



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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Office Hours:
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Tuesday through Friday

*Minister of Music**

Rev. Kevin Tarsa, 922-8146
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*Director of Religious Education**

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Sunday, March 6 — ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:30 AM *Childcare and RE @ 10:30*

"Liberal Religion: A Page of Our Story"

Rev. Kevin Tarsa

Recently returned from a month of study at Meadville Lombard Theological School, a Unitarian Universalist seminary, I'll draw on my recent learning to explore some corner of our liberal religious heritage, and invite you to find your own story within it.

Sunday, March 13 — ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:30 AM *Childcare and RE @ 10:30*

Note: Today is the beginning of Daylight Saving Time; please remember to move your timepieces forward by one hour so that you don't miss this service! ☺

"A Meditation of the Heart: A Journey with Mystical Islam"

Rabbi Chava Bahle

The Sufi poet Hafiz writes, "I wish I could show you, /when you are lonely or darkness/The Astonishing Light/Of your own being!" Deep in the heart of Islam lies a path of love, spiritual awakening and sweetness. Through chant, poetry and stories, we will journey together to touch the core teachings of Sufism, Islam's meditative and mystical path. The poetry of Rumi and Hafiz, the story of Mullah Nasrudin and chants of contemporary Sufis will set the stage for a time of peace, laughter and compassion.

Sunday, March 20 — ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:30 AM *Childcare and RE @ 10:30*

"The Prophet, the Seeker, and the Disappearing Servant"

Rev. Barbara Child

Today we will have a new look at leadership, with a surprising personage as guide, one who has been called "a Western Taoist." We will honor the people who serve as leaders in this congregation, and we will explore how to improve the odds on good leadership flourishing here in the future for the benefit of all.

Sunday, March 27 — ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:30 AM *Childcare and RE @ 10:30*

"Removing the Masks: Spiritual Practices for the True Self and a Radically Authentic Life"

Rabbi Chava Bahle

Thomas Moore writes, "Far beneath the many thick layers of indoctrination about who we are and who we should be lies an original self, a person who came into this world full of possibility and destined for joyful unveiling and manifestation. Chronically trying to be someone other than this original self, persuaded that we are not adequate and should fit some norm of health or correctness, we may find a cool distance gradually separating us from that deep and eternal person... and we may forget both who we were and who we might be." In this service, we explore —through the lens of several spiritual traditions—the struggle to live a radically authentic life and the joys of embracing the true self.

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

"What Kind of Ancestors Will We Be?"

Derek Bailey

Derek Bailey, Chairman of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, who has been appointed to President Obama's National Advisory Council on Indian Education, will help us to focus on the ways in which our actions and choices today will affect the world for generations.

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.

the BEACON

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

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A Note from the President...

Greetings,

This article will summarize actions taken and discussion at the February Board meeting. The Board approved a motion by Judy Halsted updating the *Manual on Board, Staff, and Committees*. This provides more organizational structure to the UUCGT. Judy, and many others, have worked hard on this manual. Mary Grover and Judy Halsted will review some necessary by-law changes that will be presented at the annual meeting scheduled for May 22, 2011.

We approved a change in Barbara Child's contract; she will come March 18-20 for a Saturday morning Leadership Development Workshop and Stewardship training on Saturday afternoon. On April 15-17 she will do a Saturday morning workshop on Membership and Growth and an afternoon on the Art of the Sunday Service in conjunction with the Sunday Services committee. April will be her last visit.

Board members are conducting Chautauqua discussions on Wednesday nights. I did one February 16 regarding Stewardship with approximately twenty people in attendance. We had a very positive interaction and many good ideas were presented. Sally and Emily Mitchell did one on "UU Elevator Speeches" February 23; On March 9, Kevin will facilitate a discussion of the relationship of UUCGT and the UUA. Max OldBear is scheduled for March 23. Come join the discussions Wednesday nights at 7pm. Check the FLASH or the Orders of Service.

Karen McCarthy, DRE, spoke to issues regarding RE needs. Her committee could use more members and additional Congregational support. This is an important part of our Congregational life. If you can offer some time or talent please contact Karen.

Both Karen and Kevin are making a presentation at an upcoming UUA district meeting in April. We approved an expenditure of \$500 to help cover their expenses and to encourage any interested congregants that would like to accompany them. More information to follow.

Maura updated the Board regarding the Green Cemetery Project. A grant application for funding a professional consultant has been approved.

We appointed Sue Pyne, Emily Mitchell, and Cal Boulter to the Search committee for a new interim minister. An application to the UUA for an interim has to be filed by April 15; selection process will occur shortly after that. (We are expecting assistance from the UUA District).

The Board revisited the definition of membership. According to our by-laws members are expected to pledge or contribute financially to the Congregation. We do not have 100% participation. The Board and Membership Committee will have to review this and determine a proper course of action. Hopefully, during the upcoming Stewardship campaign we will achieve complete participation by all members. We started a preliminary review of a proposed budget for 2011-2012. This is very early in the process so it would be premature to discuss details. However, it is anticipated that with the hiring of an interim minister, and the other budget adjustments, our expenses will increase in the next fiscal year. The Board wants to—once again—restore our commitment to being a fully funded FAIR SHARE Congregation to the UUA. This builds on a long Congregational tradition. We also want to increase our visibility in the larger community. Supporting what the Community Needs Committee is doing by utilizing more of our Sunday collections should enable us to be more involved in community projects. It is anticipated that a Board goal for the next fiscal year will be a 10% increase in pledging income. We are facing new opportunities and challenges. I'm confident that this Congregation will respond in a positive manner. As Max said in last week's FLASH "It takes many hands to Raise the Barn".

Take care. Spring is coming.

—John

MUSICAL NOTES

Music Thank-You's...

♪ to our musicians who planned, led and made music in January while I was away, and in early February: Holly Knibbs and Gary Deavel, Mary Anne Rivers, Andy Evans, Paul Ward, Judy Weaver, Kim Gribi.

♪ members of our multi-generational string ensemble on Feb 13, with director Judith Weaver: Keri Alspaugh, Melia Burke, Nina Mueller, Nancy Peterson, Aili Simpson, L.E. Smith, Nan Worthington, Chloe Love, Chris Williams and Andy Evans.

♪ to the members of the UUCGT Vocal Ensemble – with soloist Ariel Love - for wonderful singing and

songleading in the February 20 service with Rabbi Chava Bahle.

♪ to Loraine Anderson, Theresa and Andy Evans, Mary Kiner, Holly Knibbs, Gretchen Kronk, Nancy Landfair and Jane Watts for percussion and song leading in the Feb 27 multi-gen story service, "Strong is What We Make Each Other."

From Your Minister of Music

I had a rich and inspiring month of learning at Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago in January, with excellent classes in Liberal Theology, Oral Traditions/Storytelling, and Preaching. Not only do I want to go back and review my reading and learning from each class, but each class surfaced numerous additional books and articles and websites and much learning that I want yet to explore. Ah so much interests me... I remind myself that this is a lifelong journey of learning. I ended the month with a much deeper sense of the liberal and Unitarian Universalist traditions, and our place within them.

Also during the month of January, a growing set of reasons to undertake an internship this fall, rather than the following year, reached critical mass. The reasons have to do with my personal, academic, and vocational paths, as well as UUCGT's path. So, rearranging my plans, I am now applying for an internship to begin this

coming September, 2011. The internship, a requirement of my seminary study, needs to be in another congregation, ideally one that is very different from this congregation that I know so well – a different size, a different personality, a different part of the country, a different social milieu, etc. I'll be seeking a learning environment that will challenge me to grow.

I will name here that this changes the tenor and some of the work of these next six months in the congregation, both the internal and the external work that I will need to do, that the congregation will need to do, and that we'll need to do together. I'll be keeping you informed as the journey unfolds on my end, and I'll look forward to the richness that this process will bring as we take these steps toward the future.

With great hope for the journey,

Rev. Kevin



YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

These beautiful words about the cycle of human life, taken from Paul Gauguin's masterpiece painting, can also be asked of congregational life. I've been contemplating these questions lately in terms of the Religious Education of our children and youth.

Where does our RE program come from? From the very foundations of UUCGT: one of the main reasons that our congregation was established was to provide liberal religious education for the children of the founders. In the early years, there were around 100 children enrolled in RE, and 80 attended every week!

What is RE? A program that strives to nurture hearts and expand minds, to provide a safe caring

community where all can freely explore diverse religious thought, and to work for justice and equality. We help children uncover their own spiritual paths, while teaching them compassion, service, and Unitarian Universalist values.

We currently have about 30 children and youth enrolled; on any given Sunday, between 5 and 15 kids attend. Why so few? I think it's partly because the lives of American families have changed over the decades, with very packed schedules and few stay-at-home parents, and partly because Unitarian Universalism does not dogmatically insist on regular church attendance.

But I wonder if there is more to it. I struggle with the question of why our Religious Education program is currently struggling.

Why does our RE committee consist of only three (very committed, caring, creative, hardworking) people? Why do most calls for help with the program go unanswered? Why do fewer people attend multigenerational Sunday

services, which are crafted to appeal and bring meaning to all ages?

I ask myself, what does all this mean about our congregation? About our priorities? About our commitment to our children? What does it mean about our future?

Where are we going? I don't know, but I dream. I dream of a Religious Education program overflowing with kids and creativity and fun and meaningful learning and social justice work, a program that attracts dedicated families from all over our area, a program that is widely known as "the" place to bring children for religious education in a liberal tradition.

Although I know that this dream is possible, I know also that it will require more than me and a handful of others. As of April 1, I will have been your DRE for 5 years, long enough to know that this dream can only come true if our entire congregation embraces it.

Where are we going?

What do you say?

—Karen McCarthy, DRE

ALL ABOUT US

February 2011

With gratitude:

This is what Shelley Burnes wishes for me to convey to all of you. To some 30-40 UU's and others who sent letters and cards, brought food, visited and stuffed her refrigerator, and helped move furniture. Shelley is so gratified by all the warmth and caring. She is slowly recovering but tells me she still feels isolated and so does love to have visitors. Just do call ahead of your visit—946-3861

We are mindful of

Barbara Berry and cardio conversions
Shari Cope with severe back therapy
Neal Endicott missing college semester healing from spine surgery
Mary Grover recovering from a series of treatments
Charlotte Shea as she goes through tests
Helen Sullivan who is getting some home health care now

Our hearts go out to

Judith Briggs whose eldest cousin died
Paul Heaton whose mother died earlier this month
Lucky McKeen whose mother is failing even further in hospice
Anne Olney whose 13 year old granddaughter is hospitalized for two weeks to conduct tests

To all of you who are dealing with day to day heartaches and pain and suffering we think of you and wish you better days. If there is help the Pastoral Care Team could provide we can try to be there for you.

—Pastoral Care Team

Gamble Awards

Editor's note: On Sunday February 20, the Gamble Awards for 2010 were presented to two dedicated and hardworking members of the Congregation. The following recognitions were announced at the service that Sunday morning:

Marge Rundell

This nominee is a quiet, competent "behind the scenes" worker. She is famous for organizing "cookie crews" for multiple UU functions over the years. Pastoral care depends upon her to help with meals for "shut-ins" and she is always among the first to say "yes" when a memorial service is planned. She has been a regular attendee and food preparer at Wednesday night suppers for many years.

She was one of the original "Tuesday lunch bunch!" For over 22 years she worked steadfastly on that project, which was begun by Sally Neal. Her job description included responsibility for managing the funds and procuring the volunteers, as well as working each and every Tuesday. That ended six years ago when she and her spouse decided it was time to move on, leave the task to Jill Chao, and travel to warmer climes during the winter months.

Another of the tasks she so cheerfully assumed was coordination of the phone call squad who sought donations for the then annual Autumn Affair. She was good at that job, and performed it willingly several times.

It gives me great pleasure to present the Gamble Award for 2010 to this quiet, smiling, loving unsung heroine...Marge Rundell.

Cal Boulter

This Gamble nominee is a multi-talented individual whose gifts to our congregation include electrical work, painting, road repair, photography, sermon presentation, vocalizing, committee membership, sound engineer, creator of display racks, Wednesday night supper attendee, healing committee co-chair, and Board membership.

His electrical exploits include the installation and wiring of parking lot lights, wiring of our new sign, and re-wiring the water heater. Painting skills lead him to restripe the parking lot and assist with painting the exterior and interior of the building. He was a dependable member of exterior clean-up crews who delighted in the camaraderie of the day.

His artistic skills are demonstrated when he records the service and transfers it to a CD for which he then makes an artistic cover. The photography exhibit in the hallway was his work, as was the organization of Sally Mitchell's exhibit.

Not sure if patching the driveway falls into this category....but he did it! Last... he sang with the vocal ensemble...and played the harmonica now and then as background music.

His gifts to church governance are many. He served on the membership committee, the healing committee, Sunday services committee, and facilitated the creation of the Leadership Development Committee. His steady presence on the Board lead us to think more clearly about the significance of policy development in leadership. It is for all these reasons that the second Gamble award for 2010 is presented to Cal Boulter!

MINDING THE STORE

Two Board Positions Open

Are you interested? Like more information??

The Leadership Development Committee is seeking volunteers that might be interested in learning more about the open Board positions for next fiscal year. In this endeavor, they have posted a sheet on the bulletin board asking anyone who might be interested in being a candidate to please sign up. You will be contacted by a member of the Leadership Development committee who will provide you with a job description and answer the questions you might have.

The two open positions are for President and Secretary. This is a great time to think of the role you might play as we move forward into the future of UUCGT. Please express your interest!

—Leadership Development Committee

ADULT PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Men's Group

UU Men will gather at Ruby Tuesday's on Monday, March 21, 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.

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND ACTION

March 2011

The world seems on the verge of democracy. It seems that the people in the more repressed countries of Africa and Mid-East nations are asking for democracy. The electronic savvy younger generations are marching, aware, and fighting for the freedoms that they know we enjoy here. They also want them. How can we blame them? We hope it works and that they do not leave a gap for more dictatorships to fool them and try to take over. We are on their side.

But at the same time, the opposite movement seems to be taking place here in our country. Some are trying to urgently take away our rights and freedoms here, all under the guise of financial need. Many of us watch with bewilderment as the Tea Parties try to strip the unions, robbing our working classes of a vote for fair share of wealth thru decent wages and pensions, and our voices to speak up in unison for our rights. As they do this, they are also taking away our monies for emergency relief that often comes from our unions. Also from the pot of money comes much backing for the democracies we enjoy and our Democratic party. Where will we be? How can we elect our leaders that represent the workers without some of the monies from the unions? Can we each pitch in enough to match the corporations that now have deep pockets and are de-regulated, able to give without disclosures and seemingly without end?

What can we do to save our democracy here at home as we watch other countries try to fight for their freedom and democracy? Let us not be helpless. We can call our leaders, write them, support those on the streets and those officials "hiding" so as not to allow a quorum to strip rights from workers. Our voices give support and raise morale. We can also join marches all over our areas, and we can be prepared to fight if our state tries the same!

There is another threat to our democracy and that is the urging of some to allow the police to search without a warrant anyone who might "look" like they are not our citizens. We are a nation made from everywhere. We were all immigrants at one time. It is time we develop a policy to allow for naturalization for those who are doing work we do not do, who pay into our Social Security system just as citizens do when we work, and who take little from it. These people are part of our future. They have already provided doctors, research specialists, leaders, etc. in our country. It is theirs by their diligence and honest work. Where is our sense of democracy when we allow invasion of rights?

This article is more political than usual. Please, if you can, look, see, find your representatives. Call, write, email, sign petitions for our fellow Americans so we can all continue to enjoy democracy. Let us support those in Africa and the Mid-East by showing them that democracy can still work here in the US too. Do us all a favor and fight. With freedoms come responsibilities! Thank you!

—Emmy Lou Cholak

Chautauqua ~ Discussion Series ~

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Grand Traverse
An On-going Program of LEAP!
Lifespan Educational Adult Programming

Wednesday, March 9th
7:00-8:30 pm.

What might our relationship be both individually and as a congregation to other Unitarian Universalist congregations, the Heartland District, and the Unitarian Universalist Association?

Rev. Kevin Tarsa, Minister of Music, will facilitate insight into this question. As members of a liberal religion, we live within a tension: we lift up the autonomy of each individual and each congregation, and, at the same time, we long for a greater sense of community and shared history. The Rev's Barbara Child and Lisa Presley have provided us with significant contact with the UU world beyond our walls--let's take this new insight further through discussion.

Wednesday, March 23rd
7:00-8:30 pm.

What does it mean to say, "The Sunday service is a spiritual experience for me, for us"?

Max Old Bear, Vice President of the Board of Trustees, will provide his personal perspective to aid this important discussion regarding this question and key word—*spiritual!* Come gather as we look to one another to find individual and common answers.

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 3

March, 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.

March 2011

- 01 Tue * Bridge Group; 1-4:30PM
- 01 Tue UUCGT Sunday Services Committee; Holly Knibbs, 6-9PM
- 02 Wed * Peacemakers Needleworkers; Bonnie Mathias, 1:30-3:30PM
- 02 Wed * Wednesday Night Supper, 5:30-7PM
- 02 Wed * International Folk Dancers; Mary Van Valin, 6:30-9PM
- 03 Thur Vocal Ensemble Rehearsal; Rev. Tarsa, 7-9PM

- 06 Sun "Liberal Religion: A Page of Our Story," Rev. Kevin Tarsa, One Service @ 10:30AM**
- 06 Sun * Mindfulness Meditation Group; Fleda Brown, 2:30-7PM
- 08 Tue * Bridge Group; 1-4:30PM
- 09 Wed * Wednesday Night Supper, 5:30-7PM
- 09 Wed * International Folk Dancers; Mary Van Valin, 6:30-9PM
- 09 Wed * Chautauqua; Judy VanDeWeghe, 7-8PM (see page 5 in this issue)
- 10 Thur Vocal Ensemble Rehearsal; Rev. Tarsa, 7-9PM
- 11 Fri Facilities Team Meeting; Fred Schaafsma, 10-11:30AM

***** SPRING Forward! Daylight Saving Time Begins Sunday, March 13! *****

- 13 Sun "A Meditation of the Heart: A Journey with Mystical Islam," Rabbi Chava Bahle, One Service @ 10:30AM**
- 13 Sun Peace Group; Dave Halsted, 11:45AM-12:15PM
- 13 Sun * Mindfulness Meditation Group; Fleda Brown, 5:30-7PM
- 15 Tue * Bridge Group; 1-4:30PM
- 15 Tue UUCGT Board Meeting; John Hoffmann, 6:30-9PM
- 16 Wed * Peacemakers Needleworkers; Bonnie Mathias, 1:30-3:30PM
- 16 Wed * Wednesday Night Supper, 5:30-7PM
- 16 Wed * International Folk Dancers; Mary Van Valin, 6:30-9PM
- 17 Thur Vocal Ensemble Rehearsal; Rev. Tarsa, 7-9PM
- 19 Sat Rev. Barbara Child Workshop; Rev. Child, 9-11AM

- 20 Sun "The Prophet, the Seeker, and the Disappearing Servant," Rev. Barbara Child, One Service @ 10:30AM**
- 20 Sun * Mindfulness Meditation Group; Fleda Brown, 5:30-7PM
- 22 Tue * Bridge Group; 1-4:30PM
- 22 Tue UUCGT Sunday Services Committee; Holly Knibbs, 6-8PM
- 23 Wed * Wednesday Night Supper, 5:30-7PM
- 23 Wed * International Folk Dancers; Mary Van Valin, 6:30-9PM
- 23 Wed * Chautauqua; Judy VanDeWeghe, 7-8PM (see page 5 in this issue)
- 24 Thur Vocal Ensemble Rehearsal; Rev. Tarsa, 7-9PM

27 Sun "Removing the Masks: Spiritual Practices for the True Self and a Radically Authentic Life," Rabbi Chava Bahle, One Service @ 10:30AM

- 27 Sun * Mindfulness Meditation Group; Fleda Brown, 5:30-7PM
- 29 Tue * Bridge Group; 1-4:30PM
- 30 Wed * Wednesday Night Supper, 5:30-7PM
- 30 Wed * International Folk Dancers; Mary Van Valin, 6:30-9PM
- 31 Thur Vocal Ensemble Rehearsal; Rev. Tarsa, 7-9PM

April 2011

3 Sun "What Kind of Ancestors Will We Be?" Derek Bailey, One Service @ 10:30AM

- 03 Sun * Mindfulness Meditation Group; Fleda Brown, 2:30-7PM
- 05 Tue * Bridge Group; 1-4:30PM
- 06 Wed * Peacemakers Needleworkers; Bonnie Mathias, 1:30-3:30PM
- 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, 1PM-9PM
- 09 Sat * Mindfulness Meditation Retreat; Fleda Brown, 8AM-9PM

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

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