



Marquette
Unitarian
Universalist
Congregation

May 2017

CHRONICLE

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

Sundays in May	
7	11am Service: "A UU White Supremacy Teach-In" Service Leader: Barb Michael 12:30pm Forum: "Proposed Budget" Hosts: Board of Trustees
14	11am Service: *"Making Peace, We Go Marching On" Service Leader: Rev. Emmy Lou Belcher 12:15pm Board of Trustees Meeting
21	11am Service: "Parenthood" Kathryn Morski & Caitlin Kirchenwitz 12:15pm Congregational Meeting
28	11am Service: TBA

FROM: Dea Kowalczyk, MqtUU President



The new church year is just about upon us. There is a lot of good momentum going from the past year or two and I'm excited to see what continues to transpire. I have seen our group willing to risk "experi-fail" and although some things didn't work, other things have. I've seen the MqtUU congregation really start to take pride and ownership of its space and starting to think "outside the box". This is heartening and given the amount of our new comers, it's exciting. Our new people helps to show that progress has been made. I would love to see updates made to the Sanctuary, and it's my understanding that it is the same as when the building was purchased. Thought and conversation has been started on this and it will be interesting to see what our members come up with as the process progresses! I feel that many in our congregation have really thought about what the Mqt UU means to us, and to our community, and has started to take action to the health and longevity of the organization. Members have had a chance for a breather and a chance to rejuvenate, and I see a re-commitment to UUism and the Mqt UU. If you haven't yet thought about what UUism means to you and how you want the Mqt UU to be represented in the community, I strongly recommend taking some time to think on that, and to even come to a decision about how YOU can bring about positive change: Change for our UU faith, change for the Mqt UU Congregation, and change for our larger community.

Let us all be ambassadors of positive change for each other and the world.

Many Blessings,
Dea



Dea Kowalczyk will be "Holding Hearts"
Sunday, May 28



*Julia Ward Howe who during the American Civil War wrote the words for the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" also founded Mothers' Day. She hoped the latter would motivate women to work for peace and that a war such Americans had just lived through would thus never happen again. We who give birth to sons (and daughters) and don't want to see them destroyed in war still have so much work to do. How can we women and men keep marching on with this work and not burn out from all it demands of us?

FROM: Religious Exploration



Here's what the next month looks like in Religious Exploration classes!...

5/7/17- Buddhism: "Happy Buddha Day"/Anti-Racism Service emphasis

5/14/17- Islamic Faith and Practice: "Muhammad and the Qu'ran"

5/21/17- Islamic Faith and Practice: "The Five Pillars"

5/28/17-Islamic Faith and Practice: "Fast Rules of Ramadan"

The kids have been busy creating their space in the RE area, most recently, with their "Growing Together in Love and Light" wall. If you haven't seen it, come check it out—each flower pot represents a child within our congregational community, reveling their age by how many leaves are on their plant, and we'll also be keeping track of their growth. As well as creating an environment they feel connected to, we'll create a deeper sense of community by celebrating each child's day of birth with homemade cards they'll send out. The labyrinth has really engaged a lot of the kids on different levels, including acting as a meditative/calming space in some pretty fascinating ways. It was supposed to come down weeks ago, but they didn't want to see it go!

Important Date to remember

Alice's Earth Day Tourist Park Cleanup, Sunday May 21st at 2 pm

The RE committee and kids would like to invite you to help them in their annual efforts to clean up Tourist Park in honor of the beloved Alice. RE will provide refreshments, and garbage bags will be provided. Just bring yourselves and some gloves! At this event, the kids will also be releasing (100% biodegradable) dove balloons in a letting go of grief ceremony honoring Tysen Benz.

~Thank you for all that you do for our kids~ Jamie



First Sunday Forum

Discussion of the Proposed Budget, Sunday, May 7 @ 12:15pm

Hosted by the MqtUU Board of Trustees

The proposed budget will be included in the Thursday, May 4 *This 'n' That*. Please review the proposal and bring your thoughts, comments and questions to the Forum and help finalize the proposal to be voted on at the Congregational Meeting! THANK YOU!



Mark your calendar:

Please plan to attend the Congregational Meeting following the service on Sunday, May 21!

Lunch will be available.

The full agenda will be available by May 7!

Bring your thoughts, comments, questions and suggestions and be prepared to vote for new Board members, and the FY 17-18 Budget.

THANK YOU!

FROM: Faith in Action

On Sunday, May 7, we will join a large group of Unitarian Universalists who have chosen to shift our regularly scheduled Sunday morning service to participate in a "teach-in on racism and white supremacy." Our UU community will be participating with thousands of UUs around the country in this large-scale historic action. This call to action and worship comes from a growing network of UUs - religious professionals and lay leaders from both within and outside congregations - led by UUs of color and white UUs working together. Over the past couple of months, many have been responding to calls by UUs of color to look critically *within* our faith communities - including hiring practices, power brokers, and cultural habits - for the ways racism, sexism, and white supremacy live.

“White supremacy” is a provocative phrase, as it conjures up images of hoods and mobs. Yet in 2017, actual “white supremacists” are not required in order to uphold our white supremacist culture. Building a faith full of people who understand that key distinction is essential, as we work toward a more just society in difficult political times.

We will identify ways in which systems of supremacy and inequality live within our faith and our lives and decide how our congregation will choose to resist it.

So why did we change our already-planned Sunday service when we know that such shifts require work and can challenge our comfort levels? Well, that’s precisely why it was important to do. We believe that hundreds of UU churches signaling to their own members and to the larger community that “our faith takes racism seriously, especially within our own walls” will push our faith toward the beloved community we all seek.

Whether any UU community has dozens of members and children of color, or whether just about everyone is white, the commitment to combat white supremacy must be strong and urgent. Battling racism in its many forms is not easy. Everyone has to start somewhere, and it takes a commitment to disrupt business as usual. All members and friends are urged to be present May 7th! Guests are welcome. Look for any updates in the May 4th This 'n' That.

May “Share the Plate” Recipient:



Our Mission:

The Women's Center supports victims/survivors of domestic and sexual violence in Marquette and Alger Counties through programs that Protect, Educate, Advocate, Counsel and Empower! (PEACE).

Our Philosophy

The Women's Center believes that every individual is entitled to dignity and respect, and that women and men should be treated equally under the law and by society in general. No individual should be discriminated against or limited by society based on age, sex, career choice, sexual orientation, or other circumstances of legitimate life choices. The Women's Center provides services in a non-judgmental and supportive manner to individuals as they make decisions for their lives. The Women's Center advocates for change in the larger society to eliminate bias and to enhance the ability of all individuals to be fully functioning members of society.

wcmqt.weebly.com



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? For more information on how to create and/or lead a service, please contact Heidi via email: mqtuuadassist@gmail.com Thank you!

FROM: Stewardship

We have gotten 33 pledges for a total of \$42,590 for our pledge drive thus far. Just to put this pledge drive in perspective let's look at the data:

Year	Pledges	Revenue
2013-2014	42	\$65,766
2014-2015	41	\$56,352
2015-2016	42	\$52,700
2016-2017	37	\$49,585
2017-2018	33	\$42,590



The trends are clear. Our membership is decreasing and along with that our revenues. We are not in a crisis. We are a lean organization with some financial reserves, but if the current trend continues our situation may get difficult in the future.

If you have not made pledge yet, please do so today. No pledge is too small. Just \$10 per month would pay your UUA and MidAmerica district dues as well as contribute \$40 to what we do here in Marquette. We want to be an organization worthy of your support. In the last year, we have accomplished a lot for a small congregation.

1. Our Religious Exploration program lead by Jamie Kuehl;
2. The biannual *Our Whole Lives* program;
3. Our annual hosting of the Room at the Inn program for the homeless;
4. The work of our Faith in Action Committee whether it be for Justice in the Middle East for Palestinians, supporting the Reverend Edward Pinkney during his incarceration, or coordinating our monthly Share the Plate donation program;
5. The UU Women's Group Winter to Spring Retreat;
6. The support we give to our local LGBTQ folks with our participation in Pride Fest;
7. The support we gave for the Standing Rock Dakota Access Pipeline protestors;
8. The presence we had at the Women's March in Washington, D.C;

We cannot build community, engage the social problems of our time, and encourage your spiritual development without your support.

Mike White
Stewardship Chairperson



Kerry Yost and Dylan Trost
will offer music on Mother's Day
Sunday, May 14!



MqtUU May Calendar

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

May 7 @ 12:15pm Sunday	First Sunday Forum: Discussion of the Proposed Budget Hosts: Board of Trustees
May 14 @ 12:15pm Sunday	MqtUU Board of Trustees Meeting
May 21 @ 12:15pm Sunday	MqtUU Congregational 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.



COURAGE AND COMPASSION FOR LIFE AS IT IS

We must develop and maintain the capacity to forgive. [If we are] devoid of the power to forgive [we are] devoid of the power to love. There is some good in the worst of us and some evil in the best of us. When we discover this, we are less prone to hate our enemies. -We must develop and maintain the capacity to forgive. [If we are] devoid of the power to forgive [we are] devoid of the power to love. There is some good in the worst of us and some evil in the best of us. When we discover this, we are less prone to hate our enemies.

—Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Prayer

Dear Spirit of Love, help us understand that to be human is to be always learning, always growing, always incomplete. Let this knowing enlarge our compassion for ourselves and for others. Help us grow in our capacity to forgive and to accept forgiveness when we make mistakes and in this way, become more capable of loving ourselves and each other. Amen.

www.uua.org/worship/braverwiser/good-intentions-and-incomplete-efforts



On **May 1**, International Workers' Day, people across the country will participate in peaceful and lawful marches, rallies, and town halls that resist Trump's mass deportation force and oppose the current administration's scapegoating of immigrant and refugee communities. Join us for a National Day of Action to demonstrate the power, resilience and strength of immigrant, refugee, and communities of color in America.

RISE UP! For immigrant justice, refugees, racial justice, Muslims and for all working families.



The final First Friday Forum until September will be in the Shiras Rm. of the PWPL from 11:30-1:00 as usual. Our topic will be: "Mystery and the Miraculous".

During our discussion last time, some stories of unlikely events were shared in the context of "God answering prayers." There are many different ways to understand events like these; structure in the universe, God's will, our will, coincidence we choose to sanctify, or something else. How do our traditions help us address or engage with events such as these? I hope to see you there, Aaron



Citizens' Climate Lobby Marquette Area Volunteer Training

by Citizens' Climate Lobby, Michigan

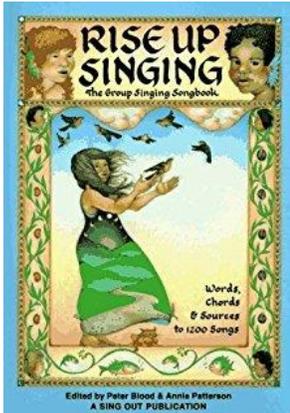
Saturday, May 6 @ 2:30 PM – 5:00 PM
Marquette Arts & Culture Center, 217 North Front Street

The Marquette Area Chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) is looking for volunteers! Join us for a workshop where you will learn to speak powerfully to your elected officials, the media, and your community in order to inspire members of Congress to be leaders for a sustainable climate. Learn how CCL volunteers meet with their members of Congress, launch letter writing campaigns, cultivate community leader support, write letters to the editor, and generate editorials advocating for Carbon Fee and Dividend. Find out how Carbon Fee and Dividend works and why it would be an effective, bi-partisan solution for significantly reducing carbon pollution.

Community Sing and Support

Saturday, May 13th @ 2:00 - 4:00 PM

Messiah Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, 305 W Magnetic St, Marquette



Please bring a non-perishable food item for the church's food donation pantry. Corinne Rockow and other local musicians will lead us in the healing power of song. We will use the Rise Up Singing songbook and learn the tunes and words to powerful songs we can sing at the next rally or march. Current and retired counselors and social workers will be on hand to help people cope with their strong reactions to the political climate. Self-care and mindfulness tips will be shared.

We will sing first and break into support groups at the end.

“A singing movement is a winning movement,”

Pete Seeger

Call Judy or Craig Kitchen for information, 225-1769

jkitchenmqt@gmail.com

Sunday, May 14

Happy Mothers Day

to ALL the MOTHERS out there whether you are a Past, Present or Soon To be Moms. May your day be filled with love, joy and laughter..



Saturdays @ the Marquette Commons

112 South Third Street

OPENS MAY 20!!

To support local farmers, growers, and artisans; to make available wholesome, quality food and goods, and to provide a festive marketplace that benefits the Marquette Community.



Monday, May 29



FROM: THE UU BULLETIN

Love Resists

The Unitarian Universalist Association and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee are excited to launch [Love Resists](#), a joint campaign to protect both the values of our democracy and the humanity and rights of individuals and communities most at risk. Since the election of President Trump, more than 860 clergy members, 40% of UU congregations, and nearly 15,000 individuals have endorsed a [Declaration of Conscience](#), pledging to stand on the side of love to protect the most vulnerable, defend core values under attack, and commit themselves to speak out and to act in support of basic human rights. Love Resists is the next phase in translating this declaration of values into action. Get involved by signing the Declaration of Conscience, exploring our resources, and taking action to support sanctuary and solidarity in your community. Visit www.loveresists.org to learn more, and share your stories of justice and solidarity with us using #LoveResists.



A Call to Faith in Turbulent Times



Since the November election, have you encountered difficult conversations within your Unitarian Universalist community? Do you carry extra tension around current events? In today's political environment, the actions of our leaders and the tone of public discourse have led many UUs to reexamine long-held values and long-standing relationships. Many seek solid ground in our faith communities, wishing to reconnect in covenant. To this end, the UUA is offering a new small group ministry resource, [A Call to Faith in Turbulent Times](#). The four one-hour sessions, available online and at no cost, are written by the Rev. Marta Valentín. They include opening and closing words and audio/visual clips chosen to inspire and support participants as they respond to current events. While use of a computer with Internet is recommended, transcripts of all audio/visual materials are provided. [Access the sessions](#) on our website.

