



**Unitarian Universalist
Congregation
of Grand Traverse**

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Office Hours

Monday by appointment
Tuesday - Thursday: 9:00-4:00

Spiritual Leader

Rabbi Chava Bahle

rabbich@uucgt.org

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dle@uucgt.org

Director of Music

John Bailey

peracola@gmail.com

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bookie@uucgt.org

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Board of Trustees

Linda Fletcher, President

Phyllis Jessup, Vice-President

Kay Sturgeon, Treasurer

Gretchen Kronk, Trustee

Karl Love, Trustee

Don Pyne, Trustee

Donna Stein-Harris, Trustee

Sunday Services at 10:30 AM

www.uucgt.org

email: office@uucgt.org

NOVEMBER

Sunday Services

Living Into Covenantal Community

"We, the members of HUUMS, covenant to work together to create a more loving and just world around us. Grounded in the living tradition of Unitarian Universalism, we covenant to welcome difference among each other, work patiently through challenges that face us, support each other in heartache, share in each other's joy, and comfort each other in ambiguity. May we strive to extend these hallmarks of our membership to the larger HDS community and the world at large. Let our faith be expressed through our actions as well as our words."

- Harvard UU Ministry for Students

Sunday, November 6 – Rabbi Chava Bahle

9:00 AM Program: "From Our Covenant: Our History"

This morning we will consider how our personal religious and spiritual histories shape our approach to worship and community. We'll also share a little of UUCGT's history. Bring a story of your personal history (about 2 minutes) to share.

**10:30 AM Service: "Creating Peace This Election Week -
What UUs Can Learn from the Baha'is"**

The UU Baha'is say, "Baha'ism, often called the Baha'i faith, is a new religious movement started in the late 1800s by the spiritual teacher, Bahau'llah, an exiled Persian nobleman who devoted his life to proclaiming a universal message of peace, human rights, interfaith harmony, and ever-advancing global civilization."

We are also welcoming a MARVELOUS group of new members this day. Please come and meet your new fellow congregants and welcome them warmly.

Sunday, November 13 – Lay-led Service

No 9:00 AM Program

**10:30 AM Service: "Celebrating our UU Humanist Traditions on the Birthday of
Kurt Vonnegut – a well-known Humanist"**

Sunday, November 20 – Rabbi Chava Bahle

No 9:00 AM Program

**10:30 AM Service: "Fair Housing, Affordable Housing"
and our Annual Twin Lakes Congregational Feast**

On this day in 1962, President John F. Kennedy issued Executive Order 11063, which mandates an end to discrimination in housing. Join Rabbi Chava and members of our community who are young, working hard and do not have adequate housing. They will share their stories and help us understand what housing vulnerability means to young, working families. This will be a short service so we can skedaddle to Twin Lakes for the Congregation's Annual Thanksgiving Gathering!

BEACON Article Deadline:

No later than the 25th of the month
preceding the issue date

Stan Cain, Editor

(231) 938-1506
Send submissions to
beacon@uucgt.org

Sunday, November 27 – Rabbi Chava Bahle

UU Advent and Preparation – SAFE HARBOR WEEK BEGINS

No 9:00 AM Program

10:30 AM Service: “Learning to Let Be – A UU Hope for the First Sunday of Advent”

*“In this holiday season, may we find the patience to forgive ourselves; to forgive those who do not do as we wish; may we find patience. **May we find the wisdom to let be.**”* - David Breeden, UUA Worship Web

The four Sundays before Christmas are called Advent, a time of waiting. Traditionally, they are celebrated with candles lit for Hope, Love, Joy and Peace. This Sunday as our week of hosting Safe Harbor begins, come be with us as we honor the value of Hope. Also, as a community, with all of our diversity and ways of approaching the present and the future, how do we find the deep wisdom to simply ... let it be?

DECEMBER **Sunday Services**

“Like the cosmic dust following after a great Perseid meteor, we are the living remnants of time and all that has come to pass in its wake - briefly shining lights on the way to eternity. We are only visible to the naked eye for an instant. Take this moment to shine like the star dust you are. May the light of our time on earth shine to bless the world and each other. Shine. Shine. Shine.”

– Mary Edies <http://www.uua.org/worship/words/closing/shine>

Sunday, December 4 – Rabbi Chava Bahle

No 9:00 AM Teaching (Program Council meeting)

10:30 AM Service: “Radiating Boundless Love” - Bodhi Day

This week (December 8) marks an important day in the Buddhist tradition: Bodhi Day, the day the historical Buddha Siddhartha Gautama achieved enlightenment. Let's gather in peace and radiance for a time of sanity, quiet and reflection on the many lessons UUs can learn from Buddhism and on what "UU Enlightenment" might look like.

Sunday, December 11 – Rabbi Chava Bahle and John Bailey, UUCGT Music Director

9:00 AM Program: To be announced

10:30 AM Service: “Annual All Congregation, All Music Service”

Join UUCGT Music Director, John Bailey, Rabbi Bahle and members of the community in this beloved annual tradition of an all music service. Delight, reflect, sing along, come and enjoy your community as we head into the holidays.

Sunday, December 18 – Lay-led Service

10:30 AM Service: TBA

Sunday, December 24 – Christmas Eve at the State

6:00 PM Service

With our great and deepest thanks to Betsy Emdin and the good folks at the State Theatre, join us again for a truly welcoming, interfaith, family friendly, soothing Christmas Eve. Carols you know, stories to touch the heart and music to make the soul soar! Watch for more details.

Sunday, December 25 – Rabbi Chava Bahle

No 9:00 AM Program / No Religious Education

10:30 AM Service: “A Holiday Morning Reflection”

Come for a mellow Christmas morning's reflection at our last service of 2016. The service will be simple, resonant and sweet. We'll turn down the lights, kindle the menorah and enjoy the beauty of this day.

Announcements

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Annual UUCGT Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner!

Sunday, November 20 @ 12 Noon

Gilbert Lodge, Twin Lakes Park on N. Long Lake Road

Come & Enjoy the Fellowship of Family & Friends!

Turkey & smashed potatoes, coffee & apple juice provided
Bring: Casserole or dessert to share for 8-10 people
& your own place settings & beverage

Volunteers Needed

Tickets: Adults \$5 each / Children \$3 each / Family \$15

Stop by after Sunday Services
to buy tickets & volunteer!

Donated Dinners FUNdraiser!

The 2016-2017 Donated Dinners (and related activities) FUNdraiser event is scheduled to be held in conjunction with our annual Thanksgiving Dinner on November 20th. This fundraiser is always a popular way for the Congregation to raise some money, socialize, and enjoy lively conversations.

It's a fairly simple process: Let us know what type of dinner (or other event) that you are willing to donate; specify where it will be held (usually at the host's home); be as specific as possible with the proposed date; let us know the cost per person, and the number of guests you can accept. So, for example, "Beer and Brats Picnic on the deck, last Sunday in July, Hoffmann's house, 6-8 guests @ \$30 per person."

This year, besides having Pinkie and myself coordinate the event, our Membership Committee will be actively involved. We are specifically hoping to reach out to our newer congregational members. This is an easy, informal way to meet other congregants. We are now looking for hosts.

Questions or concerns? Please contact either [Pinkie and John Hoffmann](#) or [Chris Walter](#), Membership Committee chairperson by November 13th so posters can be available for the Thanksgiving Dinner on November 20th.

Thank you for your support - this is a fun event!

UU Book Club

We're nearing the end of our book club year. November 13 will be our last meeting for 2016. We are reading "*Circling the Sun*" by Paula McLain. Mark Gustafson will host the meeting and lead the discussion. The November 13th gathering (at our usual 2:00 p.m.) will be at 1111 Lake Ridge Drive. Make sure that you give Mark a call or send an email to let him know you are attending so he can have enough chairs ready. Mark can be reached at 929-9608 or cyberfools@gmail.com. At our October meeting, we chose books for 2017, and the list will be published in the December newsletter.

As always, newcomers are welcome! Just be sure to notify Mark that you plan to attend and then read the book. You don't have to have a speech prepared to share with the group, but do have some ideas of what you liked or didn't like about the book, and any ideas you may have about style, word usage, etc. We have some wonderful discussions!

Happy reading!

Karen Mars
karen.mars.tc@gmail.com



More Announcements

Brew Crew!

Join Rabbi Chava and the awesome folks who show up for coffee at Brew on Front Street (downtown TC)!

Friday, November 11
Friday, December 9
10:00 - 11:30 AM

Grab a cup of java and join in amazing free-range conversation. All are welcome!



Sanctuary Meditation - Rabbi Chava Bahle Thursdays at 9:00 AM - please note dates -

The emotional benefits of meditation can include: Gaining a new perspective on stressful situations, building skills to manage your stress, increasing self-awareness, focusing on the present, reducing negative emotions. (from the Mayo Clinic)

Weekly Meditation in November & December, except for the following dates: **11/24** (Thanksgiving Day); **12/1** (Safe Harbor hosting week); and **12/29** (Chava sanity).

Benzie UU Schedule

1st & 3rd Wednesdays - 6:30 PM

Michigan Shores, 641 Michigan Avenue, Frankfort

The Benzie County Unitarian Universalists look forward to our November programming.

November 2: An abbreviated program and an all-congregation meeting for a discussion of what we, as a group, want from our programs. What do we mean by 'sacred space'? What atmosphere is important to us? What elements of our order of service are best linked to the spiritual atmosphere some have suggested we lack? How can we improve the BCUU experience?

November 16: Stan Otto, a Benzie resident with international experience, will discuss the Islamic religion, "Islam, an Insider's View of the Religion of Peace."

Marty Litherland
litherlm@gvsu.edu

ALL ABOUT US

We hold in our hearts, those who are healing and improving...

Christie McGue, Gary Harris, Mercedes Kimling,
Lauren Keinath, Bill Wells and Karen Mars

We continue to be mindful of those in care...

Gene Rundell, Ron Yatich, Nancy Landfair and Carol Still

All would enjoy visitors, but call first if you can...

~~~~~  
**We, the Congregational Care Team** are looking for  
a few helpful volunteers to fill the freezer...  
(see following article)

**Judith Briggs**  
[jbriggs002@centurytel.net](mailto:jbriggs002@centurytel.net)

### Cooking Parties Coming Up !

The Congregational Care Team is planning a couple of Cooking Parties to prepare food that can be frozen, and later delivered to congregants who are ill, or otherwise homebound as needed. If you would like to help, please contact **Judith Briggs** at 228-4655.

#### 2 Cooking Party Dates are planned:

**Monday, November 14** 12 Noon – 5:00 PM  
**Thursday, November 17** 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM

If you can't make either of those dates, but would like to prepare a freezable dish at home that can be divided to single or double meals, please contact Judith at 228-4655. We hope to fill the freezer, but we can't overload it, or the kitchen freezer. Hoping you can help out!





# Rabbi's Reflection

## Covenantal and Committed Community

"The genius of our faith, the lifeblood of our faith, is that we honor the bonds of community more than the bonds of intellectual assent. We hold our relationships as more sacred than any system of belief. We make promises to one another about the ways we will be in relationship and the ways in which we will pursue our religious journey together. This is covenant."

Jeanne Harrison Nieuwejaar, "Fluent in Faith: A Unitarian Universalist Embrace of Religious Language"

Beloveds, in November we will explore what it means to live in committed and covenantal community. We are delighted that this will include opening the doors of our UUCGT home to our neighbors from Safe Harbor. If you haven't already signed up to help - if you can share anything from an hour to staying overnight - please come and live your commitment to our community by being part of this moment in our congregation's history - it is a first. Many thanks to Mike and Sandra McDonald for initiating this effort.

This month, as our Sunday Services explore committed and covenantal community, I invite you to consider what it means to live a covenantal life. Where are your promises and commitments? One of the root meanings of the word from which we derive the idea of covenant is "a friendly bond."

Our Buddhist cousins often speak of cultivating unconditional friendliness. My teacher, Pema Chodron, writes, "Developing unconditional friendship means taking the very scary step of getting to know yourself. It means being willing to look at yourself clearly and to stay with yourself when you want to shut down. It means keeping your heart open when you feel that what you see in yourself is just too embarrassing, too painful, too unpleasant, too hateful. The hallmark of this training in ... the bodhisattva path, is cultivating bravery."

It takes courage to live with ourselves in an open and honest way, and it takes great courage to do this in community. This month we will explore deeply what it means to live in community: by welcoming new members, by learning together, by launching two new small group ministries, by sharing food and by welcoming the larger community into our spiritual home.

As this month unfolds we give thanks - let us look around in awareness at our UUCGT home and praise what is good, what is working; let us praise our growth and friendships. And let us be brave enough to open our circles to new friends. Please surround our visitors with your love and warm welcome, and welcome our new members into your circles of caring.

One great way to do this is to come our annual Thanksgiving Feast. We are deeply grateful to Mary Kiner for her years of commitment to lead the effort to make this gathering happen, and we are deeply grateful to Victoria Gallup and Carol Ritter for stepping up and saying "YES! We will continue this beloved tradition." You see friends, there is much to celebrate and many opportunities to cultivate friendliness with friends old and new. That is committed community. **Join us in this good, emerging energy** - be part of the new energy of UUCGT and let us be blessed in it together.

- Love, Rabbi Chava

## Two Emerging Small Group Ministries Interplay & New Moon Women's Group

Friends, UUCGT is growing in its ability to offer small group ministries. What is a small group ministry? It is an activity that draws together our members and friends through shared interest, and allows us to be together in a smaller size group so we can really get to know one another, deepen our connections to each other, and also grow.

Beginning the first of the year, I am so proud and pleased to share the news of two emerging small group ministries: Interplay with Lee Edwards and a Women's New Moon Group monthly gathering with new member, Carolyn Kelly.

### INTERPLAY Transform Through Drama, Movement and Connection

InterPlay is a dramatic creative expression using storytelling, movement, sound, stillness, and contact to explore yourself, your life, and connection with others. The expression is spontaneous and self-created in-the-moment, using material from your own experience or your imagination, and can range from fun and playful, to profound and deep. It helps to free your body and your voice, deepen the connection with your creative self, and build awareness of the wisdom of your body, all while cultivating meaningful community connection. InterPlay is something that anybody can do - no acting or performance experience is necessary! The focus is on exploration, authenticity, and enjoyable personal and group expression - all you need is a willingness to engage. Expect to laugh, savor and relax & be surprised by what you can do! Join us for a joyful, creative, and transformative experience! Please email Lee Edwards to indicate your interest and get more details: [leeriver@umich.edu](mailto:leeriver@umich.edu)

### NEW MOON WOMEN'S GROUP with Carolyn Kelly and Rabbi Chava

Women gathering to celebrate the New Moon is an ancient custom, a time when we rest in the potential of the dark quiet of the new moon and consider the time ahead. This group is newly in formation and awaits your participation and input; each month we will take a topic, a short book or creative approach to some aspect of our inner and outer lives.

Since the group will meet in conjunction with the new moon, dates will vary based upon the lunar cycle. So possible gathering dates might be scheduled on these evenings:

Saturday, January 28; Sunday, February 26; Tuesday, March 28; Wednesday, April 26; Friday, May 26; and Saturday, June 24.

To express your interest, please contact Carolyn Kelly at [carolynk113@gmail.com](mailto:carolynk113@gmail.com)

# UUA and Denominational News from Rabbi Chava

## Social Witness Denomination News

Please Save the Dates!

Wednesday, November 9

On November 9th, Wednesday Supper will be followed by a showing of the Ken Burns and Artemis Joukowsky documentary, *Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War*, about Waitstill and Martha Sharp, husband and wife UUs, who risked their lives to rescue people from the Holocaust.

The film's showing will take place on Kristallnacht, which according to the U.S. Holocaust Museum literally means, "Night of Crystal," or the "Night of Broken Glass." The name refers to the wave of violent anti-Jewish pogroms which took place on November 9 and 10, 1938. This wave of violence took place throughout Germany, annexed Austria, and in areas of the Sudetenland in Czechoslovakia, recently occupied by German troops.

## A Common Read

Sunday, February 12

The Rev. Dr. William Barber's Moral Mondays movement is growing nationwide. Learn more about its history and future in *The Third Reconstruction: Moral Mondays, Fusion Politics, and the Rise of a New Justice Movement*, which was just selected as the 2016- 2017 UUA Common Read.

A Common Read invites participants to read and discuss the same book over a given period of time. A Common Read can build community in our congregations and our movement by giving diverse people a shared experience, shared language, and a basis for deep, meaningful conversations. Each year's Common Read is chosen by a committee including both headquarters and field staff of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Anyone may nominate a book.

Please join Rabbi Chava Bahle on **Sunday, February 12, 2017** - the anniversary of the date the NAACP was founded - for an assigned potluck brunch in the social hall.

## UUCGT Little Spiritual Book Group – Almost Monthly at 12 Noon

The Little Spiritual Book Group meets in our sanctuary just about monthly at 12 Noon to talk about books that help us on the journey. Here's what we have coming up!

### POST ELECTION SEASON HEALING

**Thursday, November 10:** *"Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal, and Delight in Our Busy Lives"* by Wayne Muller

**Monday, December 12:** *"The Art of Forgiveness, Lovingkindness and Peace"* by Jack Kornfield

**January, 2017: No meeting**

**Sunday, February 12:** *"The Third Reconstruction: Moral Mondays, Fusion Politics, and the Rise of a New Justice Movement"* by the Rev. Dr. William Barber II and Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove (Beacon, 2016).

Special meeting in conjunction with the UUA program, A Common Read with Potluck Brunch following the service.

This book has been chosen as the 2016-17 Unitarian Universalist Common Read.

Here's what the UUA writes about *"The Third Reconstruction"*:

"Unitarian Universalists were electrified at General Assembly 2016 by Rev. Barber's call for building and sustaining a movement for justice for all people. The Common Read selection committee believes that this is a moment for Unitarian Universalists to answer that call.

*The Third Reconstruction* offers helpful, practical guidance for engaging with justice movements born in response to local experiences of larger injustices. Drawing on the prophetic traditions of the Jewish and Christian scriptures, while making room for other sources of truth, the book challenges us to ground our justice work in moral dissent, even when there is no reasonable expectation of political success, and to do the hard work of coalition building in a society that is fractured and polarized."

**Monday, March 6:** *"The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World"* by the Dalai Lama, Desmond Tutu and Douglas Carlton Abrams

**Biv'rachot / In Blessing -  
Rabbi Chava**

# From the President

## A Message from the Board...

Much is happening at the UUCGT this autumn. There is a crispness in the air and a general sense of enthusiasm and joy in our midst as we settle in for this beautiful season. What a blessing it is to share this harvest time together.

I am happy to announce that we have appointed a new Trustee to occupy the vacancy on our Board. Donna Stein-Harris has accepted the appointment which was effective as of the Board vote on October 17th. Donna's brief resume is posted below:

Donna Stein-Harris enjoyed a 48-year career in communications and public education focusing on health and safety.

Her last position before retirement was Director of Safe Communities America for the National Safety Council. It was the U.S. arm of the International Safe Communities initiative and accreditation program of the World Health Organization. As envisioned by Donna and her colleagues worldwide, the goal was to encourage all sectors of communities to work together regarding all aspects of safety. She worked with municipalities, healthcare systems, public safety, chambers of commerce, park districts, public education and universities, and advocacy groups all over the world.

Prior to that, she worked for and with a number of healthcare organizations, including her own company, on health and safety issues using a variety of public education and multimedia vehicles.

Originally from Chicago, Donna is enjoying her retirement in Traverse City with her husband, Gary. "I can't imagine living anywhere else right

now," Donna said, and "What an extraordinary bonus to find the UU congregation. I am honored to serve on the Board of Trustees."

A hearty welcome to you, Donna!  
I look forward to working with you in serving this extraordinary congregation.



On another note, I would like to post some reflections on Rabbi Chava's teaching from the pulpit on October 16th.

Her focus was on the acceptance of diversity and her words were profound. She spoke not only of the importance of accepting diversity, but of how growth emanates from doing so. She also addressed the importance of accepting divergences in opinion under our own roof.

As she spoke, I was reminded of the portion of our service in which we welcome all who wish to join us. Irrespective of color, creed, sexual preference ... we welcome you. No matter if you are a theist, atheist, agnostic, pantheist or anything in between, we welcome you. No matter who you are or where you have been ... we welcome you.

This congregation of rugged individualists, who are also inquisitive and challenging intellectuals, thrives on diversity ... on seeing, being and doing things differently on an individual and collective basis. We know no boundaries regarding our probing for what is right ... whether it be in politics, science, belief systems or the lack thereof, etc.

So, it seems only reasonable to expect that there will be more than one opinion

under our UU roof regarding many aspects of our practice. And there are many opinions! Let us accept and honor our differences, embrace the diversity and respect the divergent perspectives that will hopefully always be a part of this group of questioning seekers.

Using our covenant as our rules of conduct, we can navigate any turbulence born of divergent opinions and grow together in love and respect for each other as well as for our many ways of perceiving how best to grow in community and in spirit. Covenantal communications and behaviors will lead to gentle integration of diversity.

Thank you again for the honor and pleasure of serving this congregation of extraordinary human beings as we seek spiritual growth together.

Peace in your hearts,

**Linda Fletcher**  
[linfletch@gmail.com](mailto:linfletch@gmail.com)  
**President, UUCGT Board of Trustees**

P.S. Please don't forget to sign up for the Thanksgiving Potluck Feast to be held on November 20th at the Twin Lakes Lodge! Plan on attending, and more volunteers are needed for set up, clean up and turkey cooking. (Contact Victoria Gallup for more information). This long standing UUCGT tradition is a celebration not only of our bounty of food and shelter ... it is also a celebration of the abundance of love in and among our congregants.

How very blessed we are!!



## ***Lifespan Experience***

**Greetings Friends,**

Last month, I offered you a window into some of my studies for the Interfaith Action M.A. program which has been an incredibly rewarding (and challenging) experience. This month I return to offering some thoughts on what's ahead in November here at UUCGT.

As an entire congregation, we will be considering the theme of "Covenantal Community" in the month of November. There are some wonderful Sunday Services planned, and it is joyous that we will be celebrating our annual Thanksgiving Potluck in this month focused on community. In our Sunday classes for children and youth, we'll be considering community as well through such activities as creating classroom covenants and learning about ways to work together in the world. Our youth will also be presenting a lesson that they have created for the younger children that offers themes such as "being yourself" and "acceptance". Additionally, the 9:00 AM Adult Lifespan Experience Educational Opportunities with Rabbi Chava have been considering the covenant – these 9:00 AM classes are a wonderful way to enhance your consideration of this topic.

Don't forget that we are looking to honor a "Child/Youth of the Month" with a program that we introduced in the beginning of October. This program is designed to help us not only get to know the children/youth of our congregation better, but also to acknowledge just how amazing our UU children and youth are. If you are a parent or grandparent interested in your child participating in the program, please let me know so that I might send you the details.

We are still looking for additional volunteers to fill a variety of openings while I am away from the congregation following the birth of our daughter in December. Please let me know if you think you may be able to assist – even if it's just one Sunday! Every little bit helps.

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

In Peace,

**Sarah Montgomery-Richards**  
**Director of Lifespan Experience**  
[dle@uucgt.org](mailto:dle@uucgt.org)

## **FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

**As of September 30, 2016**  
**(25% of fiscal year)**

|                                     | <b>Current Year</b> |              | <b>Prior Year</b> |              |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|
| <b>Budgeted Income Received YTD</b> | <b>\$ 94,700</b>    | <b>34.6%</b> | <b>\$ 97,053</b>  | <b>30.3%</b> |
| <b>Budgeted Expenses Paid YTD</b>   | <b>\$ 60,474</b>    | <b>22.3%</b> | <b>\$ 73,349</b>  | <b>22.9%</b> |
| <b>"For Those in Need" YTD</b>      | <b>\$ 3,336</b>     |              | <b>\$ 5,330</b>   |              |

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 are continuing to do well year-to-date, which is normal in that some of our pledges are paid in full for the year in July (or before). 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](mailto:m_mcdonald@charter.net)), or to other members of the Finance Committee.



## Membership News

### UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP EVENTS

#### **New Member Welcome Service - November 6**

We look forward to welcoming 12 New Members!

We are also grateful for our Fellowship Friends who will stand with them. Please show the friendliness of our congregation by introducing yourself during Fellowship time after the service.

### Mark your Calendars and Let Others Know

#### **January 29, 2017 - 11:45 AM - 12:45 PM**

Orientation for Prospective Members, sanctuary

#### **February 12, 2017 - 10:00 AM - 10:15 AM**

15 Minutes with Rabbi Chava

Please RSVP 947-3117

#### **February 26, 2017 - 10:30 AM Sunday Service**

New Member Welcome Service

**Chris and Rick Walter**

**Co-Chairs, Membership Team**

[chris9709@sbcglobal.net](mailto:chris9709@sbcglobal.net) or 989-430-4776

[rick9709@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rick9709@sbcglobal.net) or 989-430-5174

## NOVEMBER

### **A THANKFUL Month and your Congregation is very Thankful for the entire Membership Team —**

Sherry Davis, John and Pinkie Hoffmann, Sue Pyne, Charlotte Shea, 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.

### **GREETER OPPORTUNITIES**

It's easy! Just sign up on the bulletin board near the office or call coordinator, Charlotte Shea, 883-9357. Greet just one Sunday, or sign up for a regular or semi-regular shift.

### **Yellow Mugs**

Please honor the message we all hear every Sunday - If you have a yellow mug, our Congregation members and friends will warmly welcome you and talk with you!!

## Program Council News

## NOVEMBER

The UUCGT Program Council is comprised of committee chairs or co-chairs, or their designees. All are welcome to attend our meetings. On October 16th, 2016 thirteen of us gathered for an excellent discussion on a variety of topics.

Minutes of the September 18th meeting were approved and will be archived in the Program Council folder on the UUCGT Computer System.

**Sunday Morning Coffee** - A sign-up sheet was placed on the inside of the coffee cup cupboard in the kitchen. Most weeks are covered, however if anyone wants to relieve the volunteers that do this on a regular basis, please sign up for a Sunday and let the person scheduled for that week know you will be filling in for them. This job involves making the coffee, providing some nutritious snacks and cleaning up after the social time.

**Thanksgiving Potluck** is on schedule for November 20th at the Twin Lakes Lodge. Get your tickets (\$5.00) and plan on bringing a dish to pass for 8 people.

UUCGT sponsored showing of the film, "Defying the Nazis" planned for November 9, 2016. Stay tuned for more information about time and location.

Committees represented summarized their monthly accomplishments. UUCGT is in good hands, but we can always use more hands to make our community better. The Congregational Care Team is providing meals to 2 families and could use additional help.

Our next meeting is December 4th at 9:00 AM. Please come or contact one of us if you have a topic you would like us to discuss.

**A BIG THANK YOU** to all the volunteers who help with committees and functions of the UUCGT. YOU are all are greatly appreciated!

**Richard Walter**

**Program Council Coordinator**

[rick9709@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rick9709@sbcglobal.net)

989-430-5174

# Social Justice and Action

We all know the Ten Commandments even though many of us do not consider them every day. But we are all aware, I am sure. Are there any candidates who fill the bill of following them? Of course, we must ask, do any of us? Do I? Do you? Who follows them? Let's consider them, one by one, with their modern interpretations. Please accept my shortened version of the Commandments. Thanks.

1- Thou shall not have any other *God* before thee, because I am your *God*. Are we humble, accepting suggestions, ideas from others, knowing that we alone cannot know or do everything? Do we respect a higher power, listen carefully with our ears and feelings for assistance, help, or guidance? Do we respect that *being* with true feeling and submission?

2- Thou shall not make any idols. There is only one and are we it or are there others that represent *him* today on earth? Do we judge other peoples and their revelations of *God* and his true meaning for them? Can we accept them as pure and true as our own?

3- Thou shall not take his name in vain. That means we cannot impersonate him in any way by name, actions, or feelings of power. Are we submissive and admitting a higher power than ourselves?

4- We shall remember the Sabbath and make it Holy. Do we respect any day, time, custom, ritual that represents the beauty and everlasting nature of our universe and the peoples and customs inhabiting it?

5- Honor thy Father and thy Mother? Do we honor all the representations of our own father and mother as we respect and honor others' parents, using kind words, assistance and help in daily needs and wants, as well as their spiritual reflections and memories?

6- Thou shall not murder. This means murder not just by sword or gunfire, but also the slow tortuous murder that today seems so prevalent. Murder by depriving the feelings of self worth through constant degradation of the spirit, name-calling and ridicule. Murder by deprivation of necessary food, clothing, substantial shelter, equal and various quality educational opportunities, worthwhile employment, safety from harm, affordable and quality health care, respect for privacy and the individual variations of all peoples. Murder by constant harassment and threats of deportation. Who strives for these hallmarks of our humanity?

7- Thou shall not commit adultery. This refers not just to the sexual act, but the thoughts and sometimes not so private looks, words and insinuations.

8- Thou shall not steal. Do we give adherence to the fact that all desire some things to hold dear and to have possessions without our judging them? Do we encourage others to keep and to hold what belongs to them, fairly earned in our societies' acceptable methods and not steal them with over taxation? Do we vow to pay our fair share of taxes so our country can protect us all, and no one has a free ride, but all paying according to their real ability

without taking advantage of being in power and setting rules that favor one group over another?

9- Thou shall not bear false witness. Do we all tell the truth to the best of our ability or do we distort the truth so as to lay blame and falsely accuse in order to instigate distrust and unnecessary conflict? Do we do this purposely for self-gain?

10- Thou shall not covet. Do we accept, honor, and even admire the gifts and abilities of others, realizing that if we all work together, we can raise the quality of our culture and the livelihood of all in our country and better the world? Or, do we fall back on jealousy and self-hate because we realize at some point that we alone cannot do it all, as maybe we had promised, and that revelation makes us angry and hateful?

Hmm, what more can I say? Thanks for reading this...

**Emmy Lou Cholak**  
[sjatcmi@gmail.com](mailto:sjatcmi@gmail.com)

(These interpretations of today's commandments naturally followed after reading a chapter in the book, *Minyan: Ten Principles for Living a Life of Integrity* by Rami Shapiro.)

(Continued from back page)

## December 2016

|    |     |                                           |                                     |                   |
|----|-----|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 01 | Thu | Morning Meditation                        | Rabbi Chava Bahle                   | 9:00-9:30 AM      |
| 01 | Thu | Congregational Care Team                  | Pat Light                           | 1:00 PM           |
| 01 | Thu | Safe Harbor                               | Mike McDonald                       | 5:00 PM           |
| 02 | Fri | Facilities Committee                      | Dave Halsted                        | 10:00 AM          |
| 02 | Fri | Safe Harbor                               | Mike McDonald                       | 5:00 PM           |
| 03 | Sat | Safe Harbor Ends                          | Mike McDonald                       | 8:00 AM           |
|    |     |                                           |                                     |                   |
| 04 | Sun | Program Council                           | Rick Walter                         | 9:00-10:00 AM     |
| 04 | Sun | <b>Sunday Service - Rabbi Chava Bahle</b> | <b>10:30 AM</b>                     |                   |
| 04 | Sun | Mindfulness Meditation                    | Fleda Brown                         | 2:30-6:30 PM      |
| 04 | Sun | LGBTQ Support Group                       | Rebekah Fuller                      | 5:00 PM           |
| 05 | Mon | Stretch & Strengthen                      | Judith Briggs                       | 11:00 AM          |
| 05 | Mon | UU Men's Group                            | Dave Halsted                        | Minerva's 5:30 PM |
| 06 | Tue | Community Lunch                           | 12 noon @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak |                   |
| 06 | Tue | Bridge Group                              | Paul Christ                         | 1:00 PM           |
| 06 | Tue | Safe Harbor Meeting                       | Mike McDonald                       | 5:00 PM           |
| 07 | Wed | Stretch & Strengthen                      | Judith Briggs                       | 11:00 AM          |
| 07 | Wed | Sunday Services Committee                 | Hal Gurian                          | 1:00 PM           |

|    |     |                                           |                                     |                |
|----|-----|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| 07 | Wed | Wednesday Potluck                         | Sandra McDonald                     | 5:30 PM        |
| 07 | Wed | International Folk Dances                 | Richard Fidler                      | 7:00 PM        |
| 08 | Thu | Morning Meditation                        | Rabbi Chava                         | 9:00-9:30 AM   |
| 08 | Thu | Peacemakers Needleworkers                 |                                     | 1:30 PM        |
| 08 | Thu | Brewing Community                         | John Hoffmann                       | Rare Bird 5:00 |
| 08 | Thu | Vocal Ensemble                            | John Bailey                         | 7:00 PM        |
| 09 | Fri | Friday Night Out                          | Sarah Montgomery-Richards           | 5:30-9:00 PM   |
|    |     |                                           |                                     |                |
| 11 | Sun | <b>Program TBA - Rabbi Chava Bahle</b>    | <b>9:00-10:00 AM</b>                |                |
| 11 | Sun | <b>Sunday Service - Rabbi Chava Bahle</b> | <b>10:30 AM</b>                     |                |
| 11 | Sun | UU Book Club                              | Karen Mars                          | TBA 2:00 PM    |
| 11 | Sun | LGBTQ Support Group                       | Rebekah Fuller                      | 5:00 PM        |
| 11 | Sun | Mindfulness Meditation                    | Fleda Brown                         | 5:00-7:00 PM   |
| 12 | Mon | Stretch & Strengthen                      | Judith Briggs                       | 11:00 AM       |
| 13 | Tue | Community Lunch                           | 12 noon @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak |                |
| 13 | Tue | Bridge Group                              | Paul Christ                         | 1:00 PM        |
| 13 | Tue | Staff Resources Committee                 | Karl Love                           | 1:00 PM        |
| 13 | Tue | Finance Committee                         | Mike McDonald                       | 5:30 PM        |
| 14 | Wed | Stretch & Strengthen                      | Judith Briggs                       | 11:00 AM       |

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## the BEACON

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

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November, 2016

### Calendar

All events and programs take place at UUCGT unless otherwise noted and are open to everyone.

#### November 2016

01 Tue Community Lunch 12 noon @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak  
01 Tue Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM  
02 Wed Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM  
02 Wed Sunday Services Committee Hal Gurian 1:00 PM  
02 Wed Wednesday Potluck Sandra McDonald 5:30 PM  
02 Wed International Folk Dances Richard Fidler 7:00 PM  
03 Thu Morning Meditation Rabbi Chava 9:00-9:30 AM  
03 Thu Congregational Care Team Pat Light 1:00 PM  
03 Thu Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM  
03 Thu Vocal Ensemble John Bailey 7:00 PM  
04 Fri Facilities Committee Dave Halsted 10:00 AM

06 Sun Program: "Our History" Rabbi Chava Bahle 9:00-10:00 AM  
06 Sun New Member Service - Rabbi Chava Bahle 10:30 AM  
06 Sun Mindfulness Meditation (1st Sunday) Fleda Brown 2:30-6:30 PM  
06 Sun LGBTQ Support Group Rebekah Fuller 5:00 PM  
07 Mon Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM  
07 Mon Staff Resources Karl Love 1:00 PM  
07 Mon UU Men's Group Dave Halsted Minerva's 5:30 PM  
08 Tue Community Lunch 12 noon @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak  
08 Tue Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM  
08 Tue Finance Committee Mike McDonald 5:30 PM  
09 Wed Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM  
09 Wed Board Executive Committee Linda Fletcher 1:00 PM  
09 Wed Wednesday Supper - \$5 donation Sandra McDonald 5:30 PM  
09 Wed Film: "Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War" 7:00-9:00 PM  
09 Wed International Folk Dances Richard Fidler 7:00 PM  
10 Thu Morning Meditation Rabbi Chava 9:00-9:30 AM  
10 Thu Little Spiritual Book Lunch Rabbi Chava 12:00 PM  
10 Thu Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM  
10 Thu Brewing Community @ The Workshop John Hoffmann 5:00 PM  
10 Thu Vocal Ensemble John Bailey 7:00 PM  
11 Fri Brew Crew @ Brew Café Rabbi Chava Bahle 10:00-11:30 AM  
11 Fri Friday Night Out Sarah Montgomery-Richards 5:30-9:00 PM

13 Sun Sunday Service - Lay-led Service 10:30 AM  
13 Sun UU Book Club Mark Gustafson 2:00-4:00 PM  
13 Sun LGBTQ Support Group Rebekah Fuller 5:00 PM  
13 Sun Mindfulness Meditation Fleda Brown 5:00-7:00 PM  
14 Mon Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM  
14 Mon Cooking Party for CC Team Judith Briggs noon-5:00 PM

14 Mon UUCGT Board Meeting 5:30 PM  
15 Tue Community Lunch 12 noon @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak  
15 Tue Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM  
15 Tue Pledge Team Mike McDonald 2:00 PM  
15 Tue Safe Harbor Committee Mike McDonald 5:00 PM  
16 Wed Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM  
16 Wed Leadership Development Tom Darnton 4:30 PM  
16 Wed Wednesday Potluck Sandra McDonald 5:30 PM  
16 Wed International Folk Dances Richard Fidler 7:00 PM  
17 Thu Cooking Party for CC Team Judith Briggs 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM  
17 Thu Morning Meditation Rabbi Chava 9:00-9:30 AM  
17 Thu Congregational Care Team Pat Light 1:00 PM  
17 Thu Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM  
17 Thu Vocal Ensemble John Bailey 7:00 PM  
  
20 Sun Sunday Service - Rabbi Chava Bahle 10:30 AM  
20 Sun Thanksgiving Dinner @ Twin Lakes Gilbert Lodge - Noon  
20 Sun LGBTQ Support Group Rebekah Fuller 5:00 PM  
20 Sun Mindfulness Meditation Fleda Brown 5:00-7:00 PM  
21 Mon Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM  
22 Tue Community Lunch 12 noon @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak  
22 Tue Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM  
23 Wed Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM  
23 Wed Wednesday Supper - \$5 donation Sandra McDonald 5:30 PM  
23 Wed International Folk Dances Richard Fidler 7:00 PM  
24 Thu Happy Thanksgiving!  
26 Sat Safe Harbor begins through 12/3/16 Mike McDonald 5:00 PM  
  
27 Sun Sunday Service - Rabbi Chava Bahle 10:30 AM  
27 Sun Safe Harbor Mike McDonald 5:00 PM  
28 Mon Committee on Ministry 2:30 PM  
28 Mon Safe Harbor Mike McDonald 5:00 PM  
22 Tue Community Lunch 12 noon @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak  
29 Tue Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM  
29 Tue Safe Harbor Mike McDonald 5:00 PM  
30 Wed CUUPS Sarah Montgomery-Richards Blue Tractor 12:30 PM  
30 Wed Safe Harbor Mike McDonald 5:00 PM  
30 Wed Wednesday Supper Out - TBA Sandra McDonald 5:30 PM

(Calendar continues on page 10)