



THE CHRONICLE

Marquette
Unitarian Universalist
Congregation



Services & Forums December 2014



Date	Service (11 a.m.)	Forum (9:45 – 10:30a.m.)
Dec. 7	“Passages and Pilgrimage” Service Leader: gg gordon	“Congregational Conversations About...” Host: MqtUU Board of Trustees
Dec. 14	"A Service of Carols & Holiday Music to Enrich our Spirits” Service Leaders: Barb Michael and the Music Committee	“The Gift of the Season.” Host: Tim VanderVeen
Dec. 21	“Yule ~ Winter Solstice.” Service Leader: Wiccan Rev. Dea Kowalczyk	NO FORUM TODAY
Dec. 24 (Wed. 5pm)	“Christmas Eve Music, Songs, Hymns.” Host: Kathy Klos	
Dec. 28	“Reflections on the Year.” Service Leader: Tim VanderVeen (short service followed by brunch)	NO FORUM TODAY

You are Invited...

*10th Annual
Heifer Fundraiser Dinner
December 6
5 – 7pm*

Bring a soup or dessert, give to a great cause, eat soup, visit with friends and eat soup!

<http://www.heifer.org/>



Holiday Caroling

**Monday, December 22
Starting at Norlite at 6:00 PM.**

Permission has been granted by Mill Creek, Norlite, and Brookridge Heights assisted living facilities to share **Christmas Caroling** with the residents. Nancy Irish is providing caroling music for us. Sharing the music of the Holiday Season is a wonderful gift we can share and the smiles we see and the love we feel will never be forgotten. Trust me, you will get more than you give and the joy it brings will lift your spirits and last well beyond the Holiday Season.

Tim VanderVeen



FROM: MqtUU President, Sarah Redmond



The *Season of Gratitude* is the period between putting away the Halloween costumes and pack up the Christmas tree. That fallow time of year when our gardens are blanketed in snow, the sky is gray and the nights are long gives us time to reflect on what we're truly grateful for. It also gives us pause to think about all those individuals in our personal lives, in our church life, who add to the overall quality of our lives.

By looking at the last few pages of our Directory you can see the degree of what it takes to make our congregation function, grow and thrive. The formal committees and groups are just the beginning of what happens every Sunday, during the week and in the community. Reach out to one another and say thanks for all you do during this season of gratitude.

Are we perfect? Of course not, but we keep trying to be the best we can as individuals and as a congregation. Thanks one and all.

Merry *Season of Gratitude* to you Members, Friends and Staff of Marquette Unitarian Universalist Congregation.

Sarah Redmond



Intergenerational Service of Carols & Holiday Music to Enrich our Spirits

You're in for a treat on Sunday morning, Dec. 14th as we gather to share some music of the season with bells; special vocal soloists; a very fine string quartet; a video or two; and a possible surprise, young adult, guest musician. We'll offer brief intros with interesting background which may give some new insights and offer inspiration themselves. Whether you celebrate the season as a Christian UU, an atheist UU, or anything in between, there will be something for you! If you would be willing to help lead parts of the service, join with others at 7 pm on Thursday evening, Dec. 4 at the Meeting House.



FROM: Social Action Committee~“Share the Plate” offers opportunities for our members to develop and deepen connections with these non-profit organizations. Your nominations of non-profit organizations for next year's recipients are welcome!



December “Share the Plate” Recipient:

UUSC “Guest at Your Table”, an annual fundraising and education program that supports UUSC's human rights work.

Let's gather to support human rights!  UUSC

<http://www.uusc.org/welcome-to-guest-at-your-table>



Joys and Concerns Haiku

Some Sundays, the most meaningful moment comes when people light a candle [or with Mqt UU's, slip a pebble or stone in the water] and speak from their hearts about their struggle or moment of grace. It's not easy to share when something big is happening. Some people believe Joys and Concerns isn't possible in a group larger than 20 or 30. Yet I've seen it work beautifully in a congregation of 300. Why? Because they ask people to be clear about what they need to say and to take no more than 20 seconds. It's not a law. It's a guideline. Most important? Ask your heart what you need to tell the community.

It may be helpful to write it out. I think of it as "Joys and Concerns Haiku."

And then, on Sunday morning, line up, come forward, introduce yourself, light your candle, and speak from your heart!

~ UU minister, Rev. Mary Grigolia



MqtUU & RATI

The Marquette Unitarian Universalist Congregation will host Room at the Inn (RATI) during the week of January 11th-January 18th. Room at the Inn is rotating homeless shelter that operates October through May. While several members of MqtUU have supported RATI through volunteerism, it is the first time MqtUU is hosting.

We will need approximately 90 volunteers to execute this project. There is a volunteer opportunity for everyone from cooking and serving a meal, assisting with set up or break down, doing loads of laundry, covering a shift (MUST attend training--see below), providing snacks, and more. Michelle Halley and Sarah Johnson are our UU Coordinators, with additional support provided by Darlene Dreisbach and Kim Frost, Guest Advocate at RATI.

Items needed: night lights, two wash tubs, toiletries (toothbrushes, toothpaste, feminine sanitary products).

Sign ups will be available on Sundays with the goal of having all slots filled by Sunday, December 14th. You may also contact Sarah Johnson, 458-3915 or iamsarahjeanjohnson@gmail.com OR Michelle Halley, 361-0520 or michelle.halley@sbcglobal.net.

The next training is December 18th at the Warming Center at 6pm. Training lasts approximately 1 1/2-2 hours. <http://www.roomattheinn.org/>

Happy, Merry, Blessed...Chalica?

Yes, we ought make "Everyday Earth Day" and everyday, a Day of Giving Thanks and everyday we ought live out our 7 Principles. But how about a week spent celebrating, reflecting on and acting out those principles? To learn more about Chalica:

<http://www.uua.org/worship/holidays/174566.shtml>



FROM: MqtUU Religious Exploration Coordinator

There are many things to be thankful for and our beloved community has been high on the charts. The Religious Exploration Program has grown into a progressive movement for all ages and I look forward to seeing growth in the years to come. We are preparing for the Tenth annual Heifer Dinner Saturday, December 6th.

The kids pulled together in November to have a Heifer planning night and we made thank you cards, planned duties, and created a welcome sign. We also worked on the RE song for our communal bread service. The song was a hit and we also made up hand motions. A big thank you to Jill Mielcarek and Teri Rockwood for providing dough and bread for the children to work with at the bread service. Jill Mielcarek is the new RE Committee chairperson & is "greatly looking forward to getting more involved with this wonderful UU community!"

The Coming Of Age students will provide the November 30th service. Teri Rockwood and the other families have done a tremendous job this year. Thank you all for participating!

It has been a great experience working within such a loving community and you all have a special place in this heart. Thank you for the support, trust, and understanding.

Sincerely,
Laura M. Nagle

Notes from RE:

- * Heifer Dinner & Bread service planning night held November 22 was busy making thank you cards for Heifer dinner.
- * Everyone is welcome to join us for Heifer Dinner on Saturday, December 6 at 5pm.
- * Bread Service was a wonderful success held November 23.
- * Coming Of Age Service on 11/30 led by Teri Rockwood & UU High School students
- * Jill Mielcarek is new RE Committee chairperson & greatly looking forward to getting more involved with this wonderful UU community! :)

7 Principles of Unitarian Universalism

We believe that each
and every person is
important.

We believe that all
people should be
treated fairly and
kindly.

We believe that we
should accept one
another and keep on
learning together.

We believe that each
person must be free
to search for what is
true and right in life.

We believe that all
persons should have a
vote about the things
that concern them.

We believe in working
for a peaceful, fair,
and free world.

We believe in caring
for our planet Earth,
the home we share
with all living things.





From Paula Kiesling:

I have a family who loves me and comes to see me when they can...a family who will battle for me - even if it's miles between us. I have beautiful friends who have walked with me on this journey to recovery. It's hard to believe such fidelity could exist. I have a faith community that I cherish and want to give back just a little of what they have given me. They are the blood in my veins - circulating their beauty, energy, and compassion into my life. Sisu to you all!

From Barb Michael:

I am thankful for our entire congregation - adults (including Northern students), youth, children, little ones on the way - for those who do so much of the work and for those who contribute their time and talents when they can - often behind-the-scenes, just their presence, or positive thoughts from greater distances. Am so very grateful for my extended family as well as our guests and those who are considering joining in the new year!

FROM: Tim VanderVeen, Community Development Committee

The Community Development Committee meets every month with the goal of providing material and emotional support for our members, friends, and the community-at-large. We provide a new member orientation and welcoming program for those making the commitment to becoming members of our congregation. The CDC members also enlist greeters and kitchen help on any given Sunday, as well as individual support for those facing difficult times. We support several community programs such as the Women's Shelter, Room at the Inn, End of Life workshop, Adopt-A-Highway, and a variety of groups and organizations which reflect our values of acceptance and compassion.

Our committee is encouraging others to attend our meetings and consider becoming an active member of the CDC. Fresh ideas, energy, and caring hearts are all that is needed to contribute to the well-being of our congregation and our community.

~WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE~

In this, the giving season, we will be collecting winter clothing for the guests of Room At The Inn. For more information, please contact Tim VanderVeen, CDC Chair, at 906-346-2122.

**Buddhism Exploration
and
Mindful Meditation**

December 3 & 17 @ 7pm
(1st and 3rd Wednesdays)

No experience needed,
All are welcome to join!



**FIRST FRIDAY
POTLUCK & SOCIAL**

December 5 @ 6pm
MqtUU Meeting House

Bring a dish to share for MqtUU
monthly potluck.

Come for dinner and stay for
holiday fun and games!



**Child Dedication Being Offered in
Early 2015**

In early 2015, a Child Dedication Worship Service will be offered to those families who want to participate. A Child Dedication is a ceremony that takes place in the context of the Sunday service, and the congregation declares its dedication to the nurture of all children who are part of

the religious community. This service can include infants to older children. Water may be used to symbolize the source of all life in the world. A rose may be presented to the child or the family to represent the beauty and fragility of life and its unfolding promise. Our hope for the child is that he or she will feel the support of the family and church, and grow into an adult who will fulfill our dreams of a more loving existence together. In the words of the Zuni tribe:

Our child, it is your day.

This day.

May your road be fulfilled.

In your thoughts may we live.

May we be the ones whom your thoughts embrace.

May you help us all finish our roads.

Please contact Teri Rockwood if you are interested in the Child Dedication Service.

teri.rockwood@gmail.com



Search for piano or guitar accompanist

If you know anyone who may be interested in accompanying the congregation and small group of UU singers occasionally, please have them contact Jeanne or Barb. A stipend will be offered.

Jeanne Trost, Music Committee Chair, at jeannehaven@aol.com

Barb Michael, Coordinator of Music, at michael.barbara.102@gmail.com



December Meetings & Events (See Forums & Services on pg. 1)

(Meetings and events will take place at the Meeting House unless otherwise specified)

Dec. 4, 11, 18 @ 7pm	Upper Yoopers Barbershop Chorus
Dec. 3 & 17 @ 7pm Wednesdays	Buddhist Exploration & Meditation
Dec. 4 @ 7 – 8:30pm Tuesday	Choir Rehearsal
Dec. 5 @ 6pm Friday	First Friday! Bring a dish to share, come for a meal, stay for Holiday Fun & Games!
Dec. 6 @ 5pm Saturday	10 th Annual Heifer Fundraiser Dinner
Dec. 13 @ 10am Saturday	Men's Group
Dec. 15 @ 6pm Monday	MqtUU Board of Trustees Meeting
Dec. 21 @ 12:15pm Sunday	Social Action Committee
Dec. 22 @ 6pm Monday	Holiday Caroling beginning at Norlite
Dec. 24 @ 5pm Wednesday	"Christmas Eve Music, Songs, Hymns." Host: Kathy Klos

Check us out on the web @ mqtuu.org and "Like" us on Facebook and join the Facebook group!

Thank you!

FROM: MUUSJN

It's a season when many of us we have reasons to celebrate -- friends, family and other good things in our lives. It's also a time celebrate our collective progress for justice.

However, it's also a season of protest and anguish that justice was not served in the community of Ferguson, Missouri. It's a season where we, in Michigan, particularly those who call ourselves people of faith, must stand up for human rights. The Michigan legislature, during its lame duck session, is considering a bill, that -- in the name of "religious freedom" -- would allow people to use their religious beliefs to justify discrimination against women, people of color and persons from the gay and transgender communities.

We have justice work to do. So after enjoying food and quality time with family, let's step up to the plate and take a stand for justice during the lame duck session and during the new year. With your support, MUUSJN will continue to give voice and visibility for UUs and our progressive allies during 2015. Stay in touch!

