



yUuper Newsletter

Keweenaw Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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

Sunday Mornings at 10:30 April 2020; Vol. 35, #4

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



Sunday Schedule for April 2020

April 5: "Love and the Stay-at-Home Order"

Maybe a little about romance, but I figure we should touch base on how love carries us through this difficult time. We're going to be celebrating the end of the first (?) *Stay-At-Home Order* a couple days before this Sunday. I am hearing stories of love in these weeks apart---I'm going to share some and hope you will too.

April 12: Forum "KUUF's Draft Covenant."

Unitarian Universalism is a covenantal, not credal religion. KUUF's Strategic Plan asked us to: Explore, in partnership with the minister, a covenant of right relations. The working group will lead a discussion of the Draft Covenant. Join us as we continue this exploration as first presented by Paul Mitchell, in the March 22nd service.

April 19: "UU History." A look at Rev. Theodore Parker (1810-1860), who was an American Transcendentalist, minister of the Unitarian church, a reformer and abolitionist; his words and popular quotations would later inspire speeches by Abraham Lincoln and Martin Luther King, jr. Let's do some history! No potluck, alas, for a while.

April 26: "Healing the Heart of Democracy."

A long time ago, Miriam gave me a Parker Palmer book, hoping I would talk about it! In that book, titled *Healing the Heart of Democracy*, Palmer takes on bridging our political divides, and he explores five "habits of

the heart" that can be developed in everyday life. Let's talk about his thoughts. Board meets today, via Paul's regular Zoom account, at noon.
<https://zoom.us/j/9789104627>
Meeting ID: 978 910 4627

KUUF Switches to On-Line Sunday Services

Requests from authorities to diminish if not eliminate group activities has led UU, under our lay-minister's leadership, to conduct services electronically.



Photo by Bill Fink

For the first Sunday using the Zoom software (3/15), the BHK community room became a sort-of TV studio. A number of people assisted Paul with the changeover, including Leonard Bohmann, Dave Watkins, and Lora Repp, shown above, along with pianist, Alex.

The total number connecting on the first

Sunday was 34 via computer, and with people in the “studio,” such as Alex, Sandra, and the stage crew, the number reached 43, according to Leonard Bohmann. A few people were on-line but did not participate visually, perhaps because they had no camera on their computers.

By the second Sunday, more fellowship members had signed on, some from as far away as Washington State (Sherry Zoars). Julie Badel



Photo by Jobst

connected from Chicago. Paul reports that three Marquette UU group members tuned in during the service

One participant counted over 40 connections, and many included spouses or friends, pushing the number even higher.

While the Zoom services appear to be quite popular, at least here at the beginning, the technology cannot replace the sense of physically being amongst Fellowship friends, and spilling cheese and crackers on the BHK carpeting. See the Zoom address below to connect on Sundays.

April KUUF Board Meeting Set for 4/26

The KUUF April Board meeting will be on Sunday, April 26. It will be an online meeting, starting at noon, and using the same link as for Sunday services (Paul's personal Zoom meeting room):

<https://zoom.us/j/9789104627>

Meeting ID: 978 910 4627

Wednesday Eve Services Begin

Everyone is welcome to join the new Wednesday Evening On-Line Service, according to Paul Mitchell, lay-minister. “We are trekking through uncharted personal territory in response to the Covid-19 virus and our attempts to minimize its spread.”

“In the middle of each of the coming weeks we're going to offer a simple, contemplative service,” Paul says. “Scheduled for about 30 minutes, this will be a moment of sharing and coming together while we are apart.”

The service begins at 7:30pm and the ZOOM link will be published in each preceding week's Digest.

Covenant of Right Relations

Developing a Covenant of Right Relations is an important step for every congregation to take and revisit periodically, to ensure that congregants feel safe, welcomed, and abiding in trust with one another.

Our Fellowship lost track of our original covenant, and to create a new one became part of our strategic plan.

At the Congregational Strategic Planning meeting in August, a small group of members signed up to work on a new covenant. The task force worked together to shape a draft covenant, considering from all angles the needs of our fellowship and the spirit of the task. During the Service on March 22 we explored the idea and saw the draft. At the April 12, Forum, we will, as a community, review the document. It will be voted on for approval at the Annual Meeting in June. We hope to see you there! For a look at the draft, check out the “Members Only” section of the website.

Mary Oliver Poetry Sessions Canceled Until Fall

The Mary Oliver Poetry sessions for both April 12 and June 13 have been cancelled due to the coronavirus. We will start the new season in September. Look for the 2020-2021 season schedule of guest poets in our new brochure this spring.

Carol Ekstrom and Wil Shapton

“We Make a Difference” Canvass Begins March 29th

The 2020 KUUF annual canvass, “We Make a Difference!” begins Sunday, March 29th and ends on April 26th.

Results will be celebrated during Sunday service on May 3rd. Based on the diligent work by the Finance Committee, and with the approval of the board, this year’s canvass goal has been set at \$80,000.

Each year the canvass raises money to fund all KUUF operations: from paying our minister’s salary to providing the coffee for hospitality.

Pledge information, including a budget summary, will be mailed to Fellowship members on March 27th, and the canvass kickoff will take place via zoom at the Sunday service on March 29th.

The canvass committee recognizes the challenges involved in conducting an annual fundraising campaign in the midst of our efforts to stop the spread of the coronavirus.

Although we are not able to meet in person with Fellowship members, we hope to provide canvass updates through the weekly *Digest* and during our Sunday on-line services.

KUUF Teams up with PLDL

By Lora Repp

As is the case in libraries around the country, many individuals in the Copper Country use the Portage Lake District Library as a de facto day shelter.

To assist them, PLDL staff are providing personal hygiene kits to those in need and, along with other social service agencies, KUUF is helping to fill those kits.

We are providing toothpaste and toothbrushes from our pantry in Paul’s office.

The pantry is continuing to serve families involved in the Rapid Rehousing Program, but we will be depleting our dental hygiene supplies much more quickly now.

Please help restock the pantry. Email Lora Repp for a time when your articles may be dropped off at the office.

Waste Reduction Movement Makes Tentative Plans for Earth Week

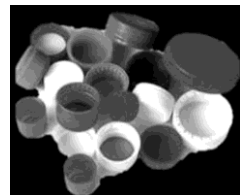
The Michigan Tech Sustainability Demonstration House hopes to host the Keweenaw’s first waste reduction drive for Earth Week 2020.

With the corona virus pandemic, however, no one knows when this will actually occur. Since part of the group’s plan is to ask for recycled materials from households, notifying everyone to begin saving seems like an appropriate suggestion.

Many KUUF members visited the Sustainability Demo house a few years ago. The modern building on Woodland Road, near the campus, used to be the MTU President’s residence, then was converted into a house for ecology majors. The solar panel on US 41 at the eastern end of campus supplies electricity to the house.

When the sustainability drive occurs, here are the items the group will be seeking:

- Batteries
- Plastic bottle caps and rings
- Any plastic bag with a recycling number
- Any foil-lined granola/energy bar wrapper
- Styrofoam and cardboard egg cartons



Submitted by
Carol Ekstrom

21 Years Ago at KUUF: March 1999

Editor’s Note: when space is available, the newsletter will publish info on KUUF events from the past. In those days, KUUF met only twice a month, on the second and fourth Sundays. Keith Johnson was President of the Board

Week 2: At 9:30 the Fellowship experienced a concert of meditative music performed by Rev.

Petr Dolak. He followed that at 10:30 for a service, "Leaving the Kingdom of Time." Bill Fink recalls him visiting us from Meadville Lombard seminary. (Continued on page four.)

Rev. Dolak used recording devices to accompany his guitar playing. Hospitality was covered by Joan Chadde, Howard and Wilma Zollinger.

Week 4: An adult Forum heard "Some UU Organizations and What They Can Do for U."

Charlotte Allen was the speaker.

Joan Chadde gave the Children's RE using the topic "Holidays and Holy Days." Cindy Harrison gave the Youth RE, "Religion in Life." Elen Maurer and Jan Dalquist performed hospitality. The Fellowship welcomed a newborn, Ida Butler-Ehle, her parent's first child.

Would You Like a Print Copy of this Newsletter?

With the loss of a meeting place (because of the pandemic, printed copies will not be available, except through the postal service.

If you would like a mailed copy, send your request to jackjobst@charter.net

Keweenaw UU Fellowship

Home Page:

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

On Facebook:

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

Koffee Klatsch: Traditionally, every 2nd and 4th Fridays at 10 AM at Roy's Bakery, but probably this won't resume until the virus emergency health issues are resolved.



**Keweenaw
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Fellowship
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