



The View

May 2019

Granite Peak
Unitarian Universalist Congregation
882 Sunset Avenue
Prescott, AZ 86305
(928) 541-0000

Worship Services: NOTE NEW TIME. All worship services are held at 10:00 am unless otherwise noted. We welcome all adults and children for the worship hour. Nursery care is available during the service. Sunday service topics may change without notice at the discretion of the speaker or because of other circumstances.

May 5, 2019, Rev. Patty Willis: *"The Last Hundred Feet."*

On a day that is celebrated all over the Latinx world, let us consider this last hundred feet that we must build together. Where do you find the energy to keep going? What are the rewards for continuing to listen. What is sparking in our hearts and minds?

Join us this Sunday as Reverend Patty Willis leads us in worship before the congregational membership vote to call her as our next settled minister takes place. This is an exciting and important event in the life of our beloved congregation, and the more members who are present to vote the more special the occasion will be. Please be present if you can.

May 12, Rev. Terry: *"Honoring the Goddess."*

On this Mother's Day we will celebrate the goddess that is in each of our lives. Rev. Terry will lead worship this Sunday. Children will join us for the beginning of the service before going to their classes.

May 19, Rev. Terry: *"It isn't perfect, but it's the best thing we have."*

This Sunday, the day of our congregational meeting, Rev. Terry will reflect on what it means to incorporate democracy into a spiritual place. This is the last Sunday in the church year in which our choir will sing, and we hope to end on a high note (pun intended). Children will join us for the beginning of the service before going to their classes. **After the service we will hold our annual congregational meeting to elect officers and vote on a budget, among other things.** We encourage all members who are able to do so to attend this Sunday.

May 26, Rev. Terry: *"Worth and Dignity."*

Have you ever felt that your dignity was de-valued? Join us this Sunday as Rev. Terry explores the meaning of dignity in our lives. Children will join us for the beginning of the service before going to their classes.

In This Issue

Services	1
<i>Pillar and Cloud</i>	2
May Presidents Message	3
Mission & Vision	3
Candidating Week Schedule	4
Summer Potlucks	4
Ethan Davis Award	5
The Forum	5
You You	5
SAWUURA Campout	5
Caregivers Support Group	5
Rummage Sale Wrap-up	6
Calling Quilters	6
Nominees for GP elected Officers	6-7
General Assembly	8
Nancy Reid-McKee's Ordination	8
FUNdraising Events	8
Children's Faith Development	8
2019 Summer Camp	9
Music Notes	9
Book Club	9
Drum Circle	10
Social Justice	10-11
GP Who's Who	12
Newsletter Deadline	12

Our Covenant: Love is the doctrine of this congregation, the quest for truth its sacrament and service is its prayer. To dwell together in peace, to seek knowledge in freedom, to serve others in community, thus do we covenant together.



Pillar and Cloud

Reverend Terry Cummings

The Book of Genesis begins, “In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.” On this Earth Day, 2019, I can’t help but wonder whether climate change and environmental degradation, fueled by over-population and denial, are leading the Earth back to where it began, a formless void, and darkness.

Like many people, I yearn for an Earth Day on which we can celebrate the good things we are doing for our beloved planet. Instead, year after year, the news seems to get ever bleaker. Perhaps it is because the reality is sinking in with me that my grandchildren, who are now nine and six years old, will very soon be inheriting the world that my generation leaves behind. Or, maybe it is because I’m disheartened by the fact that our country has decided to withdraw from the Paris climate agreement. Whatever the reason, I am feeling more concern, and I am feeling more vexed, on this Earth Day than in prior years.

I wish that our politicians, business and civic leaders could see the environmental health of our world in spiritual terms. See this vulnerable and tiny blue dot, so alone in the vastness of space, as a work of creation to be nurtured and prayed over.

In 2014, the *European Journal of American Studies* published a study analyzing the denial of climate change in the United States over the prior 20 years. The study exposed the deliberate efforts of corporate America, most notably the fossil fuel industries, to use climate denial in an attempt to hinder governmental regulations of their activities. It highlighted the strong ideological commitment of small-government conservatives and libertarians to oppose, on principle, any form of government regulation. And it revealed US climate change deniers’ efforts to disarm their opponents, by claiming to be defending the American way of life.

After summarizing the evidence for this latter phenomenon, the study wryly concluded that “The American way of life is clearly defined as the unlimited and ever-expanding ability of all American citizens to engage in material consumption. This is an aspect of the debate particularly embraced by climate change deniers because it allows them to stand for the creation of wealth and higher standards of living for the American Middle Class.”

A recent episode of a new television documentary series, *Our Planet*, caused controversy because it contained footage showing hundreds of walrus plunging to their deaths. Because of a shortage of sea ice (known as a “haul-out”) on which walrus customarily go to rest when they are not hunting for food, the walrus had hauled themselves up 80-metre high cliffs on the coast of Russia. Instead of falling a few feet into the sea when they were ready to start hunting again, the camera showed them plummeting to their deaths as they crashed onto the rocks below. I have watched the scene on the internet, and I have to warn you that is very upsetting.

The person who produced and directed the episode received considerable criticism for including this footage. “We thought long and hard about this sequence and what to show, and whether to show it,” she said, “We felt that this sequence kind of sums up . . . the effect loss of sea ice can have on some animals. We just felt it was a very important thing to document.” Regardless, climate change deniers have been busy on the internet, claiming that climate change was not responsible for the walrus’ predicament.

Concern for the environment is nothing new. When I was preparing my Easter Sunday sermon, I stumbled across a passage from Shakespeare’s *Midsummer Night’s Dream* that resonated with our current situation. (My sermon preparation is always an adventure!)

In Act 2, Scene 1, *Titania*, the Queen of the Fairies, bemoans the state of affairs to the impudent Puck:

...[T]he winds, piping to us in vain,
As in revenge, have suck’d up from the sea
Contagious fogs; which, falling in the land,
Hath every pelting river made so proud
That they have overborne their continents.
The ox hath therefore stretch’d his yoke in vain,

The ploughman lost his sweat, and the green corn
 Hath rotted ere his youth attain'd a beard.
 The fold stands empty in the drowned field,
 And crows are fatted with the murrion flock;
 The nine men's morris [an English Country
 Dance] is fill'd up with mud,
 And the quaint mazes in the wanton green,
 For lack of tread, are undistinguishable.
 The human mortals want their winter here;
 No night is now with hymn or carol blest.
 Therefore the moon (the governess of floods),
 Pale in her anger, washes all the air,
 That rheumatic diseases do abound.
 And thorough this distemperature, we see
 The seasons alter: hoary-headed frosts
 Fall in the fresh lap of the crimson rose,
 And on old Hiems' [i.e. Winter] thin and icy
 crown
 An odorous chaplet of sweet summer buds
 Is, as in mockery, set; the spring, the summer,
 The childing autumn, angry winter, change
 Their wonted liveries; and the mazed world,
 By their increase, now knows not which is
 which.
 And this same progeny of evils comes
 From our debate, from our dissension;
 We are their parents and original.

The bard was no climate-change denier. This Earth Day, I am wishing there were more people with Shakespeare's gifts to help overcome resistance to the accepting the truth that we must mend our ways if our children and grandchildren are to enjoy a world other than a formless void and darkness.

Granite Peak Vision and Mission Statements

Vision: Where ALL are welcomed, encouraged and nurtured.

Mission: We are a compassionate spiritual community that:

- Celebrates diversity
- Nourishes the personal and spiritual growth of all ages
- Shares our gifts
- Promotes justice for all
- Serves the world we live in.



May Message from the President

Marianne Erickson, President

April began with the arrival of our new Office Administrator, Heather Knowles, who is also a Sunday A/V desk volunteer. Heather has been very well trained by Elayne Hayes, Chair of the Social Justice Council and Communications Committee, former Trustee and Board Secretary, Newsletter Editor and Facebook Administrator. •

At our April Board of Trustees meeting, we learned that Granite Peak will host a ministerial candidate during the week of April 27 – May 5! You will read more in this newsletter about special events that are planned so that you can meet Rev. Patty Willis during her candidating week.

Our annual stewardship drive has ended. If you were not contacted to make a pledge, please talk to me. We don't want to miss canvassing any potential pledge units!

Members of the Finance Committee and the Board met on April 20 to formulate the balanced FY 19-20 budget to present to the congregation at the Annual Meeting on May 19. Our meeting was four hours long. We did balance the budget, but not without significant funding cuts. Because we did not meet our Stewardship goal, very regrettably, we will be reducing the hours of our Social Justice Ministry and Faith Development Coordinator positions. It is hoped that those staff hours can be restored in the future when additional congregants' pledges are received.

Gary Beverly of the Sierra Club and Citizens Water Advisory Group (CWAG) will be honored as the Lovejoy award winner at the April 27 Albert Lovejoy Dinner at Prescott College. Tickets are available through this Wednesday, April 24, in the office. The Tom Pettit Social Justice Award winner will also be honored at the Lovejoy dinner.

During Candidating Week, from Saturday, April 27 to Sunday, May 5 there will be many opportunities for you to meet and welcome Rev. Patty. The second service led by Rev. Patty will be on Sunday, May 5. That day, we will vote on her candidacy to become our settled minister. Your vote is VERY important. So, if you cannot be present on Sunday, May 5, please fill out a PROXY form and ballot, both of which are available in the office and on the Welcome Table, and give your PROXY form and ballot to a trusted Granite Peak UU who can report your vote on Sunday, May 5.

Please don't miss our Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 19 after the Sunday service. There are important items for your consideration:

1. The Fiscal Year 19-20 Budget Approval
2. Nominations to the Nominating and Endowment Committees
3. Honoring Very Noteworthy Granite Peak Volunteers
4. Approval of the Revised GPUUC Bylaws

What are your thoughts about Granite Peak U.U. Congregation as we enter this exciting month? Please feel free to share them with me!

Touchstones Journal "Mystery": [Click Here](#)

[Touchstone Discussion Guide A](#)

[Touchstone Discussion Guide B](#)



Candidating Week Schedule of Events

Here's a list of all the times and places where you can meet and talk with Rev. Patty and Mary Lou. The Search Committee encourages everyone to show

support for Rev. Patty by attending one or more event, especially the Meet & Greet opportunities.

Saturday, April 27

3:00 PM Meet & Greet Davis Hall

All invited before heading over to Prescott College

5:00 PM, Lovejoy Dinner, Prescott College

Sunday, April 28

10:00 AM Sunday Service Sanctuary

11:30 AM Coffee Hour Davis Hall

Monday, April 29

5:30 PM Faith Development Committee
FD Building

Tuesday, April 30

10:30 AM Kindred Spirits, FD Building
Coffee & Cookies

2:00 PM Worship Committee, Davis Hall

Wednesday, May 1

9:00 AM Granite Peak Forum Davis Hall

11:00 AM Staff Meeting Nursery

1:00 PM You You Support Group. FD Building

4:00 PM Social Justice Council, FD Building

5:00 PM Social Justice Council, FD Building

Working Meeting

6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal Sanctuary

Working Meeting

Thursday, May 2

11:00 AM Finance Committee Davis Hall

12:00 PM Endowment Committee Lunch

6:00 PM Potluck Dinner with Board, Davis Hall

Friday, May 3

12:00 PM Communications Committee Davis Hall

Sunday, May 5

10:00 AM Sunday Service, Sanctuary

11:00 AM Congregational Meeting, Sanctuary

Summer Potlucks

From the Linkage Team

Time to mark your calendars for our traditional summer potluck events with PUUF.

Family and friends welcome. More details to follow.

June 22 Potluck at PUUF

July 6 Picnic, Goldwater Lake

Aug. 10 Potluck at PUUF

Sept. 28 Potluck at GPUUC





Ethan Davis Award recipient—Kelsey Wilkes.

The Leadership Development Committee is proud to announce this year’s Ethan Davis Award recipient—Kelsey Wilkes.

The Ethan Davis Leadership Fund was established to encourage development of lay leaders of the congregation. Ethan was especially interested in sponsoring congregational leaders to attend GA. Kelsey will be using her award for exactly that purpose—to attend this year’s General Assembly in Spokane, WA and to serve as one of our congregation’s delegates.

MaryAnn Clark, Leadership Development Committee Chair

SAWUURA Memorial Day Campout

Friday – Monday, May 24-27, 2019



SAWUURA, our UU camp in the Sierra Ancha Mountains hosts a campout every Memorial Day and Labor Day, where UUs and their family & friends are invited to tent camp, share meals & kitchen duties, activities and worship. Relax and deepen your spiritual connection with nature, play, hike, bird/star watch, sing & singe s’mores around the campfire.

Fees are \$45 for adults and \$25 for children under 16 (or \$35 & \$25 for members). Deadline for registration is May 20, 2019.

Important: SAWUURA is located in wilderness near the town of Young, AZ, 2 miles down a rough dirt road. Also, our latrines are pit toilets/outhouses.

Please join us at www.sawuura.org .

“The answer is never the answer. What’s really interesting is the mystery. If you seek the mystery instead of the answer, you’ll always be seeking. ...The need for mystery is greater than the need for an answer.” Ken Kesey

**The Forum
9:30 am
Wednesdays**

Meetings are on Wednesdays from 9:30 am. to 11 am, with coffee and cold beverages provided. We won't solve all the world's problems, but we will discuss them and learn from each other.



YOU YOU: an open support group for people who want to deal with obstacles in their lives and explore moving forward, together. Facilitated by Joelle Katan. We'll create it together in the spirit of faith, deep listening, and collective wisdom. Meeting First and Third Wednesdays from 1 to 2 pm at Granite Peak UUC.

Thank You, Reverend Terry

Potluck May 23, 5:00 -7:30

Join us in a celebration of all that we have shared during Reverend Terry’s time as our interim minister. Though she won’t leave town until mid-June, this was the evening that fit the crowded schedule. Non-alcoholic beverages provided. Bring some wine, if you prefer. If you want more information on the kind of tribute being planned or if you can help with set up or clean up, contact Norma Meier. Music, surprises, and fun are promised for this special event.

**Caregivers’ Support Group
now at 1:30 pm**

Our group will be meeting once a month and then according to the needs of the group. If you are a caregiver who feel you would benefit from sharing your experiences with others please join us on the **fourth Wednesday of the month at 1:30 pm** at Granite Peak. For questions please contact Bobbie Bollinger.



2019 Rummage Sale Wrap Up

We would like to thank everyone who helped with planning and advertising, donating items, set up and display, pricing, monitoring during the sale, food for workers and baked goods to sell, clean up, cashiering, clean up on Sat., pickup and delivery, counting money and deposits.

You have heard “it takes a village to raise a child,” we believe it takes a village to have a Rummage Sale!

There were questions during the week about when and how it all started. In talking to Nancy Reid-McKee, we decided it probably started in 2003 by her and Barbara Braswell to raise money for the Children’s Religious Education Program. We remembered putting out clothes and a few other items in Davis Hall on a Friday evening, had the sale on Saturday, cleaned up and were ready for services on Sunday.

Within a year or two we moved into the Sanctuary and rather than designating a specific program, the money went into the General Fund. In about 2011, Anna Bess Robinson joined the planning committee and suggested the Boutique so the nursery was added as a sales room. It was also becoming obvious that the Sanctuary was no longer large enough so we expanded into Davis Hall.

In 2010 Charlotte Skuse became chair of the committee and each year we managed to raise more money for the Congregation. The Finance Committee began to count on the two Fund raisers, Auction and Rummage Sale, to bring in a certain amount of money for budget purposes.

This year monetarily we fell a little short of our goal but we did “donate to the congregation” the third book case and 2 new chairs for the Library, 4 nice chairs that now reside in Davis Hall, some furniture for the Faith Development Building, items for the Nursery and a few things for the Kitchen.

The Rummage Sale is a huge endeavor and we want to thank all who helped make it a huge success.



Calling all Fabric Artists and Quilters!

We are looking for fabric pieces that can decorate the pulpit and the tables on the sides of the sanctuary. Do you have some stunning fabric and designs that can make our space beautiful? Dimensions: the pulpit space is 22.5” wide and 44” from top to floor. The side boxes/tables are 25x25” on top, and 28” from top to floor. Please contact the Worship Committee if you have questions or donations!

Nominees for the Board, Nominating Committee and Endowment Committee.



Russ Erickson, nominee for Board Treasurer:

Russ Erickson: I retired after a 38-year career in teaching and school administration. I worked for 22 years overseas in eight different countries and 17 years in US schools.

I began attending GPUUC in the fall of 1999 and became a member shortly thereafter. I have served as a member of the Committee on Ministry for three different terms, twice as chairperson. I have also served on the Board as Secretary once and as Board Treasurer twice.

I served on the La Tierra Community School Board for 6 years; five as Treasurer and one year as President. My educational background has developed my organizational skills as well as my skill as a mediator.

Bill Betts, nominee for At-Large Member of Board of Trustees



I have been a member of GPUUC for four years since moving to Prescott from Tucson. I am seeking a second two-year term on the Board of Trustees. I will continue to focus on Facilities related 2019 goals of Safety, Security and Accessibility in addition to overall maintenance of buildings and grounds.

I have volunteered in the past for CC4 and Special Olympics locally and for other organizations in my 42 years in Tucson.

I have held leadership positions in several professional organizations such as Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation, American College of Clinical Engineering, and chaired the International Certification Commission for Clinical Engineering. Recently I held leadership positions in the Academy Village HOA in Tucson.

I hold advanced degrees in Clinical Engineering and Business Administration. My education coupled with my leadership and financial skills should be of value to the members of GPUUC. I feel that GPUUC has contributed greatly to our quality of life and I am eager to serve in ways that give back to this vibrant community. I am willing to actively serve if elected to the Board. Thank you for your consideration.

Drew Potter, nominee Candidate for At-Large Member of Board of Trustees



Drew was born November 29, 1926 in St. Petersburg, Florida. After a short time in the Navy during WW2, he graduated from the University of Florida at Gainesville and went on to get a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. In 1953, he married Shirley Barrett and began working for the NACA, the precursor to NASA.

He stayed with NASA until he retired in 1997. During most of his career, he worked at the Johnson Space Center in Houston providing scientific support to the manned spaceflights (Apollo, Skylab and the Space Shuttle).

After he retired in 1997, he became associated with the National Solar Observatory in Tucson Arizona, and worked part time there as a planetary astronomer until 2013. He still collaborates with some NASA astronomers.

In 2015, the International Astronomical Union re-named asteroid number 53629 to "Andrewpotter" in recognition of his work on Mercury and the Moon.

Rhea Batterman, candidate for the Nominating Committee.



Rhea is a New York transplant and moved to Prescott in 2011 after retiring from a wonderful career as a financial controller for a ladies dress company. Although she had no college education in accounting, Rhea worked her way up to comptroller in two large firms in the garment district in NY City. Six years ago she retired and decided to move to Prescott where her sister and brother-in-law had lived for 18 years. Prescott has been a good fit and Rhea is now involved in line dancing, bridge, mahjong, and social justice issues. During tax season she volunteers with AARP assisting folks to have their income taxes prepared.

In 2018, she attended GPUUC where her neighbor in the Gardens community, Udelle Stuckey, attended. She immediately felt welcomed although, as a Jewish woman, she had never heard of Unitarian Universalism before beginning to attend GPUUC. She has become involved in our congregation, singing in the choir, serving on the Sanctuary committee, and cooking and preparing food for various events. She prepared and served a Seder dinner for the congregation and explained the rituals and customs of Seder and has plans to present another Seder dinner although this time Rhea will have some congregation help with cooking.

She says she likes being busy, but not too busy, enjoying the pleasures of retirement and being involved in the community.

As of 4/24/2019, there is no nominee for the Endowment Committee.



**General Assembly
2019—June 19-23,
Spokane, WA,
*The Power of We***

In a time of great challenge and heartbreak in our world, what does our faith demand from us? At this year’s General Assembly we will explore the power, possibility, purpose, struggle and joy of finding the path forward together as Unitarian Universalists.

The 2019 Ware Lecturer is Richard Blanco. Selected by President Obama as the fifth inaugural poet in U.S. history, Richard Blanco is the youngest and the first Latino, immigrant, and gay person to serve in such a role.



RSVP are appreciated! Please let Paula Burroughs know if you plan to come to the Ordination:

(And childcare will be provided if you RSVP that you need it!)

**FUNdraising
Events**



These Spring FUNdraising events supported Granite Peak and WERE really “fun!e” plan to invite these groups back and hope you can join us!

Lisa Lynne & Aryeh Frankfurter. An enchanting concert of Celtic harps, rare instruments & wondrous stories played on March 10 in the Sanctuary. It was wonderful!

Also on Saturday, March 30th, MINT Jazz Group with Lore Christensen, played at Granite Peak at the PARIS IN PRESCOTT Spring event. Link to see Dee Hams at Paris in Prescott on March 30:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bFtakJrnTp0>

Sunday Soup and Munch



NO Soup and Munch for May.

**Children’s Religious
Education**

*Cassie Delaney
Faith Development Coordinator*



Children’s Faith Development will focus on Earth conscious ideas and will include much time in our garden as well. Please send your kids in comfortable clothes that are okay to get messy. We are still in need of volunteers for May lessons, please let me know if you have a Sunday that you’d like to volunteer.

May 4th date night at GPUUC from 4:30-7:30. \$7 donation per child. Pizza, movie, and games will be provided. Please invite a friend! Text or call Cassie by May 1st to RSVP please/

2019 Summer Camp



The Faith Development committee is developing a scholarship program to help send Granite Peak youth to summer camp at Camp De Benneville Pines in Angelus Oaks, California in the San Bernardino Mountains.

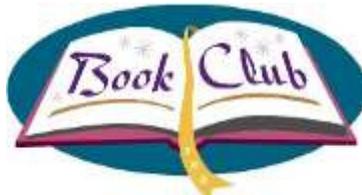
We will be offering scholarships that will reimburse one-half of the registration cost.

This year the summer camps will be held as follows

- * UU Elementary School Summer Camp (Completed Grades 2-5) 7/07 - 7/13
- * UU Middle School Summer Camp (Completed Grades 6-8) 7/14 - 7/20
- * UU Senior High Summer Camp (Completed Grades 9-12) 7/21 - 7/27

If you are interested in this opportunity please contact Clark Reid-McKee.

Radical Tapioca Fruit Soup Literary Guild



By Norma West

Everyone who loves reading is welcome to join us for a lively book discussion on the 4th Saturday of each month from 10 am-12 noon.

We are once again going to meet at the Manzanita Common House thanks to Joan Burrell's generosity. Coffee and tea will be provided and if you'd like to bring a sack lunch or a snack for others to share it's fine. It's also fine just to show up and share your love of reading with us!

May 25, 2019: *"The Miracle Life of Edgar Mint"* by Brady Udall

June 22, 2019: *"The Line Becomes a River: Dispatches From The Border"* by Francisco Cantu

Music Director News

by Noelene Patterson



Music soothes the soul.

What a year it has been for the choir and we enjoyed singing under the leadership of many of the professional musicians in Prescott. We have grown both in numbers and in a better understanding of musical technique.

Kris Parsons and Lila Witt have given much time to the choir as librarians and from all of us, sincere thanks. Kris also plays the flute occasionally that adds much to the service music. What a talented group we have at Granite Peak and I know there must be more of you that love to sing. So, I encourage you to join us in the fall. I have had many former members say they will be back and by that time we will have a music director chosen.

We have much to look forward to in May with Patty Willis speaking on May 5. The choir will be singing under the leadership of Jonathan Best and I will finish the season by conducting for the last performance on May 19.

Have a wonderful summer and hoping to see more of you in choir next fall.

"We must be willing to fail and to appreciate the truth that often 'Life is not a problem to be solved, but a mystery to be lived.'" M. Scott Peck



Fun at the St. Patrick's Day Party in 2019.

Second Monday Drum Circle



Granite Peak UUC:

882 Sunset Ave Prescott AZ 86305

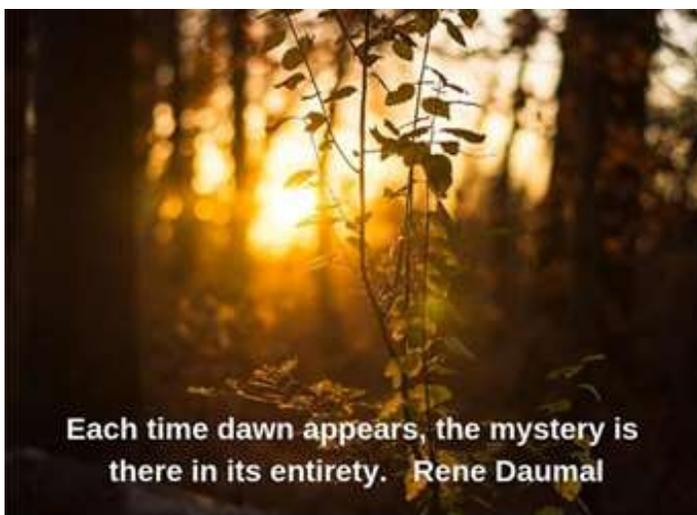
May 13, 2019: 6PM - 7PM

The month of May is one to enjoy from the beginning to end. Nature is in full bloom, and the blossoms are of promise and hope for a future that is a full and bountiful harvest. Taste the sweet wine of May, and gaze at the profusion of wild flowers. Linger in the woodland glen and fern-filled glade and perhaps catch a glimpse of the bright elfin folk who dwell there. Dance the round dance with joy in your heart and rejoice as the Maypole is entwined. Then drum.

“The drum has been called the heartbeat of Mother Earth, the heartbeat of nations, the heartbeat of all life. Its sound evokes natural imagery, awakens the senses, and stirs the soul. It’s a symbol of life, a symbol of hope, a symbol of healing.”

Please feel free to bring a reading or story to share, this is a safe place.

All are welcome and encouraged to join in... there are extra drums and shakers to share.



Each time dawn appears, the mystery is there in its entirety. Rene Daumal

Photo by Oliver Hahn on Unsplash

Social Justice Ministry

By Mirel Manning
Social Justice Coordinator



Dearest congregants,

May is always a strong call to solidarity for me. Around the world, May Day celebrations recognize wins and struggles within the labor movement. To me, it’s a reminder that the things we do on a daily basis are the building blocks of larger social movements.

One of the Social Justice Council’s goals is to keep the congregation informed of social justice opportunities and to promote increased engagement. On April 14th, we held a social justice update, to which 31 people attended.

When asked what people liked best about the social justice program and what they would like to see improved, answers included: the social justice draws people to our congregation, Empty Bowls, continue support for a paid social justice coordinator, do a big effort like the Miller Valley project, open the process of Seeds of Support, and publicize our social justice more in the weekly view.

When asked how participating in social justice at GPUUC has impacted them, people responded: the energy in the community is life changing, the intersectionality between GPUUC and issues in the community, participation provides support of like minded members of the congregation, promotes individual spiritual growth, the Black Lives Matter banner is affirming, and being at the UU has increased personal political action.

In the survey, people listed many issues they are interested in, including confronting racism, immigration, education, and the environment. Our congregation has a wide range of experiences and skills. From how caring you all are, it should come as no surprise that we have a lot of teachers and social workers in our midst!

Some comments included: “Social justice is a lifeline to the community,” “I’d like to see more urgency

about current issues such as the atrocities at the border,” and “We’ve become a social justice beacon in our community. We can’t lose momentum now!” We will continue to survey and interview the congregation about social justice projects.

May you be energized by the fresh spring air, grounded in the warm sun, and called to action by the wind.

Social Justice Reflective Service:

First Wednesday of the Month
 Wednesday May 1 at 7:00 am.



Everyone is invited to join in this powerful early morning Social Justice Reflective Service that is held on the first Wednesday of every month. Through this service we connect with each other and support our social justice work as a truly spiritual practice. Yes this is very early in the morning for many of us but it is well worth the effort!

checks designated for SOS in the memo line will be accepted all month long. Please give generously to our local organizations that ARE making a difference in our community.



What is the Green Sanctuary Program?

The Vision of the UUA Green Sanctuary (GS) Program is a world that is viable and just for humanity and for the whole of the web of life, including present and future generations.

Its Mission is to provide structure, leadership and support to for UU congregations to engage in an ambitious Environmental Justice and Climate Justice movement that seeks to live fully our Seventh Principle and achieve our vision of a viable and just world for all.

Among the identified goals and strategies are:

- Act with love and justice to heal the earth, our home.
- Support frontline communities to protect people and the web of life.
- Take courageous action to fight against environmental and climate injustices.
- Build movement capacity and collaboration for effective action.

UUA’s Green Sanctuary certification program was created in 1989. GPUU received its initial certification in 2003. Since all programs change and evolve the GS Team will be working through an updated lens.

This new lens requires a fresh level of congregational engagement; one which is infused with a spirit and passion to join others in life- and planet-saving work given the increasingly urgent need for courageous action to fight climate change and the environmental and human injustices that it causes (climate justice).

We would be delighted to have you join our team, provide input and insight as well as support. Please contact Shea Richland. For additional information, please visit:

<https://www.uua.org/environment/sanctuary>.



Seeds of Support for May is UUJAZ

The vision of UUJAZ is to energize people of faith to create an environmentally sustainable, spiritually fulfilling, socially just life for all those who live in Arizona.

The mission of UUJAZ is to engage Arizona Unitarian Universalists in justice making through nurturing congregational social justice ministries, connecting UU activists and congregations across the state, partnering with like-minded justice organizations, and empowering UUs to work for socially just public policy.

Seeds of Support Policy:

In the spirit of generosity our congregation will donate HALF of the first four Sundays, in a month, cash plate to the SOS recipient of the month AND

“Every life is complicated, every mind a kingdom of unmapped mysteries.” Dean Koontz