



# Community Matters

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

## July

**PLEASE NOTE: UUCC will be operating at reduced hours during the month of July. If you need to reach someone this month, please send an email to [uucommunity@gmail.com](mailto:uucommunity@gmail.com).**

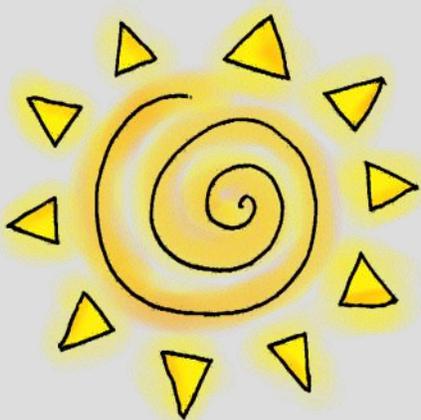
**Sunday, July 1- No Service**

**Sunday, July 8 - No Service**

**Sunday, July 17 - No Service**

**Sunday, July 22 - Annual Church Picnic**  
at the Calme's farm in Cassopolis

**Sunday, July 29 - No Service**



### **From the Minister**

*"Once there was a young warrior. Her teacher told her that she had to do battle with fear. She didn't want to do that. It seemed too aggressive; it was scary; it seemed unfriendly. But the teacher said she had to do it and gave her the instructions for the battle. The day arrived. The student warrior stood on one side, and fear stood on the other. The warrior was feeling very small, and fear was looking big and wrathful. They both had their weapons. The young warrior roused herself and went toward fear, prostrated three times, and asked, "May I have permission to go into battle with you?" Fear said, "Thank you for showing me so much respect that you ask permission." Then the young warrior said, "How can I defeat you?" Fear replied, "My weapons are that I talk fast, and I get very close to your face. Then you get completely unnerved, and you do whatever I say. If you don't do what I tell you, I have no power. You can listen to me, and you can have respect for me. You can even be convinced by me. But if you don't do what I say, I have no power." In that way, the student warrior learned how to defeat fear."* ~ Pema Chodron

There is change in the air. Change brings up stuff. Stuff like, fear, discomfort, anxiety, excitement. Change leads into the unknown and most of us dread the unknown. Even though that's all it is – unknown. There is no evidence to suggest that change is going to hurt us, disappoint us, try us in unbearable ways, yet the mind creates those images and experiences them as if they were true. Then we resist.

I just returned from Kansas City where I attended the General Assembly (GA) for the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). It was much smaller than last year. Turns out, New Orleans is quite the destination (GA was there last year), Kansas City not so much. The programs, however, were every bit as good, if not better.

I attended a workshop on "Growing UU Congregations for the 21st Century". Here is the short description that peaked my interest: "All Souls Tulsa has grown increasingly diverse

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*racially and socio-economically, begun video live-streaming, attracted virtual members across the globe, given away over 1 million. Working with Thandeka, All Souls took another major leap forward. Learn about proven strategies and tools for growing thriving 21st century UU congregations."*

This workshop alone made it all worth my while. I learned about proven practices. Someone did these things and it made a positive difference.

You see, I am no different from you. I, too, can fear the unknown, can dread change. Just knowing that someone has successfully walked this path before me helps me not give in to fear, nor allow inertia to force me into inaction.

Here are some of the changes [All Souls](#) introduced to their congregation that resulted in them becoming the largest UU church in the world, the only fully integrated UU congregation:

- Totally revamped their Sunday Services. Music is now a significant part of the service and takes up at least 50% of the entire hour. They have a full band and they play contemporary music that fully engage the full spectrum of human emotions. In fact, this is the single biggest change they made as far as their Sunday Services are concerned.
- They acknowledge their roots and will not allow themselves to be limited by them.
- They are clear that faith is a fiercely personal experience, however, they are also clear that it is not private.
- They make sure that newcomers are contacted and involved in small groups soon after they start attending.
- They are integrating and balancing the rational with the emotional. They understand that the whole human being has to be ministered to, and the message engages the entire human experience. They embrace the mystical and the emotional, as well as the rational and the logical. As far as the messages are concerned, this is the single most important change they made.



It was reassuring to hear that they created balance between the spiritual and rational and they thrived. It is my hope and wish that we are going to walk down the same path.

I put together a team of 5 whose responsibility is to plan the Sunday Service experience. We will pick the topics for each Sunday and create the format to carry the message. I expect that this will result in some changes in our Sunday experience. I expect that some of us might be less eager to embrace these changes than others.

If you are the kind of person who is comforted by knowing that a change is coming, please, know that it is in the works.

If you are the kind of person who tends to resist change, would you be willing to allow for the possibility that this change might bring about a positive experience?

If you are the kind of person who loves change and can hardly wait for it to happen, would you be willing to have compassion and patience for those who are less eager to get on board?

We've also presented the work of Mission Inspirational (the new name for our Strategic Planning Task Force). We worked diligently for nearly six months, meeting every two weeks. As we implement the plans we established, our focus church-wide will be synchronized around the same goals.

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These are exciting times!

These are scary times.

It is going to be okay. We are going to go at it together. We are going to do it with compassion, care, and love. If at any time you need to vent, find someone from the Board of Trustees or the Mission Inspirational Team to talk to. We understand and expect that it won't always be easy, and we are prepared to the best of our abilities to care for one another.

Please, if you can, always remember that any changes we implement are in hopes of creating a caring, growing, thriving community, and nothing is ever meant against your soul.

Here's to a year of unfolding, mystery, and expansion.

But first, let's rest. We are taking the month of July off to allow us to regenerate. Then we come back together and work, and celebrate. But first, we rest.

**See you all in August!!**



## July Calendar

<p><b>Saturday &amp; Sunday, July 6th &amp; 7th</b> 10:00 am - 2:00 pm - Drop off good quality Tag Sale items at church</p>	<p><b>Tuesday, July 10th</b> 1:00 - 3:00 pm - iPhone / iPad Class 6:00 - Interesting Conversations (new group!)</p>
<p><b>Wednesday, July 11th</b> 12:30 pm - <i>A Chosen Faith</i> book class 6:00 pm - <i>A Chosen Faith</i> book class</p>	<p><b>Thursday, July 12th</b> 5:30 - 7:30 pm - Board Meeting (new 2018-2019 Board of Trustees)</p>
<p><b>Friday, July 13th</b> 11:30 am - Women's Book Group</p>	<p><b>Tuesday, July 17th</b> 5:00 pm - August Newsletter deadline</p>
<p><b>Wednesday, July 18th</b> 6:30 pm - UUCU Film Forum</p>	<p><b>Friday &amp; Saturday, July 20th &amp; 21st</b> 8:00 am - Tag Sale at the church!</p>
<p><b>Saturday, July 21st</b> 8:30 am - Men's Breakfast at Burger Town</p>	<p><b>Sunday, July 22nd</b> Annual UUCU Picnic at Joe and Nancy Calme's farm</p>
<p><b>Tuesday July 23rd</b> 1:00 - 3:00 pm - iPhone / iPad Class</p>	<p><b>Thursday, July 25th</b> 1:00 - 3:00 pm - iPhone / iPad Class</p>

## R.E.flections

**Jacquis Robertson**  
**Director of**  
**Religious Education**



*“Your daily life is your temple and your religion. When you enter into it take with you your all.”*

– Khalil Gibran

We’ve successfully finished another church year! This year we accomplished so much, from a Vision and Mission to a Strategic Plan, and so much more in-between. I am so excited about what the future holds for us as a community!

As for R.E., we were able to cultivate a garden (far from perfect, but something the children are genuinely proud of), held our first R.E. Sunday, donated to the Portage Community Center and the Hurricane Relief in Puerto Rico, and between all of that learned a thing or two. I’m genuinely excited for what the 2018/2019 church year has in store!

But in the words of Khalil Gibran, “Your life is your temple and your religion. When you enter into it take with you and your all.” As excited as I am for next year, I understand the importance of rest and relaxation. So I wish you all a joyful July, and I look forward to seeing you all in August!



## R.E. News



### **R.E. Committee Meeting:**

The next Religious Education Committee Meeting will be Friday, August 17, at 12 p.m.

### **Thank You!:**

A “THANK YOU” to Brian Leekley, Stephanie Grathwol, Rev. Gy Ludvig-McCartney, Regena Nelson, and Phil Najjar for volunteering for R.E. this year!!

### **Religious Education Weekly E-Newsletter:**

If you are a parent and you are not receiving the Religious Education Weekly E-Newsletter please e-mail me at [Jacquis.O.Robertson@gmail.com](mailto:Jacquis.O.Robertson@gmail.com) so I can get you signed-up.

If you are not a parent and would like to receive the Religious Education Weekly E-Newsletter, please e-mail me at [Jacquis.O.Robertson@gmail.com](mailto:Jacquis.O.Robertson@gmail.com) so I can get you signed up.

**June 30th Rallies for Immigrant Families  
Being Separated, Detained  
& Denied Asylum Without Due Process  
Bronson Park, Kalamazoo - 1:00 pm**



The Unitarian Universalist Association and many other faith and social justice groups have joined a "FamiliesBelongTogether" coalition that is holding a mass mobilization on June 30th in Washington DC. Demonstrations are being held throughout the U.S., including [June 30th protests in 22 Michigan cities!](#)

The Trump Administration instituted a cruel and unjustified policy of separating children from their parents who were seeking asylum when crossing the U.S. border. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) confirmed that it has separated over 2,300 children from their parents since this policy was announced on May 7th. Even though these families are requesting asylum to escape life threatening situations in their country, the DHS has a policy of charging every adult "illegally" coming across the border.

Children are labeled "unaccompanied minors" and their parents are labeled criminals and sent to jail. Since an outcry from the public as well as politicians of all stripes, the Trump Administration issued an "Executive Order" rescinding the separation of children from their parents. However, in their desire to show "zero tolerance" for immigrants crossing out borders, children are being detained with their parents without due process for their claims of asylum. The Executive Order did not address or require that already children separated from their families be reunited.

For more information, please visit the Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network facebook event page at [facebook.com/MUUSJN/](https://www.facebook.com/MUUSJN/).





## FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

### The Story of My Life by Marsha Laya

Remember your high school days? I was fortunate because those years hold many happy memories. One of the better memories is running for and winning various chairmanships like homeroom chair, school athletic chair and team captain. I thought it would be great fun to be a big shot. I was young and stupid. It turned out leadership is a lot of work and after all that work, you are still not a big shot. Those experiences taught me many things, among them to recruit others to help and definitely let others think that leadership roles can make them big shots. How did that work for me? I'll tell you, because that's the story of my life.

After college I applied for a job as a social worker. I was hired as the supervisor. How did that happen? I didn't apply for THAT job! I wanted the easier job. But I took the supervisory job anyway because that's what they wanted me to do and they believed in me even if I didn't. Story of my life.

While in the work force, I was called for jury duty twice and elected Foreman on both juries. And I thought I was being quiet and unassuming. How did that happen? And there were other numerous Board of Directors or chairmanships I found myself involved with for one reason or another over the course of my career. It just kept happening. Why? Story of my life.

Upon retiring from work, one of my colleagues asked me, "Now what are you going to do?" I replied, "I don't know what I will do, but I know for sure I won't be in charge of it." So, just to keep busy, I decided to volunteer for the American Red Cross. I filled out their paper work and at my induction interview was asked to be the coordinator of the volunteers. I don't even know these people! Am I carrying a sign or something? How did that happen? Story of my life.

Well after about 10 years of volunteer work in Berrien County for the Red Cross, I moved away from St. Joseph, MI. and also spent half the year in Florida at a retirement community. I assumed I'd blend in and be fairly invisible in my new communities. I was wrong. I got recruited to serve on the Board of Directors for the Florida retirement community. Guess I'm not invisible after all. Story of my life.

When my 3-year term on the Board of Directors in Florida was over, I took a vow, to stay on the side lines. Enough already! Coincidentally, I decided to take a break from Florida and spend a couple winters in Michigan. Maybe I would do some traveling. One day a lovely UU member called me from the Nominating Committee. You guessed it! What! Why me? So, I called a few folks from the UU Board and decided I could serve and take on one little project: the Board Handbook. So last year that's what I did. Phew. Done. Mission accomplished. So, as of June 30th this year, with just one more year on the Board, I figured on sliding along letting someone else take the leadership. Maybe take on another small project. Can you guess what happened at the Board meeting this past June? Correct. I was elected President. How did that happen? Didn't I tell you? That's the story of my life.

Yes, I am your reluctant President. After all those experiences, I have learned one very important lesson: recruit help! I cannot and won't even attempt to do it alone. Fortunately, with UCC, I know that won't be necessary. It is a joy and very reassuring to see the various, well established, hard working committees and their leaders up to their ears in projects, assuring that our community not only survives, but flourishes. It is also comforting to know you have elected Board members who will carry their fair share. Mary Roscoe will be your Vice-President. Joyce VanBaak has agreed to serve as your Secretary. Phil Najar will continue to provide leadership for your Program Council and we all know that Betty Lee Ongley will be picking up wherever she is needed. She never ceases to amaze me! Of course, it is my greatest joy to have Rev. Gy there cheering us on and inspiring us to be all that we can be.

Thank you for putting your trust in me and the other members of your Board of Trustees. As with all my previous calls to serve, I understand you believe in me and am humbled. Be assured that I will do my best to live up to your expectations. Likewise, your Board of Trustees will also try to be responsible stewards of our resources while also attempting to provide inspirational leadership.

I guess this isn't the end of the story of my life. Just another beginning. I sincerely hope it goes well. I promise to give it my best shot.

## July Caring Community News



We're half way through the summer. Those who go south during the winter, as well as the rest of us, are into gardens, planting flowers, and socializing with friends. Freya's making jam. Yeah.

Nancy Crowell has shared that Ron was scheduled to have spinal surgery on 6/27, but it was cancelled because he is having less and less pain each day, receiving physical therapy, and now walking without a walker or a cane!!

We can celebrate our good feelings too. Nancy Calme talked about going through a slump and coming back to feeling good about accomplishments. Betty Lee mentioned the success of the Planned Parenthood event, which showed the cohesion in the community to put on a successful event. Joan Young is expecting her twelfth great grandchild.

Zoe Granberg mentioned a friend who received a new heart at age 13. There is a GoFundMe page on Facebook for 'a heart for Anna' to help her family with expenses.

There are a lot of **July** birthdays: **Jim Heveran** on the 6th, **Tim Michael** and **John Mais** on the 7th. **Genevieve Krostue** on the 10th, **Alex Brozovich** on the 12th, **Eric Nelson** on the 21st, **Sidney Wartner** on the 26th, and **Brinna Michael** on the 31st. Happy Birthday everyone!

July Wedding Anniversaries: Joe and Nancy Calme on the 1st and Ron and Nancy Crowell on the 5th.

Remembrance: David Adams passed on July 22, 2009.

For any caring community needs, please call Judy Oliver at 353-9397, Nancy Crowell at 381-7659, or Judy Pigg Behrendt at 217-5252.

### **VOLUNTEER HELP WANTED**

UUCC works as a special faith community because we engage with each other, making possible any number of activities that all help to make this a better world. Are you looking to help, or are you looking for helpers?

Here's a brief list of some of the current opportunities for volunteers and the contact person:

- Coffee Hour - Denise Sonier
- Library - Brian Leekley
- Religious Education - Jacquis Robertson



## Welcome, Connect, Engage, Inspire!

Like the rest of the church, July is the month for the Connections Team to slow down, relax, and rejuvenate while we prepare for another energetic year of helping people connect with one another at UCC. Enjoy the tag sale on July 20-21, and be sure to come join the fun at the church picnic at Joe and Nancy Calme's farm on Sunday, July 22. (See other articles for more details.) See you there!

### Church Picnic – July 22

Sunday morning, July 22, please sleep in and enjoy the UCC July sabbatical. Then, get your picnic baskets packed and come down to Joe and Nancy Calme's farm at 57764 M62 in Cassopolis, MI for a relaxing afternoon of fun and fellowship starting at 2:00 pm.

There will be a big tent for shade (or rain cover), games to play, a pond for fishing, farm animals to visit, and lots of good company to enjoy.

Remember to bring:

- A dish for the buffet
- Meat to grill, if you want it – we will provide a hot grill
- Lawn Chairs
- Games to share (lawn or table games)
- Sun protection
- Fishing gear if you want to catch-and-release some huge bluegills

The Calmes will provide plenty of iced tea and lemonade. If you can supply plates, plasticware, napkins, or condiments, please contact Nancy Calme (269-271-8851) so that we do not duplicate or run short on those items.



### Thanks to all who helped with church cleanup on June 24!

Barbara Bott and a crew of outdoor helpers pulled weeds, trimmed bushes, and weed whacked all morning. Eric Nelson, Joe Calme, and Steve, Hayden, Grayson and Nick Tasko tackled removing the stainless steel from the kitchen. Stephanie Grathwol and helpers cleaned the kitchen. Mary King, Regena Nelson, and Jacquis Robertson and the indoor crew dusted, sorted items, and moved tables in preparation for the tag sale in July. Thanks, too, go to Erin Michael and Nancy Calme for updating the gathered group during the potluck on the strategic plans for the church.



## Women’s Book Group

The summer “choose books for the year” meeting of the UCC Women’s Book Group will be held Friday, July 13, at Judy Halseth’s, Lake Brownwood, Paw Paw. The annual “salad potluck” begins at 11:30 a.m. Participants are encouraged bring two book titles to recommend for the 2018-2019 reading list. New members are welcome. To RSVP, or to request a map to 37135 Hillside Drive, Paw Paw, 49079, contact [judith.halseth@wmich.edu](mailto:judith.halseth@wmich.edu) or 657-4269 (Paw Paw, June 21-July 8, and on July 13) or 327-9438 (Herb’s, beginning July 8).



## 2018 Kalamazoo PRIDE Festival

Many thanks to the UCC volunteers who staffed our booth on Saturday, June 9 at the Arcadia Creek Festival Place in downtown Kalamazoo. Despite the morning's torrential rain, it was another success.

Special thanks to the Setup Team, Rev. Gy, the Takedown Team, and to Darby and Grace Fetzer for the excellent UCC stickers, 270 of which we distributed. If you don't have yours yet, please see Darby.

People's Church shared our booth this year; they were participating for the very first time.

With appreciation,  
Joe Calme and Stephanie Grathwol

### Mission: Inspirational

UCC’s Strategic Planning Task Force has been working hard since February, pulling together all the input from the congregation to form a cohesive plan for achieving our goals. This team of eight diverse styles and viewpoints put many hours of work into finding a way to approach the task. It is so important to make the congregation’s new vision and mission count – not to become an empty exercise.

We chose to balance inspirational ideas with measurable goals and not to dictate projects for someone else to have to implement, but to hand off to the board, committees, and individuals to find the best projects to tackle. We want to focus on “Why” the church wants to change, not just on financial or membership growth.

What we created is a first set of one-year goals and a process to unify the method across the whole congregation. We will sit with each church team to help them create and track their own projects. In future communications, we will focus on the rationale behind each goal and the long-term vision for where we are heading. Stay tuned for more information.

Thank you to the task force members for their untold hours of effort in tackling this complicated task: Lauren Ritter, Darby Fetzer, Phil Najar, Joyce Van Baak, Erin Michael, Jacquis Robertson, Rev. Gy Ludvig-McCartney, and Nancy Calme.

**Mission: Inspirational**

ABUNDANCE			INSPIRED SPIRITUALITY			
			JOY	LEARNING		
		GROWTH		SOCIAL HEALING		
			DIVERSITY			

*“Building bridges. Inspiring life!”*

## 2018 - 2019 Board of Trustees

Welcome to the new Board! Their first meeting is scheduled for Thursday July 12, 2017 at 5:30pm.

**Marsha Laya**



**Phil Najar**



**Betty Lee Ongley**



**Mary Roscoe**



**Joyce Van Baak**



## STAFF NEWS

The Board of Trustees is pleased to announce that **Consulting Minister Reverend Gy Ludvig-McCartney** has signed a contract to continue our partnership, at three-quarter time, for a third consecutive year (July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019). Thanks to our Human Resources Team and our Finance Team for their help and support. Congratulations, Reverend Gy!



**Director of Religious Education Jacquis Robertson** continues her fine work with us; however, her UUCC schedule has changed. In addition to Sunday mornings, she will be at UUCC after 5 PM Monday-Friday. In her other work, at Gryphon Place, Jacquis was recently promoted to Executive Director of Dispute Resolution Services, a full-time position. Congratulations, Jacquis!

**Office Administrator Kristi Montgomery** joined the staff in late April and is making the most of her part-time UUCC schedule (10-13 hours/week) while continuing to get to know us. Kristi's current office hours are Thursday, 8 AM - 5 PM (she will be working limited hours in July, via email) and you can reach her at [uucommunity@gmail.com](mailto:uucommunity@gmail.com) or call the church office. Note: Newsletter submittals go to [uuccnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:uuccnewsletter@gmail.com).



**Music Director Nick Sienkiewicz** continues to delight and inspire us; as a WMU student, he will be away for part of the summer, rejoining us at UUCC once he's returned. We'll keep you updated!

## **Board Briefs**

Regular Meeting: June 7, 2018



Guests: DRE Jacquis Robertson, 2018-2019 elected board members Betty Lee Ongley and Joyce Van Baak

Received report from Director of Religious Education Jacquis Robertson.

- May Summary: Young Adult Group, Strategic Planning Task Force, RE Committee, Peace Pizzazz, Kalamazoo Community Foundation's event-Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation. Recommend that UUCC consider becoming a part of this.
- DRE schedule is now after 5 p.m. Monday-Friday plus Sunday RE.

Received report from Consulting Minister Reverend Gy Ludvig-McCartney.

- Participated in a Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association cluster meeting in Bloomfield Hills and made more good connections, including with a Mentor, Rev. Cindy Landrum.
- The Strategic Planning Task Force has renamed itself as Mission Inspirational and will be making a presentation to the Congregation on June 24.
- Looking forward to participating in General Assembly June 20-24 along with M. Laya and J. Van Baak.

Received the April 30, 2018 Treasurer's Financial Report.

Received reports from Trustees with updates on the committees that they support and those annual reports.

Received the President's recommendations for the 2018-2019 Board of Trustees.

Board Discussions:

- Standard Order of Service: Reviewed a draft and offered suggestions for the Sunday Services Committee to consider before laminating a final version.
- Financials: Year to date actuals and anticipated year end figures.
- Office copier/printer replacement: Assistant Treasurer K. Ridley is exploring options; M. Roscoe to help.
- Committee on Ministry: Appointed R. Crowell. Agreed to ask F. Lake to serve.
- Board Handbook: Approved review schedule; will assign responsibility for each at the Board Retreat.
- Tag Sale fundraiser in July inside the church.
- Parking Lot Resurfacing, Financing of same: E. Nelson to obtain tar-and-chip bids that may be much lower than removal/replacement with asphalt.
- Marketing of UUCC and our property to increase revenue.
- Committee Fair.
- Approved the Board's Annual Report.

### Election of Officers for the 2018-2019 Board of Trustees

President: Marsha Laya. Vice-President: Mary Roscoe. Secretary: Joyce Van Baak

### Executive Session, 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 Board of Trustees

- Approved the annual Shared Ministry Evaluation of Rev. Gy and the Congregation.
- Reviewed and approved the Consulting Minister Contract Offer at 3/4 time.

Reminder: Board meetings are open to all to attend. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 12 at 5:30 p.m. in UUCC's Community Room. Future board meetings: Second Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at UUCC.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stephanie Grathwol for  
Lauren Ritter, Board of Trustees Secretary

## Program Council Minutes – June 17, 2018

(20 adults attended) Phil Najar – leading; Nancy Calme - notes

1. Tag Sale (July 20-21)
  - A sign-up sheet for helpers was passed around
  - A flyer about UUCC and availability to rent our building will be inserted into shopping bags. Nancy Kulka agreed to draft a flyer; copies can be made at a discount at Kinko's.
  - We need items to sell, people to work and clean up afterwards. Bring items on June 24, July 6-7.
  - Some set-up will be done during the church clean-up next Sunday.
2. Potluck brunch next Sunday will begin at 9:30 am.
3. Church picnic will take place on July 22, from 2:00pm to 6:00pm at the Calme farm, 57764 M62 in Cassopolis, MI. There is a sign-up sheet for special functions in the foyer, but it is not necessary to sign up in order to attend.
4. Caring Community – note that Ron Crowell is scheduled for back surgery on June 27.
5. Faith in Action – Plans to start work on a UUCC public statement regarding the US immigration policy.
6. Generosity Sunday on September 23 will feature John Curren speaking about the First Day Shoe Fund.
7. Men's Breakfast – It was suggested that they explicitly invite Trans men to join the group.
8. Women's Book Group – The July 13 meeting will be at Judy Halseth's lake home, where books will be chosen for the next year. (This is open to Trans women, as well.) If you want to participate in carpooling, contact Judy Halseth.
9. The Kalamazoo Farmer's Market has a table for community organizations, and Nancy Kulka suggested UUCC could advertise there.
10. Archives – if you have news articles about UUCC members, please send them to Freya Lake to add to our archives.
11. Coffee servers – Denise Sonier is asking for volunteers to sign up for the 2018-2019 schedule.
12. Building and Grounds –
  - Kevin Brozovich and Marsha Laya have stepped up to help Eric Nelson with this committee.
  - The parking lot may be resurfaced with the "tar-and-chip" method, saving 40% on the cost of a complete replacement.
  - Need UUCC people to help meet with potential renters. You would be trained in the details!
13. COM (Committee on Ministry) – final meeting of the year is June 28. New members have been recruited (Freya Lake and Ron Crowell) to replace outgoing members (Kevin Brozovich and Eric Nelson)
14. Finance Committee – Eric added a programmable set back thermostat this year and as a result we received an \$1,800 rebate from Consumer's Power. Way to go, Eric!!
15. Staffing - Rev. Gy has signed a contract for continuing at three-quarter time next year.
16. Other items:
  - Picnic Tent – the cost of renting a large circus tent for the church picnic was mostly defrayed by the Connections Team surplus. Other committees will be asked to chip in to pay the rest.
  - Strategic Planning Team will be talking during the brunch next week about the results of their five months of effort. The presentation will only be 15 minutes followed by Q&A.

## UCC TAG SALE

Friday, July 20th, 8 am - 3 pm

Saturday, July 21st, 8 am - noon

Tag Sale Item Drop-off Dates - Friday & Saturday, July 6th & 7th. 10 am - 2 pm

Everyone is invited to clean out their storage areas and search for GOOD items for the sale. Please also ask your friends, family and neighbors to contribute GOOD, salable items. Notice the emphasis on GOOD! This is your opportunity to start looking about and decide whether to keep that wonderful item you haven't used in the past several years, or to donate it to your favorite charity - UCC!



You will have two opportunities — Friday & Saturday, July 6 & 7 between 10am - 2pm — on which you can bring items to the church, set them up, and tag them yourself, with help as needed (tags to be provided). Outdoor yard items that should not (or cannot) be brought inside will likely need to be brought the evening before or early on the morning of the sale's first day.

This is intended to be a **QUALITY TAG SALE!** No junk. No broken items. No large TV's, no out of date electronics, no worn out clothing, etc. All items must be clean and in good condition. We will have "Greeters" at the door to kindly and gratefully accept your wonderful donations and give you further directions and assistance. They will also politely decline items we believe cannot be sold at this particular "designer" sale. [Click here to view a list of requested donations.](#)

**Volunteers: PLEASE HELP!** A cadre of thinkers are needed to draw up the logistics!

Ken VanEseltine has set up a Google Doodle for volunteers to sign up to help with the Item Drop offs and the Tag Sale clean-up. There may also be a Doodle created for staffing the sale itself on July 20 and July 21, so watch out for that in our weekly Friday e-news.

Google Doodle is a free internet application designed to compare availability of people find the best time to meet. You do not have to sign-on to anything to use it but be aware that these Doodles allow anyone who has the link to view them. The Doodle app works seamlessly with all major devices.

Sale Item Drop Off Schedule <https://doodle.com/poll/v3ipa5bgnyy33gyb>

Sign up for dates and times you can be at the church to accept (or reject) items brought in for sale, Friday July 6 and Saturday July 7. Contact Joyce Van Baak if you would like to volunteer without using Doodle or have questions.

Tag Sale clean-up date/time <https://doodle.com/poll/sz8nn37t632nfaan>

Vote for a date/time, July 21 through July 25, you can participate in tag sale cleanup to remove items not sold at sale and rearrange the stage area and seating for "normal" use. Contact Ken VanEseltine if you would like to vote for a date without using Doodle or have questions.

**THANK YOU!**

**UU Community Church  
is served by:**

Rev. Gy Ludvig-McCartney M.Div., M.A.  
Consulting Minister  
By Appointment Only  
[gyudvig@gmail.com](mailto:gyudvig@gmail.com)  
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Jacquis Robertson  
By Appointment Only  
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[Jacquis.o.robertson@gmail.com](mailto:Jacquis.o.robertson@gmail.com)  
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Kristi Montgomery  
Office Administrator  
Office Hours: Thursdays 8:00 am - 5:00 pm  
(Available in July via email only)  
[uucommunity@gmail.com](mailto:uucommunity@gmail.com)  
Church office: 324-7262

**2018-2019 Board of Trustees**

**Marsha Laya**

**Phil Najar**

**Betty Lee Ongley**

**Mary Roscoe**

**Joyce Van Baak**

**The next Newsletter Deadline is  
Tuesday, July 17th at 5:00 pm**  
Send Submissions to:  
**[uuccnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:uuccnewsletter@gmail.com)**

**Community Matters**

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10441 Shaver Rd.  
Portage, MI 49024  
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[www.facebook.com/uuccswmi](http://www.facebook.com/uuccswmi)

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Community Church  
of Southwest Michigan**  
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