



Marquette Unitarian Universalist Congregation

located at 1510 M-28 E, Harvey, MI
phone 906-249-9450

mail: P.O. Box 687, Marquette, MI 49855
www. MqtUU.org or visit us on Facebook

From the Board of Trustees



The board of trustees met on January 17. We continue to work on creating a process for annual performance evaluations for our employees and we will be discussing this matter further at the February meeting. We will also be beginning our process for putting together a budget for the 2012-2013 fiscal year in preparation for our annual business meeting in May.

We had a congregational meeting on January 8. Per the Policy Regarding Disruptive Behavior and the Maintenance of Healthy Relationships within MUUC, we affirmed 3 members to serve on the Mediation Council. The members of the mediation council are: Gary Stark, Paula Kiesling, and Teri Rockwood. These members will be charged with setting the precedents for how this policy is to be implemented in our congregation. Paula had a role in the production of the first draft of the policy and Gary had a big role in revising that draft. These members enjoy the broad support of our congregation and I wish them good luck.

Our policy for the Integration into our Congregation of a Person Convicted of a Sexual Offense has needed a contact person in order to implement it. I am happy to say that Cherokee Helms-Gleason has volunteered to serve the congregation in this vital role. I want to give her a great thank you for taking on this job.

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is on February 8 at 6:30 p.m. You are as always welcome to attend and participate in the Open Forum.

Mike White
President of the Board of Trustees



Dear Friends,

A late January thaw tantalizes my senses with a hint of spring as I sit at our kitchen table to write, and calls to the sap of renewed life rising in my blood. What a wonderful feeling!

I am especially psyched these days about two areas of exploration I've engaged in recently. One I've already written and spoken about – the tool of the Enneagram for increasing individual and collective consciousness. I've now had the opportunity to use the Enneagram to work with a few of our members, and have found the process to be rich, rewarding, and fun. A couple of these folks will give their perspective on their Enneagram experience so far during the service I'm organizing with Barb Michael's help for February 19th. I will be in California February 10-17 for the second of four steps of training and practice toward becoming a certified Enneagram teacher. One of the co-leaders of the training will be Helen Palmer, one of the most eminent teachers and authors about the Enneagram – I can hardly wait! I'll be telling stories about the experience on February 19th. The more I work with the Enneagram, the more I believe it has great potential for increasing understanding of ourselves and one another, thereby building community and family relationships. If or when you are ready to dive in, please let me know so we can schedule a session to begin exploring the inner workings and unconscious motivations underlying your personality. It's fascinating and enlightening work.

A second source of new sap rising in me is that I have recently been selected as a research subject for the "Decolonizing Diet Project" (DDP), directed by Dr. Marty Reinhardt, an Anishnaabe professor with the Center for Native American Studies who has spoken to us at Sunday services and at the most recent community Interfaith Thanksgiving service we hosted at our meeting house. Starting with the beginning of the coming spring sap run and continuing for a year, until the sap run of 2013, 25 people will be devoting some portion of their daily diet to foods that were growing in the Great Lakes region before the European colonizers arrived. The 25 subjects represent an interesting mix of ages, income levels, and Native, non-Native, and mixed backgrounds. In an exciting recent development, another MUUC member, Scott Doughty, has been chosen as the official "DDP Physician" (from a pool of numerous candidates). This project is already receiving national press, as it combines many threads of interest to a variety of people....those interested in social justice for native peoples, sustainable food systems and "locavore" diets, health and wellness, and Native American spirituality.

Most of these issues have been of interest in some way to the national UU body and to many MUUC members, and thus I am interested in exploring how MUUC might learn from and act in solidarity with the local Indian community as they take the lead in this important project. Perhaps such an effort could be part of a broader UUA Green Sanctuary certification program, if the congregation decides to move in that direction after the inspirational presentation by folks from the Houghton UU group on January 29th. So many possibilities for good work.

May spring sap rise in all of us!

Yours in service,
Nancy Irish
Celebrant and Coordinator

Enneagram Self-Study Question for February:

Do you often feel impatient, annoyed, or worse when someone is being slow, emotional, or clumsy trying to articulate a thought, idea, or feeling?



Religious Education News

January News:

In January we wrapped up our blanket-making project and Guest at Your Table. We are continuing with the Spirit Play curriculum for the younger kids.

We delivered over a dozen hand made blankets with notes to the Women's Center for the kids who will be at Harbor House this year. I was told that being able to receive a blanket to keep is a very special and comforting thing for the kids. One child, almost in tears said "you mean I get to keep it?", when offered their blanket.

Michelle Lexmond and the older kids have big plans. They continue to explore their personal moral codes in conversation and art, and also to look at the outer world with regard to inherent worth and dignity. They are integrating some work by the Random Acts of Kindness Foundation and exploring what other religions have to teach about our beloved first principle. They are planning a "pay it forward" day and have already created calling cards to leave when they practice their random acts of kindness. All I can say is icy windshields of Marquette County look out.

Thank you to January Volunteers:

Sari Embley, Deb and Cherokee Helms-Gleason, Sarah Johnson, Michelle Lexmond, Laura Sabourin, Hailey Spillane.

We look forward to continuing in this vein through the winter and are making plans to host the annual Gifts of the Heart Service and Valentines Tea Luncheon on February 12.

Volunteer needs:

Thank you Teri, Mili, Hailey, Michelle L., Sarah J. and Kim! We're all set on classroom volunteers until March!

Other needs:

1. Place library cards and labels in the RE books so we can keep track of books on loan.
2. Sort and organize items for RE curriculum.
Please contact Melissa if you are interested.

Next RE Committee meeting is Tuesday Feb 21 at 4:15 at the PWPL Children's Area.

Melissa Middleton
RE Coordinator

Music Crew Celebrates Barb Michael

In a rather belated but nonetheless sincere gesture of appreciation, the Music Committee and choir members gathered in January at the home of Jeanne Trost to toast the long and dedicated service of Barb Michael as Music Coordinator for MUUC. The party was nearly a bust, as Barb didn't know the gathering was in her honor and forgot to come! A phone call from Jeanne saved the day.

Barb was a master of music coordination, especially adept at coming up with the perfect songs and hymns for any theme. She more than any other single person elevated the quality of music for our Sunday services from the somewhat musically dismal years in the basement of the hotel on 3rd Street where we used to meet.

We in the music crew are proud of Barb, not the least for her decision to follow her heart to the chairing of the Social Action Committee.

A thousand thanks from all of us for a job well done, Barb, and best wishes for your service to social justice!

Nancy Irish

Board of Trustees : Michael White , President; Beth King, Vice President; Amy Fletemier, Secretary; Michelle Halley, Cathy Church

Staff: Nancy Irish, Community Coordinator & Celebrant
Melissa Middleton, Religious Education Coordinator

Other Positions:

Michelle Harrison, Treasurer
Tom & Nancy Sullivan, Building Use Coordinators
Sarah Johnson, Religious Education Chair
Nancy Sullivan, temporary Newsletter Editor
Tom Sullivan, Program Chair
Michael Erdmann, Building Chair
Nancy Sullivan, Community Dev. Chair
gg gordon, Stewardship Chair
Barbara Michael, Social Action Chair

NATIONAL
STANDING ON THE SIDE OF
LOVE
MONTH

The Story of Us, The Story of Now

"*THIRTY DAYS OF LOVE*" began on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Jan. 16th this year) and will culminate with Valentine's Day! "*THIRTY DAYS OF LOVE*" is a collective visioning process about making sense of the present moment and what each of us can do. We aim to accomplish this through self-reflection, active listening, sharing personal and community stories, and celebrating our lives and our heroes for their courageous love.

"*THIRTY DAYS OF LOVE*" offers daily, direct actions for love, and the calendar is a template to guide you through a meaningful 30 days.

Harnessing love's power to stop oppression is the goal, as well as the process. To take part in all or part of it, go to www.standingonthesideoflove.org and click on **30 Days of Love** by the photo of the SSL banner. Scroll down to the calendar and follow the daily suggestions. There are many other resources as well...take your pick!

So the Standing on the Side of Love campaign is expanding into a personal growth program as well as emphasis on immigration and TLGB rights. Two quotes from the SSL campaign:

"Societal homophobia and trans-phobia spiritually and legally disenfranchise LGBT people. Help move our country towards justice and equality for all people, no matter their sexual orientation or gender identity."

"Immigration is not only a legal issue, but a moral one. We can have an impact in this struggle for immigrant and refugee rights. Join us in heeding this call for human rights!"

Submitted by Barbara Michael

Thank you for your Guest at Your Table contributions!

Your support makes it possible:

- to strengthen protections for women in Darfur,
- to rebuild lives in post-earthquake Haiti,
- to help famine survivors access aid in and around Somalia,
- to move the human right to water forward in Guatemala — and more.



If you are not a member of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee human rights organization and would like that to be part of your "giving focus" in 2012, just go online to uusc.org. The Social Action Committee will be addressing water issues at our UUSC Justice Sunday on March 4th.

Barbara Michael

January Activities....



The Congregation elected three members to the newly formed Mediation Council; Gary Stark, Teri Rockwood, and Paula Kiesling.



More than a dozen MUUC members and friends gathered at the home of Nancy Irish and Vince Villa on Martin Luther King Jr. day for a walk of nonviolent resistance in response to the shooting of Luna dog.

L to R: Teri Rockwood, Nancy Sullivan, Shirley Zimmer, Barb Michael, Kathy Shattuck, Bill Joswiak, and Lucille Scotti.



The music folks celebrate Barb Michael's service to music: L to R: Linda Walma, Nancy Irish, Sheila Devlin, Barb Michael, Jeanne Trost, Steve Schmunk. (Missing in Action: Gary Stark.)

Make and Bake

No coffee in the coffee pot on Sunday morning? Nothing good to eat after the service? The sign-up sheets don't seem to be working well, and those that make coffee and clean up most often are ready for the tasks to be more widely shared. It's a simple way to pitch in, especially if you aren't involved in other behind-the-scenes work. Besides, some of the best conversations happen in the kitchen after the service.

We operate like a cooperative, so please feel encouraged and welcome to pitch in and do whatever needs to be done to help prevent burnout of our most active volunteers, and to make our Sunday mornings together warm and hospitable.

Nancy Irish, Kitchen Witch



Teri Rockwood, Janine and Sam Adams, and Nancy Irish of MUUC celebrate UP UU connections after the January 29 service on the UU Green Sanctuary Program.



An Intergenerational Moment with Michael Erdmann

Date	Service (11 a.m.)	Forum (9:45 - 10:30a.m.)
Feb. 5	"The Psychology of Denial Behind Peak Oil, Climate Change, and Economic Chaos." Service Leader: Sarah Redmond	"Dancing With Pauling: Learning to Walk With a Leader Dog." Host: Simone Chiodini
Feb. 12	"Gifts of the Heart." Service Leaders: RE and MUUC Children/Youth	"Earth Meditation: An Opportunity to Share Your Heart With the Planet." (a guided meditation, bring a blanket or pillow to sit upon). Host: Melissa Middleton
Feb. 19	"Another Spin Around the Enneagram Wheel: Stories From Training With a Master (Helen Palmer)" by Nancy Irish. Service Leader: Barb Michael	TBA
Feb. 26	"Why Bother? An Exploration of How Practical Considerations and Results-Oriented Thinking Can Impact Our Efforts to Live an Ethical Life." Service Leader: gg gordon	"Attitudes Toward Death." Host: Kathy Klos
Mar. 4	"UUA Justice Sunday 2012: Water as a Human Right." Service Leader: Social Action Committee	TBA

Marquette Unitarian Universalist Congregation
P.O Box 687
Marquette, MI 49855

To:

