



Summer service schedule, May 14 through September 10: ONE service only, at 10:00 a.m.

www.uucgt.org

Unitarian Universalist
Congregation
of Grand Traverse
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then FAX.)

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9 am – 3 pm
Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

*Interim Minister**

Rev. Don Vaughn-Foerster
Home: 231-929-2370
vaughnfoerster@aol.com

*Director of Religious
Education**

Vacant

*Minister of Music**

Rev. Kevin Tarsa, 922-8146
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Connie Hoffman

*Ex officio members of the Board

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Sunday, August 6 — ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 AM

"New Beginnings: From Independence to Transcendence"

Eric Carlson

An exploration of one young man's return to his Unitarian Universalist faith community, first as an individual, next as a community organizer, and finally as one pursuing the path towards ministry. Erik David Carlson is a seminarian at Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago, a founding member of the Church of the Younger Fellowship, and son of UU Congregation of Grand Traverse member Jean Carlson Adams.

Sunday, August 13 — ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 AM

"Home" (...and a "Homecoming" Sunday!)

Karen McCarthy and Rev. Kevin Tarsa, with members of the UUCGT Vocal Ensemble, Joel Heady, Nancy Landfair

So many of those who discover Unitarian Universalism describe feeling "at home" spiritually for the first time in their lives. Karen and Kevin and singers will explore the nature of "home" at multiple levels and in a variety of arenas in our lives. What makes a home for you? For what sense of home do you long?

We extend a special invitation to all members, past members and friends to join us on this special "Homecoming" Sunday. Please call, write and e-mail those that you know, and invite them to the service and to the yet-to-be-organized enjoying of food and conversation afterwards.

Sunday, August 20 — ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 AM

"Mindfulness, Aging, and a Meaningful Life"

Dave Agee with the Silver Winds Recorder Ensemble.

Dave Agee, a clinical social worker and outpatient therapist (among other things), returns to talk to us about mindfulness, aging, and living a meaningful life. You will remember Dave from 2 years ago, when he spoke to us in a moving service he titled, "How I Discovered I Was a Fraud." Dave is a good friend of several members of this congregation and lives on Old Mission Peninsula with his wife, Pam Agee.

Sunday, August 27 — ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 AM

"Are We a Healing Community—Or Are We a Community in Need of Healing?"

John Schneider; Alan Tilley, violin

"Are We a Healing Community—Or Are We a Community in Need of Healing?"

Rev. Emmy Lou Belcher, as she prepared to leave our church community, gave us a charge to develop our pastoral care program into a healing community, in which all congregants participated. An initial meeting of 30 people resulted in the development of a pastoral care advisory team, with Arline Howe as our leader, later to include Bonnie Mathias. During these past two years, the pastoral care team has developed programmatic goals and responded to congregational needs. As we prepare for the beginning of Rev. "Chip" Roush's ministry, this service will review where we are in becoming a healing community—and what challenges remain.

Sunday, September 3 — ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 AM

"Earth Tones..."

Lauren Pelon and Gary Holthaus

Musician Lauren Pelon and writer Gary Holthaus of Red Wing, Minnesota alternate music and readings to present "Earth Tones: Perspectives on the Earth and How We Live with It—and with One Another." Pelon is noted for her fine soprano voice and her skill playing an amazing array of wind, string, percussion and electronic instruments. Holthaus is the author of four books of poems and "Wide Skies," a collection of essays.

Sunday, September 10 — ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 AM

"Feast of the Resumption"

Rev. James "Chip" Roush; UUCGT Orchestra

We'll reconstitute our congregation--singing our way into the new year, and commissioning our lay and professional leaders. Come help us build the new year!

NOTE: This is the traditional "Resumption Sunday" we celebrate near the end of each summer. More than that, our new settled minister is conducting his first UUCGT service in that capacity. This should be a wonderful time to get together and celebrate the church year ahead of us and the arrival of our new spiritual leader. Please join us for this long-awaited day!

the BEACON

BEACON Deadlines: Last Sunday
of the month, following the last service.

Jim Cook, Editor, 941-4648
Beacon@uucgt.org

Mary Kiner, Assoc. Editor, 935-3050
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Richard Curtis, Assoc. Editor, 929-9605
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Folding, labeling & mailing
by Peg Kauffman and volunteers

ADULT PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Interpretive Nature Walks

Continue UUCGT member and NMC ecology instructor Greg LaCross will lead two more nature walks. Each one-hour walk will visit a different

ecosystem and will explore its botany, geology, and animal life. The walks will start at 11:00 AM and be fun and informative! The remaining dates, topics, and locations are:

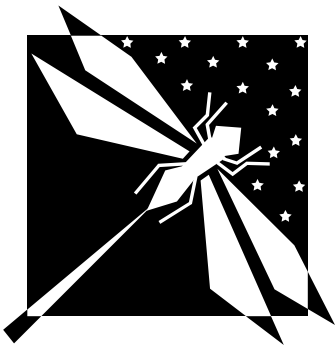
August 5th Forests and bogs. We will visit the Lost Lakes pathway near Interlochen and investigate several very large bog ecosystems. Bogs are unique in their formation, structure and botany. Learn about an ecosystem that only exists where glaciers were once found.

August 19th Forests, swamps and marshes. Explore several types of wetlands in the Boardman River valley without getting wet. Come and see the unique structure, botany, and animal life that exist in wetlands and learn about the many values provided by wetlands.

Contact the UUCGT office for more details and to register for any of the walks.

Bob's Big Band Birthday Bash

Bob Hicks will celebrate his 60th birthday on Saturday, September 16. Bob has invited 17 of his closest musician friends to join him in a fundraiser for the Traverse Symphony Orchestra. Titled Bob's Big Band Birthday Bash, the event will feature Bob and his buddies in a night of Big Band swing music. Stay tuned for more info or ask Bob the next time you see him.



UU Quilters

Those who would like to learn as well as experienced stitchers are welcome.

We meet from 1-4. Come for all or whatever part you can. Materials provided. Quilts are for UU fundraisers and other good causes. We will meet on the following dates: August 9 and August 23; September 13 and September 27. Call Bonnie Mathias or Kathy Prentice for more information.

Men's Group

The Men's Group will meet for dinner and conversation on Monday August 14, 6:00 PM at the South City Limits restaurant. Discussion topic is still open but is always interesting. Join us!

Wednesday night suppers

There will be a potluck supper at MaryAnn Force's home on August 23. Check with Mary Ann or watch the Orders of Service for further information.

Old Mission Labyrinth

The Old Mission labyrinth is available at 3469 Old Mission Road. Contact John Schneider at 223-9299 for directions.

Dining Out Group

The Dining Out Group will be eating at Gabby's, Wednesday August 9 at 6pm. For reservations call Ann Dressel at 223-9426. Please make reservations by Tuesday Aug. 8. If you have questions call Ann or Pinkie at 75-3602. Hope to see you.

—Pinkie and John

From the Church of the Larger Fellowship:

Looking to explore your own spirituality? The Church of the Larger Fellowship offers online classes and email discussions. Go to www.clfuu.org (click on **Resources**) or call **617/948-6166**.

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

RE Director Resigns

Mary VanValin has resigned her position as UUCGT Director of Religious Education. She has dedicated herself to the spiritual education of our children and youth for the past year and for this we are extremely grateful. We will miss her smiling face in the classrooms on Sunday mornings. When you see her, be sure to thank her for all her hard work.

Your Board of Trustees is searching for an interim DRE to fill the vacancy and will begin the search for a permanent DRE in September.

SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTION

Summer is running through us with heat and humidity. Thank goodness for the beautiful sun, that brings warmth all year round. And as things go around—so do problems! We will tackle a few of them this fall.

September 15, Friday evening, at 7 PM, we will show our first video, "Wetback," about the difficulties and whys of the immigration issue. Gladys Munoz will talk to us about the issues and problems, having spent many years visiting our southern border with Mexico and examining the problems, and being an immigrant herself. Put this on your calendar now.

The second video, Friday October 13, 7 PM, is about the underlying unspoken agenda of the Christian right. Plan to come see that also and join the discussion.

The annual Crop Walk is taking place this fall. If anyone is interested, or wants to join with others in the cause of raising money for and awareness of the plight of many of the poor in our county, please let me know. We walk for pleasure as many can only walk in an attempt and hope to obtain food or water.

Plan to join us for the videos. AND—Please plan to vote this November!! Thanks!

—Emmy Lou

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

August 2006

One year ago this month I was President Elect, soon to be UUCGT Board President. How time flies when you're having fun! Seriously, this year has been fun, most of the time. The Board has worked very hard this year on several projects. One committee of the Board has developed religious education themes to be carried out throughout the year. These themes have been presented from the pulpit, utilized in religious education classes for children and youth, incorporated in four intergenerational Sunday services and presented on Wednesday Nights for adult RE.

Another Board Committee realizing the current council structure was not working very well, particularly in the area of communication, developed a new organization structure. A new organization chart was drawn up and bylaws were revised to reflect the new chart. The revised bylaws were approved, by the Congregation, at the Annual Meeting.

There have been stressful moments: the resignation of our beloved Kath Zatorski, Office Administrator, a not so successful canvass, a proposed budget process that has been an emotional roller coaster ride for the Board and the Congregation and the resignation of Director of Religious Education, Mary VanValin.

On a positive note, The Ministerial Search Committee has been successful in finding a settled minister. The Reverend Chip Roush has been called to be the spiritual leader of the Congregation and will begin his ministry September 1.

I wish to thank all who have expressed support for me during the past year. Your kind words have meant much to me.

—Penny Ort

ALL ABOUT US

Memorial:

On July 8th at 3:00 p.m., we celebrated the life of Charly Hansen who died June 27th. It was a service that was truly one of a kind as was Charly himself. It was attended by a great number of friends and acquaintances. Again we had an outpouring of contributions of food, and help on a very warm day with an overflow of people. My thanks go out to all of you who came forward to volunteer.

Our thoughts are with Alice and her family in the weeks ahead.

Gambles:

Ruth gamble had a birthday celebration in her new apartment in the assisted living home called Inverness. She seems very happy there with a new group of friends

Jim Gamble's family held a short ceremony following the July 16th service and placed Jim's ashes in our UU Memorial Garden.

We Are Mindful Of:

- ♥ Patty Bauer whose mother passed away downstate
- ♥ Cal Boulter who had surgery for a knee replacement
- ♥ Beecy Fraser who remains in the Pavilions
- ♥ Richard Myer who is now out of the hospital and home
- ♥ Ralph and Joan Laird who remain at home with help.
- ♥ Margaret Tarsa on the last phase of her treatments

A Memorial Service for the mother of Charlene Abernathy will be held on Aug. 2nd at 11:00 a.m. in the UUCGT Sanctuary. Charlene's mother had Alzheimer's as well as cancer. Our hearts go out to the family.

—Arline Howe, Pastoral Care

Correction

The new email address listed for Tim Cairns in the July *Beacon* was in fact the new email address for Tim **Young** at Food For Thought. The address is timothy@foodforthought.net. We regret the error.

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.

Sunday September 10, 10 AM

Resumption Sunday:

Chip Roush's first service as UUCGT's new settled minister!

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the service!

MINDING THE STORE

Homecoming Service with a Tailgating Party!

On August 13, UUCGT will experience a "Homecoming" service, exploring what it means to feel that Unitarian Universalism is our "spiritual home." Members of the Vocal Ensemble will share some special music!

We hope to see some folks who haven't been to our congregation in a while, as well as new folks who might feel at home here. Please call, write, or email someone (or somethwo or somethree) and invite them to the service!

We'll have a tailgating-type lunch afterwards, in the parking lot in front of the church, to help people further feel connected and homey. Let's do some grilling and picnicking! If you can help with food or grilling (or know someone who might like to help with food or grilling) please contact Maura Brennan (941-9158) or Marilyn Madison (932-8901).

Fund Raising Opportunity Arises!!

UUCGT Marketplace comes to town. A new idea for fund raising has been offered. Marcia Bellinger has suggested we do a once-a-month "want ads/for sale" insert in the *Beacon*. She will take calls at her store during working hours for things you want to sell or buy. You can also fill out a form available at the church and leave it in the Special Events box. All requests must be in by the 15th of each month to insure being listed in the next *Beacon*. This *Beacon* insert will be published and the buyers/sellers will donate all or part of the money to the church. Receipts will be given for the amount donated and can be used as a tax write-off.

RULES: Your telephone number will be on the ad and you will take the calls. After the sale you will turn your donation in to the church office. You will receive a receipt from the church for income tax purposes. Questions? Call Marsha Bellinger, 946-0610, or Barb Bloomer, 276-7655

Desperately seeking personnel committee chair!

As my term expires in early September, we are still in need of an organized person with some business and possibly human resources background to chair the personnel committee. I will be more than happy to help with the transition. Responsibilities involve researching, authoring and recommending personnel policies to the Board for review and approval. Please contact Kim Gribi at 938-9716 with questions, or better yet, to volunteer!! Thank you.

Coffee Hour

Please sign up to help with coffee. Sign-up sheet on the bulletin board by the office.

How Does Your Nametag Move from the Welcome Table to the Kiosk?

It depends on the status you choose. Here's how it works:

Visitors are welcome as they explore Unitarian Universalism in general and UUCGT in particular. While you are a Visitor you will come to the Welcome Table before Sunday services to pick up your beige nametag.

When you decide you would like to be a more settled participant in UUCGT, you may become a Friend by filling out a Nametag Request Form, available on the Welcome Table. Or you can become a Member by scheduling a meeting with the minister to sign the Membership Book. Either way, you will then find your blue nametag on the kiosk.

As a Friend or a Member, you will be listed in the UUCGT Directory, which is published by the first of October. You will automatically receive our monthly newsletter, the *Beacon*, and will be included in the annual canvass. As a Member, you can also vote in our Congregational meetings.

Please talk to Membership Committee members (we have yellow "Ask Me" signs on our name tags) if you have questions about membership.

—Membership Committee: Karen Culp, Bob Fitch, Pam Godbout, Judy Halsted, John and Pinkie Hoffmann, Jane Watts



PRINCIPLES

Our Congregation is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association. As such we covenant to affirm and promote:

The inherent worth and dignity of every person

Justice, equity and compassion in human relations

Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations

A free and responsible search for truth and meaning

The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large

The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all

Respect for the interdependent web of all existence, of which we are a part

The living tradition we share draws from many sources:

Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;

Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;

Wisdom from the world's religions which inspire us in our ethical and spiritual life;

Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;

Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;

Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

Grateful for the religious pluralism which enriches and ennobles our faith, we are inspired to deepen our understanding and expand our vision. As free congregations we enter into this covenant promising to one another our mutual trust and support.

Purposes

The Unitarian Universalist Association shall devote its resources to and exercise its corporate powers for religious, educational and humanitarian purposes.

The primary purpose of the Association is to serve the needs of its member congregations, organize new congregations, extend and strengthen Unitarian Universalist institutions, and implement its principles.

From your Minister of Music

"Your Name Here"

Karen McCarthy explained that at this year's General Assembly—the large annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists from around the U.S. and beyond—many speakers began their remarks by stating their name followed by "...and this is my spiritual home."

Karen and I are preparing the August 13 Homecoming service exploring the nature of "home," so the idea of spiritual home is on my mind, but then, it almost always is. And I've been wondering about you.

What makes (or would make) this Unitarian Universalist community of ours a spiritual home for you? What attributes, what qualities, what fundamental essences are necessary for your sense of spiritual at-home-ness? What allows, or would allow, you to stand up and say, "I am _____, and this is my spiritual home."

This is a key and defining question, because it is the "spiritual" aspect that sets a religious community—a church—apart from all of the wonderful and valuable civic organizations in which so many of us participate. What is it that you seek in a church that you do not seek (or find) in other collective endeavors?

As we begin life with our new senior minister, Chip Roush, and his wife Becky, we are invited into a uniquely fertile opportunity to ask these questions. The answers are not etched in stone by someone else, somewhere else. Your answers will be vital—yes, of course, to you, but also to the rest of us, and beyond.

What allows (or would allow) you to say, "I am (your name here), and this is my spiritual home.?"

I am Kevin Tarsa, and this is my spiritual home.

Yours,

Rev. Kevin Tarsa

MUSICAL NOTES



Music Thank You's...

- ♫ To Kim Gribi for her always beautiful violin playing in our service with Rabbi Chava Bahle on June 25.
- ♫ To Richard Curtis for the wonderful Tambour and flute playing in our service on July 2 in which Dan Orr shared his thoughts on and insight into globalization.
- ♫ To Judith Weaver for her moving violin (music which ranged from angst-driven to sublime) in our July 16 service with Karen McCarthy exploring forgiveness. Special thanks to Melinda Mitchell, Mitch and Jeremy Treadwell, Katy Bean-Larson and Chris Williams for bringing the story to life through sound.
- ♫ To Bob Hicks for his amazing trumpet playing in the July 23 service that explored living lives of meaning and significance.



APRIL FOOLS CONCERT

After a summer breather, we will resume concert planning and theme selection for next year's April Fools Concert, our incredible fund—and FUN—raiser.

If you want to be in on the fun, contact Kevin at: musicuucgt@charterinternet.com, call the office or call 922-8146.

UUCGT VOCAL ENSEMBLE

Rehearsals resume on Thursday, Sept 7 at 7:00. Mark your calendars and come sing with us! (*Note: Special summer rehearsal on August 10 for those singing on August 13.*)

UUCGT ORCHESTRA:

September 10: "Resumption" Sunday with "Wake Now My Senses," "Woyaya" and "Rank by Rank"—our first fall service with the Rev. Chip Roush (You can get music now!)

9:00 AM rehearsal for the single 10 o'clock service

October 8: separate pieces for string, woodwind, and brass ensembles, plus, in the end, the full Orchestra.

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.

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; Kevin Tarsa, 922-8146.

—Arline Howe, Chair

Unitarian Universalist Congregation
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Traverse City MI 49686-1802



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the BEACON

PUBLISHED MONTHLY
Volume 43, Issue 8
August, 2006

the BEACON

Calendar

All events take place at the Congregation building unless otherwise noted

August

- 3 Thurs Crones & Scones, S. Gustafson, Traverse City Film Festival Event; specifics to be announced
- 3 Thurs TENTATIVE, Vocal Ensemble, sanctuary, 7 – 8:30 PM
- 5 Sat Hike with Greg La Cross, Lost Lake Pathway, 11:00 a.m. (carpool @ 10:00 Oleson's)
- 6 Sun **"New Beginnings: From Independence to Transcendence," Eric Carlson, ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 a.m.**
- 7 Mon SOS, Jeff Sanborn, office, 7-8:30 p.m.
- 7 Mon Finance Committee Meeting, Phyllis Jessup, Social Hall, 7-9:00 p.m.
- 8 Tues RE Committee Meeting, call office for time
- 9 Wed UU Quilters, Bonnie Mathias & Kathy Prentice, Social Hall, 1-4:00 p.m.
- 10 Thurs TENTATIVE, Vocal Ensemble, 7 – 8:30 p.m.
- 13 Sun **"Home" (...and a "Homecoming" Sunday), Karen McCarthy and Rev. Kevin Tarsa, with member of the UUCGT Vocal Ensemble, ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 a.m.**
- 14 Mon Men's Group, South City Limits, 6:00 p.m.
- 14 Mon SOS, Jeff Sanborn, office, 7-8:30 p.m.
- 15 Tues UUCGT Board Meeting, 7-9:00 p.m.
- 17 Thurs Crones & Scones, S. Gustafson, Beach Bums Ladies' night. Meet at Solveig's at 5 PM to carpool.
- 19 Sat Hike with Greg La Cross, Boardman River Valley, 11:00 a.m.
- 20 Sun **"Mindfulness, Aging and a Meaningful Life," Dave Agee with the Silver Winds Recorder Ensemble, ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 a.m.**

- 21 Mon SOS, Jeff Sanborn, office, 7-8:30 p.m.
- 22 Tues Sunday Service Committee, Karen McCarthy, Social Hall, 7-9:00 p.m.
- 23 Wed Membership Committee, John Hoffman, Noon-2:00 p.m.
- 23 Wed UU Quilters, Bonnie Mathias & Kathy Prentice, Social Hall, 1-4:00 p.m.
- 26 Thurs Crones & Scones, S. Gustafson, potluck brunch at Pat Trezise's home. Meet at Solveig's at 9 AM to carpool.
- 27 Sun **To be announced, ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 a.m.**
- 28 Mon SOS, Jeff Sanborn, office, 7-8:30 p.m.

September

- 3 Sun **"Earth Tones," Lauren Pelon and Gary Holthaus, ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 a.m.**
- 7 Thurs New Board Retreat, September 7, 8 & 9 – Off-site, 9-5:00 p.m.
- 7 Thurs Crones & Scones, S. Gustafson, labyrinth walk and lunch out.
- 7 Thurs Vocal Ensemble, K. Tarsa, 7-9:00 p.m.
- 10 Sun **"Feast of the Resumption" (Resumption Sunday), Rev. Chip Roush, ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 a.m.**
- 10 Sun Orchestra Rehearsal, K. Tarsa, , 9-10:00 a.m.
- 12 Tues UUCGT Board Meeting, 7-9:00 p.m.
- 13 Wed UU Quilters, Bonnie Mathias & Kathy Prentice, Social Hall, 1-4:00 p.m.
- 14 Thurs Vocal Ensemble, K. Tarsa, 7-9:00 p.m.
- 15 Fri Social Action Video & Discussion, Emmy Lou Cholak, 7-9:00 p.m.
- 17 Sun **To be announced, Services at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.**