



**Unitarian Universalist
Congregation
of Grand Traverse**

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UUCGT Office Hours
Monday - Thursday
9:00 am - 4:00pm

Senior Spiritual Leader
Rabbi Chava Bahle
rabbhi@uucgt.org

Director of Lifespan Experience
Sarah Montgomery-Richards
dle@uucgt.org

Director of Music
John Bailey
peracola@gmail.com

Office Administrator
Susan Sherman
office@uucgt.org

Business Administrator
Sheri Novak
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Board of Trustees

Karl Love, President
Mike McDonald, President Elect
Don Pyne, Secretary
Kay Sturgeon, Treasurer
Tom Darnton, Trustee
Linda Fletcher, Trustee
Laura Matchett, Trustee

(Please note revised date)

UUCGT Board Meeting

Monday, May 14

5:30 pm

Vol. 55, Issue 5 — **the BEACON** — May, 2018

Sunday Services at 10:30 AM

www.uucgt.org

email: office@uucgt.org

MAY SERVICES

MAY Theme: The Transcendentalists

*"To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else
is the greatest accomplishment."*

- Henry David Thoreau

During the month of May, our Sunday Services will offer an in-depth look at the Transcendentalist Movement of the 18th and early 19th century. Who were they? What were they trying to transcend?! There is a great deal of overlap between the Unitarians and the Transcendentalists. Come and see!

Sunday, May 6 - Sarah Montgomery-Richards, MA, DLE, Andi Kramer

No 9:00 AM Discussion this week

10:30 AM Service: "The Interconnected Web"

Join Director of Lifespan Experience, Sarah Montgomery-Richards for a rich and wonderful introduction to a central tenet of the Transcendentalist Movement: our Seventh Principal in Unitarian Universalism. Celebrating the interconnected web of life, the Covenant of UU Pagans (CUUPS) invites us to join in decorating the Maypole following the service. This promises to be a rich and enjoyable morning. Please join us.

Sunday, May 13 - Rabbi Chava Bahle, Margaret Wozniak

9:00 AM: Program Council

10:30 AM Service: "Women Transcendentalists and Celebrating Mother's Day"

Our discussion of the Transcendentalists would not be complete without the voices of the amazing and brave women who were welcomed as part of this movement. Some of their names are known to us, some lesser-known, but there are powerful lessons to be drawn from the teachings of these women. Rabbi Chava will explore "From Suffrage to #MeToo" to look at the trajectory from the 19th century until today.

We will also be blessed with beautiful music for this Mother's Day service.

Sunday, May 20 - Rabbi Chava, Andi Kramer

9:00 AM: Congregational Budget Review & Introduction to the Candidates

A review of the 2018-19 Budget and introduction of Candidates for the 2018 Board and Leadership Development Committee. This is an important opportunity to meet those who will be shaping the governance of our Congregation in the coming fiscal year.

10:30 AM Service: "Emerson, Thoreau and the Heart of Transcendentalism"

The two best known of the Transcendentalists, Emerson and Thoreau, shaped much of what we know of both their Transcendentalists Circle and some of the early writings of American Unitarianism. Come and meet them on their own terms. It is possible that Emerson himself might make an appearance on this day. Come, take a walk with us around Walden Pond and step into the world of Emerson and Thoreau.

***BEACON Article Deadline:
No later than the 25th of the month
preceding the issue date***

Editor, Stan Cain

**Send submissions to
beacon@uucgt.org**

Sunday, May 27 - Rabbi Chava Bahle (Memorial Weekend)

No 9:00 AM Discussion this week

10:30 AM Service: "The Poets"

In addition to the richness of the intellect, the beauty of nature and the passion for social justice, the Transcendentalist Movement was also celebrated in the poetry of Goethe, Coleridge, Whitman and Wordsworth.

On this Memorial Day weekend we will go deep into the rich imagery of these poets who captured the heart of the Transcendentalist stance. We are delighted to welcome Max Old-Bear to share a selection from Walt Whitman.

JUNE SERVICES

Sunday, June 3 - Rabbi Chava Bahle & Friends

10:30 AM Service: "A Transcendentalist Roundtable"

UUCGT Annual Meeting following the Service

Prior to our Annual Meeting, we invite you to step into Emerson's study with the full cast of characters from the Transcendentalist Movement as they enter into spirited conversation about the issues of their day and ours. The setting will be a beautiful replica of Emerson's study and the Transcendentalists will be with us in their full splendor! This brief service will enable us to put the finishing touches on this month-long study of the deep and rich intellectual tradition woven into the life of Unitarian Universalism.

Sunday, June 10 - Rabbi Chava Bahle

10:30 AM Service: TBA

Sunday, June 17 - Rabbi Chava Bahle

10:30 AM Service: "Father's Day and Flower Communion" - All Congregation Service

Join us on Father's Day for a beloved UU tradition of the Flower Communion. Bring a flower to share and then during the service we will choose one to take home. The Flower Communion was originally created in 1923 in the Czechoslovakian Unitarian Church and brought to the United States in the 1940s. People were asked to bring a flower to share, the vases represent the United Fellowship of the congregation, and the receiving of a flower represents all of the gifts we receive from being with one another. What a wonderful day to celebrate Father's Day!

Sunday, June 24 - Rabbi Chava Bahle

10:00 AM (this week only) Service: "Celebrate with UUA General Assembly"

Friends, with great thanks to our Facilities Team, we have the opportunity to use our fabulous new big screen TV to join in the worship of the closing day of the Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly. The service from Kansas City will be live-streamed and we will participate along with thousands of Unitarian Universalists the world over. What an adventure this will be! Watch for more details.





Rabbi's Reflection

Cultivation of the Soul

"To care, to share and to repair the world."

Beloved friends,

What a joy it is to be entering the Season of Spring!

For many of us, this is a time of year when we are inspired more and more by the beauties of nature and by the reawakening of the world. This month our Sunday Services will be a celebration of the school of thought deeply intertwined with the early history of American Unitarianism and our Seventh Principal: A recognition of the interdependent web of life of which we are a part. Each of the Sunday Services will lift up a particular set of ideals and thinkers from the history of Transcendentalism. Far from a dry exploration, these services will be exciting and life-giving and feature some wonderful new ways of approaching worship. I am deeply grateful to Andi Kramer and the Sunday Services Committee for its wonderful willingness to try this format which is very beloved across the country in Unitarian Universalist congregations.

We will celebrate Emerson, Thoreau, Margaret Fuller, Elizabeth Peabody, Walt Whitman, William Wordsworth, Coleridge and Goethe. These services will culminate in a very exciting roundtable the morning of our Annual Meeting on June 3rd.

What is all of this about? It is about the cultivation of the soul. The recognition of the importance of education is a lifelong process from our youngest to our eldest, the interdependent web of life inspiring us to be our best and to think not only of "I, me and mine," but of "we and us" in the largest sense. I can think of no better time to honor these ideals than with the rebirth of Spring, long-awaited for many of us.

For me, the cultivation of the inner life is a vital and indispensable aspect of everything we do as a congregational family. Many cultures speak of the idea that for there to be peace in the world, it must begin with peace in the heart. The Transcendentalists we will engage this month invite us to go deep into the space of the heart, to the outer reaches of the universe, and to the society we wish to create in between.

Come and experience this carefully planned series of Sunday worship.

**In loving blessing,
Rabbi Chava**

UUA and Denominational News from Rabbi Chava

Denominational News

Friends, the big headline in denominational news is the upcoming General Assembly! We have some scholarship money available for anyone who wishes to attend the GA in Kansas City, Missouri next month as our delegate.

If you have an interest, please contact Rabbi Chava as soon as possible!

**Biv'rachot/In Blessing,
Rabbi Chava Bahle**



All About Us - Congregational Care Team

We hold in our hearts:

Paula Ward appreciates all the cards & notes & visits she has received from friends while she faces advanced breast cancer. Paul is her sole caregiver. Please call ahead, if you would like to visit.

Jack Thole suffered a heart attack at home, and needed CPR. He is now home and doing okay except for the pain from the chest trauma. He appreciates calls and visits, if you call first, of course.

Barb Bloomer was hospitalized due to an inner ear imbalance and is recovering at French Manor. Calls and short visits are welcome.

Solveig and Mark Gustafson - for their loss of Solveig's dear brother, Rolf Sorum.

Emmy Lou Cholak - for her loss of her husband, John Shields.

We are mindful of those at home in care of families or others:

Nancy Landfair, Karen Culp, Peg Kauffman, Carol Still & Anne Olney - all would enjoy a call & visit.

We share in the joy of:

Part of our team has returned from warmer climates, but we are still looking for a few volunteers to join our Team.

Call Joanie Jackson or Pat Light if you would like to help visit, provide food or transportation, or make phone calls, etc.

Judith Briggs, CCT Member
judithbriggs3@gmail.com

Program Council News - April 2018

Program Council met April 8th with only 7 members in attendance. Individual committee members reported on activities over the last month.

Emmy Lou Cholak discussed the many social justice actions in which we can all be involved. Dave Halsted indicated the new TV system for use in the Sanctuary or Social Hall is nearly ready to go. Facilities has also determined that additional insulation may be needed in the ceiling above the social hall to prevent future icicle formation. Barb McClellan is looking for suggestions for future Arts and Exhibition displays. Pat Light indicated the Congrega-

tional Care Team has developed a new Brochure for the Welcome Table. Chris Walter announced that only one person had signed up in advance for the New Member Orientation that day, however four prospective members attended the program after the service. Lauren Keinath indicated the Landscape Committee has drawn up a map of the property and is asking UUCGT members to sign up for observing and tending to specific areas. This display is in the social hall.

Richard Walter
Chair, Program Council
rick9709@sbcglobal.net

Membership News

MAY - Melting snow, Spring rains and warmer temperatures have nourished our Earth and now New Growth Emerges!

Greetings from the entire FUN and FRIENDLY Membership Team! - Volunteer members Sherry Davis, John and Pinkie Hoffmann, Sue Pyne, Chris Walter, Rick Walter, and Jane Watts - who continue to Welcome, Greet, Facilitate into Membership, and Nurture (in Partnership with other groups at UUCGT) prospective, new and current members.

BE A GREETER MINISTRY - Please share your smile and Welcoming Spirit. 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.

Job description is posted on the bulletin board, but simply requires you to:

- 1) Smile
- 2) Say "Welcome", "Glad you're here", "How are you?"
- 3) Hand out Order of Service
- 4) Count attendees, and
- 5) Help with offering

Many Thanks to April Greeters:

Amanda Mangiardi, Marcia Bellinger, Ann Dressel, Joy Platteborze, Chris Lautz and Pat Bazley

WELCOME TABLE: Welcoming first-time attenders, encouraging Name Tag and Welcome Registry sign-up, and sharing information about UUCGT and UUA is what we do every Sunday. Many thanks to Sherry Davis, John and Pinkie Hoffmann and Rick and Chris Walter. And thank you to JoLynn Paige, pianist and VE member, who graciously steps in occasionally and warmly welcomes visitors at the Welcome Table.

MEMBERSHIP TEAM UPDATES: We reconvened in April. In addition to our usual monthly business, we committed to having more social events that will encourage fellowship among members. How do activities like a Summer Ice Cream Social, Game Nights, and After-Service Luncheons sound? Stay tuned for more details. In the meantime, have a wonderful Spring!

The Team meets again on Wednesday, May 16, 4:15 pm - 5:30 pm in the Library. Anyone interested in finding out more about our fun work is welcome. Please just let Chris Walter know so we can set a chair for you at the table.

Chris and Rick Walter
Co-Chairs, Membership Team
chris9709@sbcglobal.net or 989-430-4776
rick9709@sbcglobal.net or 989-430-5174

NORMA TURUY

This is Norma Turuy, a 15 year old Guatemalan student who we sponsor as a congregation. Our sponsorship means she and her family receive free health care, visits from the school social worker, school supplies for all the children of the family, and food, if needed. The sponsored children receive Christmas gifts from us, and a birthday gift. Norma and her family live in San Rafael, a very small agricultural village. They are fortunate to own land, and they grow vegetables and raise geese and other animals. We have sponsored Norma since she was 8 years old.

We raise funds for Norma with the help of Oryana, our local natural foods co-op. They give us 4% for Norma for the gift cards we purchase. Several members regularly shop at Oryana, and just three families provide almost half of Norma's monthly sponsorship. Some spend \$300 a month at Oryana, and because they buy the gift cards ahead of time, Norma's fund receives \$12.00. We are hoping to expand our fundraising, so if you, or someone you know shops regularly at Oryana, please consider purchasing gift cards. Mary Van Valin purchases them for us once a month.

May is "Member Appreciation Month" at Oryana, and there is a discount offered, making our card purchase May 1st a great time to help Norma's fund!

Please contact Mary if you'd like to order Oryana gift cards. Thank you!

Mary Van Valin
mgvv@yahoo.com



2018 - 2019 Pledge Drive

Have you "Shown Up" yet to support our UUCGT Congregation for the 2018-2019 fiscal year? If you have not already done so, please make your financial pledge for 2018-2019 now by returning your pledge form or by visiting our website www.uucgt.org.

You should have received a pledge packet at Sunday Services or through the mail. If you have not, or have misplaced your packet, please call our Business Administrator, Sheri Novak, at 947-3117 and she will send you another packet.

Thanks for your continued support of UUCGT.

Mike McDonald
m_mcdonald@charter.net
Finance Committee Chair

Announcements

Benzie County UU Services

Wednesday, May 2: Marty Litherland will lead a discussion entitled, "Release to Regain: Creating a Space to Nurture and Rejuvenate Ourselves".

In part, the discussion will reference the book, "*Sabbath*," by Wayne Muller as we look at questions like:

- What practices restore our faith and open us to new inspiration?
- How do we seek times of dormancy and rest?
- How does our time away from those things we believe to be urgent rejuvenate us to focus on those things that really matter?

Wednesday, May 16: Rabbi Chava Bahle - Topic TBA

As always, potluck at 6:30 pm and program at 7:15 pm at Grow Benzie. We welcome our UUCGT friends!

Marty Litherland
litherlm@gvsu.edu

Memorial / Reception Committee #3 Co-Chair Needed!

Memorial / Reception needs a third Co-Chair, at least for this summer. Co-Chair Lauren Keinath is facing double knee replacement surgeries and recoveries, and Co-Chair Sandra MacDonald will be away part of the summer.

We never know just when a Memorial Service/Reception may be needed, so we need your help!

We have very complete, detailed information to share. Anyone who volunteers will be well supported.

If you can take this on, please contact:

Lauren Keinath
231-342-9617
LaurenTC@charter.net



Safe Harbor Thank You!

Due to the unprecedented April snow fall and cold temperatures, Safe Harbor stayed open to protect those experiencing homelessness for an extra two weeks. Members of UUCGT stepped up to fill many of the unplanned volunteer slots.

Many thanks to the following individuals who volunteered at Safe Harbor the last two weeks of April, some of them multiple times:

Patty Bauer
Dusty Culton
Tom Darnton
Jane Fochtman
Dave and Judith Halsted
Phil Hamburg
Karl and Sara Keinath
Sue Kiss
Candace Lee
Lynnette Rhodes
Rick Walter
Ken and Judy Weaver

Being able to extend Safe Harbor for two weeks kept the most vulnerable of our neighbors safe in these unusual weather conditions.

Mike and Sandra McDonald
m_mcdonald@charter.net

2018 Endowment Fund Distributions

On January 10, 2018, the Endowment Committee distributed \$1,575.00 from interest the fund earned in 2017:

- \$525 was directed to the Building Fund;
- \$525 was directed to Committee Needs Outreach; and
- \$525 was directed to the UUCGT Board for use at its discretion to further the Unitarian Universalist mission

The fund received several memorial contributions this year, and has a current balance is \$85,828.

Members of the committee are Nancy Doughty, Maura Brennan, and Ann Swaney. There is currently a vacancy on this committee. If you are interested in serving on the Endowment Committee, please contact the Leadership Development Committee.

Maura Brennan
mimaura@aol.com



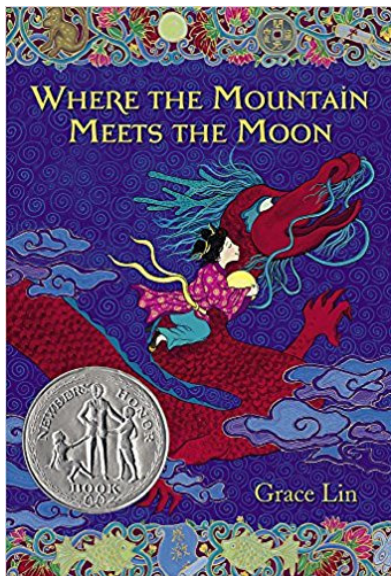
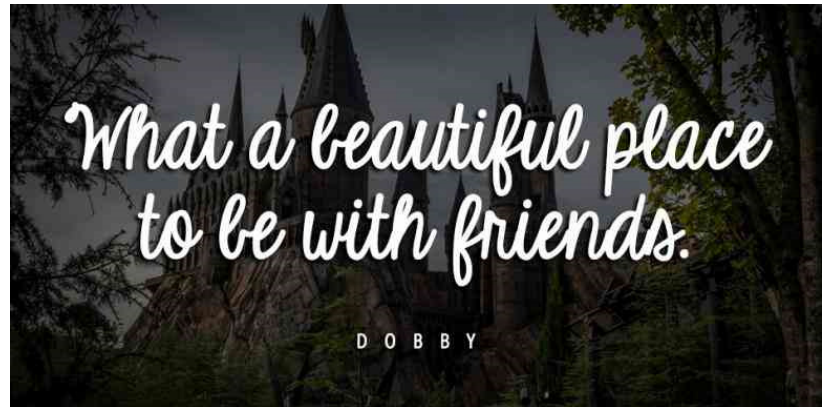
Lifespan Experience

Greetings Friends!

Sundays in May for pre k-8th grade

As we come to the end of our program year, we begin our final activities for “UU & YOU at Hogwarts”. “Potions” classes, “Herbology” classes and much more await our students! Don’t forget - we will start planning our end-of-school Hogwarts celebration scheduled for June 10th!

There is much to do as we race towards the summer!



Suggested reading for families/parents this month:

This month, I am suggesting a lovely read-aloud book for families as a follow-up to Harry Potter. This book is filled with “magic, adventure, friendship, and even a dragon who can't fly!”

“Where the Mountain Meets the Moon” by Grace Lin

A Newbery Honor Book

“In the Valley of Fruitless Mountain, a young girl named Minli lives in a ramshackle hut with her parents. In the evenings, her father regales her with old folktales of the Jade Dragon and the Old Man on the Moon, who knows the answers to all of life's questions. Inspired by these stories, Minli sets off on an extraordinary journey to find the Old Man on the Moon to ask him how she can change her family's fortune. She encounters an assorted cast of characters and magical creatures along the way, including a dragon who accompanies her on her quest for the ultimate answer.

Grace Lin, author of the beloved Year of the Dog and Year of the Rat, returns with a wondrous story of adventure, faith, and friendship. A fantasy crossed with Chinese folklore, Where the Mountain Meets the Moon is a timeless story reminiscent of The Wizard of Oz. Her beautiful illustrations, printed in full-color, accompany the text throughout. Once again, she has created a charming, engaging book for young readers.”

Family Ministry & the Future of Faith Formation: As I mentioned in my article last month, we have been in conversation regarding some interesting and exciting developments in the world of Family Ministry, UU Faith Formation, and Lifespan Experience. In mid-April I reached out to registered families with more details regarding these ideas, as well as with an invitation to gather to discuss their thoughts on some of the innovations being considered. These innovations would include having all ages together in Sunday Services more often, offering more resources and materials for parents and families to engage in UU learning in their homes, and offering more UUA curriculum courses for adults.

As we look to this idea of Family Ministry as part of the Lifespan Experience, I welcome the input of parents and families in terms of what they need to feel supported in our community. There are several things that I would like for us to consider together: How can we best help you engage in faith formation as families, and what tools/resources might assist you in doing this? What services might we offer that would truly be helpful to you, rather than just one more thing to do? How can we support you as families and important members of the community? At this time, we don’t have enough folks able to attend the proposed lunch conversation following service on May 6th, and look forward to getting that rescheduled. In the meantime, if you are a parent or guardian with thoughts relative to these questions and ideas, I would be happy to meet with you as your schedule allows.

Friday Night Out! May 11th, 5:30-9:00 pm – Contact Sarah ASAP to reserve a spot!

Adult Lifespan Experience Classes: Please watch your FLASH for updates to the 9:00 AM program/discussion schedule given many upcoming congregational meetings, etc.

Brewing Community: There will be no regularly scheduled Brewing Community gatherings in May. We will switch to the Summer Supper / Brewing Community schedule at the end of May – Please see more information on Page 8.

May Wednesday Supper Schedule!

1st / 3rd Wednesdays are Potluck

2nd Wednesdays are \$5 (adult) / \$3 (children 10 & under)

NO SUPPER ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 23RD

WE SWITCH TO OUR SUMMER SCHEDULE AT THE END OF MAY!

WEDNESDAY, MAY 30: BREWING COMMUNITY / SUPPER OUT @ RARE BIRD BREWERY
5:00 - 6:00 PM SOCIAL TIME
6:00 PM DINNER

As always, be kind to yourselves, kind to each other, and send loving kindness out into the universe.

In Peace,
Sarah Montgomery-Richards, MA
Director of Lifespan Experience
dle@uucgt.org

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JUNE 2018

01 **Fri** Facilities Committee Dave Hasted 10:00 AM
02 **Sat** InterPlay Workshop Lee Edwards 10:00 - 1:30 PM

03 **Sun** **Sunday Service - Rabbi Chava Bahle 10:30 AM**
03 **Sun** **UUCGT Annual Meeting 11:30 AM**
03 **Sun** Mindfulness Meditation (1st Sunday) 2:30 - 6:30 PM
04 **Mon** Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM
04 **Mon** UU Men's Group Dave Halsted Minerva's 5:30 PM
05 **Tue** Indivisible GT Rick Walter 12:00 PM
05 **Tue** Community Lunch 11:30 AM @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak
05 **Tue** Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM
06 **Wed** Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM
06 **Wed** Wednesday Potluck Location TBA 5:30 PM
07 **Thu** Shantideva Fan Club Chris Innes 9:30 AM
07 **Thu** Congregational Care Team Joanie Jackson/Pat Light 1:00 PM
07 **Thu** Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM
07 **Thu** Meditation Workshop Elisabeth Treefon 5:30 PM
07 **Thu** Vocal Ensemble John Bailey 7:00 PM
08 **Fri** Friday Night Out Sarah Montgomery-Richards 5:30-9:00 PM
09 **Sat** Singing Sisters Linda Hebert 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

10 **Sun** Program Council Rick Walter 9:00 AM
10 **Sun** **Sunday Service - Rabbi Chava Bahle 10:30 AM**
10 **Sun** UUCGT Book Club Barb Bloomer 2:00 PM
10 **Sun** Mindfulness Meditation 5:00 - 7:00 PM
11 **Mon** Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM
11 **Mon** Staff Resources Phyllis Jessup 2:00 PM
11 **Mon** POM II HOA Meeting 6:00 PM
12 **Tue** Community Lunch 11:30 AM @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak
12 **Tue** Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM
12 **Tue** Leadership Development Joe Cook 5:00 PM
12 **Tue** Finance Committee Mike McDonald 5:30 PM
12 **Tue** Indivisible GT, TC, Leelanau Meeting 5:30 PM
13 **Wed** Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM
13 **Wed** Executive Committee - Agenda 1:00 PM
13 **Wed** Wednesday Potluck Location TBA 5:30 PM
14 **Thu** Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM
14 **Thu** Meditation Workshop Elisabeth Treefon 5:30 PM
14 **Thu** Vocal Ensemble John Bailey 7:00 PM
16 **Sat** New Moon Women's Circle Contact Carolyn Kelly

17 **Sun** **Sunday Service - Rabbi Chava Bahle 10:30 AM**
17 **Sun** Mindfulness Meditation 5:00 - 7:00 PM
18 **Mon** Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM
18 **Mon** UUCGT Joint Board Meeting 5:30 PM
19 **Tue** Community Lunch 11:30 AM @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak
19 **Tue** Indivisible GT Rick Walter 12:00 PM
19 **Tue** Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM
20 **Wed** Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM
20 **Wed** Lifespan Experience Sarah Montgomery-Richards 12 noon
20 **Wed** Sunday Services Gurian/Mangiardi 4:00 PM
20 **Wed** Wednesday Potluck Location TBA 5:30 PM
21 **Thu** Shantideva Fan Club Chris Innes 9:30 AM
21 **Thu** Congregational Care Team Joanie Jackson/Pat Light 1:00 PM
21 **Thu** Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM
21 **Thu** Meditation Workshop Elisabeth Treefon 5:30 PM
21 **Thu** Vocal Ensemble John Bailey 7:00 PM

24 **Sun** **Sunday Service - Rabbi Chava Bahle 10:30 AM**
24 **Sun** TC Sings Concert Heather Kingham 3:00 PM
24 **Sun** Mindfulness Meditation 5:00 - 7:00 PM
25 **Mon** Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM
26 **Tue** Community Lunch 11:30 AM @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak
26 **Tue** Indivisible GT Rick Walter 12:00 noon
26 **Tue** Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM
27 **Wed** Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM
27 **Wed** Wednesday Supper & Brewing Community @ Workshop 5:00pm
28 **Thu** Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM
28 **Thu** Meditation Workshop Elisabeth Treefon 5:30 PM
28 **Thu** Vocal Ensemble John Bailey 7:00 PM



Social Justice

Spring is coming but that also means winter is dying. Up here one never knows. New members of our society are being born, and older ones are dying. The newer ones need good food, shelter, education, opportunities. Also the school year is ending and summer time vacation will begin for the kids, and many adults, too. I am amazed though, how we as a society spend our money. I am in a position now to have learned it first hand and the differences are stark.

I work at Blair Elementary in the Blair / Grawn area of greater TC. It is far from a wealthy school area! Many of the kids, if not most or all, get free lunches and also are offered breakfast. Many go home with backpacks of food for the weekends. Many are given publically donated coupons for boots and winter coats. That is all very good! It is needed!

But there is no access to a library in the summer time, no program to stimulate them, or a free bookmobile going around the neighborhoods. They used to have the school library open on some evenings but few kids came. How could they get there? Who could bring them? There are a few volunteer teachers who participate in a book club during the summer that meets regularly. Kids are given the books to read. Some participate. As far as I know, I am the only volunteer in the whole school.

This is an amazing school though! The teachers are above average, extremely kindly and very caring! The office secretaries are mom substitutes. The principal is a loving, kindly guiding hand to all the kids and with many of the teachers, too. The janitorial staff is also involved and supportive to the kids, helping with lost items, whatever. The atmosphere is one of constant loving kindness. But where is the money to boost the many needs, help with transportation, accessories in the classrooms, aides, etc.?

At the other end of living, is the dying. We all go there. The county owned Pavilions are a wonderful set of gradient housing to meet the needs of the aging. They are well managed and seem to really do their job with compassion. But have you looked at the cost? \$4000 a month generally for most facilities, and if you need the nursing home, \$9000 per month per person. Other facilities, public or private, charge the same. Who can afford that? Most who enter there cannot pay \$9000 a month for very long. So the elderly person goes on Medicaid, and the whole family loses their savings. Who pays for Medicaid? You and I.

That is a very large amount paid for the dying?

We are a society that no longer puts our elderly, incapable of functioning dying persons, out on the mountain tops for Nature to take. So we spend \$9000 a month. What about the next generation which has great needs for healthy foods, good education, shelter, etc. How are we spending our money for the future of our nation? Tell me what you would want. Can we change it? Balance it differently?

My sweet good dog has developed a vestibular dysfunction and has great trouble walking, no longer wants or is able to eat or drink. What options are open for her? What can I do to ease her pain and sorrow over her loss of functioning? Tell me. What are my options in helping my dog? Or, in helping the dying elder infirmed? And how should we spend our money? What choices can we make? When?

Emmy Lou Cholak
sjatcmi@gmail.com

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

As of March 31, 2018
(75% of fiscal year)

	<u>Current Year</u>	<u>Prior Year</u>
Budgeted Income Received YTD	\$211,990 77.3%	\$214,983 78.6%
Budgeted Expenses Paid YTD	\$201,324 73.4%	\$192,960 71.2%
“For Those in Need” YTD	\$ 15,987	\$ 11,968

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.

Several members have chosen to prepay their pledge for 2017-2018. As a result, we are continuing to be “in the black” for the year. However, monthly income has not kept pace with expenses the past three months. Please keep your pledges up to date so we can ensure that we at least break even for the year. If you want more detailed information, you can look at our website, click on Board, then on Board Packet, then on Statement of Financial Activity.

Questions can be directed to your Finance Committee Chair, **Mike McDonald** (m_mcdonald@charter.net) or to other members of the Finance Committee.

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

the BEACON

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

Volume 55, Issue 5

May, 2018

UUCGT Calendar

All events and programs take place at UUCGT unless otherwise noted

MAY 2018

01 **Tue** Indivisible GT Rick Walter 11:30 AM
01 **Tue** Community Lunch 11:30 AM @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak
01 **Tue** Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM
02 **Wed** Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM
02 **Wed** Wednesday Potluck Sandra McDonald 5:30 PM
03 **Thu** Shantideva Fan Club Chris Innes 9:30 AM
03 **Thu** Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM
03 **Thu** Policy Committee Tom Darnton 5:00 PM
03 **Thu** Meditation Workshop Elisabeth Treefon 5:30 PM
03 **Thu** Vocal Ensemble John Bailey 7:00 PM
04 **Fri** Facilities Committee Dave Hasted 10:00 AM
04 **Fri** Community Needs Jane Fochtman 10:30 AM
05 **Sat** InterPlay Workshop Lee Edwards 10:00 AM - 1:30 PM

06 **May** Big Screen TV Training Price Watts 9:00 AM
06 **Sun** **Sunday Service - Sarah Montgomery-Richards 10:30 AM**
06 **Sun** UUCGT Book Club Harriet Wall 2:00 PM
06 **Sun** Mindfulness Meditation (1st Sunday) 2:30 - 6:30 PM
07 **Mon** Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM
07 **Mon** Staff Resources Phyllis Jessup 2:00 PM
07 **Mon** UU Men's Group Dave Halsted Minerva's 5:30 PM
08 **Tue** Community Lunch 11:30 AM @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak
08 **Tue** Indivisible Speaker Moms Demand Action-Gun Reform 12 PM
08 **Tue** Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM
08 **Tue** Leadership Development Joe Cook 5:00 PM
08 **Tue** Finance Committee Mike McDonald 5:30 PM
09 **Wed** Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM
09 **Wed** Executive Committee Agenda Karl Love 1:00 PM
09 **Wed** Landscape Committee Lauren Keinath 2:30 PM
09 **Wed** Wednesday Supper / \$5 Sandra McDonald 5:30 PM
10 **Thu** Private Event - Harp Gathering Cindy Edmonson 9 AM - 6 PM
10 **Thu** Congregational Care Team Joanie Jackson/Pat Light 1:00 PM
10 **Thu** Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM
10 **Thu** Meditation Workshop Elisabeth Treefon 5:30 PM
10 **Thu** Vocal Ensemble John Bailey 7:00 PM
11 **Fri** Friday Night Out Sarah Montgomery Richards 5:30 - 9 PM

13 **Sun** Program Council Rick Walter 9:00 AM
13 **Sun** **Sunday Service - Rabbi Chava Bahle 10:30 AM**
13 **Sun** Mindfulness Meditation 5:00 - 7:00 P

14 **Mon** Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
14 **Mon** Indivisible GT, TC, Leelanau Meeting Rick Walter 5:30 PM
14 **Mon** UUCGT Board Meeting Karl Love 5:30 PM
14 **Tue** Community Lunch 11:30 AM @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak
15 **Tue** Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM
16 **Wed** Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM
16 **Wed** Lifespan Experience Sarah Montgomery Richards 12 PM
16 **Wed** Sunday Services Committee Gurian/Mangiardi 4:00 PM
16 **Wed** Membership Committee Chris & Rick Walter 4:15 PM
16 **Wed** Wednesday Potluck Sandra McDonald 5:30 PM
17 **Thu** Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM
17 **Thu** Meditation Workshop Elisabeth Treefon 5:30 PM
17 **Thu** Vocal Ensemble John Bailey 7:00 PM
19 **Sat** New Moon Women's Circle Contact Carolyn Kelly

20 **Sun** Congregation Budget & Candidate Review 9:00 AM
20 **Sun** **Sunday Service - Rabbi Chava Bahle 10:30 AM**
20 **Sun** Private Event - Piano Recital Becky Somsel 1:30 PM
20 **Sun** Mindfulness Meditation 5:00 - 7:00 PM
21 **Mon** Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM
21 **Mon** Committee on Ministry Chris Innes 2:00 PM
22 **Tue** Indivisible GT Rick Walter 11:30 AM
22 **Tue** Community Lunch 11:30 AM @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak
22 **Tue** Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM
23 **Wed** Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM
23 **Wed** No Wednesday Supper this week
23 **Thu** Congregational Care Team Jackson/Light 1:00 PM
24 **Thu** Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM
24 **Thu** Meditation Workshop Elisabeth Treefon 5:30 PM
24 **Thu** Vocal Ensemble John Bailey 7:00 PM

27 **Sun** **Sunday Service- Rabbi Chava Bahle 10:30 AM**
27 **Sun** Mindfulness Meditation 5:00 - 7:00 PM
28 **Mon** **Memorial Day - Office Closed**
29 **Tue** Indivisible GT Rick Walter 11:30 AM
29 **Tue** Community Lunch 11:30 AM @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak
29 **Tue** Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM
30 **Wed** Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM
30 **Wed** Wednesday Supper & Brewing Community @ Rare Bird 5:00pm
31 **Thu** Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM
31 **Thu** Meditation Workshop Elisabeth Treefon 5:30 PM
31 **Thu** Vocal Ensemble John Bailey 7:00 PM

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