

# — the Beacon —

Sunday Services at 10:30 AM

[www.uucgt.org](http://www.uucgt.org)

email: [office@uucgt.org](mailto:office@uucgt.org)

Vol. 56, Issue 9

September 2019



**Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation  
of Grand Traverse**

6726 Center Road  
Traverse City, MI 49686-1802

**UUCGT Office Hours**  
**Monday - Thursday**  
**9:00am - 3:00pm**  
**231.947.3117**

**Minister**  
Rev. Cathy Harrington  
[minister@uucgt.org](mailto:minister@uucgt.org)

**Director of Music**  
Open position

**Director of Religious  
Education**  
Betsy Hammerberg  
[dre@uucgt.org](mailto:dre@uucgt.org)

**Office Administrator**  
Susan Sherman  
[office@uucgt.org](mailto:office@uucgt.org)

**Bookkeeper**  
Glenda Corning  
[bookie@uucgt.org](mailto:bookie@uucgt.org)

## September Services Theme "Community and Connections"

Date	Service Coordinators	Service Title	Service Description
9.1	Margaret Wozniak Hal Gurian	Why We Work	A look at work as a means of personal fulfillment and work as a gift of self.
9.8	Rev. Cathy Harrington Amanda Mangiardi	Resumption Sunday Water Communion	Join us for a most cherished UUCGT tradition: Resumption Sunday! Beloved hymns and inspirational readings to start our new program year off right! This year's Resumption Sunday Service will also include a Water Communion - Remember to bring a small amount of water from a special adventure over the last year!
9.15	Rev. Cathy Harrington Pam Hendrick	Something to Believe In	This is an introductory sermon so that you can know who I am and what led me to ministry and ultimately to you.
9.22	Rev. Cathy Harrington Karen Casebeer	Holy Heresy	The Unitarians and the Universalists historically have been labeled "heretics." It's true, we are! But, what's holy about our heresy is not what we believe but how we believe.
9.29	Mary Van Valin	Thriving- Alone and Together	How does our life at UUCGT nudge us into living fully? Mary Oliver asks, "Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?" What would thriving as a community look like?

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

2019 - 2020

Mike McDonald	President
Tom Darnton	Vice President
Barb Termaat	Secretary
Karl Keinath	Treasurer
Mary Anne Rivers	Trustee
Pat Light	Trustee
Judy Myers	Trustee

## October Services - Theme: "Community and Connections"

10.6.19	Rev. Cathy Harrington & Richard Miller	Blessing of the Animals
10.13.19	Rev. Cathy Harrington & Margaret Wozniak	Rediscovering Prayer
10.20.19	Hal Gurian	Meditation & Chanting
10.27.19	Rev. Cathy Harrington & Pam Hendrick	Bearing Witness

**September Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday, September 18**  
**7:00 PM**

Open to all unless indicated



**Greeters Needed!**  
See Pg. 2!

Amanda Mangiardi  
Beacon editor  
Please send submissions  
to [beacon@uucgt.org](mailto:beacon@uucgt.org)

## UUCGT is in a Time of Transition



In transitional ministry we call it the “neutral” zone. This neutral zone can be unsettling and uncomfortable. Change is rarely comfortable. Transition can feel like discomfort, disorientation, confusion, and there is a temptation to get through it as unconsciously and as fast as possible.

We have a lot of work to do together over the next two years as you move towards the goal of calling a new settled minister, so I am asking you to trust the process, and try to relax into this “neutral” zone with me. My first job is to get to know you better. I want to learn what brought you to this congregation, and what keeps you here. I want to know what you’ve loved and what you’d like to keep. I also want to hear what you would like to leave behind. If you would like to meet with me one-on-one, let me know! Email me at [minister@uucgt.org](mailto:minister@uucgt.org) or [revharrington@mac.com](mailto:revharrington@mac.com). Call or text me at 231-301-3177.

This time of transition, this neutral zone can be a time of great joy, creativity, and fun. The *bread* for your journey over the next two years is to remember to breathe when uncertainty arises, to remember to trust the process, and to stop the need to “fix” and “do” for a time. Cultivate mindfulness and be gentle with yourself and one another.

In the beginning, I’ll share some stories about my journey with its hills and valleys, challenges and triumphs, and I will listen to your stories, your hopes and dreams for this congregation and for your own lives. When we know who we are and where we hope to go, we will begin to put together an outline, a list of qualities and traits that you hope for in your new minister.

This is a time of transition that has the promise to be *the most alive, most growth-filled, passionate, expansive moments in our lives*. I look forward to sharing this journey with all of you.

Warmly,  
Cathy

# Our Bulletin Board

## UUCGT Volunteers @ Safe Harbor

Mark Your Calendar

Saturday, November 16 (pm) – Saturday, November 23 (am)

Saturday, February 8 (pm) – Saturday, February 15 (am)

If you have any questions, please contact Mike or Sandra McDonald

Save the Date: Wednesday, September 25

There will be a speaker after the

Wednesday Night Supper

Topic will be Herbicides

See more information in the Flash



## ***Greeters are needed in September and October!*** **Share your Welcoming Spirit and a Smile!**

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



# Thank you

A decorative illustration of a branch with several leaves, positioned below the 'Thank you' text.

A great big thank you! to all that have helped us with greeting this year. Sign-up sheets for Sept and Oct are now up and would love for you to write your name in a space. Thank you for your help in showing that we are a *Welcoming Community*.



## **Open Position – Part-time Music Director**

UUCGT is seeking a part time (10 hours/week) Music Director to nurture and facilitate music as an integral part of the congregation's intellectual and spiritual life. The person hired will have a background in choral conducting in a school or church environment as well as basic piano skills.

Please visit [www.uucgt.org](http://www.uucgt.org) for a full job description.

## **Join the Policy Committee!**

Would you like to join us on a committee that rarely has meetings?  
Nobody really knows what we do, but our work is vitally important to the underlying governance of UUCGT!

Contact Tom Darnton or Judy Myers of the Really Fun Policy Committee!

Tom Darnton: 231.675.9787 [tdarnton@me.com](mailto:tdarnton@me.com)

Judy Myers: 231.409.7644 [tcjlm@aol.com](mailto:tcjlm@aol.com)



# Our Bulletin Board

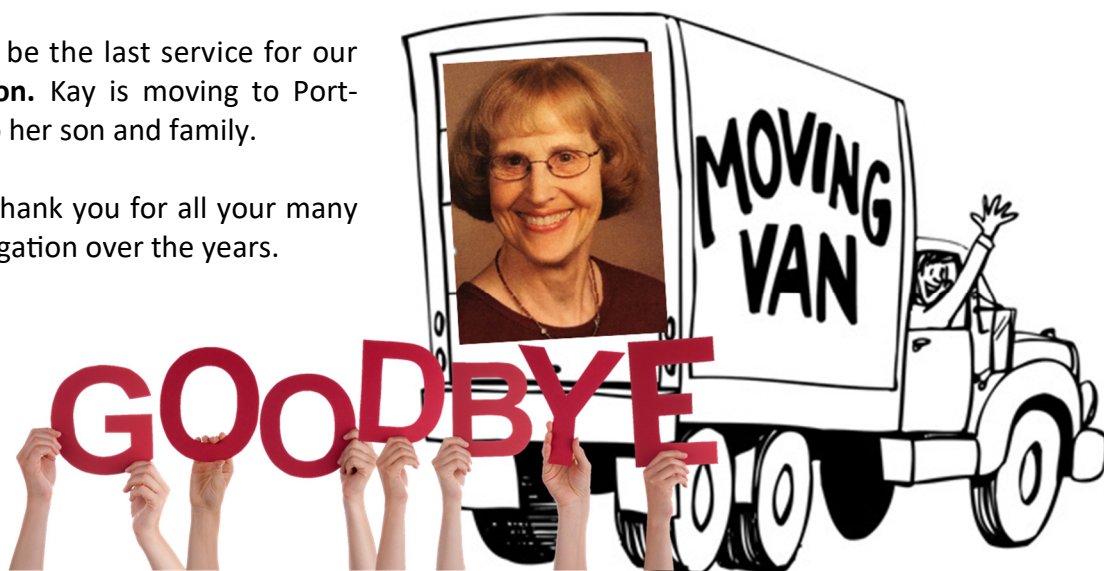
**Sunday, September 8**, will be the last service for our beloved friend **Kay Sturgeon**. Kay is moving to Portland, Oregon to be closer to her son and family.

Kay, we will miss you and thank you for all your many contributions to our congregation over the years.

Our loss is Portland's gain.

Best of luck in this next chapter of your life, Kay.

**We will miss you!**



## Congregational Care Team

**Our thoughts are with—**

Lou Platteborze who suffered a heart attack on August 7th. He has undergone two surgeries, one to insert a stent and another to replace a valve. He is at home, doing well, and receiving help from Munson Home Care. Lou would appreciate cards, calls and visits.

**We are also thinking of—**

Shari Cope, Ann Dressel, and Gary Deavel, who now call Cordia home; Karen Culp, who is becoming more house-bound; Jo Polk-Matthews, who lives in Elk Rapids with her family; and Nancy Landfair, who enjoys living at the Pavilions. All of them appreciate your calls, cards, visits.

Please contact Millie Putz for more details, addresses, and contact information.



**Do you have an Art or Craft that you would like to sell?**

There will be a **Craft, Book & Bake Fair** Sunday, October 20 & Sunday, October 27 from 11:45 am — 2:00 pm

If interested, contact Chris Lautz or call 860.884.7741 or the UU office at 231.947.3117



# Religious Education (RE) Program



## OUR RE PROGRAM



## There is an Exciting Year Ahead for the Religious Education Program

Beginning September 8th, the K-6th grade Religious Education class will be embarking on a yearlong study of World Religions. The children will explore the beliefs and practices of major and minor world religions through activities, discussions, stories, and visiting teachers. We will spend 2-4 weeks learning about each faith tradition, and as the children add to their knowledge they will be encouraged to find commonalities between religions. Woven through the unit will be the idea that all religions are equally valid and all are deserving of respect.

The 7th-9th grade class will be exploring the concepts of right and wrong using the UUA's "Amazing Grace" curriculum. The lessons and activities "equip them for moving safely and productively through the middle and high school years, when they will be continually tugged toward both ends of the ethics continuum. Through their involvement in Amazing Grace, youth will come to recognize and depend on their Unitarian Universalist identity and resources as essential to their movement toward understanding, independence, and fulfillment of personal promise."

Beginning in mid-October, every other Sunday will be devoted to the Our Whole Lives (OWL) program. On these days any 7th-9th grade students who are not enrolled in OWL will have the option to join the K-6th grade class. On days when OWL is not being offered, the 7th-9th grade students will continue their journey with the Amazing Grace curriculum.

We are looking forward to seeing familiar and new faces on September 8th!

Betsy Hammerberg (she/her)  
Director of Religious Education  
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Grand Traverse  
[www.uucgt.org](http://www.uucgt.org)

## Women's Rights

The people of our country have a voice which needs to be heard on many issues. One of the issues threatened today is Women's Rights. Most of us are used to fighting for Rights of all and tend therefore to sign petitions, assuming that with enough signatures, the petitions will get on the ballot for our vote. Today, that is not always the case! Please be aware!

Many, almost most, of the population believe in the Women's Right to choose, have control over her own body. This would include access to free birth control and also accessible healthy, safe abortion if needed. There are many reasons for an abortion. Only one of them is a mistake and a potentially unplanned pregnancy. There are also many medical reasons for a healthy abortion.

**“Today, our Michigan legislature is mostly against Women's Rights, including abortion.”**

But today in 2019 in Michigan, there are two petitions being circulated. These petitions would ban abortions. The new law is, that if a certain number of people sign the petition, the Michigan legislature can vote it into law by a simple majority. This law would not be available for the governor's veto. The petition language would become law by simple majority vote of our legislature!

Today, our Michigan legislature is mostly against Women's Rights, against abortion, joining the many states across the nation pushing to overturn *Roe vs. Wade*. Is that how you feel?

Two petitions potentially streamlining thru the legislature are:

- 1 - *The Michigan Heartbeat Coalition Petition* seeks to ban abortion after six weeks gestation.
- 2 - *The Michigan Values Life Petition* would ban the dilation & extraction procedure, the safest and most common procedure at any point in a pregnancy.

If **only** 340,000 people in Michigan sign the petition, it can be brought before the legislature, voted on, and with a simple majority become law. It would never go to Governor Whitmer for veto. It becomes law by a simple majority legislature vote! Be aware what petitions you sign! This is one time you may not want to sign the petitions. Thanks!

Please see: <https://www.miplannedparenthood.org/post/miabortionbans>

Emmy Lou Cholak  
sjatcmi@gmail.com



# Program Council Report



**The UUCGT Program Council** met in the Social Hall on August 11, 2019 at 9:00 AM. 17 members attended representing 19 groups or committees that perform the work of keeping this congregation moving forward.

We are starting to develop plans for our Thanksgiving Feast Potluck that will be held at Twin Lakes Gilbert Lodge on November 24, the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Please put this date on your calendars now and plan to attend.

As with any successful events, many hands will be needed and all committees will be expected to pitch in. Various activities and functions will be discussed at the next Program Council meeting on September 8 at 9:00 AM. If you are interested in helping, please come and volunteer!

Other discussions focused on the need for additional volunteers for several of our committees:

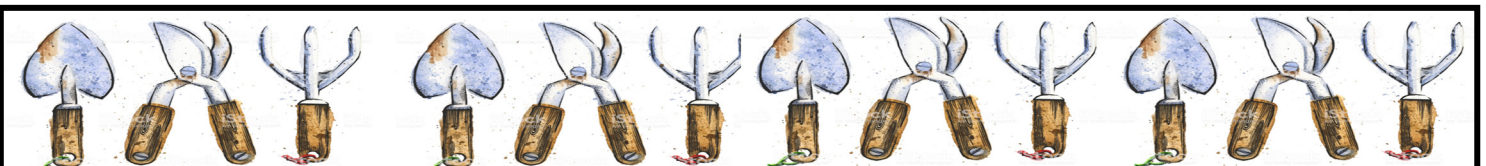
- **Hospitality** needs additional help with coffee preparation on Sundays
- **Audio-Visual Committee** needs additional help - especially when current operators head south in the winter
- **Membership** is always looking for additional helpers to serve as Greeters or staff the Welcome Table on Sundays
- **Congregational Care** will lose a Co-Chair this fall and the other Co-Chair will step down next fall, thus new members are needed for this important committee
- **Sunday Services** could also use additional help

While on the topic of volunteering, Mike McDonald informed us that UUCGT will serve as Hosts at Safe Harbor on:

**November 16 - 23 and again February 8 -15, 2020**

Please put these dates on your calendars and plan on helping prepare evening meals, overnight supervision and morning breakfasts for this segment of our Traverse City population.

**The next Program Council meeting is scheduled for September 8 at 9:00 AM**



**Thank you to all that have helped with the Meandering Path project so far.**

Sunday Sep 22 we will finish work on the meandering path for 2019.

Please stay after service to do a bit of finishing work.

Bring gloves, rakes and trimmers if you have them, or we will supply.

There will be a list of finishing touch work that we want to accomplish to finish out this year.

Celebratory refreshments to follow.

Any questions contact Lauren Keinath.

# Board Report

## UU Board Meeting Summary for August



The UUCGT Board of Trustees met on Wednesday, August 28. Following are highlights from the meeting:

We welcomed Rev. Cathy to her first Board meeting.

The Board discussed declaring our building a “weapons free zone”. Joan Sheard and Judy Myers will work with others to develop a proposed policy to be presented at a future Board meeting for approval. What other UU Congregations have done will be considered.

Rev. Cathy reported on her week of Interim Training August 19-23. We are tentatively scheduling a day long planning session for the Board and other church leaders on Saturday, November 2 to plan and set priorities for the first year of Rev. Cathy’s ministry with us. We also discussed formation of a Transition Team (like a Committee on Ministry for an Interim) to work with Rev. Cathy the next two years.

We discussed the use of “Soul Matters” as a worship planning tool and concurred with Sunday Services and Rev. Cathy’s recommendation to use this tool.

The Board asked Tom Darnton and Judy Myers to determine who should take the lead on renewing our Congregation’s Welcoming Congregation status on an annual basis.

Mary Anne Rivers reported that we have a candidate for the Music Director position. Next step is an interview with Rev. Cathy in September.

The Board appointed Dusty Culton as an additional member of the Staff Resources Committee.

The Board approved designation of up to \$2,000 per month of Rev. Cathy’s salary as housing allowance for tax purposes.

Karl Keinath reported that the Facilities Committee has purchased a laptop to be used as a dedicated driver for our sanctuary TV.

We also discussed our relationship with the Benzie Satellite. Rev. Cathy will visit the group in September and Judy Myers will investigate the need for a liaison.

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 Board meeting will be Wednesday, September 18 at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary**

Mike McDonald, President



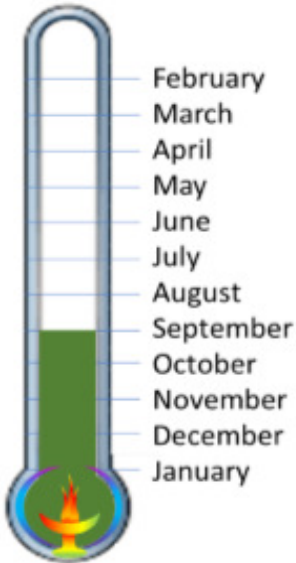
# Financial Report

## Financial Summary

As of July 31, 2019  
(8.3% of fiscal year)

	Current Year		Prior Year	
Budgeted Income Received YTD	\$ 71,206	27.0%	\$ 79,977	31.4%
Budgeted Expenses Paid YTD	\$ 14,541	5.5%	\$ 16,878	6.6%
“For Those in Need” YTD	\$ 1,108		\$ 757	

**GOAL!**



**“We are off to a good start financially due to a number of prepaid pledges for the 2019-2020 fiscal year.”**

**This is a normal annual occurrence**

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
- 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, Karl Keinath, Mike McDonald,  
Jim Walworth and Price Watts



Hi, I’m Mike McDonald, and I love to answer questions! Just ask!

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## *the* BEACON

PUBLISHED MONTHLY  
Volume 56, Issue 9

SEPTEMBER 2019

### UUCGT Calendar

All events and programs take place at UUCGT unless otherwise noted

#### SEPTEMBER 2019

- |    |     |   |                                |
|----|-----|---|--------------------------------|
| 01 | Sun | Sunday Service 10:30 AM                       | Lay-led service                |
| 01 | Sun | No Mindfulness Meditation                     |                                |
| 02 | Mon | Labor Day Holiday                             | - UU office is closed          |
| 03 | Tue | Community Lunch @ Friends Church - Volunteer! | 10:30 AM                       |
| 03 | Tue | Bridge Club                                   | social hall 1:00 PM            |
| 03 | Tue | SokukoJi Buddhist Meditation                  | meditation room 6:30-8:30 PM   |
| 04 | Wed | Stretch & Strengthen                          | social hall 11:00 AM           |
| 04 | Wed | Staff Resources                               | library 3:00 PM                |
| 04 | Wed | No Wednesday Supper                           |                                |
| 05 | Thu | Congregational Care                           | library 1:00 PM                |
| 05 | Thu | Peacemakers Needleworkers                     | social hall 1:30 PM            |
| 05 | Thu | Vocal Ensemble                                | sanctuary 7:00 PM              |
| 06 | Fri | Facilities Team                               | social hall 10:00 AM           |
| 08 | Sun | Program Council                               | social hall 9:00 AM            |
| 08 | Sun | Resumption Sunday 10:30 AM                    | Rev. Cathy Harrington          |
| 08 | Sun | Special Welcome Coffee Hour with Rev. Cathy   | 11:45 AM                       |
| 08 | Sun | Social Justice, Helping Asylum Seekers        | library 11:45 AM               |
| 08 | Sun | OWL Parent Information meeting                | sanctuary 4:30 PM              |
| 08 | Sun | Mindfulness Meditation                        | sanctuary 5:00-7:00 PM         |
| 09 | Mon | Stretch & Strengthen                          | social hall 11:00 AM           |
| 09 | Mon | Indivisible Steering Committee                | library 1:00 PM                |
| 09 | Mon | UU Men's Group                                | Minerva's 5:30 PM              |
| 10 | Tue | Community Lunch @ Friends Church - Volunteer! | 10:30 AM                       |
| 10 | Tue | Indivisible GT                                | sanctuary 11:30 AM             |
| 10 | Tue | Bridge Club                                   | social hall 1:00 PM            |
| 10 | Tue | Music Committee                               | library 1:00 PM                |
| 10 | Tue | SokukoJi Buddhist Meditation                  | meditation room 6:30-8:30 PM   |
| 11 | Wed | Stretch & Strengthen                          | social hall 11:00 AM           |
| 11 | Wed | Sunday Services                               | social hall 1:00 PM            |
| 11 | Wed | Finance Committee                             | office 3:30 PM                 |
| 11 | Wed | Wednesday Supper / \$5 @ UUCGT                | 5:30 PM                        |
| 12 | Thu | Shantideva Fan Club                           | sanctuary 9:30-11:00 AM        |
| 12 | Thu | Peacemakers Needleworkers                     | social hall 1:30 PM            |
| 14 | Sat | FREE InterPlay @ Traverse Wellness            | 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM             |
| 15 | Sun | Stewardship Team                              | library 9:00 AM                |
| 15 | Sun | Sunday Service 10:30 AM                       | Rev. Cathy Harrington          |
| 15 | Sun | UUCGT Book Club @ Harriet Wall's              | 2:00 PM                        |
| 15 | Sun | Mindfulness Meditation                        | sanctuary 5:00-7:00 PM         |
| 16 | Mon | Stretch & Strengthen                          | social hall 11:00 AM           |
| 17 | Tue | Community Lunch @ Friends Church - Volunteer! | 10:30 AM                       |
| 17 | Tue | Bridge Club                                   | social hall 1:00 PM            |
| 17 | Tue | Leadership Development                        | library 6:00 PM                |
| 17 | Tue | SokukoJi Buddhist Meditation                  | meditation room 6:30-8:30 PM   |
| 17 | Wed | Stretch & Strengthen                          | social hall 11:00 AM           |
| 17 | Wed | Membership Team                               | library 4:15 PM                |
| 17 | Wed | Wednesday Potluck Supper UUCGT                | 5:30 PM                        |
| 18 | Wed | UUCGT Board Meeting                           | sanctuary 7:00 PM              |
| 19 | Thu | Congregational Care                           | library 1:00 PM                |
| 19 | Thu | Peacemakers Needleworkers                     | social hall 1:30 PM            |
| 19 | Thu | Vocal Ensemble                                | sanctuary 7:00 PM              |
| 21 | Sat | SokukoJi Meditation Retreat                   | all building 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM |
| 22 | Sun | Sunday Service 10:30 AM                       | Rev. Cathy Harrington          |
| 22 | Sun | Social Justice Team                           | library 11:45 AM               |
| 22 | Sun | Meandering Pathway Wrap Up                    | 11:45 AM                       |
| 22 | Sun | Social Justice                                | library 11:45 AM               |
| 22 | Sun | Mindfulness Meditation                        | sanctuary 5:00-7:00 PM         |
| 23 | Mon | Stretch & Strengthen                          | social hall 11:00 AM           |
| 24 | Tue | Community Lunch @ Friends Church - Volunteer! | 10:30 AM                       |
| 24 | Tue | Indivisible GT                                | sanctuary 11:30 AM             |
| 24 | Tue | Bridge Club                                   | social hall 1:00 PM            |
| 24 | Tue | SokukoJi Buddhist Meditation                  | meditation room 6:30-8:30 PM   |
| 25 | Wed | Stretch & Strengthen                          | social hall 11:00 AM           |
| 25 | Wed | Wednesday PIZZA Supper UUCGT                  | 5:30 PM                        |
| 25 | Wed | Speaker Series: Katie Gresziak Herbicides     | sanctuary 7:00 PM              |
| 26 | Thu | Shantideva Fan Club                           | sanctuary 9:30 AM              |
| 26 | Thu | Peacemakers Needleworkers                     | social hall 1:30 PM            |
| 26 | Thu | Vocal Ensemble                                | sanctuary 7:00 PM              |
| 29 | Sun | Sunday Service 10:30 AM                       | Lay-led service                |
| 29 | Sun | Mindfulness Meditation                        | meditation room 5:00 PM        |
| 29 | Sun | Congregational Beth Shalom Rosh Hashanah      | 6:00 PM                        |
| 30 | Mon | Congregational Beth Shalom Rosh Hashanah      | All day                        |