



Marquette
Unitarian
Universalist
Congregation

September 2017

CHRONICLE

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

Sundays in August	
3	11am Service: "The Four Directions" Service Leaders: Paula Kiesling and Dea Kowalczyk Music: Anna Morrison
10	11am Service: "Crossing the Water – A Homecoming Service for the New Church Year" Presenters: February Sky (Susan Urban & Phil Cooper)
17	11am Service: Guest Speaker: Rev. Edward Pinkney Service Leader: Sarah Redmond
24	11am Service: "Atonement & Forgiveness" Service Leader: gg gordon New Member Ceremony

SEPTEMBER...



Labor Day, Monday September 4

The Mackinac Bridge Walk is an **annual** event held every Labor Day since 1958 in Michigan in which people may walk the length of the Mackinac Bridge. Walkers are traditionally led across by the governor of Michigan, currently Rick Snyder. In an average year, 40,000 to 65,000 people participate in the five-mile walk.

This year the bridge will be CLOSED to vehicles.

Tuesday, September 5



Friday, September 22 Autumn Equinox



Sunday, September 10

11am Service: "Crossing the Water – A Homecoming Service for the New Church Year" Presenters: February Sky (Susan Urban & Phil Cooper)

As we come together to begin the new church year, we will celebrate the unique rewards and challenges of being a lay led Unitarian Universalist community. We will energize and renew our vision of that community through the traditional UU Water Communion. Please bring to the service a small amount of water from your Summer travels or from a place that is special to you ("symbolic" water from your own kitchen sink will do as well). February Sky website: www.februarysky.com



FROM: MqtUU President Anne Stark

Charge to the New Board



I have big shoes to fill. Dea brought a ministerial wisdom and grace to leading the previous board. She is a consummate care-taker, always able to feed her sheep exactly what they need. And Dharmini has an uncanny ability to innovate and improve ideas under discussion. I'm sure I also speak for Kathy when I say they will be missed.

I hope to continue the precedent set by the last incarnation of this board. We were able to come to consensus relatively quickly and incorporate differing opinions without getting too sidetracked. We worked incredibly harmoniously while incorporating many different opinions. I am committed to continuing that spirit of consideration and cooperation this year.

I'm more of an "ask forgiveness, not permission" kind of person, so this kind of leadership work is hard for me. I also tend to be impatient with the sometimes lengthy discussion it takes to come to true consensus. I struggle with the fact that buy-in and commitment aren't instantaneous.

I like to participate in an efficient meeting. Once an idea has been stated 2-3 times, I'm ready to move on. In the past, comments, questions about work we had already done (and was in the meeting minutes) got dragged up repeatedly. In my effort to be respectful of your time, I may accidentally run roughshod over your need to hash things out.

Now that you and I both know my biases, I ask you to actively participate in being a check and balance. Please gently remind me when my urge to be loosey-goosey is not appropriate. Help me be sensitive to the less-obvious needs of others.

I see my job as clearing obstacles so you can kick ass on your projects. As a board, we need to provide that same shield to members who are doing the work that keeps MqtUU vibrant. When you see someone struggling, thank them for their effort and explore how we board members can clear away whatever is keeping the work from flourishing. For example, Sari has been developing a lovely native-species garden outside the doors, but it looks a little scraggly and brown at times. Her own native garden at home always looks beautiful. The difference? Sari was worried about using too much well water here. It turns out her concern was super-easy to address. Yoopers tend to NOT ask for help. We hike up our sisu and get to work. Your job as a board member is to seek out and offer to help solve problems even if our members are reluctant to ask. Let's be proactive. Let's find a way to help Tom Sullivan and Barb Michael maintain beautiful services when they are both ready to give up their loooooong tenures. Let's go out of our way to ask Heidi, Jamie and Laura if there are any frustrating things about working for MqtUU and then do what we can to fix them.

Let's try to establish systems where we can, so we don't have to work through inventing the wheel over and over again.

When something is falling through the cracks, it is our job as a board to catch it and fix it. We are our congregations' last, best hope. I'm confident we can find the time and talent necessary.

As a congregation and as a board, we have some serious challenges. Burnout, stagnant or shrinking numbers, a building that needs lots of love, and some old hurts that never healed properly are just a few. Ian Evison, our Mid-America Regional Consultant, gave us some advice. We need to be mindful of the stories we tell about ourselves. It's human nature to focus on the negative, because it's urgent and needs our attention. But we can spiral down a dark path if we only focus on the negatives. We have so much to celebrate. Our incredible sense of community is a true blessing. Our big, welcoming building has so much potential. Our Sunday morning services are top-notch, compelling and have a huge variety. Our RE and OWL programs are accessible, open and provide valuable service to young people. They just need a little more exposure to grow even more. The

political climate out there is ripe for a big UU recruiting push. We have amazingly talented and dedicated staff in Jamie and Heidi. So much more to cherish than to worry about.

So one charge to you is to be mindful of the MqtUU story you tell yourself, tell each other and tell the larger community. Yes, there are serious challenges that are urgent that we have to address. This is sacred work. We are shepherds for this beloved community. I hope to bring to this work a sense of optimism and joy. If you can't quite get to joy, I totally understand, but do try to pay attention to your words and actions. Gratitude for what we DO have will go a long way in helping us achieve the things we need.

I am charging you to be bold. Take risks. Make mistakes. Go big or go home. This is no time for pussy footing around. We are at a cusp. We could grow deeper as a tight knit community or grow wider and serve more people, or we could grow weary and apathetic.

To that end, we are going to embark on a year of thoughtful, determined Self-care. I want us to turn inward for a year and remember why we gather. We will renew our sense of play and camaraderie. When we are refreshed, it will show and we will be ready a year from now to seriously engage the larger Marquette community. One investment I want to test this year is an increase in our electronic marketing efforts. We'll start testing now to see what works best so we can hit the ground running next August.

I am grateful for all of you and your willingness to step up to serve on this board. You are valued. You are important. I'm so proud that you are not only my church friends, but my real friends. Let's take care to celebrate, goof around and laugh. While being on a board is not usually described as "fun", help me make this next year enjoyable.

Thank *you*.

Anne Stark

MqtUU President



Newcomers and New Members Welcome



September is often called the “other new year.” For many of us, our childhood memories of starting anew in school reverberates throughout life in September each year. It is a time when families and individuals decide to try something new, like attending a church. People come looking for all sorts of things... a church family for companionship on life’s

journey, a religious identity and ethical anchoring for their children, a deeper spiritual connection, an opportunity to be a better person and or to make a difference in some way, or to simply have some fun with other like-minded folks. People come with all sorts of goals and yearnings. It is a time for newcomers to share and for longer time participants to listen and share as well.

Fall is a good time to meet new people at the Marquette UU. On September 10, we will have our in-gathering service where we reconnect from our summer wanderings and then later in the month (tentatively Sept. 24), we plan to welcome our newest members more formally during the service. We have had four people join this past spring and summer. If you are thinking of joining our community, please talk to a Board member about what’s involved in joining. We would love to include you in our journey.

Happening at the MqtUU Meeting House:

Almost **twenty** years ago a black resident of Benton Harbor, Michigan, Edward Pinkney, started court watching and speaking out about the injustices he witnessed in Berrien County courts against young black men. In his efforts for justice, his speaking out led to a recall petition for the mayor of Benton Harbor, leading to his imprisonment for 2 1/2 years.

[In 2014 Truthout](#) wrote "On December 15, **Rev. Edward Pinkney**, a leader in the struggle for social and economic justice for the residents of Benton Harbor, Michigan, was sentenced to serve up to 10 years in prison, on the basis of thin circumstantial evidence that a few dates had been altered on a recall petition against the city's mayor, James Hightower. The recall was prompted by the mayor's continued support for tax evasion by the Whirlpool Corporation, the Fortune 500 company and \$19 billion global appliance manufacturer, headquartered in Benton Harbor.

A Green Party email alerted us to his imprisonment in Marquette Branch Prison where this 67 year old community activist was put into solitary confinement with no phone privileges to the outside world. A member of Mqt. UU social justice committee visited him weekly, others wrote letters and petitioned (denied) to visit. Days before we were to bring his wife, Dorothy Pinkney, to visit him in the UP, he was shipped out to a prison an hour from his home.

Members of the congregation have continued to support Rev. Pinkney's efforts to bring justice to his community since his release in June. He will speak to the Mqt. UU Congregation, 1510 M-28, Chocolay Township at 11 a.m. service on Sunday, September 17th and again at 1:30 at a community meeting where he will have more time to speak and engage in a Q and A session. Come and hear Michigan's political prisoner, Rev. Edward Pinkney.



FROM: FAITH IN ACTION

If you are concerned about some of the local, state, national, international and earth issues which face us today - please join Faith in Action (your MqtUU social justice team) as we look at the year and prioritize some issues which we shall address through services, actions, letter-writing, articles, films, displays, share-the-plate, etc. We include our intersectionality with inspiring music, relevant children and youth RE, the Michigan UU Social Justice Network alerts, the UU Service Committee updates, and your ideas which can bring a breath of fresh air to our work. Grab a cuppa and join us at the round table by 12:15pm on Sunday, Sept. 17th!

September "Share the Plate" Recipient:



Books For Africa

A simple name for an organization with a simple mission. We collect, sort, ship, and distribute books to students of all ages in Africa. Our goal: to end the book famine in Africa.

www.booksforafrica.org

SAVE THE DATES:

This fall, MQT UU is offering a five-session exploration of the topic of class in our society. The curriculum was developed by the Unitarian Universalist Association and is called *Class Conscious: Class and Classicism in UU Life*. This topic is inextricably intertwined with many other social justice issues that concern us, including, but not limited to, racism, environmental justice, campaign financing and voters' rights, income inequality, and many others. The sessions will be lead by g.g. gordon and will cover a number of topics such as:

- Why we avoid talking about class
- Emotions related to class differences
- Class indicators
- Types of classism
- Intersections with other "isms"
- Meritocracy
- UU history and contexts
- Domains for congregational classism
- Economic inequality - reasons for and impacts of
- Class cultures in organizations
- Becoming a class ally
- Stages of classism awareness



Sessions will be held from 1-3 pm after services on the Sunday afternoons listed below. There is *no charge* and *lunch will be provided* for a free will offering. Please put these dates on your calendars now and plan to attend and participate in these interactive sessions as we explore a very current and important issue.

October 1: Module 1: Class as Culture

October 15: Module 2: Classism

November 19: Module 3: Income Inequality

December 3: Module 4: Classism and Awareness Efforts in our Congregations

December 17: Module 5: Class Activism

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.



Our UU Church of the Larger Fellowship half hr+ online service will still happen at 8 pm on Sunday evenings but will now be on YouTube starting September 10th for easier access and a host of other reasons. There will no longer be a specific Monday afternoon showing, but the service will be repeated following the Sunday show for you to access at your convenience. If you have never watched, it can serve as continued inspiration throughout your week. Greetings and comments will be available on the side bar only on Sundays at 8 pm EST. So get your personal chalice ready, sit back and breathe, knowing you are in the company of UU's and others far and wide.

FROM: UUA

UUA President the Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray issued the following statement in response to Donald Trump's directive banning transgender people from entering the military:

I condemn in the strongest terms President Trump's immoral directive banning transgender people from entering the military and revoking health care support for those currently serving. Unitarian Universalists unequivocally support the full humanity of people across the spectrum of gender and sexuality, including the right of transgender people to serve in the military. This is yet another attack from this administration on the humanity, dignity, and fundamental rights of people in this country. Even more disturbing, this attack targets those who have committed their lives to faithful service.



My heart turns to all the transgender and gender non-conforming people in the military who are showing up everyday to serve and protect our country, even as their commander in chief has made them a target. I am grateful for your service. Grounded in a belief that all people are worthy, and called faithfully to build the Beloved Community, I particularly urge my fellow cisgender Unitarian Universalists to join me to affirming, supporting and celebrating all of our transgender and gender non-conforming siblings. We are with you. We remain with you until we are all free.

Community Events:

The Marquette Interfaith Forum will resume its "First Friday" open forum meetings at 11:30 – 1pm on Friday, September 8 (September 1 is the first day of the Labor Day weekend so we will meet the following Friday).

As usual, the meeting will take place at the Peter White Public Library. Hopefully, we will again be in the Shiras Room, and if not, a room change announcement will be sent out.

Our tentative topic is "Why is Interfaith Discussion Meaningful and Important?"



We can also spend a short time suggesting future monthly topics and facilitators and our event schedule.

Hope to see you all there,
Aaron Scholnik

The poster for Pride Fest 2017 features a vibrant, multi-colored background with a rainbow gradient. At the top, the words "Pride Fest" are written in large, bold, red letters. Below this, the date "9.16 2017" is prominently displayed in large, yellow and orange numbers. The time "12-10pm" is written in green, and the location "Tourist Park, Marquette MI" is in blue. The phrase "Everyone Welcome" is written in purple. The poster is divided into three main sections. The left section lists: "11AM PRIDE RALLY AT THE MARQUETTE COMMONS AND PRIDE WALK TO TOURIST PARK", "NOON PRIDE FEST BEGINS AT TOURIST PARK", "ALL-DAY ENTERTAINMENT", and "8PM DRAG SHOW!". The right section lists: "KIDS ACTIVITIES SPONSORED BY GLOW", "PRIDE VENDORS AND FOOD VENDORS", "LGBT RESOURCES", "PRIDE MERCHANDISE", and "GAY GAMES". At the bottom, the website "www.uprainbowpride.org" is written in large, bold, black letters.

Northern UU Summer Camp Weekend
August 4-6, 2017
Bewabic State Park

A UU
Summer



Good times
@ Bewabic

Photos courtesy of Barb Michael ☺