



Marquette
Unitarian
Universalist
Congregation

March 2016

CHRONICLE

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



COMING UP...

March 6

9:45am Forum: Congregational Conversations about..."

Host: MqtUU Board of Trustees

11am Service:

"Our Fifth Principle - How Committed are We to the Right to Vote?"

Service Leader: gg gordon

March 13

9:45am Forum: "Explaining the Middle East Mess," by Dr. Mohey Mowafy. Host: Barb Michael

11am Service:

"Desire and the Sacred."

Service Leader: Chris Rothbauer, Minister at the Keewenaw UU Fellowship

March 20

9:00am Forum:

"The Armor of Light" (a video on gun violence). Host: gg gordon.

11am Service:

"Can Progressives Form a United Community?" Stewardship Service Leaders:

Tom Spencer and Mike White

March 27

9:45am Forum:

"A Discussion of 'The Armor of Light' (a video on gun violence)". Host: gg Gordon.

11am Service:

"Are we Able to Laugh?"

Roger Greeley

Service Leader: Tim VanderVeen

A Gathering of Old Friends and New

The Community Outreach and Support Committee is planning a gathering of new visitors, and a few old friends on Sunday, March 20th after the Stewardship Luncheon following the service.

We are welcoming recent visitors and those who may have begun to consider a more connected role with our congregation. We look forward to chatting, listening, answering questions, and getting to know each other; and the journeys each of us has taken to arrive at our Meeting House on any given Sunday.

We would to welcome parents and their children, and people of all ages who have found their way to our congregation. We will provide child care and activities and a chance to ease into a Sunday afternoon with new friends and kindred spirits.

Please join us on Sunday afternoon, after the luncheon which follows the regular Sunday service; March 20th at around 1:00PM.

Call Tim VanderVeen at [906-346-2122](tel:906-346-2122) or contact Nancy Sullivan after the service on Sunday.



Daylight Saving
Time Begins

Daylight Savings Time
begins at
2am on Sunday, March 13!
Spring Ahead 1 Hour!

Climate Justice Month returns this year from World Water Day (March 22) through Earth Day (April 22). During this month, UUs everywhere will take collective action for climate justice, led by Commit2Respond, the UU climate justice coalition. Congregations, faith groups, teams, and families are invited to take action together through worship services, educational programming, witness, and advocacy. [Learn more and sign up](#) today! If your congregation is planning an Earth Day service, [register](#) your service with UU Ministry for the Earth for a chance to win a gift certificate to [inSpirit: The UU Book and Gift Shop](#).



FROM: MqtUU Board of Trustees President, Dea Kowalczyk



Mission Statement, Covenant, The 7 principles; I wish to touch on a topic that I'm sure has been heavily debated, but first:

MqtUU 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 UU Covenant/The 7 Principles:

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

- ~The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- ~Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;
- ~Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- ~A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- ~The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- ~The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- ~Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

As Unitarian Universalists, how often do we think about the Living Covenant that we are a part of, and the 7 principles, when we are outside our meeting house? Do we live the 7 principles and covenant only when it is easy and when things line up with our personal beliefs and passions? Or do we try to live it when things are hard or when things don't line up with our beliefs and passions? Not everyone shares our passions, everyone has their own interest that they are moved and passionate about. Not everyone shares our personal beliefs. Our society in general, has made certain practices seem normal and ok, which becomes a challenge, when those practices go against the Covenant we have agreed to live by, and our seven principles. I struggle with not falling into these traps. I still make mistakes, but am aware. An example is speaking negatively about someone who has hurt you or someone you love. Is that honoring the worth and dignity of every person? Is that having compassion in human relations (bad mouthing someone to someone else, etc)? Is that acting in accordance with a goal of peace? No. I have been deeply hurt in my past by people in such a way that our social structure accepts as OK for me to wish ill of them. To wish them hurt and pain so that I could have "justice". But is that really justice? Or am I perpetuating more hurt in the world by allowing myself to let anger fester, to think that physical harm on that person is justified and right; to allow myself to still be and act as a victim. The person who harms is still a person and our 1st principle still applies: "The inherent worth and dignity of every person". What causes the harmer to act the way they did/do? People don't usually act or speak without reason. Have we tried putting ourselves in their shoes, to try to understand the other side? Obviously, this doesn't mean that we condone those offenses, or that disciplinary action shouldn't be taken. But how do we allow ourselves to act and react? I urge you to try an exercise of self-awareness: Next time something or someone makes you angry, hurt, appalled, etc.; Take a moment to reflect on how you handle these emotions and see how well you can apply the UU Covenant and the 7 principles in the situation. Does your action/reaction change or stay the same? Do you learn something deeper about yourself? I also urge you (if you haven't already) to watch the video: ["The Congregation as an emotional System Part 3 – Covenant"](#) available on youtube.

Coming up in March, don't forget to come to the SisterUP Card writing on the 6th, bring your questions and comments to the Board of Trustees meeting on the 13th, enjoy an evening of music by Elden Kelly on the 19th, and enjoy a luncheon following the Stewardship service on the 20th.

Dea

FROM: Stewardship Committee

You should have received your stewardship letter in February. The 2016-2017 pledge drive has officially started. Please open my letter to you. Taking the time to read the pledge drive material should provide you with some welcome relief from Donald Trump's ascendance to the Republican presidential nomination.

Last year we ended up with 41 pledges totaling \$52,700 thanks to the generosity and commitment of our members and friends. These funds were put toward the following initiatives:

- 1) building up the cash in our Vision Fund. This money is being saved to someday be able to hire a minister for our congregation;
- 2) continuing our Religious Exploration program for our youth;
- 3) supporting the Our Whole Lives (OWL) program which is currently being led by Gary Stark and Ursula Stock;
- 4) the chair yoga program by Dharmini Robertson;
- 5) the United By Light & CUUPS Gatherings
- 6) hosting Room at the Inn at our meeting house
- 7) Our social action committee accomplishments:
 - a) Sponsoring the Women's Center benefit on February 28th with music from Kerry Yost & Dylan Trost, and Michael Waite.
 - b) recently added a subcommittee for UUJME (UU's for Justice in the Middle East).
 - c) MqtUU SAC was instrumental in the passing of the Non-discrimination Ordinance in Marquette, the first of its kind in the U.P.

I want to recognize that we have 3 members who provide 36% of our present pledge income. We have 10 members who provide 71% of our pledge income. We are all very grateful for the support and commitment of these members. I am presenting these statistics because I want to recognize that our finances are dependent upon a small group of members. To be a stable congregation, financially, we need to broaden our base of support. We need more members. Any pledge of any amount that you can make is valuable and helps make our congregation not only more financially stable but also a more consistent force for social justice here in the UP.

So, I want to lay down a challenge to our membership and anyone who is considering membership. Please make a pledge. If you pledged less than \$1000 last year, then please consider increasing your pledge by 10% this year. The pledge increase would cost you less than \$8.30 per month and it would really help us make progress toward broadening our base of support.

Michael White
Stewardship Chairperson



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

Our RE Committee has expanded and we welcome new members, Barb Michael and Simone Chiodini. We are excited for their fresh energy and ideas. During our February meeting, we brainstormed ideas for upcoming RE lessons that focus on the 7 Principles so they gain a better understanding of what it means to be a UU.

February was a busy month with Valentine's Tea preparation, our "1st Annual Cookie Bowl" to prep for Valentine's Tea, a family event, and a spectacular Valentine's Tea service led by RE youth. We rounded out the month with Lindsey Griffith leading a session on sports, music and advocacy and Dharmini Roberts for leading a session on "Our 3rd Principle - or How to Encourage a Crab."

Thank you February volunteers, Tim VanderVeen, Jill Mielcarek, and Sarah Johnson.

In March, we are excited to have Tim VanderVeen, Simone Chiodini, Sarah Johnson, and Dharmini Roberts lead sessions that reflect our 7 Principles. RE ends on June 5th this year and there continues to be a need for volunteers. Please contact Sarah Johnson (458.3915) to set up a date. We will guide you through the process and even be at your side to ensure it is fun and easy. We also guarantee it will be rewarding for both the children of MqtUU and you! As you can see from Lindsey Griffith's session, we can tie any passion or expertise to the 7 Principles.



Our Current O.W.L. Program:

MqtUU is currently hosting the OUR WHOLE LIVES: LIFESPAN SEXUALITY EDUCATION program.

"Our Whole Lives helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behavior. With a holistic approach, Our Whole Lives provides accurate, developmentally appropriate information about a range of topics, including relationships, gender identity, sexual orientation, sexual health, and cultural influences on sexuality."
<http://www.uua.org/re/owl>



Many thanks to Gary Stark and Ursula Stock for leading the program that has 10 students participating! The last class is scheduled for May 1.

THANK YOU!

MqtUU Religious Exploration (cont'd)



We need your help!

If you are interested or know of someone who is interested in working with children on a part time basis, please read and share the following information...

HELP WANTED

Religious Exploration (RE) Coordinator

(UU Sunday School Teacher)

Part-time position up to 15 hrs/wk

A responsible, mature adult with good communication, organization and facilitation skills and experience working with children, youth, and parents needed. A minimum of a bachelor's degree is preferred, ideally with emphasis in education or childhood development. Duties include ensuring the smooth operation of RE classes on Sunday mornings, gathering materials, scheduling speakers, and other administrative skills to implement RE programs. Understanding of the Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism is a quality that could place the candidate above others.

For more information on click [UU Religious Exploration](#).

Please submit resume, cover letter and three references so it is received by April 1, 2016 to: Dharmini Robertson, 906-251-0032 or email: dharminirobotson@gmail.com

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FROM: UUA on Social Justice

“We have a legacy of “deeds not creeds.” Our work for a better world calls us to unexpected places as we harness love’s power to stop oppression. From grassroots community organizing to interfaith state, national, and corporate advocacy; in protest marches, prayer vigils, and press conferences; in homeless shelters and in prisons, Unitarian Universalists put our faith into action.

Our justice efforts are grounded in our congregationally-driven [social justice statements](#) and our call to break down divisions, heal isolation, and honor the interconnectedness of all life and all justice issues. We model these commitments by creating just, welcoming, and inclusive congregations. We act in partnership with groups and communities most impacted by injustice on [local](#), [state](#), [national](#), and [international](#) levels.” UUA.org

MqtUU Social Action Committee shares and acts on those goals and ideals and you are a vital part of being effective in making change! Please contact Barb Michael and/or attend the upcoming meeting on Sunday, March 6 @ 12:30pm.



March “SHARE THE PLATE” Recipient:

[MUUSJN](#) advocates for health care, prison, immigration, and environmental reform, economic justice and justice in the Middle East, and LGBT rights. The emphasis right now is on advocacy for paid sick leave and Flint clean water issues.

Meditation Workshop w/Dharmini
March 9 @ 6:30 @ the Meeting House



Intro to various meditation techniques and discussion. Meditation questions are welcome. Traditions in Buddhist, Yogic, Christian, and other forms of meditation can be addressed, based on interest. Handouts provided. Newbies and experienced meditators will find this time engaging and have time to practice meditation. We will discuss possible meeting times for a meditation group. All are welcome.



You are invited to enjoy an evening of Music @ MqtUU!

Elden Kelly In Concert
Saturday March, 19 @ 7pm

“With a voice likened to Jeff Buckley and technique that is the guitarist’s envy, Elden Kelly has captivated audiences across the country with his virtuosic songwriting. Influenced by such diverse genres as jazz, neoclassicism, American Roots, Hindustani and Turkish music, Kelly proves impossible to pigeonhole. From bluegrass to ballads to fretless guitar, Kelly keeps it in the pocket—and he does it alone.” Eldenkelly.com

FREE ~ Donations are Welcome!!!



**Join in sacred space to
celebrate
Spring and Ostara!**

**Sunday, March 20
@ 3pm**



Learn about the holiday and all are encouraged to participate in an egg hunt. Prizes are in each egg. Kids are welcome, but this is not a "children's egg hunt" - Prizes range from candy, to candles, crystals, and large prizes (books, statuary, carved candle oil lamps, etc). Children must be able to honor sacred space during circle casting and the sanctity of alter space. Please bring a dish to share (this is a potluck event), and a monetary event donation. Coffee and tea will be provided.



**March Full Moon
Gathering**

**Wednesday, March 23
@ 5:30pm**

Come learn how to make Pysanky Eggs! All materials provided, but we do ask for a monetary event donation to help toward cost of materials. Thank you.

Please bring a snack to share and a donation. Coffee and tea will be available.

March is Women’s History Month

The National Women’s History Month theme for 2016 honors women who have shaped America’s history and its future through their public service and government leadership.



**WOMEN'S
HISTORY
MONTH**
WHAT ABOUT HER STORY?



MqtUU March Calendar

Sunday Services are listed on the front page and all other events scheduled are at the MqtUU Meeting House

March 6 @ 12:30pm Sunday	Social Action Committee
March 6 @ 12:30pm Sunday	SisterUP Card Writing
March 9 @ 6:30pm Wednesday	Meditation Workshop w/Dharmini
March 13 @ 12:30pm Sunday	MqtUU Board of Trustees Meeting
March 19 @ 10am Saturday	Community Outreach and Support Meeting
March 19 @ 7pm Saturday	Elden Kelly Concert
March 20 @ 1pm Sunday	Gathering of Old Friends & New (Community Outreach and Support initiative)
March 20 @ 3pm Sunday	United By Light & CUUPS: Ostara Celebration
March 23 @ 5:30pm Wednesday	United By Light & CUUPS: March Full Moon Gathering
March 26 @ 9am Saturday	Congregational Work Day

FROM: Marquette Interfaith Forum

The next First Friday Open Forum of the MIF will be March 4 from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM at the Episcopal Conference Center at the St. James the Less church building ("Little Jimmie's") in Harvey. This is on the right side of US 41/M 28 coming from Marquette. It is the small white building set back from the highway across from Shaw's Phillips 66 service station shortly after the Family Dollar store sign. Feel free to invite friends and to bring lunch &/or a beverage if you wish.

Our topic will be **Hospice, Palliative Care** and the **Trillium Hospice House** that will be established in Marquette County for **end of life care** when hospice care at home is not feasible. Discussion of the medical, emotional and spiritual philosophies underlying this care will be facilitated by Dr. Larry Skendzel, Hospice & Palliative Care specialist and Medical Director of Lake Superior Hospice and Dr. Dan Mazzuchi, President of the Trillium House Board and Hospice Volunteer. (We plan to have a representative of UP Hospice with us as well.)

Please plan on joining us in examining and learning more about these issues. They are important to all of us as individuals, as family members, as members of faith communities and as concerned citizens.

We look forward to seeing you all there,
Aaron Scholnik

Wonderful opportunities to explore and deepen your faith, spirituality and knowledge of Unitarian Universalism and strengthen sense of UU Community...

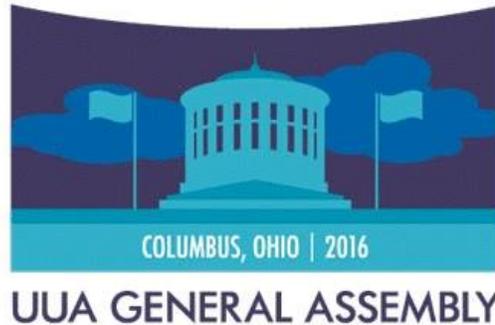


Regional Assembly 2016 **The WHO in the New Era** **of Unitarian Universalism**

St. Paul, MN
April 29 – May 1

Registration is open now!
Early bird registration until March 31

Feedback from participants told us that a logical next theme for our 2016 RA in St. Paul, Minnesota (April 29-May 1) would build on the New Era theme, looking at WHO we want to be as faith communities in the coming years. Who will we Unitarian Universalists need to be, to be relevant? How will we get there? Who will be joining us on this journey?



JUNE 22- 26, 2016

GA THEME: "HEART LAND: WHERE FAITHS CONNECT"

The faith world is increasingly multifaith. People are crossing borders of religion and spiritual practice to create wholeness in their lives. General Assembly 2016 will assemble leaders and communities of many faiths to worship together, learn from one another, and create a new vision of faith that no longer divides us, but connects us to an interdependent future for all.

Most events will be held in the **Greater Columbus Convention Center**, 400 N High St, Columbus.

- *New:* Preparing to join the GA 2016 Learning Community
We invite you to be part of the learning community now forming as we prepare to gather in Columbus! As you prepare for your trip to General Assembly in Columbus, we ask that you prepare your mind, heart, and spirit for what you will experience. Come prepared to engage some of the important commitments facing our Unitarian Universalist faith today! Get ready for to learn, to grow spiritually, and to increase your capacity to be a leader in your own faith community and in your local context! [Here are three ways to prepare.](#)

Let's Go!!