



Sunday services 9:30 & 11 am; religious education classes, 11 am

www.uucgt.org

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Unitarian Universalist
Congregation
of Grand Traverse

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Sunday, November 2 — Services at 9:30 and 11:00 AM
"VOTE!"

Rev. Chip

The second of our "Principles and Purposes" series; this time exploring #5—the Right of Conscience and the Democratic Process.

Sunday, November 9 — Services at 9:30 and 11:00 AM
"Life's a Coin Flip?"

Rev. Chip

Two recent movies have raised questions about good and evil in human nature. Both films featured coin flips as an important part of their story. Here is one liberal religious answer to the questions of good, evil, chance, fate and free will. SPOILERS! The plots and endings of "No Country for Old Men" and "The Dark Knight" will be revealed.

Sunday, November 16 — Services at 9:30 and 11:00 AM
"Finding Common Ground, Celebrating Our Differences"

Paula Ward, Paul Sefarth, and Rev. Kevin, with the Vocal Ensemble

Paula, Paul and Kevin and the VE will offer a service anchored by two pieces of music. "Many windows, one light," observes one piece, and "Walk a mile in your neighbor's shoes," advises the other. How do we navigate the pluralism of our religious community and of our world?

Sunday, November 23 — Services at 9:30 and 11:00 AM
"Wanting What We Have"

Rev. Chip

The "pursuit of happiness" has been detoured onto the treadmill of consumerism. We'll explore how some people are exiting the treadmill, and finding real joy in the process.

Our annual Thanksgiving feast at Twin Lakes will take place after the second service.

Sunday, November 30 — Services at 9:30 and 11:00 AM
"turning insides out"

Michael Jarvis

As we approach midwinter and the time of cold air and long nights, many of us turn introspective. In this service Michael Jarvis will consider the relationships between insides and outsides, the mind and the brain, the body and the soul.

Sunday, December 7 — Services at 9:30 and 11:00 AM
"Justice, Equity & Compassion"

Rev. Chip

If you want peace, work for justice; if you want justice, work on compassion. How the Golden Rule is more problematic than we think—and why it might still be the best chance for global peace. The next in our "Principles and Purposes" sermon series.

Sunday, December 14 — Services at 9:30 and 11:00 AM
"The Quiltmaker's Gift" — Pageant

Youth and Children's RE

Further description TBA.

Thanks so much to everyone who helped make this year's *Autumn Affair* wildly successful! We don't have a final figure yet since donations are still coming in for dinners, but it's safe to say we've made and exceeded our budget goal of \$10,000. There were over 50 of you who gave of your time and energy—making phone calls, running errands, sewing tablecloths, baking desserts, setting up and cleaning up, greeting, pouring wine, and checking people in and out.

- There were over 150 of you who donated an item for auction – extraordinary handmade items, antiques, fabulous services, and the ever-popular dinners.
- There were over 120 of you who attended – a record for the Autumn Affair! We were hoping to sell 80 tickets and when we reached 100 we were overjoyed—as the number grew each day we knew it would be a success!

We hope *you* had a good time and were able to get what you wanted at the auction. We'd love to hear your ideas about future *Autumn Affairs*. What worked and what didn't? Did you mind paying a little more but having a meal and wine included? Did you enjoy the entertainment? Should we offer childcare? Should we have a fundraiser like this every year? Give us a call or send us your thoughts electronically.

—The Autumn Affair Committee
(Judy Weaver, Rebecca Dobler, Judy VanDeWeghe, Leslie Cook, Barb Bloomer and Christie McGue)

the BEACON

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

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Folding, labeling & mailing
by Nancy Pihlcrantz

(Continued on page 2)

Musings of Our Senior Minister

electing to celebrate
27 October 2008

This week, I will celebrate the forty-fifth anniversary of my birth. Some folks find birthdays ending with '5' to be more problematic than those ending with '0'. Some aren't troubled by specific numerals, but find it difficult to live beyond the age at which a parent died. I appreciate that such birthdays offer us the opportunity to contemplate our mortality.

Some folks answer their mortality with a bid for immortality: through art, through architecture, through their children, etc. Some feel prompted to use the short time we have in service to others—although each wave is transient, the overall tide of humanity

will continue to flow, long after we're gone. And some people want simply to enjoy every fleeting moment of each limited lifetime, honoring the gift of life by savoring it in the fullest way possible.

Of course, there are also days when I don't celebrate or reflect on my mortality, but rather I wail or rage against it. I like to think those are also appropriate human responses. They, too, are indications of life's value. May our birthdays—and every day—be meaningful.

With Spirit,

the Rev. Chip Roush

ALL ABOUT US

We acknowledge with sadness the death of Boyd Baird on October 5. We hold in our hearts Arline Howe, Boyd's partner, all of his many friends, and his family. We will remember Boyd as a role model for his courage in making thoughtful end of life decisions and for his sense of humor.

We are mindful of Barbara Bloomer, whose daughter was recently diagnosed with a cardiac problem.

We celebrate Ann Dressel's recovery from knee surgery.

We continue to be concerned about Maggie Gingras who has been in and out of the hospital as she deals with lupus; Margaret Tarsa and her family

as they struggle with her kidney cancer; and Linda Dunigan and her son Shane, as he undergoes chemo and radiation therapy.

We are joyful for Pastoral Care's Caregiver of the Month for October, Mary Kiner.

—The Pastoral Care Team

A Big Thank You for the memorial reception, the cards of support as well as on-line support, your hugs, listening to me, moving furniture for me and for the wonderful food that kept coming during Boyd's hospice care and subsequent death—I thank you. My loss of Boyd is sad, but my heart is full of the love and care shown by all my friends.

—Arline Howe

MINDING THE STORE

Association Sunday

Thank you for your generous support of Association Sunday, for our Unitarian Universalist Association. Our \$344 donation will help support theological education for lay and clergy leaders.

—Chip Roush

A Belated Thank You

A much belated thank you to the those who volunteered to make the Used Book Sale a success, Marge Rundell, Cindy Clement, Bonnie and Bill Mathias, Mercedes Kimling and Sally Mitchell. This annual fundraiser brought in \$1,014. A huge thank you, also, to the many members who donated books.

—Penny Ort and Pinkie Hoffmann

(Continued from page 1)

Friday evening, December 19 — 7:00 PM
"Winter Solstice"

Our annual celebration of the return of the light.

Sunday, December 21 — Services at 9:30 and 11:00 AM
"Gambling on the Light: Divali"

Rev. Chip and Sarah Montgomery; Vocal Ensemble

We'll explore Divali—the Festival of Lights, as celebrated by Hindus, Jains and Sikhs (and Nepalese Buddhists). Celebrate the triumph of goodness over evil, and a bountiful harvest, both materially and spiritually.

Wednesday, December 24 — (Service times to be announced)

Christmas Eve

Rev. Chip

Two services, the first family and child-oriented; the latter, more adult-focused. Both will feature a candlelight service, where we pass the light from person to person, candle to candle, and fill the world with light.

Sunday, December 28 — Services at 9:30 and 11:00 AM

"Poetry and the Spirit"

Fleda Brown

A reading, with comments, by Fleda Brown, of some of the great sacred poets as well as her own work.



A Note from the President...

November is the month we celebrate Thanksgiving. I am thankful for the Board with whom I work!

At the October meeting, your Board took action on the following items:

- Moved to support the creation of a Facilities Team with one or two coordinators and an active list of people who are willing to undertake to do specific things and give that Team “the reins and let them run with it.”
- Endorsed the proposal from CWS architects for the building addition.
- Moved to invite standing committees to create a covenantal working relationship.
- Moved to change the health insurance carried for staff from the UUA to Priority Health available through the Traverse City Chamber of Commerce.

Your Board is discussing the difference between “managing” and “leadership.” Managing involves

skills and how to do things, while leadership empowers others to step up and lead others around a common belief set. (Bill George, Harvard Business School.) Hence, we are “running a pilot program” with a smaller, less task-oriented board and working to hone our skills in goal setting and policy development.

I am also pleased to report that our congregation has been identified as a Merit Congregation by the UUA. We received this recognition because our contribution to the UUA Annual Program Fund for fiscal year 2007-2008 was at least 20% more than in fiscal year 2006-2007. Thank you indeed to all who helped us in this endeavor.

In Faith,

—Joan

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES



*It's
November
already!
Can't be! But
since it is, be
sure to put
November 23rd
on your*

calendar and come to the all-church Thanksgiving Feast Potluck at Twin Lakes camp following the 11 AM service that day. Besides great food, fun conversation, and the annual Gamble Award ceremony, we will focus on our efforts to buy toys for families who will spend their holidays at the Women's Resource Center shelter. Sign up and buy your tickets on Sundays or call me, Mary Kiner, 935-3050. Prices are the same as last year \$5/adult; \$3/child; \$15/family.

—Mary Kiner & Chip Roush

Toy Time!

It's become a tradition for our Congregation to provide a new toy

for each child spending the December holidays at the Women's Resource Center shelter. Through the RE program, our children choose and wrap the toys. They shop for children of different ages and we try to include gift certificates for the teenagers to pick out a CD or article of clothing. The project is funded through donations from the Congregation.

During November a gift-wrapped box will be in the lobby area for donations. Checks should be made out to

UUCGT and clearly labeled “WRC TOYS” in the memo line. Donations can also be mailed to the UU office, also designated “WRC TOYS” in the memo line. Donations are tax deductible.

Toys are our priority, but we're also collecting small, new items that the children at the shelter can wrap and give to their mothers. Some suggestions are gloves, scarves, costume jewelry, cologne (no soap

or lotion, please). We also provide wrap and ribbon, and have been told by shelter staff that this gift giving has been important to the children. There will also be a box for these items in the lobby area.

There will be sign up sheets for the December 6 shopping trip available in the lobby as well.

Questions? Call Kathy Prentice at 941-8758, Mary Van Valin at 946-2178 or Sarah Montgomery at 231-690-7931 (you need to dial the area code for Sarah's number).

Thanks for helping to brighten the holidays.

—Sarah
Montgomery



Finance & Emerson

Ralph Waldo Emerson's philosophies were influenced by a financial panic. See the story from the *New York Times* at www.nytimes.com/2008/10/12/opinion/12bloom.html?ei=5070&emc=eta1

—Chip Roush

ADULT PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Men's Group

UU MEN'S MEETING! All men are invited to attend the UU Men's group meeting at Ruby Tuesday's BACK ROOM on Monday, November 10. We will be gathering at 6:00 p.m. For details call Mark Gustafson at 929-9608.

Women's Conference

Register now to attend the International Conference of UU Women, "Weaving global Partnerships to Improve Women's Lives," to be held Thursday – Sunday, Feb. 26th – Mar. 1st in Houston, TX. See www.icuuw.org for more details.

—Chip Roush

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND ACTION

Vote Tues. Nov. 4

When you receive this newsletter certainly you must be aware that it will be time to vote. It is our duty as Americans and our responsibility as Americans. Our advantages and freedoms from the unique Constitution of the United States of America and Bill of Rights *do not come free*. We MUST maintain them by voting for them. The act of voting, thinking of others when we cast our ballot, thinking of those that cannot speak for themselves, like the infants and children, the eldest, and retarded, the animals of the world, the plants that make our world beautiful and lush, the

waters, and much more. We must think of all, and vote for all of them. That is our American way! Enjoy the solemnity and responsibility of voting and be proud of your vote. May you rest in peace knowing you voted to the best of your ability.

Last Friday, Oct. 24, we had an amazing speaker and experience at our UU church. John Freeman from Health Care for America Now enlightened us with the history and the various forms of health care for all. The talk was videoed for Up North TV2. Please watch the Flash for announcements of when it will be aired so you can catch it on TV.

Helping us with refreshments were, Linda Carps, Linda Dunigan, Sharlene Kruger (from CAS), Mary Lee Orr, Joanne Thomas, and Jane Watts. Thank you VERY much for helping make this a successful event!!

Also note that our coffee comes from Higher Ground. It is a fair trade environmental coffee, bought, ground, packaged, and sold locally! Let us spend our money where our mouth is. About 25 cents of each pound helps to support social justice projects at our UU. Even with that small addition, we are purchasing it for less than you can buy it at Oryana. Please support your congregation. All orders must be in by the *last Sunday* of the month, *paid in full*. The coffee is delivered the first Sunday of the month. Oh, yes, forgive us, sometimes there are errors.

The Social Justice Task Force, which is directing our social

action project for the year, meets next on Tuesday Nov. 18 at 7 PM at the church. Please attend if you would like. The project this year is poverty, how prevalent in our community, what is being done to help alleviate the pains, and what we can do as individuals and as a congregation to help. Part of the help that we give is Tuesday lunches and Safe Harbor. What else can you do? Can we do? Join the fight and let's help our neighbor.

Again thanks for voting!

—Emmy Lou Cholak
943-7999



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

the BEACON

PUBLISHED MONTHLY
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Calendar

All events take place at the Congregation building
unless otherwise noted

November

- 2 Sun** **"VOTE!" Rev. Chip; services at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. Childcare @ 9:30, RE @ 11:00**
- 2 Sun Chili Cook-Off, Sarah Montgomery/Chip Roush, 12:30-1:30 PM
- 2 Sun Buddhist Sitting Group, Fleda Brown, 7:30-9 PM
- 5 Wed Wednesday Night Dinner, 6-7 PM
- 5 Wed Post-Election Gathering, Chip Roush, 7-9 PM
- 6 Thur Vocal Ensemble, 7-9 PM
- 9 Sun** **"Life's a Coin Flip?" Rev. Chip; services at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. Childcare @ 9:30, RE @ 11:00**
- 9 Sun Buddhist Sitting Group, Fleda Brown, 7:30-9 PM
- 9 Sun OWL Group, Karen McCarthy, 1-5 PM
- 10 Mon Bylaws Review Committee, Mary Grover, 5:30 AM-6:30 PM
- 10 Mon Men's Group, Mark Gustafson, Ruby Tuesday's, 6:00 PM
- 11 Tue Board, Joan Sheard, 7-9 PM
- 12 Wed Peacemakers Needleworkers, 1-4 PM
- 12 Wed Wednesday Night Dinner, \$4.00, social time 5:30, dinner 6-7 PM, program (TBA) 7-8 PM
- 13 Thur Vocal Ensemble, 7-9 PM
- 14 Fri OWL Group overnight, Karen McCarthy, 7 PM-12AM
- 15 Sat OWL Group overnight, Karen McCarthy, 12AM-1 PM
- 15 Sat Henge of Seekers, 6-8 PM
- 16 Sun** **"Finding Common Ground, Celebrating Our Differences," Paul Ward, Paul Sefarth, and Rev. Kevin, with the Vocal Ensemble; services at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. Childcare @ 9:30, RE @ 11:00**
- 16 Sun Buddhist Sitting Group, Fleda Brown, 7:30-9 PM
- 19 Wed Membership Committee, John Hoffman, 4-5 PM
- 19 Wed Wednesday Night Dinner, \$4.00, social time 5:30, dinner 6-7 PM, program (TBA) 7-8 PM
- 20 Thur Vocal Ensemble, 7-9 PM
- 23 Sun** **"Wanting What We Have," Rev. Chip; services at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. Childcare @ 9:30, RE @ 11:00**
- 23 Sun Thanksgiving Feast Potluck at Twin Lakes Camp (following the 11 AM service); Mary Kiner
- 23 Sun Buddhist Sitting Group, Fleda Brown, 7:30-9 PM

- 25 Tue Sunday Services Committee, Maura Brennan, 7-9 PM
- 26 Wed Peacemakers Needleworkers, 1-4 PM
- 26 Wed NO Wednesday Night Dinner this week.
- 27 Thur Vocal Ensemble, 7-9 PM
- 30 Sun** **"turning insides out," Michael Jarvis; services at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. Childcare @ 9:30, RE @ 11:00**
- 30 Sun Bylaws Review Committee, Mary Grover, 12:30-1:30 PM
- 30 Sun Buddhist Sitting Group, Fleda Brown, 7:30-9 PM
- December
- 3 Wed Wednesday Night Dinner, 6-8 PM
- 4 Thur Vocal Ensemble, 7-9 PM
- 6 Sat Women's Resource Center Toy Project, Kathy Prentice, 8 AM-1:30 PM
- 7 Sun** **"Justice, Equity & Compassion," Rev. Chip; services at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. Childcare @ 9:30, RE @ 11:00**
- 7 Sun Buddhist Sitting Group, Fleda Brown, 7:30-9 PM
- 9 Tue Board, Joan Sheard, 7-9 PM
- 10 Wed Peacemakers Needleworkers, 1-4 PM
- 10 Wed Wednesday Night Dinner, 6-8 PM
- 11 Thur Vocal Ensemble, 7-9 PM
- 14 Sun** **"The Quiltmaker's Gift" (pageant), Youth & Children's RE; services at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. Childcare @ 9:30, RE @ 11:00**
- 14 Sun Buddhist Sitting Group, Fleda Brown, 7:30-9 PM
- 15 Mon Bylaws Review Committee, Mary Grover, 5:30 AM-6:30 PM
- 17 Wed Wednesday Night Dinner, 6-8 PM
- 18 Thur Vocal Ensemble, 7-9 PM
- 19 Fri** **Winter Solstice, 7 PM**
- 21 Sun** **"Gambling on the Light: Divali," Rev. Chip and Sarah Montgomery; Vocal Ensemble; services at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. Childcare @ 9:30, RE @ 11:00**
- 21 Sun Buddhist Sitting Group, Fleda Brown, 7:30-9 PM
- 23 Tue Sunday Services Committee, Maura Brennan, 7-9 PM
- 24 Wed** **Christmas Eve services; times to be announced**
- 28 Sun** **"Poetry and the Spirit," Fleda Brown; services at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. Childcare @ 9:30, RE @ 11:00**
- 28 Sun Buddhist Sitting Group, Fleda Brown, 7:30-9 PM
- 31 Wed Wednesday Night Dinner, 6-8 PM