



Unitarian Universalist
Congregation
of Grand Traverse
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Sunday, November 5 — Services at 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM

“The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.”

Mark Gustafson; Kim Gribi, violin Dede Alderman, percussion

What does a UU say about C.S. Lewis? Lewis is the most important and influential apologist for Christianity in the Twentieth Century, and his popularity continues today, especially since the release of the film “The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.” We will watch the film Saturday night, November 4th at 6:30, preceded by a dinner at 5:30. I will tell the children and the adults the allegory “Thumbsucker Rabbit” at both services on November 5th.

Sunday, November 12 — Services at 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM

“Sivis Pacem”

**Rev. Chip Roush; 9:30 Richard Curtis, flute 11:00 Joel Heady, Children’s Chorus,
Vocal Ensemble with Kevin Weber**

Can we simultaneously prepare for peace and prepare for war? We’ll honor our veterans and deconstruct the ways that both sides misunderstand their sacrifice.

Sunday, November 19 — Services at 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM

“The World Keeps Whispering”

Rev. Chip Roush; 11:00 o’clock service: Vocal Ensemble with Marilyn Tilley

Thanksgiving service, with our traditional potluck dinner at Twin Lakes, following the second service. (Details about the lunch are included inside this issue.)

Sunday, November 26 — Services at 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM

“Big Is More”

Rev. Chip Roush; 11:00 o’clock service: Laura Kortokrax, piano and friends

Holidays have been commercialized for millennia, but it does seem worse recently. How do we find and honor Spirit in the midst of cultural excess?

Sunday, December 3 — Services at 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM

“Raise High the Roof Bar”

**Rev. Chip Roush; 9:30 Nan Worthington, harp 11:00 Marin Tack with the Vocal
Ensemble**

Why “growth” is not necessarily the only or best answer: what we learned at the “Raise the Roof” training. Plus: festivals of light from around the world, and a spiritual surprise!

Sunday, December 10 — ONE SERVICE ONLY at 11:00 AM today

Christmas Pageant: “Would You Like to Hold the Baby?”

**With an all-star cast of young persons, and musicians of all ages. John Noonan,
director**

Joyce Poley and Frank Henning wrote this Christmas intergenerational service to celebrate the spiritual truths and metaphorical beauty found in the Christian Nativity story that surrounds us at this time of year. “For the story invites us to reflect on what we value in life.” ...and speaks to our yearnings for depth and meaning and hope.

Rehearsals during Religious Education time on Sundays. Music rehearsals on several Thursday evenings (see music invite in this Beacon)

Sunday, December 17 — Services at 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM

“Blue Christmas”

Rev. Chip Roush; 11:00 o’clock service: Vocal Ensemble

There are many reasons we might be “blue” around the holidays: less sunlight, missing loved ones, family issues, too-high expectations, over-commercialization... We’ll create some solace and joy together.

Sunday, December 24

Christmas Eve services: a meditative service at 9:30 am; traditional “kids” service at 11:00 am (instead of 4 pm), and a candlelight service at 8:30 pm.

MESSAGE from the PRESIDENT

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Grand Traverse is comprised of very independent and very bright individuals. Thus, the assumption of Board leadership has led me to realize that my job is somewhat akin to trying to herd cats. (Trent Lott notwithstanding!) We have just emerged from a year fraught with high emotion. We weathered the conflict; we survived; we learned.

This fall, as the new Board convened, we committed ourselves as individuals and as a body to a refreshed and refreshing attitude of unity—a unity that will support the renewed optimism of UUCGT. We created a "covenant," a solemn and binding agreement, to guide our work together, and with the minister, the staff, and the congregation. This covenant reads as follows:

We have promised:

- To treat each other in a caring and respectful manner,
- To be honest and present emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually during meetings,
- To value group goals over personal goals,
- To resolve conflict openly,
- To laugh with each other, and
- To remember our spiritual context.

I am working with a remarkable Board. I remind you to help us serve you by freely communicating with us and as often as you wish. Meaningful dialogue with the members of the congregation is critical to our organizational health and to our spiritual growth.

—Joan Sheard

MINDING THE STORE

Update

The multi-congregational meeting in Muskegon has been postponed, due to the busy schedules of all involved. There is no better way to live and improve our UUism than by meeting with our neighbor congregations—but there may be a better way to schedule such meetings! We will definitely have the opportunity to work with other congregations at the District Assembly in Grand Rapids, March 30-April 2, and we may have one with our "cluster" (closest) congregations sooner.

Covenant Groups

Covenant groups will be scheduled soon—those who have already indicated their interest will be called, and others may have the opportunity to join, if there is still room. If you are interested in facilitating such a group, contact Rev. Chip. There is still time!

Yard Clean-Up

November 8 (a Wednesday)—starting at 12:30 PM. Bring rakes etc. and a chainsaw if you can. See you outdoors!

—MaryAnn Force

...From our Friends

The title for this column is adapted from the Beatles song. We indeed get by with a little help from our friends, and as a congregation these friends include the wonderful resources from the Heartland District and the UUA. My intention is to use a little space each month to highlight one or two ways we benefit from these resources and our friends there.

The first column simply has to be the resources we used to get our wonderful new settled Senior Minister! Throughout the search process, and even before we began that journey, our Heartland District representative—Lisa Presley—was a central resource. She came to our congregation and walked us through the process prior to the MSC even

being formed. During our two-year search she guided the MSC, gave them invaluable feedback on our Congregational Record, and served as a constant and willing sounding board for the MSC. Having served on the MSC the first year, I cannot count the number of times we called Heartland for advice. The UUA has an entire portion of their huge website devoted to the ministerial search process. We were able to view/screen potential candidates and view their ministerial records. Without the UUA and Heartland resources, we very well might still be searching. Instead, we embark on an exciting new beginning for our congregation, having well reaped the benefits. We don't just get by with a little help from our friends—we thrive because of a LOT of help from our friends. Could we ever thank them enough?

—Jeffery Hawkins /\

—Trustee for Denominational Affairs

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Dinners At Home

One of the most enjoyable and successful fund raising events we do here at UUCGT is the "Dinners At Home." Last year, for example, one dozen members hosted dinners in their homes for about 100 people and we raised \$2,500. We are hoping to increase those numbers this year. If you are interested in hosting a dinner, please contact John and Pinkie Hoffman at 275-3602. We expect to have a table set aside at the annual Thanksgiving Dinner for sign-ups. "Dinners At Home" are a nice, informal way to enjoy good food and conversation, meet other members of the congregation, and it's a fundraiser to boot!

UU Marketplace Update!

This insert will not be in this Beacon. You will find it included on the Order of Service on Nov. 5th. Extra copies will also be available on the table in the church entry. Sorry for the inconvenience. Please continue to call Barb Bloomer at 276-7655 or Marcia Bellinger at 946-0610 with your items to be sold. We hope to be back in the Beacon next month.

Thanks To Our Congregation...

...for sending a team to a workshop in Pokagon, Indiana.. The workshop explored the changes we need to make as we move from a pastoral to a program congregation. Those attending were Christi McGue, Penny Ort, John Hoffman, Rev. Chip, and Barb Bloomer. We had an intense weekend of thought and discussions as we explored the possibilities and pitfalls of this kind of transition. We came away with a

plan to keep our church moving toward our goals and aspirations. We will present our findings to the Board and then the congregation during the next months.

UU Trivia

The first person to email Rev. Chip (jchipr@yahoo.com) with the answer to this trivia question will win a gift certificate to Horizon Books, and will have his or her name published in our next *Beacon*.

This Unitarian woman was an author, Abolitionist and Suffragette. She wrote many thrillers in her lifetime, but was best known for her children's books. At least ten movies have been made based on her most famous work; the most recent one starred Winona Ryder.

Adult "RE"

Adult Religious Learning is getting off to a great start. There are currently 5 members and we meet every other Sunday after the second service. We are starting to learn about our religious leanings, so to speak, using the book "Being Liberal in an Illiberal World" by Jack Mendelson, a four-session learning experience This is a good way to learn where we want to go in our very own theology, not someone else's. We have several other ideas to explore and are excited to get started. Anyone can join in the future but we are currently limited to 6 as there is a need to buy the book. (There is one available in the library for our use if need be.) If you want more information, see or call Jeff Sanborn at 946-8680 or jfsan@charter.net.

Ministerial Relations Committee

The Ministerial Relations Committee, a liaison between the Senior Minister and the congregation, has recently become active again. The committee members are Mary Van Valin, Nadine Elmgren and Gary Singer. They will be meeting with Chip monthly and encourage you to contact any of them with your input.

Your Board of Trustees at Work

The UUCGT Board of Trustees would like to keep the congregation informed about their activities. In the near future, once minutes of the Board meetings have been approved by the Board, they will be made available (1) in a ring binder in the UUCGT library; and (2) by posting on one of the bulletin boards in the church. Also, individual copies of the minutes may be requested in the office. This is one of the steps the Board is taking to assure good communication with the congregation.

The West Wall

Or the wall to our left as we enter the sanctuary. This is a fine space for ecclesiastical art appropriate for Unitarian Universalists. Sally Mitchell otherwise known as Sylvia Mitchell continues to hang work there repeating the sequence of works about UU which she began some time ago. Excellent subject matter for artists can be found in our history, in the quotations from our predecessors and in the ideas inherent in our movement. Are there artists who would like to exhibit such work? Contact S. Mitchell scm123@chartermi.net.

—Sally Mitchell

ADULT PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

"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 our RE program, our Congregation's children choose and wrap the toys. Donations from the Congregation provide funds to purchase and wrap the toys. Every Sunday during November you'll find:

- Boxes for donations are gift wrapped and placed in the coffee area after services. Please make checks out to UUCGT and label "toys." You can also mail donations to the office.
- A box for small gifts that the children in the shelter can give to their mothers is also in the coffee area. Suggestions include gloves, scarves, costume jewelry, cologne (no soaps or lotion, please).
- A sign up sheet for children who would like to shop on Saturday, December 2 will be available.

Questions? See Kathy Prentice or Ann Marie Love. Call Kathy at 941-8758.

You may make a donation in honor of someone and a card will be sent announcing your gift. Forms will be available on Sunday mornings or through the office.

The shelter staff has changed many times over the 20-some years we've been doing this toy project, but one factor remains the same and that is their appreciation and thanks to you for helping to brighten the holidays for these special moms and children.

Crones and Scones

The UUCGT Crones and Scones Group will be meeting on the following dates and all women of "a certain age" are most welcome. The

crones will be meeting for breakfast on Saturday morning, November 11 at 9:00 at the Munson Hospital Cafeteria, on Thursday, November 30 at 9:00 at the Flap Jack restaurant, and on Thursday, December 7 at 9:00 at the Flap Jack Restaurant. For more information please call Solveig Gustafson or Marge Rundell.

UU Quilters

The UU quilters will meet on Wednesdays Nov. 8 and Nov. 29 from 1 until 4 in our social hall. Beginners welcome. Materials provided. Proceeds from quilts benefit our Congregation. Call Bonnie Mathias or Kathy Prentice for additional info.

Men's Group

The Men's Group will meet for dinner and conversation on Monday November 13, 6:00 PM at the South City Limits restaurant. Discussion topic is still open but is always interesting. Join us!

Christmas trees

Misty Sheehan has again Christmas trees at her place in Empire. Please call her if you would like one. They are Douglas Fir, she believes.

SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTION

Live the Ideal

Is it possible for many UUsers to get together and do something together? This winter will be cold, especially for those who have no home, no regular warm place to put their heads, and no warm food for their stomachs. Aren't we lucky to be able to help others! I always felt that was a giant blessing. I have, so I can give. Others can only say thank you. Wouldn't that be terrible to always be on the receiving end?!

Safe Harbor is the local homeless organization, now in its second year. The in-town churches that are able, house the homeless overnight. They also provide a warm supper and breakfast. There is need to help those churches with the meals or even chaperoning the overnight stays. Mary Kiner organized an evening meal last year. Churches that help the housing churches are called Partner Churches. Potter House would like us to partner with them when they house the homeless. Grace Episcopal, and others, also need help.

In early January there will be training for those interested in helping. We will learn about the rules that the Homeless must follow, get our questions answered, and generally learn about the program. Then all we need is about 3 to 5 people to help prepare and serve a meal. Can you do that? Wouldn't you want that done for you? We are asking you to give only what you can, like one evening, or one morning. You will be working with our UU friends and helping others. It would be fun to do it together, and a learning experience for all. They need our help! *Please sign up on the sheet on the Social Justice Action table, or call or email me.* Any way I can help you, to help us, and others, would be a pleasure. I look forward to hearing from you. Thank you! 943-7999, sjate@charter.net

The next UU video will be Friday Jan. 25. More next month about that. Please save the date! We have an Arab Muslim group that has contacted me. Their video is about how American Arab Muslims feel about this war on terrorism. See you then and before then!

The local showing from Peace and Justice Network of Bruce Gagnon's video about Nuclear Weapons in Space will be on TCTV2. Please check the TV schedule and if questions contact Carol Still.

—Thank you! - Emmy Lou

MUSICAL NOTES

November 12 "Living Room" Concert

Join Kevin and Gary and friends for an informal concert at the church after the 11:00 service on Sunday, November 12. Bring a light-lunch-type item to share, if you wish. We'll share a bit of food together and then around 12:45 or 1:00 we'll make some music just for the fun of it... Poulenc, Mozart, Faure and who knows what else!
Let Kevin or Gary know if you would like to play something. All ages are welcome and encouraged!

November 22 - Music For Thanksgiving Eve

Each year the Father Fred Foundation serves a free meal on Thanksgiving Eve to all those who wish to attend. This year Kevin is helping to organize music for the evening. Please consider playing or singing (or volunteering to help serve the meal) and please invite your singing friends to join an "all-faiths" choir for the event. We are aiming for an early evening rehearsal on Wednesday, Nov 15 (that probably leaves out the deer hunters) and will sing/play at the meal between 5:00 and 8:00 on Wednesday, November 22 at the Park Place Dome. Contact Kevin for info and for late-breaking news.



Family Choir

Come sing (and/or play) with the rest of your family and with singers of all ages as we prepare music for our holiday pageant. This year we return to "Would You Like to Hold the Baby." There are wonderful songs and opportunities for simple group singing as well as for solos.

Rehearsals will be held on Thursday evenings, from 6:00 to 7:00, on November 16 & 30 and December 7. We'll be preparing music for the December 10 pageant. If you let Kevin Tarsa know, he can get you music in advance.

Music Thank You's...

- ♪ To Treva Jaffe and Kim Gribi for beautiful music before and during the 9:30 service and to Gary Deavel and the Vocal Ensemble, for beautiful music at the 11:00 service on Prayer on September 24.
- ♪ To William, Paula and Paul Ward and Anna Bachman for a wonderful offering Luka Bloom's song "Miracle Cure" in the "Forgiveness" service on October 1.
- ♪ To our the brass trio - Bob Hicks, Doug Endicott and Jeremy Treadwell; our percussion ensemble—Dede Alderman, Molly, and Paul Ward; our string trio - Kim Gribi, Elizabeth and Judy (Barrett-)Walters; and our amazing teen woodwind quartette - Alex Chao, Jamie Treadwell, Lucy Perkins, and Neal Endicott for your separate and joint offerings in the October 8 service!
- ♪ To Mary Anne Rivers for channeling Melissa Etheridge with Paul Wards great guitar playing and to young Chloe Love

and Laura Kortokrax for their beautiful duet on October 15.

- ♪ To Judith Weaver for beautiful solo violin music before the 9:30 service and to Emma McCarthy Stone for rocking us with "If I Were God" (with the help of the Paul Ward, Marilyn Madison and Karen McCarthy band) on October 24.
- ♪ To Mercedes Kimling for her magical music before Roy Malarik's memorial service and to Kim Gribi and the Vocal Ensemble for such beautiful music within and around the service.
- ♪ To Rebecca Lessard, Bobbie Stevens, Paula Ward and, for the fifth Sunday in a row, yes count them, five Sundays, the versatile and generous Paul Ward for joining Gary Deavel and the Vocal Ensemble in offering moving music as we remembered, on October 29, the loved ones we have lost.

What extraordinary and generous musicians!

And from the Vocal Ensemble:

- ♪ On Sunday, October 29 we had the pleasure of premiering an original piece written by the Rev. Kevin Tarsa in honor of All Souls Day. Kevin set the poem "Do Not Stand at My Grave and Weep" by Mary Elizabeth Frye in a choral arrangement, with piano and Irish folk quartet accompaniment. We were thrilled to perform this wonderfully sensitive music, and wish to thank Kevin for giving us the opportunity to share his ministry.



From your Minister of Music

The reason for the season...

The primary reasons that I am pursuing study in ministry/theology are that I want to grow, to deepen and, most important, to discern how best to develop and offer my gifts to the world. I desire to anchor my very strong but rather diffuse sense of calling to serve in a more clear and conscious path.

Of course, I see everything through this lens now, including the arrangements of Christian Christmas carols that publishers send across my desk beginning in the full warmth of July. Suddenly, I find myself ruminating upon songs as simple as “The Little Drummer Boy.”

“Come,” they told me...(pa rum pum pum pum)

“A newborn King to see”...(pa rum pum pum pum)

And I think, What gift have I to bring? What gift to lay before, not “The King,” but before the world, before humanity? Through this life-journey lens, what I sense in that humble and crude manger is not an outside power or deity that needs honoring, but very real and vulnerable earth-bound life that cries, that calls out for the gifts that I have to bring. Yes, I know that gifts like money and goods are helpful—like food for the food pantry and coats and hats for those who struggle financially—but the gifts being called for,

being called forth from this manger, are more fundamental and more internal.

Shall I Play for Him?.....(pa rum pum pum pum)

The drummer boy draws from his internal gift—his ability to make music.

I often do the same, but it is always more than music that I seek to give when I play, and it is the “more” that I want better to know and to give. And so my studies begin with UU History, Theology and Globalization, and the prophetic imperative that calls us to work toward justice.

What gift do I have that the world needs, for which the world cries out? How can I learn to offer that gift most fully and most sustainably?

What gift do you have that the world needs, for which the world cries out? How can you learn to offer that gift most fully and most sustainably?

Every religious holiday offers an invitation to reflection and, ideally, to action. As music of this season reaches your ears, may you uncover within the various traditions, rich metaphors for aspects of your own living.

Yours,

Rev. Kevin Tarsá

YOUTH AND CHILDREN’S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Thank You . . .

...to our many enthusiastic, dedicated RE teachers who gave of themselves on behalf of our children and youth, and their religious education, during the month of October: Nadine Elmgren, Mary Cheney, Emma McCarthy-Stone, and Marilyn Madison – Preschool; Scott Huggins and Joyce Braeuninger – 1st-3rd grades; Lynne Perkins, Anna Bachman and Solveig Gustafson – 4th-6th grades; Gail Trill and Kathy Prentice – Middle School; Katy Bean-Larson and Ron Chao – Youth Group.

Our RE program does not happen

without our classroom volunteers.

Special thanks to Katy Bean-Larson, Ron Chao and our very own balloon-inflating, piñata-stuffing UUCGT Youth Group for putting together today’s Halloween Party. The children were thrilled! We heard many squeals of delight, just a few screams of fright, and saw smiles all around.

RE News:

Beginning Sunday, November 5th, and every Sunday through December 3rd, our budding thespians and stage crew will begin **rehearsing this year’s Christmas pageant**, *Would You Like to Hold the Baby?* Mark your calendars for an extra rehearsal on Saturday, December 9th (time to be announced). The pageant will be presented on Sunday,

December 10th, during the 11:00 am service.

Wanted:

Two child loving, process-oriented adults to spend the last three Sundays in December with our very bright, creative, sincere and all-around-amazing preschool children. Their wisdom will astound you, their manners will delight you, their smiles will warm your hearts and remind you what life is truly about. All that just for reading a story, supervising a craft, sharing a snack and listening! Treat yourself! To volunteer, just see Gretchen on Sunday, call her at 935-1798, or e-mail dreuucgt@charterinternet.com. You’ll be so glad you did.

*—Gretchen Kronk,
your Interim DRE*

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Calendar

All events take place at the Congregation building unless otherwise noted

November

- 1 Wed Supper at Six (social hour, 5:30), potluck, Program 7-8pm, Greg LaCross - What is String Theory?
- 2 Thurs Vocal Ensemble, K. Tarsa, 7-9:00 p.m.
- 3 Fri Social Action Video & Discussion, Emmy Lou Cholak, 7-9:00 p.m.
- 4 Sat Family Event: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, 7:00 p.m., light supper @ 6pm
- 5 Sun **"The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe," Mark Gustafson, services at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.**
- 6 Mon SOS Meeting, Jeff, Minister's Office, 7-8:30 p.m.
- 7 Tues Sunday Services, K. McCarthy, 7-9:00 p.m.
- 8 Wed UU Quilters, Social Hall, 1-4:00 p.m.
- 8 Wed Membership Committee Meeting, 2:30-4:30 p.m.
- 8 Wed Children's Chorus Rehearsal, K. Tarsa, Sanctuary, 5:30-6:15 p.m.
- 8 Wed Supper at Six (social hour at 5:30), \$4.00, L.E. Smith, Hot or Cold: Food Safety, 7-8pm
- 9 Thurs Vocal Ensemble, K. Tarsa, 7-9:00 p.m.
- 11 Sat Crones and Scones, Solveig Gustafson, Munson Cafeteria, 9:00 AM
- 12 Sun **"Sivis Pacem," Rev. Chip Roush, services at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.**
- 13 Mon Men's Group, South City Limits, 6-7:30 p.m.
- 13 Mon SOS Meeting, Jeff, Minister's Office, 7-8:30 p.m.
- 14 Tues UUCGT Board Meeting, Social Hall, 7-9:00 p.m.
- 15 Wed Supper at Six (social hour at 5:30), \$4.00, Program: video, 7-8pm
- 16 Thurs Family Chorus Rehearsal, K. Tarsa, 6-7:00 p.m.
- 16 Thurs Vocal Ensemble, K. Tarsa, 7-9:00 p.m.

- 17 Fri Social Action Video & discussion, Emmy Lou Cholak, 7-9:00 p.m.
- 19 Sun **"The World Keeps Whispering," Rev. Chip Roush, services at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.**
- 19 Sun Thanksgiving Meal at Twin Lakes Lodge, 12:30-5:00 p.m.
- 20 Mon SOS Meeting, Jeff, Minister's Office, 7-8:30 p.m.
- 21 Tues UUCGT Board Meeting, Social Hall, 7-9:00 p.m.
- 22 Wed NO Supper at Six due to Thanksgiving
- 23 Thurs CANCELED, Vocal Ensemble, Happy Thanksgiving
- 26 Sun **"Big Is More," Rev. Chip Roush, services at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.**
- 27 Mon SOS Meeting, Jeff, Minister's Office, 7-8:30 p.m.
- 28 Tues Sunday Services, K. McCarthy, 7-9:00 p.m.
- 29 Wed UU Quilters, Social Hall, 1-4:00 p.m.
- 29 Wed Supper at Six (social hour at 5:30), \$4.00, Program: Discussion, 7-8pm,
- 30 Thurs Crones and Scones, Solveig Gustafson, Flap Jack Shack, 9:00 AM
- 30 Thurs Family Chorus Rehearsal, K. Tarsa, 6-7:00 p.m.
- 30 Thurs Vocal Ensemble, K. Tarsa, 7-9:00 p.m.

December

- 3 Sun **"Raise High the Roof Bar," Rev. Chip Roush, services at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.**
- 4 Mon SOS Meeting, Jeff, Minister's Office, 7-8:30 p.m.
- 6 Wed Supper at Six (social hour at 5:30), \$4.00; Historical Memory, 7-8pm
- 7 Thurs Crones and Scones, Solveig Gustafson, Flap Jack Shack, 9:00 AM
- 7 Thurs Family Chorus Rehearsal, K. Tarsa, 6-7:00 p.m.
- 7 Thurs Vocal Ensemble, K. Tarsa, 7-9:00 p.m.
- 8 Fri Social Action Video & Discussion, Emmy Lou Cholak, 7-9:00 p.m.
- 10 Sun **Pageant, ONE SERVICE ONLY at 11:00 a.m.**