



Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation  
of Grand Traverse  
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9 am – 3 pm  
Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

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revuucgt@charterinternet.com

*Minister of Music\**

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\* *Ex officio* members of the Board

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

"Atheism: A Sense of Obligation?"

**Rev. Chip; Kim Gribi, violin and R. Gary Deavel, piano**

How some people find the lack of a god to be a life-affirming  
"theology."

**Sunday, June 10 — ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 AM**

"Ready, Fire, Aim!"

**Rev. Chip; special guest singer/songwriter: Joe Jencks**

The usefulness of maps on our travels. Where are we going, anyway?!

**Annual Meeting following the service—election of officers and  
voting on revisions to the Bylaws**

**Sunday, June 17 — ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 AM**

"Not Your Father's Promise"

**Rev. Chip; Men from the Congregation**

The changing roles of fathers—and men—in our 21st century.

**Congregational Conversation following the service—2007-2008  
budget**

**Sunday, June 24 — ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 AM**

"Remarkable Cloud Formations"

**Rev. Julie Denny-Hughes; singer/harpist Nan Worthington**

This sermon has something for everyone, including but not limited to:  
meteorology, psychology, theology and magic!

**Sunday, July 1 — ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 AM**

"Enough!"

**Katy Bean-Larson**

All of us want what we need. But what exactly do we need? If I need it,  
does that mean you need it too? If I need something, does that mean I  
deserve it?

**Sunday, July 8 — ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 AM**

"Hopelessly Helping"

**Rev. Chip**

How does Mahayana Buddhism differ from Theravadan Buddhism?  
From Zen? From UUism? We'll explore this spiritual path that is rapidly  
becoming more popular in the United States.

**Special meeting following the service—vote on the 07-08 budget**

**Sunday, July 15 — ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 AM**

"A Divinity School Address"

**Rev. Kevin Tarsa**

Ralph Waldo Emerson delivered his famous "Divinity School Address"  
on this very day, July 15, in 1938, touching off a major controversy  
among American Unitarian theologians. While not expecting to shake  
the world of theologians, I will offer reflections from my own seminary  
journey toward a Master of Divinity degree. I entered this journey in  
order to learn and to grow, and so I am.

**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.

"Love is the center of  
our church and service  
is the prayer." This  
defines pastoral care.  
We continue to serve  
the needs of our  
congregants as we  
learn about them.  
Should you have or  
know of a pastoral care  
need, contact anyone  
on the Pastoral Care  
Advisory Team.

—Arline Howe

**Pastoral Care  
Advisory Team**

Patty Bauer, 947-3576,  
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*the BEACON*

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

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Folding, labeling & mailing  
by Peg Kauffman and volunteers

# From Our Senior Minister

26 May 2007

## **UU G-Spots**

Gini Courter notes that UUs find it easier to talk about sex than about theology or money or relevance, so she refers to the three “G Spots” of UUism: god, generosity and growth. For centuries, whenever Universalists or Unitarians or UUs have talked about our theology, we have grown, in numbers and in influence. “When we talk about religion,” she says, “people discover that we have one, and they visit, to see if they want one, too!” She recommends pulpit exchanges between ministers, and Board exchanges, too: Trustees should visit other congregations’ Board meetings, and attend their worship services. She notes that one in three Midwesterners wear a cross—so she makes sure that she is always wearing a

chalice, and that she has an “elevator speech” if people ask her about it. She also recommends the elevator speech of the Rev. Rob Hardies: “I believe in a Love that won’t let you down, won’t let you go, and won’t let you off.”—from the Heartland District Assembly keynote address, by our own Gini Courter, Moderator of our Unitarian Universalist Association.

Share your elevator speech (50 words or less about your beliefs)—email it to [jchidr@yahoo.com](mailto:jchidr@yahoo.com); best speech wins a prize, and all of them will get published, to help us all develop/improve our own outreach efforts.

With Spirit,

—the Rev. Chip Roush

## **MINDING THE STORE**

### Stewardship Campaign Nears End

June is upon us and the time is here to set the budget for the next church year which begins September 1<sup>st</sup>.

To all of you who have made your commitment for next year, we thank you for your generosity. If you have not committed, please do so at once. You can do this several ways. You can call the office (947-3117) or email Connie at [uucgt@charterinternet.com](mailto:uucgt@charterinternet.com).

If you have questions please call me.

—Barbara Bloomer, 231-276-7655

### Congregational Conversation, Special Meeting Announced

There will be a Congregational Conversation about the 2007-2008 Budget on Sunday, June 17, 2007, immediately following the 10:00 a.m. worship service.

There will be a Special Meeting of the Congregation to vote on the 2007-2008 Budget on Sunday, July 8, 2007, immediately following the 10:00 a.m. worship service. 30% of the membership, approximately 78 people, will constitute a quorum for this special meeting. Proxy statements will be included in the official count to

establish a quorum. Proxies will be available in the office.

—from the Board of Trustees

### The Revenue Enhancement Committee...

...needs volunteer hosts for the Bed and Breakfast fundraiser. If you are willing to host or lend your home to UUs from other locales this summer, please call Judy or Ken Weaver at 947-0947 or email them at [weavmusic@aol.com](mailto:weavmusic@aol.com).

### Joe Jencks

Singer-songwriter Joe Jencks will be performing the weekend of June 10<sup>th</sup>. The popular UU musician will provide music for our worship service, and will perform a concert Sunday evening. You can learn more about him at [www.joejencks.com](http://www.joejencks.com).

Thank you for your response! Thank you to all of you who completed our recent survey about Sunday Services. After the results have been tabulated, we will discuss the results at our retreat in early June.

—Sunday Services Committee

### Building and Grounds Update

1. One of our new members, Dan McKeen, has volunteered to oversee our landscaping. Please let me know if you are interested in assisting with the care

of our outdoor space. One particular need is for volunteers to do the watering.

2. Our sign needs electrical repair. Please let me know if you are interested in this project.

—Bob Fitch

### UU Trivia

The first person to email Rev. Chip ([jchidr@yahoo.com](mailto:jchidr@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 broke gender barriers in journalism and newspaper editing before becoming a minister. She served the People’s Church in Kalamazoo before following a call to become “America’s Housekeeper”—she exposed corruption in the Department of Agriculture and became nationally known for her health surveys of municipal water & sewer systems, food supplies, and garbage collection.

Since nobody answered that the highest-ranking openly nontheistic elected official in the U.S. is Fortney “Pete” Stark Jr., an 18-term Democratic veteran of the House of Representatives, representing California, I will give the gift certificate to the person who suggested the question: Jeremy Treadwell.

# MESSAGE from the PRESIDENT

It occurred to me last month that the letters I have been writing for the Beacon could have contained more information concerning the work of your Board. I often write reflectively. This letter will summarize our May Board meeting in an attempt to bring the congregation with us as we study those governance issues which provide the basis for our work as a people of faith.

These are the Board actions taken in May. We:

- Accepted revisions in the bylaws and agreed to formalize the process by which bylaws are revised in the future.
- Established the practice of congregational conversations.
- Set a date for our summer retreat.
- Agreed to support the Benzie satellite with funding from a June "yellow basket" collection as those congregants proceed in their work with Habitat for Humanity.
- Directed the Trustee for Facilities Management to continue negotiations with Ahavat Shalom.
- Appointed five delegates to General Assembly.

Please note that these are ACTION items only.

The hour preceding the Board business meeting was spent in the year-end performance review of Reverend Chip Roush. Chip had written a self-evaluation, the Board had written an evaluation based on questions from the UUA and both documents were discussed with Chip in attendance. These documents will now be submitted to the UUA as evidence that UUCGT does indeed have a vibrant congregation!

So...This is a governance letter, not a metaphorical letter. I hope it proves helpful to you as you chart your own personal service to this congregation.

Voting on bylaw changes and the new slate of officers will take place on June 10 after the service. Budget information will be distributed on the 10th, in order that you may have information for you to consider prior to a discussion on June 17 following worship. The vote will take place at a called meeting July 8. Please plan to attend as many of these informative sessions as you can.

Yours in faith,

—Joan Sheard

## ALL ABOUT US

It is with great sadness that I report the death of Chris Whitford. Chris was the husband of Sarah Watts—daughter of Price and Jane Watts. It is the end of his long four-year struggle with brain cancer and a very difficult time for all involved. Sarah's address is: 4489 Burton Forest Ct., Grand Rapids, MI, 49546.

### We Hold In Our Hearts—

- ♥ Anne Marie Love who had surgery May 21<sup>st</sup> and then further hospital care during the week. She is now recovering at home.
- ♥ Ron Yatich who will leave U. of M. medical rehab during the first week of June. He will be residing at Tendercare on LaFrainer Rd. and continue rehabilitation from there.

### We are Mindful Of:

- ❖ Betty Cronander as she continues chemotherapy
- ❖ Deni Everett who has finished chemo and faces radiation after 3 weeks.
- ❖ Beecy Fraser who resides in Maples at the Pavilions.
- ❖ Ruth Gamble who resides at the

Highlander.

- ❖ Joan Laird who resides at her home.
- ❖ Richard Myer who also resides at his home.
- ❖ Liz Norris at Torch Lake now with her daughter-in-law and family.
- ❖ Kay and Bob Reinhardt who are moving into a different care facility soon. (address later).
- ❖ To all those who are suffering and whose problems we are yet unaware of, we hope you can keep connected and remain hopeful and know we care.

### Congratulations go to:

- ☺ Marcia Bellinger upon her "leaving 79" birthday this month.
- ☺ Maja LaForest upon her run in the Bay Shore 10-K.

—Arline Howe  
Pastoral Care

### Welcome, New Members!

We are delighted to welcome six new members who joined UUCGT in May:

Dan and Lucky McKeen, Linda Dunigan, Heather Shumaker (whose son is Alex), Mary Anne Rivers-Friese and Nancy Still Landfair. Mary Anne and Nancy are familiar to us as members of the Vocal Ensemble, and all six were

present for the New Member service on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Other new members (and three additional children under ten years of age) who joined UUCGT since last May: Sheryl Beckman & Laura Tolen, with their baby, Morgan; Mark & Jennifer Bishop, with their boys, Colin and Aidan; Gregory & Lori Gray Boothroyd; Joyce Braeuninger; Paula Renee Hartmann; Patricia Light; Ariel Love; Marilyn Mayo; and Bob & Mary Scholl. Please look for them—and our other new members, 19 since the last New Member Service—during coffee hour and make them welcome.

To become a member, please make an appointment for a meeting with the Rev. Chip Roush.

Maggie Zimmerman Moved  
Maggie has been moved; her new address is "Margaret Zimmerman #591413 Huron Valley Complex 3511 Bemis Road Ypsilanti MI 48197" She sends her appreciation for all the letters, and regrets that she cannot respond to most of them, due to prison restrictions. Do please continue writing! The same is true for Gary, who remains at "Gary Singer #591421 Lakeland Correctional Facility 141 First Street Coldwater MI 49036"

## ADULT PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

### Wednesday Night Suppers

The Wednesday night supper group does not meet in the Church Social Hall during the summer. However, we do still meet quite often on Wednesdays either with a potluck dinner at a member's house or dining out at a local restaurant. To date, the schedule for June is as follows: June 6, 6 PM potluck at John & Pinkie Hoffmann's house; June 13, 6 PM potluck at Arline Howe's condo; June 20, 6 PM potluck at Mary Kiner's house. If you are planning to attend any of these potluck dinners or need directions to the homes, please contact the host/hostess. Sally Mitchell and John & Pinkie Hoffmann will coordinate the summer schedule. If you are interested in either hosting a potluck or recommending a specific restaurant for dining out, please contact us. Also, we hope to provide a weekly update in the Sunday Order of Service, so stay tuned.

### Community Connection

On Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> join us for a Community Connection conversation in the sanctuary at noon after the service. Trish Fiebing, TC Public School Volunteer Coordinator, will briefly share the inside story on the 400-plus volunteers who mentor students throughout our area's school system. Discover how volunteers impact the lives of students, assist teachers, build friendships and keep adults plugged into current trends. A light lunch and open conversation with Trish will follow her talk. For additional information contact: David Halperin 231-392-1811

### Green Sanctuary

The Green Sanctuary Committee will be hosting the actual Climate Project PowerPoint presentation used by Al Gore in making *An Inconvenient Truth*. The event will take place on Tuesday June 5 in the sanctuary. This is a

unique opportunity to see this presentation in our own community.

### Crones & Scones

The UUCGT Crones and Scones group will be meeting twice in June. We will meet at Mustard's Cafe (downtown @ Cass and State) on Wednesday, June 6 at 11:30 AM for lunch and conversation. Our second June activity will be on June 27. We will meet at Minerva's for dinner at 5:00 PM and then walk to the Opera House to see the movie "Ghandi." If you buy your movie ticket (\$5.00 at the Opera House Box Office), you will get a 15% discount on your meal at Minerva's. All women of "that certain age" are encouraged to join us for any of our activities. Call Solveig Gustafson (929-9608) or Marge Rundell (947-7237) for further information about our group and our activities.

### Men's Group

The Men's Group will meet for dinner at South City Limits on Monday June 11 from 6-8 PM. Rev. Chip will answer the question, "What should a UU Men's Group be like anyway?" Please join us! For more information, talk to Mark Gustafson (929-9608).

## ODDS & ENDS

Do you have an extra bedroom?

The Shumaker family is having a Dedication for their son Alex on August 5<sup>th</sup>, and is looking for options to house out-of-town guests. If you could spare a bed on Friday and/or Saturday nights (August 3 & 4), please call Heather Shumaker at 922-9127. Thank you!

### Thank-you to UUCGT

In a letter dated May 8, 2007, the Rev. Beth Miller, Director of Ministry and Professional Leadership of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations, wrote to say thank you "for your recent generous contributions

to the Living Tradition Fund, made at the installation service of the Rev. James C. Roush as your senior minister.

"An important goal for the Ministry and Professional Leadership Staff Group is to reduce theological education debt to a manageable level within five years of entering the ministry. The Living Tradition Fund is a key component of this effort, as well as an invaluable resource for emergency aid," stated Rev. Miller.

"It is thanks to the generous help of individuals, congregations and districts that we are able to keep this important resource available. Our thanks to you for your donation."

## MUSICAL NOTES



### Music Thank You's...

- ♪ To Paul and Paula Ward, Bobbie Stevens, Judith Lindenau and Chris Williams for beautiful and lively music once again on May 6.
- ♪ To mother and daughter singers Mary Anne Rivers and Elizabeth Rivers for such beautiful singing and for moving us to tears on Mothers' Day.
- ♪ To Gary Deavel and the Vocal Ensemble, with Jeff Hawkins for both great beauty and great energy on May 20.
- ♪ To Holly Knibbs for playing piano and accompanying the congregation's singing on May 27, and to singers Holly, Gretchen Kronk, Nancy Landfair,
- ♪ Richard Miller, Bill and Helen Wells and percussionists Jeff Hawkins and Jeremy Treadwell for "Shut de Do."

### Vocal Ensemble

has finished for the season. Plan to join us in the fall. Rehearsals resume on Thursday, September 6. Mark your calendars!

# From Our Minister of Music

I write from Indianapolis, Indiana, where Paul and I are visiting family and attending the Indy 500. (Yes, the car race. It is a long-time Heaton family tradition.) En route, I've been reading about Jeremiah, Daniel, Ruth and Esther for my current class in Hebrew Scriptures, learning about the ways that the Israelite community responded and adapted to its ever-changing circumstances and shifting needs. Also en route, I've been looking at the faces of the people at gas stations, in restaurants, in grocery stores and at pre-race parties. I find myself wondering about their lives and hopes and needs, and wondering what religion has to offer them... what OUR religion has to offer them.

I suggested on Mothers' Day that our personal theology—our conversation about what is ultimately

real, ultimately valuable, ultimately meaningful—is rooted in our life experience. When I look into some of the 500,000 faces at the race tomorrow afternoon, a different crowd than I usually hang out with, I will be wondering whether we have enough experience in common to have similar personal theologies and similar religious needs. Could Unitarian Universalism speak to these persons' life experiences?, I will be asking myself.

Weather permitting, I'll have 5 to 7 hours of crowd watching time tomorrow—with 2 or 3 hours of 33 cars going approx 200 miles an hour for 200 laps—to think about it.

Yours,

*Rev. Kevin Tarsa*

## YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

If you're reading this newsletter, chances are you're a thoughtful, aware, spiritually-minded person.

Chances are you've noticed that our congregation offers a Religious Education program for children and youth.

Chances are you have some talent or interest that would be appealing to our young folk.

Chances are, at least once, you've idly thought, "Hey! That's something our kids could do in RE!"

Chances are you have one Sunday this summer when you could provide a fun and significant experience for our kids.

So, stop thinking idly and start thinking meaningfully!

Email or phone me and let me know which Sunday this summer you'll come in and share with our kids your:

- yoga instruction
- collaborative poetry writing skills

- parachute games
- baking expertise
- cooperative lawn games
- interest in reading to nursing home residents
- technique for giving shoulder massages (so they can treat their parents)
- travel experiences
- knowledge of another religion
- capability with clay or paint or fiber
- love of nature hikes

Our summer RE program will be less structured than it is during the year. All the children will be together in one big group, and their experiences will be lively and active. We can be flexible if you have an idea for an activity that may not suit either our youngest or our oldest children. Chances are, if you lead an RE experience this summer, you'll make some new young friends and make a meaningful difference in the life of a child—and the life of your congregation.

—Karen McCarthy, DRE

## SOCIAL JUSTICE AND ACTION

Break the cycle of poverty! Donna Beagle, Ed. D., took advantage of mentoring from teachers and social workers to pull herself out of poverty—now she uses her experience to help others. Her program asks people to mentor poor families through the social welfare, legal and other systems, to help them change and succeed. See [www.combarriers.com](http://www.combarriers.com), or call Pat Voice, 946-6073, at the TC Presbyterian Church.

"TC Alive" will be Saturday, October 6th—a daylong celebration of ethnic food, dance, music and conversation. If you want to help present TC Alive, please let me know.

Thank you and hope your summer is good to you, and you are good to yourselves and others.

—Emmy Lou Cholak 943-7999

(Continued from page 6)

1 Wed Supper at Six, details TBA

### AUGUST

1 Wed Wednesday Night Supper, details TBA

5 Sun **TBA, ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 a.m.**

6 Mon SOS meeting (Jeff 946-8680, Steve 929-9836), Office, 7-8 p.m.

8 Wed Wednesday Night Supper, details TBA

9 Thurs Finance Committee, Holly Knibbs, 5:30-7:30p.m.

12 Sun **TBA, ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 a.m.**

13 Mon Men's Group, South City Limits, Mark Gustafson (929-9608), 6-8:00 PM

13 Mon SOS meeting (Jeff 946-8680, Steve 929-9836), Office, 7-8 p.m.

14 Tues Board, Joan Sheard, 6:30-9 PM

15 Wed Wednesday Night Supper, details TBA

19 Sun **TBA, ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 a.m.**

20 Mon SOS meeting (Jeff 946-8680, Steve 929-9836), Office, 7-8 p.m.

22 Wed Wednesday Night Supper, details TBA

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# the BEACON

PUBLISHED MONTHLY  
Volume 44, Issue 6  
June 2007

## the BEACON

### Calendar

All events take place at the Congregation building unless otherwise noted

#### JUNE

- 3 Sun **"Atheism: A Sense of Obligation?" Rev. Chip; Kim Gribi, violin and R. Gary Deavel, piano, ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 a.m.**
- 3 Sun Community Connection Conversation, David Halperin, noon (see article in this issue)
- 4 Mon SOS mtg (Jeff 946-8680, Steve 929-9836), Office, 7-8 PM
- 5 Tues Board, Joan Sheard, 6:30-9 PM
- 5 Tues *An Inconvenient Truth* PowerPoint presentation, Tom Karas, 7-9 PM
- 6 Wed RE Committee, 4:00 PM
- 6 Wed Wednesday Night Supper, potluck at John & Pinkie Hoffman's, 6 PM
- 7 Thurs Finance Committee, Holly Knibbs, 5:30-7:30p.m.
- 7 Thurs Mental Health Family Support Group, Rev. Chip, 7-8:30 PM
- 10 Sun **"Ready, Fire, Aim!" Rev. Chip, ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 a.m.**
- 10 Sun *Annual Meeting following the service—election of officers and voting on revisions to the Bylaws*
- 10 Sun Joe Jencks Concert, Rev. Chip, 6-9 PM
- 11 Mon Men's Group, South City Limits, Mark Gustafson (929-9608), 6-8:00 PM
- 11 Mon SOS mtg (Jeff 946-8680, Steve 929-9836), Office, 7-8 PM
- 12 Tues UUCGT Board, Joan Sheard, 7-9:00 p.m.
- 13 Wed Peacemakers Needleworkers, Bonnie Mathias, 1-4 PM
- 13 Wed Membership Cmte, J. Hoffman (275-3602), 2:30-4:30 PM
- 13 Wed Wednesday Night Supper, potluck at Arline Howe's, 6 PM
- 14 Thurs Mental Health Family Support Group, Rev. Chip, 7-8:30 PM
- 17 Sun **"Not Your Father's Promise," Rev. Chip, ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 a.m.**
- 17 Sun *Congregational Conversation following the service—2007-2008 budget*

- 18 Mon SOS mtg (Jeff 946-8680, Steve 929-9836), Office, 7-8 PM
- 20 Wed Wednesday Night Supper, potluck at Mary Kiner's, 6 PM
- 24 Sun **"Remarkable Cloud Formations," Rev. Julie Denny-Hughes, ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 a.m.**
- 25 Mon SOS mtg (Jeff 946-8680, Steve 929-9836), Office, 7-8 PM
- 26 Tues Sunday Services Committee, Maura Brennan (941-9158), 7-9 p.m.
- 27 Wed Peacemakers Needleworkers, Bonnie Mathias, 1-4 PM
- 27 Wed Wednesday Night Supper, details TBA
- JULY
- 1 Sun **"Enough," Katy Bean-Larson, ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 a.m.**
- 2 Mon SOS mtg (Jeff 946-8680, Steve 929-9836), Office, 7-8 PM
- 5 Thurs Finance Committee, Holly Knibbs, 5:30-7:30p.m.
- 8 Sun **"Hopelessly Helping," Rev. Chip, ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 a.m.**
- 10 Sun *Special meeting following the service-vote on the 2007-2008 budget*
- 9 Mon Men's Group, South City Limits, Mark Gustafson (929-9608), 6-8:00 PM
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(Continued on page 5)