



Marquette
Unitarian
Universalist
Congregation

November 2016

CHRONICLE

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

Sundays in November	
6	9:45 Forum: "Buddhism Video, Part II" Host: Tom Sullivan 11am Service: "What do we mean when we talk about Spirituality?" Service Leader: gg gordon
13	9:45 Forum: "Black Lives Matter III." Host: Barb Michael 11am Service: "Come Together: Why We Need Each Other in Dark Times." Service Leader: Rev. Chris Rothbaur, KUUF
20	NO FORUM 11am Service: Thanksgiving Bread Service
27	NO FORUM 11am Service: "Epicurus, yoga and the holidays as UU" Service Leader: Dharmini Robertson



the current work needed here at the Marquette Unitarian Universalist Congregation.

We are now in what is referred to in some Pagan traditions, as the dark half of the year. During the dark half of the year we find ourselves drawing within, seeking the comfort of warm soups and stews, hot beverages, good company by a fall campfire or warm, inviting kitchen; the companionship and strengthening of hearth and home. As we've seen this year, this also follows

Thanks to the many hands that have come together in various ways, our building is looking wonderful! In this next year, I can't wait to see how our love will continue to manifest in our building's updates. I feel our group has really taken some pride in our location, and it is showing with the building and grounds.

For our internal workings: To the Board of Trustees observations, it would appear that our group comes together for Sunday morning companionship, and our larger fundraiser events. Currently, that is what we gather for, so we can take guidance from that. Again, taking direction from things learned at this year's UUA General Assembly.

Please look in this chronicle for reminders about leading Sunday Services, proposed Congregational Covenant, and proposed Mission Statement. We encourage deep thought, and look forward to discussion with you on these changes. I encourage each of you to practice honest, compassionate communication that allows for us to show up and live wholeheartedly. That we trust each other to treat us with empathy, and to come from a place of curiosity, which encourages an opportunity to truly connect deeply with each other, no matter what our differences are.

Many Blessings, Dea

Room at the Inn-We need YOU!

MqtUU is hosting Room at the Inn (RATI) from November 13th-20th. We need to fill approximately 90 volunteer slots and there is truly a job for everyone. Options include: preparing and serving a meal (breakfast OR dinner), washing linens, taking a shift (must have attended formal training-see below), helping with set up after the service on 11/13 or clean up following departure on 11/20, and donating items (see Sarah Johnson for needed items). Please contact Sarah Johnson at 458.3915 or Michelle Halley at 361.0520 to let us know how you will support this endeavor. Thank you!

VOLUNTEER TRAINING SESSION: November 3, 2016

Room at the Inn's new volunteer training takes place at the Warming Center, 447 W. Washington Street, Marquette, at 6:30pm. Training lasts approximately 1 1/2 hours.



The fall is on its way, and many changes are coming to us as a congregation and to our little slice of the beautiful Upper Peninsula. As things begin to change, of course the Board of Trustees begins a new season and practice of looking to what the community needs, and how we can be of service. Dea Kowalczyk and I heard that many people would like for there to be pastoral care for our community. While that really needs to be a part of what we bring a new minister in to offer to us, Dea and I got to thinking. While we cannot offer a substitute for true pastoral care, wouldn't it be great if we could somehow offer something to support the community in a spiritual way. We have training in these things, after all...

I, personally, hear in that desire to have a minister, with pastoral care a desire connect to each other - and to this faith - in a way that may traditionally be referred to as spiritual.

Dea and I, in discussion, realized that the two of us have been trained in particular ways of caring for the spiritual life of others. Perhaps there was a way to serve this community in some more deepening capacity! While we cannot take on the duties of pastoral care, we do want to offer something in the way of connection, and personal care for those who are experiencing difficulties in their lives. When something in our lives hurts, creates struggle, sometimes we just need to feel that another person, especially in our community of spiritual practice, cares, and feels something for us. We want to be witnessed, and to feel even more in the fold, not less.

Another way to connect to each other is not only possible, but a beautiful opportunity for us to experience holding other members of our community, shall we say - prayerfully? To me, to hold another person prayerfully means that I feel for them, and that I remain strongly connected to my sense of the great connection of all things, the web of life, and that all beings are truly members and held in this equally, and in my opinion, in love. We are not ever separated from that web. But sometimes, we may need the support of others to feel assurance that this is true, and to feel remembered in the community of life.

There are many things the everyday people of a UU community can hold space for each other in a time of need. We, thankfully, have our beautiful practice of placing stones in the bowl during services. It so beautiful! We can also do other caring things to hold each other in our hearts.

For this reason, Dea and I have chosen to offer "Holding Hearts" to this community. It will work like this:

If you feel you have a difficult life situation or would just like to experience someone else holding space for you, we can be with you either with 1. prayer, 2. meditation, or 3. a short UU ritual. There will be days after the service when you can meet with either me or Dea, and we will Hold Hearts with you. We plan to announce them in the "This 'n' That" and the *Chronicle* prior to the days, so you will know when you can come hold hearts with us.

Holding Hearts is not meant to be a counseling session, nor a discussion time (of course we would be happy to have those discussions with you) but will be similar to what I have seen in other churches called a "prayer team." However, we will be oh so Unitarian Universalist!

After some of the Sunday services, we will sometimes be wearing signs that say we are "Holding Hearts." When you see us wearing these tags, you can approach us to hold hearts with you during that time. We will ask a few questions, and then hold hearts with you to help you to feel connected to this community and this UU path as we open our hearts to hold your space during this important time.

Our hope is that it will help members in the community (and us!) to feel more supported in finding ways to practice our Unitarian Universalist faith together, and in ways that feel connecting, shared, and personally supportive.

We hope that a minister will eventually come to offer us true pastoral care, which includes home visits, counseling, and other services. However, at this time, perhaps we can begin to practice more soulfully together, honoring the myriad ways we all connect to this path. Dea and I hope that we can begin to deepen the ways we hold hearts together and strengthen this community.

Have questions? Call Dea Kowalczyk at #[906.439.5170](tel:906.439.5170) or Dharmini Robertson at #[906.251.0032](tel:906.251.0032) or see one of us after a Sunday service.

-Dharmini

**Dea Kowalczyk will be “Holding Hearts: Sunday, November 6.
Dharmini Robertson will be “Holding Hearts” Sunday, November 27.**

Dear MqtUU Sunday Service Leaders:

When creating a service you are planning to lead please remember these important considerations:

- 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?
- 6) Please include references to the source for any information not original to you.

Thank you!

MqtUU Community Thanksgiving Potluck **Thursday, November 24 @ 3pm**

Heidi is cookin' the turkey and you are welcome
to bring your favorite holiday side dish or dessert to share!
Come, bring family, friends, neighbors and anyone in need of good food,
great company and warm memories!
Please email Heidi with what dish or dessert you will bring.

Let us give thanks together!



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

RE News! On November 5th, the RE kids and families (and anyone else who would like to join us!) are all invited to HOTPlate Pottery and Art Studio in Marquette to make special hand-made bowls for use at our annual soup dinner or U.U.-like chalices that can be purchased from Hotplates. This year, the Soup Dinner will be held on Dec. 3rd, and will again be a fundraiser for J.J. Packs, which is locally-originated program that packs nutritious breakfast and lunch foods for kids in need, to last them through the weekends.



The first two Sundays of November in RE, we'll celebrate Native American Heritage Month by learning more about Native American Spiritual beliefs and practices. The kids will be providing one meal for our Room at the Inn

guests the 3rd Thursday in November. And then, on November 20th, they will be helping out with the Thanksgiving bread service.

The RE Committee meets next on November 10th at 5:30 p.m. in the children's area of the Peter White Public Library.



FROM: Faith in Action

The final 9:45 am Sunday Forum from the 3-part series focusing on the **Vision for Black Lives Platform**, compiled and recognized by over 50 black organizations and being studied by many others, including us, is Sun., Nov. 13th. Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) encourages those of us who predominantly walk through this life with white privilege ~ as a group, as well as individuals ~ to organize as "white people for racial justice." We all have different experiences. For those of us who are not persons of color,

let's be part of changing the narrative of white supremacy by breaking white silence. Let us come together to focus and learn about the last two portions of the platform.

Nov. 13 Forum: Vision for Black Lives Platform III "More Community Control and Political Power"
Mqt UU Faith in Action encourages high school and adult attendance as we affirm and address a critical facet of the dignity and worth of every human being; compassion and equity in human relations; and peace, liberty, and justice for all (from our UU Principles).

The Faith in Action Committee Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 20 @ 12:30pm.



The **MqtUU Board of Trustees** submits the following **Covenant of Right Relations** for consideration and vote at the January 2017 Congregational Meeting:

A Covenant of Right Relations
Among Members of the Marquette Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Building Community is an ongoing spiritual practice. Inviting a spirit of love into our interactions, we each work to develop skills and promote practices that strengthen our relationships. We enter this Covenant of Right Relations with open hearts and open minds, accepting one another in all of our complexity and diversity.

1. We trust one another's intentions and recognize that our behaviors have an impact, regardless of our intentions.
2. We cultivate attentive listening, understanding, a culture of gratitude and compassionate honesty using care-filled words.
3. We communicate directly with one another, especially when we are in conflict, and when necessary, consider conflict resolution with MqtUU's Mediation Council.
4. When we are hurt or hurt others, we seek reconnection and/or forgiveness.
5. We are responsible for ourselves and are accountable to one another for creating opportunities to encourage, challenge and connect.

Through these choices and actions, we realize the interconnected network of mutuality and responsibility to each other and our beloved community.

Submitted to the MqtUU Congregation
November 2016



Our Current 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.

Please Note: The Nov. 13 Forum: Vision for Black Lives Platform III "More Community Control and Political Power" will be the **LAST FORUM** scheduled for the 9:45am time. You are welcome to add to the discussion of when might be the best time to offer forums that will be most engaging to the congregation. Please forward your thoughts by email, or Facebook discussion or during coffee hour or at the Board Meeting on Sunday, November 13! **Thank you!**

MqtUU November Calendar

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

November 10 @ 5:30pm Thursday	Religious Exploration Committee Meeting @ Peter White Public Library
November 13 @ 12:30pm Sunday	MqtUU Board of Trustees Meeting
November 13 – 20 Sunday - Sunday	Room at the Inn
November 20 @ 12:30pm Sunday	Faith in Action Committee Meeting
November 24 @ 3:00pm Thursday	MqtUU Community Potluck Thanksgiving Dinner



Transgender Day of Remembrance #TDOR - November 20

Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) is an annual observance on November 20 that honors the memory of those whose lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence.

<http://www.glaad.org/tdor>



Chalica is coming... a week-long celebration of our [Unitarian Universalist Principles](#). The holiday [first emerged in 2005](#) out of a wish to have a holiday organized around Unitarian Universalist values.

Chalica begins on the first Monday in December and lasts seven days. Each day, [a chalica](#) is lit and the day is spent reflecting on the meaning of that day's principle and doing a good deed that honors that principle.

You are invited to celebrate with us! Members will be volunteering to open their home for one evening during the week from 6 – 7pm to share in the celebration with food, fun, fellowship and focus on the principle of the day. A booklet with suggestions for music and stories is in the making! For more information please contact Dharmini Robertson 251-0032 or dharminirobertson@gmail.com.

Check it out:

<http://chalica.blogspot.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/UU.Chalica>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/ChalicaVids>

