

2021 KUUF Annual Report of Green Sanctuary Committee in the year of Covid

Submitted by Carol Ekstrom, chair

(G. S. committee: Heidi Bresnehan, Joan Chadde, Paul Mitchell, Lora Repp, Anne Robertson, Linda Rulison, David Watkins)

KUUF Green Sanctuary's Vision: Together, we can create a world in which all people make reverence, gratitude and care for our living Earth central to our lives.

We focus on four areas: Worship and Celebration; Religious Education; Environmental Justice; Sustainable Living, and we offer many Action Projects. This year, even though limited by COVID, we were active!

Grow an Extra Row- Gardening our Souls".

2020 was the first year of the Grow an Extra Row Project, and it was a huge success. 30 % of KUUF congregants participated by donating veggies/flowers/herbs from their gardens, while others contributed garden related jokes/poems. Four deliveries (one of flowers) were made to 5 families. On 8/23, we had sunny Garden Tour of participating gardens, ending at our communal garden with lemonade and delicious treats.



garden tour at Arkin's



the delivery

packing 1st delivery

This summer we are hoping to add one or two more families and perhaps an additional fall delivery. On the Memorial Workday we expanded the communal garden, added a fence and celebrated with a delicious California Grilled tri tip.



We hope to see this project grow in the coming years! All are welcome to participate.

Worship Services with a Green Focus: 4 services:

- Undaunted Empathy: How to Reckon with Climate Change Denial, 10/18/20 Climate change is scientifically indisputable and we are seeing, and responding to, the effects with each passing year. And yet climate change denial remains pervasive in our society. How can we encourage climate change deniers to accept reality and advocate for the changes that we know are necessary? An impossible goal might be a little more attainable if we adjust our mindset.

- Building Communities of the Future, 10/25/20
According to at least one 2018 study, over the next 45 years 12 million Americans will have to relocate because of climate influences. Primarily moving from the South to the North. What can be our response to building our community in the future? How can we be welcoming to folks relocating due to climate change? Is there a role for us to act prophetically at this time? And if there is, who better than UUs to make it happen?

- Grow an extra Row, A KUUF Project, 5/3/20, Paul Mitchell You've heard a little about this new initiative at KUUF, "Grow An Extra Row." It's about gardening a little extra this year and giving the produce away to folks who don't have a garden and could benefit from fresh vegetables (and flowers!). I won't be talking too much about the gardening part. I'll be talking about how this fits in KUUF's Mission and Vision.

- Earth Day Sermon. 4/18/21, Paul Mitchell, I think it's a fair question, "Does Earth Day really serve a purpose anymore?" Shouldn't we be celebrating Earth Day every day? Has sustainability progressed so far that we don't need an annual holiday promoting it? We'll take a look back at Earth Day's beginnings and early achievements and then talk about today's national and local context. As we go through it, I hope we'll generate some responses to our starting question

Forums on Green Living and Green Tours:

- Green Tour of the Gardens at Churning Rapids to gather ideas for KUUF communal garden. 6/2120
- Jay Meldrum, Executive Director of Sustainability at MTU, presented a Forum entitled 'Solar sizing 101' in which he presented an analysis of installing solar panels on BHK. He volunteered his time to develop this analysis to assist us as we work collaboratively with BHK to decrease our carbon footprint.
- Earth Day was expanded to Earth Month+ with numerous activities offered to members, see flyer. Miriam and Linda Belote planted, and are caring for 2 apple and 2 pear "KUUF trees" located at the top of Crestwood Dr. in Klondike Park, Hancock.



- The UPEC EarthDay Grant that GS received last year, but could not use because of COVID, was repurposed as mini grants to 11 local schools to start, or improve their school garden. The schools were: Barkell Elem., Baraga HS, Stanton Twp, Houghton Middle/HS, Watersmeet Twp., EB Holman, PLDL, Jeffers HS, South Range Elementary, BHK/Baraga, Chassell Elementary.


Earth Month 2021 Activities

Paul will give an EARTH MONTH sermon APRIL 18
Green Sanctuary encourages you to try one, or more, of these activities:

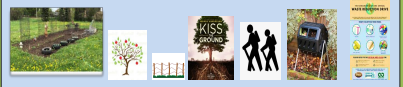
Theme: Restore Our Earth

Cultivating Connections Between our Faith, Food, and Climate.

How we grow our food largely determines how we treat the world, and one another. Let's discuss the connection between our faith, our food practices, climate change, and environmental justice.



- Volunteer at **KUUF's Community Garden Memorial Day Weekend**. Lend a hand with hoeing, planting, building a fence; food and fellowship also on the agenda. lorarepp@yahoo.com, hennot@aol.com
- Help Miriam with the KUUF's **Adopt a Fruit Tree** project, mpickens@charter.net
- Attend the "Kiss the Ground" free **Film and Discussion**, register <https://interfaithpowerandlight.saslabslabs.org/tripfilm2021kisstheground/index.html> discussion April 23, 2pm ET; film April 30-26
- Join the KUUF **Earth Day Hike** led by the Belotes, April 24 lbelote@mtu.edu
- **Start your own Compost Pile**, put summary + photo in UUdigest
- Volunteer at SDH **Waste Reduction Drive** April 17 ukennedy@gmail.com



Kids RE: Five ‘Moments for all ages’ focused on the environment. A **Child’s Book of Animal Poems and Blessing**, which encourages thoughts of interconnectedness with the animal world, was gifted to each child.

Reintroduction of American Chestnut Tree.

Our American Chestnut trees were carefully fortified against the winter snow- dumping by Bob Wheeler and Peggy Hill, and are looking healthy.

Adding to the KUUF “tree farm of 4 Chestnuts trees” are the 4 fruit trees planted on Earth Day at Klondike Park.



Gardening:

- The HfH landscaping project, and Daffodils on the rocks project are still suspended until we have a sufficient number of volunteers.
- Dave Watkins has volunteered to rebuild the KUUF planter at the KUUF sign on Hwy 26. Last summer Barry Fink dug up all the overgrown plants in the planter, bought four Burning Bushes (“seemed right for the UU planter somehow”) and planted them with Miriam’s assistance. Barry watered them diligently through the hot dry days and they have survived the first winter, but she says they are far from flourishing. It will take a few years for the bushes to get large and good looking. We need a volunteer to take over this green, KUUF welcoming statement to the community. Please contact Barry if you can help.

Expanding Recycling in the KUUF area:

- KUUF members helped get the single-stream recycling experiment at the Houghton County Transfer Station off to a good start. <https://www.mininggazette.com/news/2021/04/single-stream-recycling-initiative-coming-to-houghton-county/> In addition, they have taken part in the Second Annual Waste Reduction drive sponsored by the Sustainability Demonstration House. Both events were front page article in Daily Mining Gazette <https://www.mininggazette.com/news/2021/04/mtu-holds-second-waste-reduction-drive/>
- Dave Watkins and Joan Chadde provided the technical assistance for the public “Recycling Update” Zoom on April 26 with the Director of RECYCLE906.
- The composter KUUF co-purchased with BHK arrived and was unpackaged, and assembled by our team of experts. It will be put into action when classes and services resume at BHK.



The Sustainability Film Series:

Joan Chadde and KUUF started this program in 2010. It has been well appreciated by the entire community, and is our largest Outreach project. Audience size ranges from 35 -150 people.

- GS has decided to contribute \$100/year to support this community wide program.
- The Lake Superior Magazine had a spot on the film series in the <http://cseo.mtu.edu> <http://lakesuperiorstewardship.org/>

Fall Local Food Potluck - 3rd Sunday in Sept.

No potluck this past year. Julie Bladel has volunteered to lead the program.

Get UU Out!

During COVID restrictions, the Get UU Out! hikes were held four times at different locations throughout the Houghton-Hancock area. Twelve to twenty participants joined each time, and we had KUUF members and non-members alike join and enjoy the activity and companionship.



Ruby Marsh 11/28/2021

Reduce your Carbon Footprint! Join in with **Dare to Share**, and **4F** carpooling **Dare to Share/ Grandparents Closet:** KUUF members are willing to share items when your grandkids or extended family comes to visit, or when you need extra tools or transportation assistance. Check out the list. *Entries are currently being updated and added to website in Green Sanctuary Section.*

Finding Fresh Footpaths to Fellowship (4F): A Carpool map is available on our website. <https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1gavxZi0BVM6nApKW6sRp6FYq7rofZpeh&usp=sharing>

Try carpooling to the BHK once we return to in-person gatherings.

Adopt a Highway: No report last year or this year.

Sustainable Film Series: Issues & Dialogue
3rd Thursdays each month, January - May 2021
Time: 7:00-8:00 pm facilitated discussion
Cost: FREE: \$5 suggested donation per film is appreciated. [Make donation online.](#)
Location: Online. Register [HERE](#) and a zoom link will be emailed to you for each monthly film and/or facilitated discussion.

Jan. 21 – True Cost (92 min.)
 This is a story about the clothes we wear, the people who make them, and the impact of the industry on our world. The price of clothing has been decreasing for decades, while human and environmental costs have grown dramatically. This documentary pulls back the curtain on the untold story and asks us to consider, *who really pays the price for our clothing?* (2015)
Discussion Facilitator: Dr. Soonkwan Hong, Associate Professor of Marketing, MTU College of Business

Feb. 18 – Minimalism (78 min.)
 How might your life be better with less? The film examines the many flavors of minimalism by taking the audience inside the lives of minimalists from all walks of life -- families, entrepreneurs, architects, artists, journalists, scientists, and even a former Wall Street broker -- all of whom are striving to live a meaningful life with less. (2016) **Discussion Facilitator:** Dr. Chelsea Schelly, Dept of Social Sciences

March 18 – Brave Blue World (50 min.) **World Water Day Event**
 From reuse to energy generation, new innovations across five continents are explored in this documentary about building a future for sustainable water. (2020) **Discussion Facilitators:** Dr. Nancy Langson, Dept. of Social Sciences, and Dr. Casey Huckins, Dept. of Biological Sciences

April 15 – Plastic Oceans (102 min.)
 In the center of the Pacific Ocean gyre, researchers found more plastic than plankton. The film documents the newest science, proving how plastics, after entering the oceans, break up into small particulates that enter the food chain where they attract toxins like a magnet. The toxins are stored in sea-food's fatty tissues, and eventually consumed by us. What can we do? (2016) **Discussion Facilitator:** Dr. David Shonnard, Dept. of Chemical Engineering (invited)

May 20 – 2040 (92 min.)
 What would the world look like in 2040 if we actually implement the solutions for climate change that already exist in 2019? It's the premise of a new documentary from Australian filmmaker Damon Gameau. "I'm calling it an exercise in fact-based dreaming," he says in the film. (2020)
Discussion Facilitator: Jessica Daignault, PhD candidate, Dept. of Civil & Environmental Engineering

Co-sponsored by: Lake Superior Stewardship Initiative • MI Tech Great Lakes Research Center • Keweenaw Land Trust
 Keweenaw Unitarian Universalist Fellowship • MTU Dept. of Social Sciences • Sustainable Futures Institute
 • College of Forest Resources & Environmental Science

[Full schedule](#)

Keweenaw Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
 P.O. Box 276, Houghton, Michigan 49931

GS BUDGET:

Budgeted ('20)	/Spent
Composter	\$100 100
GS Forum supplies	30 0
RE Kids supplies	50 0
2 nd composter	100 0
TOTAL	280 100

PUBLICITY:
 4 articles (3 in DMG, 1 in Lake Superior Magazine)



We Grew an Extra Row!