

- the Beacon -

Sunday Services at 10:30 AM

www.uucgt.org

Email: office@uucgt.org

Vol 59 Issue 5

May 2022

MAY SERVICES

	Date	Participants	Title and Description
 Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Grand Traverse 6726 Center Road Traverse City, MI, 49686 231-947-3117 UUCGT Office is OPEN Mon-Thu 9:00-3:00	5.1.22	Lay Led Service Coordinators: Andi Kramer and Emmy Lou Cholak	Yom HaShoah Holocaust Remembrance Day
On Sunday, May 1, we will be commemorating Holocaust Memorial Day, in Hebrew called <i>Yom HaShoah</i> , the Day of Fire. Plan to attend while several of your fellow congregants share what it means to them, as we listen to music that honors the victims' lives and memories.			
5.8.22 Rev. Alex Jensen Coordinator: Dan Tholen			Our Sacred Commitments
What does commitment mean? What is involved in making sacred commitments? Join us in this service as we honor some new members in our midst!			
5.15.22 Lay Led Service Coordinators: Pam Hendrick and Mary Van Valin			Embracing the 8th Principle
The 8th principle: "We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions."			
5.22.22 Rev. Alex Jensen Coordinator: Margaret Wozniak			The Sacred Depths of Nature
 BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2021-2022			This service explores the sacredness of nature and natural beauty. The soul recognizes its kindred spirits and, because of this, it is the perfect soul therapy. Nature is food for the soul. So, when you feel lacklustre, downtrodden and generally dispirited with life, it is likely your soul's way of saying it needs sustenance. Take a long walk in nature, and your soul will feel revived. The natural world holds remarkable beauty and inspires deep awe in us. We'll explore nature in its "sacred depths" as we delve into nature's native beauty.
5.29.22 Rev. Alex Jensen Coordinator: Mary Anne Rivers			On Beauty
 Looking at the beauty of poetry, how words try to describe and capture beauty, and the beauty of the human condition. In this service, we'll invite ourselves to discover the beauty of poetry. How can our words capture beauty and our experiences as human beings?			
Board Meeting Wednesday 5.11.22 7:00 PM			



MINISTER'S MESSAGE *from REV. ALEX*

Dear Ones,



One of the most profound glimpses at beauty I've had involved looking out over Point Lobos State Natural Reserve near Monterey in California. Taking frequent trips out there with college friends for day hikes, I was met with a rich sense of awe staring out at the deep blue of the Pacific Ocean, eclipsed by Whaler's Cove. On a bright, sunny day, the water seemed to shimmer and sparkle; even on foggy or overcast days, the dark blue and shadow accents seemed to evoke something in me beyond my own knowing. Seeing golden poppies and other wildflowers pop out amongst the rocks and rugged cliff crags always brought surprise. Point Lobos became a sacred and special place for me, when I needed to retreat into nature and experience beauty in its most raw form.

While I miss the natural beauty of Monterey and the diversity of scenes and landscapes in California, I've found a richness to the beauty in our own home and area. The Grand Traverse area has a beauty that I would wager rivals other coastal scenes. I was astounded with the towering dunes out near Sleeping Bear and Empire. When I first came to visit, I remember the surprise I had at the shades of blue off the Peninsula as well; at moments, feeling like I could be in some tropical paradise! As the weather is growing warmer, I am excited to hike and check out new trails, bringing back my weekly spiritual practice of finding a new special place around here to hike.

As we turn to this Soul Matters month of "Nurturing Beauty", I'm wondering where you are finding and noticing beauty in your lives. Perhaps, like me, you find beauty in the gifts and glimpses of nature. Beauty might also come to us in more abstract ways, like our loving connections to friends and companions. Beauty itself might also emerge from harder moments and circumstances, where the trials of life have proven beauty to be hard-won. Beauty might be found in the cracks and tears, too; the moments of both rupture and repair we find that can bring us a fuller sense of life's picture. Somehow, words seem to fail to capture it all.

How else might we name or describe beauty? Is there a time when you've felt yourself come face-to-face with it? Or parts of your own past or story that point to beauty? How are you still discovering beauty amidst your own path, no matter where the path has led?

In this month, I hope you'll join me in digging deeper with these questions. I find that there is already so much beauty in us and all around us. We may not always need to take a long trek or venture to find it. In many ways, it might find *us* instead.

From your Minister, with deep faith and love,

Reverend Alex Jensen





Program Council Beacon Article for May 2022

Eight individuals met April 8, 2022 and four additional members submitted notes to be read at the meeting and added to the minutes. Chris Walter reviewed UUCGT Bylaws changes proposed by the Bylaws Task Force. Congregants will begin seeing the changes in future *Flash* notices. Voting on the changes will take place at the Annual Meeting in June.

In New Business, we discussed Several Committee Leadership positions that need volunteers due to Sandra and Mike McDonald moving to Ann Arbor at the end of June. (We will miss them and their energy greatly.) The following Committees or Groups need Coordinators or Chair people: Coffee Hour, Kitchen (cleaning) Coordinator, Wednesday Dinner, Community Needs, and Memorial Reception (Co-chair with Lauren Keinath). Since then Carolyn Thompson volunteered to be Kitchen coordinator and Chris Walter would appreciate a co-chair for Wednesday Dinner.

During Committee Check-ins: Amanda Mangiardi reported Sunday Services is preparing for Reverend Alex Jensen's Installation Service on 4/24/2022. Mary Van Valin reported on the Garage Sale planned for May 7 with proceeds going to Doctors Without Borders in Ukraine. This fund raiser raised several questions about the current Policy and Procedures guidelines for fund-raisers that need to be reviewed.

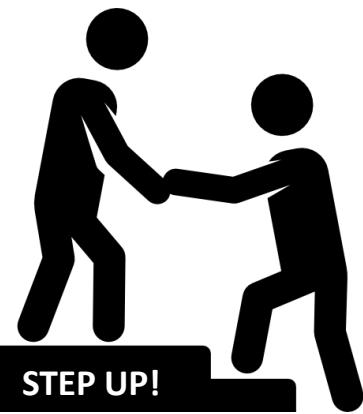
All attending this meeting indicated support of having an easier pathway to gain funding support for "Living our values and our Mission" via fundraisers, etc. Bill Scharf reported for Facilities that the flat roof over the educational wing has had leaks which led to some mold in the ceiling. These issues are being addressed. Chris Lautz relayed that Membership has several prospective members, an Orientation meeting was held on April 17 for 8 people and a New Member Welcome Celebration is scheduled for May 8. Emmy Lou reported that the Caste Discussion Group had developed a series of Action Steps which will be shared with the Congregation in the May Beacon. There is also a planned trip the visit the Jim Crow Museum at Ferris State University on May 19.

If you are interested in any of our discussions, please join us on ZOOM Number = 817 1271 4419 <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81712714419> at 3:00 pm May 13, 2022 3:00 pm



Our Welcoming Congregation

Do you enjoy coffee/tea/hot chocolate and light snacks after Sunday Services while getting acquainted with Visitors or New Members, and visiting with long-time Friends?



**In order to continue with this
important Fellowship function
we require volunteers!**

Volunteers need to respond to this Stewardship opportunity and step up for 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays each month. Committees, Teams or individuals please consider taking a turn. In addition, an overall Coordinator for Sunday Hospitality is needed who would train volunteers, oversee the schedule, and manage supplies. Waiting for your phone call or email is Chris Walter, 989-430-4776, chris9709@sbcglobal.net.

Penpals with Incarcerated Members

Have you ever considered becoming a penpal to one of our UU members currently experiencing incarceration?



Please share these two links with your UU friends. We have a shortage of free-world writers. Might you and a friend join this important ministry?

From Susan Lio:

Hello fellow UU's. I have been participating in this program now since last year and highly recommend it. I have a penpal who is in a federal prison in Illinois. I have learned much about Bill and his family, his dreams and disappointments, and I am rewarded by getting hand-written letters that are thoughtful and heartfelt. During the cold winter months, Bill's letters were something I looked forward to and that touched me deeply.

This is a low key, low demand ministry that can be done with little effort and high reward. It is a social justice ministry in that I feel I am doing a small bit to share my abundance of time and resources in a personally meaningful way. I may not be changing the system, but I do feel I am sharing my hope for someone who has had less abundance and freedom.

I am happy to share more of my experience if you are interested. PLEASE FORWARD to others who might have the time for a little old fashioned writing. It is truly a treat to get a real letter delivered by USPS. There are way more incarcerated writers than free writers in the system. People are on a waiting list.

In care, Susan Lio



NATIVE NOTES

Native Americans have a long, storied history with the U.S. military, having served in every major conflict for more than 200 years. Native Americans serve in the United States' Armed Forces at five times the national average.

Ely Samuel Parker of the Seneca Nation served as adjutant and secretary to General Grant and is known for writing the final draft of the Confederate army surrender terms of the Civil War.

Chester Nez was the last surviving original Navajo Code Talker who served in the United States Marine Corps in the Pacific during World War II. Nez helped create the code based on the complex, unwritten Navajo language.

Kevin Grover of the Pawnee Nation and director of Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian attests that Native Americans believe that "this land is still ours" and have "a deep patriotism, a belief that, despite all that has happened, the United States can be better, and we want to be part of that."

-Janet Zerbel



OUR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

We are so excited to finally welcome ALL of our children back to church! With the recent change in our re-opening protocol, which allows unvaccinated children in all areas of the building, **we are now offering RE during the service every week**. For staffing reasons, all children (including nursery-aged children) will need to remain with their caregivers until after the Time for All Ages. Unvaccinated children over the age of 2 must wear a mask at all times while indoors.

We will be holding an **OWL Informational Parent Meeting on May 15 at 6:30 pm**, for parents/caregivers who are interested in enrolling their children in Our Whole Lives (grades 7-9) in the fall. This meeting is for parents/caregivers who are new to the OWL program; we will give an overview of the program and provide time for questions.

Here is a link to the list of picture books that I have shared during the weekly **Time For All Ages**. <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1OtFZDKK2aK5C1RSciY3yL5Jz9EBolYwBaoyFi7lo1go/edit?usp=sharing>

And finally, I wanted to leave you with a few **book recommendations*** inspired by the "Teach Truth / Seek Justice" yard signs that our Social Justice Committee handed out last month. These books have been challenged or banned in schools because they address race and racism, and unfortunately, this is just a small sampling of a very long list.

[The Story of Ruby Bridges](#) by Robert Coles (ages 6-9)

[Woke: A Young Poet's Call to Justice](#) by Mahogany L. Browne, Elizabeth Acevedo, and Olivia Gatewood (ages 8-12)

[Stamped \(For Kids\)](#) by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi (ages 8-11)

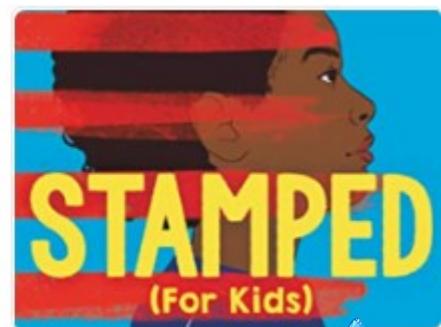
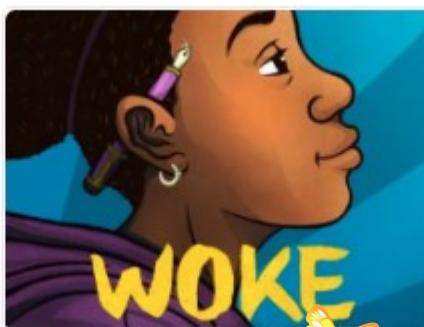
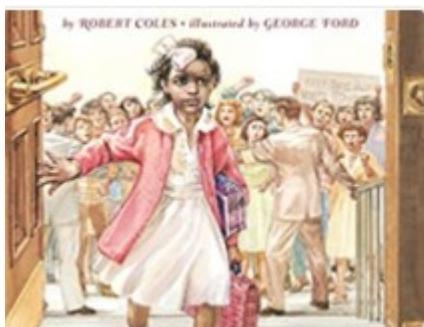
[A Good Kind of Trouble](#) by Lisa Moore Ramee (ages 9-12)

[New Kid](#) and [Class Act](#) by Jerry Craft (ages 9-12)

[Stamped](#) by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi (ages 12-18)



**All of these books are available through the Traverse Area District Library system.*



I wish you all a wonderful May!
Betsy Hammerberg (she/her)
Director of Religious Education
Unitarian Universalist Congregation
of Grand Traverse
www.uucgt.org





This is my song, A song of all the nations,
A song of peace for lands afar and mine.



This is my home, the country where my heart is;
Here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;

But other hearts in other lands are beating With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

My country's skies are bluer than the ocean, And sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine.

But other lands have sunlight too and clover,
And skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
Oh, hear my song, A hope of all the nations,
A song of peace for their land and for mine.



Continuing love and support to those who have suffered major loss in recent months

Wishing healing and peace to:

Nancy Doughty whose husband Bob passed away recently
Paul Ward
Solveig Gustafson
Bill Hanson
Ann Swaney

Keeping in our thoughts:

Shari Cope
Marge Rundell
Ann Chinn
Bill Hanson
Nancy Landfair
David and Judith Halstead
Don Frasier is now recovering at Orchard Creek
Nancy Fraser is at home recovering from her surgery
Connie Mooney is at home recovering from her stroke
Mary Grover who suffered a heart attack a short time ago

YOUR CONGREGATIONAL CARE TEAM

Rev. Alex Jensen	231-947-3117	alexjensen@uucgt.org
Co-Chair: Joanie Jackson	231-883-9292	jljniishi@gmail.com
Co-chair: Pat Light	231-409-8195	patricia@light@sbcglobal.net
Judith Briggs	231-228-4655	judithbriggs3@gmail.com
Barb Gibson	231-360-8284	barbgibson40@gmail.com
Hal Gurian	410-340-7323	hgurian1@gmail.com
Carolyn Kelly	231-392-5761	carolynk113@gmail.com
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Christie McGue	231-941-1923	clmcgue@gmail.com
Connie Metcalf	231-313-3714	cmetcalf633@gmail.com
Millie Putz	989-330-2611	melindaputz@me.com
Emmy Lou Cholak	231-492-7354	nana32@mac.com





As many of you are aware there are many petitions circulating asking for signatures. Be careful what you sign. Many of them coincide with our 7 principles and want to ensure the value and worth of very human and assure their personal rights. Please sign only those! They are listed below and be sure to only sign once. If you sign twice, both your signatures will be deleted. There are opposite petitions circulating that wish to take aware or limit our freedoms.

The ones that go before the legislature, Raise the Wage and Good Time petitions must be submitted beginning of June. The other two, Promote the Vote, and Reproductive Freedom, have until end of June when need to be submitted. Signatures are NEEDED now please!

You can sign the petitions at this Petition Buffet at the Open Space, here in TC, on May 14, from 9:30 to 3:30. If you are free to help you can sign up here,

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/16aXUU8LN4Ke5eQzVzBakujyqDt4Id1gO/edit#>

1. Reproductive Freedom for All:

This constitutional amendment would repeal the 1931 law that makes abortion a felony and would enshrine reproductive freedom in our state constitution. Reproductive freedom includes the right to obtain contraception, the right to have an abortion, and prohibits prosecution for terminating a pregnancy or helping someone else exercise their reproductive freedom. It also makes forced sterilization illegal.

2. Promote the Vote:

This constitutional amendment would make voting more accessible. Our present methods have always been safe and free of fraud so continue them and add guarantee early voting, guarantee the right to vote without a photo ID, if no ID one signs an affidavit, make it easier to obtain absentee ballots, prepaid to return absentee ballots, establish more drop boxes, establish that audits can only be done by clerks and elected officials.

3. Raise the Wage:

This would raise the state minimum wage to \$15 per hour for all workers.

4. Michigan United (a.k.a. Good Time):

This would repeal the law that requires inmates to serve out their entire minimum sentence. It would establish credits' to reduce the sentences of those who earn degrees or work in prison and who have good behavior.

These all follow our principles of the importance of human worth!

If you have questions please contact me, Emmy Lou, Socail Justice Action, sjatcmi@gmail.com



Petition Buffet
Saturday May 14
9:30 AM-3:30 PM
Open Space in Traverse City



CASTE DISCUSSION GROUP



Discussions of Isabel Wilkerson's book "Caste, The Origins of Our Discontents"

In early February a group of about 30 individuals began discussions of Isabel Wilkerson's book "Caste, The Origins of Our Discontents." We met both in large groups and in smaller breakout sections and shared many ideas and learnings we had obtained from reading this magnificently written book. We examined the 7 Pillars of Caste. We shared perspectives on a series of Caste Discussion Questions. We then developed and refined a series of Social Justice Action Steps, that we as a congregation, could work on in expanding our understanding and hopefully help alleviate some of the racial disparity in our society.

Please follow the links below to understand more and join us in our combined UU quest:

[The list of the 7 Pillars of Repression](#)

[The List of Discussion Questions](#)

[The list of Caste Action Steps](#)

[A list of local BIPOC Businesses that need our support](#)

Possible [Local Places to Help those in Need](#)

There's information below about our planned trip to visit the Jim Crow Museum in Big Rapids on May 19th. After our trip to the Museum, we will again gather to discuss further actions. If you are interested, please contact one of us.

[Jim Crow Museum of Racial Memorabilia Tour](#)

"Teaching Tolerance with Objects of Intolerance"

A group tour of the Jim Crow Museum of Racial Memorabilia at Ferris State University, Big Rapids, is planned for Thursday, May 19. Meet at church at 10:00, return by 5:00. Please contact Margaret Wozniak (e-mail) wozniak64@yahoo.com or 231-510-0903) with names of persons attending and whether you are able to be a driver. No cost except a contribution to your car-pool driver to defray gas costs. Deadline for registration is May 12. There is a maximum of 25 per tour. If we have interest beyond that number, we will arrange a second tour on another date.

This project is a result of action items brought forth by the CASTE book discussion group!



[The Installation of Rev. Alex Jensen](#)

The Sanctuary was a place of joyous celebration (and nearly packed!) for Sunday's Installation Ceremony. Charles Brackett's photos of the event are - as usual - beautiful and evocative. Charles has graciously allowed us to link to the [entire album of photos here](#); we ask only that you not reproduce them without his permission.

You can e-mail him at cabrackett01@gmail.com



Financial Summary

As of March 31, 2022

(75% of fiscal year)

	Current Year (2021-2022)		Prior Year (2020-2021)	
Budgeted Income Received YTD	\$ 195,397	61.8%	\$ 213,660	78.8%
Budgeted Expenses Paid YTD	\$ 212,923	66.0%	\$ 200,998	72.8%
"For Those in Need" YTD	\$ 7,610		\$ 10,131	

We have finally reached a point where the Finance Committee is comfortable that the numbers above are a fair representation of where we stand. We have struggled the past few months with the conversion to a new accounting system and an outside firm doing the accounting.

We will probably finish the fiscal year with a loss, but we anticipated that would occur when we received forgiveness of our PPP loan of over \$39,000 in May of fiscal 2020-2021 instead of this fiscal year. That did result in us finishing 2020-2021 with a surplus of over \$18,000 which should cover much of our loss this year.

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, the Minister's Discretionary Fund 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.

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 which includes Dusty Culton, Nancy Doughty, Mike McDonald and Jim Walworth.

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

the BEACON

PUBLISHED MONTHLY
Volume 59, Issue 5

May 2022

UUCGT Calendar

The UUCGT office is staffed:

9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Mondays through Thursdays

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

Check to see if your group is meeting in-person or via Zoom!

May 2022

1 Sun Reg. Sunday Svc at UUCGT and online 10:30 AM
via YouTube, and followed by Coffee Time
In-person or via Zoom at [this link](#)

02 Mon UU Ukers Rehearsal 10:00 AM

02 Mon Stretch & Strengthen 11:30 AM

02 Mon Men's Group 5:30 PM

03 Tue Comm. Lunch, Friends Church 10:30 AM

03 Tue Music Committee Meeting, UUCGT 10:30 AM

03 Tue Sunday Service Comm & Coords 1:30 PM

03 Tue Transforming Hearts 5:00 PM

04 Wed Weekly Staff Meeting (office closed) 10:00 AM

04 Wed Rev. Alex Office Hours 11:15 AM

04 Wed Stretch & Strengthen 11:30 AM

04 Wed Staff Resources 4:00 PM

04 Wed Potluck Supper 5:30 PM

05 Thu Rev. Alex Office Hours 11:00 AM

05 Thu Help Ukraine Yard Sale: Drop-off (to 4pm) 12:00 PM

05 Thu Congregational Care Team 1:00 PM

05 Thu Book Club 4:00 PM

05 Thu Vocal Ensemble Rehearsal 7:00 PM

06 Fri Yard Sale Drop-off (to 12pm) 9:00 AM

06 Fri Yard Sale Set-up (to 5pm) 12:00 PM

06 Fri Rehearsal For Sunday's Service 1:00 PM

07 Sat Yard Sale Set-up (cont.'d) 7:30 AM

07 Sat HELP-UKRAINE YARD SALE (to 3pm) 9:00 AM

08 Sun Reg. Sunday Svc at UUCGT and online 10:30 AM
followed by Coffee Time (see links above)

09 Mon Stretch & Strengthen 11:30 AM

10 Tue Comm. Lunch, Friends Church 10:30 AM

11 Wed Weekly Staff Meeting (office closed) 10:00 AM

11 Wed Rev. Alex Office Hours 11:15 AM

11 Wed Stretch & Strengthen 11:30 AM

11 Wed Finance Committee 3:30 PM

11	Wed	Board of Trustees	7:00 PM
12	Thu	Rev. Alex Office Hours	11:00 AM
12	Thu	Vocal Ensemble Rehearsal	7:00 PM
13	Fri	Rehearsal For Sunday's Service	1:00 PM
13	Fri	Set-up for Bob Doughty Memorial	2:00 PM
13	Fri	Program Council	3:00 PM
14	Sat	Memorial Service for Bob Doughty	2:00 PM
15	Sun	Reg. Sunday Svc at UUCGT and online 10:30 AM followed by Coffee Time (see links above)	
16	Mon	Stretch & Strengthen	11:30 AM
17	Tue	Comm. Lunch, Friends Church	10:30 AM
17	Tue	Leadership Development	3:00 PM
18	Wed	Weekly Staff Meeting (office closed)	10:00 AM
18	Wed	Rev. Alex Office Hours	11:15 AM
18	Wed	Stretch & Strengthen	11:30 AM
19	Wed	Potluck Supper	5:30 PM
19	Thu	Field Trip: Jim Crow Museum	10:00 AM
19	Thu	Rev. Alex Office Hours	11:00 AM
19	Thu	Congregational Care Team	1:00 PM
19	Thu	Book Club	4:00 PM
19	Thu	Committee on Ministry	5:00 PM
19	Thu	Vocal Ensemble Rehearsal	7:00 PM
20	Fri	Rehearsal For Sunday's Service	1:00 PM
21	Sat	Cong. Beth Shalom Service	5:30 PM
22	Sun	Reg. Sunday Svc at UUCGT and online 10:30 AM Virtual & In-person Coffee	~11:30 AM
23	Mon	Stretch & Strengthen	11:30 AM
24	Tue	Comm. Lunch, Friends Church	10:30 AM
25	Wed	Weekly Staff Meeting (office closed)	10:00 AM
25	Wed	Rev. Alex Office Hours	11:15 AM
25	Wed	Stretch & Strengthen	11:30 AM
26	Thu	Rev. Alex Office Hours	11:00 AM
26	Thu	Social Justice Action Team	3:00 PM
26	Thu	Vocal Ensemble Rehearsal	7:00 PM
27	Fri	Rehearsal For Sunday's Service	1:00 PM
29	Sun	Reg. Sunday Svc at UUCGT and online 10:30 AM followed by Coffee Time (see links above)	
30	Mon	Stretch & Strengthen	11:30 AM
31	Tue	Comm. Lunch, Friends Church	10:30 AM
31	Tue	Healthy Congregations	4:00 PM