



# yUuper Newsletter

**Keweenaw Unitarian Universalist Fellowship**

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

**Sunday Mornings at 10:30 Nov 2020; Vol. 35, #2**

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



## Sunday Schedule for February 2020

**Feb. 2: Copper Country Stories Celebrating Black History Month.** Interpretive Ranger for the National Park Service in Calumet, Lynette Webber, has stitched together historical context and primary sources about African Americans in the Copper Country to create a *quilt* of people, places, and stories of resistance and strength on a borderland frontier. Join us as we kick off Black History month.

**Feb. 9: Forum:** The Center for Diversity and Inclusion (CDI) at Michigan Tech will discuss in today's forum LGBTQIA+ issues, challenges, and opportunities in the Keweenaw.

The CDI is conducting a survey to see if the community outside of Michigan Tech wishes to discuss diversity, equity, and inclusion issues, as well as how they can help facilitate these opportunities.

If you are interested in providing input to CDI, please fill out the survey here:

<https://forms.gle/Tzzd9g9ZR6e7KFPj6>

### Feb. 16: The Trouble with History

A recent *NY Times* article compared differences in history textbooks used in California and Texas. The books are from the same publisher but are radically different: history interpreted through today's imperatives. We'll look at how UU values help move us forward through the relative reports of history.

Share a lunch; bring a plate to pass and, if possible, your own service.

**Feb. 23: The Urgency of Now.** At the January 19<sup>th</sup> service, we talked briefly about Rev. Martin Luther King's sense of the Urgency of *Now*. We'll use this thought from Rev. King and to further explore our next steps, as individuals, a Fellowship, and the UUA. As we close Black History month we'll ask, "What can we do better to make history?"

**NOTE:** Board meets today at 1; KUUF office.

## Rev. Sydney Morris, Former KUUF Minister, Visits Fellowship

### An open Letter from Sydney

"It was lovely to visit the Fellowship for a Sunday service, and to see such a strong hearty congregation.

"In answer to your intrepid newsletter editor's queries, I served as Developmental Minister to the UU Church in Eugene, OR after I left Houghton in 2013. (Nice MTU people have been renting out my Hancock house ever since.)

"Unitarian and Universalist perspectives have been present in Eugene since the mid 1800's; the current church was founded in 1909. The University of Oregon began there in 1876. The city is one of the most progressive in the country.

"I rented an apartment downtown, and saw people struggling with illness and housing every day.

(Continued on pg. 2)



### **(Sydney Continues . . .)**

"UUCE recently renovated a large Masonic Temple and have plenty of room for their 130 children and 280-ish adults.

"My Developmental Ministry agreement was for 3 to 5 years, and I completed 5 years. I loved doing UUism with some wonderful and amazing people, and relished learning together with the congregation about governance styles and justice work in a larger congregation.

"Knots of counterproductive systemic habits were loosened as transitions into the new building, new people, and new understandings emerged. Along with pastoral and preaching duties I discovered the joys of executive work and being surrounded by staff & interns all smarter & younger than myself!

"Another Developmental ministry has followed mine.

"I live in Oshkosh and rooted for both teams at the Rose Bowl when the Oregon Ducks beat the WI Badgers by a single point. My younger son is here, and my older son is in Vancouver BC with his wife and two preschool daughters. Adeline and Penelope are two and four this year; it was great to be so close on the West Coast, and I continue to visit frequently.

"I'm not yet officially retired, and I look forward to preaching in Door County in May when I return from my winter trip to Canada.

"Over the 35 years I have been honored to offer UU ministry, my understanding of our core has deepened. Jack asks, "...Because we have no creed, at what level can we agree/disagree on anything?" It seems to me that the way we act, an orthopraxy or practice instead of an orthodoxy of belief, is essential.

"Again, let me thank the Fellowship and Paul for being so welcoming. It was, as always, good to be human together."

*Warm Regards, Sydney*



### **Survey Planned to Establish Best Order of Service (OOS)**

In response to negative feedback concerning problems seeing the overhead screen for the Order of Service, the Worship Committee will conduct a survey to determine the Fellowship's preferences.

Standard, non-changing information could be printed on reusable covers, and, if this system is preferred, inserts could contain date-specific information printed on recycled paper. Samples will be available for viewing at Sunday services.

Please respond to the survey link in the *Digest*, or complete a paper survey at a February service.   
\_\_\_Worship Committee

### **Third Poetry Session Planned for February 12<sup>th</sup>**

The November 13, 2019 Poetry Session offered Paul Mitchell as guest poet, and he provided a powerful evening for the Mary Oliver Poetry Series. Master of ceremonies, Wil Shapton, gave us more background on writer Mary Oliver, plus encouraged us to take the plunge and try writing some poetry.

Janeen Stephenson, who has done just that, read several of her newly minted, moving poems. It is surprising to remember that before the series started in September, Janeen's comment was "I'm not crazy about poetry; it's boring."

Several good laughs at Swedish humor, a poem with mention of a bus driver, soft candlelight, and Paul's poems all provided an emotionally packed, stimulating evening for the 23 guests.

The series continues on Feb. 12 at 7pm at BHK. Bill Rose will be our guest poet.

Bring a friend, your favorite poem to read, a little wine, and join us for a cozy, relaxed evening in these snowy times.   
\_\_\_Carol Ekstrom

### **Empathy Classes Begin Early February**

Empathy, a powerful way for people to support, care for and connect with each other, will begin in early February and meet weekly for 5 weeks. Dates and times to be determined. Class will meet in the KUUF Office at Trinity Church.

Contact Janeen Stephenson to express interest or learn more. [janeennvc@gmail.com](mailto:janeennvc@gmail.com)

## New Adult RE begins Friday, Jan 31<sup>st</sup>, to Focus on Four Great Religious Leaders

The Friday morning Adult RE group will begin a new *Great Courses* DVD series: “Confucius, Buddha, Jesus and Muhammad” examines the lives and teachings of four of the most influential religious leaders in history.

From the course description: “...we examine these four figures both separately and comparatively in an effort to grasp the essential features of their lives and teachings and to explore the factors that led to their greatness.

“We will attend to the similarities and differences in their messages, in the patterns of their lives, and in the ways they impacted their followers and the rest of the world.”

The group meets Friday mornings at 11:00 in the KUUF office in Trinity Church. Each DVD lecture is about a half-hour long (there are 36 lectures in this series). Folks enjoy their brown-bag lunch and discussion of the first lecture, then watch the second lecture of the day, with additional discussion, and close by 1:00pm.

Participants are not required to attend all sessions, and “days off” are called for the convenience of the group.

\_Bill Fink

## Next Sustainability Film Series Begins on February 20: “Banking Nature”

2020 marks the 10th Year of the Green Film Serie, now renamed **Sustainability Film Series**, a title more relevant to the larger audience. The program is Green Sanctuary’s and KUUF’s largest outreach to the community.

The Film Series recently received a \$700 donation from the Keweenaw Coop Market & Deli as part of their *Bring a Bag Campaign*, which each year donates to two local community organizations or programs. the savings from not having to purchase paper bags for customers.

KUUF will be sponsoring this month’s film entitled *Banking Nature* (90 min.) on Feb.20, 7pm at the Forestry Building at MTU. It is a provocative documentary that looks at efforts to monetize the natural world—and turn

endangered species and threatened areas into instruments of profit. This is a worldview that sees capital and markets not as a threat to the planet, but as its salvation—turning nature into “capital” and fundamental processes like pollination and oxygen generation into “ecosystem services.”

KUUF’s faithful bakers will once again provide healthy and delicious refreshments.

## UUA Promotes “UU The Vote 2020”

The UUA has established support for congregations to form volunteer teams (or empower current justice leaders) to lead our 2020 work in ways that make sense for our community.

They’re calling it *UU the Vote!* They will be supporting these teams to lead in the following areas of electoral engagement work:

- Mobilizing voters
- Challenging voter suppression
- Holding values-based conversations to persuade our neighbors on the issues that matter
- Opening the doors of our congregations to the activities of frontline communities and justice partners
- Providing the spiritual sustenance and movement chaplaincy to ground our faith and respond to the injustices we confront through the work

We will define the type of involvement we want to undertake. The Board of Trustees will be discussing the potential of creating a *UU the Vote* initiative within our congregation at their February meeting, and everyone is welcome to participate in that discussion.

Also, on Feb. 6th the UUA will hold a webinar entitled *Prophetic, Not Partisan: Understanding IRS Nonprofit Regulations for Your Congregation*. We will meet at the KUUF Office at 8:00pm ET.

Save that evening and join us for this opportunity to learn more about how we can act and still live within our 501(c)(3) non-profit guidelines. 2020 is a critical year, and it is important for us to start now to build an effective effort.

Contact Paul with questions: 906/523-0320

## February Attractions

Jan 31<sup>st</sup>+: Adult RE **Video** on Great Religious Leaders Meets every Friday in February at 11, KUUF Office.

Feb 6<sup>th</sup>: UUA **Webinar** "Understanding Non-Profit Regulations, KUUF Office, 8pm.

Feb 12<sup>th</sup>, **Poetry Series** meets at BHK, 7pm.

Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>: **Women's Group** meets at Carol Ekstrom's house, 5:15pm.

Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>: **Men's Group** meets at Paul's house, 10:30 Saturday morning.

Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>: **Sustainability Film**, "Banking Nature, 7 pm, Forestry Building.

February 23<sup>rd</sup>: **KUUF Board** meets at KUUF office, 1pm.

## Keweenaw UU Fellowship

Home Page:

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

On Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/keweenawuu/>

**Koffee Klatsch: Every 2nd and 4th Fridays at 10 AM. Dates this month are Feb14th and 28th.**



Keweenaw  
Unitarian  
Universalist  
Fellowship  
PO Box 276  
Houghton, MI  
49931