



Unitarian Universalist
Congregation
of Grand Traverse
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the BEACON

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Sunday, November 6 — Services at 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM

"Whatever Happened to 'In Your Face' Liberalism?"

Rev. Don Vaughn-Foerster; music by Aubert: 4 violins and keyboard (Carolyn Collins, Kim Gribi, Judith Weaver, Alan Tilley and R. Gary Deavel) plus at 11:00, music by the UUUCGT Children's Chorus.

What is "liberal" anymore? In religion and politics and almost every other human endeavor, the word "liberal" is more blamed than understood. However, the problems of the modern age are no more likely to be caused by liberalism than by conservatism. Liberalism is still necessary to the solution of those problems.

Sunday, November 13 — Services at 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM

"Giving Meaning to Our Values"

Misty Sheehan; music: Delta blues by Cadillac Willie

Moral values are not just particular opinions on 'hot button' topics in a divisive election year. Moral values grow out of our calling as religious people to work to create the Beloved Community... Moral values instruct us to 'love our neighbors as ourselves' and always to ask the question, Who is my neighbor?

Sunday, November 20 — Services at 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM

"Civil Thanks"

Rev. Don Vaughn-Foerster

Did the Pilgrims begin their first festival with a Pledge of Allegiance? Probably not, but the trappings of this holiday today carry much of that kind of political baggage in its train. That the celebration of Thanksgiving always raises important questions about the integrity of religion in the face of other customs is the topic for this service.

Sunday, November 27 — Services at 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM

"The Spirit Made Flesh"

Rev. Don Vaughn-Foerster

Embedded within each of us is a profound desire that our highest hopes and aspirations be made real. This annual holiday season is probably one of the most pertinent times to pursue and celebrate this desire if we will look beneath the tinsel and the dogmas of the season.

Sunday, December 4 — Services at 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM

"The End Is Where We Start From"

Rev. Don Vaughn-Foerster

This is a famous line from T.S. Eliot that is true as far as it goes. However, there is, if not a gap between ending and starting, at least an overlapping of the two that is easily obscured. Fall, when it is edging into winter, is an appropriate time to examine such transitions.

Sunday, December 11 — Services at 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM

"Giving Meaning" (9:30 - Regular service, 11:00 - All-generational service.)

Mary Van Valin, Rev. Kevin Tarsa and members of the congregation

As we prepare to enter the heart of the Christmas holiday season, we celebrate the culmination of our second congregation-wide theme - "Giving Meaning." The beautiful story, "The Quiltmaker's Gift," will weave through each service as we explore the nature of giving and prepare ourselves to find the deepest possible meaning in the season. The 11:00 service is designed for all ages.

Sunday, December 18 — Services at 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM

ALL-MUSIC SERVICE

Musicians of the congregation and the Rev. Kevin Tarsa

Our annual All-music service returns to its roots in the holiday season. This gift to the congregation offers beauty and fun, yes, but it is also steeped in meaning and connection. In our musicians' music, one senses both the gift itself and the quality of the giving. We are so fortunate. The services will revolve around the theme of "peace," and the 9:30 and 11:00 services will feature different musicians.

From your Minister of Music

We enter now the congregation-wide theme, "Giving Meaning."

The approaching family and relationship-centered holidays are fraught with both peril and possibility. My approach to the season, in my adult life, has ranged from magical wonder and enchantment to deep and moving introspection to a frustrating melancholy to complete and immovable "Bah, Humbug!"

I have come to understand that meaning cannot be forced upon anyone, or injected into anyone, or cajoled, demanded, guilted or extracted from anyone. I have come to understand that meaning can, however, be cultivated, and I invite you to cultivate meaning in these darkening days, in the midst of the accelerating expectations and obligations that surround you.

Cultivate meaning by pausing long enough to hear the quieter voices inside you.

Cultivate meaning by holding still long enough to feel the beat, the actual beat, of your heart...to know whether,

in a given moment, it quickens in response to peril or possibility...or both...

Cultivate meaning by finding, keeping nearby, and referring often to a reading, a poem, a book, a web site, a song, a movie or a friend that reminds you to consider what is genuinely important.

Cultivate meaning by focusing on your yet-to-be given gifts - the truest, deepest aspects of yourself that you have yet to offer to the world around you.

Cultivate meaning by asking yourself how you would spend these weeks if you knew they would be your last.

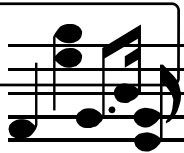
Cultivate meaning by asking others about the meaning that they find...about the meaning that they seek.

Give meaning to this season - this season of Solstice, Hanukkah, Advent, Christmas, Kwaanza, New Year... - by cultivating meaning in any of the ways you have learned to tend the garden of your heart and your spirit.

Yours,

- Rev. Kevin Tarsa

MUSICAL NOTES



Music Thank You's...

- ♫ to Neal Endicott and Mitch Treadwell for their wonderful saxophone blues and to Nancy Landfair, Gretchen Kronk, and Richard Miller for their wonderful singing in "Shades of Gray" on October 2.
- ♫ to Gail Heath for her beautiful singing of the spirituals on October 9.
- ♫ to the Youth Group drummers and to Gary Deavel and the Vocal Ensemble for offering such fun and exciting music at the All-generational service on October 16.
- ♫ to Richard Curtis, flute and Gail Heath and R. Gary Deavel, piano, for their beautiful music making on October 23.
- ♫ to Lily Prentice, voice, Chris Williams, cello, and the UUCGT Vocal Ensemble for such tender and heart-filled music making in the All-Souls service on October 30.

Family Choir/All-Generational Choir Opportunities

We offer two options for adult/child singing connections on Sunday, November 20. At our Sunday morning services, the Children's Chorus and Vocal Ensemble will be singing together a piece titled "We Lift Up Our Hearts," and at our Twin Lakes Feast that same day, an All-generational choir (with

percussion) will sing "Kaki Lambe," a traditional song from Senegal.

Rehearsals for "Kaki Lambe" will take place from 7:00 to 7:25 on three Thursdays: Nov 3, Nov 10, and Nov 17. Rehearsals for "We Lift Up Our Hearts" will take place for the Children's Chorus members at the usual Sunday rehearsals (10:15), and for adults, from 7:25 to 7:45 on Thursdays, Nov 3, 10, and 17. (We'll include any child singers present as well, as the adults learn their parts).

Our UU Children's Chorus is directed by music teacher and professional singer Marilyn Tilley. All young people in kindergarten through 6th grade are invited to come sing! The Chorus meets on Sundays at 10:15 in the back corner RE classroom.

Vocal Ensemble On The Road!

(okay, just down the road)
Our UUCGT Vocal Ensemble members, with guest singer Diane Abhaya from Unity Church, Nan Worthington and R. Gary Deavel at the piano, offered very wonderful and beautiful singing at the Haggerty Center on October 29, in a moving inter-faith celebration. Led by Rabbi Chava Bahle, the evening included storytelling and song focused on "Building Bridges" and "Peace."

String Players!

Join us for a holiday "String Fling," Sunday, December 4, 4:00 - 7:00 at UUCGT. (with a

simple potluck meal in the middle!). Rooted in Christmas music, we'll begin with simple string orchestra pieces and work toward more challenging music as the evening progresses. We'll play easier music from 4:00 to 5:00, eat, then play more difficult music from 6:00 to 7:00. Please plan to come play. All string players are welcome. Feel free to invite friends! If you would benefit from having music in advance, please contact Chris Williams (932-5484) or Kevin Tarsa (922-8146)

Afternoon "Gratitude" Retreat
Before the holidays kick into high gear, you are invited to a quiet, gentle small-group retreat on Sunday, November 13 - an afternoon together (at someone's home) set aside to cultivate a sense of gratitude. After the morning service at the church, share a simple meal at 1:00, share some readings and thoughts, take time to reflect individually on all that we've received this past year, share a walk outside (for those who wish, weather permitting) and then take the time to write thank you notes to some of those who've given to us.

This is designed for a small group. The first 8 or 9 people will be hosted at Kevin and Paul's house. Please RSVP with Kevin Tarsa at 922-8146. (If you would like to host a similar gathering at your house, I'd be happy to share materials with you and to help you plan your retreat - Kevin)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In the September issue I related to you the goal priorities developed by the Board of Trustees at our retreat in August. These goals are: 1) **Develop policies and procedures for the board, councils and committees with a description of committee functions.** 2) **Prepare the congregation for a settled minister.** 3) **Continually create, implement and nurture opportunities for people to make meaningful and spiritual connections.**

The board takes these goals very seriously. I would like to take this opportunity to list for you the steps we have taken so far towards the full implementation of our goals for the year:

- ◆ Drafts of the restructuring of the committee system have been prepared and distributed for consideration and input, and committee chairs are engaged in the process
- ◆ The board has consulted with the Ministerial Search Committee
- ◆ The Ministerial Search Committee has agreed to do a Sunday service
- ◆ A paper has been prepared regarding the roles of the

interim and settled minister, and their relationship with the board

- ◆ The interim minister has reminded the board of expectations for the coming year
- ◆ Program themes have been displayed in the hall and mentioned in the *Beacon*, reinforcing and reflecting the themes that have been chosen
- ◆ The first intergenerational service has taken place
- ◆ Steps have been taken to provide a more welcoming response to new members
- ◆ More families are involved in Sunday services
- ◆ The board is encouraging more services like the solstice service

As you can see, your board has been busy being proactive. We have much more to do to reach our goals, but it is still early in our congregational year. It is my intention to keep you informed of our progress throughout the year. Do not hesitate to ask any of us about our work. Your questions, comments, and criticisms are always welcome.

- Penny Ort

ALL ABOUT US

For those who have had losses:

We learned of Bob Calt's father's death. Bob is Christie McGue's husband for those who may not know. We are thinking of you Bob in your loss.

We were saddened to learn of the death of Bob Hicks' brother-in-law. His brother-in-law, David Citino, lived in Columbus, Ohio and was poet laureate at the University there. Bob lit a candle for him just a little over a month ago when he learned of David's leukemia.

Home from the hospital:

Anne Olney is home and doing much better after surgery and about a week's stay in Munson. She is healing and has been out and about. Thanks go to Kathy Prentice for getting Anne to the hospital in a timely manner. What a good friend!

Bob Hicks had been hospitalized for three days after suffering a blood clot which required close care and blood thinning. He was home but a few days giving himself blood-thinning shots when he had the news of his brother-in-law's death. Thank you to all the UU's who came to the aid of Bob and Shelley

during this time.

Connie Hoffman suffered a broken wrist after an altercation with her dog and the leash. Heal fast Connie.

Holly Knibbs's mother had by-pass surgery September 15th and was staying with Holly and about to go home when she had a small stroke. She was discharged from the hospital on the 28th of Oct. and is weak but doing alright. We wish her well and know she must be so grateful to have Holly here for her.

Treva Jaffe had a cardiac event and is doing better now. We wish you well, Treva, and hope you are much better.

We Hold in Our Hearts:

Jim and Ruth Gamble
Joan and Ralph Laird
Evelyn and Larry Good
Bob Fitch and son
David Halperin
Charley Hansen
Beecy Fraser
Richard Myer
Elizabeth Norris

THANK YOU's go to all of you who have visited, have provided transportation and food, and who have been avail-

able to our members in need. You are truly doing the pastoral care that is so important.

NOTE the Invitation to all the UU's from Jim Gamble's family. If you can't be there and wish to write out a remembrance or story to honor Jim, we will provide a basket for that in our office. Please stay tuned...

If you can help on that day with the food or the reception following, please call the Pastoral Care Group for more information.

—Arline Howe, Pastoral Care

Directory Updates

Please enter the following changes into your new **2005-06 Directory** to keep current. If you have other changes, please email (or call) the office – uucgt@charterinternet.com.

Change Marsha Walton's email to: marshawalton@yahoo.com

Change Gary Singer's email to: garysinger@gmail.com

New street address for Linda Norlander: 7804 Peaceful Valley Rd.

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND ACTION

Two very important events this month! -

Sat. Nov. 12, 6 PM, we will have an **Israel/ Palestine Forum** at the UU. Hopefully many will attend! After presentations and discussions, there will be mid-Eastern refreshments. Plan to stay for the entire affair and please donate to help defray costs. If you can help make the snacks please call me; we need help!

Fri. Nov. 18, 7 PM, we will view the controversial video **Wal-Mart: the High Cost of Low Prices**. This is about the exploitation of others to give us low priced

goods. A lively open discussion will follow. Please invite friends. All are invited. Donations are needed to defray costs. Look forward to seeing many of you there.

There are many other things that this UU community does for our larger community. Marge Rundle's article last month highlighted the Tuesday Luncheon. Sally Neal started this important project. We give many thanks to her and to Marge Rundle for all the years they have given that program. Jill Chao is now in charge. Many donate time and effort! -Ann Chinn, Solveig Gustafson, Pinkie Hoffman, Donelda Holland-Mortitz, Penny Ort, Joann

Sheard and special thanks to Martin Wolf. Also helping are Barbara Bloomer, Donna Dodd, Nancy Doughty, Jeanne Dzik, Mary Easthope, David Halperin, Gerry Jennings, Martha Lapine, Carol Messick, Christie McGue, Mary Lou McGue, Pat Miller, Adrienne Rossi, Kay Wentzel, Myrna Yeakle. Please, please forgive me, if we have left out someone or misspelled you name. Please contact me so I may correct it. Thanks!

Another project that we do is donate to the BLOOD BANKS. Please let me know who you are and donate in the name of UU. Let's set up a UU donate blood project! Also contact the local RED

CROSS and volunteer to take the training for disaster relief. Then the next time there is a catastrophe, UU can donate more than money and clothes. We will be able to donate our time and skills too. Please let me know if you are doing or have done either of these two projects. Thank you! Emmy Lou 943-7999



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Grand Traverse Mission Statement

We are a Congregation creating a better world by nurturing the heart and expanding the mind. We provide a safe, caring community where all can freely explore diverse religious thought. We work for justice and equality with the power of compassion and compassionate power.

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decisions for themselves. The Five Wishes document is a "user friendly" inexpensive example of an Advanced Directive.

A five-year goal of Pastoral Care is to have conversations about Advance Directives with everyone in the congregation. The most important benefit is the relational benefits of these conversations with loved ones. Many are uncomfortable in discussing end-of-life care for themselves, yet it can be a tremendous gift to family to have those wishes known in advance, emotionally and financially.

As the Terry Schiavo case painfully illustrated, the most expensive emotionally and spiritually happen to younger adults who often fail to see a need for AD. Fully a half of all health care dollars are spent on people in the last year of their lives, of which 40% is in unwanted procedures. In addition to the family benefits, there can be tremendous social benefits if we collectively can use this as a means to reduce health care costs.

We hope as a congregation to create an environment where such discussions, conducted informally with friends and those in leadership roles in the

congregation, can make us a pathfinder congregation. In so doing, we can provide the lead to other church groups that ultimately can have a profound impact on unnecessary health care costs.

We would like to assist as many members, friends and families as possible with this process. After the first of the New Year, we will initiate 'live' PC meetings to help move from the list of many wonderful possibilities toward a logical, manageable, prioritized path of actions that members can undertake.

We will be planning specific occasions to engage others in conversation. For some that may be one-on-one conversations over tea, or home gatherings of people or open group events at the church. However large or small, we are eager to begin this "gift-giving" process to each other and our loved ones. .

November and December, are ideal times to initiate these conversations. Pastoral Care intends to participate in the upcoming Sunday Services program theme of "Giving Meaning." Family-filled Holiday events offer opportunities to plant seeds/enter conversations. Consider doing so as a family gift. Our Advisory Team intends to use this time to initiate discussions with our own

families. We hope others in congregational leadership roles will do the same.

We will soon be initiating these informal conversations on Advanced Directives. We would especially appreciate stories from those who have had both positive and negative experiences with or without advanced directives in place.

We also hope to constitute a health care professionals advisory team to serve to guide and advise congregants on this matter. We hope others interested in Pastoral Care will also take this facilitator training from Munson.

Copies of the Five Wishes document are available in the church office and at the admissions office at Munson Hospital. If you wish any one of us to help, please contact us:

Rev. Kevin Tarsa 922-8146

John Schneider 223-9299

Bonnie Mathias 935-3715

Liz Bruning 929-9808

Joan Sheard 922-1834

INTERIM MINISTER'S COLUMN

This autumn and its falling leaves is an apt symbol for this stage of the interim process through which UUCGT is going. Like falling leaves, some of the ways things have been done here are turning from the green of comfortable habit to the multiple colors of autumn leaves. This, by no one's design or initiative. This, by natural processes of change from old modes of being to new modes of being. As a congregation moves from one set of relationships that is constellated around a long term central person, it is only natural for familiar avenues of sharing and communication either to reshape themselves or disappear. It is only natural that there be some anxiety about just what the new bonds and affinities may be. Anticipation of the unknown is likely to turn the greenest leaf a little tan and brittle around the edges.

However, the sobering yet hopeful fact of autumn leaves is that they shall dry and drift into compost for new life. At root that is what the interim period is all

about. It is a readying of oneself for a new and vigorous springtime of life. It is about creating a rich soil from which larger and better produce of the spirit will germinate and flourish. It is about creating new visions toward which to grow.

The dynamics within this congregation are most hopeful signs that natural processes not only are at work but are successfully at work. Leaves are falling, yes; but they are falling toward the future. Indeed, they are not just falling. They are re-sorting themselves into new arrangements, into new modes of being that reinforce one another under impending new circumstances. They are making themselves into the soil from which a congregation of dedicated friends and comrades shall spring forth with new focus and new strength. Autumn, after all, is great preparation for a winter that shall give birth to spring.

— Rev. Don Vaughn-Foerster

PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral Care Takes on Advocacy, Advanced Directives, Educational Role

The Pastoral Care Advisory Team has begun implementing a five-year program for the congregation. During the past three months a number of the members of the advisory team have

attended a workshop on psychological approaches to dealing effectively with pain, conducted by John Schneider, PhD psychologist. The goal of this workshop was to prepare the Team to begin advocacy training, starting with effective pain management for members of our congregation, including learning about complementary approaches not based on drugs.

We also attended a two-day

facilitator-training workshop entitled "Respecting Choices" conducted by Munson Hospital. The latter training was to certify the members of the team in facilitating congregational and small group discussions on Advanced Directives for Health Care. Advanced directives are legal documents which specify how individuals would like to be treated if they are unable to make

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Giving Thanks for Jim Gamble

The honor of your presence is requested at a celebration to give tribute to this man who has influenced so many of our lives

Friday November 25, 2005

*Ten o'clock in the morning for a coffee reception with Jim
Eleven o'clock in the morning for open microphone in the sanctuary for tributes*

Please limit your tribute to three minutes

A basket will be available for written communication to Jim if you don't wish to get up to the microphone.

*Traverse City Unitarian Universalist Congregation Hall
6726 Center Road – Highway 37 Old Mission Peninsula
Traverse City, Michigan 49686*

If you are unable to attend and wish to send something to be read or placed in the basket please use the above address attention Jim Gamble

For further information contact Jim's daughter Gretchen at 907-227-8296

MINDING THE STORE

Thanksgiving Dinner

Gobble, gobble and all that stuffing: UU Thanksgiving Dinner, Nov. 20th 12:30 - 4:00 PM, Twin Lakes Camp. \$4.00 adults and \$2.00 children. Bring your own table service and a dish to share. We need roasted turkeys like we had last year. Please contact Ann Dressel 223-9426 with your turkey promises. Tickets will be on sale in church lobby or call Ann Dressel.

Dinners to be Auctioned at Thanksgiving Dinner

During our annual Thanksgiving Dinner, the Congregation will be auctioning off dinners. At our past Autumn Affairs, these dinners have generated a significant amount of money for UUCGT. The dinners will include everything from picnics to gourmet meals with music.

If you would like to be a host/hostess, please contact John and Pinkie Hoffman: 275-3602. Payment for the dinners must be by cash or check during the Thanksgiving Dinner.

This is a great way to have a wonderful meal, meet new people and support our Congregation.

Annual Cleanup Thank-You's

Many thanks to the volunteers who joined members of the Grounds and Landscaping Committee for the October 22nd Annual Fall Cleanup! Helpers included: Bob Calt, Jim Cook, Karen Culp, Shirlee Davidson, Denyse Everett, Mark Gustafson, Roy Malarik, Christie McGue, Richard Miller, John Ort, Ellen Pisor, Karen Puffer, Gene Rundell, and Bill Scharf.

—Jody Marquis, Chair

"Toy Time"

It's become a tradition for our Congregation to provide a new toy for each child spending the December holidays at the Women's Resource Center shelter. Through the RE program, our children choose and wrap

the toys. They shop for children of different ages and we try to include gift certificates for the teenagers to pick out a CD or item of clothing. The project is funded through donations from the Congregation.

Every Sunday during November a gift-wrapped box will be in the coffee area. Checks should be made out to the Congregation and clearly labeled "TOYS." Donations can also be mailed to the UU office, also designated "TOYS." Donations are tax deductible.

Toys are our priority, but we're also collecting small, new items that the children at the shelter can wrap and give to their mothers. Some suggestions are gloves, scarves, costume jewelry, cologne (no soaps or lotion, please). We also provide wrap and ribbon, and have been told by shelter staff that this gift giving means a lot to the children and their mothers. There will also be a box for these items in the coffee area.

Questions? Call Kathy Prentice at 941-8758

Thank you for helping to brighten the holidays.

Sunday Services

Thanks to all of you who take the time to talk with Sunday Services people about your joys and concerns with the services. Only by hearing from you can we best serve the congregation. Sunday Services has decided to put surveys in the Order of Service twice, Nov 6 and Dec 4, for a marker as to how well you feel your needs are met. Please place them in the box in the foyer after the service.

Holiday Decorating

Maura Brennen will be in charge of holiday decorating and take down this year. We will go to Misty Sheehan's house in Empire on Sat Dec 10 to pick out trees. A vehicle with a trailer is needed. Misty will also allow others from the congregation to take a tree from 1-4 on that day (They are Douglas Firs, 5-15 feet tall).

On Dec 11 after the service, we will decorate the trees. Pizza will be provided.

Take down will be Sunday Jan 8th

after the service. Pizza will again be provided.

Please contact Maura Brennen, 941-9158, mimaura@aol.com

Art Now On Display

Christine Williams (artist, musician and teacher), has been creating art ever since she could hold a pencil in her fist. She grew up surrounded by relatives who made and valued art. She took art classes and workshops and earned a minor in art from WMU in Kalamazoo. She has had instruction from Judy Betts, Charlie Murphy and Gary Greene, among others. Although she earns her living as a music teacher, she considers her art ability to be her strongest talent. This past summer she was on the art faculty at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp. Her current media is colored pencil and pastel, which gives her the freedom to explore her love of color. Her inspiration comes from musicians, family, friends and nature. Enjoy her art that is currently on display in the building.

ADULT PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Crones and Scones

The Crones and Scones will meet once in November. We will meet at the Flap Jack Restaurant for breakfast and conversation on Thursday, November 10 at 9 AM. We are also planning an interesting Holiday Brunch meeting at Shari Cope's home on December 3 at 9:30. We will discuss the book "My Thirteenth Winter" by Samantha Abeel. We will also do a city walk to the art show at the Park Place for fun. Brunch will be provided by Shari and Solveig.

Men's Group

The Men's Group will meet for dinner and discussion at 6 PM on Monday November 14 at South City Limits. Discussion of "Revving Up the China Threat" from the October 24 *The Nation* will be the focus of this meeting. Copies are available in the Men's Group folder in the office. Join us!

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

News from the Director of Children's Religious Education

Welcome to our new theme, "Giving Meaning." As I ponder giving and meaning and giving meaning, I am taken up with how we all, including our children make meaning. As an educator, I learned about how brains are wired uniquely, and learn and construct meaning differently. Doesn't that fit nicely with our Unitarian Universalist idea that we each must develop our own personal theologies and be tolerant of the theologies of others as we make sense of our living?

As we look at the holidays ahead, how might we give meaning to them in ways that serve ourselves and others best? Are there ways we might be more gentle and peaceful?" Our children will be exploring how and where they might find meaning. We hope the conversations can continue at home.

The lessons for this theme begin November 6 and culminate in the next All Generational service on December 11th. Our extraordinary teachers for Giving Meaning are: Solveig Gustafson and Emma McCarthy-Stone in preschool; Maureen Voss and Scott Huggins in grades 1-3; Lynne Perkins and Jill Chao in grades 4-6; Gretchen Kronk and Barb Bloomer in grades 7 and 8; and Craig Richard and Katy Bean-Larson with Youth Group.

Briefly, the new theme will offer:

- ❖ Preschoolers: Exploring seasonal books and themes including art and baking projects.
- ❖ Grades 1-3: Using the book, *The Quiltmaker's Gift*, the children will explore the idea that St. Francis spoke so long ago: "It is in the giving that we receive." They will also be quiltmakers!
- ❖ Grades 4-6: Will be "Unplugging the Holiday Machine" by exploring in active ways giving to others, saying thanks, and other non-material delights.
- ❖ Middle School: Will explore some ways to make the holidays more "earth friendly" and still have meaning.

Coming Up December 3rd: Toy Time for the Children at the Women's Resource Center!

This annual service project offers our children the opportunity to shop for gifts for other children and wrap them for the holidays. We meet at Children's World in downtown Traverse City at 9 AM. Please sign your children up to participate. Sign up sheets will be in the hall during the next few weeks. If you can volunteer to help, please let us know!

Thank you!

Many thanks to Jill Chao, Kathy Tack, Sheryl Willis, and Sue Hawkins for helping the children make chalice necklaces on October 23rd. Thanks to Sheryl Willis for leading the singing with the children, as well. And we all have Jill Chao to thank for the lunch on Halloween. And thanks to her assistants, Kay Wentzel and Gail Trill. To the Youth Group, thanks for making Halloween a special time for the UU children. Ah, the gifts you give...

—Mary Van Valin

Pastoral Care Advisory Group

"Love is the center of our church and service is the prayer." This, I feel, is what defines pastoral care in our Congregation. We will continue to serve the needs of our congregants as we learn what the needs are. Should you have, or know of someone else who has a pastoral care need, I encourage you to contact and inform any one of the Pastoral Care Advisory Committee Members: John Schneider, 223-9299; Liz Bruning, 929-9808; Bonnie Mathias, 935-3715; Arline Howe, 947-9124; Mercedes Kimling, 223-7537; Joan Sheard, 922-1834; Kevin Tarsa, 922-8146.

—Arline Howe, Chair

We Welcome Your Membership

Not a member? We'd love to have you join our spiritual community. New members, who must be at least 16 years old, signify their commitment by signing the Membership Book during a meeting with our minister. It is understood that members actively support their Congregation through attendance, service and financial commitment. To start your process of becoming an official member of our lively, compassionate and challenging congregation, call the congregation office at 947-3117.

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7 Wed Supper at SIX! potluck, 5:30 social time, Ann Dressel (223-9426); program 7:00 p.m., *Discussion with Don*

8 Thurs Vocal Ensemble, K. Tarsa, Sanctuary 7-9 p.m.

10 Sat Holiday tree selection, Misty Sheehan & Maura Brennan

11 Sun **"Giving Meaning," Mary Van Valin, Rev. Kevin Tarsa and members of the congregation; services at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.**

11 Sun Finance Committee, Phyllis Jessup 9-10 a.m.

11 Sun Holiday decorating, Maura Brennan, after the 11 a.m. service

13 Tues Board, Penny Ort 7-9 p.m.

14 Wed Supper at SIX! potluck, 5:30 social time, Ann Dressel (223-9426); program 7:00 p.m., *Discussion with Don*

15 Thurs Vocal Ensemble, K. Tarsa, Sanctuary 7-9 p.m.

18 Sun **All Music Service, musicians of the congregation and the Rev. Kevin Tarsa services at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.**

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



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the BEACON

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the BEACON Calendar

A gift to your endowment fund is
a great way to express your
thanks at Thanksgiving time!

All events take place at the Congregation building unless otherwise noted

NOVEMBER

- 1 Tues Program Council, J. Sanborn, Social Hall 7-9 p.m.
- 1 Tues Yoga, Mary Van Valin 9-10 a.m.
- 2 Wed Supper at SIX!, potluck, 5:30 social time, Ann Dressel (223-9426); program 7:00 p.m., HG Smith *New discoveries in Astronomy*
- 3 Thurs Yoga, Mary Van Valin 9-10 a.m.
- 3 Thurs Vocal Ensemble, K. Tarsa 7-9 p.m.
- 6 Sun **"Whatever Happened to 'In Your Face' Liberalism?" Rev. Don Von-Foerster, music will be 4 violins and keyboard; services at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.**
- 6 Sun Finance Committee, Phyllis Jessup 9-10:30 a.m.
- 7 Mon Watercolor Painting, Mary Ann Force, 5 of 6, 6-8 p.m.
- 7 Mon SOS, Rev. Don Vaughn-Foerster (929-3753), Jeff (946-8680), office 7 – 8:30 p.m.
- 8 Tues Election Day (Traverse City)
- 8 Tues Yoga, Mary Van Valin 9-10 a.m.
- 8 Tues Board, Penny Ort 7-9 p.m.
- 9 Wed Supper at SIX!, 5:30 social time, Ann Dressel (223-9426); program 7:00 p.m., Mark Gustafson *Collapse*, J. Diamond
- 10 Thurs Yoga, Mary Van Valin 9-10 a.m.
- 10 Thurs Croness & Scones, Flap Jack Shack, Solveig Gustafson, 9 AM
- 10 Thurs Vocal Ensemble, K. Tarsa, Sanctuary 7-9 p.m.
- 12 Sat Social Action Forum: Middle East, Emmy Lou Cholok 5-10 p.m.
- 13 Sun **"Giving Meaning to Our Values," Misty Sheehan, services at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.**
- 13 Sun Finance Committee, Phyllis Jessup 9-10 a.m.

- 14 Mon Watercolor Painting, Mary Ann Force, 6 of 6, 6-8 p.
- 14 Mon Men's Group, South City Limits, 6 p.m.
- 15 Tues Yoga, Mary Van Valin 9-10 a.m.
- 15 Tues Sunday Services, Misty Sheehan 7-9 p.m.
- 16 Wed Supper at SIX!, 5:30 social time, Ann Dressel (223-9426); program 7:00 p.m., Sally Mitchell *The Iowa Sisterhood* painting
- 17 Thurs Yoga, Mary Van Valin 9-10 a.m.
- 17 Thurs Vocal Ensemble, K. Tarsa, Sanctuary 7-9 p.m.
- 18 Fri Social Action video/discussion: Social Justice & Crime of WalMart, Emmy Lou Cholok 7-10 p.m.
- 20 Sun **"Civil Thanks," Rev. Don Von-Foerster; services at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.**
- 20 Sun Thanksgiving Dinner, Twin Lakes Camp, Ann Dressel 12:30-4 p.m.
- 22 Tues Yoga, Mary Van Valin 9-10 a.m.
- 25 Fri Giving Thanks for Jim Gamble
- 27 Sun **"The Spirit Made Flesh," Rev. Don Von-Foerster; services at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.**
- 29 Tues Yoga, Mary Van Valin 9-10 a.m.
- 30 Wed Supper at SIX!, 5:30 social time, Ann Dressel (223-9426); program 7:00 p.m., Anne Hughes *The Benefits of Tea*

DECEMBER

- 1 Thurs Vocal Ensemble, K. Tarsa, Sanctuary 7-9 p.m.
- 3 Sat Croness & Scones, Shari Cope's home, Solveig Gustafson, 9:30 AM
- 3 Sat Toy Time shopping for WRC, Children's World, Kathy Prentice 9:00 AM
- 4 Sun **"The End Is Where We Start From," Rev. Don Von-Foerster; services at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.**

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