



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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Sunday, April 3 — ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:30 AM *Childcare and RE @ 10:30*

"Community or Charity?"

Kay Bond, Director, Benzie Area Community Neighbors

BACN began as the Benzie food bank, but over the past three years, under Kay's leadership, it has become a highly visible entity, offering a wide variety of goods and services, inspired by Kay's philosophy that "everybody has needs and everybody has something to give." Kay will explain her unique philosophy of philanthropy, one that has made huge differences in the lives of both the "needers" and the "givers" in Benzie County.

Sunday, April 10 — ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:30 AM *Childcare and RE @ 10:30*

"A Different Way to Look at War and Peace"

Sokuzan Bob Brown

The real meanings of the words 'war' and 'peace' are hidden from our view. What is it we cling to? What is and is not true about our concepts? It is possible to see more clearly the fundamental source of our stress, of our struggle, and of our need to control things. We will look at how this need for control is produced by fear and by lack of clarity about the true nature of our lives both in the world and in our hearts.

Sunday, April 17 — ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:30 AM *Childcare and RE @ 10:30*

"I Don't Know If I'm a Unitarian Universalist Any More"

Rev. Barbara Child

I received a letter from a young adult Unitarian Universalist, one who grew up UU and has been active right along. He invited me to share my thoughts about his present crisis of faith. He was saying, "I'm not sure any more whether this is a religion or a club." With his permission, I will share both his letter and my response to it.

Sunday, April 24 — ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:30 AM *Childcare and RE @ 10:30*

"Be Like Water"

Rev. Kevin Tarsa & Karen McCarthy, DRE

Water transforms a barren landscape into a fertile one. Water itself is transformed from solid to liquid to vapor. Water has been called the source of life and the sustainer of life. Water is part of our bodies, our planet, our universe. What might water represent for Unitarian Universalists as we contemplate Easter and Earth Day and the coming of spring?

Sunday, May 1 — ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:30 AM *Childcare and RE @ 10:30*

"Homegrown Poems and Songs: Another Vantage Point on Who We Are"

Mary Van Valin, Richard Miller & Gretchen Kronk

All over the world May Day is acknowledged, be it by a show of military strength, flowers left on the door knob, bonfires celebrating fertility... We invite you to celebrate May Day by sharing and listening to poems and songs written by our own members and friends. It's a May Day invitation to know each other more, to plant a good seed early in Spring...

Sunday, May 8 — ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:30 AM *Childcare and RE @ 10:30*

"Run Across Ethiopia: Building Global Community Beyond Fair Trade"

Tim Young

We've all heard Margaret Mead's quote: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." This service will tell the story of how, in less than a year, a few dedicated members of our northwest Michigan community organized a running expedition across Ethiopia that raised over \$200,000 to build three schools in needy communities. Through stories, film, photos and music, Timothy Young, Logistics Coordinator for Run Across Ethiopia, will tell the story of how runners, journalists, musicians and supporters made this happen.

the BEACON

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

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From Your Minister of Music

Change alone is eternal, perpetual, immortal.

—Arthur Schopenhauer

Change abounds in my life these days—recent change, current change, approaching change. Relationship, home, work and vocation are all in transition. I'm finding it more difficult to hang on to a consistent sense of identity, at least more difficult to hang on to my sense of identity as defined by all those changing aspects of my life. Who am I without living parents? Who am I outside of this significant relationship? Who am I without this role at the church? This is demanding a softening and a letting go of some of the things I've relied upon to let me know who I am, and asks me to listen carefully for the sound of the most authentic me beneath those other layers. I don't

like the feeling of the layers pulling away, often it is painful, and yet I know that this is a very necessary and important gift, an opportunity that arrives only rarely. It is an opportunity to take a frightening leap toward my truest and best self.

It is in changing that things find purpose.

—Heraclitus (c. 500 BCE)

Within the swirling of all the unknowns, come, even now, fleeting glimpses of clarity, intuitions of depth and fullness to come, whiffs of purpose and hints of authenticity. Change can indeed offer clarity and surface purpose. The visions last too briefly now to grab, and though part of me wants to capture them and pin them down, the work at hand is the softening and the letting go. I will shortchange the process if I seek

solidity too soon. So for now I'll seek patience and try to make friends with the eternal and perpetual natures of change, knowing that change is the doorway to much good to come.

Of course, I have the congregation too in mind as I write, the congregation and its own shifting anchors of identity. As I prepare to finish this 22-leg of my journey with UUCGT at the end of July, I have in mind and heart the congregation's softening and pulling away of layers. And I have in my heart the congregation's impending leap toward its truest and best self. In change, in changing, may we each find purpose beyond even our most hope-filled imaginings.

Yours,

Rev. Kevin

ALL ABOUT US

March 2011

Congratulations:

To the Jim Gamble Award Winners this year—Cal Boulter and Marge Rundell. We thank each of you for all the good work you do.

Deaths:

Lucky McKeen's mother
Ken Weaver's mother
Our condolences to you in your mothers' deaths.

We hold in our hearts:

Linda Dunigan whose son, Shane, was recently in ICU
Karl Love, whose daughter, Ursula (Lansing) will have gall bladder and possible benign tumor removal surgery

Karen McCarthy, whose brother, Daniel, recovers at the Pavilions after surgery for frost bite.

Sharon Olson who watches over husband, John Schneider*, as he slowly recovers from damage from a concussion and resulting hematoma trauma in ICU at Munson

Our thoughts are with:

Barbara Berry
Mary Grover
Peg Hawes
Nancy Pihlcrantz
John Schneider*
Helen Sullivan
...with the hope of healing for each and all of you.

*Please note: John cannot have visitors in the ICU at the hospital, but if you wish to help in any way you may call Arline at 231-947-9124 to find how you can do that and in what form.

—The Pastoral Team

MUSICAL NOTES

Music Thank-You's...

- ♫ To Gary Deavel for playing so beautifully on March 6.
- ♫ To the Vocal Ensemble for such beautiful and sensitive singing on March 13 and March 27 in the services with Rabbi Chava Bahle, and on March 20 with Rev. Barbara Child. Whether a sufi chant, a renaissance madrigal, or a beloved Jewish song, the VE covers a wide range of music wonderfully.
- ♫ To Holly Knibbs for lifting us up with her piano playing in This Little Light of Mine on March 20.
- ♫ To Judith Weaver, violin, Myrna Yeakle, clarinet, Jean Saalfeld, cello, and Gary Deavel, piano for such beautiful playing in the March 27 service, including accompanying the Vocal Ensemble for "Ani Ma'amin."

MINDING THE STORE

Got Poetry? (Or a song?)

You are warmly invited to participate with a poem or song you've written in the May 1st Sunday service. The service will flow from poem to poem and song to song, allowing all of us to know each other more. If reading or singing in front of others stops your heart too much, others can read or sing your piece for you. Gretchen Kronk, Richard Miller and Mary Van Valin are looking forward to hearing from you as they plan the service. Thanks for considering!

Hospitality

The Hospitality Committee's mission is to encourage the sharing of food and drink, providing opportunities to enhance understanding, develop trust, and ultimately strengthen relationships. Since the RE pageant in December, we are grateful for these Hospitality volunteers: **Karen Culp, Kay Sturgeon, Penny Ort, Mary Ann Force, Judy Halsted, David Halsted, Jalene Moore, Bernie Hanchett, Ann Chinn, Judith Briggs, Candace Lee, Kathy Prentice, Bob Prentice, Maura Brennan, Ellie Golden, Pinkie Hoffman, Charlotte Shea, Jane Watts, Heather Shumaker, Forest Olson, Emmy Lou Cholak, and Melinda Mitchell.** Many of these generous souls have helped on multiple occasions. **If you brought food or pitched in to help** on the spur of the moment, **please know that we appreciate your contribution as well,** even if we didn't get your name. Please help us continue building community by signing up to bring a snack or to clean up. The sign-up sheet, with food suggestions, hangs in the Causeway and can be found on the cream and sugar table during social time. We are aiming for a variety of finger foods that can be eaten from a napkin. To make this easy on all of us, keep it simple and bring it ready to serve. Thank you.

—The Hospitality Committee
(Karen Culp, Kay Sturgeon,
Melinda Mitchell)

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND ACTION

Many of us have read and heard about Wisconsin and what the government is doing there. And as you all are aware, many states are doing the same. Michigan is one of the worst and is leading the pack in stripping from the poor and allowing the more wealthy to keep their tax breaks. How do we pay for services when there is no money? How do we help the poor; give much needed health care reform; maintain services to the elderly; maintain and improve our public schools, our future?? How? We can borrow, or we can beg, or we can tax. But should we tax those that need help now, or who will need help if they are taxed more? Is that sensible?

But that is what they are doing. The "they" is our governor and legislatures in Lansing. The more wealthy can afford lobbyists to fight for them. The lobbyists' incomes depend on their winning for their employers with no or little taxing and with many tax breaks. They of course fight hard. The poorer cannot afford lobbies. So we rally and march, and that is what we have done.

A week ago Wednesday, 3000 went to Lansing from all over the state, older, college kids, workers, high schoolers too! Forty-two went on a bus provided by a local, prominent, philanthropic-minded citizen, and about ten car loads, all from TC, went to Lansing, with signs and eagerness to be heard: We are the people. We have a voice. We are really the majority. We need to be heard! But to be heard—we need to speak up, loud and clearly!

Then there was a rally here in Traverse City last Saturday, as there was in many towns and cities in the state. Here we had about 500 attendees! We marched, we chanted, we were heard. Were we? By whom? What does this do? Yes, maybe we feel we did what we could. But that is a past tense verb. Have we done what we could? Did enough people vote last November? NO! That is the problem! Lethargy and listening to

Fox news kept us home. We thought why should we vote; "They" will win. We were drummed with that message, no use to vote, and we succumbed to "their" rhetoric. So we need to be smarter; think for ourselves! VOTE!!!! If you do not take the responsibility of living in a democracy and vote, then you shall no longer have a democracy! Benjamin Franklin knew that and said so when he helped write our US constitution! US is us!

People in some Arab countries are fighting for the ideal of a fair working government, a democracy where their voice can be heard and matter, while we let our democracy fall apart and become a state for the wealthy, ruin the environment, and tax the poor and the middle class to oblivion. This is your choice.

This November is another election. Many things are at stake. What will each of you do? Vote? Help your neighbors, family and friends vote? Or---? I know what I will do!

Last Sunday, I came with papers to sign that I think most of the congregation that attended services signed. Many thanks!!! It was telling our legislatures in Lansing to preserve Health Care Reform, the Affordable Health Care Act. That was great!! I was moved by the cooperation and understanding of all helping to get that message to Lansing. Many thanks! Now we need to follow that up with—well—What are you going to do this November? Can you help others? Need help in knowing how to help? Let me know.

Many thanks!

—Emmy Lou Cholak

ADULT PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Men's Group

UU Men will gather at Ruby Tuesday's on Monday, April 18, 5:30 PM. No agenda has been announced as we go to press, but please join us for good fellowship, thoughtful discussion and a nice meal. Questions? Contact John Ort at 932 8766.

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Singing Together

Singing with others is an important part of my personal theology. To me, it is a holy act, and one of the most precious things that we do together in worship services at UUCGT (I use the word "worship" in its ancient sense of "worth-ship," taking time to focus on what is worthy). Singing is an essential part of our Religious Education program.

Raising our voices together in song is a way for us to anchor experiences and learning in our bodies; it helps us to feel unified and connected; it can gather attention, calm a mood or energize it, and raise our spirits. Singing together can bring us to a transcendent state of being.

Rev. Kevin Tarsa and I were honored to be asked by the Heartland District of our Unitarian Universalist Association to present a workshop in songleading at the District Assembly (the annual meeting of Heartland congregations) in Muncie, Indiana the first weekend in April.

We'll talk about the importance and value of singing, and help the "faint of heart" learn some techniques for leading songs in worship services and Religious Education in their home congregations.

These words of Martin Luther resonate with my heart, mind, and soul: "As long as we live, there is never enough singing."

May your heart be full of song this springtime, whether that song be joyful or sorrowful, meditative or uplifting, meaningful or silly. May you sing it with other humans (or with the wind, the trees, the water, and the birds), and may it enrich your life and enhance your soul.

STEWARDSHIP AND HISTORY

Editor's note: At the start of the service on March 13, Peg Kauffman made the following presentation to the Congregation. These are compelling thoughts about stewardship of our Congregation, and the history Peg has included is worthy of sharing again in this publication, thus making it part of the written history of UUCGT.

Since our family joined the Congregation in January 1966, I've have been asked to talk about stewardship in this congregation from an historical viewpoint.

Webster defines stewardship as the careful, and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care.

In three more years we will have our 50th Birthday. That fact indicates quite a bit of stewardship in this congregation.

The forming of the congregation by Mary Ann Force and Jan Park, took great dedication and time by these two and the others who joined them. In a very few years we had a group of adults, with over 50 of their children in Religious Education. Stewardship is certainly a good word for that accomplishment.

We were lay-led, without a minister, for 25 years. The time and effort of many members producing a Sunday Service for all those years was certainly stewardship. And we are still quite good at that!

After meeting in rented quarters for nearly twenty years—in two different buildings at the college, and several years at the old Traverse City Woman's Club at Washington and Rose, we wanted a building of our own, and we wanted a minister. Which should come first? The UUA advised us to get the minister first. It was good advice. Before we got a minister, we increased our pledges to have some of the additional money we would need. We also realized that we would need to continue at that or a greater level to keep a minister. That was stewardship.

The Rev. Emmy Lou Belcher did indeed energize us. She came on August 1, 1989, and by Christmas we had moved our meeting place to the

Friends Church on 5th and Oak which was available for our use on Sunday mornings. We went into a frenzy of activity rejuvenating its interior - in depth cleaning, buying new carpet for the sanctuary, painting the floor and walls of the basement. Many, many of us were involved in all this activity - more stewardship.

However, we hadn't lost sight of the fact that we still didn't have our own building. Rev. Belcher also helped us keep this dream alive. The Friends Church was a big improvement for the Sunday Services, but not so great for Religious Education classes - a kitchen and one large basement room divided with cloth curtains made of sheets.

We began looking for a location and researching how to afford a building. As it happened two of our members, Bob and Peta Williams owned some land in this area, and they donated the acreage for this building. Certainly that was stewardship on their part and a big boost to our dreams.

The resulting building fund campaign and planning of the building required a great deal of stewardship activity from many members. We moved into this building in June 1993, only four years after we had hired a minister. Not long ago we decided to add some Religious Education rooms to this building. After realizing the size of the planned addition was beyond our means to accomplish in the near future, we opted for a smaller addition which we could build right away with the money we had already raised. More stewardship - "careful and responsible management."

But stewardship is not only connected to the big events of the congregation. Ordinary times call for stewardship to keep us going too, and that obviously also involves time and money.

We are in a hiatus between ministers. We will be choosing an interim minister soon. Good stewardship will require us to raise extra money on an ongoing basis to support the interim minister and the permanent minister who follows. We have done this before. Let's keep on being good stewards and do it again!

SUGGEST A SERVICE, GIVE A SERVICE

“Hmm, I’d like to hear a service about...” Have you ever had that thought? Many of us have, indeed. Have you ever considered presenting the very service you would like to experience? Please do. Our tradition invites the sharing of our personal voices and visions. *Each and every one of us* lay members may have a service (or several!) inside of us by virtue of having lived our lives, reflected on them, endured our struggles, contemplated the meaning of being a UU. Think about what you would like to hear, how you would like to hear and see it presented, what you would like to *experience*, and give some serious (and even humorous!) consideration to *bringing your vision to a service*.

You can rely on your Sunday Services Committee members—Charlotte Shea, Gretchen Kronk, Holly Knibbs, Mary Van Valin, Paul Ward, Rev. Kevin Tarsa and Richard Miller—to give you any guidance, ideas and support you might like in the preparation and delivery of a service. Below is the form for sharing your ideas. We would love to hear from you and collaborate with you.

Proposal for Lay-led Sunday Service

Title _____

Topic _____

Time of year you wish to present _____

What is the essence of the message you wish to share with the congregation? _____

What does sharing this message bring to you? _____

The Sunday Services Committee meets the 4th Tuesday of each month from 6pm to about 9pm. Could you meet with the Committee during that time to discuss the service? _____

A coordinator from the Sunday Services Committee will work with you. How can the Committee assist you with the service?

- ___ Meaningful/spiritual content, refining the message
- ___ Music selection to accompany/complement the service
- ___ Story for All Ages – suggestions and/or reading
- ___ Sanctuary settings to enhance the service
- ___ Selected readings
- ___ Other _____

Name _____

Date Submitted _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please submit this Proposal to the Sunday Services Committee via email to office@uucgt.org or place a hard copy in the Committee’s mailbox in the office.

Date received by Sunday Services Committee _____

Unitarian Universalist Congregation

of Grand Traverse

6726 Center Road

Traverse City MI 49686-1802

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

the BEACON

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

Volume 48, Issue 4

April, 2011

Calendar

All events take place at the Congregation building unless otherwise noted. Events marked with an * are part of the ongoing LEAP! Programs and can be joined at any time.

April 2011

03 Sun **"Community or Charity?" Kay Bond, One Service @ 10:30AM**

03 Sun * Mindfulness Meditation Group; Fleda Brown, 2:30-7PM

05 Tue * Bridge Group; 1-4:30PM

06 Wed * Wednesday Night Supper, 5:30-7PM

06 Wed * International Folk Dancers; Mary Van Valin, 6:30-9PM

07 Thur UU Women's Group; Shari Cope, 1-2:30PM

07 Thur Vocal Ensemble Rehearsal; Rev. Tarsa, 7-9PM

08 Fri Facilities Team Meeting; Fred Schaafsma, 10-11:30AM

08 Fri * Mindfulness Meditation Retreat; Fleda Brown, 1-9PM

09 Sat * Mindfulness Meditation Retreat; Fleda Brown, 8AM-9PM

10 Sun **"A Different Way to Look at War and Peace," Bob Brown, One Service @ 10:30AM**

10 Sun * Mindfulness Meditation Retreat; Fleda Brown, 8AM-9PM

10 Sun Peace Group; Dave Halsted, 11:45AM-12:15PM

12 Tue * Bridge Group; 1-4:30PM

13 Wed * Peacemakers Needleworkers; Bonnie Mathias, 1:30-3:30PM

13 Wed * Wednesday Night Supper, 5:30-7PM

13 Wed * International Folk Dancers; Mary Van Valin, 6:30-9PM

13 Wed * Chautauqua; Judy VanDeWeghe, 7-8PM

14 Thur Vocal Ensemble Rehearsal; Rev. Tarsa, 7-9PM

16 Sat Rev. Barbara Child Workshop; Rev. Child, 9-11AM

17 Sun **"I Don't Know If I'm a Unitarian Universalist Any More," Rev. Child, One Service @ 10:30AM**

17 Sun * Congregational Conversation; 12-1PM

17 Sun * Mindfulness Meditation Group; Fleda Brown, 5-7PM

18 Mon Men's Group, Ruby Tuesday's, John Ort, 5:30PM

19 Tue * Bridge Group; 1-4:30PM

19 Tue UUCGT Board Meeting; John Hoffmann, 6:30-9PM

20 Wed * Wednesday Night Supper, 5:30-7PM

20 Wed * International Folk Dancers; Mary Van Valin, 6:30-9PM

21 Thur Vocal Ensemble Rehearsal; Rev. Tarsa, 7-9PM

24 Sun **"Be Like Water," Rev. Kevin Tarsa & Karen McCarthy, DRE, One Service @ 10:30AM**

24 Sun * Mindfulness Meditation Group; Fleda Brown, 5-7PM

26 Tue * Bridge Group; 1-4:30PM

26 Tue Sunday Services Committee; Holly Knibbs, 6-9PM

27 Wed * Peacemakers Needleworkers; Bonnie Mathias, 1:30-3:30PM

27 Wed * Wednesday Night Supper, 5:30-7PM

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May 2011

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