



THE CHRONICLE

Marquette
Unitarian Universalist
Congregation



Services & Forums September 2014



Date	Service (11 a.m.)	Forum (9:45 – 10:30a.m.)
Sept. 7	“Water Communion/Ingathering.” Service Leader: Teri Rockwood. Potluck following service	“The Copyists Who Gave Us the Scriptures and the Problems They Caused.” Host: Tom Spencer
Sept. 14	“The Greatest Wisdom Is Kindness.” Presenters: February Sky (Phil Cooper and Susan Urban) As Unitarian Universalists, we affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person. This principle forms a shared commitment to be kind to everyone we meet, and especially to those with whom we share our beloved UU community. We believe that simple mindfulness is the key to living up to this principle as consistently as is humanly possible. This service will encourage that mindfulness.	“Religion and Socialism, Part 2.” Host: Wayde Jackson. Socialism as a concept and as a social system existed long before the development of Marxism in the mid-1800's. In fact the ideas behind socialism reach as far back as ancient Greece and can be seen in the prominent world religions. So let's take a look into religions' Socialist leanings.
Sept. 21	“Mabon ~ Celebrating Autumn Equinox.” Service Leader: Heidi Gould	“A Discussion of the Our Whole Lives Program.” Host: gg gordon
Sept. 28	“Being Part of a Spiritual Community.” Service Leader: Tom Spencer	“Is Solar a Possibility for MqtUU?” Host: The MqtUU Green Team



Service of Mourning Wed., Sept. 3rd

“Affirming the worth and dignity of every person...”

To be held in the Meeting House at 6:30pm in solidarity with those hurting around the nation, in light of violence in Gaza, Iraq, and the U.S. (Ferguson, Staten Island, and Los Angeles). The event ties in with a National Day of Mourning.

Our service of inspiration is open to the community and will include words from special guests, interspersed with music. The Buddhist meditation group will begin at 7 pm for those wishing to stay. All are welcome.

FROM: Mqt. UU Board President



Having gone to my 50th high school reunion, one would think I'd be past seeing September as the beginning of the year, but I'm not. My guess is many of you feel the same. Add to this, for UUs September is the real beginning of our church year as we welcome back our traveling, hiking, kayaking, gardening and visiting members with our *Water Ceremony* on Sunday, September 7th. We'll be bringing water from our travels to join together in one vessel as a symbol of our joining together. Remember to wear your Mqt.UU green shirts (if you don't have one yet, see Tim V. as there are some still available), or your yellow Standing On the Side of Love t shirt. Why wear the shirts? Because we'll once again take our group photo to add to our photo from 2013. We'll frame and post them as a way of starting a new tradition as we enter our eighth year in our church home in Harvey.

One year ago we participated in our Congregation Conversations led by the Wrights and Steindlers. The compilation of comments was shared with the Board and the Congregation and work started immediately to implement many of those. Heidi Gould was hired as our Administrative Assistant in January in an effort to consolidate many of the communication and other tasks. This year we are looking to take on the larger task of creating a Mission/Vision statement which five members have agreed to help develop with our January mid-year meeting approval. We'll all have an opportunity for input during this process chaired by gg gordon, with Martin Steindler, Bill Joswiak, Heidi Gould and Dharmini Robertson helping. Stay tuned.

What is important about going through this process of Mission/Visioning? First, although this congregation has done so before, we have many new members who need to have their say. And, if we are to implement one of the often mentioned desires from the *Congregational Conversations*, to have a minister, even part time, we must have a clear idea of who we are, what we believe and how we want to join together as a religious, spiritual community.

This year's Board of Trustees, Tim VanderVeen, Teri Rockwood, Mary Maki, Chris Wagner and myself, met in early August to look forward to the year ahead for priorities we wanted to set. On Saturday September 13th from 9 to 11:30, we are asking the Leadership Team (committee chairs, Board members and key volunteers) to discuss, refine and make plans to implement as many of the goals as we can. If you'd like to join in, please let me know so we can get information to you ahead of time.

Our Religious Exploration committee has new members — Jill Meehleder, Millie White, Cara Brunk and Jacob Studinger; thank you. Barb Michael has agreed to help them with a very important task, that of hiring a new RE coordinator. That's right, Laura Nagle is looking to move on to her next opportunity and to be able to travel. She has agreed to stay with us this Fall as we find and hire her replacement; thank you Laura. Thank you RE committee members for agreeing to help with such an important part of our congregation.

Lots of other things happening in the next few months, check Chronicle and This 'n That for details. Here's to a great church New Year one and all.

Sarah Redmond



FROM: Religious Exploration Coordinator

Greetings,

Although we have not been full in RE participation this summer we are looking forward to a very full year. Starting the night before RE we will be hosting an “RE kick-off night” September 13th at the meeting house beginning at 6:30. Here the parents and kids will have a chance to catch up on their past summer experience and work together on building our youth community. We will be making a “peace pizza”, crafting, watching a movie and having a good old fashion sleep over! Camping is also an option if the weather permits. If you would like join us, all are welcome. Please contact Laura Nagle (muurec@gmail.com).

Our Religious Exploration program thrives off volunteers and we are still in need of teachers. The curriculum is straight from UUA Tapestry of Faith web page. Every session is laid out step by step and can be taught by anyone. If you are interested in reviewing the curriculum please visit <http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/index.shtml>

The curriculum that we have chosen for Grades K-1 is “Creating a Home” written By Christy Olson and Jessica York. This program helps children develop a sense of home that is grounded in faith. Grades 2-3 are learning “Moral Tales” created By Rev. Alice Anacheke-Nasemann and Elisa Davy Pearmain. This course provides children with spiritual and ethical tools to make choices and take actions that reflect their Unitarian Universalist beliefs and values. The kids in Grades 4-5 will be learning “Tool Box of Faith” written by Katie Tweedie Covey and it invites participants to reflect on qualities of our Unitarian Universalist faith, such as integrity, courage and love, as tools they can use in living their lives and building their own faith. The older students are encouraged to apprentice the RE program. If you would be interested in teaching please step up. We are still in great need of teachers and are getting close to the beginning of Religious Exploration. The first day of RE is September 14th and we are thrilled to begin an exciting new chapter.

The coming of age program, facilitated by Teri Rockwood, will be venturing out on their “Vision Quest” in the upcoming months. This experience will give the students an opportunity to explore their own spiritual journey and reflect on the program thus far.

We have a few new members on our committee! Please give a big welcome to Milli White, Jill Meehleder and Cara Brunk. Michelle Halley has retired in her position on the RE committee and



we would like to say thank you to all of the years that have been dedicated to moving our program forward. Our next meeting will be held at Babycakes, in Marquette, at 10am on September 20th (Saturday). Please feel free to join us!

~Laura Nagle



FROM: The Social Action Committee



Congratulations to members of MqtUU Social Action Committee and UP Rainbow Pride!

At the Monday, August 25 meeting, the Marquette City Commissioners unanimously voted to pass the Resolution in Support of Non-Discrimination of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Persons, as well as proclaiming September 6th, 2014 as *Rainbow Pride Festival Day in the City of Marquette!!*

Representatives from the state organizations, MI For Marriage and Unity Michigan, will be present to support UP Rainbow Pride, as well as many other supporting organizations and businesses!

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“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!

September’s “Share the Plate” recipient: Doctors Without Borders



We are Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF). We help people worldwide where the need is greatest, delivering emergency medical aid to people affected by conflict, epidemics, disasters or exclusion from health care.

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

Our next Social Action Committee meeting is scheduled for Sunday, September 21 at the Meeting House at 12:30pm. Please join us and bring your thoughts and suggestions on how to further promote the cause of justice and equality in our community and around the world.

~Heidi Gould

FROM: Teri Rockwood

**Water Communion: Ingathering
Intergenerational Service
September 8, 2013**

Like water flowing to the sea, we have returned from the lakes, rivers and quiet places where we spent some of our days this past summer and once again return to our beloved community at the Marquette Unitarian Universalist Congregation. September is often the month when the members and friends that have been absent most of the summer settle back in to a more regular attendance with our beloved community.

As we come together for our Water Communion Service, members and guests are invited to bring water from their summer adventures, be they from travels far or near (even from your home water supply).

We will be sharing our stories with each other as we participate in our uniquely Unitarian Universalist ritual of water communion, so please be prepared to offer a sentence or two, not only where the water is from but perhaps more importantly, what meaning it holds for you. This is an Intergenerational Service. Child care will also be available for those children that need it.

Service Leader: Teri Rockwood

FROM: Stewardship Committee



We wound up our stewardship campaign with 45 pledges totaling \$58,512. This campaign was my first as the stewardship chairperson and I found the whole process humbling. I want to thank all the members who pledged. You are supporting programs and services that are making us a more intimate and cohesive community as well as a force for social justice in our community.

Our 45 pledges range from \$20 to \$7200 for the year. Our top three pledgers provide 31% of our budget. We are grateful to have 7 members who pledge over \$3000 per year for our congregation. We have 17 members who pledge over \$1000 per year.

As I think about next year's campaign, I would like to increase the number of members in our congregation and try to spread out the burden of our finances over more people. I hope we can continue to evolve into the kind organization in the next year that effects lives in a way that is worthy of your support.

Mike White
Stewardship Chairperson

FROM: MqtUU Treasurer, g.g. gordon,

If you are on a committee, or thinking about joining a committee (shameless plug = committee participation is a great way to deepen your connection to the congregation and other members), you may not realize that every committee has a line item in the budget with money set aside for the committee to spend in furtherance of its mission. Here is what each committee had at its disposal at the start of the fiscal year:

Adult Enrichment:	\$500	Community Development:	\$500
Communications:	\$1200	Kitchen:	\$500
Library:	\$200	Music:	\$1580
Program:	\$4500	RE:	\$1000
		[+ \$500 for RE Coordinator's professional expenses]	
Social Action:	\$200	Stewardship:	\$600
TLC:	\$125		

A few committees have already spent some of their allocation. Most have not. I am always available to tell how much there is left to spend, and the figure is also included in every monthly Treasurer's Report. If you ever have questions, please just ask me or email me at plumskiter@gmail.com.

On another note: Both the Congregation's and my personal piano were tuned recently by White's piano tuning service (took over from Mike Hoffman). Every time anyone has White's tune a piano, they will receive a \$7.50 coupon that can be applied to a future piano tuning for a church or school. So, if you have a piano and White's tunes it, be sure to collect your coupon. If you choose to give it to the Congregation, we will be most appreciative! There is no limit on how many coupons we can use to pay a bill, so these coupons could potentially save us 100% of our piano tuning costs! Our piano itself was a very generous gift to the congregation several years ago, and it is incumbent upon us to maintain it well. So, if you have any of these coupons, you may give them to me, or simply put them in the Treasurer's folder at the meetinghouse. Thanks!



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**So much information...
So many resources...
So little time...**

uua.org

First Friday POTLUCK & SOCIAL

September 5th @ 6pm
MqtUU Meeting House

Bring a dish to share for MqtUU
monthly potluck.

Come for dinner and
stay for the movie!

“Inequality for All”

...dramatizes the growing income gap in
the United States and the implications for
the health of the American economy. It
leads to discussion about actions to reverse
inequality. And it is also a fun movie.

<http://inequalityforall.com/>

Buddhism Exploration and Mindful Meditation

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

Meet to meditate and discuss pages 74 - 89 of
*Eight Mindful Steps to Happiness, walking the
Buddha's path*. New folks are always welcome,
so don't feel you need to have read the book;
we'll help you catch up.

The **Coming of Age** group will be meeting twice
a month to finish the program by December.

We're Going Back To School



FROM: The Green Team

The next Green Team meeting is scheduled for **Monday, Sept 8th @ 4:30** at Meeting House.



TOPIC of DISCUSSION:

Going Solar at MqtUU Meeting House?!?!

Guest speakers will be Sam Simonette from the Alger Delta board, Brett Niemi, consultant for Alger Delta and Steve Waller who has been doing solar in the Marquette area since the '70s. Please bring thoughts and questions on going solar at the MqtUU Meeting House.

MqtUU Men's Group Meeting

All men of the congregation are
encouraged to join the monthly meeting of
the Men's Group for sharing and
conversation with one another.

For more information please contact:

Dan Redmond

danielwredmond@gmail.com

Thursday, September 18th @ 7pm



Mqt UU Lay Leader Meeting

Committee chairs, Board Members and
key volunteers are being invited to refine
and help implement priorities for 2014-15
church year. All members are welcome
to attend and add their voice and efforts
to making this a great church year.

Saturday, September 13 @ 9am
Meeting House



DON'T FORGET TO "LIKE" us on Facebook and join our Facebook Group!

Also check out our website at mqtuu.org

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

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

September 3, 6:30pm Wednesday	Service of Mourning
September 3, 7:00pm Wednesday	Buddhist Exploration and Meditation (Meets the 1 st and 3 rd Wednesdays)
September 5, 6:00pm Friday	First Friday Potluck and Social
September 8, 4:30pm Monday	Green Team Meeting
September 10, 1:00pm Wednesday	Communications Team Meeting, Peter White Public Library
September 13, 9:00am Saturday	Lay Leader Meeting
September 15, 6:00pm Monday	MqtUU Board of Trustees Meeting
September 18, 7:00pm Thursday	MqtUU Men's Group
September 21, 12:30pm Sunday	Social Action Committee
September 26 & 27 Friday & Saturday	United By Light Seminar Friday, 7 - 9pm ~ Tapping into Your Intuition Using Divination Saturday, 9 - 12pm ~ Kitchen Witchery 1 - 3:30PM ~ Beginning Crystals and Stones

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

Can religion survive in the 21st century?
John Spong
Saturday, Sept. 13th

Can Religion Survive in the 21st Century?
Why Christianity must change or die
1:00 pm Reynolds Recital Hall
Northern Michigan University
Free admission + Question & Response + Book Signing

Jesus Did not Die for Your Sins
The meaning of the cross
7:00 pm St. Paul's Episcopal Church
201 E. Ridge Street, Marquette
Question & Response + Book Signing + Reception
Donations welcome at the door 906-226-2912
stpauls.dioup.com unityofinnerpeace.org

Can religion survive in the 21st Century? John Spong
Saturday, September 13

Why Christians must change or die 1pm @
Reynolds Recital Hall, NMU

Jesus Did not Die for Your Sins
The meaning of the Cross
7pm @ St. Paul's Episcopal Church

John Shelby Spong, whose books have sold more than a million copies, was bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark for 24 years before his retirement in 2001. His admirers acclaim him as a teaching bishop who makes contemporary theology accessible to the ordinary layperson — he's considered the champion of an inclusive faith by many, both inside and outside the Christian church. <http://johnshelbyspong.com/>