

Marquette Unitarian Universalist Congregation

November, 2013



Services and Forums for November, 2013

Date	Service (11 a.m.)	Forum (9:45 – 10:30a.m.)
Nov. 3	“Just a Mystery.” Service Leader: Barb Michael (I will talk, along with others, about not-so-obvious disabilities leading into how we can be a more sensitive, caring community)	“Is Gnosticism Still Alive? I” (video). Host Tom Spencer.
Nov. 10	“Who Is Wendell Berry and Why Does He Matter to UUs?” Service Leader: Sarah Redmond	“Is Gnosticism Still Alive? II” (video). Host Tom Spencer.
Nov. 17	“Transgender Day of Remembrance (Nov. 20).” Service Leaders: Aiden Pietela, Marisa Wolfe, Rolf Swanson	“Congregational Conversations About...” Host: MUUC Board of Trustees
Nov. 24	“Thanksgiving Bread Service.” Service Leaders: Laura Nagel and Religious Education Committee	“Discussion of Gnosticism Videos.” Host: Tom Spencer.
Dec. 1	“Michael Servitus: A True Renaissance Man and Unitarian Martyr.” Service Leader: gg gordon	“Congregational Conversations about...” Host: MUUC Board of Trustees

Women’s Center Fundraiser: Sunday, November 10th will be a fun time and a fund time for one of Marquette’s most important groups for women and children. Michael Waite will again lend his talent and voice to provide the entertainment. Nancy Irish will read her very moving poem about four women and Women’s Center staff and Board members will update us on the programs and issues. We invite you to come, to ask your friends and to help with the event if possible.





The Marquette Unitarian Universalist Religious Education (RE) Program

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.

The older kids of RE will be 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. Thank you Michelle!

Our younger kids will be exposed to Unitarian Universalist values through hands on lessons and a loose dialogue for understanding. Committees are asked to step forth to teach the children about our interconnected UU web and what it takes from their different group.

We thrive and survive off of volunteers and we would love to share the RE fun! Please contact Laura Nagle with any questions, comments, or concerns at muurec@gmail.com

Important dates:

Committee led RE sessions on the 11/10, 1/12, 2/16. Please consider signing up for one of these dates in order to show the children the interworking of our congregation. The Heifer dinner will be Saturday December 14 and we'll have a few Sundays prior to prep. Our Valentine's Day service will be February 9th and will be led by the RE students.

The “Our Whole Lives” (OWL) program

OWL is a human sexuality education program that is offered this November as a free community service by the Marquette Unitarian Universalist Congregation. This established curriculum is offered to all 7th through 9th graders in the Marquette area. Our Whole Lives, known as “OWL”, was developed by the UU's and the United Church of Christ. The program promotes caring, compassion, respect and justice, and endorses the values of: Self Worth, Sexual Health, Responsibility, Justice and Inclusivity. For more information contact g.g. Gordon, 906-360-4302 or Paul Gray, 906-360-3940 Major Thanks to our OWL leaders!!!



Coming of Age Program



Terri Rockwood has begun providing the coming of age program this year. The COA Program is being offered into June 2014. The group will be taking a field trip to a Mosque in Appleton Mid-November. This is a Religious Exploration program that 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

Leadership Team for Mqt. UU -- Fall 2013

Barb Michael, President, Board of Trustees
Teri Rockwood, Vice President
Sarah Redmond, Secretary
gg gordon, Treasurer, Trustee
Mary Maki, Trustee

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teri.rockwood at gmail.com
shelterbay2006 at yahoo.com
plumskiter at gmail.com
mrmaki777 at aol.com

Laura Nagle, Staff, Religious Education Coordinator,
Tom Sullivan, Sunday Program Committee, Chair
Tim VanderVeen, Community Development Committee chair
Patty Sarvello, TLC (Tender Loving Care) Committee chair
Shaun Devlin, Building Committee chair
Nancy and Tom Sullivan, Building Use Committee coordinators
Heidi Gould and Gail Griffith, Social Action Committee chair
nmu.edu

muurec at gmail.com
tsulli3206 at aol.com
timhvv at gmail.com
psarvell at nmu.edu
ssdevlin at uchicago.edu
nance249 at gmail.com
[heidigould2003 at yahoo.com](mailto:heidigould2003@yahoo.com); [ggriffit at](mailto:ggriffit)

Barb Michael, Music Committee
Shirley Zimmer, This n That
Sarah Redmond, Chronicle
Michael White, Stewardship Chair
Teri Rockwood, Coming of Age group
gg gordon, OWL (Our Whole Lives sexuality program for teens)
Sarah Redmond, Communications Team chair
Sarah Redmond, Finance Committee chair

Muuc.tnt at gmail.com

biancoblancowhite at yahoo.com

These are the 'go to' folks at Mqt. UU. Have a question, willing to help, complain or even a complement? These are the folks getting it done for all of us. Won't you consider adding your name to the list?

From our Committees and Teams:

Stewardship Team:

My name is Michael White and I have volunteered to chair the Stewardship Committee this year. I am planning to have our annual pledge potluck meeting in February of next year.



As part of a build up to our potluck dinner, we are having Sunday services lead by Tom Spencer on January 12 and February 16 centered on stewardship. As part of the preparation for these services, I am looking for some youthful volunteers. In particular, I am looking for alumnae of the OWL and Peace Camp programs. What I hope to incorporate into these services are some testimonials from these kids about what these programs have meant to them. I realize that it would be really hard for most teenagers to talk about this kind of material in front of the congregation. What I intend to do is offer any interested young people multiple ways to deliver their thoughts to the congregation. Brave souls could read it at the service. Other kids can offer their presentation by digital video. Or, a written testimonial could be read by me. The testimonial could be anonymously attributed at the individual's request. If a young person has some thoughts to offer, I think I can find a way to share them with the congregation that they would be comfortable with.

I am asking that parents, who have children that have participated in these programs, speak with their kids about offering the congregation one of these testimonials. If they are interested, then email me and we can get together to work on the testimonial.

I think the OWL and Peace Camp programs are services that no other UP congregation offers in the same way that we do. I feel

the Coming of Age program, under the leadership of Terri Rockwood, is going to become yet another service that we offer to our youth that is unique to MUUC. What I want to communicate to our membership is that their pledges support programs that nurture our youth and that these programs are not found anywhere else but MUUC.

So please volunteer. Send me an email.

TLC (Tender Loving Care) Team: The Marquette Unitarian Universalist church community is a caring one. Together we form a network of members and friends who reach out to one another in times of need. In our efforts to facilitate our ability to reach out, we are currently reorganizing our "Tender Loving Care" (TLC) Committee and welcome new and returning members. The committee generally meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm. For more information contact Patty Sarvello (360-2409; psarvell@nmu.edu).

What is Mqt UU's CDC?

"The Community Development Committee strives to strengthen and deepen the interconnections among MUUC members, friends, and our community. This effort includes embracing newcomers to the congregation and informing them about UUisms, our MUUC community, and the process of becoming members.

Members of the committee develop means of mutual care-giving and plan social events for our congregation to enliven and enrich the lives of our community.

We rely on the efforts of committee members, congregation volunteers, and care-giving organizations in our community."

The CDC meets the third Saturday of each month at 10 am at the Meeting House. Contact Tim Vanderveen to see if this might be the group for you. timhvv@gmail.com or (906) 373-9436

Share Thanksgiving Dinner with other UUs

As many of us do not have family near by at Thanksgiving time, we're going to have a Turkey Dinner with all the Fixins here at the Meeting House on Thursday, November 28th at 3 pm. We'll have a sign-up sheet at church for those who would like to start what may be a new tradition. We need commitments as to number attending, dish bringing. We'll collect a small amount to cover the cost of the turkeys. So, sign up at church or email Sarah Redmond at shelterbay2006@yahoo.com



Exploring Buddhism and Mindful Meditation: If you'd like to join in, mark your calendar for the first (6th) and third (20th) Wednesday at 7 pm. For information contact Sarah Redmond

Crafting together

Would you enjoy gathering together with other UUs to craft, sew, knit, bead, sculpt, draw, paint or just visit? There are lots of arts and craft ideas floating around our group. Some that I have heard about include making prayer/comfort shawls, creating a new church banner, producing creative protest signs, making UU greeting cards, and creating a new altar display. So many great ideas, so little time!

Please join me on Tuesday, November 19, 6:30-8:30 at the Meeting House. You may bring your own craft to work on, or learn to recycle paper into envelopes, or get some basic instruction in knitting. While we are "playing", we can brainstorm about if and how we would like proceed with future crafting get-togethers. Nancy Sullivan



A brief history of Unitarian Universalism in Marquette, Mi

Author's note: Sarah Redmond asked me to write up a history of the Marquette UU Congregation some months ago. It is a task which has led me to tracking down 20 years of church newsletters and engaged me in wonderful conversation with our early founding members. While I am still rewriting and adding to parts of our more recent history, I decided to go ahead and publish the history in sequel parts. So, here is Part 1. Nancy Sullivan

Early roots - 1950s

The first attempt that we know of to start a Unitarian Fellowship occurred in 1950 or 1951. This group was purely Unitarian in focus as it was not until 1961 that the Unitarians and Universalists merged their separate churches into one denomination called Unitarian Universalism.

This effort was initiated primarily by Dr. Roland Schwitzgoebel, who was teaching in the Education Dept. at Northern State Normal School. Roland and his spouse, Marian, had been raised in different religions. Marian was raised Lutheran and Roland was raised Catholic. Neither of them was completely comfortable with the Methodist church where Roland was the choir director. They were searching for something more compatible with their current beliefs.

Roland spotted an advertisement in the Mining Journal one day about a Unitarian from Boston who would be speaking in the area on Unitarian Fellowships. They went to hear him and Roland stayed a long time with this person after the talk to explore the idea. Roland spread the idea around Northern Normal School (the precursor institution to Northern Michigan University) and eventually a small group of people sent in \$100 to Boston for start-up materials.



The group rented the Federated Women's Building in town and met every Sunday evening for a discussion group. Roland took responsibility for picking the discussion topic and organizing the meetings. It was a "pure discussion" group. Marian recalls that Roland used to say that he didn't want to be involved in a "run-of-the-mill" church! Marian remembers leading one of the meetings once. She read the poem, "Daffodills" by William Wordsworth and then folks discussed the poem.

Marian says there were usually about 20 adults at the meetings including the father (Peter Embley) of one of our current (year 2013) members, Sari Embley. No children attended, nor was childcare provided. As a mother, the lack of Sunday school bothered Marian because she felt the children could benefit greatly from it. But only she and one other family had children who were the right age for that at the time.

The group finally disbanded due to leadership fatigue. People were busy with their careers and families. The turnover of the higher education faculty moving away to new positions led to the loss of key members. The few people who did most of the work were tired of the effort and the group finally disbanded after about three years of meeting.

Next month, Part 2: The second and third attempts at starting a UU congregation in Marquette.

Barb's Balancing Act

"**The UU Church of the Larger Fellowship is a global spiritual community, rooted in love, cultivating wonder, imagination and courage.**" The CLF is a 3500 member UU Church without Walls. Most CLF members are UU's who do not live near enough to a congregation to participate in UU activities locally, so they stay connected through the Church of the Larger Fellowship.



When I lived and taught in Germany, our family attended a UU Retreat over Easter weekend, sponsored by the UU Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF), at a lovely spot outside of Amsterdam. There were UU's from Scotland, UU's from Egypt, UU's from all over. CLF is in evidence every year at General Assembly where they always host a wonderful worship service. I feel their wonderful spirit when I am surrounded by CLF members, friends, and their current senior minister, Meg Riley. CLF has lots of programming online now. For example, one afternoon this October, I took the time to go online and listen to a 1-hr CLF program on "Muslim-UU Connections." The historical connections I learned about in the presentation and discussion are fascinating!

At the suggestion of UU minister, Emmy Lou Belcher (who visited us this summer from the DuPage/Naperville UU congregation outside Chicago), our congregation has become involved with the CLF by enrolling in their **Church OnLine**. This will enable everyone in our congregation to benefit from all that the CLF offers. Our subscription to **Church OnLine** will give our entire congregation access to many resources. You can check out **Church OnLine** from the CLF website: <http://www.clfuu.org/about-church-online-col/>, but here are a few highlights:

By joining, we can incorporate and balance with current MUUC's programming and will...

- receive an email with religious education plans called *RE Express*. Written by the Rev. Dr. Lynn Ungar, these lesson plans are intended for multi-aged groups and include crafts, plays, stories, recipes and music;
- receive a password to a protected area of the CLF website, which has hundreds of complete worship services with suggested music, readings, poetry, children's stories, the sermon, and closing words;
- be mailed *Quest*, CLF's printed publication;
- have access to the CLF Library and to Beth Murray, reference librarian, who is available to help us find the best resources to suit our needs; and
- have access to CLF's online worship every Sunday and Monday. These are prerecorded services with a live chat. When you participate, you will be gathering with other UU's from around the world!

The one thing our congregational enrollment in the CLF does not provide is pastoral care. That is available on an individual basis if you choose to join the CLF as an **individual** by making a donation. Joining the CLF as an individual can be done from this link: <http://www.questformeaning.org/connecting/join>

I am thankful today for all those who have given their best efforts through creating **Church OnLine** and offering services and programs through the CLF. I am, of course, thankful to each of you who works so diligently and/or reminds the rest of us to stop and breathe so that our congregation is alive and well.

Happy Thanksgiving in shared ministry,

Barbara Michael

CLF websites: www.QuestForMeaning.org; www.CLFUU.org; www.DailyCompass.org

Notes from the Board:

Each Chronicle will now carry brief notes from the previous Board of Trustees meeting. The full minutes are posted in the Member notebook on the desk in the back of the Meeting Hall. They are also posted on the website and are distributed by email to the Leadership Team after they've been approved at the next meeting. This shorter version is designed to give you a flavor and the highlights of what is going on at the Board meetings which all members and friends are encouraged to attend. If you have any questions, please contact any Board members.

1. Finalization of Building Use Policy. See Tom or Nancy Sullivan
2. Nancy Irish and Tom Spencer have been authorized to perform ceremonies on our behalf for members and non-members.
3. Congregational Conversation reports discussed and plans made to share with leadership team and broader congregation.
4. Ideas for non-Sunday service Adult Programing discussed.
5. gg to get rights to screen film "Bidder 70" the film about UU Tim DeChristopher's anti-fracking activism.
6. Tim VanderVeen presented the Lake Superior Hospice program offer for a program on working with those in last stages of life.
7. Decision was made to join Church of Larger Fellowship to gain access to resources for small congregations.
8. Finance Committee reported on recently completed Internal Financial Review.
9. Treasurer notes of interest: Current balance of \$108,324.41 year mortgage, paid weekly, rate of 6.5%, balloon payment due in 2016. Original mortgage of \$138,500, 25 year mortgage, rate of 8.25%. Carryover from 2012-13, \$10,777.27; MBank checking balance, \$21,896.83; bills paid in Sept., \$3,637.33.15% budget (\$65,292) paid YTD.

Calendar



November	2nd	Leadership Team Meeting 10 am
	4th	Program Committee 1 pm
	6th	Exploring Buddhism 7pm
	10th	Women's Center Fundraiser 4 pm
	13th	TLC (Tender Loving Care) 6:30 pm
	14th	Choir rehearsal 7 pm
	16th	CDC (Community Development Committee) 10 am
	18th	Board of Trustees 6:30 pm
	19th	Crafting 6:30 - 8:30 pm
	20th	Exploring Buddhism 7 pm
	28th	Thanksgiving Dinner 3 pm



Leaving garden rest until late spring gives birds and butterflies like this Common Buckeye a meal, migratory birds will stop again on their way north in the spring. It also benefits the soil to leave the leaves and debris enrich soil over the winter.



Weeping Crab Apple tree two years after Sept 11th planting at UU .



Five years after planting juniper Bush grows first needles an unexpected resurrection, other sand bank plants like wintergreen also taking root. Native planting can be rewarding if you are willing to be patient.