



Sunday services: 10:30 AM; religious education classes, 10:30 AM

www.uucgt.org

email: office@uucgt.org

**Unitarian Universalist
Congregation
of Grand Traverse**

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then fax.)

Office Hours:
9 am – 4:30 pm
Tuesday through Friday

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leisahuyck@comcast.net

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Sunday, June 3, 10:30 AM *Childcare and RE at 10:30*

“A Longing For Belonging (Membership Sunday)”

Rev. Dr. Leisa Huyck

Why do humans so deeply long for real connections with one another? How do we recover from the disillusionment that often accompanies membership in human organizations? What does it mean to be part of a covenanted religious community? This Sunday we will explore these questions and more. We will also covenant with our new members and celebrate our hardworking volunteers. After the service there will be cake, followed by your annual meeting.

Sunday, June 10, 10:30 AM *Childcare and RE at 10:30*

“Apocalypse When? Weaving and Re-Weaving the World”

Rev. Dr. Leisa Huyck

Is there hope for this world? The dominant culture would have us believe there is not. Apocalyptic rhetoric is deeply oppressive and endangers all life on earth--yet it is so pervasive in American culture that we can scarcely imagine a different framework of meaning. Come hear about an alternative framework--one that offers hope.

Sunday, June 17, 10:30 AM *Childcare and RE at 10:30*

“Our Fathers”

Rev. Dr. Leisa Huyck

On this Father's Day we will plumb the depths of fathering and being fathered. If your father was the worst dad ever, this service is for you. If your father was the best, or is just a regular guy who does his best and makes a lot of mistakes, or if you are just learning what it means to be a father--this service is for you. Join us as we explore the complexities of fatherhood.

Sunday, June 24, 10:30 AM *Childcare and RE at 10:30*

"Song of Summer"

Karen McCarthy, DRE

William Carlos Williams wrote, "In summer, the song sings itself." Come join us as we celebrate the Summer Solstice and the interconnected web of existence in story, poem, and song.

Sunday, July 1, 10:30 AM *Childcare and RE at 10:30*

“Declaration of Interdependence”

Rev. Dr. Leisa Huyck

Is there such a thing as independence? Is there such a thing even as self-reliance? How did these ideals come into being? How do they limit the ability of our country to live healthfully in the community of all life? Can we think differently? A few days before the Fourth of July, let's ponder a new way of being in the world.

the BEACON

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

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Rev. Leisa's Reflections

“Where do we come from? What are we? Where are we going?”

These questions from Vincent Van Gogh, which UU congregations around the world sing regularly, capture perfectly the tasks of an interim ministry period. A congregation in an interim period has to come to terms with its history, discover a new identity, and decide where it wants to go next. Hopefully you won't end up with a riddle and a mystery, but rather a clear vision!

You are now just finishing up your history work. About 90 of you—a little over half—have participated in it. You contributed to the history wall. You participated in Cottage Conversations, in which you took turns speaking your truths and listening deeply as others spoke theirs. You shared at a very deep level. I have felt grateful and privileged to witness your courage in sharing, as well as the healing that has taken place here. And, as I noted in the history service on May 20, there are still some secrets and wounds here that have not been surfaced. Until these are healed, they will hold you back from the greatness that could be yours. We will be holding a healing service on June 2 that will deal with those wounds that are known. I want you to know that we can always have another healing service (or two or three) next year, if more things come up. As long as I am here, I can keep working with you toward healing.

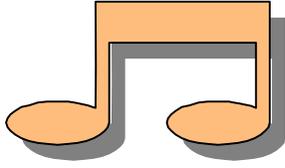
After the healing work, what is next? In the fall, you will undertake the next phases of interim work: understanding who you are and where you want to go. You already have some ideas about these, based partly on parts of your history that you want to carry forward, and based partly on new ideas you have. They include:

- Being a congregation that helps families raise their children. You want to provide exciting learning opportunities for all ages—including a campus ministry—as well as a truly multigenerational community.
- Engaging in bold social activism that truly makes a difference.
- Developing a vibrant and exciting outreach program.
- Being a safe and loving community where people can explore diverse spiritual paths together.
- Continuing your tradition of great music.
- Developing a clear mission and effective governance so you can make your dreams come true.

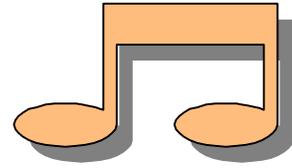
What other ideas do you have? In the fall you'll have opportunities to vision and brainstorm and be as creative as you can be, both in terms of what you want to do and how you might do it. And at the same time, you will also enter the search for a settled minister. Your Ministerial Search Committee will be collecting information about who you are demographically and theologically. It will be an exciting time!

This summer, take time to enjoy each other's company. Savor the long, long days on the big blue water. Taste the fruits of the beautiful region where you live. And take time to daydream. Daydream about all the things you'd like to see this congregation do and be and become—because in the fall you'll get to imagine how to make those dreams real. Blessings,

Rev. Leisa



MUSICAL NOTES



When the Spirit Says Sing

I wish I had a dollar for every time someone cornered me, as a music teacher or church musician, and confessed that they “couldn’t” sing. People often begin by joking that I should be glad they’re not part of a particular vocal group—and sometimes end with a sad tale of being embarrassed by a teacher for perceived flaws in their singing technique, or asked to silently mouth the words while others sang.

I hate hearing these stories. Human beings were born to sing. I used to have a poster of an African proverb on the wall of my classroom: *If you can walk, you can dance; if you can talk, you can sing.* And it’s true. People who learn to sing without fear or shame experience a magnificent, lifelong gift—the joyful and expressive use of their own voice, an integral part of who they are.

This embarrassment and reluctance to sing is an American cultural phenomenon, by the way. My family and I traveled to Korea several years ago, with about 50 other families. Our Korean motor coach drivers and guides sang constantly as we toured the country— all the buses were equipped with karaoke systems, because Koreans enjoy passing travel time in singing. Our guides tried to teach the American teens and adults Korean pop and folk songs—and were puzzled when our youth were too shy to grab the microphone or share their own favorite songs. Nearly all of the American men traveling in the group refused to sing, while the bus drivers gathered at every pit stop and lustily sang Korean tunes in harmony, standing in a group outside the buses. It was a powerful lesson in how we Americans have been conditioned to perceive singing as something only the “talented” should do.

I know there are music directors whose primary goal in preparing for Sunday services is technical excellence—orchestrating an impressive performance to enhance congregants’ experience. It truly *is* wonderful to achieve an artistic and moving presentation. But it’s equally important to consider the benefits of singing for the ensemble of singers. When we sing together, in practice and in Sunday services, we build the beloved community. We accept each others’ contributions and flaws. We laugh and have fun. We use music to create spiritual richness.

Paradoxically, it’s often the relaxed and uncritical nature of singing together purely for pleasure that leads to excellence—because those musical performances come from the heart. If you’ve ever considered joining the Vocal Ensemble, please know that you’re welcome, no matter what your background in music or worries about your talent level.

As leader of the Vocal Ensemble, I am fortunate to have inherited a roster filled with capable and confident singers, a legacy built by Kevin Tarsa and a host of skilled musicians over decades. Even more important, the UUCGT is a singing congregation—what a joy it is to raise our voices together on Sunday mornings! A congregation that doesn’t enjoy singing—and there are plenty of them—is missing an important element of fellowship. Thanks for being singers—and don’t be shy!

Nancy Flanagan

nflanagan@centurylink.net

231-228-6731

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND ACTION

This past Sunday [May 27th], we had the pleasure of learning about the Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network (MUUSJN), from its founder, Randy Block. This organization tries to be responsive to the UU congregations in this state, helping us come to a better understanding and a joint position on some of the various human rights issues prevalent today. When we support and help MUUSJN, they can speak with a stronger voice for the human rights issues that we all care about. He can literally speak with the strength of 26 congregations of UUs in Michigan, from the UP to the south and east to west. That strength puts the MUUSJN in a position of power and influence.

Some of the major areas in which he has had influence, include health care reform with support for the Affordable Care Act, LGBT rights, poverty alleviation, women's rights, immigration rights and more. MUUSJN coordinates its ef-

forts with like-minded dedicated organizations, therefore being able to speak from an even wider diverse faith base. Other organizations and media come to him for information and guidance. During his talk at our service, he elucidated many issues and methods of his work. To see more, please go to the web page: <<http://www.ujustice.org/>>;

Summer time is a different time for those of us living in this paradise of all four-season vacations. Many have families come to visit and/or leave to visit them at their homes. Please introduce your family and friends to the good, consistent persistent work of our congregation and our state-wide organization for fairness and equality for all. I look forward to seeing you all working for justice, especially with the fall elections coming. This is a time to help get out the vote and vote where hearts are: justice and equality for all.

Emmy Lou Cholak 943-7999
sjatcmi@gmail.com (new address)

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Belko Peace Lecture

Gary Dorrien, "the pre-eminent social ethicist in America today", will deliver the Belko Peace Lecture at Trinity United Church of Christ in Northport on Saturday evening, **June 2**, at 7:00 pm. The church is located at the corner of Nagonaba and Warren Streets.

Community Needs Committee

The Local Community Needs Committee has donated the proceeds it received from the Sunday morning collections this year to the following agencies and charities:

Benzie Area Christian Neighbors - \$300
Northwest Michigan Health Services - \$300
Goodwill Industries Street Outreach Services - \$300
TBAISD New Campus School - \$300
Grace Episcopal Church Pantry \$750
UUCGT Christmas Toy Project for children at the
Women's Resource Center - \$300
Goodwill Inn - \$200
Women's Resource Center \$200
Planned Parenthood \$500

On behalf of those who have benefited from these contributions, the committee thanks the Congregation.

Penny Ort — Chair,
Community Outreach Committee



ALL ABOUT US

We Hold In Our Hearts:

Dan Orr who is at home and under hospice care

We Are Mindful Of:

Nancy Landfair, as she gets the first of 5 or 6 evaluations in Grand Rapids, before surgery for deep brain stimulation to treat her Parkinson's pain.

Jalene Moore in her next procedure with an Oncologist following recent surgery for cancer.

We're pleased and happy for those who are healing:

Mary Cheney, arthroscopic knee surgery.

Ann Dressel, complete knee replacement surgery.

Bernie Hanchett, recent cataract surgery.

We feel the sorrow for two members who just lost their mothers:

Gretchen Kronk, whose mother Wilma Imogene, died in hospice care in Ann Arbor May 24th

Mary Van Valin, whose mother Juanita, died in Munson care May 24th.

[Mary will hold a celebration of her mother's life on Thursday, May 31, Thurs. in the UU Social Hall at 1:00 p.m.]

—Arline Howe
The Pastoral Care Team

The RE Scoop: Seventh Principle Summer



I believe a leaf of grass is no less than the journey-work of the stars.

~Walt Whitman

During Religious Education this summer, all ages of children and youth will gather together each Sunday for activities that “affirm and promote respect for the interconnected web of existence of which we are a part” (our Seventh UU Principle).

We’ll play games like Meet a Tree, Pyramid of Life, Oh Deer, and Bat & Moth. We’ll go on nature hikes, on our church property and down the hill at Center Road Park. We’ll learn about the Food Web, talk about our place in the interconnected web of existence, blow bubbles, make arts and crafts projects related to nature and spirituality, go on a micro-hike, work in our Kids’ Gardens outside the RE rooms, and have a lot of fun.

Watch for a sign-up sheet, or call or email me, and join the children and youth this summer as we contemplate the journey-work of the stars in every blade of grass!

Karen McCarthy, DRE

dre@uucgt.org

231-947-3117

You are Cordially Invited...

To check out the UUCGT web site www.uucgt.org. If you haven’t looked lately, you may find something you missed!. You can check the latest calendar, blogs, photos and much, much more.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation

of Grand Traverse

6726 Center Road

Traverse City MI 49686-1802

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

the BEACON

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

Volume 49, Issue 6

June, 2012

Calendar

All events and programs take place at UUCGT unless otherwise noted and are open to everyone. Programs marked with an * are UUCGT sponsored.

June 2012

- 02 Sat Healing Service; Rev. Leisa Huyck, 10AM-1PM
02 Sat * Coming Out Support Group; Nick Erber, 11AM-12:30PM
- 03 Sun "A Longing for Belonging," Rev. Dr. Leisa Huyck; Service @ 10:30AM**
- 03 Sun UUCGT Annual Meeting; 11:30AM-1PM
04 Mon UU Men's Group; Dave Halsted, 5:30PM-7PM
05 Tue Bridge Group; Christie McGue, 1-4:30PM
06 Wed * Peacemakers Needleworkers; 1:30-3:30PM
06 Wed International Folk Dancers; Mary Van Valin, 7-8:30PM
- 10 Sun "Apocalypse When? Weaving and Re-weaving the World," Rev. Dr. Leisa Huyck; Service @ 10:30AM**
- 10 Sun Mindfulness Meditation Group; Fleda Brown, 6:30-8:30PM
12 Tue Bridge Group; Christie McGue, 1-4:30PM
12 Tue Sunday Services Committee; Mary Grover, 6-7:30PM
12 Tue Finance Committee; Kay Sturgeon, 7-8:30PM
13 Wed * Peacemakers Needleworkers; 1:30-3:30PM
13 Wed International Folk Dancers; Mary Van Valin, 7-8:30PM
16 Sat * Coming Out Support Group; Nick Erber, 11AM-12:30PM
- 17 Sun "Our Fathers," Rev. Dr. Leisa Huyck; Service @ 10:30AM**
- 17 Sun Mindfulness Meditation Group; Fleda Brown, 6:30-8:30PM
19 Tue Bridge Group; Christie McGue, 1-4:30PM
20 Wed * Peacemakers Needleworkers; 1:30-3:30PM
20 Wed UUCGT Board Meeting; Max OldBear, 6:30-9PM
20 Wed International Folk Dancers; Mary Van Valin, 7-8:30PM
- 24 Sun "Song of Summer" Karen McCarthy, DRE; Service @ 10:30AM**
- 24 Sun Mindfulness Meditation Group; Fleda Brown, 6:30-8:30PM
26 Tue Bridge Group; Christie McGue, 1-4:30PM
27 Wed * Peacemakers Needleworkers; 1:30-3:30PM
27 Wed International Folk Dancers; Mary Van Valin, 7-8:30PM
30 Sat * Coming Out Support Group; Nick Erber, 11AM-12:30PM

July 2012

- 01 Sun "Declaration of Interdependence," Rev. Leisa Huyck; Service @ 10:30AM**
- 01 Sun Mindfulness Meditation Group; Fleda Brown, 2:30-6PM
02 Mon UU Men's Group; Dave Halsted, 5:30-7PM
03 Tue Bridge Group; Christie McGue, 1-4:30PM
04 Wed * Peacemakers Needleworkers; 1:30-3:30PM
04 Wed International Folk Dancers; Mary Van Valin, 7-8:30PM
- 08 Sun TBA; Service @ 10:30AM**
- 08 Sun Mindfulness Meditation Group; Fleda Brown, 6:30-8:30PM
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25 Wed International Folk Dancers; Mary Van Valin, 7-8:30PM
28 Sat * Coming Out Support Group; Nick Erber, 11AM-12:30PM