



Sunday Services at 10:30 AM

www.uucgt.org

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**Unitarian Universalist
Congregation
of Grand Traverse**

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SEPTEMBER Sunday Services

**Every endeavor begins with a first step,
and encounters darkness and difficulty along the way.
We know the darkness of ignorance, of fear, and of tyranny.
Yet we know the dawning of the light,
the beginnings of hope, and the renewal of life.**

— Charles F. Flagg, UU minister

Sunday, September 4 – Lay Led Service

10:30 AM Service: "The American Labor Movement and the American Worker"

We set this weekend aside to honor them. A portion of our 5th principal will be the focus of this service, ..."the use of the democratic process in society at large." In this hotly contested political season, Hal Gurian will speak to what can be done to promote bipartisanship, fairness in elections and the protection of the American dream.

Sunday, September 11 – Rabbi Chava Bahle

**10:30 AM Service: All Congregation Service - Resumption Sunday
"The Journey Begins!"**

Resumption Sunday, as it is called here at UUCGT, is the kick off for our new year. This year it coincides with the Muslim holy days called the Hajj - a story telling journey in which Muslims make pilgrimage to Mecca to retell the sacred stories of their tradition. We also have "sacred" stories of our early days. Let's honor our founders, share our congregational stories and re-commit to the journey together.

Sunday, September 18 – Rabbi Chava Bahle

10:30 AM Service: Recommitment to Community & Board Installation

This Sunday corresponds to a Jain holiday about recommitment to community. What better day to honor and install our Board leaders, hear their vision for the year and learn together about the deeper meaning of community.

Sunday, September 25 – Rabbi Chava Bahle

9:00 AM Service: Kick Off of "The Virtues Project" and "Call to Covenant" with breakfast. Please RSVP!

10:30 AM Service: "Looking Ahead to the Year"

This Sunday corresponds to the Pagan holiday Mabon, when we prepare for winter and the equinox. As the final part of our month of beginning, we will call in the directions and ready our sanctuary / meeting rooms for a new year.

BEACON Article Deadline:

No later than the 25th of the month
preceding the issue date

Stan Cain, Editor

(231) 938-1506
Send submissions to
beacon@uucgt.org

OCTOBER Sunday Services

Loving the Stranger

We become neighbors when we are willing to cross the road for one another...

There is a lot of road crossing to do. We are all very busy in our own circles.

We have our own people to go to and our own affairs to take care of.

But if we could cross the road once in a while and pay attention to what is happening on the other side, we might indeed become neighbors.” - Henri J.M. Nouwen

Sunday, October 2 – Rabbi Chava Bahle

9:00 AM Program: “I Willfully Covenant – Learning and Reflecting on Our Stories of Promises ... and a Little about Free Will”

As we begin the process of unpacking what it means to live in covenant, we will begin with the phrase from our covenant, “I willfully covenant ...” What does this mean?

We will also lay the groundwork of this year-long study with learning from the Public Conversations Project.

10:30 AM Service: “Renewing Our Commitment to Loving the Stranger”

“Who is my neighbor?” asked then Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) president, William Sinkford, in a General Assembly session. “It’s a question each generation of Americans must answer.” This Sunday falls near both the Jewish and Muslim new year celebrations. Unlike the secular new year, these are times of deep introspection in these two traditions. It is a time to reset our sights on our ideals. This month at UUCGT that means how we reflect on “loving the stranger.”

Sunday, October 9 – Rabbi Chava Bahle

9:00 AM Program: “A History of Covenanting”

This week we examine where the idea of covenant emerged, what it means in other communities and what it has meant here at UUCGT. We continue with the Public Conversations Project approach as we learn together and from one another.

10:30 AM Service: “Loving Nature ... and the Furry Stranger!” (St. Francis of Assisi Day)

St. Francis of Assisi (who is celebrated around October 4) was a great lover of nature and animals. In this morning’s service we invite you to bring a picture of your furry friends to decorate our table, and we invite our youngest members to bring a stuffed animal for a moment of recognition. The loss of pets touches the heart as deeply as their loving presence in our lives. We will also consider how we as UUs deepen our commitment to preserving our environment for the wild things.

Sunday, 16 October – Rabbi Chava Bahle

No 9:00 AM Program: (UUCGT Program Council meets @ 9:00 AM)

10:30 AM Service: “Sukkot – Under One Roof – A Public Dialogue”

The Jewish holiday of Sukkot of the Feast of Booths is a celebration of the Autumn harvest. It is customarily a time when an outdoor hut is built for meals and celebration for 8 days, so that we might enjoy the sky, wind and stars. The holiday has a custom of inviting in strangers to dine with us. One again, using the Public Dialogue Process, we will explore how this marvelous congregation lives together under one roof.

Sunday, October 23 – Lay Led Service

No 9:00 AM Program

10:30 AM Service: TBA

Sunday, October 30 – Rabbi Chava Bahle

9:00 AM Program: “From Our Covenant: Mindfulness”

It is no accident that the first word of UUCGT’s covenant is “mindful.” This morning we will explore the idea of mindfulness through the six sources, learn some useful mindfulness practices and reflectively share our own experiences.

10:30 AM Service: All Congregation Service - “Samhain: Honoring the Ancestors”

As we end our month of reflection on loving the stranger, we remind ourselves that so many people we come to love started off as strangers. One of the most beautiful services we hold annually is Samhain - Honoring the Ancestors. Bring a photograph or memento you wish to place on the table to co-create our setting. With members of all ages, we remember our personal histories and those who have touched us.



Rabbi's Reflection

A congregation of learners is a center for authentic ... learning — learning that is viewed as a lifelong endeavor, that grows out of the life of the community, and which, in turn, strengthens the community. The congregation of learners is both a means to an end and an end in itself; it is an instrument for enculturating individual members into active participation in [congregational] life, but it is also a model for ... community.

Becoming a Congregation of Learners: Learning as a Key to Revitalizing Congregational Life
— Isa Aron

Friends, I could not be more happily excited to embark on this new year together. This year we are working on a more integrated model of Sunday services and learning, placing covenantal living, our six Unitarian Universalist sources and community action at the center of what our congregation is about.

Our 9 AM Sunday studies will be an active, engaging opportunity to look at elements of UUCGT's own covenant – from mindfulness to generosity to forgiveness – through our six UU sources, which are:

- Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
- Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
- Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
- Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
- Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

How fortunate and rich we are in the tools and methods we have in the UU tradition! The 9 AM programs will build a

strong foundation for the experience of our Sunday services. This year, based on the calendar of these foundational sources of Unitarian Universalism, we will experience the rich diversity of our own congregation and the broader community, as we truly explore and reflect upon on UUism in our lives and in the world.

In addition, small group ministries, where we have a chance to get to know each other heart-to-heart will spring up as we move forward. Our book groups, weekly meditation and education for our youngest members are vital examples of the place of encounter we are designing for the coming year.

Being a congregation of learners is not a passive "head dump" from experts to learners; instead it means we are actively engaged not only with the content of our learning, but with one another, with our experiences, with real life. It is an active model that I hope fills our halls and every available space with programs and robust interconnections.

As I return to school in my spare time, I will be eager to share with you the insights and ideas I receive from my program in interfaith dialogue.

One area I am eager to see us revitalize this year is our leadership in the community on social witness issues. I am deeply grateful to Emmy Lou Cholak for her ongoing work in Social Justice Action. Please see the anonymous 3 question survey link on our Social Justice / Social Witness page.

There is so much to love about UUCGT and much work we can do in the world, when we work together.

**In Blessing,
Rabbi Chava Bahle**

UUA and Denominational News from Rabbi Chava

We were delighted and honored to have Rev. Leonetta Bugleisi visit our congregation on August 21. Rev. Bugleisi serves the Universalist Unitarian Congregation of Farmington, MI. Thank you for joining us!

Looking Ahead

Please watch for news on the upcoming UUCGT showing of the new Ken Burns and Artemis Joukowsky documentary on Martha and Rev. Waitstill Sharp, WWII Unitarians who secretly worked in Nazi-occupied Europe to rescue Jews, dissidents and refugee children. The documentary will be shown on PBS and we will host a showing here at UUCGT, likely in November.

A Common Read

The Rev. Dr. William Barber's Moral Mondays movement is growing nationwide. Learn more about its history and future in *The*

Third Reconstruction: Moral Mondays, Fusion Politics, and the Rise of a New Justice Movement, just selected as the 2016-2017 UUA Common Read.

A Common Read invites participants to read and discuss the same book in a given period of time. A Common Read can build community in our congregations and our movement by giving diverse people a shared experience, shared language, and a basis for deep, meaningful conversations. Each year's Common Read is chosen by a committee including both headquarters and field staff of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Anyone may nominate a book.

Please Save the Date!

I would like to invite anyone who wishes to share in such a conversation about the book to join me on **Sunday, February 12** - the anniversary of the date the NAACP was founded - for an assigned potluck brunch in the social hall.

Announcements

Brew Crew is Back!



Join Rabbi Chava and the awesome folk who show up for coffee at Brew on Front Street (downtown TC) on Friday, September 16 and/or Friday, October 14, from 10:00 to 11:30 AM.

Grab a cup of java and join in amazing free-range conversation. All are welcome!

Meditation Really Changes Things!

"If stress has you anxious, tense and worried, consider trying meditation. Spending even a few minutes in meditation can restore your calm and inner peace. Anyone can practice meditation. It's simple and inexpensive, and it doesn't require any special equipment." - Mayo Clinic

Beginning in September, the weekly Wednesday morning meditation group will move to Thursday mornings at 9 AM in the sanctuary. Sanctuary indeed. Join us for 30 precious minutes of silence and calm. All are welcome.

Learning Kick-Off Breakfast on September 25!

Friends, to begin our year of 9 AM studies we are hosting a kick off breakfast in the social hall prior to the 10:30 AM service on Sunday, September 25. To pull off this magic feat, we will actually have our bagel brunch at **8:30 AM**. This will be a chance to preview our 9 AM plans and meet your fellow learners in an enjoyable way.

RSVPs (to the office) are absolutely necessary - no later than Monday, September 19. Sorry we cannot take walk-ins for this. We'll ask a small donation of \$10 per person to cover food and coffee costs. Then stay for the service and enjoy looking ahead for Mabon with guests from the UU Pagan community.

UU Book Club

Where did the summer go? It took so long to get here and then it goes by in a flash. But fall brings visions of a fire in the fireplace, a comfortable chair, a glass of wine, and a good book!

Our September 11th meeting will be held at Barb McClellan's home (501 Georgetown Drive #24) at 2:00 pm. Barb has made a change in her choice of book. The new book is "The Light Between Oceans" by M.L. Stedman. Remember to give Barb a call (941-2368) or an email (bingo2755@gmail.com) to let her know that you will be able to attend.

Selection of books, discussion leaders and hosts will take place at the October gathering, so start looking at possibilities -- especially a book that you would like to be the discussion leader for.

Also at the October meeting, we will revisit the topic of summer meetings. Are there months that you think we should skip?

Happy reading!

Karen Mars

karen.mars.tc@gmail.com



Program Council News

The UUCGT Program Council is comprised of committee chairs or co-chairs, or their designees. All are welcome to attend our meetings. On August 14th, 2016, eleven of us gathered for an excellent discussion on a variety of topics.

Minutes of the 7-17-16 meeting were approved and will be archived in the Program Council folder on the UUCGT Computer System.

Continued discussions were held on the need for members of UUCGT to step up and help fill several important positions. **Sunday Morning Hospitality** still needs Co-Coordinators, as well as more teams to step up to prepare coffee. The Ort's are scheduled to do coffee on 1st Sunday and McDonald's are scheduled for 4th Sunday of the month. Membership Committee will fill one of the other Sundays on a monthly basis. LDC will discuss their ability to take several Sundays a year. It was suggested that other committees or individual couples should step up to fill this need. Possibly couples that are only here during the warm months could volunteer during the time they are in town. Please contact Tom Darnton at <tdarnton@me.com> if you can help.

A second vital need is for several people to step up, form a Team Turkey and share the responsibilities for coordinating the **Thanksgiving Feast**. We've got a good start as The Twin Lakes venue has been reserved for November 20th, and Mary

Kiner has provided a summary of the food requirements for the 2015 event that had 85 people in attendance. Program Council decided that if a **Team Turkey** is not filled before 9-15-2016; we will need to cancel this year's **Thanksgiving Feast**. If you want to have a part in this fun event, please contact Tom Darnton at <tdarnton@me.com>.

A third vital need is for individuals to help with the children's programming on Sunday AM as well as Friday Night Out child care programs. These are both important to help UUCGT be more welcoming for younger families with children. Please let Sarah Montgomery-Richards know you can help out a few Sundays during the year.

All the volunteers that help with various committees and functions of the UUCGT program are greatly appreciated. THANK YOU ALL.

All committees represented summarized their various monthly accomplishments. Basically UUCGT is in good hands, but as discussed above we can always use more hands to make UUCGT better. Our next meeting is September 18th at 9:00 AM. Please come or contact one of us if you have a topic you would like us to discuss.

Rick Walter
Program Council Coordinator
rick9709@sbcglobal.net

UUCGT Little Spiritual Book Group – Almost Monthly at 12 Noon

The monthly Little Spiritual Book Group is a chance to sit in deep conversation, true communication, with others who wish to think deeply about the issues of the day through the lens of texts that support a vision for a more just and peaceful world. Books are available at a discount at Horizon Books in Traverse City. They can also be ordered through Brilliant Books.

Please note change of days, but the time remains at 12 Noon, and we invite you to bring a lunch:

Thursday, September 22: *The Places that Scare You: A Guide to Fearlessness in Difficult Times*, by Pema Chodron

October - no meeting

Thursday, November 10: *Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal, and Delight in Our Busy Lives*, by Wayne Muller

Monday, December 12: *The Art of Forgiveness, Loving-kindness and Peace*, by Jack Kornfield

January – no meeting

On Sunday, February 12 (following the service) – special meeting in conjunction with the UUA program A Common Read: ***The Third Reconstruction: Moral Mondays, Fusion Politics, and the Rise of a New Justice Movement*** by The Rev. Dr. William Barber II and Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove (Beacon, 2016), has been chosen as the 2016-17 Unitarian Universalist Common Read. Unitarian Universalists were electrified at General Assembly 2016 by Rev. Barber's call for building and sustaining a movement for justice for all people. The Common Read selection committee believes that this is a moment for Unitarian Universalists to answer that call. The Third Reconstruction offers helpful, practical guidance for engaging with justice movements born in response to local experiences of larger injustices. Drawing on the prophetic traditions of the Jewish and Christian scriptures, while making room for other sources of truth, the book challenges us to ground our justice work in moral dissent, even when there is no reasonable expectation of political success, and to do the hard work of coalition building in a society that is fractured and polarized.

— Rabbi Chava



Membership News

SEPTEMBER -

As Summer wanes, we are Thankful for all that the season has provided us - Great Weather, Luscious, Healthy Produce AND Flowers from Gardens, and

Delightful Activities and outings with Family and Friends. So now we begin a new season with Enjoyment and Greetings from.....

The entire Membership Team — Cathy Annelin, Sherry Davis, John and Pinkie Hoffman, Penni and Bryan Newlun, Sue Pyne, Charlotte Shea, Chris Walter, Rick Walter, and Jane Watts — who continue to Welcome, Greet, Facilitate into membership, and Nurture (in Partnership with other groups at UUCGT) prospective, new and current members.

GREETER OPPROTUNITIES:

We are Very Thankful for all the regular, tried and true Greeters, who are faithfully there every Sunday. We'd LOVE to see some new faces serving in this important role, too - a Friendly Ministry actually, Not just another "job" that has to be done. What could be more enjoyable than smiling and saying Welcome? It's easy - just sign up on the bulletin board near the office or call coordinator Charlotte Shea, 883-9357.

Membership Team Steps Up:

It is no secret that it takes all of us pitching in not only with our monetary contributions but our Time and Talents to help make UUCGT work. In this Spirit, your Membership Team has agreed to Set up, Make coffee, Provide snacks, and Clean up for Fellow

ship time One Sunday each month (exact week TBD). Penny and John Ort and Sandra and Mike McDonald have signed up for the 1st and 4th Sundays. Program Council (not that group's primary responsibility, but is overseeing temporarily) hopes that other Committees / Groups at UUCGT will partner and form Teams to fulfill this role for the remaining Sundays. We all enjoy our cuppa' joe, tea and nibbles after service.

UUs In The News:

How well do you know your fellow UUCGT Members? A new item in this column *from time to time* will be to highlight some of our members who have been featured in the Traverse City Record-Eagle (TCR-E), other publications, or at some organizations or institutions in our area. As always, you can also visit the large bulletin board in the back hallway near the Member Name Tags Alcove, to read about our members in the News. Our faithful member Jane Watts keeps the selection up-to-date. Thank you Jane!

SPOTLIGHT on Members **Will return next month**

The Membership Team took a Meetings Break for the Summer. We will resume meetings on Wednesday September 21, 4:30 - 5:30 PM at UUCGT. This way, those who wish can stay for the Wednesday Night Potluck. We will most likely have an Orientation Session and a New Member Welcome Service to plan at our meeting. Any member of the congregation is welcome at our meetings. You will find us taking turns staffing the Welcome Table in September, and serving as Greeters. See you in church!

Chris and Rick Walter
Co-Chairs, Membership Team
chris9709@sbcglobal.net or 989-430-4776
rick9709@sbcglobal.net or 989-430-5174

ALL ABOUT US

BENZIE ACTIVITIES

We hold in our hearts...

Lauren Keinath; Gary Harris; and Mercedes Kimling

We continue to be mindful of those in care...

Gene Rundell, Ron Yatich, Bill Wells, Nancy Landfair, and Carol Still

We share in the celebration :

Lynda Pryor's grandson, who was mis-diagnosed with Muscular Dystrophy, has had a successful removal of the brain tumor and could celebrate his 6th birthday riding his bike, and is cancer free.

Judith Briggs
jbriggs002@centurytel.net

The 2016-2017 programs for the Benzie County Unitarian Universalist Group begins on Wednesday, September 7th at 6:30 PM at Michigan Shores, Frankfort, MI. Meetings are the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month. The evening begins with a potluck meal followed by a speaker and fellowship. The speaker on September 7th is Jean Lave, PhD. Dr. Lave, professor emerita in anthropology from University of California Berkeley, has conducted extensive research in learning and challenges the current structure of education. The program's title, *Everyday Life's Learning*, is also the title of her most recently published book.

We look forward to interesting and informative gatherings throughout the fall, winter and spring. Please feel free to join us. If you have any questions, please call.

Laurie Mason
231-889-4718

Social Justice and Action

**“Hate cannot drive out hate;
only love can do that.”**

Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The atmosphere in our nation today is tense and frightening. This is an election year and the rhetoric that is being bantered around is said so loudly, even shouted, and in extremely nasty and degrading terms. It is so commonly heard day and night on radio and TV, that it is hard to avoid it. The hate that is spewed out, is inciting many people to acts of violence. This violence is targeted at our minorities who often have lived in peace within our communities. We are attacking them now, and for no reason, except in response to the inciting, hateful rhetoric. There is no question that violence and threats of violence against many minorities in our nation have increased many, many fold!

But be fearful of one major thing: not thinking. Be aware of what is happening, rising so insidiously as to take us all by surprise. Hate, especially shouted and repeated daily, vulgarly, loudly in our ears, gradually making us believe it, can spread more rapidly than an infectious disease, blinding us, engulfing us, and killing us. It puts some people without their knowing it, into a hypnotic trance. And that is where some of the acts of violence come. It is like people obeying a demanding voice of hate. It reminds one of the acts against innocent people as in Nazis Germany or lynch mobs in the South.

We all have fears and losses, insecurities and unknowns. Many have lost income, homes, food for our families, medical care.

The fear is deep. The spread of economic wealth is getting greater, with many, many falling to the bottom. And those at the top hold tight out of greater fear of falling. The farther up you are, the farther down you can fall.

When at the bottom, and nothing to blame, you look for something, someone to step on. That is when a person who looks or talks differently can easily become the scapegoat, especially when there is a loud vulgar voice shouting hate, even suggesting violence. Blame the immigrant, the darker skinned Black, anyone but yourself, because you need to save yourself. Some people count on that fear, that loss, to funnel support for themselves. They are blaming everyone and anyone that looks or acts slightly differently, because they too, are scared of falling. They hide it with caustic, ugly rhetoric that they shout loudly day and night.

A candidate can rise to stardom insidiously, quietly as they build towers of Babels and a university of Oz. Hitler began quietly too, speaking out loudly the unspeakable fears and loses that the people felt and could not label. Labeling them gave a channel to vent the anger and out comes the steamroller of hate to crush all in its path. The rhetoric of today is so similar to early Nazism.

And we are blinded to it, seemingly unafraid, because surely, not in America today! But do we really know that?

This rising up of uncontrolled fear is very evident in some of our police departments today. No matter what their color, the police are not immune to the shouting and are feeling the universal tension coming from the hateful rhetoric. So they too in their unspoken fears, succumb, and all the more easily shoot a person. They are the puppets of today's fears, acted out in our streets. The dark circle of hate continuously, insidiously spirals onwards, unabated.

Martin Luther King said, *“Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”* But we must work hard to overcome hate, even though love can be stronger.

How are you dealing with your fears? How are you confronting and living with the barrage of strong hateful rhetoric, and even with co-workers or family that believe it? What are you doing to remain with a firm grasp on reality? Want to talk and share ideas? Please call or email me, and let's get together and support each other in this time of rising fear.

Emmy Lou Cholak
sjatcmi@gmail.com

Upcoming UUCGT Social Witness for Congregational Study & Witness/Action Events

Rabbi Chava & Emmy Lou Cholak

How CAN We Decide Our Social Witness Priorities?

Beloveds, at the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association, I was privileged to witness how UUs go about deciding which issue - among the many that are paramount - we will work on together over a period of time. Nationally, the time frame is four years. Four topics are chosen, generated by members, and then at a gathering, people have a chance to make the case for each issue and the community democratically votes. It is a stirring, profound and exciting process.

Emmy Lou Cholak and the UUCGT Social Justice Action team are crackerjack "first responders" when there is an issue that requires immediate action. I would like to propose in addition to this that we think about choosing an issue, using the UUA method, for longer term study and action. (This year the UUA chose the erosion of democracy for its four year process.) What are the LOCAL issues that are most pressing to you? Can you answer a three question, anonymous survey to offer your guidance and input?

Please go to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GZYTPF5>

On Saturday September 24, we will host a showing of the film *Crime After Crime*, which according to IMDb is: “The story of the battle to free Debbie Peagler, an incarcerated survivor of brutal domestic violence. Over 26 years in prison cannot crush the spirit of this determined African-American woman. Her story takes an unexpected turn two decades later when a pair of rookie land-use attorneys cut their teeth on her case -- and attract global attention to the troubled intersection of domestic violence and criminal justice.” This film was recommended by T’ruah: Rabbis for Human Rights (an organization of which I am member) in recognition of the holiday called Selichot, the time when the process of deep introspection and restorative justice are engaged prior to the Jewish Days of Awe. Following the film we will share our reflections over refreshments.

Please save the date - November 9! Wednesday Supper & Colloquium: Ken Burns and Artemis Joukowsky’s documentary, *Defying the Nazis: The Sharps War* focusing on the Sharps, husband and wife UUs, who risked their lives to rescue people from the Holocaust. Our showing will take place on Kristallnacht, which according to the U.S. Holocaust Museum literally means, "Night of Crystal," or the "Night of Broken Glass." The name refers to the wave of violent anti-Jewish pogroms which took place on November 9 and 10, 1938. This wave of violence took place throughout Germany, annexed Austria, and in areas of the Sudetenland in Czechoslovakia recently occupied by German troops.



Lifespan Experience

Greetings Friends,

Autumn is almost upon us! It’s amazing how quickly the summer flew by – but summers in Northern Michigan seem to do that. While there’s been plenty of fun

this summer, the Ministerial Team has been hard at work making preparations for the launch of our 2016/2017 Program Year, which begins Resumption Sunday – Sunday, September 11th.

As I mentioned last month, our Sunday programming for Children and Youth this year will complement the Sunday Services, in our efforts to move closer to congregational thematic ministry. This thematic calendar will be exploring the source traditions, and considering wisdom from around the world. The Sunday of Labor Day Weekend will still follow the summer format, and Resumption Sunday (9/11) is an All Congregation Service – the children and youth will remain in the service. The remaining two Sundays in September will feature lessons from the “Wonderful Welcome” UUA Tapestry of Faith curriculum for our younger children, and the youth will have an opportunity to get to know one another in fun and creative ways.

We’ll kick off the thematic lessons for the younger children in October, and this year our youth will be using the UUA Tapestry of Faith curriculum entitled “Families”. It will be an exciting year, and there will be lots of opportunities for everyone. Parents need to turn in 2016-2017 registration forms for their children and youth as well – new registration forms are required at the start of each programming year, regardless of the fact that you may have filled them out before. Registration forms are required for all children and youth – nursery through high school for all programs. Forms can be picked up at the Welcome Table in the Social Hall, or you may email me and I will forward them to you. There is also a link to the forms in the Flash. These are due by September 11th.

Adult programs, and programs for families get rolling again this month too! Wednesday Suppers return to their regular format here in the congregational building, and Brewing Community returns to its regular days/times. There are two wonderful film events coming up this fall as well – one of which is this month! See the special addition in this Beacon for further details. There are amazing book groups happening as well, along with the launch of before-service learning opportunities! It is very important that you read your Beacon carefully, as well as review your weekly Flash email to keep up with the details of these wonderful opportunities.

Mark your calendars, dust off your walking shoes, the 2016 CROP HUNGER WALK is scheduled for Sunday, October 9 at the Civic Center. This community based project raises awareness and monies to help combat hunger both locally and globally. This year the Lifespan Experience Committee is coordinating efforts to promote our Congregation's participation in the WALK. UUCGT has not been involved since 2009, and it's time to be engaged once again with this community based project. We will need walkers and donors. Watch for details to follow, and keep that date reserved. Many thanks to John Hoffmann, our Adult Programming Liaison on the Lifespan Experience Committee, for his efforts to bring this project back to UUCGT.

Like what you are reading? All this programming takes volunteers my friends, and we are desperately short. Please contact me ASAP to volunteer – we need everyone’s help!

As always, be kind to yourselves, kind to each other, and send loving kindness out into the universe.

In Peace,

Sarah Montgomery-Richards
Director of Lifespan Experience
dle@uucgt.org



SECOND ANNUAL PAGAN FAIR!
SAVE THE DATE – FRIDAY, OCT 21ST, 2016 6-10PM &
SATURDAY, OCT 22ND, 2016 10AM-3PM
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Grand Traverse
6726 Center Rd, Traverse City
Admission is FREE!

(Calendar continued from page 10)

October 2016

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| <p>02 Sun Sunday Program: "Covenant" 9:00 AM Rabbi Chava Bahle</p> <p>02 Sun Sunday Service 10:30 AM Rabbi Chava Bahle</p> <p>02 Sun Mindfulness Meditation Fleda Brown 2:30 PM 6:30 PM</p> <p>02 Sun LGBTQ Support Group Rebekah Fuller 5:00 PM 6:30 PM</p> <p>02 Sun Congregation Beth Shalom 6:00 PM 9:30 PM</p> <p>03 Mon Congregation Beth Shalom 9:00 AM 12:00 PM</p> <p>03 Mon Congregation Beth Shalom/Children Terry Tarrow 3-4 PM</p> <p>03 Mon UU Men's Group Dave Halsted Minerva's 5:30 PM 7:30 PM</p> <p>03 Mon Open Gay AA Meeting 7:00 PM 8:30 PM</p> <p>04 Tue Community Lunch 12 noon @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak</p> <p>04 Tue CUUPS Sarah Montgomery-Richards That's a Pizza, 12-1 PM</p> <p>04 Tue Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM 4:30 PM</p> <p>05 Wed Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM</p> <p>05 Wed Sunday Services Committee 1:00 PM 3:00 PM</p> <p>05 Wed Wednesday Potluck Sandra McDonald 5:30 PM 7:00 PM</p> <p>05 Wed International Folk Dances Richard Fidler 7:00 PM 9:00 PM</p> <p>06 Thu Morning Meditation Rabbi Chava 9:00 AM 9:30 AM</p> <p>06 Thu Congregational Care Team Pat Light 1:00 PM 3:00 PM</p> <p>06 Thu Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM 3:30 PM</p> <p>06 Thu Vocal Ensemble John Bailey 7:00 PM 8:30 PM</p> <p>07 Fri Facilities Committee Dave Halsted 10:00 AM 11:30 AM</p> <p>08 Sat Singing Sisters Linda Hebert 10:00 AM 2:00 PM</p>
<p>09 Sun Program: "History of Covenant" 9 AM Rabbi Chava Bahle</p> <p>09 Sun Sunday Service 10:30 AM Rabbi Chava Bahle</p> <p>09 Sun UU Book Club Stan & Dottie Cain 2:00 PM 4:00 PM</p> <p>09 Sun LGBTQ Support Group Rebekah Fuller 5:00 PM 6:30 PM</p> <p>09 Sun Mindfulness Meditation Fleda Brown 5:00 PM 7:00 PM</p> <p>10 Mon Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM</p> <p>10 Mon Open Gay AA Meeting 7:00 PM 8:30 PM</p> <p>11 Tue Community Lunch 12 noon @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak</p> <p>11 Tue Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM 4:30 PM</p> <p>11 Tue Staff Resources Committee Karl Love 1:00 PM 2:00 PM</p> <p>11 Tue Finance Committee Mike McDonald 5:30 PM 7:00 PM</p> <p>11 Tue Congregation Beth Shalom 6:30 PM 9:00 PM</p> <p>12 Wed Congregation Beth Shalom, Yom Kippur 9:00 AM 9:00 PM</p> <p>13 Thu Morning Meditation Rabbi Chava 9:00 AM 9:30 AM</p> <p>13 Thu Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM 3:30 PM</p> <p>13 Thu Vocal Ensemble John Bailey 7:00 PM 8:30 PM</p> <p>14 Fri Brew Crew Rabbi Chava Brew Cafe 10:00 AM 11:30 AM</p> <p>14 Fri Friday Night Out Sarah Montgomery-Richards 5:30-9:00 PM</p> | <p>16 Sun Program Council Rick Walter 9:00 AM 10:00 AM</p> <p>16 Sun Sunday Service 10:30 AM Rabbi Chava Bahle</p> <p>16 Sun LGBTQ Support Group Rebekah Fuller 5:00 PM 6:30 PM</p> <p>16 Sun Mindfulness Meditation Fleda Brown 5:00 PM 7:00 PM</p> <p>17 Mon Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM</p> <p>17 Mon UUCGT Board Meeting 5:30 PM 7:30 PM</p> <p>17 Mon Open Gay AA Meeting 7:00 PM 8:30 PM</p> <p>18 Tue Friendly Garden Club Board Meeting Dottie Cain 10-11:30 AM</p> <p>18 Tue Community Lunch 12 noon @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak</p> <p>18 Tue Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM 4:30 PM</p> <p>19 Wed Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM</p> <p>19 Wed Leadership Development Tom Darnton 4:30 PM 6:00 PM</p> <p>19 Wed Wednesday Potluck Sandra McDonald 5:30 PM 7:00 PM</p> <p>19 Wed International Folk Dances Richard Fidler 7:00 PM 9:00 PM</p> <p>20 Thu Morning Meditation Rabbi Chava 9:00 AM 9:30 AM</p> <p>20 Thu Congregational Care Team Pat Light 1:00 PM 3:00 PM</p> <p>20 Thu Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM 3:30 PM</p> <p>20 Thu Vocal Ensemble John Bailey 7:00 PM 8:30 PM</p> <p>21 Fri Pagan Fair Sarah Montgomery-Richards 6:30 PM 10:00 PM</p> <p>22 Sat Pagan Fair Sarah Montgomery-Richards 10:00 AM-3:00 PM</p>
<p>23 Sun Sunday Service 10:30 AM Lay led Service</p> <p>23 Sun LGBTQ Support Group Rebekah Fuller 5:00 PM 6:30 PM</p> <p>23 Sun Mindfulness Meditation Fleda Brown 5:00 PM 7:00 PM</p> <p>24 Mon Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM</p> <p>24 Mon Committee on Ministry Rabbi Chava 6:00 PM 8:00 PM</p> <p>24 Mon Open Gay AA Meeting 7:00 PM 8:30 PM</p> <p>25 Tue Community Lunch 12 noon @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak</p> <p>25 Tue Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM 4:30 PM</p> <p>26 Wed Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM</p> <p>26 Wed Wednesday Supper - \$5 donation Sandra McDonald , 5:30-7PM</p> <p>26 Wed International Folk Dances Richard Fidler 7:00 PM 9:00 PM</p> <p>27 Thu Morning Meditation Rabbi Chava 9:00 AM 9:30 AM</p> <p>27 Thu Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM 3:30 PM</p> <p>27 Thu Vocal Ensemble John Bailey 7:00 PM 8:30 PM</p>
<p>30 Sun Program: "Mindfulness" 9 AM Rabbi Chava Bahle</p> <p>30 Sun Sunday Service 10:30 AM Rabbi Chava Bahle</p> <p>30 Sun LGBTQ Support Group Rebekah Fuller 5:00 PM 6:30 PM</p> <p>30 Sun Mindfulness Meditation Fleda Brown 5:00 PM 7:00 PM</p> <p>31 Mon Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM</p> <p>31 Mon Open Gay AA Meeting 7:00 PM 8:30 PM</p> |
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**Unitarian Universalist Congregation
of Grand Traverse**
6726 Center Road
Traverse City MI 49686-1802

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

the BEACON

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

Volume 53, Issue 9

September, 2016

Calendar

All events and programs take place at UUCGT unless otherwise noted and are open to everyone.

September 2016

01 **Thu** Morning Meditation Rabbi Chava 9:00 AM 9:30 AM
 01 **Thu** Congregational Care Team Pat Light 1:00 PM 3:00 PM
 01 **Thu** Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM 3:30 PM
 01 **Thu** Vocal Ensemble John Bailey 7:00 PM 8:30 PM

04 **Sun** **Sunday Service 10:30 AM Lay Led Service**
 04 **Sun** Mindfulness Meditation Fleda Brown 2:30 PM 6:30 PM
 04 **Sun** LGBTQ Support Group Rebekah Fuller 5:00 PM 6:30 PM
 05 **Mon** Labor Day - Office closed
 05 **Mon** Open Gay AA Meeting 7:00 PM 8:30 PM
 06 **Tue** Community Lunch 12 noon @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak
 06 **Tue** Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM 4:30 PM
 07 **Wed** Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
 07 **Wed** Sunday Services Committee 1:00 PM 3:00 PM
 07 **Wed** Wednesday Potluck Sandra McDonald 5:30 PM 7:00 PM
 07 **Wed** International Folk Dances Richard Fidler 7:00 PM 9:00 PM
 08 **Thu** Morning Meditation Rabbi Chava 9:00 AM 9:30 AM
 08 **Thu** Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM 3:30 PM
 08 **Thu** Vocal Ensemble John Bailey 7:00 PM 8:30 PM
 09 **Fri** Facilities Committee Dave Halsted 10:00 AM 11:00 AM
 09 **Fri** Friday Night Out Sarah Montgomery-Richards 5:30-9:00 PM

11 **Sun** **Resumption Sunday Service 10:30 AM Rabbi Chava Bahle**
 11 **Sun** UU Book Club Barbara McClellan 2:00 PM 4PM
 11 **Sun** LGBTQ Support Group Rebekah Fuller 5:00 PM 6:30 PM
 11 **Sun** Mindfulness Meditation Fleda Brown 5:00 PM 7:00 PM
 12 **Mon** Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
 12 **Mon** Staff Resources Karl Love 1:00 PM 2:00 PM
 12 **Mon** UU Men's Group Dave Halsted Minerva's 5:30 PM 7:30 PM
 12 **Mon** Open Gay AA Meeting 7:00 PM 8:30 PM
 13 **Tue** Community Lunch 12 noon @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak
 13 **Tue** CUUPS Sarah Montgomery-Richards That's a Pizza, 12-2 PM
 13 **Tue** Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM 4:30 PM
 13 **Tue** Finance Committee Mike McDonald 5:30 PM 7:00 PM
 14 **Wed** Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
 14 **Wed** Wed. Supper - \$5 donation Sandra McDonald 5:30-7:00 PM
 14 **Wed** International Folk Dances Richard Fidler 7:00 PM 9:00 PM
 15 **Thu** Morning Meditation Rabbi Chava 9:00 AM 9:30 AM
 15 **Thu** Congregational Care Team Pat Light 1:00 PM 3:00 PM
 15 **Thu** Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM 3:30 PM
 15 **Thu** Vocal Ensemble John Bailey 7:00 PM 8:30 PM

16 **Fri** Brew Crew Rabbi Chava Brew Cafe 10:00 AM 11:30 AM

18 **Sun** Program Council Rick Walter 9:00 AM 10:00 AM
 18 **Sun** **Sunday Service 10:30 AM Rabbi Chava Bahle**
 18 **Sun** LGBTQ Support Group Rebekah Fuller 5:00 PM 6:30 PM
 18 **Sun** Mindfulness Meditation Fleda Brown 5:00 PM 7:00 PM
 19 **Mon** Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
 19 **Mon** UUCGT Board Meeting 5:30 PM 7:30 PM
 19 **Mon** Open Gay AA Meeting 7:00 PM 8:30 PM
 20 **Tue** Community Lunch 12 noon @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak
 20 **Tue** Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM 4:30 PM
 21 **Wed** Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
 21 **Wed** Leadership Development Tom Damton 4:30 PM 6:00 PM
 21 **Wed** Membership Committee Chris & Rick Walter 4:30 PM 5:30 PM
 21 **Wed** Wednesday Potluck Sandra McDonald 5:30 PM 7:00 PM
 21 **Wed** International Folk Dances Richard Fidler 7:00 PM 9:00 PM
 22 **Thu** Morning Meditation Rabbi Chava 9:00 AM 9:30 AM
 22 **Thu** Little Spiritual Book Lunch/Chodron Rabbi Chava 12:-1 PM
 22 **Thu** Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM 3:30 PM
 22 **Thu** Vocal Ensemble John Bailey 7:00 PM 8:30

25 **Sun** **Sunday Program Breakfast Kick-off 9:00 AM RSVP**
 25 **Sun** **Sunday Service 10:30 AM Rabbi Chava Bahle**
 25 **Sun** LGBTQ Support Group Rebekah Fuller 5:00 PM 6:30 PM
 25 **Sun** Mindfulness Meditation Fleda Brown 5:00 PM 7:00 PM
 26 **Mon** Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
 26 **Mon** Committee on Ministry Rabbi Chava 6:00 PM 8:00 PM
 26 **Mon** Open Gay AA Meeting 7:00 PM 8:30 PM
 27 **Tue** Friendly Garden Club Board Meeting Dottie Cain 10 11:30 AM
 27 **Tue** Community Lunch 12 noon @ Friends Church, 5th & Oak
 27 **Tue** Bridge Group Paul Christ 1:00 PM 4:30 PM
 28 **Wed** Stretch & Strengthen Judith Briggs 11:00 AM 12:00 PM
 28 **Wed** Wed. Supper - \$5 donation Sandra McDonald 5:30-7PM
 28 **Wed** International Folk Dances Richard Fidler 7:00 PM 9:00 PM
 29 **Thu** Morning Meditation Rabbi Chava 9:00 AM 9:30 AM
 29 **Thu** Peacemakers Needleworkers 1:30 PM 3:30 PM
 29 **Thu** Vocal Ensemble John Bailey 7:00 PM 8:30 PM

(Calendar continues on Page 9)