

yUuper Newsletter

Keweenaw Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

"We affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person."

Sunday Mornings at 10:30 August 2017; Vol. 32, #8

BHK Building (700 Park Ave., Houghton). Enter on North Side, off Waterworks Drive

August's Theme: *The Inherent Worth and Dignity of Every Person*"

Sunday Schedule for August 2017

August 6 : " Bewabic State Park, Crystal Falls, Michigan; No Houghton Service. "Where Do We Come From?" In the second annual UUUP Gathering, Rev. Chris will examine how the unique identities of our four area congregations can be blessings for our congregations as we find ways to build Beloved Community.

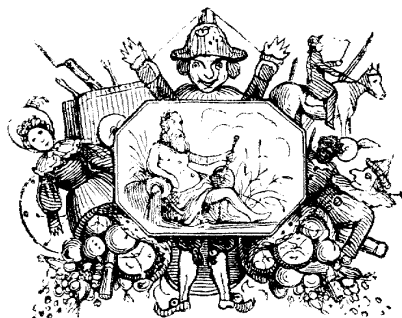
August 13: "A Forest Bioeconomy Is Taking Root In Michigan" with Dr. Mark Rudnicki, a Professor of Practice in Forest Biomaterials at Michigan Tech.

August 20: "Radical Worth and Dignity": Why is the first principle such a radical statement about the nature of humans? In this service, Rev. Chris will examine how the first principle calls us to treat one another and how it can alter our lives if we let it." Potluck and Book Sale today.

August 27: "Staying in Covenant: A Reexamination of the Empowerment Crisis": In the late 1960s and early 1970s, the Black Power movement fundamentally challenged how Unitarian Universalists view our first and second principles, leading to a denominational crisis that nearly split us. Yet these controversies are nothing new. In this service, Rev. Chris will reexamine this time in our movement's history and ask how we can better handle such challenges in the future.

Second Annual Goods and Services

Auction Set for September 23rd



With the success of last year's Auction fund raiser to maintain our music program and to

nurture the quality of relationships within the KUUF community, a committee is working hard for a 2nd event.

The auction will again take place at The Bluffs, hosted by Jim Boyce. We will provide appetizers and desserts and The Bluffs will provide the meal.

This year the committee is working towards more items and services that are less expensive.

"We will be meeting with members and friends to explore ways for people who can't figure out how to help, including ways for different people to collaborate on a single service or event," says Lora Repp, committee member.

Silent auction tables will showcase goods and services. Possible examples might be around themes such as the **Great Outdoors**: hikes, nature walks, birding trips, sailing, stays in vacation homes, picnics etc.

Another possible theme is **Let Us Entertain You**: with meals commonly prepared by the donor and served in their homes. Other entertainment possibilities are game nights or ice cream socials. The donor is usually present at these offerings.

Second Annual Auction (continued)

A third theme is **On the Town**: tickets for movies, plays, concerts. These may or may not include a meal, and the donor may or may not join the auction winners.

Finally, **UUs--At Your Service**, a theme that could include lessons, chores, childcare, airport transport, tutoring, homemade candies/baked goods, handyman services, photography, songfests, fresh eggs, computer consults.

For questions or suggestions, contact the committee members: Jane Hiltunen, Sharon Levine, Pete Method and Lora Repp.



“Principle One: The Inherent Worth and Dignity of Every Person”

Minister’s Musings for August 2017

Sometimes it’s good to get back to basics and remind ourselves why Unitarian Universalism is so desperately needed in today’s world. This year, KUUF will be doing a modified theme-based ministry based on the seven principles and five sources of Unitarian Universalism.

Rev. Barbara Wells tenHove once explained that “[t]he Principles are not dogma or doctrine, but rather a guide for those of us who choose to join and participate in Unitarian Universalist religious communities.”

They may be the closest thing to a group of unifying beliefs UUs will ever have as they are so close to the core of who we are that I have yet to meet anyone in our faith who explicitly disagrees with them. They may believe the principles should be expanded or revised, but not discarded.

Our first principle this month declares that every person has inherent worth and dignity. It’s a statement that, no matter who you are, what you’ve done, or, in the words of Rumi, how many

times you’ve broken your vow, you have inherent worth and dignity and deserve to be treated as such.

It’s a radical declaration that you are worthy of deep respect and consideration.

Sometimes the first principle is interpreted to mean that all behavior is acceptable, or on the flip side, to dismiss critics as having inherent worth, just being wrong. Both interpretations of the principle are wrong-headed, as they use the principle to excuse bad actions, either those of others, as in the first case, or our own, as in the latter.

Rather, the first principle demands certain rights for all people, regardless of how they’ve behaved, and it reminds us that the ultimate goal is to find ways to live in covenant with all people, no matter how much we disagree with them.

There is still much to debate about the first principle, such as where the limits of acceptance are when it comes to a person’s behavior, and whether we should recognize that other living beings have the same inherent worth and dignity of humans.

For me, regardless of any interpretations that need to be made about it, the principle stands as a testament that we are a faith that believes in casting a wide net, seeking to minister to people from all walks of life. Truly, it means, as we say in our welcome every Sunday, “No matter who you are or where you are on your spiritual path, you are welcome here!”

Rev. Chris

Rev. Chris’s Office Hours:

Wednesday and Thursday: 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm;
Friday: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm, and by appointment

Tea with the Minister:

Thursday: 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Friday: 9:00 am - 10:00 am

Rev. Chris's Blog: <http://www.radicalrev.com>
Listen to Rev. Chris's Sermons on SoundCloud:
<https://soundcloud.com/chrisrothbauer>



Minister Moves to Calumet

Rev. Chris reports that his Dodgeville landlady asked him

to leave the rented house so she could sell it. He has since moved to an apartment in downtown Calumet.

"This move has worked out best for me," he says. "I realized I couldn't be happy unless I was living in a city."

As Chris sat on a conveniently placed garden bench near his front door, several Calumet characters walked by, most of them with dogs, as attested by the visiting (unleashed) animal above. The other two belong to Rev. Chris.

The move, of course, has at least one drawback. He must make the drive to Houghton several days a week. "I have tried to avoid purchasing snow tires," he says, "but they will be a necessity now."



Old Time Popular Songs: Original recordings from the 20s-50s.

Played by UU David Owens, Nostalgia DJ

Schedule:

- **Sunday, Aug 13th** , 7 – 9 pm
(After Eagle Harbor Art Fair)
- **Saturday, Aug 26th** 7 – 9 pm

Eagle Harbor Community Bldg.

Sing along, dance, reminisce,
make requests!

Free admission!

Bring your own snacks and drinks

Info: 289-4404, DOWens@Pasty.net



**Save the Date:
Sunday, Sept 10th**

**Annual KUUF Picnic
at
Marsin Nature
Area & Retreat**

New UU Member, Wesley S.

Jan Dalquist stops after a recent KUUF service to admire Kelly Steelman's new baby, Wesley J. Steelman, who, like most babies, can sleep through anything.



UU Library's Online Bibliography: An Update

Your library crew, Bob Fiandt along with computer consultant Harriet King, have discovered a few minor problems with our online bibliography, but overall it is working OK.

The congregation can help us improve the system by visiting our online library (kuuf.net/library.pdf) and submitting some feedback.

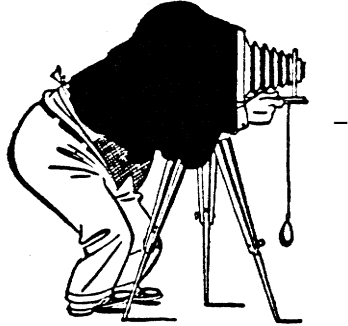
Specifically, did you try to do a search of the list? If so, how did you do it? What individual steps did you take? Were you satisfied with the process?

Bob Fiandt

Annual Photo Contest Begins in August

The North Woods Conservancy's annual contest for non-professional photographers is accepting submissions August 13 – September 30, 2017.

Explore the land and waters of Keweenaw-based NWC's natural areas Seven Mile Point, Conglomerate Falls, Gratiot River North, Dore Woods and Merganser Pond.



Then share your experiences by submitting your photos and their stories to NWC's photo contest.

Go to north-woods.smugmug.com to see entries of previous contests.

Winners will be announced in early October. First prize is \$50, second is \$25 and third is \$15 plus a 2018 basic NWC membership for each winner.



Winning photos will be displayed in print and online media. Detailed submission information will be available in August at northwoodsconservancy.org.



***Keweenaw Unitarian
Universalist
Fellowship
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Houghton, MI***