



**Unitarian Universalist
Congregation
of Grand Traverse**

6726 Center Road
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office@uucgt.org
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www.uucgt.org

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

Spiritual Leader
Rabbi Chava Bahle
rabbih@uucgt.org

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

Director of Music
John Bailey
peracola@gmail.com

Business Administrator
Sheri Novak
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Office Administrator
Susan Sherman
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Board of Trustees

Linda Fletcher, President
Phyllis Jessup, Vice-President
Karl Love, Secretary
Kay Sturgeon, Treasurer
Gretchen Kronk, Trustee
Don Pyne, Trustee
Donna Stein-Harris, Trustee

UUCGT Board Meeting

Monday, December 19 @ 5:30 pm
All are Welcome!

Sunday Services at 10:30 AM

www.uucgt.org

email: office@uucgt.org

**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 Program (UUCGT 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

9:00 AM Program: "UU, Jewish, Buddhist Theology: Gleanings from School"

10:30 AM Service: "Annual All Music, All Congregation Service"

Join 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

No 9:00 AM Program

10:30 AM Service: "Poetry...from the Deeply Reflective to the Limerick"

This service will feature poetry written by and/or read by members of the congregation. All kinds of poems are welcome.

Have you written a poem that you would like to read during the service?

Would you like to share a poem you have written, but prefer that someone else read it?

Would you like to read one of your favorite poems?

We will also include a component on the Winter Solstice, so poems on that topic would serve a dual purpose. To be included as part of this congregation-led service, contact Margaret Wozniak at wozniak64@yahoo.com, or call 231-882-0435. The deadline for submission is Saturday, December 10th.

Saturday, December 24 – 3rd Annual Christmas Eve at the State!

5:00 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!

This is a free-ticketed event. Watch for more details in the Flash!

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, December 25 – Rabbi Chava Bahle

No 9:00 AM Program

10:30 AM Service (No Programming for Children & Youth or Nursery available this Sunday)

“Christmas Day and Hanukkah - 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.

JANUARY **Sunday Services**

Nonviolent Community

*“The ultimate measure of a [hu]man
is not where [s]he stands in moments of comfort and convenience,
but where [s]he stands at times of challenge and controversy.”*

~ Martin Luther King, Jr.

Sunday, January 1 – Lay-led Service

No 9:00 AM Program

10:30 AM Service (No Programming for Children & Youth or Nursery available this Sunday)

“Embracing a New Year”

*“We light this chalice on the brink of a new year,
Letting go of what has been,
Open and hopeful for what may come,
Renewed, restored, ready,
To live Life fully anew,
May we move forward with intention.”*

~ Lois Van Leer

Sunday, January 8 – Rabbi Chava Bahle

9:00 AM Program: “Preparing for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day”

10:30 AM Service: “Nonviolent Communication and Safe Congregation”

Today we will celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr.'s central ideal of ahimsa, nonviolence. Dorna Djenab writes, “The essence of ahimsa is non-violence of our own heart. The violence we inflict on each other is only the outward manifestation of the war raging inside ourselves and it is only by stopping the war within that we can stop the war without.”

As UUs, how can we more deeply commit to ahimsa? This service will also honor and help members of the congregation understand the work of the Safe Congregation Response Team.

Sunday, January 15 – Lay-led Service

No 9:00 AM Program

10:30 AM Service: A presentation by Members of the Area Council on Religious Diversity (ACORD)

Sunday, January 22 – Rabbi Chava Bahle

9:00 AM Program: “Resolutions and Sacred Promises - Is a Covenant a Vow to Each Other?”

10:30 AM Service: “Swearing In: Post Inauguration”

This Sunday, the day after a new President of the United States is sworn in, we will explore our congregation's commitments to living the sacred promises of participation in democracy, civil disobedience and creative protest.

Sunday, January 29 – Rabbi Chava Bahle

9:00 AM Program: “Skills of Peacemaking Hidden in Our Congregation Covenant”

10:30 AM All Congregation Service: “A Congregation of Peace Makers”

In this all congregation service, we will explore the basic idea of what it means to be peacemakers. What is peacemaking built upon beyond good intentions?



Rabbi's Reflection

We Have a Purpose

*We affirm that love is our greatest purpose.
Accepting one another is the truest form of faithful living.
The search for truth is our constant star.
We pledge our hearts, minds, and hands:
To challenge injustice with courage;
To find hope in times of fear;
And to live out our Unitarian Universalist values every day as a beloved community.
Thus do we covenant with each other and with all that is sacred in life.*

~ Jay E. Abernathy, Jr.

Beloved Community,

As the days grow shorter and we kindle fires to warm us, light candles to guide us and bundle up to enjoy the clear darkness of winter nights, this season calls us to turn inward a bit. I know this is a countercultural notion – that we are called to look inward during the busy holiday social and economic season.

Nonetheless, the inward exploration is a vital part of the work we do as a community: What is in my heart? What are my deepest values? What has greatest meaning to me? One purpose of having a congregation is to have community with whom to explore this, safely and deeply.

Only when we are grounded (or at least grounded explorers) in our inner work, can we do the work of peace making. Only then can we build the relationships with each other that will sustain us emotionally and in our work for social justice. For me, reactivity seems most likely when I am too rushed to tune into the wisdom of the heart, which always moves at a different pace, than, say, Facebook!

I was recently encouraged when I read this sentence for my interreligious dialogue class:

“A strong spiritual intuition makes us sure about one thing: the humble monk, the poor rabbi, the unassuming Buddhist bhikkhuni, the transparent Hindu sannyasi, and the authentic Muslim fakir will never fight. *They can only enlarge peace on earth.*” [1]

I don't think this applies only to clergy – it applies to all of us. When we begin in humility, recognizing our shared humanity, we are called to live in harmony.

I also read this, which I share with you as my aspirational intent:

A good teacher who embodies lovingkindness, compassion, sympathetic joy, and equanimity will surely operate with his or her students in a generous spirit of deep listening and selfless action, and will be open to feedback, willing to challenge the status quo.

- Daniel Clarkson Fisher, “*The Teacher Racket*”

As a congregation of social witness, we are further called to translate this inner work to our relationships with the broader community; this will surely be much of our focus in the upcoming year and beyond, but for now, as days grow brief, let's feel invited into a countercultural move. Let's use this time nearing the Winter Solstice to turn inward and strengthen the qualities that will see us through the outer work: humility, compassion, expanded identification and love. In this way, we become part of enlarging peace on earth and loving kindness to all. Love is our reason for being.

We have a purpose.

**In Blessing,
Rabbi Chava Bahle**

[1] Mohammad Ali Shomali and William Skudlarek. *Monks and Muslims: Monastic Spirituality in Dialogue with Islam* (p. 8)

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! You are welcome to bring lunch or munchies to share.

Monday, December 12: *“The Art of Forgiveness, Loving-kindness 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 Rev. Dr. William Barber II and Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove (Beacon, 2016). This will be a special gathering in conjunction with the UUA program, A Common Read, with a 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**

Announcements

Local Community Needs News – Fall 2016

\$2350 was given to local charities this quarter through your donations to the “those in need” side of the basket.

UUCGT was a Table Sponsor for the recent Empty Bowls fundraiser which supports Food Rescue, a Goodwill program that picks up fresh food from local grocery stores and restaurants and delivers it to food pantries in our five county area. Pamphlets about our congregation were on the table informing diners about who we are.

We learned that the Laundry Project is at risk for closure due to low funds, so \$500 was given which funds one month of free laundry.

UUCGT will hosts Safe harbor this year. \$600 was provided to cover costs of meals and paper products.

\$1000 was given to help people with heating assistance this winter. We gave \$500 to the Commission on Aging Senior Support Program, which assists senior citizens who are unable

to pay their heat bill. \$500 was also given to the Northwest Michigan Community Action Emergency Energy Assistance Fund. This program assists people of all ages who need heat assistance.

The Women's Resource Center contacted us about their holiday needs. They identified various ways to help - You may adopt a family and shop for items on their wish list; donate gift cards to retailers such as Target or Meijer; donate Visa cards; volunteer to help out during the gift drop off and pick up; or make a cash donation. Contact Kelly Fitzpatrick at kfitzpatrick@wrcgt.com, or 941-1210, ext. 109 for more information.

Contact any Local Community Needs member with donation requests: Shari Cope, Joan Sheard, Karl Kristen, Chris Walter ([donation request form here](#))

Thank you all for your kindness.

Liz Bruning
bruningpl@charter.net

More Announcements

BREW CREW

Moves to Horizon Books - Lower Level

Join Rabbi Chava and the awesome folks who show up for coffee! Now meeting at Horizon Books (lower level) on Front Street (downtown TC)!

10:00 - 11:30 AM

Friday, December 9

Friday, January 13

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



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. Inter-Play 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

SANCTUARY MEDITATION

Thursdays at 9:00 AM

Friends, Rabbi Chava is asking for a lay-leader / partner to co-lead this weekly program of silent meditation.

"Meditation reduces stress...
It improves concentration...
It encourages a healthy lifestyle...
The practice increases self-awareness...
It increases happiness...
Meditation increases acceptance...
It slows aging."

- from the Huffington Post

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

NEW MOON WOMEN'S GROUP

with Carolyn Kelly & 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.

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

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

GREEN SANCTUARY Hosts Free Film Event

Monday, December 12 @ 7:00 PM

Green Sanctuary, Citizen's Climate Lobby & TC350

Co-host the film, "Years of Living Dangerously"

Free Event

Contact Mary Van Valin for more information

CHRISTMAS EVE AT THE STATE!

Saturday, December 24

Doors Open at 5:00 PM

Service Begins at 5:30 PM

Join us for our 3rd Annual Celebration of community and diversity at the State Theatre!

Music, Stories and Inspiration with some traditional touches and a powerful message of creating beloved community across our boundaries. This one hour service welcomes people of all ages!

This is a free-ticketed event. Pick up your tickets at the State Theatre Box Office!

UUA and Denominational News from Rabbi Chava

Standing with Standing Rock

On Thursday, November 3, over 500 clergy – including over 50 Unitarian Universalist clergy – answered the call to come to Standing Rock in solidarity, prayer, and action with the Standing Rock Sioux Nation and the water protectors. The goal of the peaceful interfaith witness was to increase awareness of the situation and to advocate for elected officials to take action to end construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL).

The Minnesota UU Social Justice Alliance, the Rev. Karen Van Fossan, minister of the Bismarck-Mandan Unitarian Universalist Congregation, and her congregation have been working to support the water protectors at Standing Rock.

The Rev. Peter Morales, president of the Unitarian Universalist Association, joined clergy, lay people, and protectors from many faith traditions to stand in solidarity with the Standing Rock Sioux Nation. Morales said in a statement:

"We join other faith groups and native tribes to support the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe as they oppose the construction of this dangerous pipeline. I am proud to see that Unitarian Universalists in the region are already joining the protests. But I know that more is urgently needed. I urge you to join the effort to bear public witness to the injustice in North Dakota and add your voice to oppose the Dakota Access Pipeline."

Stay Connected with UUs at the site via

<https://www.facebook.com/UUatSacredStoneCamp/?fref=ts>

On the US Presidential Election from Rev. Peter Morales, President of the UUA

Rev. Peter Morales, president of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), offered the following pastoral message as he reflects on the election:

"The election is finally over. Most of us are shocked, even horrified, by the results. We live in a nation whose deep divisions have been exposed. The wounds of this election will not heal soon. Many of us are emotionally exhausted and deeply

offended by what we have experienced. This is a time to take a deep breath and a long view. Our role as religious progressives committed to democracy, compassion and human dignity is to help bend our culture toward justice. Think of issues like marriage equality and civil rights. The laws change when attitudes change. Our role is to help change attitudes, to lead by example.

Fear, anger, racism and xenophobia have created fertile ground for demagogues. Our voice is going to matter in the coming years. Our role, as always, will be to be a powerful voice for compassion and civil rights. Perhaps, at times, we may even be called upon to join with others to resist flagrant injustice.

For now, let us reflect and draw strength from one another. Together we can recover. Together we can shape the future."

Save the Date!

UUA Regional Assembly 2017

April 28-30, 2017

**Oak Brook Marriott, Oak Brook, Illinois
(Chicago area)**

UUA Keynote Speaker will be Rev. Dr. Lee Barker, President and Professor of Ministry at Meadville-Lombard Theological School! Rev. Dr. Barker's topic will be: "To Multi-faith: A Verb"

Unitarian Universalism is perfectly situated to promote constructive multi-faith engagement for increased understanding and enhanced harmony. Success will depend on a new understanding of what it means to "be engaged." We'll also have a forum with the UUA Presidential candidates.

Find ways for your congregation to put its faith in action. Ways to join with other faith communities or community groups to improve something in your locality. Share what you have learned about working with partners.

Plan now to join Rabbi Chava on this journey!!

Biv'rachot / In Blessing

UU Benzie News Wednesday, December 7

"Embrace Our Aging"

Jan Robb will facilitate the program

Some thoughts to ponder:

We age at different rates;

If you survive one disease you get another;

What are the gains of getting older?;

All things have some risk, but don't stop doing them;

Die young at an old age.

Share with us what you have learned about aging.

From the President

A Message from the Board....

The cold weather was a long time coming, but when it did arrive it came in with a vengeance that left the Old Mission Peninsula without power for several hours. As a result, the services scheduled for Sunday 11/20 were cancelled. But.....the annual Thanksgiving Potluck Feast took it all in stride and was a great success! In spite of the icy roads and parking lots there was still power... and therefore heat, etc....at the Twin Lakes Lodge, and 93 people turned out to enjoy great food and each other. It was a fabulous celebration with a musical blessing from our choir, led by John Bailey. The spread was delicious and abundant and the food parade was led by MaryAnn Force's gorgeous and delicious turkey which she, our church founder, proceeded to expertly carve with an electric knife.

Aside from the Thanksgiving celebration, much else has gone on this month. Your Board of Trustees met and several actions were agreed upon. The slate for the Policy Committee was approved and consists of 2 trustees, Don Pyne and Gretchen Kronk, and three members from the general congregation Judy Myers, Tom Darnton and Price Watts.

Many thanks to all who have volunteered to serve on this very important committee.

A few other important positions were also approved. Amanda Mangiardi was approved as co-chair of the Sunday Services Committee, and Jim Linsell was approved to serve on the Committee on Ministry.

Although our exact course is yet to be determined, the Board engaged in some significant discussion regarding how we might best organize our congregation to become a community leader in championing human rights issues. This important topic will be revisited at the December meeting.

We, the officers and trustees, encourage each and every one of you to attend our Board meetings. This is the place where most of the major decisions are made regarding the governance of our congregation. Your knowledge of our plans and actions as well as the process that forms them leads to better communication and increased understanding and acceptance of the decisions that are made by us in your behalf. We meet the third Monday of the month at 5:30 PM and we target meetings for 2 hours or less.

That said, should you decide to attend the December Board meeting please don't expect to see me there. In fact, I will be absent most of the month of December as I will be involved in marriage and honeymoon activities.

So, Phyllis Jessup, our Vice President, will be chairing the December meeting. Thank you, Phyllis!

May your holiday season be filled with love and laughter shared with family and friends, and may your connections with this congregation serve to enrich your experience of love and peace during this time and for your days to come.

Peace in your hearts,

Linda

Linda Fletcher
linfletch@gmail.com
President, UUCGT Board of Trustees

Next UUCGT Board Meeting:
Monday, December 19 @ 5:30 PM

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

As of October 31, 2016
(33.3% of fiscal year)

	<u>Current Year</u>		<u>Prior Year</u>	
Budgeted Income Received YTD	\$114,689	41.9%	\$112,332	35.0%
Budgeted Expenses Paid YTD	\$ 81,196	30.0%	\$ 98,605	30.1%
"For Those in Need" YTD	\$ 5,316		\$ 6,792	

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) or to other members of the Finance Committee.



Lifespan Experience

2nd Annual Heifer Tree!

Greetings Friends,

There are lots of great things coming up in December, and we are really excited to share them all with you! In our Sunday classes for children we will be focusing on the various holiday traditions that mark the season – this is a fun time of year that the children always seem to enjoy.

Important notes about holiday services in December & January

So that our staff is able to celebrate with their families, and so that children and youth are offered the opportunity to share the joy of the season with their parents, there will be no children or youth program as well as no nursery on Sunday, 12/25 and Sunday, 1/1. Please see Rabbi Chava or myself with questions.

Let's get ready for the All-Music Holiday Service December 11th!

This special service offers many opportunities for all ages to play an active role! There are some really fun selections for the children this year, as always.

For Deck the Halls, the children will be singing the first verse alone, and the congregation and VE will join in the remaining verses. For "Twelve Days of Christmas", children will hold up cards with the various gifts and declare what they are, while the VE will sing the chorus. In order to start preparing with your children, here are some fun YouTube links featuring The Muppets singing these songs with lyrics on the screen:

Deck the Halls

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=59vYmNaSTJk>

Twelve Days of Christmas

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iFoBUp2hUQ0>

Children will also have the opportunity to ring hand bells as part of a special carol, arranged by our very own Director of Music, John Bailey!

We are excited to announce that we will once again be organizing a Heifer Tree during the month of December. This year, our children have set a very lofty goal - \$1,500 to donate a "Joy to the World" basket. The Joy to the World gift basket includes two sheep, four goats, one heifer and two llamas. Your donation will also fund training on the animals' feeding and care.

HOW OUR "HEIFER TREE" WORKS

Each Sunday starting 12/4, there will be a tree in the UUCGT Lobby with paper animals on it. These animals each have a dollar amount. Select your animal(s) and write a check to UUCGT with "Heifer" in the memo. Put the animal(s) and your check in the Business Administrator's mailbox in the office. After 12/25 we will send all the money collected to Heifer, in the hopes of donating a "Joy to the World" basket. Feel free to select a holiday donation card from the table by the tree. Use these cards to send to your friends and family if you would like to turn your donation into a sustainable gift.

Brewing Community is on 12/22 ONLY this month – See you at Rare Bird Brewery from 5:00 - 7:00 pm! Contact John Hoffmann with questions!

Your Director of Lifespan Experience is going to be out of the office starting sometime this month!

I will be taking time off from my work at UUCGT to bring something awesome into this world! The congregation will be notified when I officially begin my time out of the office following the birth of our daughter. After that date, all concerns related to Lifespan Experience should be routed to Marco Cabrera at dedy-bear@gmail.com or his cell, 231-715-8757. Marco, as part of the Lifespan Experience Committee, will be working with the committee to coordinate Lifespan Experience programming.

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

UUCGT Winter Solstice Celebration

Tuesday, December 20, 6:00 PM

Our UUCGT Winter Solstice Celebration will be held on Tuesday, December 20, at 6:00 PM. All who are interested in celebrating Yule and Winter Solstice are welcome to attend this family-friendly evening of joy and merriment! The celebration will be followed by a potluck. Bring yourself, your loved ones and your little ones! Childcare will be provided for children who are too young to participate.

If you can stay for the potluck, please bring a dish to pass and your own place settings. Wine will be provided for \$2/glass, or bring another beverage if you wish. Contact Sarah with questions – dle@uucgt.org.





Membership News

Yellow Mugs

Please honor the message we hear every Sunday...if a person has a yellow mug during fellowship time after service, our Congregation members and friends will warmly welcome and talk with our guests!

DECEMBER

More Crispness in the air, and finally Snowflakes too. Season's Greetings from 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.

MUCH JOY Filled the Morning of November 6!

UUCGT welcomed 12 new members, introduced by their volunteer Fellowship Friends. In the coming months please introduce yourselves to our newest members and get acquainted. They are listed here along with their Fellowship Friends who will help them become integrated into our congregation.

**Barbara Conley and Gerald (Jerry) Schatz / Hal Gurian;
Mark Dragovich / John Hoffmann;
Rebekah Fuller / Jane Watts;
Carolyn Kelly / Sherry Davis;
Jim Linsell / Anne Hughes;
Kat Norman and Keith Anderson / Ellie Smith and
Charles Brackett; Geoff Norman-Anderson (15 year old
Associate Member, full membership at age 16);
Lynnette Rhodes / Linda Fletcher;
Izzy and Mike Semrau / Sandra and Mike McDonald;
Liz Swartzmiller / Pinkie and John Hoffmann**

A Very Warm Welcome to all!

FELLOWSHIP FRIENDS

Join the growing number of members who volunteer as **Fellowship Friends** to answer questions, invite to UUCGT events, guide, and help integrate our newest members. Contact the Office: office@uucgt.org or Chris Walter, chris9709@sbcglobal.net to volunteer.

Mark your Calendars and Let Others Know

Orientation for Prospective Members:

January 29, 2017, 11:45 am - 12:45 pm, Sanctuary

15 Minutes with Rabbi Chava:

February 12, 2017, 10:00 am

Chava's Office, please RSVP to 947-3117

New Member Welcome Service:

February 26, 2017

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.

Spotlight on New Members

Barbara Conley and Gerald (Jerry) Schatz joined our congregation on Sunday, November 6. Jerry has been attending UUCGT for some time and Barbara when she is able. They reside in Northport, although Barbara is still commuting from the East coast where she works as a physician researcher. Jerry is a retired lawyer, ethicist and policy analyst. He definitely stays involved in his areas of expertise volunteering as a mediator, Bioethics policy advocate and Bioethics faculty at the Edmund D. Pellegrino Center for Clinical Bioethics, Georgetown University Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

In warm weather Barbara enjoys sailing and gardening, and her winter activities here in northwest Michigan remain to be determined. She has attended UU River Road in Bethesda, MD where Jerry was a member, and until recently Barbara was a member of the Society of Friends Red Cedar, Lansing. She appreciates UUCGT's sincerity, values and actions and hopes to draw strength from the congregation, but also contribute to our work in the area of social justice.

Jerry enjoys sailing in the summer and photography in all seasons. Favorite books or films generally focus on history or biography. As a long-time UU he hopes to have found a religious home. Jerry has already become a member of the Congregational Care Team and wants to get involved in denominational affairs.

Welcome Barb and Jerry! We are glad you are with us!

We hope to Spotlight more New AND Current Members as soon as New Members fill out and turn in their Bio Sheets and Member Interest Surveys. *Hint! Hint!* We will begin interviewing current members so that we can all learn more about each other.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS from your Membership Team!

Chris and Rick Walter

Co-Chairs, Membership Team

chris9709@sbcglobal.net or 989-430-4776

rick9709@sbcglobal.net or 989-430-5174

Program Council News

DECEMBER

The Program Council did not meet in November due to the Thanksgiving Feast, Thanksgiving holiday and UUCGT sponsorship of Safe Harbor Guests. Our next meeting will be December 4th at 9:00 AM before the 10:30 service. Anyone interested in visiting is welcome.

The Thanksgiving Feast was a well attended gathering of 93 members, friends and family members. The food was excellent - thanks to all who brought one or several dishes to pass. Extra thanks to those who prepared the turkeys and smashed potatoes. Above all, thanks go out to Victoria Gallup and Carol Ritter who stepped up and coordinated this great gathering of UUCGT Families.

Richard Walter
Program Council Coordinator
rick9709@sbcglobal.net

Safe Harbor - Wow, Thanks and Blessings!

*It has been our joy and pleasure to welcome guests from
Safe Harbor to the UU this week!*

The building has been buzzing, and that feels alive!

We want to thank ALL the volunteers who made this happen, and especially Mike and Sandra McDonald for their vision, for encouraging us to say "Yes we can!", and for their extraordinary hands-on expertise that has guided us.

Thank you one and all, including our 30+ guests!

Link to Safe Harbor Dropbox photos here: <http://bit.ly/2fPJpLn>
(Thank you Charles Brackett!)



*One Group of Many Cooking Crew Volunteers
Tuesday Evening Chili Supper
UU Men's Group*

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

the BEACON

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

Volume 53, Issue 12

December, 2016

Calendar

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

December 2016

- | | | | | |
|----|-----|---|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 01 | Thu | Congregational Care Team | Pat Light | 1:00 PM 3:00 PM |
| 01 | Thu | Safe Harbor | Mike McDonald | 5:00 PM |
| 02 | Fri | Death Cafe Workshop | Donna Stein-Harris | 10:00AM-12:00PM |
| 02 | Fri | Facilities Committee | Dave Halsted | 10:00 AM 11:30 AM |
| 03 | Sat | Safe Harbor Ends | Mike McDonald | 8:00 AM |
| 03 | Sat | Holiday Tree Trimming | Hal Gurian | 3:00 PM 4:30 PM |
| 04 | Sun | Program Council | Rick Walter | 9:00 AM 10:00 AM |
| 04 | Sun | Sunday Service - Rabbi Chava Bahle | 10:30 AM | |
| 04 | Sun | Mindfulness Meditation | Fleda Brown | 2:30 PM 6:30 PM |
| 04 | Sun | LGBTQ Support Group | Rebekah Fuller | 5:00 PM 6:30 PM |
| 05 | Mon | Stretch & Strengthen | Judith Briggs | 11:00 AM 12:00 PM |
| 05 | Mon | UU Men's Group | Dave Halsted Minerva's | 5:30 PM 7:30 PM |
| 06 | Tue | Community Lunch | 12 noon @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak | |
| 06 | Tue | Bridge Group | Paul Christ | 1:00 PM 4:30 PM |
| 06 | Tue | Safe Harbor Recap Meeting | Mike McDonald | 5:00PM |
| 07 | Wed | Stretch & Strengthen | Judith Briggs | 11:00 AM 12:00 PM |
| 07 | Wed | Sunday Services Committee | Hal Gurian | 4:00 PM 5:30 PM |
| 07 | Wed | Wednesday Potluck Supper | Sandra McDonald | 5:30 PM |
| 07 | Wed | International Folk Dances | Richard Fidler | 7:00 PM 9:00 PM |
| 08 | Thu | Sanctuary Meditation | Rabbi Chava | 9:00 AM 9:30 AM |
| 08 | Thu | Peacemakers Needleworkers | | 1:30 PM 3:30 PM |
| 08 | Thu | Impromptu Orchestra | John Bailey | 6:00 PM 7:00 PM |
| 08 | Thu | Vocal Ensemble | John Bailey | 7:00 PM 8:30 PM |
| 09 | Fri | Brew Crew | Rabbi Chava | Horizon Books 10:00-11:30 AM |
| 09 | Fri | Friday Night Out | Sarah Montgomery-Richards | 5:30 - 9:00 PM |
| 11 | Sun | Impromptu Orchestra | John Bailey | 9:15 AM 10:00 AM |
| 11 | Sun | Sunday Service - All Music, All Congregation | 10:30 AM | |
| 11 | Sun | LGBTQ Support Group | Rebekah Fuller | 5:00 PM 6:30 PM |
| 11 | Sun | Mindfulness Meditation | Fleda Brown | 5:00 PM 7:00 PM |
| 12 | Mon | Stretch & Strengthen | Judith Briggs | 11:00 AM 12:00 PM |
| 12 | Mon | Little Spiritual Book Lunch | Rabbi Chava | 12:00 PM 1:00 PM |
| 12 | Mon | Staff Resources | Karl Love | 1:00 PM 2:00 PM |
| 13 | Tue | Community Lunch | 12 noon @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak | |
| 13 | Tue | Bridge Group | Paul Christ | 1:00 PM 4:30 PM |
| 13 | Tue | Finance Committee | Mike McDonald | 5:30 PM 7:00 PM |
| 14 | Wed | Stretch & Strengthen | Judith Briggs | 11:00 AM 12:00 PM |
| 14 | Wed | Lifespan Experience | Sarah Montgomery-Richards | 12-1:00 PM |
| 14 | Wed | Board Officers Meeting | Linda Fletcher | 1:00 PM 2:30 PM |
| 14 | Wed | Special Holiday Potluck! | Sandra McDonald | 5:30 PM |
| 14 | Wed | International Folk Dances | Richard Fidler | 7:00 PM 9:00 PM |
| 15 | Thu | Sanctuary Meditation | Rabbi Chava | 9:00 AM 9:30 AM |
| 15 | Thu | Congregational Care Team | Pat Light | 1:00 PM 3:00 PM |
| 15 | Thu | Peacemakers Needleworkers | | 1:30 PM 3:30 PM |
| 15 | Thu | Vocal Ensemble | John Bailey | 7:00 PM 8:30 PM |
| 18 | Sun | Sunday Service - Lay-led service | 10:30 | |
| 18 | Sun | LGBTQ Support Group | Rebekah Fuller | 5:00 PM 6:30 PM |
| 18 | Sun | Mindfulness Meditation | Fleda Brown | 5:00 PM 7:00 PM |
| 19 | Mon | Stretch & Strengthen | Judith Briggs | 11:00 AM 12:00 PM |
| 19 | Mon | UUCGT Board Meeting | | 5:30 PM 7:30 PM |
| 20 | Tue | Community Lunch | 12 noon @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak | |
| 20 | Tue | Bridge Group | Paul Christ | 1:00 PM 4:30 PM |
| 20 | Tue | Winter Solstice Celebration & Potluck | Sarah | 6:00PM |
| 21 | Wed | Stretch & Strengthen | Judith Briggs | 11:00 AM 12:00 PM |
| 21 | Wed | Leadership Development | Tom Darnton | 4:30 PM 6:00 PM |
| 21 | Wed | International Folk Dances | Richard Fidler | 7:00 PM 9:00 PM |
| 22 | Thu | Sanctuary Meditation | Rabbi Chava | 9:00 AM 9:30 AM |
| 22 | Thu | Peacemakers Needleworkers | | 1:30 PM 3:30 PM |
| 22 | Thu | Brewing Community | John Hoffmann | Rare Bird 5-7:30 PM |
| 22 | Thu | Vocal Ensemble | John Bailey | 7:00 PM 8:30 PM |
| 24 | Sat | Christmas Eve at the State | Rabbi Chava Bahle | 6-7:30 PM |
| 25 | Sun | Sunday Service - Rabbi Chava Bahle | 10:30 AM | |
| 27 | Tue | Community Lunch | 12 noon @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak | |
| 27 | Tue | Bridge Group | Paul Christ | 1:00 PM 4:30 PM |
| 28 | Wed | Stretch & Strengthen | Judith Briggs | 11:00 AM 12:00 PM |
| 28 | Wed | CUUPS | Sarah Montgomery-Richards | Blue Tractor 12:30 PM |
| 28 | Wed | International Folk Dances | Richard Fidler | 7:00 PM 9:00 PM |
| 29 | Thu | Sanctuary Meditation | Lay-led | 9:00 AM 9:30 AM |
| 29 | Thu | Peacemakers Needleworkers | | 1:30 PM 3:30 PM |
| 29 | Thu | Vocal Ensemble | John Bailey | 7:00 PM 8:30 PM |