

- the Beacon -

Sunday Services at 10:30 AM

www.uucgt.org

Email: office@uucgt.org

Vol 59 Issue 6

JUNE SERVICES

JUNE 2022



Unitarian
Universalist
Congregation of
Grand Traverse

6726 Center Road, Traverse City,
MI, 49686

UUCGT Office is OPEN
Tuesday-Friday 9:00-3:00

Minister

Rev. Alex Jensen
alexjensen@uucgt.org

Director of Music

Renée Herman Russell
musicatuucgt@gmail.com

Religious Education

Betsy Hammerberg
dre@uucgt.org

Adult Education

TBD

Office Administrator And Bookkeeper

TBD
office@uucgt.org

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

2021-2022

Pam Hendrick	President
Chris Walter	Vice Pres
Tom Darnton	Treasurer
David Hassing	Secretary
Mary Anne Rivers	Trustee
Pat Light	Trustee
Judy Myers	Trustee

Board Meeting
Wednesday 6.8.22
7:00 PM

Date	Service Participants	Title/Description
6.5.22	Rev. Alex Jensen Coordinator: Margaret Wozniak	Chosen Family Annual Meeting
	What makes a family? How have our understandings of families as a society changed? We'll explore this notion of "chosen family" and the power in honoring those who fill our lives with abundance. Following the service, UUCGT will hold its Annual Meeting of the congregation.	
6.12.22	Rev. Alex Jensen Coordinator: Dan Tholen	Everyday Blessings
	Sometimes, even the simple things of our lives bring with them bright blessings. Let's delve into the everyday blessings that inform our lives and shape our experiences.	
6.19.22	Rev. Alex Jensen Coordinator: Mary Anne Rivers	Flower Communion
	Join as we celebrate one of Unitarian Universalism's special traditions. Please bring a flower with you as we bless these flowers together and celebrate the blessings of our differences.	
6.26.22	GA Service	Virtual GA Service Live-Stream
	UUCGT will join this Sunday in streaming the largest annual worship gathering of UUs at the UUA's General Assembly. Please note that the service streams at 12:30 PM Eastern Time. (Service topic still to be announced.)	

Summer Schedule for Rev. Alex

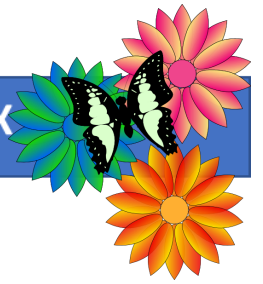
Rev. Alex will be away from his pastoral responsibilities from Tuesday, June 21st through Monday, August 22nd, returning to the Office on Tuesday, August 23rd.

During this time, the Rev. Wendy von Courter, a Unitarian Universalist minister in our area, as well as the Congregational Care Team will be available for pastoral care and other emergencies.

This is an important time of rest and rejuvenation for our Minister. If you have any questions, please reach out to Rev. Alex or the Committee on Ministry. And if you have a good book or two that you'd suggest for some summer reading, Rev. Alex would welcome your recommendations!



MINISTER'S MESSAGE *from* REV. ALEX



Dear Ones,

What a year this has been together! We are now in June, toward the end of our congregational year and the beginning of our summer plans, travels, and excursions! Looking back on the year, we've accomplished quite a lot: our transition to a re-opened building full of activities and meetings, with iterations of Zooming and livestreaming services; several social justice projects, including a garage sale for Ukraine and the Caste and Transforming Hearts groups; a year of powerful worship services, where we've been challenged to grow and explore together, even complex topics like "God", "faith", and "prayer"; not to mention a beautiful Installation Ceremony and a formal recognition of this ministry we are developing and building together. There is so much more I could write about, with the many accomplishments from our first year of ministry. From the bottom of my heart, it has been a blessing and honor to serve you in this first year.

One piece I am holding close to my heart is our growing togetherness as a congregation. With our re-opened building, I have seen so many faces come through our doors who have been less engaged in recent years. We've seen a growing presence of new attendees, friends and prospective members, with several folks choosing to join us formally as members. We also celebrate the blessing of having our children in worship and the ways that families are re-engaging with our Religious Education programming. We also have a vibrant online community continuing to join us for our livestreamed services. We are seeing the sprouts from seeds of our intentionality and hard work. Not only are we growing closer as a community, we are reaching out farther beyond ourselves. Our circle is drawing wider still, and we are doing the work to best live out our mission, vision, and covenant in our world.

I feel that our togetherness will continue to deepen over the next few years. I am lucky to have found this congregation tucked way up here in Northern Michigan. Thank you for choosing me just as much as I have chosen you. We will continue to do great things together, and I am excited with the possibilities ahead of us.

This summer, I will be taking some time away for both vacation and study leave. This is an investment for both of us, both as minister and as congregation. It is important for me to have time away for rest, after such a full year. I hope to come back in August refreshed, renewed, and coming with many ideas and stories from my time of learning. During this time, the Rev. Wendy von Courter, a Unitarian Universalist minister in our area, will be covering pastoral emergencies. Information on how to reach her will be in the Flash as my time away approaches.

I hope we can together celebrate the blessings of this first year of ministry together. Let's take a deep breath together, pat ourselves on the back, and be ready for a full autumn and congregational year ahead of us!

From your Minister, with deep faith and love,

Reverend Alex Jensen





CANDIDATES FOR THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Trustees



Judy Myers
(Board - Finish out 2-year vacancy, 2022-23)

I have been a member of UUCGT for about ten years. I have been involved in several different committees and task forces. My first 'assignment' was from Joan Sheard, who asked me to join a task force to create a Safe Congregations Policy. That led to other Policy writing work, and I have consistently been on that committee for several years. I have also served on the Stewardship Committee (twice), Leadership Development Committee and been on the Board of Trustees twice, for completion of other's terms. I am one-fourth of the UU Ukers, and love that position more than any other.

I am retired from a long, fruitful career in Low Income Public Housing; 20 years with the Denver Housing Authority, 10 years as a consultant to HUD for Troubled Housing Authorities, and ten years as Executive Director of the Cadillac Housing Commission. I grew up in Columbus, Ohio but also with summers on Platte Lake in a 'real' cottage (no running water). My parents got me out of high school and moved to Traverse City full time in 1970. I have one sister who lives in Jackson Hole, Wyoming and we get together 3-4 times a year.

I live out on a small lake near Interlochen, which I love dearly. I have a robust vegetable garden, and several flower gardens. I love working in the yard, in my gardens, fishing on my lake, kayaking with friends, playing golf in two different leagues, camping in the summer, and most importantly, hosting casual dinners with friends on my deck. My two dogs, Rascal and Robin seem to enjoy our life also. I have a small RV and usually head out for the south in early January and return in April. I am very aware of how blessed I am. I am really happy with UUCGT right now, as we emerge into a 'force' in our community with Reverend Alex in the lead. We are so fortunate to have him.



Amanda Mangiardi
(Board - 3-year Position, 2022-25)



I first came to UUCGT in March of 2014, when I moved back to Michigan. I attended an Easter service about starQng anew. The congregation was urged to make fresh starts and leave the badness behind. That service filled my heart and lifted me up. I left the church that day feeling positive and loved and joined shortly after that.

I joined the Sunday Services Committee, and together the other members and I carried our congregation through the hard times of Chava's medical problems and later the pandemic and learning to create Zoom services.

I also took on the editorship of our monthly newsletter, the Beacon, and joined the Congregational Care Team. I was part of the Re-Opening Task Force, and on the committee developing the Installation Ceremony for Alex. Additionally, I play the piano occasionally for services. Music adds so much to the total experience, and I love to create that ambiance.



Trustees

CANDIDATES FOR THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Continued



Hugh "Dusty" Culton
(Board - 3-year Position, 2022-25)

Spouse: Barbara

Adult children: Heather, Erin, Megan & granddaughter Xochitl

Retired Pediatrician: Practiced in Lansing for 36 years

I have attended UUCGT for 6 years and became a member in 2017. I have participated in the multiple facets of UUCGT including worship, fellowship, education, and stewardship that has increased over the years. In return I have found friendship, spiritual growth, and a community of the soul.

Activities past and present include study of Karen Armstrong's research and promotion of compassion, Death Cafe, Shantideva Fan Club, Men's Group, creative writing, and community discussion of *CASTE*. Sunday morning greeter.

Past UUCGT committee activities are the most recent Ministerial Search Team, the team that revised our most recent covenant, and Social Justice Action.

Present committees include Finance, Staff Resources, and Stewardship.



UUCGT SENDS A BIG THANKYOU TO OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS

Thank you for your service!



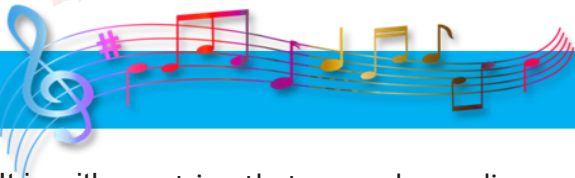
Mary Anne Rivers



Pat Light



Kat Norman



Music Corner

It is with great joy that we welcome live music back into our sanctuary. Over this last month we were joined by several musicians and our beloved vocal ensemble for the first time in two and a half years. Music and singing are integral parts of our Unitarian Universalist worship services and gatherings. Whether it's world, classical, rock, jazz, folk, fusion, hip hop or a capella, music shifts the energy of worship and connection and moves it into our bodies. At UUCGT, every voice and instrument is welcome to be a part of our music programming.

Our vocal ensemble is now meeting every Tuesday at 6:30pm and will perform at least once a month in our Sunday services. We also have the UU Ukers who are always open to new members as well as other small and large vocal and instrumental ensembles. There is always room for new musicians and new ideas. If music brings you alive, please reach out to me and together we will find a way to help you find your place in our programs

Director of Music

Renée Herman Russell
musicatuucgt@gmail.com



ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE CANDIDATES

Candidates for the Endowment Committee



Nancy Doughty
(Endowment Committee - 3-year term, 2022-25)

I have been a member of UUCGT since 1998 when my husband and I moved to TC from Detroit. During my years at UUCGT I have been a member of the RE Committee and most recently a member of the Leadership Development Committee and member of the Endowment Committee. I am a life long Universalist and have been a UU minister since 1962 with various ministerial positions mainly in the Detroit area before retiring in 1995. I believe our UU values make a difference in the community and as well as for current members and friends. The UUCGT Endowment Fund is a legacy we leave for the continuation of UUCGT into the future. I want to lift up its important mission for the UU community and see funds are invested wisely.



Don Pyne
(Re-election to Endowment - 3-year term, 2022-25)

I joined UUCGT in about 1988, prior to that I attended or visited; The Peoples Church in Kalamazoo MI, The First Unitarian Church in Hyde Park Chicago, IL, Joliet IL Unitarian Congregation.

Since joining UUCGT, I have been active in the Vocal Ensemble, Served one term as a UUCGT board member, and currently finishing my first term on the Endowment committee, for the last year as treasurer. I also constructed the lectern that is in the sanctuary as designed by Richard Miller.

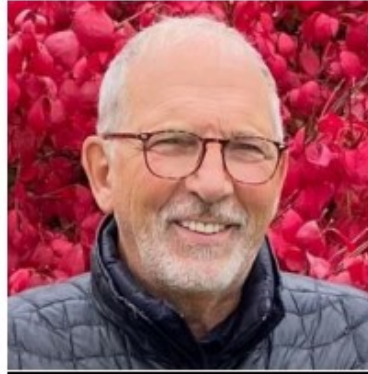
I graduated from Western Michigan University in 1965 with a major in math and a minor in physics. Worked 13 years for R.R. Donnelley & Sons printers as a production control manager, moved to Beulah in 1978 and opened a cabinet shop. I went back to school to get a teaching certificate, taught drafting and wood shop for one year as a full time substitute. I worked my last 15 years until my retirement as a licensed contractor building and remodeling homes.

I enjoy; music, history, politics and construction.



LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE CANDIDATES

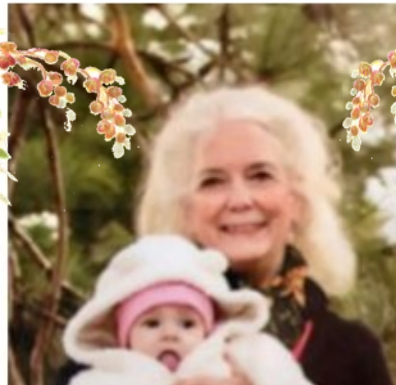
Candidates for the Leadership Development Committee



Jim Linsell

(Leadership Development - Finish out 1-year vacancy, 2022-23)

Jim Linsell has graciously agreed to be nominated to finish out the remaining year in Mike McDonald's term. As you may know, The McDonalds are moving to Ann Arbor.



Nan Worthington (Leadership Development - 2-year term, 2022-24)

Nan found her way to the UUCGT community in 1987 after meandering through the Methodist and Presbyterian meadows. She has pitched her tent here finding the intellectual stimulation, community involvement, and acceptance of Pagan beliefs gave her a moral home. Her 3 children were raised in this community.

When not frolicking in the meadow, Nan has had careers in NICU nursing (charge nurse, transport nurse and nurse educator), singing opera, and acting. She also seeks out travel opportunities to pagan spiritual sites, creating needlework, and participating in musical experiences.





LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE CANDIDATES

Cont.



Charles Brackett
(Leadership Development - 2-year term, 2022-24)



Born May 22, 1939, graduated 1968 with a PhD degree from the University of Michigan in Electrical Engineering. I joined AT&T's Bell Telephone Laboratories in New Jersey in 1968, working in a variety of R&D positions doing research on communications sub-systems, particularly microwave and optical fiber devices and components. I later joined Bell Communications Research (aka Bellcore) in 1984 to lead a group working on optical networking systems research. In 1997 I retired from Bellcore to found (as CTO) with 12 co-workers Tellium, a start-up funded by venture capital to develop and manufacture extremely high-speed communications and switching systems for optical fiber networks, the major market for which was the backbone network of the former Bell operating companies. I retired in 1999.

I moved from New Jersey to Traverse City in 1999 with my former wife, Ann Brackett, who now lives in Minnesota. We together have 3 adult children and 10 grandchildren. My three children live in Minnesota, Kansas, and New Hampshire. While in NJ I was a member of the Presbyterian Church, serving variously as Deacon, Elder, and youth counselor and high school Sunday school teacher. In Michigan, I was introduced to the Traverse City UUCGT by my new partner, Ellie Smith, about 10 years ago, and found it much to my liking and benefit and joined. I have not served any official capacity at UUCGT other than a membership in the Art Committee but have served unofficially photographing events and services and people for the benefit of the congregation. I have participated in the Wednesday suppers on a regular basis. I also participate in the UU Men's monthly dinner meetings and the Shantideva Fan Club Buddhist study group.

Things that I like about the Unitarian experience:

1. The people. I find this a stimulating congregation of accomplished people with a strong sense of acceptance of all, with a wide range of social and economic situations. This is enriching.
2. The lack of an official creed, but with an orientation towards social justice and the dignity and worth of all people.
3. The openness to people without the usual societal judgements about social class, marital status or sexual orientation.
4. The fact that UU is a petri-dish for ideas and questions, providing opportunity for open discussion without prejudice.

I have now lived in Traverse City for about 20 years. Ellie and I travel for a few months each year, enjoying our camping experiences in the south in the winters and some overseas trips.



NATIVE NOTES

VOTING RIGHTS

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 protects the right of all Americans, including Native Americans, to vote. However, their actual ability to vote is complicated by the distance between reservations and polling sites, according to the Brennan Center for Justice. Another complication is the lack of traditional street addresses in many reservations, which often results in rejection of voter registration applications.

In addition to the moral issue of guaranteed right, how much does the Native American vote matter to election results? A Vox report suggested that a remarkably high turnout within the Navajo Nation of Arizona may have played a part in securing Biden's win in that state.

Jan Zerbel



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE-Welcome New Members!



The Short Family

The Short Family

Hello to our new friends and namaste from the Short family: Chris, Katie, Asher and Liesel.

We want to thank you for creating & sustaining this beautiful community of thoughtful folk seeking to learn and grow together and to share our gifts for a better world.

It is our honor and privilege to join you!

We keep busy with two littles and a restaurant in our care, but look forward to spending more time with this lovely congregation, and to supporting its good work in every way that we can.



Keli MacIntosh



Keli MacIntosh

My path to Unitarian Universalism was laid out for me several years ago, though I didn't know it. Over the past decades years, I have developed good friendships with several people who I later realized were members of UUCGT. One of those friends told me, "Keli, they're you're kind of people."

After listening to the virtual services during Covid, I found the final reason for me to join the congregation - Ruth and Jim Gamble are honored past members. This dear couple were close family friends for years and my kids called her 'Gramma Ruth'. Any place that Gramma Ruth considered home is a place I want to be.

When I wasn't struggling trying to find the right spiritual place to call home, I worked as a Register Nurse for 50 years, studied to become a Nutritional Consultant, and received a Doctor of Naturopathy. I have been a costumer at the Old Town Playhouse and Interlochen Arts Academy. I have a son and a daughter, and am the happy Nana to twin almost 4 year old girls.





WE LEARN TOGETHER

Twenty-one congregants and two guests enjoyed the May 19 field trip to the Jim Crow Museum of Racial Memorabilia at Ferris State University. The exhibits are a powerful educational tool that remind us of the deep and terrible situations faced by the Black community during the Jim Crow era.

Margaret Wozniak is keeping a list of persons who are interested in visiting the museum but were unable to attend this trip. Please contact her at wozniak64@yahoo.com or at 231-510-0903 if you would like to be added to the list.



OUR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

It has been wonderful holding weekly RE classes, where we have been learning about Unitarian Universalism and about how to be together in covenant. We have a fantastic group of young people, and it fills my soul to see them playing together and forming friendships. Our last weekly RE class will be on **June 19**, after which we will take a break for the summer. While we won't be meeting in person, there will be periodic summer surprises coming in the mail!

Children's Worship Area

If you have attended church in person recently, you have probably noticed our children's worship area at the front of the sanctuary. We are so excited to have this space available! Children's worship spaces are becoming more and more common, and here are answers to some frequently asked questions:

Why is the children's area at the front of the sanctuary?

Being at the front of the room gives children an unobstructed view of the chalice, speakers, and musicians. We want them to "see church happening", and to know that they are a part of this congregation.

They're not just sitting on the floor - what are they doing?

They are keeping their hands busy and their minds relaxed with kinetic sand, pipe cleaners, crayons and paper, and other simple activities. While these activities may seem like distractions, they actually help the children be more present. Their ears are open, and they frequently look up to observe what is going on.

The children's activities and voices are too loud! Shouldn't they be learning to be quiet and still during church?

Children wiggle and make noise - it's part of who they are! We do work with them on being as quiet as possible during services, but total silence is not realistic. Our church welcomes all people, just as they are, and that includes children. Their noise and movement are a sign of life and a sign that our congregation is growing, and that is something to be celebrated.

How else can I make children and families feel more welcome?

Greet children and give parents/caregivers a smile of encouragement. Learn children's names. Thank children for being part of our community. Be patient with noises and movement. And sign up to serve in the RE classroom!

Remember that the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to church, to the divine, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in this house of worship.

Director of Music

Renée Herman Russell
musicatuucgt@gmail.com

Congregational Care



**“Spring drew on...and a greenness grew over those brown beds,
which, freshening daily, suggested the thought that
Hope traversed them at night,
and left each morning brighter traces of her steps.”**

Charlotte Brontë, Jane Eyre

Giving hope by offering care and compassion is the mission of our Congregational Care Team. We visit, call, send cards, and help in any way we can those whom we know to be in need. All of the members or friends listed below would probably appreciate knowing you're thinking about them, too.

Ann Swaney	Marge Rundell	Dave and Judith	Marcia	Connie Mooney
Shari Cope	Gary Deavel	Halstead	Bellinger	Mary Grover
Barb Bloomer	Ann Chinn	Nancy and Don	Mary Moony	Bonnie Mathias
Kay Wentzel	Nancy Landfair	Fraser	Kat Norman	

And, as usual, please let one of us know if you or some other member or friend of our congregation could use the Team's help.

Wishing you the Hope of spring,
Millie Putz and The Congregational Care Team

“A fine spring is good for everybody.”—Russian Proverb
As Reverend Alex would say, “May it be so.”

Rev. Alex Jensen	231-947-3117	alexjensen@uucgt.org
Co-Chair: Joanie Jackson	231-883-9292	jljnishi@gmail.com
Co-chair: Pat Light	231-409-8195	patricialight@sbcglobal.net

PROGRAM COUNCIL



Eight individuals met May 13, 2022 and two additional members submitted notes to be read at the meeting and added to the minutes. Chris Walter Reminded all Committee chairs need to send their annual reports to her by May 25.

In New Business, Chris Walter explained the need for all committee chairs to send lists of tasks they would ask the Office Administrator do for their committees throughout the year. This will facilitate orderly training and setting of expectations for a new administrator.

There was a brief discussion of the length of current Flashes (“floods”) and possible ways of shortening them to facilitate covering important messages in a concise and timely manner.

Chris Lautz reported the NEW website is nearly ready for launch. It will be easier to edit so that future changes and updates are simplified. Links to Flashes, Beacons and Sermons will be easily updated as they become available. The website will have a UUCGT Members Only Section containing a variety of topics that should not be shared globally.

During Committee checkins, Betsy Hammerberg indicated she will establish a strong functioning RE Committee by fall. There are 6 - 9 kids currently attending and a second Adult is needed for their RE classes. Individuals without kids in RE need to volunteer so the parents of the RE kids can attend Sunday Services. These are great opportunities for others in the congregation to meet, get to know and share their knowledge with our youth. Please contact Betsy and volunteer.

If you are interested in any of our discussions, please join us on ZOOM Number = 817 1271 4419 <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81712714419> June 10, 2022 at 3:00 pm. Rick Walter—Chair Program Committee



Truth. It is very hard to know what is true anymore. The news, the words people say and what they really mean by it. How do we teach our children? Lying was a big no-no when I raised my kids. When they did wrong, I expected an honest confession of it and a discussion. But lying got big punishment, like remaining home even if we had planned a nice outing. We do not lie! Was it that way in your home?

“Tell a lie loud enough and often enough, people begin to believe it.”

But lying is SO prevalent now, I cannot tell where the truth is. Can you? We accept so much said without maybe even thinking about it. It is gradually changing our acceptance of lying and the truth is getting lost. It is so much around us all the time, it is changing our views, our very culture.

It is hard to stay focused on what is real. For example, white supremacy is real but that does not mean it has to be us, you and me, just because we might be white. Be alert and don't put that shoe on. But being aware means constant fighting for reality against lies.

The lies are so prevalent it reminds me of Hitler. Mother used to say to me: tell a lie loud enough, often enough people begin to believe it, and so do you, the speaker! This is what we had with Hitler, and this is what we have today.

With elections nearing, can you tell which candidates are believing in and propagating lies, and which are truthful? Hard! We must be vigilant and watch our sources of information. Trump is not the only liar but the source of many. Even though we may try, we can be overwhelmed and get easily exhausted with the barrage of misinformation and lies. I must admit, I feel that way. Talking, sharing with like-minded, watching your sources helps. Overcome the barrage by being active in pursuing truth. Volunteer to campaign for truth at the Campaign One Office. Elections need us.

With this in mind, the UU 8th Principle reminds us of the actions we need to support our truthful beliefs. Although we believe in the worth of ALL humans, some groups have been long marginalized by our society. We need to actively try to erase that marginalization thru actions that show true acceptance of ALL. We have tried with LBTGQ and immigrants, but we need to do more work with Blacks, BIPOC, and etc. If we listen to the prevalent lies today, these people are bad, murders, etc. We can show thru our actions that the lie is not true and all are really worthy.

See you campaigning for truth. Thanks!

Emmy Lou Cholak—Chair Social Justice Committee



THE BEACON

Have something for the Beacon?

Submissions to the Beacon are due by the end of the day
on the 23rd of the month, each month.

Send to Amanda Mangiardi at jomangiardi@hotmail.com



The garage sale in May, organized by Kim Gribi with the help of Mary Van Valin, raised \$6,229.00. This was sent to Doctors Without Borders and specifically directed to aid Ukraine.



These folks deserve a big thank you for their efforts in this successful fundraising endeavor.

★ MY BLOCK ★ MY HOOD ★ MY CITY : ★ MY BLOCK ★ MY HOOD ★ MY CITY ★

Help teens from My Block My Hood My City experience a vacation in Northern Michigan

If you are interested in learning how you can help the Gribi family bring another group of teens from the south side of Chicago for a summer vacation and respite, please copy and paste the link below into your browser.

<https://formyblock.salsalabs.org/traversecity/index.html>

For the **SIXTH** summer in a row, the Gribi family is working with the **My Block My Hood My City** organization to bring 10 inner city teens and two chaperones from Chicago's North Lawndale and surrounding neighborhoods to TC for a much-deserved 4-day August vacation. **We need to raise \$250 per student** plus chaperones, which along with our own contribution and other donations will give these kids, from some of Chicago's most under resourced neighborhoods, the vacation of a lifetime – a first for many.

My Block My Hood My City is here to start the conversations that cultivate a deeper connection to our communities and the people within them in order to ensure everyone has what they need to succeed. We work tirelessly to empower our neighbors with knowledge and inspire them with opportunity so they can take positive action with confidence, creating a new world of possibilities for themselves and their families - and ultimately, the block, the hood, and the city, too.

My Block, My Hood, My City provides youth from divested neighborhoods with an awareness of the world and opportunities beyond their neighborhood. We take students on explorations focused on Vocation/Education, Arts Expression, Culinary Experiences, and Recreation. In 5 Years of its existence, the Explorers Program has taken young Chicagoans to hundreds of different exploration sites, both within the city and beyond!

Contact Kim Gribi for more information. kimgribi@gmail.com

BOARD SUMMARY



The Board met over Zoom on May 11th.

We approved a budget with trepidation since we don't yet have the pledges to cover it. That said, we have options of how to make it work which include **creating a 6-month budget** and adjusting in the second half of the year, or if it comes down to it we could **cover the deficit with the surplus** we ended up with last year.

Ideally we will raise the money with continued contributions. Most of our budget goes to paying our staff, so if we were to make any cuts it would be cutting their hours or scope.

The Board decided that the staff is very much needed at this time and we don't wish to make any cuts unless absolutely necessary. We recently 'provisionally' approved raises for the staff, but we've decided to put those on hold for now. The only raise will be for our new tech coordinator, which is in keeping with the agreement up-on their hire.

The Board will be updated every month by the Finance Committee to stay informed of finances into the fiscal year. As the UUCGT works to hire a new office administrator we recognize that individual committees make regular task requests of our administration.

We look to gather information from each committee to quantify (and minimize) those tasks as we bring a new administrator into our staff. In the meantime we offer big thanks and appreciation to the team of volunteers who have stepped up to help in the office until the new admin is in place.

We heard an update on the refreshing of security for accounts and building locks as a part of the transition to a new administrator. Most of those efforts are completed and the rest will happen asap.

We discussed the change in CDC Covid-19 infection risk level in our area and decided that we would continue with our building open for use but we'd make two temporary changes:

- We'll ask that everyone be masked at all times and
- We'll suspend food and beverages from being allowed.

As the fiscal year end approaches we discussed the changing of membership in the Board and other key committees. These preliminary discussions are helpful as we consider other people that may be good candidates for stepping in to fill the pending vacancies.

The Board is required to soon submit an evaluation of our new minister to the UUA. There is a template that each board member will complete individually. Those will be sent to the board president to compile into a single evaluation before submitting to the UUA.

The Annual Meeting is coming up soon so we went through the checklist of items needed. Open items are being compiled so that we'll be ready to host a nicely organized meeting.

Finally we discussed a request from a neighbor to the UUCGT to put up a basketball hoop in our parking lot. We didn't have any strong objections to the request so we've started to put together a waiver that will allow for it and absolve us of any liability. As we begin to create a waiver though, we see it may be too complicated a matter for us to take on. We hope to be good neighbors but not to put ourselves at risk for liabilities or disputes regarding the use of the property. Consideration of the request is ongoing.

David Hassing—Board Secretary



Financial Summary

As of April 30, 2022

(83.3% of fiscal year)

Current Year (2021-2022) Prior Year (2020-2021)

Budgeted Income Received YTD	\$ 234,719	74.2%	\$ 225,862	77.6%
Budgeted Expenses Paid YTD	\$ 234,941	72.9%	\$ 220,392	80.7%
“For Those in Need” YTD	\$ 8,343		\$ 11,207	

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, if not all, 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

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January 2021

UUCGT Calendar

The UUCGT building remains closed but the office is staffed:
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Tuesdays through Fridays

Nearly all meetings and classes take place via Zoom.

Zoom links and updates can be found in Ministry Message and
Thursday *Flash* newsletters and here: <https://www.uucgt.org/calendar/>
Check back often for updates!

January 2021

01	Sun	RE Children & Youth	9:45 AM
01	Sun	Sunday Service 10:30 AM Sign in at 10:00 AM	
		Cottage Conversations to follow!	
02	Mon	Stretch & Strengthen	11:15 AM
02	Mon	Ministerial Search Team	2:30 PM
03	Tue	Community Sack Lunch, Friends Church	10:30 AM
03	Tue	Sunday Services Committee	1:30 PM
03	Tue	Sunday Service Coordinators	2:30 PM
04	Wed	Stretch & Strengthen	11:15 AM
04	Wed	Rev. Cathy Virtual Office Hours	Time TBA
04	Wed	Virtual Supper - Mike & Sandra McDonald	5:30 PM
05	Wed	Congregational Care Team	2:00 PM
05	Thu	VE Zoom Rehearsal with Renée	7:00 PM
06	Fri	Facilities Team	10:00 AM
06	Fri	Tech Rehearsal for Sunday Svc	1:00 PM
06	Fri	Vespers Candlelight Svc (sign in 7:30)	8:00 PM
08	Sun	RE Children & Youth	9:45 AM
08	Sun	Sunday Service 10:30 AM Sign in @ 10:00 AM	
09	Mon	Stretch & Strengthen	11:15 AM
09	Mon	Ministerial Search Team	2:30 PM
10	Tue	Community Sack Lunch, Friends Church	10:30 AM
10	Tue	Sunday Service Coordinators	1:30 PM
10	Tue	Creative Writing	6:30 PM
11	Wed	Stretch & Strengthen	11:15 AM
11	Wed	Virtual Supper - Mike & Sandra McDonald	5:30 PM
13	Fri	Tech Rehearsal for Sunday Svc	1:00 PM
13	Fri	Vespers Candlelight Svc (sign in 7:30)	8:00 PM

15	Sun	RE Children & Youth	9:45 AM
15	Sun	Sunday Service 10:30 AM Sign in @ 10:00 AM	
16	Mon	Stretch & Strengthen	11:15 AM
16	Mon	Ministerial Search Team	2:30 PM
17	Tue	Community Sack Lunch, Friends Church	10:30 AM
17	Tue	Sunday Service Committee	1:30 PM
17	Tue	Sunday Service Coordinators	2:30 PM
17	Tue	Creative Writing	6:30 PM
18	Wed	Stretch & Strengthen	11:15 AM
18	Wed	Virtual Supper - Mike & Sandra McDonald	5:30 PM
19	Thu	Congregational Care Team	2:00 PM
20	Fri	Tech Rehearsal for Sunday Svc	1:00 PM
20	Fri	Vespers Candlelight Svc (sign in 7:30)	8:00 PM
22	Sun	RE Children & Youth	9:45 AM
22	Sun	Sunday Service 10:30 AM Sign in @ 10:00 AM	
23	Mon	Stretch & Strengthen	11:15 AM
23	Mon	Ministerial Search Team	2:30 PM
24	Tue	Community Sack Lunch, Friends Church	10:30 AM
24	Tue	Sunday Service Coordinators	1:30 PM
24	Tue	Creative Writing	6:30 PM
25	Wed	Stretch & Strengthen	11:15 AM
26	Thu	THANKSGIVING DAY!	
27	Fri	Tech Rehearsal for Sunday Svc	1:00 PM
27	Fri	Vespers Candlelight Svc (sign in 7:30)	8:00 PM
29	Sun	RE Class	9:45 AM
29	Sun	Sunday Service 10:30 AM Sign in @ 10:00 AM	
30	Mon	Stretch & Strengthen	11:15 AM
30	Mon	Ministerial Search Team	2:30 PM