhist concepts related to suffering and enlightenment, which I never quite got before and now feel are useful to me.

I found the book to be a wonderful guide and approach to the various types of suffering we all encounter in life, whether it comes from illness or from other circumstance. I sped read through the book (as it is an easy read) and now would enjoy savoring it more slowly, trying out some of the suggested activities, and hearing how others react to it. If this appeals to you, I invite you to join me in this exploration and deepening.

I am thinking three group meetings of an hour and a half might be enough to get started and go through much of the book together. My preference would be to start Thursday, January 26 at 1:30 pm. I would like to meet every other week for three times. But I feel flexible about day and time depending on what I hear from those who are interested.

If you are interested, please email me at nance249@gmail.com. You might want to order your own copy of the book so you can read some it before the first meeting. Prices seem to range from \$5 used to \$12 new. Peter White Public Library has one copy too. And finally, let me know if a weekday afternoon would work for you.

Thanks, Nancy Sullivan



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!



Rev. Peter Morales, president of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), has written a letter to Unitarian Universalist ministers to offer words of counsel and support as our nation, our communities, and the most vulnerable among us face an uncertain future. He shares this letter publicly in the spirit of providing guidance for all in the work ahead.

Dear Colleagues,

These are tough times. We are living in the midst of historic cultural turmoil. Long festering resentments are being unleashed, posing immediate threats to the most marginalized in our society and presenting long term danger to our natural environment.

People are understandably anxious. I hear reports of a spike in attendance at worship services across the country. I can only imagine the pastoral demands you are facing—at a time when we ministers are in as much need of support as our congregants.

Thank you. Thank you for your courage, your perseverance, your faithfulness.

I believe we are entering dangerous times. I expect that the new administration will unleash human rights abuses aimed at migrants and Muslims shortly after it takes office. In the longer term, other marginalized groups (women, the poor, people of color, transgender people, etc.) will be in danger. We are already seeing an increase in violent acts by people who see the election as validation of their hate.

Among the dangers we face is the temptation to “normalize” the situation. I pray that the incoming administration will prove to be more humane than its rhetoric and many of its most ardent supporters. I see no evidence that this is the case. *None.* It is irresponsible folly to act as though we are in a normal transition between administrations.

We must prepare to *provide sanctuary* and *resist*.

First, we must provide sanctuary in the broadest and richest sense of the term. We begin with offering safe places for reflection and healing for our congregants and for those coming to seek spiritual community. But these times demand more. We must provide sanctuary to those most vulnerable. In particular, migrants (primarily from Mexico and Central America) may well face mass deportation. In addition, Muslims have been targeted.

Second, we must prepare to resist human rights violations in active ways. We must make it much harder to deport, register, discriminate and despoil.

In the past most of our work for justice and compassion has been positive. We have been advocates for marriage equality, racial justice, civil rights, immigration reform and environmental justice. To use a sports metaphor, we have played offense. We joined with others to advance an agenda. Today we must prepare to “play defense.” We will have to respond quickly to acts of the government. We will have to react rather than act. We will need to be agile and fast.

As always, the key will be to work together. We have shown our ability to do this from resisting the human rights violations of Joe Arpaio in Arizona to joining in the resistance at Standing Rock. We are effective when our congregations and ministers work together at the local level, combined with support from regional and national staff. We make a difference when we form strong partnerships with other faith groups and secular organizations.

At the national level, we are working to form partnerships with other faith groups and other UU organizations. My office is working with Multicultural Growth and Witness staff and with our field staff. The UUA, Unitarian

Universalist Service Committee and our shared College of Social Justice are working together closely. I have had a number of meetings with my counterparts in other faiths. Don Southworth, Executive Director for the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association, and I are holding a series of listening meetings with ministers across the country.

I invite you to visit the “[Show the Love](#)” hub on UUA.org for resources. I encourage you to see what colleagues are doing and to share what you are doing on www.uua.org/action/show-love.

In the coming weeks you will hear more as we work together to support you. For now, I want each of you to know that you are not alone. Together we are strong. Together we inspire one another. Together we can do this. We need one another.

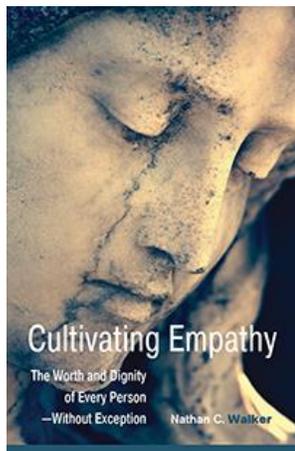
Thank you again for all you do.

Love will guide us. Hope will sustain us. Ultimately we shall prevail.

Faithfully,
 Peter Morales
 President of the Unitarian Universalist Association



SUGGESTED READING:



Cultivating Empathy

The Worth and Dignity of Every Person -- Without Exception

Also available as an [eBook](#) in the Amazon Kindle store and on [Google Play](#). Picked by Publishers Weekly as One of the Top Six Books for a Post-Election Spiritual Detox

This emotionally honest and personal exploration of conflict introduces a creative and compassionate way to develop empathetic responses using the spiritual practice of the moral imagination.

Author: [Nathan C. Walker](#)



MqtUU January Calendar

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

January 15 @ 12:30pm Sunday	MqtUU Board of Trustees Meeting
January 19 @ 5:30pm Thursday	Religious Exploration Committee Meeting in the children's area of the Peter White Public Library .
January 22 @ 12:30pm Sunday	Faith in Action Committee Meeting
January 29 @ 12:05pm Sunday	Congregational Meeting

The first Board of Trustees meeting of 2017 is scheduled for January 15, following the service. All are welcome and encouraged to attend to share thoughts, comments, and suggestions to the board including proposed agenda items for the January Congregational Meeting.

January 29th Congregational Meeting Tentative Agenda Items:

President's State of the Congregation Address
Proposed Congregational Covenant of Right Relations
Discussion and vote on Dissolution of the "Real Property Fund Trust"
Dissolution of the Mediation Council – and alternately contract with professional Mediation.
Diverse Revolutionary Unitarian Universalist Multicultural Ministries - **(DRUUMM)**
Review & Revision of Bylaws



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.

The Proposed "Bumper Sticker Version:

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



**The Best Christmas
Pageant Ever
December 18, 2016**

