



# yUUper Newsletter

**Keweenaw Unitarian Universalist Fellowship**

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

**Sunday Mornings at 10:30    December 2017; Vol. 32, #12**

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

## December's Theme: *Transitions*

### Schedule for December 2017

#### **Saturday, Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 2pm: "New to UU"**

KUUF Office Please let us know you are coming at 482-5586. Childcare available upon request.

**December 3: "Nothing is Constant Except Change."** Many eastern religions declare that change is constant, even when we believe things are staying the same. Rev. Chris will examine what it means that the world is constantly changing, and how we can embrace such change in a spirit of hope.

**Dec 10: Forum. "A Short History of Passenger Railroads in the United States,"** with Bill Leder. See article on pg. 3 for more information.

**December 17: "Celebrations and Farewells":** In Rev. Chris's final regular service with the congregation, we will celebrate our time together and reflect on the place of Unitarian Universalism in the UP.

**December 24 @ 10:30 am:** Our morning service this year will be our second annual choral sing. Come join us for hymns, readings, and a joyous and festive time!

**December 24 @ 7:00 pm: "Silent Night":** Holidays have a magical power, even to stop war. On Christmas Eve 1914, WW I British and German troops stopped fighting and celebrated Christmas together. In our annual candlelight

service, we will reflect on the meaning behind the holidays we celebrate at this time of year.

**December 31: Our annual New Year's Service** will feature an open mic and opportunity for the sharing of story and song in a relaxed way.



### **Rev. Chris Moves on; Board Prepares for Transition**

*The following statement has been released by the KUUF Board.*

The KUUF Board has officially accepted the resignation of Rev. Christopher Rothbauer, effective 31st December 2017. We thank them for

their service to KUUF and wish them the very best in all future endeavors.

To ensure a smooth transition, the following issues were addressed:

The Board [meeting on Sunday, 11/19] acted on personnel issues including change of supervisory control of KUUF staff. The RE Coordinator position search is suspended.

The Board is arranging a time to meet with representatives of the UUA (remotely) to conduct exit interviews.

The Board recognized that the Worship Committee, with all our help, will plan and coordinate Sunday services at least until June 2018.

Before we launch Canvass, the Fellowship will be deciding the road ahead. The Board will

organize opportunities for open discussion as we work collaboratively on it through mutual good faith and conversation.

The Board will hold its regularly scheduled meeting on December 3rd, 2017 at 1:00 PM.

-Amlan Mukherjee  
Board President



### **Minister's Musings:**

#### **"Farewells"**

As most of you know, December will be my last

month with you as minister.

It has been a privilege to serve you for the last two and a half years. At times like this, it's tempting for both minister and congregation to add up all the positives and negatives of a ministry and see which side has more in order to determine whether a ministry was successful or not.

But, as I was recently reminded by a colleague, any ministry where even a single person was touched is a success, and it has been such a deep honor to be able to hold your stories during our time together.

So, rather than looking back, I'll do what I did when I first started here in 2015: give a prophetic charge to the congregation.

See, after my mother's death, when I was deep in mourning, a prominent member of the Houghton community, not a member of our congregation, but someone who knew how hard of a time I was going through, told me how valuable both my ministry and the ministry of our congregation are to this community.

KUUF is a beacon for many people seeking a religious home to call their own when they haven't felt welcomed elsewhere. Our movement is proof that one need not think alike to love alike.

When it comes down to it, years from now, when our time together is just a faded memory, it won't matter how many members we had or

whether we met our budget or how many people came to service every Sunday. What will matter is how many lives we were able to touch, how many people were transformed because of our work together, and how we impacted the world for the better.

I can tell you that we have done all three of these during our time together, and Houghton is a better place because of Keweenaw Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

My charge, as I leave, is for this congregation to be that beacon for people in their time of need. My colleague, Rev. Ashley Horan, in a recent sermon, challenged UUs to view everything we do in church as having potential for transformation.

What if every committee and board meeting, religious education class, small group, social time, and worship service were not viewed as merely products of a system we give to through our time, talent, and treasure, but as opportunities for transformation, both for ourselves, our community, and our wider world?

What if we remember that, in everything we do, the world is watching, and we can transform that world through our actions?

As we say goodbye, I still hope that KUUF will be around for decades to come. The Upper Peninsula needs the saving message of Unitarian Universalism. The Upper Peninsula needs KUUF.

May it be so.

*—Rev. Chris*

#### **Rev. Chris's Office Hours:**

Wednesday and Thursday: 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm;  
Friday: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm, and by appointment

#### **Tea with the Minister:**

Thursday: 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm  
Friday: 9:00 am - 10:00 am

**Rev. Chris's Blog:** <http://www.radicalrev.com>  
Listen to Rev. Chris's Sermons on SoundCloud:  
<https://soundcloud.com/chrisrothbauer>

#### **Home Page:**

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

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**On Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/keweenawuu/>  
**Koffee Klatsch:** 10 am on **Thursday**, December 14<sup>th</sup> and **Friday**, December 29<sup>nd</sup>; at Roy's Bakery.

## **Leder's December Forum to Focus on US Railway History**

Passenger railroads in the US were once the equal of those anywhere in the world. Now our passenger rail service is far behind those in Europe, Asia, and the Far East. Some consider Amtrak a disgrace, while others want its services expanded. How did this happen, and what might the future hold? Bill Leder answers all on 12/10.

## **Alex Frazier, Our Piano Player, Reveals All**

### ***How long have you been playing for the UU Sunday services?***

About three years. I was in Tech's Concert Choir in 2014-15 when Shirley approached me about the job.

### ***Do you select any of the music, or is everything given to you?***

When Gabby was the minister, I made all the selections. With Chris, I select the prelude at the beginning, the Offertory music, the Meditation, and Postlude.

Chris and Sandra pick the choral music, and the music that's part of the formal service--what everyone participates in. I receive these selections from them on Thursdays.

### ***How will Chris's departure affect you and your position with KUUF ?***

I expect most things to remain the same. I assume beginning next year that Sandra will be my main contact person. We communicate well through Facebook.

### ***How much practice is commonly needed for a particular Sunday?***

Not too much since congregational music is generally simplified; it is written for people who have minimal musical backgrounds.

### ***What is your musical academic background?***

I attended a small, private college in western Pennsylvania and majored in music with an emphasis on piano and percussion. I began with piano but switched to percussion to challenge myself. Piano, of course, now offers more opportunity for employment.

### ***Billy Joel once said that he thanks his mother for making him practice piano as a child. Were you like most males when young—hating to practice?***

Actually, I enjoyed practice as a child, but when I reached high school I still loved to play piano, but didn't like having to learn songs that I was assigned.

### ***What other kinds of musical jobs do you now have besides playing for KUUF?***

I played organ for St. Francis Catholic church in Dollar Bay for close to a year, but Sandra's choir rehearsals then took over most of my spare time on Sunday mornings. I still sub occasionally for St. Francis when my schedule permits it.

### ***Could UU members suggest music they would like to hear?***

I am open to suggestions, and if the music fits the theme, I might play it.

### ***Do you have a favorite era or type of music?***

Not really, although I have some favorite songs.

### ***What else occupies your time?***

I do many music things: my wife and I own the dance studio in Hancock. I teach over 20 piano lessons every week. I am the accompanist for the Suzuki Assoc. I accompany all the middle and high school choirs for Houghton and Hancock. I also sub in the schools—any class, not only music. I do it all.



## Letters to the Editor

*The editor encourages letters to the yUUPER Newsletter on UU or KUUF topics. The editor reserves the right to edit for space and clarity.*

Editor:

Congratulations to Rev. Rothbauer. Personally, I'm very happy to have had you at KUUF and forcing us to move in a direction of a deeper understanding of ourselves as a community. I wish you all the best as you move on to your next endeavor.

\_Amlan

## Library Briefs

Our UU library offers separate categories for both "UU," and "non-UU religious."



The UU category contains items related to UU in some fashion—subject, author, or title.

The non-UU category contains items belonging to other established religious traditions.

If you examine these items, you may encounter some overlap. You may personally identify, for example, as a UU-Christian, Buddhist, Humanist, or Atheist. You may even identify with more than one of these.

I have listed the various subjects covered in our non-UU section. In my list I give the religion first, followed by the number of related items: Buddhism (9); Christianity (5); Bibles (4); Christian Science (4); Humanism (2); Islam (2); and World Religions (2).

We have single copies related to many areas: Atheism, Christianity/Humanism, Earth Prayers, Fundamentalism, Funeral Services, Funeral Services/Humanism, Gnosticism, Hinduism, and Judaism.

*\_Bob Fiandt*



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