



yUUper Newsletter

Keweenaw Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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



Meeting "virtually," via computer, phone, or iPad. For connecting info, contact

Paul Mitchell: pmitchtools@gmail.com

Sunday Schedule for July 2020

July 5: Rev. Joseph Santos-Lyons will speak on **LOSING FAITH, MAKING CHANGE**

It is a simple axiom that to achieve social justice, enough people must lose faith in the institutions that oppress them in order for change to happen. Yet this can feel like a loss of identity and evoke deep emotional responses that can sabotage our highest aspirations. In this great turning of envisioning a better world free from climate change, free from rampant capitalism, and free from police brutality, how do we faithfully prepare ourselves as Unitarian Universalists?

July 12: Special Statewide UU Service

UU Michiganders will come together in a **UNIQUE WORSHIP SERVICE** on Sunday, July 12th at 10:30 am. Up to 1000 people may participate via Zoom. KUUF will be represented in the service with a specially recorded song by our own Sandra Loy.

A state-wide coffee hour gathering will occur immediately after the service.

The KUUF Board Meeting will occur at 12 PM.

July 19: What Shall We Do With All This

Beauty? This title is from James Baldwin's Essay, "The Fire Next Time." We'll talk about Baldwin's thoughts and writing and Rev. Rebecca Ann Parker's essay about Baldwin's writing to look at the wisdom they offer us for our current worldwide situation. This sermon topic has been rescheduled twice, but we'll get to it this time! I hope you will join us when I actually deliver it!

July 26: Active Patience. We had an initial discussion of this topic at a Wednesday Evening Service. I want to expand on the role patience plays during the time of pandemic, social, economic, and political upheaval. What are the thoughts on patience in our UU tradition? How might it work in our personal lives?



KUUF Purchases Digital Multitrack Recorder

Just in time for Sandra and Alex's contribution to the all-Michiganders service on July 12th is this device, which allows

our musical duo, as Sandra says, "to create recordings using any instrumentation, including vocals, layering one part over another to create a finished product that is more complex than anything we can achieve with live performance."

Sandra continues, "Alex and I have been collaborating remotely, taking turns visiting the office to record our respective parts, which are then combined and edited into a single piece."

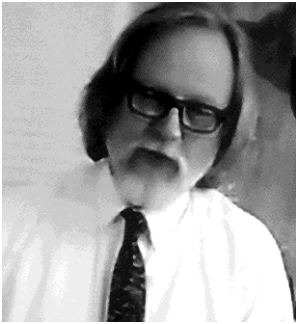
"We are currently working on some new hymns, including several acapella vocal pieces (Alex sings tenor and bass for these), one of which will be used for the statewide service."

"This equipment has vastly improved our audio quality for simpler applications, such as the piano music we use for prelude, offertory, and meditation."

"We are very grateful to KUUF for making this equipment purchase." And KUUF Members are grateful for having you and Alex with us.

What Have We Accomplished?

With Paul Mitchell, Lay Minister



I just realized, with Jack's help, that I have never written a newsletter article. Eighteen newsletters have been published since I came on as the Lay Minister: I think it is time to write something!

I don't think I am overstating to say these past 18 months have been significant for me personally and all of us as a congregation. I am grateful to you for your support over this first year and a half.

In recent months, our response to the pandemic has been marked by each of us stretching and growing as we affirm our commitment to our faith community. We held our first virtual Service, our 2020 Canvass and Annual Meeting over the past four months. In each case you have been willing and ready to do what you can to keep moving forward together.

Our online services have an audience that equals or exceeds our past in-person counts! Online services welcome our local regulars while finding new connections and reconnecting with members who have moved away.

The Virtual Canvass was wonderfully successful. The motto this year was "We Make A Difference!" and we will live up to those words because of your support of the Canvass.

The Annual Meeting--- that wonderful example of democracy in practice in UU Congregations around the world--- included our adoption of the Fellowship's Covenant. This reinvigorated statement of our aspirations and practices arrived just as we needed to declare how we want to respond to the challenges of the pandemic and social, economic, and political change.

During this next year, we will continue to meet online while we monitor changes in conditions that might find us safely meeting in person once again. We'll carry forward our Absentee Voter Registration project through the November election and complete the first year of

Keweenaw UU Fellowship

our Grow An Extra Row efforts. We will start with our conversation of Robin Diangelo's *White Fragility* and we'll continue with our consideration of the 8th Principle.

I'm looking forward to continuing our Wednesday Evening Service and building Sunday Services that make a difference in our lives.



Looking Forward, with New Board President Elen Maurer

Beloved KUUF family and friends, when I first came to KUUF we met twice a month upstairs at BHK, with volunteer pianists and Meadville-Lombard students bringing sermons

once a month.

This was my first thought: "These are my people; this feels like home." It still feels that way on Sunday morning when I see everyone appearing in their little rectangles on my computer screen.

Twenty years ago, we were a very small congregation and concerned about surviving. We debated whether spending our money on a building or a minister would best help us grow.

We chose wisely, and we learned and grew with the Revs. Sydney, Gabi, and Chris. Now we walk with Paul, envisioning the world we want and encouraging all those working to create it. The constant is change, and we strive for grace, flexibility, and open minds and hearts.

I look forward to seeing you in our place that feels like home, wherever that happens to be.



New Member of KUUF

Jamie Kuehn [pronounced key-no, like the game] is a joint member with the Marquette UUs and KUUF.

Paul celebrated her joining during the virtual service on Sunday, June 21. Also honored were Heidi Bresnahan and Julie Badell, who also joined KUUF in the past year.

July 2020

Vol 35, #7



Vising Minister Discusses UU Skin Colors

Rev. Joseph Santos-Lyons will visit with us as our guest minister on July 5th. "He is a guiding light within the Diverse Religious UU Multicultural Ministries (DRUUMM) community. He has been a mentor and a good friend to me."

—Amlan Mukherjee

Years ago I met the legendary Rev. Dr. Bill Jones. He was one of the earliest Black ministers in our church, who

went on to found the African American studies department at Florida State, became a leading Black humanist, and served on the UUA Board.

As a young, multiracial person, I was struggling with how White our faith was. I asked Dr. Jones why he became UU and why he stayed. He replied that when he was in college, searching for a faith home that aligned with his values, he repeatedly came across Unitarian Universalism. He discovered that our multi-religious theological congregations made him feel most welcome spiritually. What made him stay was our legacy of influence and social change.

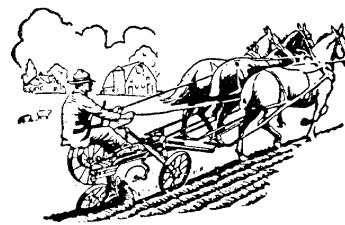
Despite our small numbers. Dr. Jones noticed our history of being engaged in the formation and transformation of America since independence from England.

Our ancestors have had a steady hand in the creation of our US constitution, public legislation, Supreme Court decisions, and universities. UU's have also been at the forefront of the abolition movement and after the Civil War, the Reconstruction Era rebuilding of government in the South.

Today we continue to define our religious life to include a practice of faith in action and public

witness. We are still the actors and thought leaders across public and private institutions, drawing on our values of theological pluralism, human dignity, and the interdependence of life on Earth to fight for and build the world we dream about.

We are in a political moment trying to make moral sense of the uprising to police brutality, and coming to terms with the ways "law and order" has been used to criminalize and control Black and Brown bodies. As a religious people whose identity is closely tied with institutional authority, how do we respond and evolve?



Grow an Extra Row: An Update

The *Grow an Extra Row* Project launched by the Green Sanctuary Committee is in

full swing. The concept is to ask all KUUF gardeners to grow some extra vegetables this year for families in need.

Through his connections with community agencies Paul was given names of families who might participate. We have reached out to those referrals and four families have joined our *Grow an Extra Row* Project. Each has received a delivery of fresh flowers from the gardens of Carol Ekstrom and Heidi Bresnahan.

Several KUUF gardeners have already contacted Carol and volunteered to participate. If you haven't talked to Carol but think that you might have some vegetables to share, please email her at cekstrom3@gmail.com.

When the harvest begins the committee will contact our list of gardeners and ask that they drop off their vegetables at the KUUF office.

From there volunteers will box up the donations and deliver them to the families. We will also be reaching out to KUUF cooks to provide some recipes to go along with the vegetables. We hope to make two to three deliveries to each family during the summer.

Submitted by Lora Repp

Reading Possibilities During the Pandemic

Even though we lack physical access to our KUUF library at the present time, we can still offer limited library services, if we get creative about it. Let me explain my strategy.

First, patrons can browse our online catalog to see the complete bibliography. You access the catalog by going to our KUUF webpage (www.keweenawuu.org), click on "Connection," and then "KUUF Library."

Second, if you find a particular item that you would like to check out, you can either purchase it or borrow it. If purchasing, you may select *inSpirit: UU Book and Gift Shop* (www.uuabookstore.org), or Amazon (www.amazon.com), or another Barnes & Noble.

Before buying any item, I strongly recommend going to Amazon and reading the reviews posted about it. Also, once finished reading, if you do not want to keep the item, you may donate it to a book sale or the library of your choice.

Of course, you can borrow something from your local public library. Librarians should be able to obtain it through interlibrary loan, if necessary. The Portage Lake District Library (PLDL) should be up and running again, in some capacity, relatively soon.

_Bob Fiandt

Keweenaw UU Fellowship

Home Page:

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

On Facebook:

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

Virtual Koffee Klatsch: Every 2nd and 4th Fridays at 10 AM. Dates this month are July 10th & 24th. Email Bill Fink if you are interested in attending, and he will send you the connecting information: billfink@chartermi.net.



**Keweenaw
Unitarian
Universalist
Fellowship
PO Box 276
Houghton, MI
49931**