



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

[www.uucgt.org](http://www.uucgt.org)

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**Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation  
of Grand Traverse**

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**Tuesday through Friday**

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

**“Celebrating a New Year,”**

**Holly Knibbs**

**Sunday, January 8, 10:30 AM. *Childcare and RE at 10:30***

**“Just Rest ”**

**Rev. Dr. Leisa Huyck**

After the holidays, many of us are in deep need of rest. Why is it so important that we rest? How might the ancient and beautiful tradition of Sabbath (Heb: Shabbat or Shabbos) help us create just and sustainable communities?

**Sunday, January 15, 10:30 AM. *Childcare and RE at 10:30***

**“The Arc of the Universe”**

**Rev. Dr. Leisa Huyck**

How did Unitarian history and theology influence the formation of both Martin Luther King Jr.’s dream, and his methods for achieving it? How can we carry the dream forward?

**Sunday, January 22, 10:30 AM. *Childcare and RE at 10:30***

**“Building The Beloved Community, One Brain Cell At A Time”**

**Rev. Dr. Leisa Huyck**

What does theology have to do with brain chemistry? How does loving kindness affect our brains? How can we make our religious community a place where loving kindness can flourish?

**Sunday, January 29, 10:30 AM. *Childcare and RE at 10:30***

Title and Description TBA

**Sunday, February 5, 10:30 AM. *Childcare and RE at 10:30***

**“I Think, Therefore I Feel”**

**Rev. Dr. Leisa Huyck**

How do thoughts lead to feelings? How can changing old habitual thought patterns help us change our lives? What do Buddhism and process theology teach about this? How can UU’s apply these teachings?

**Sunday, February 12, 10:30 AM. *Childcare and RE at 10:30***

**“What The World Needs Now”**

**Rev. Dr. Leisa Huyck**

On this Sunday before Valentine’s Day, come celebrate the beauty and power of love in its many forms.

**Sunday, February 19, 10:30 AM. *Childcare and RE at 10:30***

Title and Description TBA

**Sunday, February 26, 10:30 AM. *Childcare and RE at 10:30***

Title and Description TBA

*the BEACON*

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

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## *Rev. Leisa's Reflections*

Dear Ones,

The month of January is named after the Roman god Janus, the god of time, whose two faces looked simultaneously into the past and the present. This is what a congregation must do during a period of interim ministry: you both examine your past and imagine your future. At the same time, you are called to truly and mindfully experience the present.

You may remember that last fall, I told you that one of my jobs here would be to hold up a mirror, to let you know what I see here. One of the things I see here that is truly marvelous is your pastoral care team. Whenever anything happens to anyone, Arline Howe seems immediately to know, and the team goes into action, coordinating visits or phone calls or offering help with finding appropriate care. With this system in place, the minister is freed from having to do pastoral triage; instead, he or she is able to focus on providing spiritual care when it is requested. The minister who comes to this congregation and finds this system in place will be truly blessed. This program is exemplary for a congregation of this size, and shows the kind of loving care that members of this congregation are able to provide for each other.

There are other areas of congregational life that are equally splendid, and there are also those that need some work. In the past, this congregation experienced painful and destructive conflict. In the future, you would like to be able to relate to each other with loving kindness, as you bring healing to the larger world. You would like to learn how to manage conflict lovingly and constructively. In the present, what you can do about this is develop a congregational covenant.

As I shared with you in December, conflict itself is neutral; it is merely feedback in a system. It is an indication that change is happening, and that there are diverse ideas for how to adapt to the change. Change and diversity are good things! They mean we are alive! The problem is, many times, people become anxious about change—even if they welcome it—and when they are anxious, their emotions run high. Sometimes people's anxiety levels are so high that they are afraid to communicate directly to people with whom they disagree,

and so they triangulate or gossip. They speak with another person about the person with whom they're upset. Next thing you know, there are factions or teams, and the whole system gets sucked into a destructive conflict.

This is something that happens in many human social systems. It should not surprise anyone that it happens in church! But the difference between most social systems and church is that in church, we come together purposefully, to call one another into being our best selves. We come together purposefully, to heal ourselves and each other, and to heal the wider world. And so we need a way to remind ourselves and each other of these intentions.

This is one of the many things a covenant can do for us. A covenant can be a way for a congregation to (to paraphrase Howard Thurman) "keep before us our highest aspirations." It not only reminds us of our intentions to relate to each other with loving kindness, but also reminds us of the larger reasons why the community gathers in the first place.

This is why, in the next couple of months, your Board of Trustees, and your Transition Team, and I are going to be helping you develop a congregational covenant. In addition, on February 1 and again on February 15, I will be offering a couple of very introductory educational sessions on nonviolent (aka compassionate) communication, based on the work of Marshall Rosenberg and his Center for Nonviolent Communication.

There is so much that is good and healthy here, so much history and love. May you build on this history of health and love a covenant that will help you move into a future that is beautiful and bright.

Blessings,

*Rev. Leisa*

## From the President...

### **A Darn Good Year was 2011.**

Some sorrows, the loss of Helen Sullivan. Some joys, the pride in the journey of Reverend Kevin Tarsa. We also have many accomplishments. The very successful stewardship campaign under the leadership of Dan Orr and the Stewardship Committee and the splendid barn created by Emily Mitchell for our barn raising effort.

We are proud of our religious education program exemplified in the many children and participants in the 'Would You Like to Hold The Baby' pageant. It was very pleasing to see so many of all ages participating. We are proud of the children making cookies for the homeless at the winter Safe Harbor .

Our Wednesday night suppers as "get togethers" and Chautauqua discussions ( part of our LEAP program) continue to be most rewarding experiences.

We can be proud and thankful for all of our outreach efforts including the work of the Pastoral Care Committee, our continuing community lunch program and our Social Justice Committee and congregational support to "Yes" on passing Proposal 1. That's who we are.

The quilter's bead sale raised \$11,600 for women in Uganda and the quilt raffle raised \$700 that went to the Traverse Health Clinic for women with no other health care. The congregation raised \$2,500 for toys for our children to give to children staying at the Women's Resource Center shelter for Christmas.

We are grateful for the many willing hands that keep our building, grounds and gardens clean, beautiful and safe. We are thankful for our music program, carried on after Reverend Kevin led by Judy Weaver, Shelly Burnes and Holly Knibbs and many volunteers.

We can be very proud of the letter of recognition and appreciation we received from UUA President Peter Morales for the UUCGT's full support of the UUA Annual Program Fund. Thanks for your pledges during the stewardship campaign that made this possible.

We have much to be thankful for and to be proud of in 2011 but 2012 is to be a year of more effort, accomplishment and pride.

We are in the middle of transition "interimship" with Reverend Leisa as our guide. This effort to remember our history and enumerate our strengths in order to find a best settled minister is our most important task for the year and will require the attention of us all. Our Interim Transition Team of Emily Mitchell, John Hoffmann, Sue Pyne, Nancie Thole and Heather Shumaker working with Reverend Leisa will lead us.

We have established a healthy relations team to encourage each other and settle differences. And again we need to give strong support to our stewardship campaign. We appreciate the entrance of our new Music Director, Nancy Flanagan and the search committee of Judy Weaver, Jim Horrocks. Don Pyne, Bill Wells, and Reverend Leisa for finding Nancy.

I have been dreaming of a skein of Canada geese. You hear them a long way off, high above, honking, calling to each other. I am thinking they are calling to each other in encouragement and unity and not scolding. They are saying "let's all stay together" not "get back in line" but cheering each other on. They have found it best to share the load, to draft on the currents of those ahead for easier long distance flight. They do trade places at the front to share the lead and reduce the effort as do cross country skiers breaking trail and sharing responsibilities.

That led me to thinking of our congregation as in a long distance journey. We have a destination and we are not "there" yet but are flying strong and are encouraging each other to complete the trip.

As I hear geese above, trumpeting their joy, I think of the rest of Traverse City hearing us and recognizing our spirit, out in front as leaders in social justice, community outreach, and as a welcoming congregation. Let us keep flying strong and honking.

Is math e' sin. Sma shin. That is Gaelic for "it is good". The English adopted the phrase as "Smashing".

—Max Old Bear

## ADULT PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

### Men's Group

UU MEN'S Group will gather on Monday, January 16 at 5:30- 8:00 pm to share dinner and conversation at Ruby Tuesday's. All men are cordially invited. One topic to be considered will be " Does UUCGT need a Men's Group?" Questions call Mark Gustafson 929 9608 or John Ort 932 8766



## MUSICAL NOTES

### WELCOME to our new Music Director, Nancy Flanagan

Nancy brings a wealth of good experience in all phases of directing and managing music programs. She taught Vocal and Instrumental Music in Hartland, Michigan for 30 years. Among many past honors and awards, she was Michigan Teacher of the Year in 1993. She has been a church music director in two congregations. She says "My previous directing jobs brought me into community with two congregations dedicated to using their voices for peace, tolerance, and social justice." Nancy also brings a wealth of management experience to us and currently serves as a consultant in many phases of educational policy. She said she was "thrilled" to accept our position. Nancy and her husband live in Cedar. Any interested congregants will continue to meet as a Music Committee on the first Thursday monthly; the next meeting will be Thursday, February 2 and Nancy will welcome questions and input.

### Music Thank You's

As always, we are thankful for those musicians who've enhanced our services during the past month. Thanks

to the Vocal Ensemble, percussionists and soloists who made the pageant lovely. We appreciate Nan Worthington's music coordination the end of November. Thanks to string players: Judith Beck, Amelia Burke, Aili Simpson, & Nan Worthington for playing twice in December! Kudos to pianists Gary Deavel, Holly Knibbs, Kathy Sheahen and Joan Sheard. We loved the quartet of Cindy Edmonson, Jim Horrocks, Richard Miller, & Carla Weaver. And, big Christmas thanks to those who did so much to make those services lovely: Andy and Theresa Evans and Holly Knibbs. We appreciated so much the attractive text projections done by Calvin Boulter for the holiday services! A last big expression of appreciation to Jim Horrocks, Donald Pyne, Bill Wells and all congregants whose input informed us as we made a very difficult choice between two superb finalists for our Music Director position. Happy New Year!

*Shelley Burnes, Holly Knibbs, & Judy Weaver*

## ALL ABOUT US

### Congratulations

-to Marge and Gene Rundell whose granddaughter was recently accepted at Yale.

### Our Hearts Go Out:

- to Ellie Golden whose son, Sam Rea, died after struggling for 2 years with a brain tumor. Sam lived in Toronto with his wife.

- to Fred Schaafsma as he recovers from surgery for a brain tumor. On December 21st he had a stent inserted to remove fluid from the area where the tumor had been. He will continue therapy but be in his peninsula home over the Christmas holidays resting with his family.

### We Are Mindful Of:

- Paula Hartmann who is still in a cast following foot surgery;
- Nancy Landfair as she seeks medical relief for Parkinsons;
- Chloe Love as she sees a knee specialist in Dearborn after Christmas.

The year of 2011 has brought with it many changes in the congregation - many joys and many celebrations of life have occurred as well as many losses of our friends and colleagues. We take a deep breath, try to help to our best and pick up and continue to live and love and go on. This is what life is all about and we can only do as much as we can to help others and live life to the fullest.

I speak for all of our Pastoral Care Team in the wish to all of you for the very best New Year possible in 2012!!

—Arline Howe  
Pastoral Care



### A Remembrance...

In memory of her recent passing, Helen Sullivan's children sent us a beautiful poinsettia plant that arrived in time for the services on Christmas Eve.

### And a Thank You... (from Emmy Lou Cholak)

Many thanks to Andy Evans who not only climbed thru the back seat of my car to charge up my battery to start the car, but also followed me to the dealership so I could leave the car to be fixed. Then, he took me all the way home too. Hats off and many sincere thanks to Andy Evans!!

## **LEAP NEWS 2012**

### **Winter Chautauqua ~ Discussion Series ~ 7:00 - 8:00 pm**

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

LEAP and The Transition Team join hands to offer a special series of Chautauqua throughout the winter months and early spring to continue the good works of transition. Special thanks to the LEAP Committee and volunteers that facilitate this process, and to you for your valued participation.

Please let Linda Miller know if you need childcare to attend.

#### **January 11: Can We Be a Breakthrough Congregation?**

Emily Mitchell will explore the phenomenon of Breakthrough Congregations throughout the UUA today and invite you to dream with her: *Should* UUCGT become one?

#### **January 25: What Does It Take To Lead?**

John Hoffmann wonders about how the effects of leadership in today's world impact how we lead within our UU congregations and invites looking at ways to hone our leadership skills for the common good of UUCGT.

#### **February 8: What Is Our Unique Identity?**

Sue Pyne and Nancie Thole invite you to join them in sharing stories that reflect our congregants' strengths. How have we made our identity known and when have we, as a whole, represented that identity to the community through actions or words?

#### **February 22: UU Can-Do Positive Thinking – Positive Attitudes?**

Emily Mitchell believes that we can use positive thinking and attitudes and she asks: What common practice or set of behaviors can be applied to reach goals for membership,

stewardship, leadership, and pastoral care—to name a few?

#### **March 14: How Do We Begin To Heal and Rebuild?**

The Transition Team asks: What does the congregation need to do to heal past/current grief and conflict, so that we can move on to our new visions?

#### **March 28: What Is Our Fundraising Platform?**

The Transition Team asks: How can our evolving visions become a dynamic fundraising platform?

#### **April 11: To Be Announced: Do We Need A Mission?**

### **UUCGT READS 2012**

**UUCGT COMMUNITY READS--*A House For Hope: The Promise of Progressive Religion for the Twenty-first Century***. JOHN A. BUEHRENS and REBECCA PARKER, Beacon Press, 2010.

Beginning January 9, 2012. See the Bulletin Board for sign-up for small group discussions—one morning and one late afternoon. An Online Blog-- info coming soon for password and log in info.

*"To some observers, religion and conservatism have become inextricably fused. But to (Buehrens and Parker), something new is emerging---a liberal religious renaissance."*

Steven Levingston, The Washington Post.

**JOIN IN---BE A PART OF THIS  
RENAISSANCE IN THE NEW YEAR!**

### **Sermon Project:**

Copies available for all members, friends and visitors. Read, reread, talk about and reflect with others and return should you wish to the stand by the office entry. Sermons are also available on the web site as well.

Judy VanDeWeghe, LEAP Committee Chair with questions-- please ask!

Cell Phone: 231-492-3025



# The RE Scoop

## December Report

December was a busy month in Religious Education!

We collected funds from the congregation and bought and wrapped toys and other gifts for the children and youth who spent the winter holidays in the Women's Resource Center shelter. Special thanks to Kathy Prentice, and to our families who shopped and wrapped, and to all of you who donated and helped in many ways with this long-standing congregational project.

Then, we worked hard to prepare our annual pageant. This year, we presented "Would You Like to Hold the Baby?" by Joyce Pole and Frank Henning, a telling of the traditional Nativity story with a Unitarian Universalist interpretation. The pageant was truly multigenerational, with adults, teens, and children all collaborating on all aspects, from narrating to acting to singing to behind-the-scenes work. Thanks again to all who participated; together, we provided a meaningful spiritual experience to the congregation!

Many thanks to all who volunteered to help! Leaders are needed in January, as well. Let me know if you'd like to be included!

## January Plans

**Sunday, Jan. 1** – We'll begin the month of January with all-ages RE activities about the New Year and the Roman god Janus.

**Thursday, Jan. 5** – The RE Committee will meet in the church office at 5 pm.

For the rest of the month, our RE program will meet in three separate groups, with age-appropriate activities about Unitarian Universalist identity, compassion, and social justice. One Sunday we'll hold an all-ages RE Chapel, with the children and youth invited to go directly to the RE space for their own worship service, with related RE activities.

Watch the Flash, our weekly email newsletter, for more details.

**If you would like to be awarded the privilege of helping our amazing children and youth, or joining our amazing RE Committee, call or email me!**

- Karen McCarthy, DRE



## SOCIAL JUSTICE AND ACTION

**January 2012**

Hope that your last year was good and that your new one will be even better. Will we be able to make a difference in the way the world is turning? Can we help the ever increasing poor and lost among us? Can we turn the tide, as the saying goes; turn it back to where there are social networks to catch those who drop below a sustainable living standard? A lot will be determined this coming year. Are you willing and able to help? Some of what we must do is political; some is just plain pitching in and helping! The free lunches, the homeless shelters, the food banks all need help as well as donations. Many of us, gratefully, help! I am proud to belong to such a group. Politically many help too. They showed that with the YES campaign for non-discrimination! Again a hearty thanks! Unfortunately we can not stop. There is much work to do. Watch this column in coming months for suggestions and ideas. Please pass on ideas to me too, so we can all learn from each other.

Last month, seven of us gathered at various times during the coffee break after services on Dec. 5, to write letters of awareness. These are letters through Amnesty International that go to dictators and similar people who have imprisoned, mistreated, or taken away the civil rights of others. Most of the victims have been wrongly accused and have gone without trial or any chance of defending themselves. Our writing to the wrongdoers lets them know that we, the world, are watching. Through people like us writing letters, many victims have been freed over the years. It works!! We also write letters of encouragement to the victims. That lets them know that they are not alone. Some of our letters go within our own country too. Two such victims are in Louisiana and one in Missouri. Please join us Sunday after services on Jan. 15. If you can, bring your own stationery to use and some money to help pay postage. Thanks and hope to see you on Sunday, Jan. 15, after services in the social hall. There will be a table set up for us.

There are many other problems and issues that need our help! If you have a particular interest, please contact me. Maybe I can help you find your niche. The immigrant issue

is a very important here in northern Michigan with our cherry farms, etc. There is an active group involved in this. Organizations helping with literacy and to integrate families from other countries have needs. Health care is in great need of assistance. And on and on. If you want to help somewhere, maybe I can help you connect. Or maybe you know of some needs and want me to mention it here in this column. Let me know. We are all needed!

Hope that the year is good for each of us, and that we have the opportunity to help others make theirs better. Thank you!

Emmy Lou Cholak



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## the BEACON

PUBLISHED MONTHLY  
Volume 49, Issue 1  
January, 2012

### 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.

#### January 2012

- 01 Sun** *"Celebrating a New Year," Holly Knibbs, Service @ 10:30AM*  
01 Sun \* Mindfulness Meditation Group; Fleda Brown, 2:30-6PM  
03 Tue Bridge Group; Christie McGue, 1-4:30PM  
04 Wed Peacemakers Needleworkers; 1:30-3:30PM  
04 Wed Wednesday Nite Supper; Mary Kiner, 6-8PM  
04 Wed \* International Folk Dancers; Mary Van Valin, 7-8:30PM  
05 Thurs Vocal Ensemble; Shelley Burnes, 7-9PM
- 08 Sun** *"Just Rest," Rev. Dr. Leisa Huyck, Service @ 10:30AM*  
08 Sun \* Mindfulness Meditation Group; Fleda Brown, 5-7PM  
10 Tue Bridge Group; Christie McGue, 1-4:30PM  
10 Tue Sunday Services Committee; Holly Knibbs, 6-7:30PM  
10 Tue Finance Committee; Kay Sturgeon, 7-8:30PM  
11 Wed Peacemakers Needleworkers; 1:30-3:30PM  
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- 15 Sun** *"The Arc of the Universe," Rev. Dr. Leisa Huyck, Service @ 10:30AM*  
15 Sun \* Mindfulness Meditation Group; Fleda Brown, 5-7PM  
16 Mon UU Men's Group; John Ort, 5:30-8PM  
17 Tue Bridge Group; Christie McGue, 1-4:30PM  
17 Tue UUCGT Board Meeting; Max OldBear, 6:30-9PM  
18 Wed Peacemakers Needleworkers; 1:30-3:30PM  
18 Wed Wednesday Nite Supper; Mary Kiner, 6-8PM  
18 Wed \* International Folk Dancers; Mary Van Valin, 7-8:30PM  
19 Thurs Vocal Ensemble, Shelley Burnes, 7-9PM

- 22 Sun** *"Building The Beloved Community, One Brain Cell at a Time," Rev. Dr. Leisa Huyck, Service @ 10:30AM*  
22 Sun \* Mindfulness Meditation Group; Fleda Brown, 5-7PM  
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25 Wed Chautauqua; "What Does It Take To Lead?" John Hoffman, 7-8PM  
26 Thurs Vocal Ensemble; Shelley Burnes, 7-9PM
- 29 Sun** *TBA, Service @ 10:30AM*  
29 Sun \* Mindfulness Meditation Group; Fleda Brown, 5-7PM  
31 Tue Bridge Group; Christie McGue, 1-4:30PM

#### February 2012

- 01 Wed Peacemakers Needleworkers; 1:30-3:30PM  
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