



The Chronicle



Marquette Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Services and Forums for December

Date	Service (11 a.m.)	Forum (9:45 – 10:30a.m.)
Dec. 1	“Michael Servetus: A True Renaissance Man and Unitarian Martyr.” Service Leader: gg gordon	“Congregational Conversations about...’Church OnLine’ from the UU Church of the Larger Fellowship: What Does it Offer YOU and How Can You Access It?” Host: MUUC Board of Trustees (Teri, Laura, Barb)
Dec. 8	“Blessing of the Animals.” Service Leader: Kathy Klos	“Work for animals in the Marquette community, with a UPAWS representative” (donations for UPAWS accepted). Host: Tim VanderVeen
Dec. 15	“Living the Good Life to Become the Good Person: Based on the Sayings of Confucius.” Service Leader: Tom Spencer	“On Using MUUC’s Social Media.” Host: Sarah Redmond.
Dec. 22	Winter Solstice (Dec. 21). Service Leader: Heidi Gould and Paula Kiesling	NO FORUM TODAY
Dec. 24 (Tuesday)	Christmas Eve Carol Sing. Host: Kathy Klos	NO FORUM TODAY (not a Sunday)
Dec. 29	Potluck brunch after short service; Congregational New Year wishes	NO FORUM TODAY
01/05/13	Presenters: February Sky (Phil Cooper and Susan Urban)	“Congregational Conversations about... New Year’s Resolutions for the Congregation”. Host: MUUC Board of Trustees (Mary and Barb)

Greetings of the Season

*May we grant each other peace.
May the blessing of this time be ours to keep.
Celebrate the reason to be children once again,
And welcome in a stranger as a friend...*

So goes Shelby Flint's "Greetings of the Season," and I am struck how each year I draw something different from the lyrics I hear and sing. Perhaps we'll be welcoming strangers as friends, as we offer Room at the Inn training Jan. 19 at the Meeting House for MUUC members and friends and others from Chocolay Township wanting to be trained, too.

By the time you read this we shall have celebrated our MUUC *Intergenerational Thanksgiving Bread Service* (see photos on pages 10 & 11), welcomed through our doors those of other traditions for Marquette community's *Interfaith Service of Thanks*, and gathered as extended family for Thanksgiving Dinner, Music and Memories.

Crossing with Thanksgiving this year is the Jewish holiday of Chanukkah (Nov. 27-Dec. 5). I am reminded of the lyrics to Peter Yarrow's "Light One Candle" and to be aware of the little miracles within and around us every day.



Light one candle to bring us together, with peace as the song in our hearts.

I am so grateful to all, including many people of the Jewish faith, who nonviolently stand up for the rights of Palestinians. Oh, that the "little town of Bethlehem" and its neighbors in Gaza and the West Bank could have their freedom restored.

*Goddess of all times' progression, stand with us when we engage
Hands and hearts to end oppression, writing history's fairer page.*

"Lady of the Season's Laughter" by UU minister, Kendyl Gibbons, helps us reflect on the earth and time, as we celebrate the Winter Solstice (Dec. 21).

Three nights later on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day (Dec. 24-25), we contemplate words by UU leader, Sophia Lyon Fahs: *Each night a child is born is a holy night*, honoring the worth and dignity of every person.

Wrapping up the month of December, we have the beautiful African-American Kwanzaa celebration (Dec. 26-Jan 1). I leave you with these lyrics from "When All the Peoples of this Earth:"

*The lights of Kwanzaa now proclaim that when we share our inner flame
And nurture root and branch with pride, we'll harvest peace both far and wide.*

In shared ministry,
Barb Michael

The Marquette Unitarian Universalist Religious Education (RE) Program

We have been very blessed this month. The coming of age program took a field trip to Appleton, our RE coordinator traveled to Wisconsin to learn about the spiritual wheel and our community has had several visioning meetings. Love and understanding are key elements when working with one another and it is important to honor the work that is being done.

This past month the RE children have developed different types of skills and understandings of the interconnectedness of all things. The students have had a guided meditation and learned about the different stages of life through mitosis. They used an orange curriculum from the tapestry of faith in which they picked an orange from the basket and then put it back to show that it doesn't matter what your peel looks like because we all have a sweet loving center. Heidi Gould, one of our volunteers, informed them of the social justice committee and their involvement in our interconnected UU web of life.

The next week Heidi showed the students pictures of the Day of the Dead (DOD) celebration in other countries. We painted cardboard masks to honor the dead and celebrate. Michelle Lexmond showed her students our watershed and gave them a better understanding of what the course will be covering. A BIG thank you to our volunteers this month, we could not have done it without you!

This religious Education program is designed to give the children an opportunity to understand the world at large as well as make educated decisions with UU principles. Our underlying theme this year will be the "Web of Life" and the interconnectedness of all things. There is an actual web on the RE wall and we are asking families to bring in photos or items that represent their personal web. This is an on-going activity. We thrive and survive off of volunteers and we would love to share the RE fun!

The older kids of RE have been interacting with Michelle Lexmond. As a volunteer she has graciously offered RE classes centered on the deep ecology of water and the issues involving local water. The kids are to choose one service project related to the subject.

Important dates:

Saturday December 7th is the Heifer dinner and we rely heavily on volunteers to bring the soup, desserts, and service. Please contribute even if you are unable to stay for the whole event. The Committee led RE sessions on the 1/12, 2/16. Consider signing up for one of these dates in order to show the children the interworking of our congregation. Our Valentine's Day service will be February 9th and will also be led by the RE students.

Welcoming a Guest at Your Table

Each year at this time, friends and families in our congregation participate in Guest at Your Table - a decades-long UU tradition. By bringing home a beautiful *Stories of Hope* booklet and Guest at Your Table envelope or box, families and individuals learn about how the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee puts our shared values into action in the United States and around the world. Through a potent combination of advocacy, education, and partnerships with grassroots human rights leaders, UUSC...

- promotes workers' rights
- rebuilds sustainable communities
- advances civil liberties
- heals people affected by disasters.

Through the *Stories of Hope* booklet, we connect with leaders throughout the world who are working

hard for **human rights in partnership with UUSC**. In each household, the Guest at Your Table materials are placed in a prominent spot where the household gathers. When family and friends gather to enjoy their blessings, they can reflect on the contributions of these "guests" to the movement for universal human rights - and share generously. Each week, we can choose a different story to read, bringing our guests to life and helping celebrate our own rights.

If you were unable to be with us on Sun., Nov. 24 when we opened our Guest at Your Table program, please be sure to pick up your *Stories of Hope* booklet and an envelope or box in the basket by the Appreciation Board and the Suggestion Box. If you prefer, you can make your contribution directly online at uusc.org/givetoguest.



Heifer International Soup & Dessert Dinner

The Dinner is Saturday, Dec. 7th from 5 – 7 pm at the Marquette Unitarian Universalist Meeting House. A wide variety of homemade soups and desserts will be available for a donation in the amount of your choosing or in a food contribution. All proceeds will go to Heifer International. And we are looking forward to your donation!

This event is hosted by children and teens of the Marquette UU Congregation to help those less fortunate. All money will be donated to the Heifer Project, International to be used to purchase animals, seedlings, and technical assistance to needy families who then reap the harvest. For example: Wool from sheep. Nuts from cashew trees. New generations of livestock and crops to pass on to other families so they may become self-sufficient. For more information, see www.mqtuu.org, www.heifer.org, or phone or email Laura at 248-321-2794 or muurec@gmail.com

The “Our Whole Lives” (OWL) program



OWL is a human sexuality education program is offered as a free community service by the Marquette Unitarian Universalist Congregation. This established curriculum is offered to all 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th graders in the Marquette area. The parent orientation and OWL program has already happened and we are having an awesome year. The children are getting to know themselves as well as the world at large through this program. This is offered every two years and we are having a great time!

Coming of Age Program



Terri Rockwood has begun providing the coming of age program this year. The COA Program has gone to Appleton to visit a masque and the other Unitarian Universalist Congregation. They are in the process of getting to know their mentors and will explore their spirituality with them. This is a Religious Exploration program helps youth discern for themselves what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist, individually and as part of the larger faith community. It involves individual activities, group activities, family participation, and working with a mentor. Thank you Terri and other participants!

Coming of Age News...

Great spiritual adventures are happening in our Coming of Age (CoA) group. We have had meetings to discuss people in our UU history and how to be a leader in a social action project.

On November 16, we headed to Appleton to experience a daily prayer time at the Islamic Center of Appleton. We were also treated to a passionate explanation of the Islam religion and the Quran with some time for questions. After this, we attended the 4:30 p.m. service at the Fox Valley UU Fellowship. This was another welcoming experience; Christiana (young adult), Ryan (youth) and his mother, and Kim Hartman (DRE) joined us for dinner at a Chinese restaurant downtown. Free time at the mall gave us all a chance to get some walking in, as it had been raining all day.





On November 17, we headed back to Marquette. Of course, we had to fit in another experience since we weren't that far from the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help. This is a sacred site that is the only Marian shrine in the U.S. that is on the site of an approved apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Thank you to Kathy Wright for helping with this trip and thank you to the Lexmond-Gray family for letting us use their van.

Please take time to talk to our youth about their experiences in the program. Those involved are Ben Wright, Maitri White, Mac Halley-Gleason, Bethany Wright, and Kees Lexmond-Gray.

We will be continuing to raise funds for our Spirituality Workshop in February and our Vision Quest Retreat in May. Thanks everyone for your support. If you have any questions about this program, Teri Rockwood can be reached at teri.rockwood@gmail.com or (906) 235-8064.

Special events & Fund raisers

 Join us for a night of **traditional Holiday caroling** on Monday, **December 16.** We will be meeting at Brookridge Heights Assisted Living Residence in Marquette at 6:00PM and then moving onto the Norlite Nursing Home at 7:00PM. Sheet music will be provided. 
Contact Tim VanderVeen at 906-236-1979, for more information.

Craft Circle

Our MUUC Craft Circle had its first gathering this past week. Four of us visited and helped each other with various craft projects. It was relaxed and quite pleasant. Our next gathering will be Tuesday Dec. 10th at 6:30 at our Meeting House. Join us for conversation and crafting!



Mqt. UU Men's Group being considered

Is there interest in forming a Men's Group at Mqt UU? If you're interested talk to Dan Redmond or Tim VanderVeen after services (or call) so we can get a feel for what might work in terms of day, time and content.

Save the Wild U.P. Winter Gala

An evening of music, inspiration, wine, appetizers and a silent auction featuring the work of local artists. Music by the Terminal Orchestra , keynote speaker John Stauber, author of "Toxic Sludge is Good for You" .

7 p.m. Saturday, December 7

Marquette Federated Women's Clubhouse

\$45/\$25 students and seniors.

Reserve tickets online at rally.org/SWUPgala,

or call Gail Griffith, 225-0416



The Quest for Meaning

UU Church of the Larger Fellowship's online services are broadcast on Sundays at 8 PM and a rebroadcast of the same service on Mondays at 9:00 AM and 1:30 PM. You'll be viewing with UU's from Indonesia, Spain, Germany and around the world.

Remember to check out their websites at: www.QuestForMeaning.org; www.CLFUU.org; www.DailyCompass.org

Everyone from The Marquette UU Congregation is welcome to join CLF's Facebook page. The link is: <http://www.facebook.com/CLFUU>

Finally, from Beth Murray, our CLF Librarian: The most important information you should pass along to members of the Marquette UU Congregation is how to access the **Church OnLine** website where many of our worship and religious education materials are available electronically. Just as a reminder:

Go to www.QuestForMeaning.org

Click on *Connecting*

Click on *Find Local Community*

Click on *Member Login*

Check with Barb Michael or Laura Nagle for the id and password. All members are invited and encouraged to access it. *Want to know more in a hands-on approach? Bring your laptop - or sit with someone who has one - and join us at 9:45 am at the Dec. 1 Adult Forum.*



SOCIAL JUSTICE NETWORK

It's Time for UU Congregations to Vote
on Congregational Study Action Issues!

UU congregations across the nation have been given between November 15, 2013 and February 3, 2014 to vote on WHICH FIVE Congregational Study/Action Issues (CSAI's) will be on the ballot at General Assembly in 2014. There, a final CSAI will be selected for study, reflection and action over four years.

This process requires that 25% of all UU congregations vote in this Congregational Poll.

1. Age and Ability Reconsidered See: www.uua.org/statements/current/290504.shtml
2. Ending the War on Terror See: www.uua.org/statements/current/290505.shtml
3. Escalating Inequality See: www.uua.org/statements/current/290506.shtml
4. Gun Violence: A Public Health Issue See: www.uua.org/statements/current/290502.shtml
5. Renewing and Securing Our American Democracy
See: www.uua.org/statements/current/290503.shtml
6. Unitarian Universalist Values and the Pursuit of a Just Peace for Israelis and Palestinians
See: www.uua.org/statements/current/290499.shtml [This is the one which our MUUC Board

and Social Action Committee proposed with other congregations in September. MUUC will be voting on Jan. 26, 2014. Check out the proposals and let the conversations begin!]'

For more information, visit the UUA "Guide to Voting in the Congregational Poll & Submitting Comments: www.uua.org/statements/current/56346.shtml

Promoting discussion of these issues in your congregation is one way that we can live by the UU principle of using "the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large".

Randy Block, Director

Michigan UU Social Justice Network

www.uujustice.org

www.facebook.com/MUUSJN

Are you wondering how you can help?

You could serve on this year's MUUC Nominating Committee

You need to look for and check with possible Board member candidates to replace Barb Michael and gg gordon, who will be finishing out their two-year terms. A member from the Nominating Committee will present the slate of candidates at the MUUC Annual Meeting in May. If you are interested in serving on the Nominating Committee in this short-term capacity, please let a Board member know by their Dec.16 meeting. Thank you for considering this.

Barb Michael, President, Board of Trustees	michael.barbara.102@gmail.com or 273-1174
Teri Rockwood, Vice President	teri.rockwood@gmail.com
Sarah Redmond, Secretary	shelterbay2006@yahoo.com
gg gordon, Treasurer and Trustee	plumskiter@gmail.com
Mary Maki, Trustee-at-Large	mrmaki777@aol.com

The Room at the Inn training session is scheduled for Sun., Jan. 19 at 2 pm at the UU Meeting House and should last about 3-4 hrs. There are three people from Prince of Peace Lutheran Church joining us and hopefully others in the area once they announce it more widely. If you didn't get a chance to sign up, please let Barb Michael know, who will be glad to add you to those participating in the training.

Jan. 19 marks the Martin Luther King holiday. What an appropriate way to give of your time!

MUUC Staff Position Open for a Part-Time MUUC Clerical Administrator (“Admin”)

...(to be re-evaluated by congregation at Jan. 26 meeting)

Job Description

Daily:

Retrieve phone messages, respond as necessary or relay messages to appropriate persons.

Weekly:

Type and copy orders of service for Sunday morning.

Keep up-to-date our UU/Community bulletin board, announcements board, and brochure rack.

Keep data base up-to-date for incoming financial gifts from known donors

Monthly:

Attractively compile info/photos for the *Chronicle* newsletter and disseminate.

Biannually:

From the data base, produce MUUC Directories to be emailed to members and friends plus ten hard copies to be placed near the brochure rack.

Annually:

Give secretarial help to stewardship campaign/pledge drive.

Ongoing:

Maintain calendar for building use.

Keep data base up-to-date as items come in (e.g. change of address, phone #).

Maintain electronic (including back-up) and hard copy files and records.

Maintain archives.

Serve as back-up to the MUUC Treasurer to generate information disseminated to the UUA regarding the congregation.

Job qualifications:

Able to perform duties listed in job description

Excellent communication skills (phone, email, in person) – listening, reading, writing and speaking

Computer literacy with willingness and ability to pick up new trends

Good proofreading skills (spelling, capitalization, punctuation, word omissions/duplications, etc.)

Efficient and organized

Tactful and patient

Positive in nature

Considers Unitarian Universalist Principles as guidelines

Embodies the essence of the Welcoming Congregation

Experience preferred

Additional info

Part-time job, up to 20 hrs/wk (flexible working hrs and work site)

\$11.14 – 15.47/hr. per UUA’s Compensation Guidelines (approximation based on geo-index and experience)

Submit resume, including job and character references, by Dec. 15 to: plumskiter@gmail.com

Old cell phones & printer cartridges weighing you down? Recycle them in the main entry of the meeting hall.



Save your Econo Foods receipts & donate them to MUUC! Look for the box in the main entry to the meeting hall.

Marquette UU Board meeting summary from November 18th Meeting

1. Financial: 10/31/13 YTD: \$22,455 income (plus \$10,777 carryover from 2012-13) income rec'd; \$14,011 expenditures.
2. Laura Nagle, RE coordinator, attended retreat of RE staff bringing back new ideas
3. Call for folks to serve on Nominating Committee for 2014-16 Board of Trustees
4. Need to review Gift Acceptance policy. (look on website and in book on desk in back)
5. Mqt. UUs participation in Church of Larger Fellowship -- Dec. 1st Forum topic <http://www.clfuu.org/>
6. Decision to post part-time (20 hours per week) Administrative position. Posting will be in Mining Journal and no-cost local sources
7. Follow-up discussion of congregations input at 11-17 meeting.
8. Discussion of enhancing various forms of communication within congregation and to wider community
9. Women's Center fundraiser resulted in a check for \$1,038.25 with one additional gift yet to be received.

For full minutes, see website and Member Book on desk

Photo's from 11/24/2013 **Thanksgiving Bread service**



