



Marquette
Unitarian
Universalist
Congregation

September 2016

CHRONICLE

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



COMING UP...

September 4

9:45 am Forum:

“Waking Up: The Buddha and His Teachings” (video).

Host: Tom Sullivan

11am Service: “Labor Day”

Speaker: Gary Stark. Service

Leader: Chris Wagner

September 11

9:45 am Forum: “Where Were

You on 9/11/01?” Host: Kathy Klos

11am Service: Water Communion and Ingathering

Service Leader: Teri Rockwood

September 18

9:45 am Forum:

NO FORUM

11am Service:

“Unitarian Universalists and Sharp’s War.”

Service Leader: gg gordon

1 – 4pm:

**Beloved Community
Weekend Retreat
Wrap-Up**

September 25

9:45 am Forum: “Township Zoning and MqtUU with Dale Throenle of Chocoley Township.”

Host: Heidi Gould

11am Service:

“Jefferson, Liberty, and Justice.”

Speaker: Roger Greeley. Service Leader: Tim VanderVeen

Intergenerational Water Communion and Ingathering Service September 11, 2016

Like water flowing to the sea, we have returned from the lakes, rivers and quiet places where we spent some of our days this past summer and once again return to our beloved community at the Marquette Unitarian Universalist Congregation. September is often the month when the members and friends that have been absent most of the summer settle back in to a more regular attendance with our beloved community.

As we come together for our Water Communion Service, members and guests are invited to bring water from their summer adventures, be they from travels far or near (even from your home water supply). We will be sharing our stories with each other as we participate in our uniquely Unitarian Universalist ritual of water communion. You will pour your water into a common vessel and let the story of it mingle with others and become part of our beloved community.

So please be prepared to offer a sentence or two, not only where the water is from but perhaps more importantly, what meaning it holds for you.

This is an Intergenerational Service. Child care will also be available for those children that need it.

Service Leader: Teri Rockwood



MqtUU Open House Wednesday, September 21 @ 5pm

The attendance of all members is requested!

Bring the whole family, a dish to share and share information with our neighbors about UUism and our Faith Community! Committee Chairs & Members are asked to present info on their mission, accomplishments & goals. We will be celebrating 10 years in our building, presenting our new sign, and enjoying food, fun and fellowship! Volunteers for grilling & greeting will be needed. Please contact Heidi mqtuudassist@gmail.com.

A NOTE FROM MqtUU PRESIDENT:



Autumn is almost upon us. It is a season of change; A time of transition from the hot, abundance of summer, to the cold, introspective nature of winter. As our MqtUU is working through its transition, there will be (and is) plenty of opportunities for you to have your voice heard, to have input on the difficult decisions that need to be made, and to assist in the changes and modifications to come. Come to the Board of Trustees monthly meetings, participate in the BOT forums, read and look for information shared in the Chronicle, the weekly This 'n' That, and our Facebook page and web site. Never hesitate to call or email me with input, concerns, or encouragement. I only ask that you check your spam folder for my response!

Keep in mind that these options for communication are available and once a decision has been made, the discussion phase has been completed. Please honor this. gg wrote in a recent email:

“. . . people have expressed to me over and over that they get discouraged when they are assigned a task for the church, they do the task, and then are told they didn't do it right, or should have gotten other peoples' input, or when complaints or quibbles have been relayed to them after the fact. Several people have told me that they no longer volunteer to do certain kinds of tasks because all they ever get in return is criticism for how it was handled. These people don't want praise or even thanks, but when they volunteer and then give time and talent to a requested task and then are criticized, they don't volunteer again. "

If you haven't listened to the Sunday morning sermon from GA this year, I highly recommend that you do. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2v-AR9-3JKY> Rev. Nancy McDonald starts her message of the morning at 1:12, so feel free to skip ahead that hour and twelve minutes. Rev. McDonald touched on many things that hits close to home. One is not to start, or participate in, the “fake-fighting”. One example she gives is “what color we should paint the church bathroom”. Her message is that there is real work to be done and no one should be wasting valuable time and energy arguing over the smaller things, that there are real fights out there in the world that need us.

Change is difficult. This will be our “sand-paper of relationship” (Rev. Nancy McDonald) as we embrace change, and starting doing the hard work. If it was easy, it would have already been done.

“Nothing in the world is worth having or worth doing unless it means effort, pain, difficulty... I have never in my life envied a human being who led an easy life. I have envied a great many people who led difficult lives and led them well.” - Theodore Roosevelt



Full Moon Gathering

Thursday September 15th @ 6:00 p.m. at the Meeting House.

Join [United by Light](#) as we gather for the full moon, for an evening of meditation through coloring. All materials provided (coloring pages, markers, crayons, colored pencils), but you may bring your own if you wish. Please bring a snack to share, and a monetary love donation.

Sunday, September 25th @ 3:00 p.m. at the Meeting House.

Come enjoy our **Merry Mabon Celebration** - the second of the three harvest holidays! While in sacred space we will be learning briefly about this holiday and crafting a found object Mabon mobile or/and a pinecone fairy for display in your home or alter space. All materials provided. Please bring an outdoor chair for this fireside event, a dish to share for our harvest holiday potluck, and a monetary love donation.



A LETTER FROM OUR VP:

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, 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 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 to 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 is a way to serve this community in a 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 do to 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.

BELOVED COMMUNITY WEEKEND RETREAT

Gregory Rouillard, Facilitator

September 16 – 18

MqtUU members and friends are invited to explore the two main questions that are “alive” in the congregation:

1. Who are we as a congregation, and how do we inspire others in our larger community to join us?
2. How do we create a safe space for people to show up with vulnerability and to be seen and heard deeply?

In support of this exploration, we will learn and practice skills and processes for self-connection, interpersonal relationship and conflict transformation in an environment of safety, trust and respect. Time permitting, we will begin the process of establishing effective, sustainable and life-enriching structures and systems to support the ongoing cultivation of covenantal relationship and Beloved Community.

Friday, September 16 (6 – 8 PM)

- Social gathering, such as a potluck dinner, for anyone who would like to attend.
- Games and activities for fun and connection.

Saturday, September 17 (9 AM – 4 PM)

- Connection activities to cultivate an environment of safety, trust and respect.
- Embodied Learning activities to build shared understanding and skill in self-connection, interpersonal communication and conflict transformation.
- Opportunity for each participant to share with vulnerability and be seen and heard deeply.

Sunday, September 18 (1 – 4 PM)

- Continued opportunity to share with vulnerability and be seen and heard deeply.
- Begin to develop effective, sustainable and life-enriching structures and systems to support the ongoing cultivation of covenantal relationship and Beloved Community.



[Gregory Rouillard](#), M.Div., envisions a world where people live, work, and play in nurturing communities, moving together in connection toward achieving effective outcomes. He believes that the philosophy and practice of Compassionate Communication provides Unitarian Universalists with concrete tools to bring the seven principles to life. He is a Master of Divinity graduate of Naropa University and Director-at-Large of [The UU Society for Community Ministries](#). Gregory lives with his family in a cohousing community near Boulder, Colorado and is a Certified Trainer with the [Center for Nonviolent Communication](#).

The Seven Principles Project is a Unitarian Universalist ministry devoted to cultivating covenanted relationship within and among communities of faith by offering ministry, coaching, trainings, and the experience of beloved community grounded in the seven principles of Unitarian Universalism. We believe that Compassionate Communication is a spiritual practice for living these principles every day.



FROM: Religious Exploration Committee

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

Kudos to everyone who helped with childcare this summer! Ketlove and Michelle are on board for this Sunday. The following Sunday, Sept. 11 is our traditional Intergenerational Water & Ingathering Service led by Teri Rockwood.

The new **Religious Exploration** year for pre-schoolers through youth will officially begin on **Sun., Sept. 18th**. The theme for the upcoming year is "**Exploring and Celebrating Diversity and Religions Around the World.**" If you would like to help build bridges in RE this year, please contact a member of the RE Committee:

Sarah Johnson iamsarahjeanjohnson@gmail.com

Kathy Klos kathrynklos@gmail.com

Barb Michael michael.barbara.102@gmail.com

Jill Mielcarek jillmielcarek65@gmail.com

Teri Rockwood teri.rockwood@gmail.com

"Family Events" for this year include:

September 17 - Michigan Tech's Parade of Nations "Passport to the World" (departure at 8:00am). Please RSVP to Sarah Johnson to coordinate rides.

September 17 - Craft Night/Pizza Party/Service Project September is Alzheimer's Awareness Month, and we will make purple friendship bracelets which RE will sell to raise money for the Alzheimer's Association. This event will begin following our return from International Fest around 4:30pm (following the Sat. congregational retreat for members at the Meeting House).

October - a trip to Haye's Corn Maze

November - a Bowl-Making Party

December 3rd - the 12th Annual Soup Dinner

The next **RE Committee meeting** will be held Thursday, September 1 at 5:30 pm at PWPL to wrap up some details for the upcoming Open House on Wed., Sept. 21 and prepare for the beginning of the school year for our wonderful children - returning and new!



FROM: Faith in Action Committee

Next meeting at the Meeting House Sunday, September 25 @ 12:30pm



September "Share the Plate" Recipient:

Save the Wild U.P. a grassroots environmental organization dedicated to the preservation of the Upper Peninsula's unique cultural and natural resources.

savethewildup.org/

This fall, the UU Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) is embarking on its own small group ministry journey! **CLF Covenant Groups** are now open for registration, and you'll be able to [register](#) until September 10 for the fall groups. These groups (which are free for CLF members and available to nonmembers for a small administrative fee) will meet twice a month with a trained lay leader as facilitator, and each session will center around the CLF's monthly theme. The sessions will include readings, meditation and reflection/personal sharing time, and will be centered around the sharing of your lives and spiritual journeys.

CONNECT. DEEPEN. ACT. Themed Covenant Groups



REGISTRATION OPEN
MORE INFORMATION:
clfuu.org/covenant-groups

If this sounds like something you would be interested in, you can read more and register at clfuu.org/covenant-groups. Registration for a group indicates your commitment to regular meetings with your group over a specified length of time (twice monthly for approximately 4 months). As the registration deadline for fall sessions approaches (Sept. 10), we'll be coordinating with you in signing up for a specific group that meets your scheduling needs. Once they begin, each group will be closed (no new members) until the next registration period.

In the words of Quaker author and spiritual leader, Parker Palmer, these groups are constructed for **deep sharing and reflective listening**, with "no fixing, no saving, no advising, no setting each other straight." Rather, their purpose is to create small communities

of people seeking deeper connection, meaning and purpose in their lives. I hope you'll share this journey with me! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email me, Sarah Prickett, at sprickett@clfuu.org.



Marquette Interfaith Forum

Welcome to another "academic year" of our First Friday meetings. Due to the Labor Day weekend, we will meet on Friday, September 9 from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM at the St. James the Less Conference Center in Harvey. As we discussed at our last meeting this Spring, our MIF Friday Forum coincides with the Marquette presence of the Rev. John Spong, a well know progressive (and often controversial) Episcopal theologian, philosopher and Bishop.

His two talks are on the same schedule as two years ago, and both are open to the public. Both are on Saturday, September 10.

- 1) 1:00 PM at NMU's Reynolds Recital Hall
- 2) 7:00 PM at St. Paul's

For any who cannot attend in Marquette, there will be a third talk on Sunday, Sept. 11, 2:00 pm at MTU's Memorial Union Bldg.

Kevin Forrester and Bob Railey have helped select some excerpts from Rev. Spong's writings to help inform a discussion of Spong's sometimes revolutionary ideas on God, prayer, ethics etc. that resonate within almost all faiths and not just Christians. Kevin and Bob will facilitate our discussion. I am unable to be present as I will be on a river cruise in Europe (my first). The excerpts from Rev. Spong's writings are attached.

We should also try to decide on a topic for our October 7 meeting (and beyond, if time permits).

Aaron Scholnik



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Lakenenland Service
with Tim VanderVeen



Sunday
August 28, 2016



2016 UP Pride

FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER 10TH 12PM-10PM
For all ages

11 AM PRIDE RALLY AT THE MARQUETTE COMMONS
Followed by a march to Pride Fest

VENDORS

Dragons Aerie, Behennaed, Close Jewelry Designs, Glass Rainbows,
Kolor 2 Dye 4, LGBTeesN'More, LuLaRoe, and many more

MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT

PAAC Theatre, Diversions, Drag Competition + Main Drag Show

U.P. Rainbow Pride

sponsored by

BAREFOOT

