



CommUnity Matters

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Southwest Michigan

August 2019

August Services

Services and Children's Religious
Education Classes begin at 10:00 am.
Nursery Care is available.

Please visit our UCC website at uucommunitychurch.org where you will find updated sermon topics as we have more information. You can also sign up for our Friday emails, which will include updated service and event information.

Sunday, August 4 - "Draw the Circle Wide" with Director of Religious Education, Miriam Epskamp

Our first service of the year will feature adults and kids gathering together to explore the challenges and blessings of being a people who welcome others. There will be POTLUCK after the service, hosted by the Stewardship Committee.

Sunday, August 11 - "Examining a Musical Culture" with Music Director, Nick Sienkiewicz

With the help of special guest artists, Nick will be speaking on the history and culture of a very prevalent genre of music. The talk will discuss the impact of the art form, its implications, and public perceptions of the musical genre. Come for yourself to find out what it is and how this genre has impacted our society.

Sunday, August 18 - "Welcoming" with Rev. Gy

Rev. Gy will share some of her thoughts on this month's theme of 'welcoming'.

Sunday, August 25 - "More Thoughts on Welcoming" with Rev. Gy

Rev. Gy will share more of her thoughts on this month's theme of 'welcoming'.



From the Minister

Rev. Gy Ludvig Mc-Cartney

"Let us be grateful to people who make us happy, they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom" ~Marcel Proust

I often wonder what sort of impact we have on one another. Quantum physics informs me that everything is affected by all our actions, I learned last week that one of our most recently departed affected quite a few people. Some she had introduced to our church, others she impacted in many other ways. Grateful for your touch, Faye! We cherish your memory.

As a minister I tend not to know at all of my impact (unless I ruffle feathers... I do learn about that rather quickly!), or find out only much later.

I was at a different church many years ago. There was a lady who attended there who almost never spoke to me and I was convinced that she did not care for me.

Sure enough, she stopped coming. I asked about her a couple of times and no one knew where she'd gone to. I could have invested more energy into finding her, but didn't, because I was convinced she didn't like me and after all I am not a glutton for punishment.

A couple of years went by and I was visiting

FROM THE MINISTER

my parents in Budapest when the phone rang and someone asked for me. I was baffled for I lived in the States, who would look for me in Budapest? I took the receiver from my father and lo and behold it was HER, the lady from my church who disappeared suddenly. She said she was in Budapest, too, and asked to see me.

We met. She told me that for decades she had been estranged from her only daughter. They stopped talking long before she moved to the States. The daughter remained in Budapest. Then one Sunday I gave a talk and it hit her hard. She went home, picked up the phone and called her daughter. They talked, and talked, and talked and reconciled. The daughter asked her to move home and live with her. She did. She did it quickly before she could change her mind. Years later they were still doing really well and she just wanted me to know the impact my words had on her on that fateful Sunday. She also told me that she had always liked me and thought highly of me, just was shy to talk to me.

I was both blown away and embarrassed. Blown away, because, well, something I said contributed to such tremendous healing. Embarrassed, because I believed the unexamined thought that she didn't like me. See how that influenced my relating to her? I allowed that unexamined, untrue thought to set the course of my actions.

I have worked much on myself since. I've learned to examine my thoughts much more frequently, to not believe everything I think. Sometimes I still fall asleep at the wheel and do and say things that later I need to clean up and for the most part I do.

I know it may be childish or naive, but I still hold a belief that an Awakened World is possible and human beings will actually evolve and function using the highest qualities of our species. I am clear that awakening begins with me.

I have clarity that I touch people/life around me consciously and unconsciously. I don't always know what affect my actions and words have, but I can honestly say that I feel more honest, integral, and clean when I operate with high standards of love, kindness, and compassion. If I could I would always chose to be a charming gardener who makes another's soul blossom.

I am grateful for all those folks who have made my soul blossom. Many of you are reading these words, you know who you are. My gratitude abounds and I steadfastly hold a vision of a day not so far when most of humanity transcends its petty tribalism and embraces instead a possibility of expansiveness, kindness to all forms of life and a love that lays the gentle ground for healing.

And so we begin...

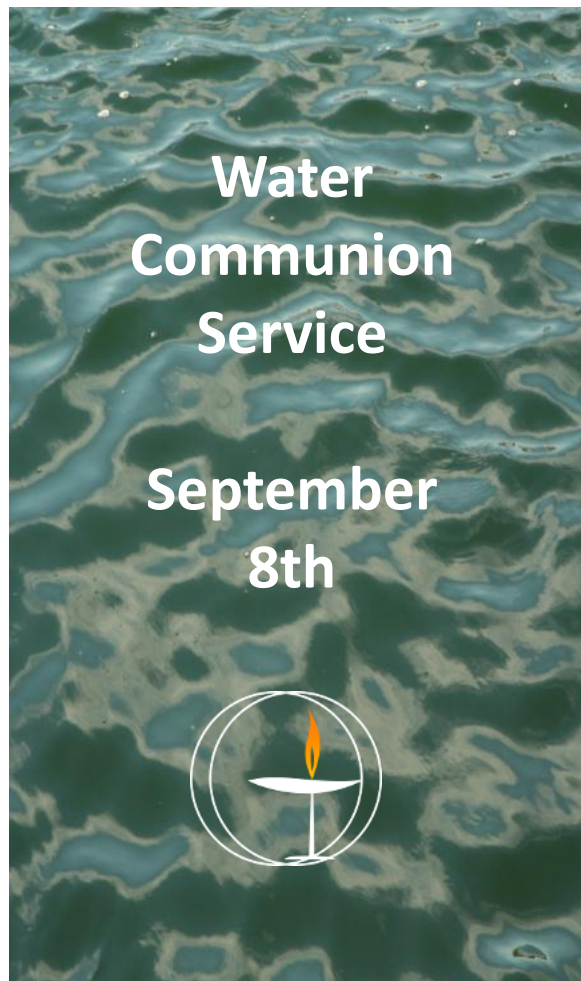
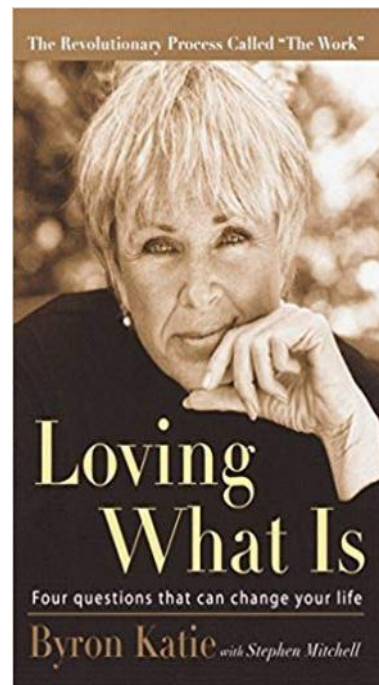


INSPIRED SPIRITUALITY

Starting September 4th, Rev. Gy will offer an eight-week class based on *Loving What Is* by Byron Katie. The class will meet each Wednesday and two sessions will be offered: 1-3 pm or 6-8 pm. The class will meet at UUCC. A free-will offering will be requested to cover the cost of materials which will include Byron Katie's book.

'The Work' of Byron Katie is a way to identify thoughts that cause all fear, anxiety, depression, anger, violence, and suffering. With four simple questions, you will learn to examine your thoughts, undo your anxiety, depression, suffering and allow your mind to return to peace, wholeness, and creativity. For more information on 'The Work' of Byron Katie, visit thework.com.

Sign up sheets for this class are at Welcome Table or you can email or call Rev. Gy, gytudvig@gmail.com or 269-352-2412, to reserve your place.



Save Some Water for Communion

As you are out and about in the next few weeks, be sure to collect some water from a place or event that has special meaning for you to share at our annual Water Communion Ceremony on September 8th. Water Communion is a unique Unitarian Universalist ritual traditionally held at the beginning of the church year that serves to remind us of our interconnectedness and celebrate our gathering together as a community. The water you bring can be from as near as your backyard or as far as across the globe. As long as it is a source of inspiration, peace, or joy, it is welcome in the communal bowl.

You can learn more about Water Communion by following this link to the Unitarian Universalist Association website:

[Celebrating the Water Communion](#)

LEADERSHIP

Board President's Corner

by Nancy Calme, Board President

Welcome to the new church year, the time between July 1 and June 30 in which we restart the fiscal calendar, shuffle leadership appointments, and set new goals. I am honored to be the new president of the Board of Trustees and keep finding myself surprised by the range of questions and decisions that are already coming to me by virtue of the role. I guess I'd forgotten since the last time!



The Board met for a planning and getting-to-know-you retreat in July and I am encouraged by the enthusiasm and willingness to stretch for lofty new goals that was exhibited by the whole group. I expect that it will take a little time for each of us to grow into our roles and rhythm. Please be patient with us as we get up to speed.

We set some high-level goals for the whole church to focus on in the 2019-2020 year and are already hard at work at the 90-day projects that the Board committed to. You will hear more about those through the weekly email blast and in the newsletter, so be sure to watch your email inbox for updates.

My own project is to work with the congregation to reevaluate our committee structure and see if there is a way to reduce the number of roles that have to be filled to get everything done. A number of committees noted in their annual reports that they are a bit overwhelmed with tasks and so many of us have to take on multiple roles just to keep the trains on time. Could there be a better way? If you have some good ideas or just want to help get all the input required, please contact me to help me plan this endeavor. I could use all the help I can get!

Program Council

by Erin Michael, Board Vice-President

Starting in August 2019, we will be holding our Program Council meetings on the second Sunday of the month. Our first meeting will be on August 11th. This meeting is to facilitate the planning of our Generosity Sundays, Service/Silent Auction, *Our Town* show and more, and to share the Board's Goals for the Church Year.

One focus of the Board is to improve our flow of information between committees and groups and strengthen our combined brain power to solve issues and take advantage of opportunities. Program Council can be a central cog to achieving success and support one another for events and initiatives. We will be asking for each committee and group to have a knowledgeable representative present at the meeting to ensure a flow of accurate and timely information between groups.

We are excited to meet with everyone again! If you have any questions or information, please contact [Erin Michael](#) no later than Sunday, August 4 so she is able to plan.

STEWARDSHIP

Board Briefs

July 9, 2019

All Board Trustees and Rev. Gy were present for the Board Retreat. The following are the highlights:

Last year's UUCC successes were shared:

- Adoption of a Congolese Refugee family
- New Sunday Service format
- Development of more Lay Services
- Compilation of volunteer lists for Memorial Services
- Start of new VSO (Vision, Strategy Organizer) process with goals
- Fundraising exceeded expectations
- A well attended Valentine's dance
- Reverse offering during Sunday service
- Resurfacing of parking lot
- Dishwashing room cleaned and re-purposed
- Replacement of a more efficient printer
- Vanco electronic giving

And the lessons learned from last year were reviewed:

- Communicate early with lay service providers
- Overlapping missions of committees
- Need fresh ideas for service auction
- Need alternate income beyond pledges
- Over commitment of members for too many committees
- Social media is a weak point in outreach endeavors
- Need upfront buy-in from members on outreach events



Finally the Board selected projects and developed goals for the upcoming church year:

Goal #1: Enhance UUCC's social media presence by analyzing current metrics, setting a growth target and develop a 1 year strategy for improvements.

Goal #2: Reorganize church committee structures for less overlap of mission and personnel to increase efficiency and mitigate burn-out.

Goal #3: Create a "green" sanctuary assessment and set a schedule for incremental changes.

Goal #4: Create an audio-visual improvement plan and set a schedule for incremental changes.

Submitted by Denise Sonier, Board Secretary

LEARNING AND GROWTH

Men's Group

As always, the Men's Group will meet on the third Saturday of each month for breakfast and conversation at Burger Town Grill at 8:30 AM. Coordinator Ron Crowell hopes to get the new church year started with a bang with at least 6 people attending the first breakfast on August 17th. Contact [Ron](#) for more info or to RSVP.



Women's Book Group



The long-running UCC Women's Book Group met on July 12, 2019 and chose the eight books noted below for this church year. As in previous years, we will meet for lunch, then go to UCC for a brief business meeting, dessert, and the book discussion. All UCC women are welcome.

- Sep 13, 2019 (fiction) **A Gentleman in Moscow** by Amor Towles
 Oct 11, 2019 (fiction) **The Half-Life of Everything: A Novel** by Deborah Carol Gang
 Nov 8, 2019 (fiction) **Pride and Prejudice** by Jane Austen
 Dec 13, 2019 (fiction) **Pride** by Ibi Zoboi
 Jan 10, 2020 (fiction) **The Magic Strings of Frankie Presto** by Mitch Albom
 Feb 14, 2020 (non fiction) **Becoming** by Michelle Obama
 Mar 13, 2020 Kalamazoo Public Library's Community Read
 Apr 10, 2020 (non fiction) **Educated: A Memoir** by Tara Westover
 May 8, 2020 (fiction) **Little Fires Everywhere** by Celeste Ng

Here is a list of the other books that were recommended by our members this year:

FICTION

- This Is How It Always Is: A Novel** by Laurie Frankel
An Anonymous Girl by Greer Hendricks and Sarah Pekkanen
Lucky Jim by Kingsley Amis
Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens
Mink River by Brian Doyle
Chicago: A Novel by Brian Doyle
Bunny by Mona Awad

NON FICTION

- Rising Out of Hatred: The Awakening of a Former White Nationalist** by Eli Saslow
Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis by J. D. Vance
Alaska From the Inside Out – Memories of Suzanne Nuyen Henning by Sally Mahieu

In community,

Stephanie G. Grathwol, 2019-2020 Chair Home Phone: 269-342-0874



CARING COMMUNITY



AUGUST CARING COMMUNITY NEWS

"August is the Sunday to summer" ~ Anonymous

In July UUCC members and friends took a vacation from church services, but there was much activity happening among the UUCCers.

Stephanie Grathwol visited her brother in Portland, Oregon and explored the region. Jim Heveran is healing and preparing to come back to Michigan in the near future.

Many of us attended a memorial of our long time member, Faye Clifton. Faye was living at The Fountains when she died, and as her three children attested was still an avid reader with strong opinions. The Mueller Report was her final book! Faye has left some of her treasures at UUCC. Her two large Christmas Cacti bring life to the east windows of our sanctuary, and two of Faye's quilts adorn our walls.

As this article goes into the newsletter, Lin Foote, one of our founders, is slowly dying in Urbana, IL. Both of his children, Bob and Karen, are taking turns being with him and many UU friends are sitting with him during the day. Lin has chosen not to take food or water. If you wish to send a card which could be read to him, the address is: **65 Airport Rd., Apt 101, Savoy, IL 61874**

Lin was responsible for bringing many members to UUCC, and although he left Kalamazoo some years ago, he remains a strong influence to many UUCCers.

In August of 2000 we said our final goodbye to Jean Batts; we fondly remember her each time we listen to our grand piano, her generous gift to us.

On the celebratory side of August, we send Happy Birthday wishes to Lauren Ritter, Larry Connor, Kimberly Ridley, Miriam Epskamp, and Jacquis Robertson.

Wedding bells rang out in August of 1963 to 1994 – Happy Anniversary to Jim and Mary King; Kevin and Tami Brozovich; Tim and Erin Michael; and Eric and Regena Nelson.

UUCC sends good wishes to all members and friends who are celebrating events this month and encouragement to those who need it.

If you know of someone who we have missed, please contact point people Nancy Crowell, Judy Oliver or Judy Pigg-Behrendt. Caring is Sharing!



IN MEMORIAM

Our dear member, Faye Clifton, passed away in the past after a fall. Rev Gy presided over a memorial service at the Fountains on July 21. The following is Faye's obituary from the Joldersma & Klein Funeral Home website.



Faye Arlene Gilmore was born January 14, 1928, in a room above her father Cecil's harness shop in the tiny hamlet of Woodford, in south-central Wisconsin. She had one older sister, Ruth. On her father's side she was a descendant of one of the original families of the Rhode Island Colony, who emigrated from Essex, England in the mid-1600s. Her mother Edith Maaske was a first generation descendant of emigrants from the Province of Pomerania in Germany/Prussia.

Faye was a petite dark-haired girl with green eyes, bright and lively, a girl who was an excellent student (a First in Latin), with many friends who remained in touch throughout her life. She was an inveterate journalist and meticulous record-keeper and kept a daily diary. Because her small village had no high school she moved to the town of Monroe where she lived with her older sister, then working, to attend Monroe High School. After graduating she attended Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio, a small private liberal arts college founded by Horace Mann which focused on experiential education through cooperative work programs. Her first coop semester was in New York City where she worked in the offices of Gimbel's Department Store during the day and went out jitterbugging at night. During her second coop semester, in Chicago, she met James A., 'Jim' Clifton, a WWII veteran on the GI Bill at the University of Chicago. They married on December 20, 1947 and hitchhiked to New York City where they honeymooned during the Great Blizzard of 1947. They were 19 and 20 years old. At the time of Jim's death in July 2000 they had been married for 53 years.

Before they met in the rooming house where Faye lived and where he got his meals, Jim had been in the Merchant Marine, and at 17 had participated in the D-Day Invasion of Normandy, prior to returning to his hometown of Chicago to study Cultural Anthropology. After they married Faye transferred from Antioch College into the Masters-level program at the UofC and continued in political science. When the Korean War started Jim enlisted in the Marine Corps and they were separated for several years. During that period Faye worked for the National Labor Relations Board. Following the Armistice Jim was stationed in Japan where Faye joined him and where their first child, Margaret Ruth, was born in January 1955. From Japan they returned to the States where Jim pursued his Masters Degree at San Francisco State University, and a son, Peter James, was born in July 1956. They then moved to Eugene, Oregon where Jim got his PhD and began teaching and doing field work, studying Klamath and Ute Indians. Their second daughter, Catherine Faye, was born in November 1959, and the family then moved to the small town of Ignacio, Colorado. Youngest child Douglas William was born in nearby Durango in October 1961.

The family then moved to Boulder when Jim began an Assistant Professorship at the University of Colorado. Time in summers was frequently spent on or near Indian reservations as

IN MEMORIAM

Jim continued his research work. The family made numerous cross-country trips back and forth from 'out West' to Chicago and Wisconsin. In 1962 they moved to Lawrence, Kansas when Jim was hired as an Associate Professor at the University of Kansas.

In 1964-65 the family lived in Santiago and Purranque, Chile, while Jim was on a Fulbright Scholarship. Faye, in the meantime, in addition to raising four small children, had returned to her study of political science at KU. She continued to work on her BA, completing it in 1969, after the family had moved to Prescott, Arizona, where Jim taught for one year at Prescott College.

In 1970 Jim accepted a tenured position at the newly created campus of the University of Wisconsin in Green Bay, eventually becoming the inaugural holder of the Frankenthal Endowed Chair in Cultural Anthropology. By this time he had published numerous books and articles on the Potawatomi Indians and related subjects which Faye contributed to in numerous ways, from conducting subject interviews, editing and writing articles. Faye was appointed to the Planning Commission of the City of Green Bay, the first woman on that body. She remained a member for over 15 years, participating in the revitalization and renovation of the downtown area. Jim retired from UWGB in 1990, and they chose to move to Kalamazoo, Michigan, where Jim was offered an adjunct position at Western Michigan University. And so they moved across Lake Michigan. Jim started a consulting business, Ethnohistory Associates. After 'retirement' they both continued to travel widely, both for Jim's consulting work and for pleasure. Faye particularly loved to travel to places to enjoy the great gardens and architecture of the world.

Faye was always an avid sewer, knitter, and crocheter, who created numerous beautiful detailed crewel and other needlework projects. In retirement she focused on quilting and created a large number of beautiful quilts of all sizes and styles, displaying them in shows; she was an active member of the Kalamazoo Log Cabin Quilters. She also was a long-time member of the League of Women Voters and the Unitarian Universalist Church of Southwest Michigan. She was a proud lifelong Democrat.

When Jim died in 2000 Faye stayed in her home until 2009 and then moved to The Fountains at Bronson Place, where she was an involved member of the community there for many years. She was passionate about recycling and her book club, and helped to start a milkweed garden to support the monarch butterfly population. That garden is now a registered Monarch Waystation. She read dozens of books every year; the last book she was reading was The Mueller Report. She hated to miss 'Judy' on PBS at 7 o'clock.

Faye died peacefully on July 10 at Bronson Hospital with her three surviving children and granddaughter by her side. She was preceded in death by her husband Jim in July 2000 and her youngest son Douglas in April 2009. She is survived and missed by her children, Margaret Ruth, Peter James, and Catherine Faye (JD Smith), and three grandchildren, Paige Catherine Clifton-Steele, Clifford Smith and Daniel James Clifton, all of whom she was immensely proud. She is missed by her many good friends and neighbors.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

R.E.flections

from Miriam Epskamp

Director of Religious Education for Children and Youth



Welcome back! My! How July went by in a blink of an eye!

I spent a lot of my 'summer break' down in the Religious Education (RE) area moving furniture and reorganizing things. I decided that it was time to transform our space to better meet the needs of our 21st-century kids and a RE program that needs to be flexible and adaptable.

After discussing things with the students and learning more about the conversations they had with my predecessor, Jacquis, we decided to get rid of all the classrooms! We instead hope to have....a *Playroom* filled with toys...a *Screen Room* with computers and the big screen TV the kids bought with the money they raised last year.....and a *Craft Spot* with enough baskets and bins of supplies to keep the even the most artistic among us happy. We will also have a *Common Room* with comfy couches where we can gather for discussion, tables where we can play games or put together a puzzle, a kitchen area where we can make a snack or share a meal, and little nooks where we can curl up with a book or just sit and think. All this shifting around should clear up space that will allow us to hang up a hammock, construct a tent or a pillow fort, play cooperative games, or try active meditation techniques. This is still a work in progress of course; my hours as your DRE are few and the things that need to be done are many. But, if all goes well, the children and youth will begin the RE program in September in a welcoming and inviting space that was partly built to their specifications but also designed with their faith formation needs in mind.

Any attempt to give children and youth input and agency in the RE program should not lose sight of the fact we are here to do a job. We are here to teach our children and youth about their UU identity. We are here to inspire them to question and to search out their own spiritual path. We are here to help them develop the capacity to act on their beliefs and to see themselves as agents of change in the world. We are here to challenge them to live ethical lives and develop respect for themselves, for others, and for the planet. And we seek to do all this in an emotionally and physically safe, secure, and nurturing environment. These are lofty goals. And sometimes they conflict with what the kids desire. But they are too important to set aside. We may not always reach our goals and the kids may not get everything they dream of either, but to paraphrase the immortal Rolling Stones, we can't always get what we want, but with a little work and a little luck, we just might find, we get what we need.

May it be so....

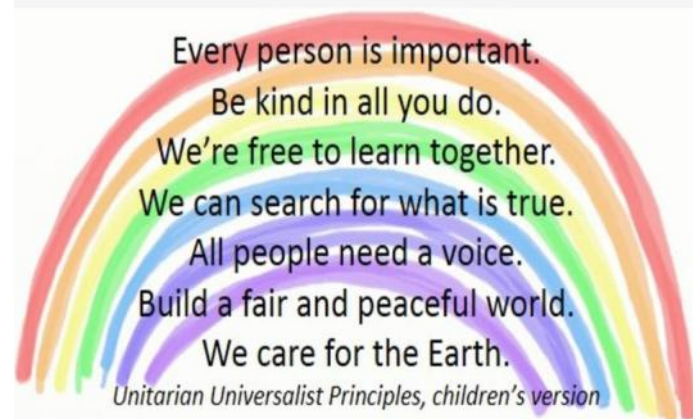
CHILDREN AND YOUTH

August Religious Education Classes

Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world. -Harriet Tubman

Our classes in August will be loosely based on Miracles: an eight-session program from the Tapestry of Faith invites a prolonged encounter with awe and wonder. It combines stories from our Unitarian Universalist Sources and a wide range of hands-on activities to engage a wide age span of participants around the theme of Miracles. Participants explore different kinds of miracles, from the awesome, ordered beauty of Earth and all life on it, to their own capacity to transform themselves and others to bring forth love and justice.

Date	Session	Teacher
8/4	Multigen Worship	N/A
8/11	Miracle Inside	Help Wanted
8/18	Change the World	Miriam
8/25	Miracle We Can Make	Miriam
9/1	Still a Mystery	Help Wanted



Registration Time!: At the beginning of a new church year and with a 'new' DRE taking charge, it is important for UUCU parents/guardians to take a moment to fill out or update your children's Religious Education registration materials. As we prepare to kick off a new RE program in September, Miriam would also love an opportunity to talk with you about your hopes and vision for our youth programs. Watch the weekly emails in August for more information on registration and parent/DRE one-on-one conversations. And thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Volunteer Opportunities: Although we don't have any very small children who regularly attend right now, it is always possible that we could have young visitors at any time. Rather than scrambling on Sunday morning trying to find someone to cover nursery care, let's plan to sign up a 'Just in Case' nursery person each week so we are prepared. We also will need volunteers to cover RE classes on August 11th and September 1st when Miriam is out of town. You can sign up to help on the sheets on the RE bulletin board at the back of the sanctuary.

Wish List: The RE area downstairs could use another dehumidifier and a few yoga mats. If you have either of these things just taking up space, please consider donating them to us.

FAITH IN ACTION



Explore Anti-Racism Through Film

The Reconciling Committee of First United Methodist Church in Kalamazoo invites the public to attend a free showing of a talk given by Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II titled "We Need a Moral Pentecost." Rev. Barber is the architect of the Forward Together Moral Monday Movement, president of the North Carolina NAACP, and pastor of the Greenleaf Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Goldsboro. He is also president of Repairers of the Breach and the 2015-2016 recipient of the Puffin/Nation Prize for Creative Citizenship. The Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II is co-author, with Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove, of *The Third Reconstruction: How a Moral Movement Is Overcoming the Politics of Fear and Division*. The film will be shown in the FUMC Youth Tribe theater in the lower level of the church.

Carmel corn and beverages will be provided. A discussion will be held following the presentations. You are encouraged to bring a friend or two! You can find out more about this event at the [FUMC website](#).



WMED Health Equity Summit

Our friends at Interfaith Strategies for Advocacy & Action in the Community (ISAAC) encourage community leaders to participate in the WMED Health Equity Summit on August 17th at William D. Johnson & Ronda E. Stryker Auditorium - Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine in downtown Kalamazoo. This will be an important opportunity to learn how we can work towards meaningful change regarding structural racism and health inequities. You can find out more about the event and register following this [link](#).



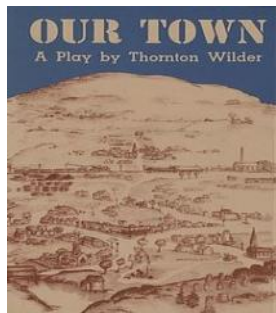
WELCOME TO THE 2019 HEALTH EQUITY SUMMIT

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:
August, 17, 2019 | Kalamazoo, MI

- 8:30-9:00 Registration and Breakfast
- 9:00-11:35 **SPEAKER SERIES**
40 MIN PRESENTATIONS
10 MIN QUESTIONS
- 9:00-9:50 Redlining in Kalamazoo
MATT SMITH
KALAMAZOO PUBLIC LIBRARY
- 9:50-10:40 Immigrant Healthcare
SUSAN REED
MICHIGAN IMMIGRANT RIGHTS CENTER
- 10:45-11:35 Medical-Legal Partnerships
DON ROBERTS
LEGAL AID OF WEST MICHIGAN
- 11:35-12:30 Lunch
- 12:30-1:30 Panel Conversation
MATT SMITH
DON ROBERTS
CHERYL DICKSON, MD, MPH
- 1:30-3:00 Oral Presentations
- 3:00-4:00 Poster Presentations

FELLOWSHIP AND FUN

Upcoming Arts and Entertainment Events:



Our Town

October 25, 7:30 pm

October 26, 7:30 pm

October 27, 2:00 pm



Come join us for our **Open House Theatre Company** production of *Our Town*, taking place the last weekend in October. *Our Town* is a classic work written by Thornton Wilder that beautifully displays the dynamics of a family throughout their lifetime. More information about this production can be found on the **Open House Theatre Company** website. Tickets will go on sale at the end of September, however you can reserve your tickets early by becoming a sponsor for the production. Furthermore, if you'd like your business or service placed in the program, feel free to pick up a form for that as well! All forms will eventually be found on our website, but are currently linked in the church Google drive, or on the arts table in the main room. More information about auditions and becoming a volunteer for the show will be coming soon! Contact Mary Roscoe or Nick Sienkiewicz for more information.



Kalamazoo Community Choral Concert

November 2nd, 7:30 pm

First Presbyterian Church

The first annual Kalamazoo Community Choral Concert will be taking place at the First Presbyterian Church in downtown Kalamazoo on November 2nd at 7:30 pm. The concert will feature many of the wonderful choral ensembles in Kalamazoo including the Kalamazoo Male Chorus, the Kalamazoo Community Chorale, and the UU Community Chorus, among many others. Our Music Director, Nick Sienkiewicz, will be conducting the Grand Chorus pieces and will be working with Savannah Ramsey, Music Director at People's Church, on the UU Community Chorus works. Open rehearsals start Tuesday, August 6th, from 6:30 - 8:00 pm. Please contact Nick if you are interested in participating.

Potluck Sundays: Our monthly potluck lunches will resume after the service on August 4th. Potluck Sundays are scheduled for the first Sunday of each month. Any changes from this schedule will be noted in the newsletter and weekly email. Please plan to bring a dish to share and your own table service to help us reduce the amount of paper plates and plastic cups we put in the landfill.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Xerox Copier/Printer

Could you or someone you know use their very own photocopier? Today is your lucky day because we have a used *Xerox WorkCentre m20*, Monochrome (Black and White) Multifunction Printer/Copier for sale, complete with four (4) boxes of toner. This machine was used in the UUC office for many years and has been stored down in the RE area unused for over four years. It seems to be working ok, but is sold 'as is' for only \$100.00 or your best offer. We will also consider donating it to a non-profit organization or other worthy recipient. Contact Miriam at uucommu-nity@gmail.com to schedule a time to take a look at it or to make an offer.



Buy Nothing Project

Started by two friends as an experimental gift economy on Bainbridge Island, WA, the *Buy Nothing Project*, has become a worldwide social movement that looks to set aside the scarcity model of our cash economy in favor of creatively and collaboratively sharing the abundance around us. Using the free platform provided by Facebook Groups, *Buy Nothing Project* members can easily participate with their local group. The rules are simple: "Post anything you'd like to give away, lend, or share amongst neighbors. Ask for anything you'd like to receive for free or borrow." Whether people join because they are decluttering their lives, to save money by getting things for free, they quickly discover that the groups are not just another free recycling platform, but a way to connect with others and create community. To learn more or find a group near you, visit www.buynothingproject.org.

Volunteers Needed

As we return to this beloved UU community after the rest and relaxation of our summer break, volunteers are needed to lend their hands and hearts in service to help make our community thrive.

Here's a brief list of some of the current opportunities for volunteers and the contact person:

- **Coffee Hour** - [Stephanie Grathwol](#)
- **Religious Education** - [Miriam Epskamp](#)
- **Sunday Morning Greeters** - [Nancy Crowell](#)



CALENDAR

AUGUST

Choir Rehearsals

In August, all rehearsals will run from 6:30 - 8:00 pm on Tuesdays.
Please contact [Nick](#) for more information

Sunday, August 4

10:00 am - Service with Miriam Epskamp, DRE
11:30 am - **POTLUCK** hosted by Stewardship

Monday, August 5

4:00 pm - Board of Trustees Meeting

Sunday, August 11

10:00 am - Service with Nick Sienkiewicz
11:30 am - Program Council Meeting

Wednesday, August 14

5:30 pm - Sunday Services Meeting

Sunday, August 18

10:00 am - Service with Rev. Gy
11:30 am - Faith in Action Meeting

Saturday, August 17

8:30 am - Men's Breakfast @ Burger Town Grille

Sunday, August 25

10:00 am - Service with Rev. Gy

Wednesday, August 21

5:30 pm - Sunday Celebrations Team Meeting

Apple Corp

Apple Corp classes will meet on Monday August 5, 12, 19, and 26 from 3:30 -5:30 pm.



**Remember to be gentle
with yourself and others.
We are all children of chance
and none can say
why some fields will blossom
while others lay brown
beneath the August sun.**

~ Kent Nerburn, American writer

**UU Community Church
is served by:**

Rev. Gy Ludvig-McCartney M.Div., M.A.
Consulting Minister
By Appointment Only
gyludvig@gmail.com
Cell: 269-352-2412

Miriam Epskamp
Office Administrator and
Director of Religious Education
Hours: Wed 10-3 and Fri 12-5
uucommunity@gmail.com
Church office: 269-324-7262
Cell phone: 269-993-8758

Nick Sienkiewicz
Music Director
nicholas.sienkiewicz@outlook.com

2019-2020 Board of Trustees

Nancy Calme

Erin Michael

Denise Sonier

Betty Lee Ongley

Larry Higgins

**The next Newsletter Deadline is
Wednesday, August 21st at NOON**

Please send submissions to:

uuccnewsletter@gmail.com

CommUUnity Matters

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