

# - the Beacon -

Sunday Services at 10:30 AM

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

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

Vol 58 Issue 7

July 2021

## July Services



Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation of  
Grand Traverse

6726 Center Road, Traverse City, MI  
49686-1802  
231-947-3117

**UUCGT Office is closed  
until further notice.**

### Minister

Rev. Cathy Harrington  
[revharrington@mac.com](mailto:revharrington@mac.com)

### Director of Music

Renée Herman Russell  
[musicatuucgt@gmail.com](mailto:musicatuucgt@gmail.com)

### Religious Education

Betsy Hammerberg  
[dre@uucgt.org](mailto:dre@uucgt.org)

### Adult Education

Alison Ernst  
[awa2write@gmail.com](mailto:awa2write@gmail.com)

### Office Administrator And Bookkeeper

Guy William Molnar  
[office@uucgt.org](mailto:office@uucgt.org)

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2021-2022

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

**Board Meeting  
Wednesday, July 14  
7:00 PM**

Date	Participants	Title
4.21	<b>Coordinator: Amanda Mangiardi Guest: Jane Lippert</b>	<b>Soul Songs</b>
	Soul is defined as a specific musical genre from the 1950's and '60's that grew out of both the Gospel and R&B traditions. Many of these songs have stood the test of time and become iconic soundtracks to our lives. What is your soul song? What song captures the soul of our nation? What is the soul music this U.U. Congregation?	
11.21	<b>Coordinator: Andi Kramer Lay-Led Service</b>	<b>What I Have Learned Lately About Racism</b>
	Margaret will share the insights and knowledge that she gained by taking the "Reading and Writing Whiteness" classes led by Allison Ernst and Rev. Cathy. She will reference WHITE FRAGILITY and HOW TO BE AN ANTI-RACIST, the books that were studied in class.	
18.21	<b>Coordinator: Pam Hendrick Guest: Alex Kapitan</b>	<b>Transformational Welcome</b>
	As Unitarian Universalists, we are called to form communities of difference, and to engage with what a difference our differences make. Building relationships across lines of difference means that "welcome" must be about more than opening our doors (or Zooms) and being friendly; instead, welcome requires transformation: of our awareness, our hearts, our congregation, and our world. In this service guest speaker Zr. Alex Kapitan, a queer and trans UU leader, will preach on what it takes to practice this sort of welcome—the kind of welcome that can ultimately transform us all.	
25.21	<b>Coordinator: Margaret Wozniak Lay-Led Service</b>	<b>Seeing life through a minority lens</b>
	Fiction by minorities opens our eyes in new ways.	

### Questions about when the sanctuary will open?

Please see the Board Report for July, and look at page two for some information bullets.  
**THERE WILL BE NO AUGUST BEACON!** (Everyone needs a rest about now.)

Beacon Editor: Amanda Mangiardi 610-417-0730

Please send submissions to [jomangiar-](mailto:jomangiar-)



# WELCOME BACK!

## OPENING THE SANCTUARY

Sandra McDonald informed the Program Council that the **ReOpening Task Force (ROTF)** has been meeting and adjusting plans returning to in-person services. Stay tuned to the **Flash** as updates occur.

Here are some notes about that from the most recent Board meeting:

- The Board reports that the plan is to continue ZOOM services in July and **start an in-person hybrid approach in August.**
- New UUA guidelines state that when meeting indoors everyone should wear a mask because there are children and others who cannot be vaccinated.
- Our new website will support streaming live video for our hybrid services. It launches in June.
- Committees may meet inside the church now to prepare for reopening as long as total people inside are within guidelines (currently 25 people max).
- Cathy has suggested doing a soft opening and that we do a trial run close to the time of Alex's first live service.

### PROGRAM COUNCIL



Eight members of the Program Council met for a short meeting on June 11, 2021. Minutes from the May 14th meeting were approved and have been forwarded to the Board. We decided to not meet in July so our next meeting will be Friday, August 13 at 3:00 PM via Zoom.

Renee reported VE will be meeting 4 times this summer for rehearsals in the parking lot at our standard times (Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm). The entire VE is looking forward to meeting and singing in person. When you see the announced times, put it on your calendar and come join us.

Sandra informed us the ReOpening Task Force (ROTF) has been meeting and adjusting plans returning to in-person services. Stay tuned to the Flash as updates occur. All are looking forward to returning to services in the sanctuary when protocols allow and our system to run dual (Zoom and In-Person) services is established. She also reported that Community Needs had distributed \$500 to 10 different organizations. Thanks for all the continued contributions to the For our Neighbors side of the virtual basket.

Chris Lautz indicated Membership is still working on a NEW Directory and starting to plan a New Member Welcoming Celebration in late summer.

Amanda reported both Sunday Services are planning a celebration for Cathy's last service (June 20) and services for July while we wait for Alex to arrive in August. Congregational Care continues caring for members of the congregation in need. Both of these two committees need additional members to fully support their important functions, so please **volunteer!**

Rick reviewed Stewardship Team had received over \$220,000 from the pledge drive. This was short of our original goal, however expect additional pledges to continue to come in. When we return to having an open building, additional revenues will return from groups such as the Bridge Group and Indivisible.

Rick Walter: Program Council Chair





## MINISTERIAL SEARCH TEAM



### Reflections on our Journey - Part 3

I was not sure what I was getting into when I was asked to be on the Ministerial Search Committee even though I was advised to take a sabbatical from my other committees. This is not a committee, it is a journey that includes learning about UU principles, UU folks throughout the country, UUCGT & ourselves on the Team. I knew my compadres were wonderful people. They have exceeded my expectations in skills, creativity, willingness to take on tasks and listen. I did not know how much they would teach me, hold me, and be kind when I needed to be reined in.

**“This is not a committee, it is a journey that includes learning about UU principles, UU folks throughout the country, UUCGT & ourselves on the Team.”**

The beginning felt chaotic. UUA has its own language and a huge book of RULES & SCARY TIMELINES. Duolingo does not have a course in UUAese.

First, we had to let the world know who UUCGT is.

We scoured our history to tell of our journey starting with the first group to educate their kids, to the fellowship and finally to a mature congregation.

We wrote about our triumphs, growth, the building, the caring for each other and sometimes the pain that occurred.

We told how we love and try to make our place on earth a little better. We let people know that UUCGT folks have beauty, creativity, compassion, sometimes conflict, and joy, especially when we sing. We surveyed, had meetings, pulled together data, created documents, helped fix the website, and bundled it all to UUA.

Then we had to figure out who they were: Ministerial candidates who had reams of information, sermons, references, goals and passions. We had to research their individual meanings in theology and life experiences. Eight interviews of diverse, creative people. We narrowed it down to three. We extensively shared a weekend with each.

- One was caring, launching out into settled ministry.
- One was on an intense journey of human interaction.
- One was a bright light who joyously ministered to us in the process.

Now we are presenting a very special person to UUCGT. NEW BEGINNINGS. For me that started spiritually with my team 9 months ago.

#### **Dusty Culton.**

After Isaiah Thomas led the Detroit Pistons to back-to-back NBA championships, he commented on his personal journey of that hard-fought quest saying he hoped he would never become that consumed with anything again. I actually felt that way at times during the months of working on the ministerial search!

As a team, we were so committed to our goal that we put much of our personal lives on hold, often losing sleep and finding ourselves outside our comfort zones. But the many positive impacts made it more than worthwhile.

I learned about the importance and usefulness of UUA and UUCGT polity. I got to meet talented, dedicated ministerial hopefuls and was pleased to know that they were seriously interested in knowing more about UUCGT. In the process of acquainting them with our congregation and our geographical area, I became more completely enamored with it all myself. And this TEAM! We will forever be bonded by our time together, in trust, respect, and love. Above all, I feel proud that we attained our goal of bringing to UUCGT the best possible candidate to join us in our important mission going forward for years to come.

#### **Jan Zerbel**





**Thank  
You!**



**UUCGT says thank you to three Board members who have finished their term and are sailing away. Much gratitude to:**

**Barb Termaat, Judy Myers, and Karl Keinath.**

**UUCGT 2021 Board**

**Pam Hendrick**

**President**

**Chris Walter**

**Vice President**

**Tom Darnton**

**Treasurer**

**Pat Light**

**Secretary**

**Mary Anne Rivers**

**Trustee**

**David Hassing**

**Trustee**

**Kat Norman**

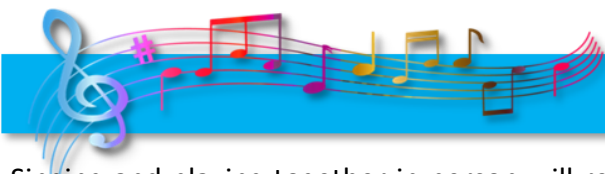
**Trustee**



**OUR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM**

**Thank you to all who helped create a beautiful outdoor space for our congregation.**





## Music Corner

Singing and playing together in person will resume in July with safety protocols in place. (Indoor singing is limited to smaller groups at this time). The Vocal Ensemble will meet outdoors at the church on the Thursdays listed below. We'll sing familiar hymns and anthems and enjoy the magic of blending our voices in person again. All are welcome and music will be provided. Please bring your mask, a water bottle and folding chair (if possible).

### The Dates :

Thursday, July 1st at 7pm (Rain date July 8th)

Thursday, July 15th at 7pm (Rain date July 22nd)

Thursday, Aug 12th at 7pm (No rain date available)

Thursday, Aug 26th at 7pm (No rain date available)

### **Small Ensemble Pieces Welcome**

I am happy to meet with folks to record small group or solo pieces for our Sunday services throughout the summer. (Services will continue to meet via zoom) Just reach out to me via email and I'll be happy to schedule a time and/or brainstorm ideas with you.

### **Director of Music**

Renée Herman Russell

## Congregational Care



*You have to love a nation that celebrates its independence every July 4th, not with a parade of guns, tanks, and soldiers who file by the White House in a show of strength and muscle, but with family picnics where kids throw Frisbees, the potato salad gets iffy, and the flies die from happiness. You may think you have overeaten, but it is patriotism.*

– Erma Bombeck

July is a great time if the year—a perfect time for outdoor activities—sailing, swimming, camping, hiking, gardening and more. And how fortunate we are that our American tradition is to celebrate our independence with our families and friends, often picnicking and watching spectacular firework shows—not huge military parades.

But those who suffer often cannot *truly* celebrate. The Congregational Care Team continues to reach out to those among us, who due to illness, grief, or worry are especially in need of our support. If you or a fellow U.U. member could use our help, please let one of us know.

### Our thoughts are with:

Ann Hughes whose father, James (Jim) Hughes, passed away on June 7th at the age of ninety-one.

Lauren Keinath who recently fell and broke two fingers, severely restricting many daily tasks and (worst of all!) her gardening endeavors. Lauren reports that she is steadily improving (“although not fast enough!”

Wishing you all a Happy 4th. Let’s celebrate America and our return to each other.

Millie Putz

For the Congregational Care Team





## YOUR HELP NEEDED!

We are again bringing a new group of Chicago teens at the end of August for a 4-day vacation. The youth are involved with the very reputable **My Block My Hood My City Organization**, who has recently expanded to include students from several other under-resourced neighborhoods. If you would like to help, please click on the link below. Any amount, large or small, is helpful! We will provide these kids with an action-packed itinerary, including a day on Mackinac Island, zip lining, putt putt golf, a pizza dinner at a downtown restaurant, swimming, biking and more!

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

Thank you! Kim and Kevin Gribi

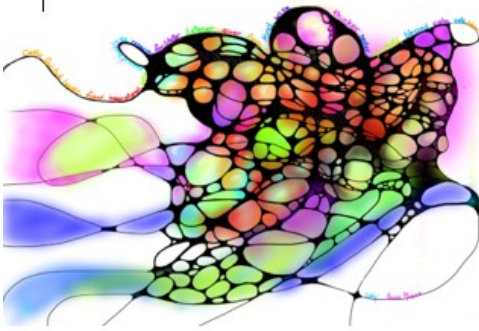
*goodbye!*

## We Say Goodbye to Rev. Cathy





## We Say Goodbye to Rev Cathy .... continued



The time has come, the day is here,  
We say goodbye to you.  
Our collective hearts are breaking  
But we need to start anew.

How can we say, how can you know,  
All you have been to us?  
Believe us when we tell you,  
You were much more than enough.

We were a people hurting,  
We were sad and we were weary.  
We hadn't given up,  
But we were in trouble, clearly.

You came to us to offer help,  
To listen, and to calm.  
Your presence was what we needed,  
Much like a soothing balm.

Your hope has kept us hopeful,  
Your love has set our course.  
Your wisdom and your guidance,  
And your words became our source.

Though the pandemic and zoom services  
Made moving forward tough,  
You led our congregation  
With your wisdom and your love.

You quietly moved us forward,  
And you focused on our need,  
To find our settled minister,  
And encourage him to lead.

### The Time has Come

Amanda Mangiardi

*Dedicated to Rev. Cathy Harrington, a true angel.*

We thank you for your guidance,  
And your wisdom and your grace,  
As you led our congregation  
To arrive in this holy place.

How can we tell you thank you,  
For all you did for us here?  
How can we say goodbye to you,  
Without shedding a tear?

We know that you must leave us,  
Your next mission now awaits you.  
And so, please know, that as you go,  
Our hearts and love go with you.

You've touched our lives, our hearts, our souls.  
And we hate to see you go.  
When you last close your office door,  
It's important that you know,

What a difference you have made here.  
So much more than you know.  
May you be blessed as you move on,  
May it be so rightly, so.

Goodbye to you, dear Cathy.  
We'll miss you terribly,  
But we are grateful beyond words,  
For the bright future we now see.

-June 2021



## The 8<sup>th</sup> Principle and Welcoming

We UU's believe in 7 Principles but now the UUA is suggesting an 8<sup>th</sup>. What is that? Very interesting!

To quote it: "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."

"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."

What does that all mean? To me, it means putting the first 7 into real today actions of dismantling the racism and other oppressiveness in our society, by taking into our hearts and actions true acceptance of others, no matter what! It means going outside the comfort of our accepting congregation and fighting against any and all oppression. This means not only in erasing the voter suppression laws but meeting with, talking with, truly listening with all our heart and soul, the pains that our society has placed on people of any and all colors except white Christian Europeans. What does it mean to you?

Please read more:

<https://www.8thprincipleuu.org/>

Can we pass a Board Resolution to accept the 8<sup>th</sup> Here is an example of such a Resolution: <https://firstunj.org/about/unitarian-universalism/the-8th-uu-principle/8th-principle-resolution/>

We are also in the process of wanting to renew our Welcoming Congregation Status. Shall we adopt the Progressive LGBTQ+ Flag? And who all can join us in reviewing and applying for Renewal Status?

Although the SJA Team has begun gathering data for this, the process is one that involves the whole congregation's dedication and actions. The congregation as a whole is encouraged to participate in a learning experience like a webinar, etc. And we are asked to support a project, which could be dedicating the "basket" one Sunday to a local campaign, etc. Can we do these things?

Please see: <https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/welcoming/program/five-practices-welcome-renewal>

Please let me know if you are interested in being included in either journey so we can do it together. These are congregational endeavors. Many thanks to each of you!

Emmy Lou



### THE BEACON

Articles and submissions for the Beacon are due by the 24th. Please send to Amanda Mangiardi at [jomangiardi@hotmail.com](mailto:jomangiardi@hotmail.com)



# UUCGT Board Meeting Summary



The June Board meeting is the one time a year when the new Board members join the full current Board to support a smooth transition at the end of our fiscal year. While our agenda had updates on items in progress, there was also much excitement for what's ahead and a few tears for major transitions--especially as it was the last Board meeting with Rev Cathy. She says she'll be giving us a well-deserved positive report with the UUA. We did all required tasks to prepare for a new minister, and cooperated and worked together well in the process!

## New Board Leadership approved:

Pam Hendrick	President
Chris Walter	Vice President
Tom Darnton	Treasurer
Pat Light	Secretary
Mary Anne Rivers	Trustee
David Hassing	Trustee
Kat Norman	Trustee



Much gratitude to previous  
Board President,  
Mary Anne Rivers,  
who facilitated a smooth  
transition!

Thank you, Mary Anne!

## Financial Updates

Our \$39K PPP loan has been forgiven by the SBA. We will show a profit of \$45K for the year (even without the PPP!). To improve office processes, we will obtain a bank safety deposit box for important records and documents and switch to Quickbooks for accounting and Breeze for our members database starting in July. An accountant will train Guy on the new systems and do an accounting review. We also agreed to pay for Guy to take an accounting class at NMC.

## Re-opening Task Force

Cathy suggested a soft opening and that we do a trial run close to the time of Alex's first live service. We plan to continue ZOOM services in July and **start an in-person hybrid approach in August**. Joe Cook will continue to make adjusted guidelines as conditions change--thanks Joe! We are currently at level B. Cathy said the **new UUA guidelines state that when meeting indoors everyone should wear a mask because there are children and others who cannot be vaccinated**. Committees can start meeting inside the church now to prepare for reopening as long as total people inside are within guidelines (currently 25 people max).

## Preparing for Alex

Cathy informed us that we will need to have a "startup" board retreat with our new minister facilitated by a UU person (likely Lisa Pressley) to create a covenant and set goals--Likely in Sept/Oct timeframe. The Committee on Ministry is a mix of board selected and minister selected members who must do an annual review of our ministry for 3 years during the fellowshiping period (and should continue annually thereafter).

## Stewardship Update

This year's pledge team is done! Pledges totalling \$216K were received with about 20 people who gave previously hopefully coming in soon. Karl recommends we nominate a new team soon so they can start preparations early this Fall.

## UUCGT Website Refresh / Streaming capability

**Our new website will launch in June! It will support streaming live video for our hybrid services**, but we are looking into concerns regarding Facebook streaming security and improving our wiring for new technology. Geoff Norman-Anderson has volunteered to be our "streamer" -- we now have a very knowledgeable tech team with Geoff, Renee, Betsy, Marco and Alex! The board also passed a resolution to seek a closed captioning service to make our services as broadly accessible as possible.

Next Board Meeting 3 July 14, 2021 at 7pm.



## Financial Summary

As of May 31, 2021

(91.7% of fiscal year)

	Current Year (2020-2021)		Prior Year (2019-2020)	
Budgeted Income Received YTD	\$281,933*	104.0%	\$274,305	104.0%
Budgeted Expenses Paid YTD	\$238,583	86.4%	\$230,931	87.7%
"For Those in Need" YTD	\$ 12,522		\$ 12,611	

\*Income for 2020-2021 includes recognition of \$39,825 of income from the Payroll Protection Plan loan we obtained in spring of 2020. As this loan was forgiven by the Small Business Administration in May 2021 we are now recognizing the amount as income. The PPP loan was used to pay wages of our employees in 2020 and other allowable expenses. This income will result in a significant surplus for 2020-2021 which will ultimately be used to help balance our budget for 2021-2022.

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.

**We need your continued help. If you can, send your pledge payments and "for those in need" contributions to the office or contribute on-line at [uucgt.org](http://uucgt.org). It is time to pay your 2020-2021 pledge in full if you have not already done so.**

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, Karl Keinath, 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 58, Issue 7

July 2021

At the end of a long period during which this page read  
“At this time the UUCGT building closed, but the office  
is open,” it will now read:

“At this time the UUCGT Building is reopening!  
The office, however, is closed for the month of July.”

In addition, there will be no August “Beacon.” Amanda  
Mangiardi will be volunteering to create and send the  
“Flash” while Guy is away, and she’ll have more than  
enough to be going on with, as they say!

Contact our new Board or members of our Re-Opening  
Task Force for information on how you can come back  
inside these beautiful spaces and see each other in  
person.