



**Unitarian Universalist
Congregation
of Grand Traverse**

6726 Center Road
Traverse City, MI 49686-1802
231-947-3117
office@uucgt.org
www.uucgt.org

UUCGT Office Hours
Monday - Thursday
9:00am - 3:00pm
Closed Friday

Temporary Minister
Rev. Beth Marshall

Director of Music
John Bailey
peracola@gmail.com

Office Administrator
Susan Sherman
office@uucgt.org

Bookkeeper
Glenda Corning
Accountant
Dave Christenson
bookie@uucgt.org

Board of Trustees 2018-19

Mike McDonald, President
Linda Fletcher, Vice-President
Karl Keinath, Treasurer
Barb Termaat, Secretary
Tom Darnton, Trustee
Laura Matchett, Trustee
Donna Stein-Harris, Trustee

UUCGT Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 26

6:30 pm

(Please note date & time)

Vol. 56, Issue 3 — **the BEACON** — *March, 2019*

Sunday Services at 10:30 AM

www.uucgt.org

email: **office@uucgt.org**

MARCH SERVICES

March Theme

Seeds of Change and Hope

Sunday, March 3 - Andi Kramer, coordinator

10:30 Service: "Faith Matters"

What spiritual practices sustain us?

Sunday, March 10 - Rev. Jane Lippert, Hal Gurian, coordinator

10:30 Service: "International Women's Day"

The story of women's struggle for equality belongs to no one organization, but to the collective efforts of all who care about human rights.

Sunday, March 17 - Max Old Bear, coordinator

10:30 Service: "Our American Tapestry"

All immigrants, including the Irish are a part of our nation's rich and colorful fabric. All provide strength, color, and contributions to our national tapestry. They contribute to our government, our law, and our medicine. They also contribute greatly to our rich musical and artistic heritage. Join us for a *"Celebrate the Green!"* Potluck Lunch following the service!

Sunday, March 24 - Rev. Beth Marshall, Amanda Mangiardi, coordinator

10:30 Service: "Building Cathedrals"

Good things come to those who wait, and to those who dedicate themselves for the long haul. Come celebrate a bold future of strength and daring.

Sunday, March 31 - Rev. Beth Marshall, Donna Stein-Harris, coordinator

10:30 Service: "Life on the Margins"

Today's service builds upon these thoughts from Fr. Gregory Boyle:

"For our true height in love, it seems, is measured in how expansively we can outstretch our arms, with generosity and love. Sometimes there are lessons to be learned at the margins that can't be learned elsewhere."



BEACON Article Deadline
25th of the month
preceding the issue date

Send submissions to
office@uucgt.org

APRIL SERVICES

April Theme - Growth and Renewal

Sunday, April 7 - Rev. Jane Lippert, Hal Gurian, coordinator

10:30 Service: "Chanting and Meditation"

By combining sound, breath and rhythm, meditation channels the flow of energy through the mind-body circuit, adjusting the chemical composition of our internal states and regulating brain-hemisphere imbalances. Chanting balances our moods and overall sense of well-being.

Sunday, April 14 - John Bailey, UUCGT Music Director

10:30 Service - All Congregation: "All Music Service"

We will share our time with music and song reflecting on the message of Spring and new beginnings.

Sunday, April 21 - Rev. Beth Marshall, Amanda Mangiardi, coordinator

10:30 Easter Service - All Congregation: "The Courage to Rise"

Yes, Unitarian Universalists do celebrate Easter, and we do it with great joy. This morning's service weaves together elements that honor both our shared history and the diversity of our contemporary congregations.

Sunday, April 28 - Rev. Beth Marshall, Mary Van Valin, coordinator

10:30 Service: "Seeds of Change"

As the ground thaws, and the gardeners among us begin to contemplate what to plant, it is a good time to consider the metaphorical seeds we plant in our lives and in our community as well.



Revisiting Our UUCGT Covenant

Dear UUCGT Congregants,

We were asked at last October's Visioning Session to revisit our UUCGT Covenant with the possibility of making it more concise. Some samples are listed below, and we would very much like your feedback on which one (s) you find most acceptable and why.

A Covenant of Right Relations is how we relate with one another.

Please make suggestions to change, insert or delete wording; or, suggest something entirely different! This is the work of the whole Congregation, and we would love to hear from you soon. The plan is to vote on a final version at the Annual Meeting in June.

Please respond by via group email to Dusty Culton, Jane Watts and Mary Van Valin: dustyculton@gmail.com; jswatts10@gmail.com; mgvv77@yahoo.com

Sample Covenants

- 1) Respecting diverse points of view, we assume good intentions, communicate directly, listen willingly, and forgive easily.
- 2) Broad and inclusive values unite us, the Seven Principles guide us, and loving action defines us.
- 3) United in values as expressed in our Seven Principles, I/we covenant to:
 - * Welcome all who gather here
 - * Create a loving, diverse community
 - * Treat others with kindness, empathy and respect

(continued on page 3)

Announcements



Still Wanted: Your Stories!

My name is Barb Culton and I'm a relative new comer to UUCGT. Last summer I had the opportunity to work with the congregation's archives. And I would like to begin adding personal stories, remembrances or reflections to the archive - from Congregation Members or Friends of the Congregation - about your time at UUCGT.

This could include remembrances of early involvement in the congregation as well as personal stories about the meaning of UU in your life. Or simply, "I remember when..."

I know this to be a very active group of people and look forward to hearing about any aspect of UU life you care to share. I will audio record our conversations and save them to be shared with other members - perhaps on our UUCGT website.

I would be happy to meet with you individually or with a group of folks. I will meet with you wherever you would be most relaxed and ready for conversation. I anticipate an enjoyable time.

You can contact me at barbculton@gmail.com or by phone at 517.282.5916 with questions, concerns or to set up a time to meet.

Looking forward to talking with you soon!

Barb Culton

Revisiting Our Covenant

(continued from page 2)

Brief Statement Options

- 4) We grow awareness, we cultivate kindness.
- 5) Ours is a religious home of love, action, and challenge.
- 6) We covenant to live the seven principles in all of our interactions.
- 7) We embrace diversity of thought with kindness.

Longer Statement Option

- 8) Living by our Universal Unitarian Principles, we covenant to:

Welcome all who come here and we assume good intentions.

Encourage all voices to speak.

Listen willingly to understand.

Communicate honestly with kindness.

Openly encourage diversity.

Make service, volunteer, financial and acceptance commitments.

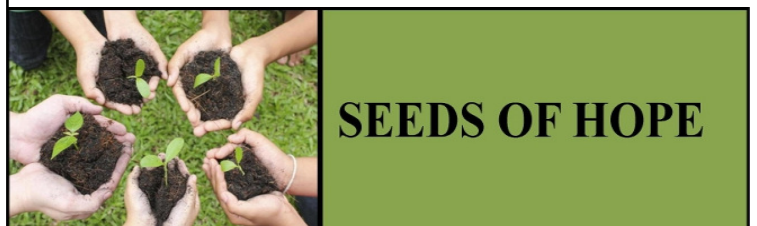
Espouse to act with compassion.

Poetic Option

- 9) Kindness is our North Star; Listening, our flowing stream; Gentleness, the moonlit night; and forgiveness, the morning light.

Please contemplate these 9 options, select one or more, revise or add your own option for consideration.

Email to Dusty, Jane & Mary soon!



From the President

UUCGT Board Meeting Summary for February

The UUCGT Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, February 19. Following are key items from the meeting.

- ♦ The Endowment Committee brought their annual distribution plan to the Board which was approved. Distribution was \$600 for Capital Improvement Reserve, \$600 for UUA activities and \$600 for Community Needs. The Board also voted to apply the \$600 for UUA to this year's UUA dues since there are ample funds reserved to provide scholarships for attendance at General Assembly.
- ♦ The Policy Committee brought a rewritten policy and procedure for the interface between the Leadership Development Committee and the Safe Congregation Team. The changes involved the timing of approvals of recommended Board, LDC and Endowment candidates. The changes were approved by the Board.
- ♦ The Board appointed Tom Darnton, Mike McDonald and Barb Termaat to the Interim Search Committee. The Board also will seek out a longer-term member to help with review of the Interim Application. Unlike the search for a Settled Minister, the UUA process for an Interim Search is a Board function. Our Interim Application must be completed by the end of March.
- ♦ Board President Mike McDonald reported on actions taken in the closed session following the January 22 Board meeting:
 - Approved change to Accountant position and hiring of Bookkeeper
 - Voted to begin a search for an Interim Minister to start in August
 - Voted to extend an offer to Rev. Beth Marshall to be our temporary Minister from March through July
 - Voted (via e-mail at the end of January) to approve a contract for Rev. Beth Marshall

We plan to share highlights from our monthly Board meetings throughout the year. You can also find the minutes of Board meetings on our website. Our Board meetings are open meetings and you are welcome to attend. Our next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 26 at 6:30 pm** in the Social Hall (please note date & time).

Mike McDonald, President
m_mcdonald@charter.net

Congregational Care Team

We Hold In Our Hearts:

Nancy Landfair and her family in the loss of her mother, Carol Still, and just a week later her sister, Susan Still.

Carol was a very active, long-time member of UUCGT. She was always ready to "march" for a cause! Carol took care of Susan, who was handicapped, at home until she could no longer provide care, and Susan moved into an assisted living facility. Carol was in Hospice care at Culver Meadows when she died.

Nancy would enjoy your calls and visits!

We are Glad to Report:

We were happy to see Mary Ann Force back at Sunday Services after her recent hospitalization and rehab.

Laura Matchett is doing well recovering from her ankle surgery, and is now back at work with several assistance devices.

Chris Innes continues to recover at home.

Bill Scharf is also recovering at home from foot surgery and appreciates visits and food - Please call first.

It is a Joy to Travel!

Many UUs are traveling now to warmer climates, and some to other very interesting places. Please be safe and come back home to share your experiences with us!

Judith Briggs
Congregational Care Team

Membership News

WINTER Abides With Us in Northern Michigan!

We have much for which to be thankful as we try to stay warm, active, healthy and happy. March Greetings from the entire FUN and FRIENDLY Membership Team - Volunteer members Sherry Davis, John Hoffmann, Chris Lautz, Chris Walter, Rick Walter, and Jane Watts - PLUS Ambassadors Jolynn Paige and Dottie Cain — who continue to Welcome, Greet, Facilitate into membership, and Nurture (in Partnership with other groups at UUCGT) prospective, new and current members.

We continue to hold team members and former Membership Team Co-Chairs Chris and Rick Walter “in the Light” as they deal with the aftermath of a fire at their home on January 4, 2019.

Prospective New Members: Five people attended the Prospective New Member meeting on Sunday, February 17! As pledge forms are received, we will welcome them as new members and will schedule a New Member Welcome Service in March.

Impromptu Orientation Sessions: The Membership Team is available for scheduling one-on-one sessions with interested or curious prospective members. Contact us!

UUCGT Loves Greeters and we still need You!
Many Thanks to all who served in February!

BE A GREETER MINISTRY

Share your Smile and Welcoming Spirit. It's easy - just sign up on the bulletin board near the office. Greet just one Sunday, or sign up for a regular or semi-regular shift. Job description is posted on the bulletin board, but simply requires you to:

- 1) **Smile, Remember to get down to our little ones' level,**
- 2) **Say “Welcome”, “Glad you're here”, “How are you?”, etc.**
- 3) **Hand out** Order of Service,
- 4) **Count** attendees, and
- 5) **Help** with offering

MEMBERSHIP TEAM UPDATES:

The Membership Team meets again on Wednesday, March 20, 4:15 pm at UUCGT Library.
Anyone is welcome to attend.

What is your Passion, Interest or Ability to serve your congregation?
How can we help you connect with a meaningful opportunity at UUCGT?
There are so many ways to participate and your unique voice would add so much!

Be in touch!

Chris Lautz, Chair, Membership Team
chrislautz7777@gmail.com or 860-884-7741

Committee Updates

Stewardship Team

This May, we will reach a milestone marking 55 years as a Unitarian Universalist Congregation (nee Fellowship). UUCGT history clearly shows that in spite of any and all obstacles along the way, our members have always persevered to keep moving forward...

Building Momentum

This year, we are, not for the first time in our history and not for lack of planning, at a financial crossroad. We had a good idea of where we were heading and were making good progress and then, as sometimes happens in life, unexpected events got in the way.

We find ourselves having to raise \$100,000 this year in order to attract a quality candidate for Interim Minister. Add to that expense another \$110,000 for other important staff positions, and yet another \$50,000 for operational expenses. With an additional \$15,000 for UUA and MidAmerica dues, we're faced with total expenses of \$275,000.

That's a lot of numbers, but what it all boils down to is this:

We need \$34,000 more than last year's pledge total to meet our goals.

Please pledge as if your fondest wishes for our congregation depend upon it. (*They do!*)

Our 55-year history sets the standard. Our founders showed what can be done when they dug deep to build what we enjoy today. We owe it to them and to ourselves to continue...

Building Momentum!

by Jan Zerbel, UUCGT Stewardship Team

Dave Halsted, Karl Keinath, Penny Ort, Rick Walter



SOCIAL JUSTICE

What is Title X?

The “X” stands for ten in this case, nothing else. It is a government funded program signed into law in 1970 and is our nation’s family planning program. Title X funds insure quality family planning healthcare in more than 8,400 service sites in the U.S., serving over 4 million low-income people.

Title X recipient clinics are prohibited from funding abortion and always have been prohibited. It provides essential healthcare including pap smears; breast exams; testing and treatment for infections; birth control methods; vaccines; and in some settings permanent birth control and prenatal care. The goal of Title X is to assist people to plan for and space pregnancies proactively and reduce unplanned pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections. Vulnerable populations, including teens and people with low incomes, are a priority focus. Another focus is to give women, men and teens accurate healthcare information about sex, reproduction, LGBTQ, and disease prevention.

Planned Parenthood is the recipient of about 41% of Title X funding. Remember, Planned Parenthood has never performed abortions. But, they inform clients of that option if it is a medically appropriate option for her particular case.

Our national administration has promised to defund Planned Parenthood. Now, they have rewritten Title X so that funding will be denied to any clinic that even mentions the word abortion to any of its clients. This “gag rule” is a fight against women’s health care options, screening for cancer, etc, as stated above, and would affectively deny good health care for 4 million low-income women.

Women’s health is again in the spotlight as a political object by some within our administration. No matter how you feel about women’s health care, please educate yourself more by learning here: <https://n.pr/2IuAeDq>

Emmy Lou Cholak
sjatcmi@gmail.com

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

As of January 31, 2019
(58.3% of fiscal year)

	Current Year		Prior Year	
Budgeted Income Received YTD	\$187,546	3.7%	\$186,260	67.9%
Budgeted Expenses Paid YTD	\$136,003	53.5%	\$157,394	57.4%
“For Those in Need” YTD	\$ 6,213		\$ 14,085*	

Budgeted income includes the total of all pledged and unpledged donations and miscellaneous income including building rent, etc.

“For Those in Need” collections are in addition to Budgeted Income Received and are disbursed quarterly to worthy causes, including Congregational Care, Tuesday Community Lunch and other Community needs outside our congregation.

The percentage reflects the portion of the total amount of income or expense budgeted for the fiscal year. *There was a one time donation of \$5,000 to “For Those in Need” in December 2017 that did not repeat in 2018. We continue to be “in the black” for the 2018-2019 fiscal year largely due to significant pre-payment of 2018-2019 pledges and some temporary reduction in compensation expense due to staff turnover. If you have not pre-paid your pledge, please try to keep your pledge up to date. If you want more detailed information, you can look at our website, click on Board, then on Board Packet, then on Monthly Comparison.

Questions can be directed to your Finance Committee members:
Dusty Culton, Karl Keinath, Mike McDonald, Kay Sturgeon and Price Watts

Stewardship Offering

The Importance of Kindness

by Rick Walter

Chris and I have been members of UUCGT for about 4 1/2 years and have gotten to know a lot of you through many activities and committees available to us here at UUCGT. I originally volunteered to be the chairperson of this year's Pledge Drive, however due to a fire on January 4th at our home which resulted in major building and smoke damage, I had to step down. The Stewardship Team of Dave Halsted, Jan Zerbel, Penny Ort and Karl Keinath immediately stepped up and carried on. This was the beginning of the **Many Acts of Kindness** Chris and I have received from this congregation since that day and beyond.

Last year's pledge drive theme was "**Show-Up**". And **YOU** have been **Showing-Up** - helping to create and present Sunday Services, attending many community activities, actively participating in committee meetings and helping those in need. You Showed-Up at the October Visioning Session and the next day to review our focus and decisions we discussed. Over 100 of you Showed-Up at the Annual Thanksgiving Feast in November. In December, 60 or 70 of you Showed-Up at Safe Harbor to help those in need of shelter. Every Tuesday some of you Show-Up at Oak Street Friends Church to serve Lunch to those who would not have lunch those days if it were not for your help and service.

On January 17th, 19th and 20th nearly 80 of you Showed-Up at Board-led Listening Sessions to discern our way forward relative to replacing Rabbi Chava Bahle whose medical issues have affected her ability to continue as our Spiritual Leader.

You reached out to Chris and me - asking how we were doing, providing meals and soup, sending heartfelt cards and messages of caring and concern, collecting bags of smoky laundry and returning plastic bins of clean, fresh-smelling clothing, gathering storage containers for us to store things in and offering places to stay. Your Showing-Up and expressing your **Kindness** has deeply touched us. **You have demonstrated the 7 Principles that are the foundation of Unitarian Universalism.**

As we continue this year's **BUILDING MOMENTUM Stewardship Pledge Drive**, Chris and I want to thank you for all you have done for us. But more importantly, we want to thank you for all you have done for this wonderful community, and we ask you to continue **Showing-Up** and **living the Kindness that is a part of you.**

What is Stewardship? It is: Care for Ourselves; Care For Others; Care for our Home; Care for our Spiritual Home

Stewardship of a congregation such as ours means giving of our Time, Talent and Treasures, and we need to build a budget that supports all of our needs:

- To fully support Temporary and Interim Spiritual Leaders;
- To fully support our Staff;
- To support all our wishes, dreams and vision for the future of UUCGT; and
- To support and pay our UUA dues, for the UUA has supported us in our time of need.

As we extend our kindness to each other, to our staff, to this place, and move forward together into the next decade - **We are BUILDING MOMENTUM together - Thank you!**

Please complete your [2019-2020 Pledge Form](#) and return it to the office by March 17th.

! SAVE THE DATE !

***Add some SPRING! to your Life
Join Us for a Fun Evening of Dance & Laughter!***

MID WINTER CONTRA DANCE

Saturday, April 27, 2019

7:00-10:00 PM

Live music

Dancing instructor

No dancing experience
necessary!

A fun family time at
UUCGT
(non-members welcome)
6726 Center Road
Traverse City

Tickets

(limited to 60)

\$10.00

Children under 16 free



RSVP

Church Office: 231-947-3117

Please contact Hal Gurian for further information:
410-340-7323

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

the BEACON

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

Volume 56, Issue 3

February 2019

UUCGT Calendar

All events and programs take place at UUCGT unless otherwise noted

MARCH 2019

02 **Sat** SukukoJi Buddhist Meditation Retreat 9:00 AM-4:30PM

03 **Sun** RE Committee 9:00 AM Classroom

03 **Sun** **Sunday Service 10:30 AM**

03 **Sun** Stewardship Discussion 11:45 AM Sanctuary

03 **Sun** Mindfulness Meditation (1st Sunday) 2:30-6:30 PM

04 **Mon** Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM

04 **Mon** UU Men's Group Dave Halsted Minerva's 5:30 PM

05 **Tue** Community Lunch @ Friends Church Mary Kiner 10:30 AM

05 **Tue** Indivisible GT American Promise talk 11:30 AM

05 **Tue** Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM

05 **Tue** SukukoJi Buddhist Meditation Kozan McLean 6:30-8:30 PM

06 **Wed** Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM

06 **Wed** Wednesday Potluck Sandra McDonald 5:30 PM

06 **Wed** UU Benzie Potluck/Service @ Grow Benzie 6:30 PM

07 **Thu** Shantideva Fan Club 9:30-11:00 AM Sanctuary

07 **Thu** Congregational Care Team 1:00 PM

07 **Thu** Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM

07 **Thu** Meditation Workshop Elisabeth Treefon 5:30 PM

07 **Thu** Vocal Ensemble John Bailey 7:00 PM

08 **Fri** Friday Night Out 5:30-9:00 PM

09 **Sat** Singing Sisters 10:00 AM-2:00 PM Sanctuary

10 **Sun** Program Council 9:00AM Social Hall

10 **Sun** **Sunday Service 10:30 AM Rev. Jane Lippert**

10 **Sun** UU Book Club Mark Gustafson's 2:00-4:00 PM

10 **Sun** Mindfulness Meditation 5:00-7:00 PM

11 **Mon** Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM

12 **Tue** Community Lunch @ Friends Church Mary Kiner 10:30 AM

12 **Tue** Indivisible GT - Rick Walter 11:30 AM

12 **Tue** Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM

12 **Tue** Finance Committee Office 5:30 PM

12 **Tue** Law of Attraction Meet-Up Social Hall 6:30 PM

12 **Tue** SukukoJi Buddhist Meditation 6:30-8:30 PM

13 **Wed** Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM

13 **Wed** Death Café Donna Stein-Harris 1:00 PM

13 **Wed** Landscape Team Library 3:00 PM

13 **Wed** Wednesday Supper/\$5 Sandra McDonald 5:30 PM

14 **Thu** Shantideva Fan Club 9:30-11:00 AM Sanctuary

14 **Thu** Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM

14 **Thu** Meditation Workshop Elisabeth Treefon 5:30 PM

14 **Thu** Vocal Ensemble 7:00 PM

16 **Sat** Congregation Beth Shalom - Purim 1:00-8:00 PM

17 **Sun** Sunday Services Committee Library 9:00 AM

17 **Sun** **Sunday Service 10:30 AM**

17 **Sun** Celebrate the Green Potluck Lunch Social Hall 11:45 AM

17 **Sun** Mindfulness Meditation 5:00-7:00 PM

18 **Mon** Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM

19 **Tue** Indivisible GT Rick Walter 11:30 AM

19 **Tue** Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM

19 **Tue** Community Lunch @ Friends Church Mary Kiner 10:30 AM

19 **Tue** Leadership Development Library 6:00 PM

19 **Tue** UUCGT Board Meeting Social Hall 6:00 PM

19 **Tue** SukukoJi Buddhist Meditation Kozan McLean 6:30-8:30 PM

20 **Wed** Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM

20 **Wed** Membership Team 4:15 PM Library

20 **Wed** Wednesday Potluck Sandra McDonald 5:30 PM

20 **Wed** UU Benzie Potluck & Service Grown Benzie 6:30 PM

21 **Thu** Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM

21 **Thu** Meditation Workshop Elisabeth Treefon 5:30 PM

21 **Thu** Vocal Ensemble 7:00 PM

22 **Fri** Private Wedding Rehearsal 4:00 PM Sanctuary

23 **Sat** Private Wedding 2:00-5:00 PM All Building

24 **Sun** **Sunday Service 10:30 AM Rev. Beth Marshall**

24 **Sun** Social Justice Team Social Hall 11:45 AM

24 **Sun** Mindfulness Meditation 5:00-7:00 PM

25 **Mon** Sunday Services 10:00 AM Library

25 **Mon** Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM

26 **Tue** Community Lunch @ Friends Church Mary Kiner 10:30 AM

26 **Tue** Indivisible GT Rick Walter 11:30 AM

26 **Tue** Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM

26 **Tue** UUCGT Board Meeting 6:30 PM Social Hall

26 **Tue** SukukoJi Buddhist Meditation Kozan McLean 6:30-8:30 PM

27 **Wed** Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM

27 **Wed** Wednesday Pizza Supper Sandra McDonald 5:30 PM

28 **Thu** Shantideva Fan Club 9:30-11:00 AM Sanctuary

28 **Thu** Congregational Care Team 1:00 PM Library

28 **Thu** Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM

28 **Thu** Meditation Workshop Elisabeth Treefon 5:30 PM

28 **Thu** Vocal Ensemble 7:00 PM

31 **Sun** **Sunday Service 10:30 AM Rev. Beth Marshall**