

- the Beacon -

Sunday Services at 10:30 AM

www.uucgt.org

Email: office@uucgt.org

Vol 57 Issue 9

September 2020



**Unitarian Universalist
Congregation
of Grand Traverse**

6726 Center Road
Traverse City, MI 49686-1802

UUCGT Office is closed
until further notice.
Email office@uucgt.org
231.947.3117

Minister

Rev. Cathy Harrington
revharrington@mac.com

Director of Music

Renée Herman Russell
musicatuucgt@gmail.com

Religious Education

Betsy Hammerberg
dre@uucgt.org

Office Administrator

Guy William Molnar
office@uucgt.org

Bookkeeper

Glennnda Corning
bookie@uucgt.org

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

2020-2021

Mary Anne Rivers	President
Tom Darnton	Vice Pres.
Barb Termaat	Secretary
Karl Keinath	Treasurer
Pam Hendrick	Trustee
David Hassing	Trustee

**Board Meeting Wed Sep 9
7:00 PM**

September Services

September 6, 2020

Lay Service led by Pam Hendrick, Richard Miller, Mary Anne Rivers-Friese, Renée Russell, Barbara Young, and Mary Van Valin
Coordinator: Mary Van Valin

Working for the Common Good

The service will explore the nature of our labors and the relationship of our work and the common good. Challenges abound this Labor Day, 2020. Let's dig into the obstacles and possibilities for working for the common good.

September 13, 2020

Rev. Cathy Harrington
Coordinator: Margaret Wozniak

Gather the Spirit

Ingathering ceremony/ Water communion.

September 20, 2020

Rev. Cathy Harrington
Coordinator: Pam Hendrick

Return Again

The Hebrew word *Tikkun* means "repair", and *Tikkun Olam* means "repairing the world." The world today needs our help, and we begin by returning to the "home of our souls."

September 27, 2020

Rev. Cathy Harrington
Coordinator: Misty Sheehan

Begin Again

Urgent lessons from James Baldwin (from Eddie Glaude Jr.)

Due to COVID-19, Sunday Services will be on Zoom

- We will be bringing you a service each Sunday at 10:30 AM. Sign-in at 10:00 to chat!
- Please be on the lookout for emails and notes in the [Flash](#) from Rev. Cathy and/or the office with an invitation to a Zoom meeting.
- You will follow those instructions in order to join the service that Sunday.
- Please continue to be patient with us as we strive to bring you virtual services that connect our community and give us strength and purpose going into the next week!



Beacon editor: Amanda Mangiardi 610-417-0730

Please send submissions to jomangiardi@hotmail.com or beacon@uucgt.org by the 24th of the month



“How much better it would be if each of us in the congregation reached out to one or two other U.U. members or friends who we think would appreciate a friendly note, email, or phone call!”

LET'S WEAVE A HUGE WEB OF CARE

Most of us have never lived through anything like this pandemic before. When it began, we thought that maybe we'd be isolated for a month or two. Who imagined we'd be keeping a safe distance for as long as we have—and probably for many months more?

We didn't consider all the consequences either —

People who are seriously ill who can't have those they love near them. The elderly in senior living facilities unable to have guests. Hugs of comfort or congratulations prohibited. Graduations and proms cancelled. Restaurants and theaters shuttered. Jobs lost. Incomes slashed. Schools closed. Sports cancelled...

More than ever, we need each other.

Congregational Care Team members have been writing and phoning those in our congregation who we know especially need our support.

How much better it would be if each of us in the congregation reached out to one or two other U.U. members or friends who we think would appreciate a friendly note, email, or phone call. We could weave a huge web of congregational care.

We hope you'll join us.

Millie Putz—Congregational Care Team



For the past six years we have led UUCGT's volunteer efforts at the Safe Harbor seasonal homeless shelter. It is time for us to step back from this leadership role.

We have recruited Rich Faller, Katie Grier and Betsy Wacker to lead the efforts in our place. We will be assisting Rich, Katie and Betsy this year and continuing to volunteer in the future. Rich, Katie and Betsy have signed up UUCGT to provide volunteers for the week of November 28 through December 5.

Meanwhile, the Safe Harbor organization is working with the Health Department and our Board doctor to put changes in place that will allow us to operate the shelter as safely as possible for both guests and volunteers.

Included in the plans are requirements for all guests and volunteers to wear masks, nightly temperature checks, thorough professional cleaning of the shelter and other changes that will allow us to minimize the number of volunteers needed.

Rich, Katie and Betsy will be sharing more details with you before we begin sign ups this fall. Please support Rich, Katie and Betsy in this endeavor as you have supported us the past six years.

With gratitude for your support,

Mike and Sandra McDonald



If you can spare four hours one afternoon a month (or more frequently) you can have a great volunteer experience in a safe environment. We have been operating the Day Shelter since April 1 (that's over four months) and have not had any volunteers come down with COVID. Details below.

Safe Harbor Day Shelter is still open on M-F from 1pm to 4pm and is in need of volunteers! The Day Shelter, which opened in April, will continue through the end of September. This has been a wonderful service to the homeless community allowing them to have access to showers, laundry, and a few hours out of the elements during these times when many of their normal resources are not available due to COVID.

This is also a great opportunity for volunteers to see that safe volunteering during these times is still possible. Masks are worn and social distancing is maintained. As a mother of four with one child who is in the vulnerable category I feel comfortable serving at the shelter with the new cleaning and social distancing guidelines. I hope the day shelter will be a way to reassure many of you of the same before we begin our upcoming regular season in November.

To sign up, use the Day Posts Volunteer page. Click on the link below or copy and paste into your browser:
<https://gtsafeharbor.ivolunteer.com/dayhosts>

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions regarding signing up or safety procedures. Thank you for all you do and God bless!

Susan Arnold
Day Host Volunteer Coordinator
volunteers@gtsafeharbor.org



On August 21-22, UUA presenter **Reverend Keith Kron** led 30 participants through the virtual workshop "Beyond Categorical Thinking." Members of the Board and Search Committee, as well as others from our congregation, were challenged in the workshop to reflect critically on the mental constructs that might shape how we view potential candidates for our new Minister.

During the workshop, participants were put in breakout groups and asked to think about how our lives would be different if we were of different races or genders, had different disability statuses, or were older/younger than we are. By engaging in this kind of reflective perspective-taking, we were led to examine what it means to approach the Minister search process with open minds and open hearts.

Reverend Kron shared real-life case studies from historic UU minister searches where candidates were unfairly rejected or were treated unkindly during the interview process because of various types of bias. We were guided to consider what questions we might ask a candidate regarding their work, and if we would ask the same questions of everyone.

We were asked to consider how biases and preconceptions might shape how we approach candidates, and we were asked to consider that our next Minister may be different from what we might picture when left to our own mental constructs.

We discussed the importance of ensuring that all candidates are treated fairly and with respect, and the necessity of speaking up if we see any candidate being subjected to disrespect or unfair treatment. After all, silence in the face of injustice perpetuates oppression.

If you missed the workshop and have any questions about it please contact a board member or search committee member to learn more.

David Hassing



Our Bulletin Board



Community Needs Committee



COMMUNITY NEEDS DISTRIBUTION

The UUCGT Community Needs Team was pleased to be able to make a substantial quarterly distribution of donated funds, as follows:

- \$1000 to the Northern Michigan Anti-Racism Task Force (now NM E3) to help fund their anti-racism educational efforts.
- \$500 to the Grand Traverse and Leelanau Laundry Projects to help families maintain their health and dignity by giving them access to laundry facilities.
- \$1000 to Pete's Place Youth Shelter to provide special recognitions and services to residents, help with client contact during the pandemic closures of schools, and help furnish a safe outdoor area.
- \$500 to Crosshatch Center for Art and Ecology to provide onetime grants to artists and musicians who have lost income due to the pandemic-related closures.
- \$1000 to Planned Parenthood of Northern Michigan to help with educational and support services for students in rural areas
- \$500 to Polestar LGBTQ+ Community Center for youth programming and to help sustain the operation of the program center.
- \$500 to Single MOMM to support mentoring and empowering of single parents to help them provide for their families.

Everyone in the congregation is encouraged to submit ideas for possible donations to organizations in our community that might benefit from our "for those in need" donations. There are donation forms in the office or you can contact a member of the CN Team.

Sandra McDonald, Chair



Music Corner

The Virtual Ensemble has begun and all are welcome and invited to join!

You do not need to have been in the Vocal Ensemble or part of any organized group before.

I will be leading tutorials on how to record yourself at home using tracks that I have pre-recorded for you. You can be part of the group videos that I will create and share with our congregation.

Everyone is welcome and I'm here to offer plenty of support and to answer any questions you may have. Please reach out if you have any suggestions or ideas.

I'm looking forward to continuing to find creative ways to share music with one another while at home.

Director of Music
Renée Herman Russell
musicatuucgt@gmail.com





Ministerial Search Committee



“IT’S A GOOD YEAR TO BE IN SEARCH”

These words spoken by Rev. Keith Kron, UUA Transitions Director, were music to the eager ears of UUCGT’s Ministerial Search Team, members of the Board of Trustees, and approximately 20 other members & friends who attended the “Beyond Categorical Thinking” workshop Aug. 21st and 22nd.

Kron’s optimism is based on the numbers. Currently 25 congregations are in search, and 75 to 80 ministers seek a match.

In his [UUA search blog](#), Kron noted that the general trend is down after a high of 130 searching ministers in the past decade. Meanwhile, diversity in the potential candidate pool remains, thus the importance of understanding who we are as a congregation and what we want, as we conduct our search.

Before the workshop, approximately 50 people helped in this effort by participating in the online Concerns & Benefits survey. More work was accomplished in small groups during the workshop by discussing case studies involving interviews with prospective ministers whose identities included perceived differences from the “norm” and asking ourselves how we might handle such situations.

Kron’s blog described the demographics of ministers in search. The age range is mid-20’s to 70’s. About 60% identify as women and most of the rest as men, with the number of people identifying as transgender and gender non-binary increasing.

Generally, one out of every 3 ministers has identified as BGLTQ. About 10% of the pool each year has identified as Black/Indigenous/Person of Color (BIPOC). About 5-10% have reported some sort of disability and/or health condition. And finally, although most ministers in search have two years or less of ministry experience, for many ministering is a second career, giving them the advantage of a variety of life experiences such as we have seen with Rev. Harrington, for instance.

Kron lists some criteria ministers apply to their search: personal geographical limitations, congregational size and reputation, type of ministry, and, of course, compensation. Kron’s blog concluded that “Ministers are likely to have a variety of interests, but most are interested in congregations wanting to make a difference in the world.” He adds, “Ministers are, and ministry is changing. How will our congregations adjust?”

Questions to ponder: Are we interested in making a difference in the world? What kind of minister will be best suited to help us with that as well as our many other interests and the changes that are required in these times?

Your Team: Charles Brackett, Dusty Culton, Jim Linsell, Geoff Norman-Anderson, Mary Van Valin, Chris Walter, Jan Zerbel. We love to hear from you!



CHECK THE FLASH FOR THE ZOOM LINK FOR CATHY’S OFFICE HOURS

Office hours for Reverend Cathy Harrington

Every Wed at 12 PM until September 30

Wednesday, September 2

Wednesday, September 9

Wednesday, September 16

Wednesday, September 23

Wednesday, September 30

Every Thu at 10 AM until Oct 1, 2020

Thursday, Sep 3, 2020

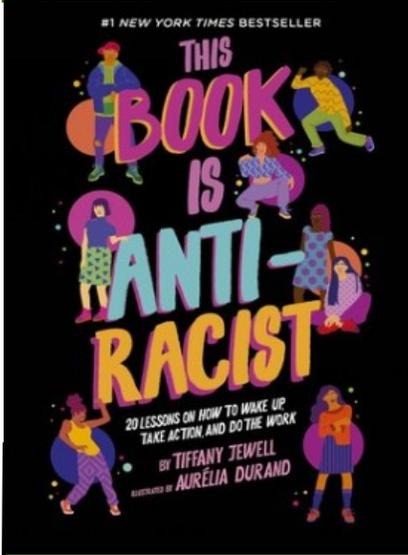
Thursday, Sep 10, 2020

Thursday, Sep 17, 2020

Thursday, Sep 24, 2020



OUR RE PROGRAM



“In a racist society, it’s not enough to be non-racist—we must be ANTI-RACIST.”
—Angela Davis

Religious Education
Betsy Hammerberg
dre@uucgt.org

What’s coming up in Our Religious Education Program....

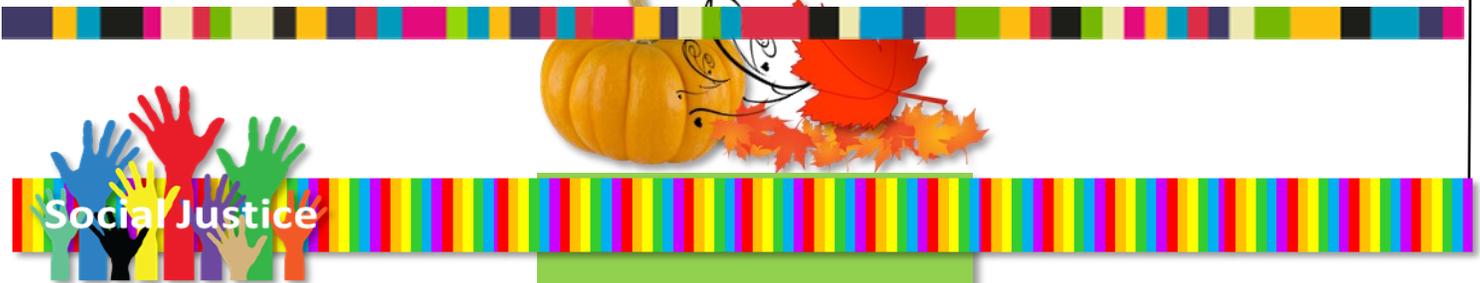
Beginning in October, Alison Ernst will be facilitating a course for youth ages 12-16 based on the book, "This Book is Anti-Racist".

The book was written specifically for youth and leads them on a four-part journey to: explore their own identities; understand the history of racism and its current implications; learn how to take action and respond to racism; and gain the tools to work in solidarity as anti-racists.

The course will meet on Zoom twice per month on Sunday afternoons, from October through April. This course is open to youth from UUCGT and from the wider community, and is limited to 10 participants.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY Be a part of building the next generation of anti-racists! A second adult is needed to assist Alison in facilitating this course.

No experience of anti-racism work is necessary, as long as you are willing to support, guide, and learn along with the students.



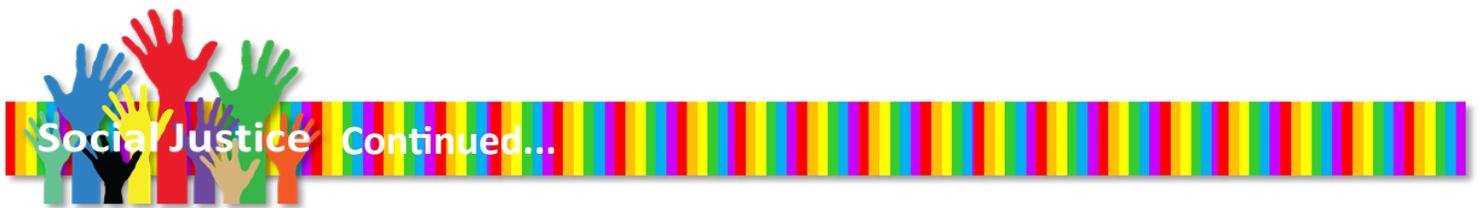
Social Justice

It is extra hard these days to know the truth, the real event. Of course there are differences of opinions, always has been and always will be. Each of us “see” things from our own eyes. But what really happened? Was there really an auto crash? Yes, but who “caused” it, that is the question, if there was really an auto crash. Today we have many sources to find out what really happened, maybe. Which do we believe? Back in the “good ole days,” there was usually only one source of news, the local paper. Of course there was always word of mouth, and then there was gossip. Times have changed!

What happened where we lived is what affected us.

Now, what happens in a big city, or the country, that affects us too. In the “good ole days,” we didn't know what happened beyond our town, now we do. What do we do with all that information? What should we believe? Follow? Who do we follow? What is real? In those “good ole days,” some believed if you got sick, a person put a curse on you and that caused it. We have all read about witchcraft and the days of burning witches at the stake. Do we believe that now? Do we? Do some? We have a right to our own beliefs. But what happens when your belief affects me or someone other than yourself?

So now we are in the midst of a pandemic. Are we?



Some say wear a mask to help stop the spread. Well, if you believe science and have some understanding of germs, then you might cooperate and wear a mask that might help another person not get it from you, if you have the disease. Then you might wear a different mask, like a N95, to help protect you from what germs the other person might give you.

In a pandemic, our close proximity to each other, allows germs, causes of a pandemic, to spread. If you believe science and germs and believe in a leader who believes, then you follow and wear a mask. Hmm! But what if you don't believe there is any cause to wear a mask, no pandemic? One person's actions based on their beliefs, can affect us all.

Can you mandate a law requiring someone to do what he or she doesn't believe? There has been a lot of discussion around that topic. For example, must you bake a cake for a gay marriage when you don't believe in gay marriages, or can you insist on a medical emergency abortion from a provider who doesn't believe in any abortion for any reason? Neither of those examples has wide reaching affect on many others. But what about insisting people wear a mask to try to prevent the spread of disease in a pandemic, if you don't believe there is a pandemic? If you don't believe in the science? That choice has very wide affect on many!

With such a wide variety of sources of information, it becomes harder to know what to believe as true. It gives rise to a variety of responses depending on which source a person believes as true. Why wear a mask if there is no real threat of infection, no real pandemic?

Some questions cannot be answered easily, especially in a country where we generally believe in the rights of the individual. But if we have a leader who is a sensible alert, aware, open minded, intelligent adult who listens and weighs the reality of many sources, and who wants the best for our country and the people who live in it, then we can have different sensible scenarios. We can tolerate different scenarios if we are tolerant of and accepting of differences peacefully. Under such circumstances, even in a pandemic, we can develop alternative ways of doing things.

For example, we mandate that all children in a certain age group attend school, but we have developed different school systems to meet different views. Even in a pandemic, we have devised different ways of attending school to meet the needs of different families' feelings and beliefs: on line, private tutoring, zooming, etc.

The same goes with wearing a mask. You don't have to go to a large public event if you feel unsafe. If a store demands you wear a mask to enter, and you don't want to, you can go to a different store. If the State Law demands you wear a mask in a store, you then cannot go to the store without a mask, or you can accept facing possible arrest. You have a choice. You can order daily needs on line and pick them up curbside. You can, like everything, flaunt the rules and go out without a mask and expose others. What are the consequences of that?

Besides, if not wearing a mask exposes others and extends the pandemic (that is if you believe there is a germ cause to the spread of this illness), increases hospitalizations, and leads to the deaths of millions, the non-mask wearer may not only alarming his or her fellow, he or she may well be flaunting the Law. Should you be fined? Or? Of course if there is no law, and no consistency in expected behavior, you can do as you want even if it is a risk to many others.

And so we are back to the beginning. What do you want to believe, where do you get your information, and how do you behave, once you supposedly know the real truth? Was there really an auto accident? We are all in one boat. - Emmy Lou Cholak

UU Board Meeting Summary for August



UUCGT BOARD MEETING MINUTES WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12TH, 2020 7:00 PM

Stewardship Update

- Suggestion to have face-to-face stewardship campaign
- Nearly 90% of annual budget is from pledges
- Diversify modes of increasing income, consider fundraisers. Consider shift to year-round giving
- Form a stewardship team soon, shift our culture
- Reach out to last year's team, get their ideas. This topic will continue to be a focus of upcoming meetings and workshops.

Transition Team Update

The Search Team needs to share a regular report with the Board

September Topics:

- * Decision made to add "Visit with the Minister at least once a month" to the duties of the President
- * The Board will hold a retreat in the fall. Goals:
 - Define the role of the Board.
 - Decide on ways to make the congregation the best it can be to prepare.
 - Take a deep dive into stewardship culture within a covenantal church.
 - Next year the Board would like a fall workshop/retreat to be required with the new minister
 - Timeframe: late October, propose Oct 17, Oct 24 as backup e. Location: ideally at UUCGT
- * Board members will attend August Beyond Categorical Thinking workshop
- * The Board needs to fill the vacancy given Pat Light's resignation* from the Board
- * Board members will research fundraising opportunities.

UUCGT Board 2020-2021

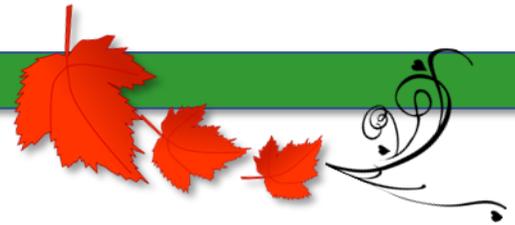
Mary Anne Rivers	President	Pam Hendrick	Trustee
Tom Darnton	Vice Pres.	Pat Light*	Trustee
Barb Termaat	Secretary	David Hassing	Trustee
Karl Keinath	Treasurer		



FINANCIAL REPORT



Financial Summary



As of July 31, 2020

(8.3% of fiscal year)

	Current Year (2020-2021)		Prior Year (2019-2020)	
Budgeted Income Received YTD	\$ 26,361*	9.7%	\$ 71,206*	27.0%
Budgeted Expenses Paid YTD	\$ 23,379	8.5%	\$ 14,541	5.5%
"For Those in Need" YTD	\$ 415		\$ 1,108	

*Income for 2020-2021 is less than 2019-2020 due to an accounting change that recognized prepaid pledges for 2020-2021 in the 2019-2020 fiscal year. Approximately \$32,000 in excess income for 2019-2020 is on the balance sheet in our operating account and can be used to offset future losses, should they occur.

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.

Please note that we have had a significant fall off of current year pledge payments, operating fund donations, rental income and "for those in need" contributions during March through July due primarily to the Coronavirus pandemic. We need your help. If you can, send your pledge payments and contributions to the office or contribute on-line at uucgt.org.

If you want more detailed information, you can look at the [Financial Monthly Comparison](#) on our website. (Board documents can all be accessed from the uucgt.org homepage by clicking the "About" pull-down menu, then on "Our Governance," then on "Board Packet" or "Board Minutes." Questions can be directed to your Finance Committee which includes Dusty Culton, Karl Keinath, Mike McDonald, Jim Walworth and Price Watts.



Please continue to give!

The Importance of On-line Giving to UUCGT

Every Sunday we used to pass the collection baskets at UUCGT while we listened to beautiful music. Our baskets have two sides: one is for the church and one is for the community.

Now that we are holding services via Zoom, we are unable to pass collection plates and are not collecting money for our church needs, nor are we collecting money to help our community.

Please read the financial report to see our current financial status. It is more important than ever to continue to support UUCGT by:

Mailing a check

Going to the [GIVE/DONATE](#) page on our website (under the "Give" pull-down menu).

Use the Give+ app on your phone or iPad



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

the BEACON

PUBLISHED MONTHLY
 Volume 57, Issue 9

September 2020

UUCGT Calendar

*The UUCGT building remains closed until further notice -
 However the office is staffed 9-3 Tue-Fri.*

All meetings and classes will take place via Zoom.
 Zoom links and updates can be found in the Thursday Flash newsletters
 and here: <https://www.uucgt.org/calendar/>
Check back often for updates!

SEPTEMBER 2020

01	Tue	HVAC Maint - Ofc open, Bldg closed	8:30 AM
01	Tue	Community Sack Lunch,* Friends Church	10:30 AM
01	Tue	Sunday Service Coordinators	2:30 PM
02	Wed	Stretch & Strengthen	11:00 AM
02	Wed	Staff Resources Committee	3:00 PM
02	Wed	BYO Picnic Supper at UUCGT	5:30 PM
03	Thu	Congregational Care	2:00 PM
04	Thu	VE Zoom Rehearsal with Renée	7:00 PM
04	Fri	Facilities Team	10:00 AM
04	Fri	Zoom Rehearsal for Sun 9/6	2:00 PM
06	Sun	RE Children & Youth	9:45 AM
06	Sun	Sunday Service 10:30 AM Sign in @ 10:00 AM	
07	Mon	LABOR DAY	
07	Mon	Stretch & Strengthen	10:00 AM
08	Tue	Office closed (Labor Day holiday)	
08	Tue	Community Sack Lunch, Friends Church	10:30 AM
08	Tue	Sunday Services Committee	1:30 PM
08	Tue	Sunday Service Coordinators	2:30 PM
09	Wed	Stretch & Strengthen	11:00 AM
09	Wed	Finance Committee	3:30 PM
09	Wed	BYO Picnic Supper at UUCGT	5:30 PM
09	Wed	Board of Trustees Meeting	7:00 PM
10	Thu	VE Zoom Rehearsal with Renée	7:00 PM
11	Fri	Zoom Rehearsal for Sun 7/12	2:00 PM
13	Sun	RE Children & Youth	9:45 AM
13	Sun	Sunday Service 10:30 AM Sign in @ 10:00 AM	
14	Mon	Stretch & Strengthen	10:00 AM

15	Tue	Community Sack Lunch, Friends Church	10:30 AM
15	Tue	Sunday Service Coordinators	2:30 PM
15	Tue	Leadership Development Committee	3:00 PM
16	Wed	Stretch & Strengthen	11:00 AM
16	Wed	BYO Picnic Supper at UUCGT	5:30 PM
16	Wed	Board Meeting	7:00 PM
17	Thu	Congregational Care Team	2:00 PM
17	Thu	VE Zoom Rehearsal with Renée	7:00 PM
18	Fri	Zoom Rehearsal for Sun 7/19	2:00 PM
20	Sun	RE Children & Youth	9:45 AM
20	Sun	Sunday Service 10:30 AM Sign in @ 10:00 AM	
20	Sun	Social Justice Action Team	11:45 AM
21	Mon	Stretch & Strengthen	10:00 AM
22	Tue	Community Sack Lunch, Friends Church	10:30 AM
22	Tue	Sunday Services Committee	1:30 PM
22	Tue	Sunday Service Coordinators	2:30 PM
23	Wed	Stretch & Strengthen	11:00 AM
23	Wed	BYO Picnic Supper at UUCGT	5:30 PM
24	Thu	VE Zoom Rehearsal with Renée	7:00 PM
25	Fri	Zoom Rehearsal for Sun 7/26	2:00 PM
27	Sun	RE Children & Youth	9:45 AM
27	Sun	Sunday Service 10:30 AM Sign in @ 10:00 AM	
28	Mon	Stretch & Strengthen	10:00 AM
29	Tue	Community Sack Lunch, Friends Church	10:30 AM
30	Wed	Stretch & Strengthen	11:00 AM
30	Wed	BYO Picnic Supper at UUCGT	5:30 PM

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Mary Kiner is looking for volunteers to assist with the community lunch as cold weather chases us indoors. No cooking required! Call Mary at 231-935-3050 or e-mail her at marykiner@charter.net.