



- the Beacon -



Sunday Services at 10:30 AM
www.uucgt.org
Email: office@uucgt.org

Volume 3

March 2021



March Services



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Grand Traverse

6726 Center Road
Traverse City, MI 49686-1802
231-947-3117
UUCGT Office is closed un-
til further notice. Email
office@uucgt.org
231.947.3117

Minister

Rev. Cathy Harrington
revharrington@mac.com

Director of Music

Renée Herman Russell
musicatuuuugt@gmail.com

Religious Education

Betsy Hammerberg
dre@uucgt.org

Adult Education

Alison Earnst
awa2write@gmail.com

Office Administrator and Bookkeeper

Guy William Molnar
office@uucgt.org

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2020-2021

Mary Anne Rivers	President
Tom Darnton	Vice Pres.
Barb Termaat	Secretary
Karl Keinath	Treasurer
Pam Hendrick	Trustee
David Hassing	Trustee
Judy Myers	Trustee

Board Meeting
Wednesday, March 10
7:00 PM

3/7 Rev. Cathy Harrison
Coordinator: Margaret Wozniak

The Gifts of the Crows

Our relationship with crows is revealed in art, language, legends, and myths tracing their influence to our earliest human ancestors, thousands of years. "Gifts of the crow are physical, metaphorical, and far-reaching." ~ John Marzluff, author of *The Gifts of the Crow*.

Testimonial Geoff Norman-Anderson - geoff.normananderson@gmail.com

3/14 Rev. Cathy Harrison
Coordinator: Misty Sheehan

Loved Into Being

Susan Frederick Gray stewardship sermon Faith in Unitarian Universalism isn't an intellectual exercise: it's "heart" work. This full-length worship experience features a sermon by UUA President Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, as well as vibrant music, storytelling, and other worship elements that will help us to grow in spirit, in courage, and in generosity. Join us for this Stewardship Adventure.

Stewardship Testimonial: March 14 - Erin Nolan - erin.anne.nolan@gmail.com

3/21 Rev. Cathy Harrison
Coordinator: Andi Kramer

New Beginnings; Reaching

We will have fun with a Garrison Keiller skit.
Celebration Sunday (end of the Stewardship Campaign)

3/28 Lay led Service
Coordinator: Margaret Wozniak
Guest: Kerry Baughman

Poverty

This service focuses on the work done by the **Northwest Michigan Community Action Agency**. The Agency serves 10 counties in our area. The presentation will be made by the Agency's Executive Director, Kerry Baughman.



Don't miss this lay led service March 28! Guests from Northwest Michigan Community Action Agency will talk to us about how our contributions help their agency reach those in need.

Membership Committee is offering Zoom Assistance!

We have UU members who would be willing to come to your home and help you get set up with zoom so you can attend and participate with our UU community.

Please call or send an email to Chris Lautz 860-884-7741 or
email chrislautz7777@gmail.com.

Beacon editor: Amanda Mangiardi 610-417-0730

Please send submissions to jomangiardi@hotmail.com by the 24th of the month



MINISTERIAL SEARCH TEAM



As a congregation, we often express our desire to attract young families in order to sustain our beloved faith community for years to come.

We say we want to grow. Does that make us what Reverend Dr. Fred Wooden calls a “**Vampire church**” because we seek *new blood*?

Or would we fit Wooden’s category of a “**Frankenstein church**”, one that hopes getting all the right parts sewn together – building, program, a new minister - will allow it to come to life?

Wooden also describes “**Zombie churches**” – those that everyone knows are dead except those in them; and “**Mummy churches**”- so wrapped in their past they cannot move. Those most certainly cannot be us!

So what, exactly, are we?

“The UU faith exists to free the mind, grow the soul, and change the world.”

Wooden confessed that he believes in liberal religion more than the liberal church and concluded after 30 years of trying to grow the church, that maybe his ministry was *not to grow the church but to grow the faith*.

He believes the UU faith exists to free the mind, grow the soul, and change the world.

As we met with candidates for UUCGT settled ministry, we have asked them to share their thoughts about how we might grow.

Interestingly, most of the responses we heard were in terms of getting the message of our liberal religion out to the community at large. Perhaps that means that propagation of our principles can organically lead to growth!

May it be so, and may we get the help we need to make it happen.

Jan Zerbel—Ministerial Search Team

The ministerial search team is getting to know our pre-candidates better on a deeper, more personal level.

We have studied their written records, had initial interviews with them, observed their videos, and are continuing to have conversations with colleagues and supervisors about them.

Meeting more casually with these dedicated, aspiring individuals and exchanging more detailed information is next, and that will help us get to know whether we can be each other's cup of tea.

Keep checking the *Flash* for updates. It won't be long now. Put the tea kettle on!

Mary, Geoff, Charles, Dusty, Jim, Chris, Jan





Stewardship Team March 2021



The 2021 - 2022 Stewardship Team has been meeting since early November 2020. We had a successful end of year campaign that resulted in an additional \$13,300 being added to the 2020-2021 general fund or the Community Needs side of the basket.

We developed a beautiful new Brochure describing our New Beginnings at UUCGT, who we are and our mission and goals. This was sent to all members the 1st week of February and copies were also sent electronically to all members, friends and interested individuals.

Thanks to all who have returned their pledge forms already. In the 1st two weeks of our 2021 - 2022 pledge drive, we have received pledges from 40 pledging units for a total of \$104,904. This is a little over 1/3 the \$300,000 we will need to maintain our current and expanded programs. We hope to have all pledge forms returned by Celebration Sunday March 21st.

PROGRAM COUNCIL



Program Council Beacon for March



The Program Council met February 12, 2021 with 8 members attending. The minutes of the January Meeting were approved and sent to the board.

- The UUCGT 2021 - 2022 Pledge Drive kick-off is Sunday 2/14/2021. As shown in the Beautiful Brochure developed by the Stewardship Team and Mary Anne Rivers' grand-Daughter, the GOAL this year is \$300,000 in Pledges.
- The LDC has a full slate of candidates for the 2021 - 2022 year. Reverend Cathy will facilitate a 6 week Leadership development workshop called "**Harvest the Power**". She is currently offering "**Starting Points**" for potential and current members which lasts for 3 weeks.
- Community Needs sent out 3 checks of \$500 each to Food Rescue, Meals on Wheels and the Women's Resource Center.
- Endowment: At their January 20th Zoom meeting the committee scheduled a disbursement of \$2,100.00 from our Vanguard Investment Fund. It is divided into three equal parts as determined by our By-laws: \$700 to those in need, \$700 for the current Search Fund, \$700 for the physical building to be used for window washing.
- Renee Russel, our Music Director...
 - has a goal of having a hymn each week
 - is hopeful about transitioning to "in-person" soon
 - Has been talking to other choirs to discuss collaboration; Social Justice Choir (Grand Rapids) may be a possibility as a collaborative partner. It would be great to have community collaboration. Renee is talking to TC sings but they are busy with their own projects.
- Emmy Lou reported on a variety of activities and funding ideas for the Social Justice Action Committee



With finally having national adult leadership, many things are getting under control. But we must still remain vigilant and be sure to support those issues that are dear to us. Everyone has their own special project, and I respect and am pleased that we have so many varied interests in our congregation. Let me hear from you about your passion, and let's see together what we can do to further that cause.

One dear to me is voting rights, and I am horrified at the attempts to remove that right from groups deemed by some, as potentially disagreeing with them. Our differences are what make us think, and compromise, and come up with new solutions. Stamping out our differences, refusing to hear them, makes life un-stimulating and dull. More next month.

“Our differences are what make us think, and compromise, and come up with new solutions. Stamping out our differences, refusing to hear them, makes life un-stimulating and dull.”

Another passion, which I think many of you share, is gun rights and protection from gun intimidation. That is not how it is marketed. It is how I feel it. That intimidation was visible at our recent County Board of Commissioners public meeting, when one Commissioner brandished a rifle at the face of a person questioning the sanctioning of the “Proud Boys.”

There were petitions in the *Flash* for us to sign if agreed, on banning open-carry guns at the State Capital. Many of us wrote we also wanted to ban

concealed weapons carried at the Capital. The open carry ban passed but not the concealed weapon carry.

How do you feel when you see a person with a gun slung over his shoulder or in a holster at his belt? How do you feel if you do not see that but wonder about the bulge under his, or her, arm, or hip? And add to that some rough talk or threatening gestures? But that is characterizing someone that would be intimidating just by his or her behavior. Many can carry a concealed weapon and do it respectfully. But do you want that option available by private application? Want them to be able to carry wherever they go?

Should guns be in schools, colleges? Do you want to see armed police in schools? I was shocked one time in returning to my home city, walking into my own high school and being met by an armed man in uniform! Have we come to that? Is that how we solve this issue? Is that helping to calm or escalating the issue?

After several horrific school shootings, there was talk of arming teachers, principal's office, etc. Is that what we want? Unfortunately, some hoax propagators got into those stories trying to masquerade them as a Hollywood stunt saying it didn't really happen, etc. The horror of that to families who lost their children is forever damaging to all of us! That is a blight on our whole society as we try to grapple with the reality of increase in gun violence.

There are many organizations that are fighting for reality and sensible gun laws.

(continued next page)





Social Justice (continued)

One important gun law is making the owner of the gun responsible if the weapon is misused. In my thinking, if the owner does not lock up his or her gun, separate ammunition under a different lock system; and then the gun is removed, used to harm or even kill someone, the owner should also be liable for that assault. The owners of lethal weapons are responsible for assuring they are used with caution and correctly according to law. Not all states have such laws.

If you want to sign now to petition for No Guns on Campuses go here:

https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/i-oppose-guns-on-college-campuses-2?gclid=EAlalQobChMIxvOhm6mD7wIVRMvICh1tbgl1EAAAYASAAEgIRK_D_BwE

Another active web page is Moms Demand Action:

<https://momsdemandaction.org/>

Here is a petition for the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act;

https://act.everytown.org/sign/GFJIP_2021_House/?source=mdno_join_page_action&refcode=mdno_join_page_action&utm_source=mdno_join_page_action&utm_medium=o&utm_campaign=join_page_action

There will be a meeting of the Social Justice Action team after services on Sunday, March 14. Here is the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83555920435>

Thank you and remain safe and well!

Emmy Lou Cholak, sjatcmi@gmail.com



Wednesday Potluck Supper



The Wednesday dinner group has tried to stay connected these past months, socially distanced picnicking in the UU parking lot when we could, on ZOOM when it was rainy. We are going to weekly ZOOM now, 5:30 every Wednesday. If you would like to join us, contact Mike and Sandra McDonald for the ZOOM invite. You may bring your own glass of wine.



OUR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

We have been having some discussions in our religious education program. We have talked about:

- How love can grow or spread.
- How our UU faith believes that all people have goodness in them and that we are called or asked to act and expand our love in as many ways of kindness we can.
- How we can share our loving kindness through various acts of kindness.

Religious Education
Betsy Hammerberg
dre@uucgt.org



Congregational Care



The stormy March has come at last,
With winds and clouds and changing skies;
I hear the rushing of the blast,
That through the snowy valley flies.
—from “March” by William C. Bryant



At least in our part of the country, March often deserves its negative reputation, and Bryant’s images show why. March makes us wait—for spring, for sunshine and warmth, for the return of greenery and flowers. We’re impatient. We’re tired. This March, because of the losses, illness, and isolation brought about by Covid, the need for connection and comfort is even greater.

The Congregational Care Team’s mission is to give hope and support to those in our UUCGT who, because of too many gray skies, (whether literal or figurative) need a little sunshine in their lives. Please let us know if you know of someone who could use our care. And don’t be afraid to ask for help if *you* need it.

It’s great that many in our congregation, too, are continuing to reach out to those who could use a virtual hug or a friendly note.

You may want to send a card or note to Carolyn Thompson who had cancer surgery on February 17th. Her address is :

Carolyn Thompson
1900 Richard Jones Road, X-!O
Nashville, TN. 37215-2938

Millie Putz: Congregational Care Team



THE BEACON

Interested in submitting something for publication in the **Beacon**?

Please send all submissions to Amanda Mangiardi

by the 24th of the month.

Let me know if you have any questions!

jomangiardi@hotmail.com. 610-417-0730



SUNDAY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Friends, your Sunday Services Committee needs new members!

If you are interested in helping our Minister design and deliver wonderful services for our congregation, or if you have questions, please contact co-chairs:

Amanda Mangiardi, 610-417-0730 - jomangiardi@hotmail.com

Pam Hendrick, 609-674-6993 - pamela.hendrick@stockton.edu



Music Corner

This month, the music program has been focusing on returning our beloved Vocal Ensemble to be a regular part of our Sunday service. Our dedicated group works diligently each week to learn new music and record themselves at home.

We meet each Thursday via zoom to continue to nurture and strengthen our voices and to rehearse the many hymns and anthems that help to bring our services alive. New voices are always welcome to drop in for community building and voice training.

One of the silver linings of our zoom services is that it has allowed me to learn how to create and edit videos and to pre-record all the parts of the songs that the vocal ensemble sings, so you do not need to know how to read music to join us.

I plan to continue this process even after we return to in-person gathering so there will always be alternative ways to access singing in our choir.

The new website I've created (located on my personal webpage) is there to help walk new folks through each step of the at-home recording process and to access fun and informational materials for growing your voice. You can visit the webpage at <https://www.reneerussell.com/virtual-ensemble>.

I am also happy to help small groups and soloists create content at home, or record safely in our sanctuary, to be shared in our services. Contact me any time to learn how the process works.

As the warm weather returns I hope to be able to find outdoor ways for us to gather and share music as our congregation slowly becomes vaccinated and to begin to build collaborative music experiences within our community. There is much to be thankful for as hints of spring sing their way through our windows.

Director of Music
Renée Herman Russell
musicatuucgt@gmail.com



UU ORIGINAL VOICES

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Grand Traverse
Volume 4 February 2021

Our creative writing workshops continue. Please click on the link to see our current newsletter:

[UU Original Voices Vol 4](#)

If you are interested in learning more, please contact Alison. Her contact information is:

Adult Education
Alison Earnst
awa2write@gmail.com



ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Reverend Cathy is preparing to offer a six-week leadership development workshop beginning in March called ***Harvest the Power***.

This is a workshop designed to strengthen leadership skills while offering intentional faith development that will help form integrated leaders who model healthy personal and leadership practices.

This workshop addresses the stresses and opportunities Unitarian Universalists are facing in this time of rapid change in our world by offering frameworks and strategies to help leaders engage with congregational conflict as a way to grow in capacity to respond faithfully and live out the congregation's mission and values in the world.

There is a limit of 10 participants and there is no fee. There will be a planning meeting after church on March 7th to determine the days and times that will work best for the group. The workshop will:

- Encourage congregations and participants to view holding a leadership position as an opportunity to enrich and deepen the leader's faith
- Deepen participants' understanding of covenant and the practice of keeping covenant within the leadership team and in the congregation
- Guide leaders to center relationships as a faithful practice, thinking of the congregation as a "we" rather than a collection of individuals
- Lead participants to develop an understanding of the importance of personal spiritual practice and integrity to healthy leadership
- Guide participants to consider which voices and perspectives were marginalized in the past and need to be part of congregational or leadership decision-making
- Introduce systems thinking, and provide some practice with exploring congregational issues through a systems lens
- Encourage participants to consider that conflict can indicate questions needing attention in the larger congregational system and invite them to respond accordingly
- Deepen and enrich the experience of congregational leaders and, by extension, the ability of congregations to live out their missions and values, both in congregational life and in the wider world
- Invite leaders to become aware of their own role in the congregation and to develop a leadership approach and skills to guide a community toward a faithful response toward a faithful response to conflict.

If you are interested in joining me for this experience, send Cathy an email at: revharrington@mac.com and I'll add your name to the list.

Alison continues to offer ***Soul Matters*** groups. These groups are meant to improve our connections and creates a group of companions who travel a new journey together each month. The Soul Matters Sharing Circle LLC is a network of Unitarian Universalist congregations who follow the same monthly themes so we can more easily share small group material, as well as worship, sermon, music and children's religious education resources. We are a web of support and connection.

Please let Alison know if you are interested in joining a Soul Matters group.

Adult Education
Alison Earnst
awa2write@gmail.com



UUCGT Board Meeting Summary



UUCGT Board of Trustees Summary February 2021

The topics discussed at the February Board meeting were a combination of Operations and Visioning:

Finance Team Recommendations and Updates

After agreeing to establish a Ministerial Discretionary Fund last month, we decided this month to set up the fund at the bank when the new minister is in place. We will transition to a less complex accounting more suitable to our needs when we change to the new fiscal year, and also plan to conduct a formal accounting

review; the first step for both is to research options and associated costs before seeking bids. Recommended accounting software and services are welcome!

The Finance Team is already starting to explore options we may have available to us to support increased staffing and benefits in FY 2021-22. Most important is the annual pledges increasing to support the programs we love!

Staff

The Board discussed the Finance Committee recommendation to initiate pro-rated staff benefits availability shift from 20 hours/week to 15 hours/week. The Board supports the concept and requested the Staff Resources Committee to modify the Employee Handbook to be consistent with this change to ensure we are aligned on details to approve.

Congregational Outreach Survey

We had an initial view of the Outreach Survey data--thank you to all who participated and supported this effort: Judy Myers, Carol Ritter, and Guy! It looks like there will be some interesting results. Next step is to refine the data presentation and determine the best way to share the results with the congregation. The Outreach survey to help us better understand how we are engaged as individuals and a congregation in the broader community should be coming out prior to the next Board meeting. Please look for it and participate!

Healthy Congregations Team

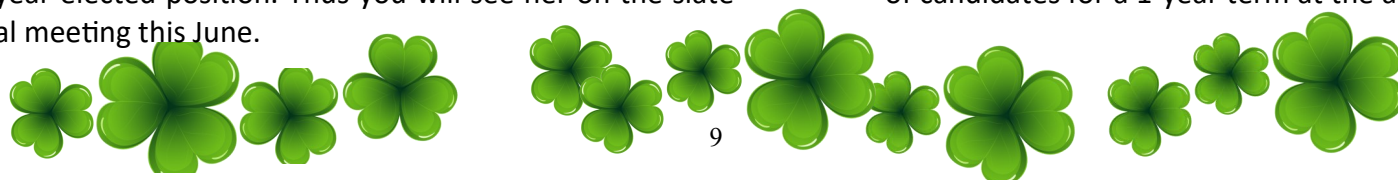
The updated Healthy Congregations policy is now posted on our UUCGT website in the About menu under the Healthy Congregations Team section.

Re-opening Task Force

We have established a Reopening Task Force to recommend a set of policies for our board's consideration to plan for resuming in-person gatherings at the church building. We will retain the ZOOM service option as well. Members of the task force thus far are: Joe Cook, Paul Ward, Barb Conley. Carol Ritter, Jalene Moore. Sandra McDonald. Thank you Judy for pulling this great team together! Tom has already updated our rental agreement in preparation for future opportunities

Pat Light's Board Term

When Pat resigned from the board last summer, the board approved Judy Myers backfilling her position to complete the 2nd year of Pat's 3-year term. We are thrilled that Pat is able to fulfill the last year of her original 3-year elected position. Thus you will see her on the slate of candidates for a 1-year term at the annual meeting this June.





Financial Summary

As of January 31, 2021

(58.3% of fiscal year)

	Current Year (2020-2021)		Prior Year (2019-2020)	
Budgeted Income Received YTD	\$140,834*	51.9%	\$179,613*	68.2%
Budgeted Expenses Paid YTD	\$165,525	59.9%	\$154,531	58.7%
"For Those in Need" YTD	\$ 6,196		\$ 6,885	

*Income for 2020-2021 is less than 2019-2020 due to an accounting change that recognized prepaid pledges for 2020-2021 in the 2019-2020 fiscal year. Approximately \$32,000 in excess income for 2019-2020 is on the balance sheet in our operating account and can be used to offset future losses, should they occur.

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.

Please note that we have had a slight fall off of current year pledge payments and a significant fall off of rental income and "for those in need" contributions during March through January due primarily to the Coronavirus pandemic. We need your help. If you can, send your pledge payments and "for those in need" contributions to the office or contribute on-line at uucgt.org.

If you want more detailed information, you can look at our website, click on Board, then on Board Packet, then on Monthly Comparison. Questions can be directed to your Finance Committee which includes Dusty Culton, Nancy Doughty, Karl Keinath, Mike McDonald and Jim Walworth.

If you have not filled out your pledge form, there is a blank form on [page 11](#).



Please continue to support UUCGT by:

1. Sending a check to UUCGT.
2. Giving on-line through the website.
3. Download the give+ app.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Grand Traverse

Pledge Form

Name: _____ (Please print legibly)

Address: Street, City, State, Zip _____

I/We pledge \$_____ to UUCGT for 2021 - 2022 Fiscal Year

I/We pledge to make every effort to meet this commitment. If my/our circumstances change such that this pledge cannot be met in full, I/we will contact the bookkeeper/accountant at 231-947-3117 to make an adjustment.

Signature(s)

Date

Paying Your Pledge

- ☐ I/We will make payments by check (turned in on Sundays or by mail).
- ☐ I/We will make payments by E-Giving (using the Give tab on UUCGT Web Site)
- ☐ I/We will make payments by E-Giving (using the Give+ App on my phone from VANCO)
- ☐ I/We would like to make automatic payments, and I/we will contact bookkeeper/accountant (bookie@uucgt.org) directly to make arrangements.
- ☐ I/We are paying the full amount now. Check enclosed.
- ☐ I/We will pay through a transfer of appreciated securities and will contact bookkeeper/accountant to make arrangements (231-947-3117).
- ☐ I/We will pay our pledge via a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) as part of a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from a tax deferred investment.
- ☐ Other arrangements: I/We will call bookkeeper/accountant to finalize (231-947-3117).

Thank you!!

Please bring your pledge form to UUCGT or mail to:

UUCGT

Attention: Bookkeeper / Accountant 6726 Center Road Traverse City, MI 49686-1802

Office Use:

Date received _____ Date entered into DB _____ By _____ Env. # _____ Name: _____ Notes: _____

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

the BEACON

PUBLISHED MONTHLY
Volume 58, Issue 3

March 2021

UUCGT Calendar

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

Nearly all meetings and classes take place via Zoom.

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

March 2021

01	Mon	Stretch & Strengthen	11:15 AM
01	Mon	Ministerial Search Team	2:30 PM
01	Mon	Men's Group	5:30 PM
02	Tue	Community Sack Lunch, Friends Church	10:30 AM
02	Tue	Sunday Services Comm/Coords	1:30 PM
03	Wed	Stretch & Strengthen	11:15 AM
03	Wed	Rev. Cathy Virtual Office Hours	12:00 PM
03	Wed	Staff Resources	4:00 PM
03	Wed	Virtual Supper - Mike & Sandra McDonald	5:30 PM
04	Thu	Peacemakers Needle Workers	1:30 PM
04	Thu	Creating Writing w/Alison Earnst	1:30 PM
04	Thu	Congregational Care Team	2:00 PM
04	Thu	Stewardship Committee	5:00 PM
04	Thu	VE Zoom Rehearsal with Renée	7:00 PM
05	Fri	Facilities Team	10:00 AM
05	Fri	Tech Rehearsal for Sunday Svc	1:00 PM
05	Fri	Vespers Candlelight Svc (sign in 7:30)	8:00 PM
07	Sun	RE Children & Youth	9:45 AM
07	Sun	Sunday Service 10:30 AM	Sign in @ 10:00 AM
08	Mon	Stretch & Strengthen	11:15 AM
08	Mon	Ministerial Search Team	2:30 PM
09	Tue	Community Sack Lunch, Friends Church	10:30 AM
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12	Fri	Tech Rehearsal for Sunday Svc	1:00 PM
12	Fri	Vespers Candlelight Svc (sign in 7:30)	8:00 PM

14	Sun	RE Children & Youth	9:45 AM
14	Sun	Sunday Service 10:30 AM	Sign in @ 10:00 AM
14	Sun	Social Justice Action Team	12:00 PM
15	Mon	Stretch & Strengthen	11:15 AM
15	Mon	Ministerial Search Team	2:30 PM
16	Tue	Community Sack Lunch, Friends Church	10:30 AM
16	Tue	Sunday Service Comm/Coords	1:30 PM
16	Tue	Leadership Development	3:00 PM
17	Wed	Stretch & Strengthen	11:15 AM
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26	Fri	Tech Rehearsal for Sunday Svc	1:00 PM
26	Fri	Vespers Candlelight Svc (sign in 7:30)	8:00 PM
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