

THE CHRONICLE

Marquette Unitarian Universalist Congregation



Services & Forums June 2014



Date	Service (11 a.m.)	Forum (9:45 – 10:30a.m.)
June 1	"The Sacred Path of the Long Lived." Presenters: February Sky (Phil Cooper and Susan Urban)	"A History of Memorial Day." Host: Kathy Klos
June 8	"Where We've Been, and Where We Are Going." Service by Religious Education and Parents	"ICON: MUUC Online." Host: Heidi Gould
June 15	"A Politics of Respect." Service Leader: Tom Spencer	"Are Unitarians Tolerant?" Host: Martin Steindler
June 22	"Litha ~ Celebrating Summer Solstice." Service Leader: Heidi Gould	"UU World Discussion." Hosts: Tom Sullivan and Tim VanderVeen
June 29		

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, June 8th

**Adult Forum @ 9:45am
MUUC AA, Heidi Gould,
will introduce members
to ICON, our "in-the-cloud" data entry
system. Members will be assigned their
own login information and instruction
on how to access and update contact
information and check balances on
annual pledges.
I hope to see you there!!**

PLEASE NOTE:

**The last regular Religious Education
program for children will be Sunday,
June 8th. Childcare activities during
the 11:00am services will begin for the
summer on June 15.**

**ALSO: Intergenerational services
away from the Meeting House this
summer will be held on:**

**~ August 3 at Presque Isle
~ August 24 at Lakenenland!**

FROM: MUUC Board President, Barb Michael

Continuing the Balancing Act..."Letting Go and Holding On"

June 30 will be my last day serving as your congregational president. It is a "letting go" which I have the choice to make. I will gladly put more effort into social action efforts and finding a new accompanist and/or coordinator of music for MUUC - and leave the governance to others.

We all balance our lives with "letting go" and "taking on new interests or responsibilities." Some are easier than others, and some are easier for some people than others, as we all make our way through life's constant changes. "Roots hold me close, wings set me free." ~ Carolyn McDade.

I have had the privilege to choose to:

- have children (and not have the fear that they will be grabbed and hauled off to some unknown prison with no charges for indefinite time periods)
- move to Oberlin, to Negaunee, to Chocolay Township (and have that freedom of movement and know that someone is not ready to tear my house down)
- plant, even though the resident chipmunk, rabbit, and deer tend to munch on the edibles (but so grateful that it's not a soldier uprooting my olive trees).

I also have the privilege to choose my attitudes – letting go of negative habits and internalizing UU Principles and values in which I believe.

Flexibility, empathy, and memories help me when I am not the one making the choice...when it is out of my hands.

"Well, we've found a new home..." My sister and brother-in-law are selling the home to which they retired – our "family home" - which previously belonged to my Aunt Elsie and Uncle Roger...the home which inside nurtured babies in loving arms, and outside under the lilac bush or the maple tree which grew for four generations. The home where we celebrated holidays, and the home where we let go of my sweet grandma, my dependable uncle, and my understanding aunt. It helps that I said good-bye to the house on Normandy Ave. awhile back, but one of my daughters and my niece are struggling with it. "Mom, you will buy it, won't you?"

"I got the job in Cape Town!" My older daughter was ready to let go of Miami Beach and embark on a new position as director of a school in South Africa. More recently, "Mom, when are you coming? Besides learning English, I have students out surfing, drumming, dancing, and doing yoga...it's a damn dream school." Letting go across 8500 miles and staying in touch.

"It's a malignant melanoma" said the vet. "Mom, when the time comes, you'll have Chum euthanized at home, won't you?"

"She passed." Words we read online about Jo, Lee, Georgette, Cathy's mom - then Ruth and Alice on the same day. "I lift my lamp to light you on your way." ~ R Tagore. These sad letting-go's challenge me to remember that each gave legacies of humor, wisdom, spirituality, strength, and love for the earth and its inhabitants. May we each embody that spirit of love and let it spread throughout our community and beyond.

In shared ministry,

Barb Michael

FROM: Religious Education Coordinator

This month the younger RE children have learned many ways in which religious groups commemorate their loved ones. We honored the women in our congregation by distributing roses in the Mother's Day service and heart-shaped cards to everyone there. The middle school OWL students are wrapping up their final sessions and the upper elementary deep ecology students have been active in the community. The high school coming of age group is getting ready for their summer vision quest and will continue on with activities next fall. All students of RE will host an ice cream social on June 1st after the regularly scheduled service and conduct the main service on June 8th. We will be looking into what has been accomplished this year as well as the plan for our future. Childcare will be provided during the summer and if you are interested in volunteering please contact Laura Nagle at muurec@gmail.com.

Lower elementary children

May 4th - Death

We read a story from India that posed the question "What happens when a person dies?" and the group came up with answers like "Nothing we just die" and "I don't know. I've never died." There are many burial practices throughout different religions. We explored Jewish, Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Unitarian Universalist and Buddhist traditions. Using dolls, we simulated burial (in a bucket of dirt) and cremation (with red fabric as the flame). Before these simulations we bathed the dolls and adorned them in flowers following various religious practices.

May 11th - Mother's Day and Julia Ward Howe

The original Mother's Day idea came from Unitarian Julia Ward Howe and we talked about her history during the intergenerational moment. In the RE classroom we continued our discussion of death and ritual. The students used drums to sing out eulogies of their fellow classmates. At the end of our lesson we went back into the larger sanctuary and sang the closing music "Bread and Roses".

May 18th - Flower ceremony

This intergenerational service was led by Teri Rockwood and Megan Foulk. The children brought all of the flower vases to the front of the sanctuary. Later we all came up, chose a flower and participated in a guided meditation.

May 25th – Volunteer preparation

Many families went out of town on this Sunday but we took it as an opportunity to work on our "Thank you Volunteers celebration" on June 1st. We will also be having a family/volunteer led service on June 8th that was talked about on this Sunday. Once the planning is in place we will work on a Father's Day activity. This will include a short history lesson on the father of Unitarianism and a father of Universalism, William Ellery Channing and John Murray respectively.

June 1st - Preparation for our offering of the Ice Cream Social (and for Father's Day)

This class will be focused on the set-up for our ice cream social. The social is scheduled for after the service at noon, and we will be honoring our wonderful volunteers. The class time will also be spent on discussing plans for the service (the students want to have) the following Sunday, June 8, our last formal RE Sunday before childcare activities start for the summer. A slide show will be prepared for the students, and we will compose a script from which they can read.

It has truly been a great year in RE and we are looking forward to sharing our experience with the congregation. This will also be a great summer to plan outdoor activities with the many environmental groups in the area such as Moosewood, Save the Wild UP and the Chocoday Township garden.

FROM: The Social Action Committee

The month of May was a busy one for many of us. The Social Action Committee did not meet in person, but shared many conversations via email.

Nothing But Nets was chosen as the “Share the Plate” recipient of half the non-pledged funds from our offertory in the month of June. As a global grassroots campaign to raise awareness and funding to fight malaria, a leading cause of death among children in Africa, *Nothing But Nets* allows everyone from students to CEOs, bishops to basketball players to YOU! To join the fight against malaria, to send a net and save a life. For more information check out

<http://nothingbutnets.net/>.

2014 “Share the Plate” Contributions

February	UP Rainbow Pride	\$168.40
March	MUUSJN	\$146.19
April	Camp New Day	\$201.55
May	Detroit Youth Volume	

At our annual congregational meeting we, the MUUC Congregation, voted to support the change/creation of the anti-discrimination/human rights ordinance for the City of Marquette. We ask that all supporters contact the city commissioners to encourage them to follow-up with our request and get it on the agenda of a City Commissioners Meeting soon. How wonderful it would be to celebrate the creation and enactment of a Human Rights Ordinance with UP Rainbow Pride at the Pride Fest in September!

The congregation also voted in support of renewing our Welcoming Congregation status. SAC will be coordinating a Welcoming Congregation Refresher Course to be offered in the Fall.

SAC is also continuing to investigate the Restaurant Industry and work environment of food service workers in our community. Pay for tipped employees is different than the standard minimum wage, which is another issue we are monitoring.

“On September 1, the minimum wage **for tipped employees** will be 38 percent of the regular minimum wage. It's currently \$2.65 per hour, which amounts to about 35 percent of the \$7.40 minimum wage.”

http://www.mlive.com/lansing-news/index.ssf/2014/05/minimum_wage_how_does_michigan.html

If you are interested in social action/justice, please join MUUC Social Action Committee, as we discuss the issues and explore options and take action!



FROM: The Green Team

The first meeting of the re-formed Green Team met, established priorities with leadership and have set the second meeting for Sunday, June 15th following the service. Some of the ideas being developed include investigating the installation of solar panels for the Meeting House, expanding native plant habitat on our property, fossil fuel divestment effort and the use of non-toxic cleaning products. Some are low or no cost and others will take resources of our own, grant money and/or fund raising.

All ideas have folks who are willing to take a leadership role and more information to follow.

Thank you Megan Foulks, Ginning Giddings, Heidi Gould and Sarah Redmond for stepping up. Looking for others with ideas and willingness to make them happen. See you on the 15th. (It's Father's Day, what better gift for Dad than a healthy, living planet!)

Mindful Meditation and Exploring Buddhism group invites you to join us.

We meet the first and third Wednesdays at 7pm at the Meeting House. It's designed for beginners and those interested in learning more about Buddhist philosophy and thought. We sit and meditate for 10 minutes, discuss the text for 30 to 45 minutes, then finish with another 20 minute meditation. Nothing too difficult is there? Dharmini Robertson, a new Mqt. UU member, has been helping us understand the text we're reading and leading our meditations. We're very lucky to have her with us. Ask Dharmini, Barb Michael, Mike White, Megan Foulks, Janine Adams and Jill Meehleder about the group, or just take the leap of faith and join us!

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

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

June 3 @ 1pm Tuesday	MUUC Program Committee Meeting
June 4 & 18 @ 7pm Wednesdays	Mindful Meditation and Exploring Buddhism group
June 15 @ 12:30p Sunday	Social Action Committee/Followed by Green Team Meeting
June 19 @ 6pm Thursday	MUUC Board of Trustees Meeting
June 22 @ 12pm Sunday	MUUC Plant Sale

Find us on Facebook and check out our website at www.mqtuu.org

Spring Plant Exchange

ONE DAY ONLY

*Marquette Unitarian Universalist
Meeting House*

*1510 M-28 East, 2.88 miles east of US 41 & M28
Look for the Rainbow Flag on the Right*

Bring Plants to Swap

12PM-2PM Sunday June 22

*Donations appreciated with a portion of the proceeds going to
support NMU Public Broadcasting*

Questions Call Sari Embley 906-225-1778 or text 906-360-6776

