

- the Beacon -

Sunday Services at 10:30 AM

www.uucgt.org

Email: office@uucgt.org

Vol 58 Issue 10

October Services

October 2021



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Grand Traverse

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**UUCGT Office is closed
until further notice.**

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

2021-2022

Pam Hendrick	President
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Tom Darnton	Treasurer
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David Hassing	Trustee
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Board Meeting
Wednesday, October 20
7:00 PM

Date	Participants	Title / Description
10.3.21	Lay-Led Service Coordinator: Amanda Mangiardi	"Strengthening the Weave"

UUs strive for beloved community. We love the power of the group, the comfort of others' presence, and the chance to learn from each other. Healthy Congregation members will share their insight on increasing our connections.

10.10.21	Rev. Alex Jensen Coordinator: Margaret Wozniak	"Living Authentically"
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What does it mean to live authentically? What does authenticity look like in our relationships to one another and our wider communities? This Sunday, we'll look at what it takes to build authentic relationships and how we can cultivate these.

10.17.21	Rev. Alex Jensen Coordinator: Mary Van Valin	"Loving One Another"
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Continuing on a theme of authentic living, how do we do this in relationship to one another? What does authenticity look like at UUCGT? In this service, we'll look at the role that loving one another plays in cultivating our congregation's ministry.

10.24.21	Rev. Alex Jensen Coordinator: Pam Hendrick	United Nations Sunday
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What is our relationship to the Earth and our changing climate? This United Nations Sunday, we'll explore the theme of 'All In for Climate Justice: Food Equity and Sustainability' as we reflect on the work of the UU United Nations Office and the sacred work involved in sustainable stewardship of our planet.

10.31.21	Rev. Alex Jensen Coordinator: Andi Kramer	"Beyond the Veil"
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In many of our world traditions, we celebrate our ancestors and remember those who have gone before us. Between Samhain in Pagan traditions, All Souls and All Saints Day in Christianity, and El Día de Los Muertos/The Day of the Dead, we continue to look back on people who have left their marks on our lives. In this service, we'll remember some of the 'saints' who have died in the past year, honoring how they remain with us still even now.

Beacon Editor: Amanda Mangiardi 610-417-0730

Please send submissions to jomangiardi@hotmail.com
by the 24th of the month



Rev. Alex's Monthly Message



Dear Ones,

Fall is upon us! The shifting seasons always cause me to turn inward: to curl up with a nice book, a hot mug of tea; to breathe deeply the crisp autumn air. I feel spoiled by the changing colors all around, with leaves of brown, red, yellow, and orange sailing gently to the ground. As an introvert that also deeply loves people, I find this as a wonderful season for quiet, community, and contemplation.

"We all hold deep, rich relationships in our lives; in some way, we each are partner and parent, child and grandchild, sibling and friend to those we cherish."

As we enter this shift in season, our Soul Matters theme for October asks us to reflect on what it means to "Cultivate Relationship". Our relationships to one another remain integral in this time, as we continue to gather virtually. More importantly, we hold deep, rich relationships in our lives; in some way, we each are partner and parent, child and grandchild, sibling and friend to those we cherish. These relationships, though often lifegiving and bountiful, also are challenging. They need our attention and care to best grow and maintain these connections. Likewise, our relationships are sometimes challenging to maintain with those we love, especially in the wake of conflict, strain, and prior history. And, in sadness, some relationships prove impossible to maintain or traverse.

What are your own reflections on what it means to "Cultivate Relationship"? What relationships are you grateful for in your life? Which ones might need a little more of your care and attention this season? Which relationships pose challenging for you to cultivate?

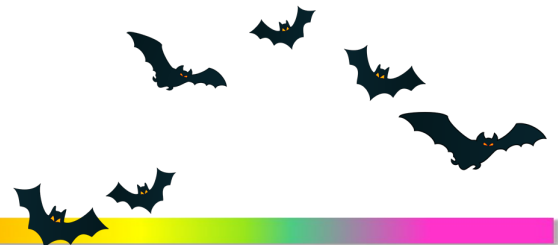
In cultivation of both community and our collective commitments here at UUCGT, I encourage you to reach out to someone you haven't spoken to in a while. If you're up for a challenge, I also invite you to reach out to someone in our community you might not know too well! "Cultivating Relationship" requires each one of us in our congregation, in order to make our love and care far reaching and palpable.

As a community, we each encourage and cultivate our connections by joining together for our Zoom service on Sunday mornings. Even this simple action is something that cultivates relationship; showing up for one another as a community. As you discern your own role in nurturing the many connections in your lives, I hope you will not discount this important part of who we are and what we do.

Thank you for the generous ways you love this community into being. We would not be here still without the many ways you love, so widely and deeply.

In faith and love,

Reverend Alex Jensen



UUCGT will be joyfully participating in this year's Up North Pride Picnic. The event will be held on **October 16** at F&M Park, from **1:00 - 4:00pm**. Look for the UUCGT booth for friendly faces, stickers, and materials to make your own pride flag! A parade down Front Street will follow at **5:30pm**. We will meet at the location of the UUCGT booth to march together. Bring your signs and UUCGT gear, if you have them, or just bring yourself!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! We need volunteers to help with the UUCGT booth. Please sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F49AEA92AABF8CF8-pride> A full schedule of Up North Pride events can be found here: <http://upnorthpride.com/events>



Program Council for October 2021

Eleven members (9 via Zoom with 4 kitties and 2 via email) of the Program Council met September 10, 2021. Following opening words, chalice lighting and official approval of the 8/13/2021 meeting minutes, Rick Walter introduced an extensive discussion on **Shared Ministry** by reading the following comments from UUA.

Outside the (Question) Box: Sharing Ministry in Worship by Chris Buja

Shared ministry recognizes that ministry, defined as all that is done to fulfill the religious mission of a congregation, is a shared endeavor of the professional ministers and religious educators, along with lay leaders.

Those in professional and lay roles bring important skill sets, experience, and expertise to a congregation's ministries; success is found in the synergy of those leaders and all they bring.

A brief summary of these discussions was presented in the 9/16/2021 Flash last week.

At UUCGT there are many opportunities for you to share your interests and passions that can contribute to our Shared Ministry.

There are many identified Committees and Teams that address many traditional activities, each with its own focus. There may be others that you are interested in that are not addressed.

Each of our daily individual actions bring light to our UU principles. Let Program Council know in what activity you would like to be involved.

With our collective shared ministry, all are invited to follow and act on their passion and help us carry out the mission of UUCGT.

As a result of our discussions it was decided to:

- Revise a list of UUCGT Committees and Opportunities membership had written for new members several years ago.
- Review a UUA program Growth through Service and report back next month. (Mary Anne, David and Alex)

Following our meeting over 17 comments have been made on content and order of the listing of Committees and Opportunities and are being incorporated into this revised list that will soon be available on our web site. Please share any of your ideas. If you do not see a group that satisfies your passion and what you want to work on, share your ideas and let the Program Council or Rev. Alex know.

Following this wonderful discussion, individual members reported on the current activities of their committees. Many of these activities are mentioned elsewhere.

Our next meeting will be via ZOOM on October 8, 2021 at 3:00 pm. All are welcome to attend - check calendar for zoom link.

Rick Walter, Chairperson Program Council



“October is a symphony of permanence and change.”

Bonaro W. Overstreet

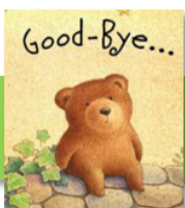
“October, in fact, reflects what is true every day of the year.
May we be there for each other—especially through the difficult passages of life’s symphony.”

Keeping in our Hearts because of Illness or loss:

- Marcia Bellinger—recovering from a recent serious illness
- Solveig Gustafson—after the recent passing of her husband Mark.
- Don and Nancy Fraser—both with health issues
- Nancy Landfair—in care at the Pavilions
- Stan Cain—moved to assisted living as a result of Stan’s stroke
- Shari Cope
- Barb Bloomer
- Kay Wentzel
- Marge Rundell
- Gary Deavel
- Ann Chinn

All would appreciate your cards, notes, or other expressions of concern.
As usual, please tell one of us if you or someone else in the congregation could use our support.

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Millie Putz	989-330-2611	melindaputz@me.com
Pat Light		patricialight@sbcglobal.net



WE SAY A SAD GOODBYE

Friends, sadly our beloved friend Paula Ward passed away on September 26.
Her family welcomes you to join them in honoring her memory in a

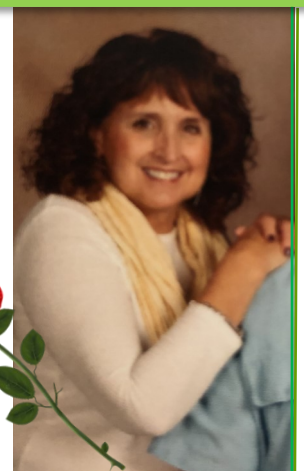
Celebration of Life

Saturday, October 2nd, 2021

11:00 AM

Reynolds–Jonkhoff Funeral Home.

Please look at the *Flash* for more information and updates
from Rev. Alex Jensen.



Why Pride?

Pride is the opposite of shame and social stigma. "Pride is the promotion of self-affirmation, dignity, equality." This increased visibility of LGBTQ People is the opposite of shame and hiding and makes a statement that all are and should be accepted as they are! Pride is the social movement for LGBTQ Rights.

"The Flag itself is a bold expression of who we are and here we are, recognize and accept us as we are."

The awakening for Pride rights' open expression began in 1969, with a police storming of a bar in Greenwich Village that ended in an organized rebellion that lasted several days. The event began to be celebrated gradually until it spread nationally. On Oct. 11, 1987, President Reagan gave a speech addressing the HIV/AIDS epidemic. That date became the date identified with stating, with pride and demanding respect, for who you are, the beginning of "Coming Out Day."

Originally there was a pink triangle to represent gay and the Greek letter Lambda. Soon it became the colors of the rainbow. Then it was added to with pink, turquoise, violet, etc. denoting the variations of identity and expression. Now we have what is called the Progressive Pride Flag, all the colors of the rainbow and a triangle on one side of black, brown and pink, baby blue, and white.

The colors have developed meanings. Red is for life. Orange represents healing, yellow sunlight, necessary for life. Blue originally represented serenity and purple for spirit, that regal royal color of pride.

The progressive flag has brown and black representing people of color. The Trans flag created in 1999 is pink, baby blue and white. These last colors were added in the progressive flag in the triangle.

The Flag itself is a bold expression of who we are and here we are, recognize and accept us as we are. We are as one and the great variety and differences make for enriching all our lives. Respect for all, the flag is exclaiming boldly

We here at UU recognize and support all expression of gender, non-binary, trans, and the yet unknown. We recognize and accept and are honored to have the pleasure to accept all with equality of love and caring. We will be carrying these Flags at the Pride rally Saturday, Oct. 16, at F and M Park, TC, and during the march beginning at 5:30. Meet at the UUCGT booth! While there, make yourself a flag and join for the march. Hope to see you there.

Emmy Lou
sjatcmi@gmail.com



THE BEACON



Articles and submissions for the Beacon are due by the 24th. Please send to:
 Amanda Mangiardi at
jomangiardi@hotmail.com



OUR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM



Our first outdoor RE gathering on Sunday, September 12, was a success! It was wonderful to connect in-person for the first time since March 2020, and I loved seeing our new outdoor classroom "in action". I am still smiling with joy!

Rev. Alex, Claire Crandell, and I were joined by 5 families. We talked and sang about our UU principles, then created some hanging art to decorate the outdoor classroom. A huge thank you to everyone who attended!

Please mark your calendars for our next in-person gathering on Sunday, October 24.

This month we also marked the beginning of a new school year with a "Blessing of the Backpacks".



We mailed UUCGT chalice keychains to each of our children and youth, as a reminder of our UU values and of the care that the UUCGT community extends to all of them.

Religious Education
Betsy Hammerberg
dre@uucgt.org

Backpacks were blessed during a Sunday service on Zoom and at our in-person gathering.



ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Happy Fall to One and All from Adult Religious Education Director Alison Ernst

Writing:

There are currently two writing groups that meet weekly using the Amherst Writers and Artists method, [the philosophy](#) of which is in line with UU beliefs. Each group meets for an hour via Zoom:

Monday, 7 p.m. or Tuesday 9 a.m. New members are welcome to either group.

The UU folks who developed Soul Matters are offering a writing packet that is more like facilitating journal writing and exploratory focus than an artistic writing group. If this sounds interesting to you, let me know and I'll look further into it.

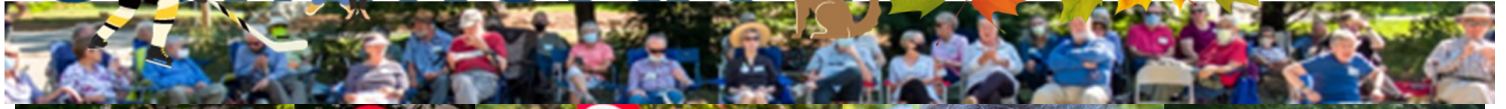
Soul Matters:

There are currently three UU soul matters groups in process and by all accounts participants are enjoying the experience. Another group can form when enough people have indicated interest, so let me know if you are. These groups meet once or twice a month for spiritual support and exploration.

You can reach Alison Ernst at: awa2write@gmail.com



COMMUNITY



Sunday, September 19, 2021

**A Community Gathering
Of UUCGT
&**

**The Cat in the Hat
There was a fun auction,
proceeds will help
Afghanistan women refugees**

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation
of Grand Traverse**
6726 Center Road
Traverse City, MI 49686-1802

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

the BEACON

PUBLISHED MONTHLY
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UUCGT Calendar

**The UUCGT building is open by permission & appointment
but the office is staffed:**

9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Tuesdays through Fridays

Many meetings and classes take place via Zoom.

Zoom links and updates can be found in Thursday *Flash* newsletters and
here: <https://www.uucgt.org/calendar/>

October 2021

01	Fri	Rehearsal for Sunday Service	3:30 PM
		<i>Note time change</i>	
01	Fri	Cong. Beth Shalom Simcha Torah Celebration	6:00 PM
03	Sun	Sunday Service 10:30 AM	Sign in @ 10:00 AM
		https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87997820177	
04	Mon	Stretch & Strengthen	11:15 AM
04	Mon	Men's Group	5:30 PM
		https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81706559983	
05	Tue	Community Lunch, Friends Church 5th & Oak	10:30 AM
05	Tue	Sunday Svcs/Coords	1:30 PM
06	Wed	Staff Meeting - Office Closed	10:00 AM
06	Wed	Stretch & Strengthen	11:15 AM
06	Wed	Rev. Alex Office Hours	11:00 AM
06	Wed	Weekly Picnic - Mike & Sandra McDonald	5:30 PM
07	Thu	Rev. Alex Office Hours	11:00 AM
07	Thu	Congregational Care	1:00 PM
		https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87128710397 (dre user)	
07	Thu	Peacemakers Needle Workers	1:30 PM
07	Thu	Vocal Ensemble with Renee	7:30 PM
08	Fri	Rehearsal for Sunday Svc	1:00 PM
08	Fri	Program Council	3:00 PM
		https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81712714419	
10	Sun	Sunday Service 10:30 AM	Sign in @ 10:00 AM
		https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87997820177	
11	Mon	Stretch & Strengthen	11:15 AM
12	Tue	Community Lunch, Friends Church 5th & Oak	10:30 AM
13	Wed	Staff Meeting - Office Closed	10:00 AM
13	Wed	Rev. Alex Office Hours	11:00 AM
13	Wed	Stretch & Strengthen	11:15 AM
13	Wed	Staff Resources	4:00 PM

14	Thu	Rev. Alex Office Hours	11:00 AM
14	Thu	Peacemakers Needle Workers	1:30 PM
14	Thu	Vocal Ensemble with Renee	7:30 PM
15	Fri	Rehearsal for Sunday Svc	1:00 PM
17	Sun	Sunday Service 10:30 AM	Sign in @ 10:00 AM
		https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87997820177	
18	Mon	Stretch & Strengthen	11:15 AM
19	Tue	Community Sack Lunch, Friends Church	10:30 AM
19	Tue	Leadership Development	3:00 PM
20	Wed	Staff Meeting - Office Closed	10:00 AM
20	Wed	Rev. Alex Office Hours	11:00 AM
20	Wed	Stretch & Strengthen	11:15 AM
20	Wed	Weekly Picnic - Mike & Sandra McDonald	5:30 PM
21	Thu	Rev. Alex Office Hours	11:00 AM
21	Thu	Congregational Care	1:00 PM
21	Thu	Peacemakers Needle Workers	1:30 PM
21	Thu	Committee on Ministry	5:00 PM
21	Thu	Vocal Ensemble with Renee	7:30 PM
22	Fri	Rehearsal for Sunday Service	1:30 PM
24	Sun	Sunday Service 10:30 AM	Sign in @ 10:00 AM
		https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87997820177	
25	Mon	Book Group	10:00 AM
25	Mon	Stretch & Strengthen	11:15 AM
26	Tue	Community Lunch, Friends Church	10:30 AM
26	Tue	Healthy Congregations	4:00 PM
26	Tue	Social Justice Action	4:00 AM
27	Wed	Staff Meeting - Office Closed	10:00 AM
27	Wed	Rev. Alex Office Hours	11:00 AM
27	Wed	Stretch & Strengthen	11:15 AM
27	Wed	Weekly Picnic - Mike & Sandra McDonald	5:30 PM
28	Thu	Rev. Alex Office Hours	11:00 AM
28	Thu	Peacemakers Needle Workers	1:30 PM
28	Thu	Vocal Ensemble with Renee	7:30 PM
29	Fri	Rehearsal for Sunday Service	1:30 PM
31	Sun	Sunday Service 10:30 AM	Sign in @ 10:00 AM
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