

GETTING INVOLVED AT UUCGT

Everyone brings a wealth of gifts and energy to the Congregation

Many people find that becoming involved in the activities of this Community enriches their lives and deepens their connection to others. We hope this will be true for you and that you will find activities that enable you to share your gifts, nurture your spirit, stretch your imagination, or simply be of service. Following are many opportunities for you to Know/Learn and Be Known and become part of this community. Stewardship in Action!

Following is a list of UUCGT Fellowship & Learning Opportunities, Committees/Teams & Service in Action Groups, and Governance Groups that are Elected or Appointed. Please consider these options as you become more involved and as we all work on our Shared Ministry and on building the Beloved Community. Contact people are listed so that you can get more information regardless of the status of the group. Ask questions and learn!

If you are interested in forming a new group of any kind, recruit like-minded members and get it started. YOUR Involvement is encouraged and appreciated!

FELLOWSHIP & LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

ART & EXHIBITIONS: - office@uucgt.org or Cynthia Brzak, Convener, cynbrzak@gmail.com - Active as needed; The purpose is to stimulate the exploration of artwork using spiritual and societal themes, to encounter conflict, to find healing, to enjoy beauty through the display of artwork, to facilitate educational sessions for the congregation to learn more about art, the artist's methods and intent, and to showcase member and local artists. Plan, organize and install exhibits of artwork, principally in the Corridor Gallery.

BENZIE GROUP: Mary Scholl, mascholl12@icloud.com - Satellite group of UUCGT that meets in Benzie County.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE: Joanie Jackson, jljnishi@gmail.com - Assist Minister in keeping in touch with members and friends who are experiencing bereavement, illness, disability or being homebound; Outreach through calls, notes, food, warm shawls, lap blankets, or personal assistance; Meets 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 1:00 pm.

FOUR F'S BOOK GROUP (Finding facts from fiction): Margaret Wozniak, wozniak64@yahoo.com - Meets Fall through Spring the fourth Monday of the month at 10:00 am at UUCGT to discuss fiction written by Black and Indigenous People of Color. Contact for the current selection.

GETTING ACQUAINTED AT WEDNESDAY NIGHT POTLUCK: Chris Walter, chris9709@sbcglobal.net - Fellowship, food, and fun at weekly gatherings at UU, restaurants or member homes.

MEN'S GROUP: Rick Walter, rick9709@sbcglobal.net - Meets monthly for dinner and timely discussions.

MUSIC MINSTRIES: Renee Russell (Director of Music), musicatuucgt@gmail.com - Music and singing are integral parts of our Unitarian Universalist worship services and gatherings. Whether it's world, classical, rock, jazz, folk, fusion, hip hop or a cappella, music shifts the energy of worship and connection and moves it into our bodies. At UUCGT, EVERY voice and instrument is welcome to be a part of music programming. Vocal ensemble meets every Thursday at 7 pm and sings in our weekly services. UU Ukers, small ensembles and more complement our music program. Join us!

NEW MOON WOMEN: - Monthly gatherings on Saturdays closest to New Moon, seeking and finding connection with one another and ourselves on a variety of topics; *Currently closed but new, similar groups can be started.*

OWL - OUR WHOLE LIVES: Betsy Hammerberg, dre@uucgt.org - Comprehensive sexuality education for youth in grades 7-9. Courses run for approximately 4 months. Contact dre@uucgt.org for information about current and future offerings.

PEACEMAKER NEEDLEWORKERS: Bonnie Mathias, bonniemathias5@gmail.com - Quilters and other needleworkers meet every Thursday afternoon at UUCGT or member's homes to work on personal creations or items for UUCGT.

SHANTIDEVA MEDITATION: Chris Innes, cainnes409@gmail.com - Together for five years, the group is currently determining next steps.

SOUL MATTERS: Rev. Alex Jensen, alexjensen@uucgt.org or Alison Ernst, awa2write@gmail.com - Soul Matters Small Groups are a great way to explore thematic questions, grow in fellowship with others, and reflect on your life's spiritual path and journey. 3 Small Groups currently meet monthly and more groups can be added with enough interest and a trained facilitator.

STARTING POINT: Rev. Alex Jensen, alexjensen@uucgt.org, Chris Lutz, chrislutz7777@gmail.com - Starting Point is a brand new pilot small group ministry especially designed for newcomers and those looking to discover Unitarian Universalism and their church all over again. In 3-4 sessions this program will help participants live Unitarian Universalism more fully, bring our history and theology to life, and leave everyone feeling grounded, connected and renewed. Classes will be held when enough interest from prospective and current members is expressed.

STRETCH AND STRENGTHEN: Judith Briggs, Instructor, judithbriggs3@gmail.com, Carol Ritter, Zoom Host, wildfield-apple1@gmail.com- Exercise at UUCGT Monday & Wednesday at 11:15 am.

WRITING GROUPS: Alison Ernst, awa2write@gmail.com, Groups meet and write independently, share with group and congregation.

COMMITTEES/TEAMS & SERVICE-IN-ACTION GROUPS

ARCHIVES/HISTORY: Archivist Barb Culton, barbculton@gmail.com, - Organize and manage UUCGT historical print and digital materials.

ART & EXHIBITIONS: - office@uucgt.org - Active as needed; The purpose is to stimulate the exploration of artwork using spiritual and societal themes, to encounter conflict, to find healing, to enjoy beauty through the display of artwork, to facilitate educational sessions for the congregation to learn more about art, the artist's methods and intent, and to showcase member and local artists. Plan, organize and install exhibits of artwork, principally in the Corridor Gallery.

COMMUNITY NEEDS: Open, - Assist quarterly in screening and determining financial grants to nonprofits, charities and agencies focused on basic needs (food, shelter, seasonal, immediate needs) in our five-county area. Funds come from the "Those in Need" side of offering baskets.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE: Joanie Jackson, jljnishi@gmail.com - Assist Minister in keeping in touch with members and friends who are experiencing bereavement, illness, disability or travel restrictions; outreach through calls, notes, food, warm shawls, lap blankets, or personal assistance.

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT: David Hassing, dhassing13@gmail.com - Monitor and oversee appropriate maintenance, repairs and long term planning of the building, facilities, grounds and infrastructure. Consults with finance committee.

FINANCE: Jim Walworth, jewelworth@charter.net - Ensure the financial viability of the Congregation and monitor its fiscal operations, advise the board, oversee the treasurer, prepare annual operating budget.

GREEN SANCTUARY: Mary Van Valin, mgvy77@yahoo.com - Works to keep the congregation actively involved in protecting the web of life, climate change actions, and being environmental stewards.

HOSPITALITY: Open, At the moment various individuals or Committees have taken responsibility for various Sundays of the month- Organize/provide/serve coffee and food/set-up/clean-up for Sunday Services & events.

KITCHEN: Carolyn Thompson, hallcj43@gmail.com - Provide weekly cleanup and organization of kitchen and appliances, assist with Spring and Fall extensive cleaning.

LANDSCAPE: Lauren Keinath, laurentc@charter.net - Develop and oversee an overall, comprehensive, integrated plan for outdoor spaces and adopted gardens, including the Meandering Path with 7 stops featuring UU Principles.

LIBRARY: Bonnie Mathias, bonniemathias5@gmail.com, Carol Ritter, Assistant, wildfieldapple1@gmail.com; - Evaluate/administer/maintain library collection.

MEMBERSHIP / GREETERS: Chris Lautz, chrislautz7777@gmail.com - Assist Congregation's growth by warmly welcoming each visitor, friend and member, help all make connections within the Congregation, provide opportunities to grow in the understanding UU Principles, encourage all to participate in Congregational life according to their talents and interests.

MEMORIAL GARDEN: Richard Miller, miller907@gmail.com - Maintain the physical condition and administrative records of the Memorial Garden, provide memorial markers and engraved plates.

MEMORIAL RECEPTION: Lauren Keinath, laurentc@charter.net , Open, - Organize and plan memorial receptions for members and families, coordinate food, set-up, serve, clean-up at receptions.

MUSIC: Cindy Edmonson, cedmonson@gmail.com , Mary Anne Rivers, maryanne.riversfriese@gmail.com - Work with Music Director to support Vocal and Musical Ensembles that enhance music at worship.

PROGRAM COUNCIL - Open to all: Rick Walter, rick9709@sbcglobal.net - Communication venue for all committees and teams to interact, coordinate, be informed, plan and implement activities, and encourage involvement.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Betsy Hammerberg, dre@uucgt.org - Assist and support Director of RE in planning and implementing RE programming for the Congregation's children, youth and adults.

ROAD CLEAN-UP: John Hoffman, jandphoff@yahoo.com, Clean a section of McKinley Rd near UUCGT three times a year for Grand Traverse County Road Commission.

SAFE HARBOR: Rich Faller, rf2cv6@gmail.com , Volunteer at facility supporting those without permanent homes; Additional service as determined.

SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTION: Emmy Lou Cholak, sjatcmi@gmail.com , Rick Walter, rick9709@sbcglobal.net - Work together for social justice and community service.

SUNDAY SERVICES: Rev. Alex Jensen, alexjensen@uucgt.org, Pam Hendrick, pamela.hendrick@stockton.edu, Amanda Mangiardi, jomangiardi@hotmail.com - Help ensure services effectively meet the diverse intellectual and spiritual needs of the Congregation while working with minister, music, and guest speakers.

TUESDAY COMMUNITY LUNCH: Mary Kiner, marykiner@charter.net - Assist 27-year tradition of providing lunch for people in need at Friends Church, 5th and Oak Sts in Traverse City.

GOVERNANCE GROUPS - Elected and Appointed

Elected By Congregation:

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Pam Hendrick, President, pamela.hendrick@stockton.edu - Create and carry out policies that articulate the UUCGT mission, oversee the Congregation's finances, ensure the Congregation's human and material resources are used to benefit our mission.

ENDOWMENT: Ellie Smith, lesmithtc@gmail.com - Maintain and grow endowment fund as a reliable source of income in perpetuity to enhance the mission of the Congregation apart from the general operation of the congregation.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT: Nan Worthington, firefly1@gmail.com- Provide strategies for developing leadership and present a slate of candidates for Board offices and open positions on the Endowment committee and LDC.

Appointed By Board:

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY: Co-chairs: Barb Culton, barbculton@gmail.com, Jim Linsell, linsellja@charter.net - Support spiritual health and well-being of Minister and entire Congregation, especially during the 3 years of a new minister's Fellowship.

HEALTHY CONGREGATION TEAM: Contact office@uucgt.org for a list of current Team members; HCT operates to support healthy communication among congregation members by providing sources of learning for Team members and congregants about healthy communication and to be a neutral, helpful resource to members in conflict. <https://www.uucgt.org/healthy-congregations-team/>

POLICY: Tom Darnton, tdarnton@me.com - Review and revise UUCGT policies as needed.

SAFE CONGREGATION RESPONSE TEAM: Rev. Alex Jensen, alexjensen@uucgt.org, Judy Myers, tcjlm@aol.com - Enact established Safe Congregation policies as needed, address any harm that might be inflicted by or onto a congregant, and conduct and approve criminal background checks for designated individuals.

STAFF RESOURCES: Open, Manage staff, personnel policy, compensation, employee relations.

STEWARDSHIP / PLEDGE DRIVE: Mary Anne Rivers, maryanne.riversfriese@gmail.com, Develop innovative ways to bring the time, talent and financial resources of members and friends to the service of all in the Congregation on a year 'round basis.

Document created and managed by UUCGT Program Council. Contact office@uucgt.com for more information.