



Community Matters

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Southwest Michigan April 2018

April Services

Services and Children's Religious Education Classes begin at 10:00am. Nursery Care is available.

Sunday, April 1 - Easter Service

Sunday, April 8 - Rev. Gy will be speaking; More information to come soon. Please be sure to check the Friday weekly e-mail.

Sunday, April 15 - Steve Barber will be singing and speaking on "Life, Love, and Laughter".

With a guitar in his hand and a story in his ear, Steve Barber will share songs and stories of "Life, Love, and Laughter". Fishing, walking, spending time with family, wife, kids, grand-kids, fishing and walking in the woods, are the heart of his stories and songs.

During the past ten years, Steve has shared his music all around the state of Michigan, including the Upper Peninsula, as far away as Albuquerque and Vermont. Steve claims to have played in Kansas City Missouri, but has to admit he was on a moving train at the time. Schools, churches, street corners, stages and backyards are a few of his favorite venues.

Music has been a part of his life since he discovered "Rainy Day Women" while back in high school, but since retirement, he has become more committed to writing and using his music to reveal and share the events and emotions that add so much to our lives. Kid's songs, love songs, fishing songs and whatever comes up.

Sunday, April 22 - Art Toy of Four Elements Energy, Inc will be speaking about "Earth Day".

About Art Toy: Art Toy is a founding principal and President of Four Elements Energy, Inc. Art's company has installed over 400 Kw of solar arrays and 30 Kw of small wind energy systems in Michigan. Art was also a charter member of UUC.

Sunday, April 29 - Rev. Gy will be speaking; More information to come soon. Please be sure to check the Friday weekly e-mail

From the Minister



Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail. ~Ralph Waldo Emerson

Spring feels to be just around the corner and in the far reaches of our dreamy souls there seems to be a faint awakening. The first yawns of Nature are sure to be followed by budding beauty, birds chirping,

bugs buzzing.

Possibility is in the air.

Everywhere.

I feel it. Everywhere.

Life wants to live.

Perhaps that's why we created a resurrection story and celebrate it right around this time. With all this possibility pulsing in the air it feels as though we can resurrect old hopes, dreams of yesterday and breathe new life into them.

I am present to this shift within our spiritual community as well. New life, fresh ideas are budding within our Strategic Planning Task Force. We are so excited to work together, dream together for the benefit of our collective future. We are thinking long term (10 years ahead), medium term (5 and 3 years ahead), and short term (1 year ahead). The plans are beginning to take shape and soon we are going to be ready to share them with the entire community. It may very well be that we won't go where the path may lead, but will go instead where there is no path and leave a trail. It has been the UU way anyway.

We see ourselves growing in wisdom, depth, knowledge, and numbers. We even see ourselves outgrowing

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

our current building. We see ourselves deeply involved with our greater community. We see ourselves as a place of inspiration, service, and hope.

I know that together we can realize any dream, create the life that fulfills us all, serve so our world may become a better place, and love all life as our ultimate calling.

As I opened with the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson, I shall also leave you with his wisdom: *What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.*

Sunday, May 6 Cinco de Mayo Celebration and Service



Come one, come all and sign-up to read a favorite poem (adults and children) during the service. Enjoy a Mexican Potluck (mild, medium, and spicy) after the service. Printed recipes for Mexican Cuisine are available or bring a family favorite. Ole!



ISAAC *Moving Toward Justice*
BELOVED COMMUNITY WALK/RUN
 June 30, 2018
 Spring Valley Park
 9:30 AM
 (registrations begins at 7:30)

- OPEN TO ALL AGES 0 - 100 +
- WHEELCHAIR, WALKER AND STROLLER FRIENDLY
- ALL EXPERIENCE LEVELS WELCOME
- CHOICE OF 1 MILE OR 3.1 MILE COURSE

CHILD CARE PROVIDED

HEALTH, JUSTICE AND FAITH VENDORS

MUSIC, SINGING, DANCING AND FOOD!

UNITY, FELLOWSHIP, FAITH, HOPE, JUSTICE

REGISTER: 341-4213, WITH ISAAC STAFF OR AT
ISAACKALAMAZOO.ORG/2018-TEAM-RUN-REGISTRATION/

ISAAC *Moving Toward Justice*
BELOVED COMMUNITY WALK/RUN
 June 30, 2018
 Spring Valley Park
 9:30 AM
 (registrations begins at 7:30)

- OPEN TO ALL AGES 0 - 100 +
- WHEELCHAIR, WALKER AND STROLLER FRIENDLY
- ALL EXPERIENCE LEVELS WELCOME
- CHOICE OF 1 MILE OR 3.1 MILE COURSE

CHILD CARE PROVIDED

HEALTH, JUSTICE AND FAITH VENDORS

MUSIC, SINGING, DANCING AND FOOD!

UNITY, FELLOWSHIP, FAITH, HOPE, JUSTICE

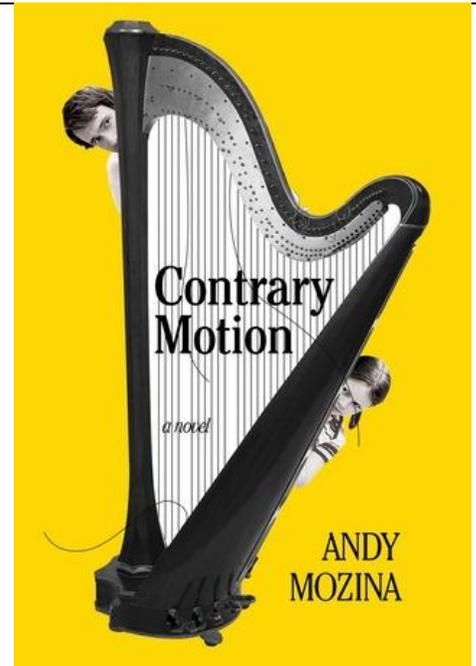
REGISTER: 341-4213, WITH ISAAC STAFF OR AT
ISAACKALAMAZOO.ORG/2018-TEAM-RUN-REGISTRATION/

UCC Women’s Book Group: Friday, April 13

The Women’s Book Group meets Friday, April 13 to discuss “Contrary Motion,” a novel by Kalamazoo College professor Andy Mozina. Lunch at 11:30 a.m. at Bab El Salam, [124 W. Centre](#).

Discussion at 1 p.m. in the Community Room, led by Rita Stevens. Lunch reservations with Judy Halseth, judith.halseth@wmich.edu.

All UCC women are welcome.



April Calendar

Sunday, April 1 Easter *NO* Potluck	Tuesday, April 3 6:30 a.m. - Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, April 5 6:30 p.m. - Board Meeting	Friday, April 6 6:30 p.m. - Mary Reed
Sunday, April 8 11:30 a.m. - Faith in Action Committee Meeting 11:30 a.m. - Connections Team Meeting	Tuesday, April 10 6:30 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday, April 11 12:15 p.m. - Stewardship Meeting 5:30 p.m. - Sunday Services Meeting	Friday, April 13 11:30 a.m. - Book Group Lunch @ Bab El Salam 1:00 p.m. - Women’s Book Group Discussion
Saturday, April 14 1:00 p.m. - Meet the Newcomers @ Water Street Coffee Joint, 245 W. Centre Ave. in Portage (corner of Shaver Rd. & Centre Ave.)	Sunday April 15 11:30 a.m. - Program Council
Tuesday, April 17 6:30 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal	Wednesday, April 18 6:30 p.m. - UCC Film Forum
Saturday, April 21 8:30 a.m. - Men’s Breakfast @ Burger Town Grille	Sunday, April 22 11:30 a.m. - Congregational Meeting
Tuesday, April 24 6:30 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal	Wednesday, April 25 12:30 p.m. - Chosen Faith Class (Afternoon) 6:00 p.m. - Chosen Faith Class (Evening)
Sunday, April 29 11:30 a.m. - Joyce Van Baak “Singing Bowls”	

R. E. flections

Jacquis Robertson
Director of Religious Education



“A lot of people resist transition and therefore never allow themselves to enjoy who they are. Embrace the change, no matter what it is; once you do, you can learn about the new world you’re in and take advantage of it.” – Nikki Giovanni

As you all are aware, March was my last month as the Office Administrator. As thankful as I was for that position, I am happy about the ability to focus my time and energy into building the Religious Education Program and working with youth in other capacities (I have taken on a secondary position as a Restorative Justice facilitator at Kalamazoo Central). Due to my ability to focus my energy on the Religious Education Program, we have some awesome programs coming up in the coming months.

Currently, we have the Airway Lanes incentive that encourages children to not only come to Religious Education but to bring a friend. For every child/youth that shows up on Sunday the childr/youth receive a point. If they amass 160 points by June, we will go to Airway Lanes June 24.

On April 1, Easter Sunday, we will host an all-church Easter Egg Hunt. Now this is something that we do annually during R.E. but we thought that this year it would be fun to make it churchwide, with some eggs for adults hidden as well. It will be a good time had by all!

We will be taking another attempt at cultivating a community garden in the backlot area due to my gardening naivete. I have recruited my two dear friends and fellow UU’ers Andrew Degraw and Edna Degraw; we will be getting the back lot ready for gardening in coming weeks. If you would like to participate please contact me via e-mail at jacquis.o.robertson@gmail.com and I will send you the list of times and dates we will gather to get the garden ready for planting.

We will also be tabling at this year’s Peace Pizzazz in May. If you are interested in tabling, please contact me at jacquis.o.robertson@gmail.com.

I’m excited for the future and I hope you are too!

R.E. News

R.E. Committee Meeting: The next Religious Education Committee Meeting will be Friday April, 20 at 12 p.m.

Thank You!: A big thank you to Regena Nelson, Brian Leekley and Phil Najar for volunteering for Religious Education in the month of March.

Peace and Pizzazz: If you have any interest in volunteering for Peace Pizzazz or would like to donate crayons, face paint, markers or popsicle sticks. Please contact me at jacquis.o.robertson@gmail.com.

UU Figures in History:



This month, we are featuring Hosea Ballou. He was born on April 30, 1771 and passed away on June 7, 1852.

Hosea Ballou was a very influential preacher in the Universalist movement, most notably known for his book A Treatise on Atonement.

It is this book that provided the theological framework for Universalism.

Photp provided via Wikipedia

April R.E. Schedule

Nursery Volunteer

4/8 Brian Leekley
 4/15 Help Wanted
 4/22 Help Wanted
 4/29 Help Wanted

Dates	Lesson	Teacher
4/1	Easter Egg Hunt (Intergenerational)	N/A
4/8	The Call for Joy	Stephanie Grathwol
4/15	Intergenerational Service	N/A
4/22	How to Make our Earth a Better Place	Help Wanted
4/29	The Call for Peace (part 2)	Help Wanted

UUCC's **Religious Education Curriculum** is available in digital format. If you would like to have a digital copy of the lessons, please e-mail me at jacquis.o.robertson@gmail.com. Your participation, your questions and your suggestions are most welcome.

For those in our congregation who are new to volunteering as a Religious Education teacher, a **R.E. Teacher Check List** is available; this provides the appropriate details, and will give you an understanding of the routine.

For our best communication, please talk with me on Sunday and also send an e-mail to me at jacquis.o.robertson@gmail.com.

Our children need the participation of our adults, so thank you for considering this vital role.



FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Greetings, Members and Friends, how are you, in this season of renewal? I am grateful for the longer and brighter days, even as it seems my yard has a never-ending supply of twigs and branches from the mature sugar maple trees. During a 2011 remodel, we discovered a penciled notation "Merle Underwood Oct 1, 1928" on a piece of wood in the wall of what was the dining room. So, while I have "research house history" on my to do list, 1928 is probably also when the trees were planted, so some ninety years have passed. Despite my momentary anxiety during storms, I am always thankful that these beauties of nature are still here.

My personal renewal includes finally taking long-delayed actions in self-care. Tired of limping because of an old injury--a spiral tib/fib fracture of my right leg--and encouraged by some of you--I recently finished eight physical therapy sessions and am continuing to strengthen my body at home and at Planet Fitness. Next steps include making time to strengthen my mind. One of the recent Osher Lifelong Learning classes that I participated in was Chair Yoga, with emphasis on Balance and Mindfulness. Speaking of the latter, I'm way overdue for enrolling in one of Eric Nelson's classes!

In March, I had more opportunity to practice being a "good" mother-in-law. Son Christopher and daughter-in-law Nicola were "home" in southwest Michigan for a week, and of course, it was wonderful to be with them in person. Hopefully, they can show up at UCC during their next visit, in October.

One of my joys about this month is that the GILMORE International Keyboard Festival begins. I'll be volunteering again, partly to stretch my personal budget dollars, by ushering and maybe even operating a golf cart to help folks get to events at Stetson Chapel.

UCC continues to stretch, to strengthen, to evolve. Jacquis Robertson, who has for three years held the dual roles of Director of Religious Education and Office Administrator, has resigned the latter position so she may concentrate on her DRE position, which includes being a member of our Strategic Planning Task Force. And, in the larger community, she has a new part-time paid position with Gryphon Place, mediating conflict among high school students at Kalamazoo Central. During our March board meeting, we thanked Jacquis for her past work and for continuing as DRE. Please join with me in wishing her all the best in her new part-time position, working with youth.

We showed Gratitude, and practiced Abundance, on March 24, during the year's annual gala event, the Fellowship Dinner. We mostly had fun and conducted important business when we pledge financial support to UCC and to each other. THANK YOU for your presence and your generosity. I believe that we have what it takes to succeed into our twenty-third year and well beyond, especially as we envision our future and also identify concrete actions that we can take now.

Yours,
Stephanie Groshko Grathwol

FAIR TRADE CHOCOLATE BARS and OLIVE OIL

Three different kinds of Equal Exchange chocolate bars are now available at UCC for just \$2.30 each.

Dark Chocolate Mint Crunch (67% Cacao)

Dark Chocolate Orange (65% Cacao)

Milk Chocolate Caramel Crunch with Sea Salt (43% Cacao)

Also available is another product that we love: Palestinian Olive Oil, for \$13.60 each.



April Caring Community News



***"In spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt."
-- Margaret Atwood***

As the winter wound down, our community has offered care and support to members who experienced losses and concerns. We have visited Elizabeth Fernandez in support as she prepares for a move within the Friendship Village campus, including reaching out for a home for her beloved cats, Sofie and Tom. Our best energies are with Nancy Crowell as she receives treatment at the eye clinic in Ann Arbor. We share in the sadness of Marsha Laya and Lee Smittendorf as they mourn the loss of their daughter Sarah. We learned recently that Ken VanE-seltine's brother-in-law died peacefully, after living with brain cancer. Erin Michael has spoken so movingly of her recent multiple losses of friends in the community, and we all have shared the dismay of living in our current chaotic national environment.

In the midst of this, we are encouraged by the inspiring messages of Sunday speakers, members, friends and visitors pointing out the generous and loving behaviors of people in their worlds, and information shared by members and friends about effective ways for us to advance our principles and values, both collectively and individually. These messages helped us to greet spring with new energy and resolve.

There are many things to celebrate in April. We look forward to welcoming home our snow birds, our travelers, and other escapees. A sunny April "Happy Birthday" to Barbara B. 4/1, Ryan B. 4/8, Kayle R. 4/8, Nancy C. 4/12, Kelin M. 4/16, and Freya L. 4/17!

Jon Vanderberg has settled on April 9 as the day to get his latest bionic part (right hip). His daughter, Laura, will come from Boston to help when he returns home, and there will be support from the UCC Meal Ministry team and friends.

Your Caring Community contact persons are: Nancy Crowell, Judy Pigg-Behrendt, and/or Judy Oliver . Please reach out if you have (or know of) a need. Sharing is caring.

Whatever celebration you anticipate or travail you encounter in April, may the yellow of sunshine and daffodils make the party brighter and the burden lighter.

Nomination Committee Selections

The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce names of nominees for the UCC Board of Trustees. These are nominations for two-year terms.

Betty Lee Ongley
Joyce Van Baak

Members will elect nominees to the Board of Trustees at the Annual Meeting.

If a UCC member chooses to submit a nomination for the Board of Trustees, please follow these procedures. The Bylaws state that "Nominations for the Board . . . may be submitted by any member or group of members, three weeks in advance of the annual meeting by furnishing the name of the proposed nominee or nominees, in writing, to the Secretary of the Board of Trustees." If there are nominations coming from the membership (i.e. not the Nominating Committee), they are required to be published and posted no less than two weeks prior to the annual meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
UCC Nominating Committee:
Marcia Adams, Joe Calme, and Ed Stob



Freya Lake – Super Server!



So often we enter our church with expectations that it will be a clean, safe and welcoming environment. We forget someone is working behind the scenes making those conditions available to us. Freya Lake is one of the people who works quietly, without our knowing, watering plants and welcoming people as they arrive. Freya provides meals for congregation members when they are in need and produces enough fruit jams to raise \$1,200 a year for the church. And just to add to the list Freya also keeps our UUCC archives.

As a “Super Server,” Freya has served for many years. When UUCC met in the Portage Senior Center she started by setting up chairs for the service. This work progressed to procuring the chairs when we moved to our current building. Over the years Freya served on the Aesthetics and Art Wall committee and as the chairperson of the Membership committee. Freya vacuumed, cleaned bathrooms, painted the community room and bathrooms and participated in Covenant groups for church gardening and writing.

Freya has been a member of this church for 20 years this December. For seven of those years Freya played the piano and sang in the choir. Freya joined the church because she was new to the area and needed a home, an anchor or base. She wanted to serve as part of giving to church.

After all of this giving, Freya would still like to be involved with making professional clothes available to women who want to enter the work force or apply for promotions, in addition to helping with a nursery school.

Once you have a heart for giving, I guess it is hard to stop. In the greater community Freya is involved in the Portage Senior Center (PSC). She volunteers as leader of a chimes group, is a member of the PSC Choir; and for 8-9 years, as part of the Readers Theatre, where she used to go out and read to children in schools acting out the parts. Freya was also part of the Kalamazoo Community Chorale.

Please join the Connections Team in thanking Freya for all she does!

Board Briefs

Regular Meeting: March 16, 2018



Received report from Director of Religious Education (DRE) and Office Administrator (OA) Jacquis Robertson.

DRE: Board supports having a Young Adult Covenant group in the spring.

OA: Accepted Jacquis' Office Administrator letter of resignation, effective 4/1/18. Reminder- Submittal Deadlines are Wednesday 10 a.m. for Announcements in Friday's Weekly Email, Wednesday 12 Noon for announcements in the Sunday Order of Service and Third Tuesday 12 Noon for the monthly Newsletter.

Received report from Consulting Minister Reverend Gy Ludvig-McCartney.

The Strategic Planning Team has met twice. Working toward identifying the direction of our collective future and a plan to get us there.

Bob Weir's powerful evening presentation "How Could So Many Murder So Many?" was well attended (32). We split the offering collection with Bob.

Grateful for Nick's musical gifts and high energy.

The March 4 Joining Ceremony for our five new members was a delight.

Update on UU Ministerial Fellowship process and participation in community meetings.

Board Discussions:

Board Liaisons gave updates on the committees that they support.

The board is interested in refreshed bids to resurface the parking lot.

Began review of a preliminary budget for the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

Recruiting people for June's General Assembly and July's Midwest Leadership School.

Set April 22, 2018 for a Congregational Meeting on proposed changes to our Bylaws.

Set May 20, 2018 for the Annual Meeting.

Board meetings are open to all to attend. The next meeting is scheduled for April 5th at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room at UUCC.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Ritter

UUCC Board of Trustees Secretary

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: SUNDAY APRIL 22, 2018

Your Board of Trustees has scheduled a congregational meeting for Sunday, April 22, 2018 after coffee hour on proposed changes to UUCC's Bylaws. Copies of the document, with the suggested changes, will be provided well in advance of the meeting.

As a reminder, while all are invited to attend, only members may vote.

Please plan to attend this important meeting. Thank you.

Stephanie G. Grathwol,

Board of Trustees President

UCC Program Council

March 18, 2018

21 attending; Phil Najjar, lead; Pat Fuehr, notes

PC Basics

Meetings - 3rd Sunday, after coffee hour, August - June. Decision making - Robert Rules of Order. Purpose – inform and involve the congregation in Programming Activities, with brief reports from Working Committees, Social Groups, Special Functions, plus periodic information from the Board of Trustees

UCC Member-to-Member Covenant – read by Phil

Budget – 2017-18 \$700.00

YTD expenses \$650.00

includes - \$150. for Pride Booth in June 2017, UCC's 2016-2017 fiscal year
\$500 for 2 years of ISAAC dues (\$250 each, calendar year 2017 and 2018

Change in paying our dues in the CY meant two payments in our 2017-2018 fiscal year

Likely upcoming expenses

\$200 for table at Pride

\$150 for ISAAC advertisement (no banquet this year, will have 5K Walk/Run instead)

Those present voted to have the Board consider, per current policy, a \$350 increase in PC's budget for this fiscal year only, to accommodate these two upcoming expenses.

UCC PROGRAMMING

Potlucks - Nancy Stub, Potluck Coordinator

1st Sunday of the month, unless changed at PC. One page of written instructions/guidelines available.

Looking for groups or individuals to volunteer.

April 1- Easter Sunday – no potluck

May 6th – Mexican themed – who will host?

June 3 – no potluck

Working Committees

Religious Education—Jacquis Robertson

Coordinating with People's Church to rejuvenate the Young Adult Group. Points program – youth who earn 160 points will get a trip to Airway Lanes. Interest in gardening - who in congregation is willing to help? Peace/Pizazz – need art supplies (contact Jacquis.)

Sunday Services – Pat Fuehr

Almost all Sunday Services are filled for the remainder of the year.

Caring Committee – Nancy Crowell

Memorial Service 3/31 for Marsha Laya's daughter Sarah. Mission Pointe Restaurant in Richland. Visitation 11 AM-12:45 PM; Service 12:45 PM; Buffet Lunch 1-2:30 PM. Elizabeth Fernandez is moving to memory care at Friendship Village, has 2 cats that need to be adopted

Connections (formerly Membership Com.)—Nancy Calme

Reviewing visitors log; cleaning out those who only came 1-2 times this year. Discussed reinstating Circle Suppers. Special interest groups forming – Needle work group to have first meeting March 29 Visitors wearing yellow ribbons are those who would welcome conversations at coffee hour.

Brian Leekly discussed how we might help First Congregational Church with their sanctuary endeavor. ?additional plate collection; Mary Roscoe will bring to board for further discussion. Mary Roscoe invited group to visit 12 Baskets food pantry on Portage Road, which serves Portage and South County residents. Invitation to join March to End Gun Violence - 1 pm at WMU, starts at Bernhard Center, route uncertain but will probably go to Bronson Park.

Generosity Sundays – One per quarter

April 22 – Portage Community Outreach Center

June – Outfront Kalamazoo

?September (early)- First day shoe fund

Parking Lot

No update – placeholder for future ideas, to discuss/act on at a later time.

Social Groups:

Men’s Breakfast Group – 8:30 AM on the 3rd Saturday at Burger Town Grille on Shaver Road. All men of the church are welcome. Chair: Ken VanEseltine

Women’s Book Group – Judy Halseth, Chair. Second Friday, September-May, lunch at 11:30 AM, followed by a gathering at UUCC at 1 PM for discussion. All women of the church are welcome; please let Judy know if you are coming for lunch and discussion. Next selection on April 13 “Contrary Motion” by K College professor Andy Mozina. Lunch reservations with Judy Halseth, Judith.halseth@wmich.edu or 327-9438. All UUCC women are welcome

Special Functions:

Art Wall – Ron and Nancy Crowell are coordinating

Coffee Hour - Denise Sonier

Looking for subs

Library – Brian Leekly

Betty Lee Ongley and Steve Tasko will assist, training date to be set

Support for the Board’s areas

Marketing team - Phil Najjar

T-shirt and sweatshirts here. .

Stewardship – Regena Nelson

Annual banquet, March 24 at 5 pm; all are invited to help with set up at 2 pm

Dress is casual, wear your UUCC shirts if you’d like.

Strategic Planning Task Force – Phil Najjar

Two meetings, one with outside facilitator Martha Creek. Task Force was not on the same page as Martha; she thought that the congregation was farther along.

Group was assigned task:

Do the tasks of each committee/group align with new vision and mission?

What are our biggest passions?

Where will we be in 1 year? 5 years?

Next meetings - 4/17/18 and in June (third Sunday in May is the Annual Meeting, May 20)

Tentative plan is to make a presentation to the congregation in June

Adjourn – 12:34 pm

Next Program Council Meeting – April 15, 2018 at 11:30 AM

Welcome, Engage, Inspire!



Thank you to everyone who attended the **Joining Ceremony** on Sunday, March 4 to welcome Joyce Van Baak, Ken VanEseltine, Susan Beechler, Peggy Clausing and Zoe Granberg as members in our UUCC community.

Thinking on the Edge of the Box (where transformation happens)!!

Our March **Super Server** is Freya Lake! Elsewhere in this newsletter is an article outlining her service to our community over the years. Let her know of your gratitude.

First-time attendees can choose to wear a **yellow ribbon**. If you see someone with a yellow ribbon, please interact and live our Mission by nurturing abundant welcoming!

In the near future we look to launch **Circle Suppers** at UUCC. When they work well they bring friends, newcomers, and members of the congregation together monthly to share food and get acquainted. They can be a powerful tool for creating community in any sized congregation. Groups rotate hosts and gather once a month in the host's home for a potluck meal - purely social time or to discuss a topic. Let Nancy Calme know if you would be interested!

Beginning Wednesday, April 25, 2018, Rev. Gy is offering a seven-week-long **book study on "A Chosen Faith: An Introduction to Unitarian Universalism"** by Forrest Church and John A. Buehrens. This class is mandatory for new members and recommended to everyone. If you need a copy of the book, please, let Rev. Gy know ASAP so we are able to order it for you. You can also order your own copy from Beacon Press. Here's to learning more about our roots and foundation so we may build a solid, grounded life together as a UU community!

The **Incredible Introducer** (identified by a light-up badge) is available to all congregants each Sunday to help answer questions about opportunities and events at UUCC.

Let's get together! Important dates to put on your calendar!

Second Saturdays – Opportunity for newcomers and long-time UUCCers to gather, inspire and support each other and share our dreams. Come to one or all of them!

April 14, 1:00pm at Water Street Coffee, 245 W. Centre Ave., Portage (corner of Shaver Rd. & Centre Ave.)

June 9 – meeting place TBD

Connections Team's mission and goals for the upcoming church year:

Welcoming – by all and to all; invite everyone to continue sincere acceptance

Connecting – foster communication of opportunities to socialize, engage, help and lead, both in our community and the community at large; inspire creativity, take risks and invite adventure

Streamline – put our processes in writing, provide training to all who wish it

We welcome your questions about making connections, membership at UUCC, and your input and feedback! Please contact us; Nancy Calme, Nancy Crowell, Nancy Stob, Lauren Ritter, Joyce Van Baak and Erin Michael. Love to see your smile!

Prompt Support for Sanctuary for Pakistani Refugee

Ken VanEseltine, UUCC Faith In Action Committee Chair

20 March 2018



The Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Southwest Michigan (UUCC) responded promptly after members learned that the First Congregational Church of Kalamazoo (FCC) was providing sanctuary to a Pakistani immigrant who is targeted for deportation. Saheeda Perveen Nadeem, 62, was scheduled for deportation by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) after having lived in the United States for thirteen years. UUCC signed the Unitarian Universalist Association's Sanctuary Pledge but lacking the facilities to house anyone in our church, we provide support in the ways we can. Following is how events progressed.

At the end of February, Nadeem was under threat of immediate deportation despite heroic efforts of her attorneys. They reached out to FCC and their congregation said "absolutely there is no way we are going to let them take her," according to FCC Pastor Nathan Dannison.

Sunday, March 11, FCC announced their congregation's unanimous support for housing Nadeem. The following Monday, the same day she was supposed to be deported to Pakistan, she moved into an apartment at FCC. Now she must remain within the church in an effort to avoid deportation. Nadeem reports, "I'm worried, but I feel safe here."

Friday night, March 16, during their regular board meeting, UUCC's Board of Trustees approved a letter of support to the FCC. This followed our congregation's previous action to join the Unitarian Universalist Association's Sanctuary Movement. Rev. Gy also provided agreement with the letter.

On Sunday, March 18, the congregation heard an announcement by a member from the pulpit about FCC's request for volunteer "door-sitters". The following Monday, Board President Stephanie Grathwol hand-delivered our letter of support to the FCC.

Dianne Roberts at FCC reports that they are okay with the sign-ups for door sitters so far this month. They expect, within a week, to go live with a volunteer sitters' sign-up website. Watch and listen for upcoming updates.

How can you help? Here are some ideas.

Give generously to Nadeem's GoFundMe account <http://gofundme.com/letherstay> and share it widely on your social media accounts and via email to your friends and family.

Follow FCC on social media:

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/KalamazooFCC/>

Twitter: @kalamazoofcc.org

Watch for further news from UUCC in our publications and from pulpit announcements during future Sunday services.

* Photo credit: wwmt

GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

During our Sunday February 25 Service, we passed around clipboards and asked you to indicate your preferences for general communications by noting the number 1, 2, 3, etc. in the various columns for email, telephone call, etc.

If you missed this, please note your preferences on the clipboard that's on the Activity Sign-Up Table in the foyer--or contact Office Administrator Jacquis Robertson at uucommunity@gmail.com or [269-324-7262](tel:269-324-7262).

Thank you!

General Assembly 2018

**Kansas City, Missouri and Online
Wednesday, June 20, 2018 (All day) to Sunday, June 24, 2018 (All day)**

General Assembly 2018 will take place at the Kansas City Convention Center, 301 W 13th St, Kansas City, MO 64105

2018 Registration Rates:

Adult: Wed-Sun: \$395 March 1 – April 30; \$450 May 1 – June 24

Youth (Grades 9-12): \$225 until April 30 and \$260 thereafter.

Off-Site: \$150 until April 30 and \$175 thereafter.

SCHOLARSHIPS: Applications accepted March 1 through March 31.

Reduced Rates: \$0 in exchange for 18 hours of volunteer work. Apply by 3/31.

Interested? Please contact Stephanie Grathwol or Jacquis Robertson.

CANCELLATION: Cancel a GA registration through the GA Registrar at generalassembly@uua.org Fee is \$35 before May 1; \$60 May 1 and thereafter.



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Attending Online Registration is NOT required to vote in a UUA Election nor to view: Events in the General Session Hall via live streaming and online chat ([watch GA 2017](#)). Most vides are posted afterwards.

In addition, Off-site Registrants are able to watch and ask questions in live sessions including workshops and business sessions (mini-assemblies, hearings, etc).

Off-site Voting Delegates are also able to propose amendments in the live business sessions, participate in debates, and vote in general sessions.

=====

Fellowship Dinner Appreciation

Stewardship

is heart work



Those who attended our Fellowship Dinner on March 24 enjoyed an evening of good food, good company, dinner music by Nick Sienkiewicz, a testimonial by Stephanie Grathwol, and lively after-dinner entertainment by the band, Big Trouble, that brought many of us to our feet for enthusiastic dancing.

The dinner is an annual celebration of our Church and a time to thank all who contribute to UUCC's success through their talents, hard work and monetary gifts. Pledges, as of this writing, are over \$83,000, with 20 pledge units still to report.

The dinner, itself, also relies on people's gifts and talents. Here are some who contributed to its success. Mary King took care of the table decorations. Erin Michael arranged the seating charts. Joe and Nancy Calme planned the meal, cooked most of it and supervised the kitchen, with help from Ken VanEseltine and Rev. Gy. Salads were prepared by Darby Fetzer, Erin Michael, and Beverly Folz. Pat Fuehr served dessert, and Denise Sonier made coffee. Ron Crowell purchased the beverages and set up and tended the bar. Stewardship Chair Regena Nelson kept everything on track.

A crew came in on Saturday afternoon to transform the sanctuary into a banquet hall. Those people were Eric and Regena Nelson, Ron Crowell, Freya Lake, Jim and Mary King, Bev and John Folz, Ken Van Eseltine, and Pat Fuehr.

David Brozovich and Matthew Nelson helped clear tables and wash dishes along with a big assist from Joyce Van Baak .

Many of you pitched in to take down tables and replace chairs the next day. It's not possible to name everyone who helped, but please know your efforts were appreciated.

UU Community Church is served by

Rev. Gy Ludvig-McCartney M.Div., M.A.
Consulting Minister
By Appointment Only
gyludvig@gmail.com
Cell: 269-352-2412

Jacquis Robertson
By Appointment Only
Director of Religious Education
Jacquis.o.robertson@gmail.com
Cell: 269-569-9337

Office Administrator
TBD
uucommunity@gmail.com
Church office: 324-7262

2017-2018 Board of Trustees

- Pat Fuehr
- Stephanie Grathwol
- Marsha Laya
- Brian Leekley
- Phil Najar
- Lauren Ritter
- Mary Roscoe

**The next Newsletter Deadline is
Tuesday, April 17 at Noon
Send Submissions to:
uuccnewsletter@gmail.com**

Community Matters

UU Community Church of SW Michigan
10441 Shaver Rd.
Portage, MI 49024
269-324-7262
uucommunity@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/uuccswmi

Place
Postage
Here

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

«Name»
«Address Line 1»
«City», «State» «ZIP»



**Unitarian Universalist
Community Church
of Southwest Michigan**
<http://www.uucommunitychurch.org>