

**UU Fellowship of Central Michigan
Mount Pleasant, Michigan
Sunday, March 8, 2020, 10:30 a.m.**

Women's Suffrage and Susan B. Anthony

SCRIPT

-THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY-

Call to Worship – LAURA

#435

We come together this morning to remind one another
To rest for a moment on the forming edge of our lives,
To resist the headlong tumble into the next moment,
Until we claim for ourselves
Awareness and gratitude,
Taking the time to look into one another's faces
And see there communion: the reflection of our own eyes.

This house of laughter and silence, memory and hope,
is hallowed by our presence together.

Kathleen McTigue

Welcome – DREW

Welcome, everyone, to the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Central Michigan. My name is Drew Frantz and I serve this Fellowship as Minister. I'm joined this morning by lay leader and Membership Coordinator Laura McBride.

In opening this service, I acknowledge that this house of worship sits on the traditional lands of the Anishinabek, the people of the three fires, and on the treaty lands of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe. I honor the elders of the tribe, past and present, and their stewardship of the land over generations.

The land does not belong to us. We belong to the land.

The mission of this Fellowship is:

To be a religious community guided by love, transforming our lives and our world.

If you are new here, we offer you a special welcome, and if you are new to Unitarian Universalism, we would be happy to talk with you after the service and talk with you about our unique religion.

Today after the service, we welcome everyone for coffee and snacks in the fellowship hall.

Here we practice radical hospitality: everyone is welcome.

Young and old are welcome here.

Able-bodied, disabled, differently abled, you're welcome here.

Black and white and brown are welcome here.

Citizens, immigrants, refugees, you are welcome here.

Gay, straight, and bisexual are welcome here.

Male, female, and transgender are welcome here.

Married, single, divorced (or “it’s complicated”), you are welcome here.

Catholics, Lutherans, and Methodists;

Jews, Buddhists, and Muslims,

Atheists, Pagans, and Humanists, you are welcome here.

We believe in the inherent worth and dignity of all people.

We believe that all of us are searching for truth and meaning,
and that none of us has found all the answers.

Announcements

CORONAVIRUS MESSAGE – LAURA

The board of trustees and the minister are discussing contingency plans, in case there should be a time when we decide to cancel services or other fellowship activities. Pay attention to the Fellowship website, weekly eNews, and Facebook site for updates. If we should choose to cancel, we would use the same notification system we use for weather-related cancellations, Remind.

For today, we’ll remind you that the best practice to prevent spread of disease is to wash your hands frequently. And we have more tissues around the building and hand sanitizer.

Finally, until this health crisis has passed, we are suspending hand-holding during the benediction. Instead, you can either put your hand on the person’s shoulder – with permission! – or hold your hand toward the person, touching their energy.

In your order of service you will find a colored piece of paper with several announcements. I have a few more things to mention here before we begin our service.

Other announcements:

Board meeting today postponed until next week.

And now, please be sure to silence your cell phone if you haven’t done so already, and let us begin our sacred time together.

Prelude – BETH and CONGREGATION

#360 "Here We Have Gathered"

1 Here we have gathered, gathered side by side;
circle of kinship, come and step inside!

May all who seek here find a kindly word;
may all who speak here feel they have been heard.

Sing now together this, our hearts' own song.

2 Here we have gathered, called to celebrate
 days of our lifetime, matters small and great:
 we of all ages, women, children, men,
 infants and sages, sharing what we can.
 Sing now together this, our hearts' own song.

3 Life has its battles, sorrows, and regret:
 but in the shadows, let us not forget:
 we who now gather know each other's pain;
 kindness can heal us: as we give, we gain.
 Sing now in friendship this, our hearts' own song.

Lighting the Flame - DREW

#448 Christine Robinson

At this time we will light the chalice, the symbol of our Unitarian Universalist faith. Lighting the chalice indicates the beginning of our sacred time together.

_____ will light the flame as we read together the words on the screen:

#448 Christine Robinson

We gather this hour as people of faith
 With joys and sorrows, gifts and needs.

We light this beacon of hope,
 sign of our quest
 for truth and meaning,
 in celebration of the life we share together.

-AFFIRMING OUR CONNECTIONS-

Hymn #212 "We Are Dancing Sarah's Circle" – DREW

BETH and CONGREGATION

We are Dancing Sarah's Circle

C	C	C	C
G	G	F	C
C	C	C	F
C	G	C	C

1 We are dancing Sarah's circle,
 we are dancing Sarah's circle,
 we are dancing Sarah's circle,
 sisters, brothers, all.

2 Here we seek and find our history,
 here we seek and find our history,
 here we seek and find our history,
 sisters, brothers, all.

3 We will all do our own naming,
we will all do our own naming,
we will all do our own naming,
sisters, brothers, all.

4 Every round a generation,
every round a generation,
every round a generation,
sisters, brothers, all.

5 On and on the circle's moving,
on and on the circle's moving,
on and on the circle's moving,
sisters, brothers, all.

Story for All Ages - LAURA

Susan B. Anthony: Her Fight for Equal Rights

Singing Out the Children

Musical Reflection – BETH

Joys and Sorrows - DREW

Prayer and Meditation - DREW

Spirit of Life

(#123 in the hymnal)

*Spirit of Life, come unto me.
Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea; move in the hand,
giving life the shape of justice.
Roots hold me close; wings set me free;
Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.*

Testimonial by Carol Rard

Marianne Williamson:
spiritual teacher / recently candidate for president

Offering: “Women Should Be a Priority” - DREW

by Sweet Honey in the Rock

*Members and friends of this Fellowship support this place through their energy and ideas, through their time and talent, and through monetary donations. Every week we collect an offering to sustain and support the work of this Fellowship.
If you are a visitor with us today, we invite you to let the basket pass you by and be welcome as our guest.
The morning offering will now be received.*

May the gifts that are now received be dedicated, in this place made sacred by our presence, to the work of love and justice.

-SEARCHING FOR WISDOM AND INSPIRATION-

Morning Message:

Women and Voting: 1920 and 2020

1. Susan B Anthony

amendment proposed in 1878, passed in 1920...42 years!

Elizabeth Cady Stanton: "I forged the thunderbolts, she fired them."

We claim her as a UU ancestor!

Raised Quaker, Universalist grandfather; member of First Unitarian Church of Rochester until her death.

Right of conscience! Like Thoreau

5th principle

(Olympia Brown)

2. Suffrage (voting rights) today

poll tax

literacy tests – naked discrimination, codified into law

1964

"it wasn't until the 1964 Voting Rights Act that we as a nation really did the hard work of fixing the things that were left out of the 19th amendment. And it certainly wasn't a total fix."

Republican party: more older voters and white voters

Democrats: more younger voters and non-white voters

disclaimer: freedom of the pulpit; separation of church and state; speaking for values

voter ID laws

Dr. Megan Gall, voting rights activist: (Human Rights Campaign magazine)

"Voter ID can act as a modern-day poll tax. If you are low-income, and you don't have the resources to conjure that ID, you are disenfranchised because of your socio-economic status."

Voter ID laws can disproportionately impact transgender people, many of whom do not have forms of ID that reflect their true gender identity, either because they are in the process of changing their documents or face financial or legal barriers to doing so.

Suppressing voting rights of marginalized groups

This is what you get when you combine the 1st UU principle with the 5th. We are morally obligated by our religious values to fight for the rights of all people to vote. Especially those who have been marginalized and disenfranchised.

Our Fellowship: voted in January to focus on voting right and the environment; committee members are David Wagstaff; Melissa Nix; Norma Bailey; Jim Moreno. Purple sheet today's announcements; forms in the hallway; polls open Tuesday 7 am – 8 pm

3. Women in US Presidential Politics

Clinton vs. Trump

misogyny and racism

(many oppressed and marginalized identities:

women vs. men

transgender vs. cisgender

poor vs. rich

gay, lesbian, bisexual vs. straight

disabled vs. able-bodied

non-white vs. white

old vs. young)

gut feelings of voting: is this person the kind of person I feel good about as president / more than policies and logic.

same self-fulfilling logic in recent weeks in the Democratic primary.

result: by the time Michigan democrats get to vote, well-qualified women (Amy Klobuchar and Elizabeth Warren) have been voted out.

78 and 79 year-old white men, Trump 73. Two accused of being sexually inappropriate with women.

Women and voting: the right to vote, the right to vote for a woman for president.

Prayer:

Spirit of life and love; undying spirit of Susan B Anthony be with us now: ancestors who fought for justice, in the spirit that we do today, be with us.

May we have strength and hope to work for our 1st principle and our 5th principle. Voting is important. Democracy is important. Everyone deserves the right to vote, and those who are oppressed and marginalized need the help of those who are powerful and privileged.

May we remember that it took 42 years for Women's Suffrage to pass. May we be patient, but not too patient. May our anger at injustice spur us to action, not to despair. May we support one another in this important work.

Closing Hymn

1912 textile mill strike in Massachusetts, turning point of labor movement. Women and children reduced work week from 56 to 54 hours—but reduced pay. Dignity and a living wage: Bread and Roses.

Women at the forefront.

#109 "As We Come Marching, Marching"

1 As we come marching, marching, in the beauty of the day,
a million darkened kitchens, a thousand workshops gray,
are touched with all the radiance that a sudden sun discloses:
for the people hear us singing, "Bread and roses, bread and roses!"

2 As we come marching, marching, we battle too for men,
for they are women's children, and we mother them again.
Our lives shall not be sweated from birth until life closes:
hearts starve as well as bodies--give us bread, but give us roses!"

3 As we come marching, marching, unnumbered women dead
go crying, through our singing, their ancient song of bread!
Small art and love and beauty their drudging spirits knew:
yes, it is bread we fight for, but we fight for roses too!

4 As we come marching, marching, we bring the greater days:
the rising of the women means the rising of the race.
No more the drudge and idler, ten that toil where one reposes,
but a sharing of life's glories--bread and roses, bread and roses!

-RETURNING TO THE WORLD-

Chalice Extinguishing - DREW

#456 by Elizabeth Selle Jones

We extinguish this flame but not the light of truth,
the warmth of community, or the fire of commitment.
These we carry in our hearts until we are together again.

Benediction – DREW

**Even when our hearts are broken
by our own failure
or the failure of others
cutting into our lives,
even when we have done all we can
and life is still broken,
there is a Universal Love
that has never broken faith with us
and never will.**

Rebecca Ann Parker