



yUUPER Newsletter

Keweenaw Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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

Sunday Mornings at 10:30 January 2017; Vol. 32, #1

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

Sunday Schedule for January

January's Theme: Prophecy

January 1: Michaux Moore hosts. No other information available.

January 8 (Forum): Green Campus Enterprise grads will discuss their Work. A group of Tech undergrads will describe their work on University environmental projects. This group appeared briefly with other student groups at the November Forum; they will have the full Forum today.

January 15: Prophecy and Truth-Telling. Prophets have been renowned through history as truth tellers in the midst of oppression and evil. But why is such truth-telling so often hard to hear? Potluck and Book Sale today.

January 22: Why we get Involved, Why we Hesitate. A participatory service tied in with our annual food drive. Why now? People aren't only hungry during the holidays. Bring a variety of canned and packaged goods that you would enjoy eating. Horst Schmidt hosts.

January 29: A Prophecy RE Service. The children's and youth religious education program will host a service about prophecy. Michaux Moore hosts.



Minister's Musings: "Change for the Future"

Much change has occurred within our community and our fellowship as we start the New Year.

This month, we bid goodbye to Aggie Pietila, our amazingly talented office assistant who, in only a year, has been such an asset to helping insure that our office and electronic communications run smoothly.

In the larger world, a new president will take office this month, one who many of us fear could damage our country and relationships with the larger world.

Much change is afoot, and I know this will likely not be all of it before 2018.

Change is hard, whether perceived as positive or negative, because it means that a part of our world is now different.

We must settle into the *new* normal and decide how to respond. And the ways we can do so are infinite and run the gamut from healthy to toxic. One thing is for sure: even if we choose to be in denial of the way change affects us, it will not stop.

Change is ever-continuing, marching with the ticking of the seconds every day. Consider this: before you have finished reading this paragraph, many

of your cells will have died off, technically making you a physically different person.

Where will we direct our energy in the coming months as we learn to be in the *new normal*? I want to propose that we heed the wisdom of the ancient Greek philosopher Socrates: "The secret of change is to focus all of your energy not on fighting the old, but on building the new."

It is easy to fall into the trap of resisting change, but consider focusing instead on how we may build a new way of being; this can be a much more positive step for all involved.

I don't pretend to know what the future, or the change, will bring, and I know we can't control such things anyway. But how we respond to change will determine what our futures will look like.

I plan on responding with love, compassion, and relationship building, both to oppressed peoples and those who would be oppressors. . .

I believe we will make it through and that justice, compassion, and love will prevail in the end. Let us not lose faith as we work to build a more just world.

—Rev Chris

Green Book Club Announces Winter/Spring Book Selections

January 31: *Secret Life of Trees*, by Colin Tudge

February 28: *The Serengeti Rules: The Quest to Discover How Life Works & Why It Matters*, by Sean B. Carroll

March 28: *Walden*, by Henry David Thoreau

April 25: *Sharing the Earth: An Environmental Justice Reader*, Elizabeth Ammons & Modhumita Roy, eds.

May 30: *Learning to Die in the Anthropocene: Reflections on the End of a Civilization*, by Roy Scranton



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