



Sunday services (summer schedule): 10 AM; religious education classes, 10 AM

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Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation  
of Grand Traverse

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Vacant

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

"Grateful Dead: One Man Gathers"

**Rev. Chip; Jeremy Treadwell, Treva Jaffe, live band**

This intergenerational service will feature the music and wisdom of the rock band, "The Grateful Dead." The title comes from their song, "Saint Stephen." "...talk about your plenty, talk about your ills, one man gathers what another man spills."

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

"Bridging, Passages and Life Wisdom (Wear Sunscreen)"

**Rev. Chip, Rev. Kevin, et al; Anneka Gustafson and Kim Gribi, violin; Theresa and Andy Evans**

As our high school graduates move into the next portion of their life journey, we will acknowledge their passage as well as our own significant life thresholds, and we'll receive the life wisdom of some of our wise members.

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

"A Calling for Us"

**Rev. Chip; Mercedes Kimling, piano**

Martin Lavanhar, Senior Minister of All Souls Unitarian Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma (one of our largest UU churches), gave one of the best Sunday morning sermons ever heard at a GA, just a few weeks ago. We have his permission to reproduce it, in our sanctuary. Don't miss it!

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

"To Heaven, or a Discussion about Heaven"

**Rev. Dr. Brent Smith**

Unitarian Universalism is at a crossroads, prompted by our history the past 50 years confronting changes in the culture and life in the 21st century. This is what we will examine.

*Dr. Brent A. Smith is in his 25th year in the ministry, serving his third Unitarian Universalist church. Previously he served our churches in Milwaukee and Tulsa. He is currently serving as the minister at All Souls Community Church, the first Unitarian Universalist church in Grand Rapids since 1939!*

**Sunday, August 31 — ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 AM**

"Some Thoughts in Defense of Mortality"

**Cal Boulter**

Anticipation of eternal life after death, a hope derived from faith, could be a distraction from doing certain things that might be in the better interest of living. To paraphrase Dostoyevsky, the ultimate meaning of life comes from the full apprehension of death. In *The Idiot*, Dostoyevsky has Prince Myshkin tell a story of a man about to be executed. In his last few minutes the man thought, "What if I were not to die! What if I could go back to life? What eternity! All mine. Every minute an age. I would lose nothing. Count every minute passed...and not waste one!" He said that this idea turned to such a fury at last that he longed to be shot quickly. He was relieved moments later. (What a delightful irony.) To Dostoyevsky this is the ultimate affirmation: In the face of death, life has absolute value. The meaning of death is precisely its revelation of this value.

Calvin will explore this idea: perhaps if I fully believed this was my only go-round I might care more. How could that be realized?

**Sunday, September 7 — ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 AM (Resumption Sunday)**

"Resuming, Re-Zooming"

**Rev. Chip; Intergenerational; UUCGT Orchestra**

Join us as we kick off the 2008-'09 program year. Come hear what big plans we have!

**Sunday, September 14 — Services at 9:30 and 11:00 AM**

"Teaching to Transgress"

**Rev. Chip**

"Education is subversive, it threatens the status quo," writes bell hooks, in her book, *Teaching to Transgress*. We'll explore how education is a necessary, transgressive, \*religious\* task. [Note: bell hooks does not capitalize her name]

**October 4, 2008**

**WHAT ARE YOU DONATING TO THE AUTUMN AFFAIR???**

Perhaps you already have something ... or would be willing to purchase a gift or service to be auctioned? Maybe you know a business you'd be willing to ask? Here's what we're looking for:

- New items or antiques of value – we're especially anxious for a couple of *large* gifts!
- Personal services: massage, car detailing, house cleaning??
- Dinners, cocktail parties, cooking demos.
- Handicrafts and small items for the raffle table.

Everyone will be approached to help with the auction ... but feel free to contact us with any questions or ideas. Let your imagination run wild!

*Rebecca Dobler (941-1848); Leslie Cook (938-1466); Judy Weaver (947-0947) Christie McGue (941-1923);*

*the BEACON*

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

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Folding, labeling & mailing by Nancy Pihlcrantz

# Musings of Our Senior Minister

Wherefore Church?  
27 July 2008

Torn between a desire to save the world and savor it? Author E. B. White wrote that he awoke every morning in that state, and that it thus made it hard for him to plan his day. Our Sunday Services committee lives with a similar question: how to respond to both of those impulses, and to the other reasons that people attend our services.

Some come to be healed; some come to be educated; some come to connect with friends (old and new); some come to be energized for the coming week; some come for the beautiful artwork; some

come to interact with children; some come to gain allies in our ongoing work for social justice; some come for the music; some come for a moment of silence; some come due to a sense of obligation; some come out of habit; some come with curiosity; and some come with a deep thirst for an experience of something larger than themselves. Most of us attend Sunday Services with a combination of desires. What do you seek?

With Spirit,

*the Rev. Chip Roush*

## MINDING THE STORE

### *A Most Generous Gift*

Many thanks to Bob Doughty for his great generosity in providing the full amount of funds for the new kitchen flooring—take a look and feel free to tread on it! And MORE! Bob has also provided matching funds with the Wednesday Night Supper money to provide our kitchen with a NEW gas stove. Thank you, Bob, for your generosity and concerns!

—MaryAnn Force  
Kitchen Committee Chair

### *Seeking Poetry*

Submit a favorite poem or essay to be used in an upcoming Sunday Service—works on all topics are welcome, and we are especially looking for words about aging, anger, compassion, death, education, forgiveness, life and voting. Please email your favorites to Rev. Chip, at jchipr AT yahoo.com. Thank you.

### *Drive - In*

Come see a movie at the Drive-In! We'll take the kids and the adults to the Cherry Bowl, in Honor, on Friday night, August 22nd. We'll carpool and picnic, to minimize expenses and maximize our fun. Tell Rev. Chip if you plan to participate.



### *Update—Online Giving*

The ability to give online is almost here! The link on our website to allow you to make pledge payments by direct debit from your bank account or by credit card should be available by this weekend. Available in the near future will be the ability to also view your giving history to UUCGT and to update your profile. We'll let you know when that is up and running. Why give online?

1. Online Giving is Convenient—If you already pay most of your bills online, now you can submit your pledge payments just as easily and quickly, anytime 24/7.
2. Online giving is Consistent—Besides making one-time contributions, you can set up recurring payments that are processed automatically. You can change or stop automated giving at any time.
3. Online Giving is Intentional—Giving at the same time you pay your bills sets your gift in relation to your total financial activity. When compared with spending on other areas of living, you can easily evaluate your stewardship of all your resources.
4. Online Giving is Protected—All transactions are encrypted and transmitted at the highest level of security possible.

—Connie Hoffman, Bookkeeper

## SOCIAL JUSTICE AND ACTION

### *Think, Vote, "Do the Right Thing!"*

To quote Harry Truman —“Do the right thing.” He used this guideline that his mother had taught him. We have that opportunity coming this November. No matter how you might feel or think, I hope you will exercise your responsibility living in a democracy and VOTE. That is the first step.

The second step is think not only for yourself but for others, those that cannot yet vote, our children, people around the world without democracies ruling them, and all the plants and animals of the world. Think of them too, and vote with their interests and concerns at heart. It no longer is enough to say, may the best person win; but we must say, will our children and grandchildren and the rest of the world have a place to live with peace, fresh water, homes, education, opportunities, etc.?

Work hard for what you believe and do vote! See you at the polls and many times before then.

Thanks!

—Emmy Lou

## A Note from the President...

Today I attended a party for Helen Sullivan who is celebrating 95 years of living! Happy Birthday, Helen. It is an honor to have your wisdom guide us still, and I thank you for designating the Building Fund as one way an individual could honor you. Your leadership has served the congregation well for many years.

As I moved around the room, I could see many, many former presidents in attendance. What is it that makes a UUCGT volunteer come back year after year

in such varied roles? This congregation thrives because our past leaders can and do guide the current committees and Board as we move forward in our service to each other and the wider community. To all those former Presidents, I say thank you for building a foundation which enables me to delight in my current role. So to Helen, and all of you, I extend my heartfelt gratitude.

—Joan

### ALL ABOUT US

#### Our Joys:

- ☀️ Judy Halsted who was Pastoral Care's July Caregiver of the Month.
- ☀️ Jeremy Treadwell whose Summer Band has grown to a community presence.
- ☀️ Emma McCarthy Stone who has entered the Air Force Academy.
- ☀️ Christine Williams who with colleague, Susan, has created Traverse Community Music.
- ☀️ Bob Fitch whose Aunt Jean celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on July 14.
- ☀️ All of you UUs who provide care to one another, often without anyone else knowing about it.

#### Our Concerns:

- ❖ Paul Heaton, whose brother, David, died July 4 in Indiana.
- ❖ Mary Cheney, whose 92 year old father is ill.
- ❖ Boyd Baird who is dealing with a diagnosis of Progressive Supranuclear Palsy.
- ❖ Connie Armstrong whose sister-in-law and cousin both have cancer.
- ❖ Jim Thero who is residing in the Alzheimer's section of Bay Ridge.
- ❖ Pat Trezise who is being treated for difficulty breathing following a lung biopsy in June.
- ❖ Carol Still who is recovering from July 18th colon surgery.
- ❖ Linda Dunigan's son, Shane, who has cancer and is awaiting more tests.
- ❖ Dan McCarty who was recently hospitalized for a viral infection.
- ❖ Mary Van Valin whose dancing friend, Fred Kaas, is dying of lung cancer.

- ❖ Ann Dressel whose surgery has been rescheduled until October 2.

#### In our thoughts and hearts:

- ♥️ Ron Yatic
  - ♥️ Margaret Tarsa
  - ♥️ Daniel Cote
  - ♥️ Carole Greilick
  - ♥️ Gary Singer
  - ♥️ Maggie Zimmerman
- ...and all their families.

—The Pastoral Care Team

#### Thank you . . .

Thanks for the wonderful birthday cards and good wishes. It is not easy to be 95!!! All those candles to blow out! I huffed and puffed and I did it!! I cherish your friendship. With Love, Helen Sullivan.

### YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

#### Facing Violence with Faith

It's Beacon Sunday, and I can't stop thinking about the tragic violence that occurred today during a worship service at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church in Knoxville, Tennessee. The congregation's children and youth were at the front of the sanctuary performing selections from the musical *Annie*, which they had been working on for weeks in their summer RE program, when a man opened fire with a shotgun.

What a horror for those faithful people to go through. I can't help imagining this scenario happening in our sanctuary.

How terrifying for those children and

youth. I can't stop wondering how I would comfort them ... and how I would comfort our kids.

UUA President Reverend William Sinkford offered his prayers within hours. He announced that members of the UUA Trauma Response Ministry had left immediately for Tennessee, and assured TVUUC that they are not alone, because Unitarian Universalists the world over are sending love and prayers. The Presbyterian church next door offered space Monday for a debriefing session with crisis intervention professionals, followed by a candlelight vigil.

What could anyone say to these people, especially to the children and youth?

How do we talk to each other, and to our young people, about insensible violence and terror? What does our faith have to offer us in the face of incomprehensible malice?

At times like these, I am grateful for the expertise of professional counselors and ministers. I hope and pray that the members of TVUUC will feel and know an outpouring of sympathy and support.

I also hope and pray that when we speak to our children and youth about this tragedy, we will offer sympathy and compassion also for the shooter. We don't know his story, his troubles, his agony.

It would be easy to fall into prejudice and hatred towards the man who committed this violence. As difficult as it is, I believe that our open-hearted Unitarian Universalist faith calls us to model for our children that we hold within our hearts our affirmation of his inherent worth and dignity, too.

—Karen McCarthy, DRE

## From Our Minister of Music

Last weekend I attended a service at a religiously conservative evangelical Christian church. As part of my seminary journey, I have taken it upon myself to learn in all the ways and places that I can, and I hope to be attending the services of many other religious institutions this year. I so benefit from opportunities to be a person in the pew—to be “a civilian,” I call it.

As I do in our own “pews” on Sunday, I found myself asking, “What is a church for?” and “How does this church accomplish that?” My visit offered a wonderful visceral chance to sense that church’s answers and to reflect on my own attempts to answer those questions for UUCGT. For all of our theological differences, our two congregations meet many similar needs and we meet many needs similarly. Our differences are important at some levels, and not at others.

Amid all of this, I am drawn to Loyal Rue’s exploration of the function of religion and his assertion that religion links two goals: that of “personal wholeness” and “social coherence.” Religion links our personal self-esteem to our willingness and ability to benefit the group, so that when we are pursuing the one goal, we are simultaneously pursuing the other. His ideas are helping me to address the tug in church

priorities between meeting personal needs and meeting collective needs, between meeting the needs of the individual soul and the needs of our community and our world. It’s not a matter of running back and forth between two different poles, but of bringing the two poles to common ground. The task is to build a community wherein our self-esteem is affirmed and strengthened by our tradition and by those around us each time we are generous, kind, clear, compassionate, strong, and loving in ways that benefit others—our neighbors both near and far.

Who is my neighbor? I have a better understanding of my neighbor this week than I did the week before. The members of the congregation I visited have a very clear sense of their mission to pursue the health of their soul by reaching out to others. It is what a true Christian does.

What does a true Unitarian Universalist do? What does a true member of UUCGT do? What’s our church for... and how shall we accomplish that? My answers are slowly formulating. What are your answers?

Yours,

*Rev. Kevin Tarsa*

### MUSICAL NOTES



#### *Concert at the Art Park*

Thanks to Patty Pelizzari’s vision, we are organizing a few UUCGT musicians for a summer afternoon concert at the Art Park on Sunday, August 10 at 3:00 at

Crystal Mountain in Thompsonville. We’ll weave words and music together in a beautiful natural setting. Come in time to walk the Art Park trail, and join us in the outdoor amphitheater. Bring a blanket or lawn chair and invite a friend or two. (In the event of rain, we’ll be inside.)

#### *UUCGT Orchestra*

Wake now your senses ...and your instruments! Musicians, please plan to join us at our Resumption Sunday service on September 7. 9:00 rehearsal, 10:00 service. If you would feel most comfortable with a rehearsal in advance, I would be happy to organize one and/or to work with you one-on-one. Please give me a call.

Contact Rev. Kevin at 922-8146 or [revkevin@uucgt.org](mailto:revkevin@uucgt.org)

### ADULT PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

#### *Men’s Group*

We will be meeting in the back room at Ruby Tuesday’s on Monday, August 11 at 6:00 pm. Good food and friendly conversation. Join us!

—John Ort

### BENZIE SATELLITE

#### *Benzie Summer Service*

Aug.6: Peg Lawrenson will host a picnic potluck at her home, 933 Crystal Drive, Frankfort (352-4113). Topic to be announced. Guests are welcome.

### *Music*

#### *Thank-You’s...*

- ♫ to Cindy Edmonson, Shelley Burnes and Nancy Landfair, with guitarist John Bachman and violinist Chris Williams, and pianist Mercedes Kimling for their exciting and wonderful music in the July 6 “Patriotism” service.
- ♫ to Dominic and John, young musicians from Uganda, with great thanks to Kim Gribi, who envisioned, raised funds for and then realized their visit to Traverse City, including their presence within our service on July 13.
- ♫ to Gary Deavel and Nancy Landfair, for their thoughtful and beautiful music in the July 20 service with Lori Boothroyd.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## the BEACON

PUBLISHED MONTHLY  
Volume 45, Issue 8  
August 2008

### Calendar

All events take place at the Congregation building  
unless otherwise noted

#### August

- 3 Sun** **"Grateful Dead: One Man Gathers," Rev. Chip; Jeremy Treadwell and Treva Jaffe, live band, ONE SERVICE ONLY AT 10:00 a.m. Childcare provided**  
3 Sun Buddhist Sitting Group, Fleda Brown, 7:30-9 PM  
7 Thur Family Mental Health, 7-8 p.m.  
7 Thur Vocal Ensemble, 7-8:30 p.m.  
8 Fri Pastoral Care, John Schneider, 9-11 AM
- 10 Sun** **"Bridging, Passages and Life Wisdom (Wear Sunscreen)," Rev. Chip, Rev. Kevin, et al; Anneka Gustafson and Kim Gribi, violin; Theresa and Any Evans; ONE SERVICE ONLY AT 10:00 a.m. Childcare provided**  
10 Sun Buddhist Sitting Group, Fleda Brown, 7:30-9 PM  
11 Mon Men's Group, Ruby Tuesdays, John Ort, 6-8 PM  
12 Tue Pastoral Care, Arline Howe, 1-2 PM  
12 Tues RE Committee, Karen McCarthy, 7-9 PM  
13 Wed Peacemakers Needleworkers, 1-4 PM  
13 Wed Membership Committee, John Hoffman, 3-5 PM  
15 Fri Family Movie Night, Karen McCarthy, 7-8:30 PM  
16 Sat Henge of Seekers Full Moon Ritual, 7-10 PM
- 17 Sun** **"A Calling for Us," Rev. Chip; Mercedes Kimling, Piano; ONE SERVICE ONLY AT 10:00 a.m. Childcare provided**  
17 Sun Buddhist Sitting Group, Fleda Brown, 7:30-9 PM  
21 Thur Family Mental Health, 7-8 p.m.  
21 Thur Book Sale setup, 2-5 p.m.  
22 Fri Book Sale, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.  
23 Sat Book Sale, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- 24 Sun** **"To Heaven, or a Discussion about Heaven," Rev. Dr. Brent Smith; ONE SERVICE ONLY AT 10:00 a.m. Childcare provided**  
24 Thur Book Sale cleanup, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.  
24 Sun Buddhist Sitting Group, Fleda Brown, 7:30-9 PM  
26 Tue Pastoral Care, Arline Howe, 1-2 PM  
26 Tue Sunday Services Committee, Maura Brennan, 7-9 PM  
27 Wed Peacemakers Needleworkers, 1-4 PM

- 31 Sun** **TBA, ONE SERVICE ONLY AT 10:00 a.m. Childcare provided**

31 Sun Buddhist Sitting Group, Fleda Brown, 7:30-9 PM

#### September

- 4 Thur Family Mental Health, 7-8 p.m.  
4 Thur Vocal Ensemble, 7-8:30 p.m.  
5 Fri Pastoral Care, John Schneider, 9-11 AM  
6 Sat Board Retreat, 9 AM-4 PM
- 7 Sun** **"Resuming, Re-Zooming," Rev. Chip; Intergenerational; UUCGT Orchestra; Resumption Sunday, ONE SERVICE ONLY AT 10:00 a.m. Childcare provided**  
7 Sun Bylaws Review Committee, Mary Grover, 11:30 AM-12:30 PM  
7 Sun Buddhist Sitting Group, Fleda Brown, 7:30-9 PM  
9 Tue Pastoral Care, Arline Howe, 1-2 PM  
9 Tue Board, Joan Sheard, 7-9 PM
- 14 Sun** **"Teaching to Transgress," Rev. Chip; services at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. Childcare provided**  
14 Sun Buddhist Sitting Group, Fleda Brown, 7:30-9 PM  
18 Thur Family Mental Health, 7-8 p.m.
- 21 Sun** **"Aging Well," Rev. Chip, services at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. Childcare provided**  
21 Sun Buddhist Sitting Group, Fleda Brown, 7:30-9 PM  
23 Tue Pastoral Care, Arline Howe, 1-2 PM  
26 Tue Sunday Services Committee, Maura Brennan, 7-9 PM
- 28 Sun** **TBA, services at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. Childcare provided**  
28 Sun Buddhist Sitting Group, Fleda Brown, 7:30-9 PM  
29 Mon Bylaws Review Committee, Mary Grover, 5:30 AM-6:30 PM

#### October

- 5 Sun** **"PostSecret: Secret Confessions and Forgiveness in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century," Rev. Chip; services at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. Childcare provided**