



The View

June 2024

Granite Peak
Unitarian Universalist Congregation
882 Sunset Avenue
Prescott, AZ 86305
(928) 541-0000
<http://www.prescottuu.org>

Worship : All worship services are held at 10:00 am, unless otherwise noted. Join us on ZOOM or in-person for the Sunday Service. Please see the Weekly Peak for updates.

June 2, Rev. Patty Willis: "Imagine a Nation: How do we survive the red, white, and blue in this divided nation?"

This is a sermon topic won at our auction by John Fetter. Where could our imagination take us? Bring your ideas and your passion to this service.

June 9, Rev. Patty Willis: "A Blessing for the Road Ahead."

As we consider the road ahead, what is the role of faith? When have you needed to make a decision but all the options held risk? When you stepped ahead, did angel hands lift you up? The choir will sing "On the Holy Mountain," a song that Rev. Patty wrote lyrics for when she was deciding to enter the seminary.

June 16, Rev Patty Willis: "Fathers Who Went to War."

What can we learn from our fathers who made the great sacrifice of going to war. On the Courthouse Plaza of Prescott, we find the memorials to the loss of wars. On the walls of every church Rev. Patty visited in France were plaques to those who had died in the First and Second World Wars. How do we honor these losses as we hope to make peace?

June 23, Meg Bohrman: To be announced .

Please check the Weekly Peak for updates.

June 30. Rev. Becky Gunn: Declaration of Independence: "Idealism, Courage, and Sacrifice."

In our divisive and conflicted country, we need to recover our belief in the possibility of democracy and understand the purpose and benefits of democracy. Let us remember our less-than-perfect forefathers who were idealistic, courageous and willing to sacrifice much for freedom. Today let us celebrate the intentions of our Founders.

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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.

Minister's Message

Rev. Patty Willis



The Mountains We Have Climbed

When I was a university student, I camped with Navajo students who were also in my geology lab. They told scary stories as the darkness crept around us and the stars came out one after another, the fire crackling and making tiny holes in my grandmother's wool blanket that was my cover.

We woke at dawn to climb up to the peak of Timpanogos Mountain. This was a well-traveled path, not the kind of dangerous hike that many of you have accomplished. The morning air was cold with the smell of pine needles sharp in our noses. I was probably wearing Keds tennis shoes and jeans and a T-shirt. We found a rhythm to our walk and some hours later arrived at a place from which we could see the summit.

All of the other students made that last stretch to the top. I stayed behind and watched their progress. Not climbing to the top was a choice. For me, getting to the top was just another goal and I didn't believe in goals for they seemed to destroy the moment. Although at that time I was a deeply believing member of the Mormon Church, I held the Unitarian Universalist interest in the journey rather than the destination.

Our newest members, Jack and Mary Fran Bennett, have a plaque from the Guinness Book of World Records in their home. He was the first person to climb all of the highest peaks in Canada. He is a neighbor and the one who spoke to me about a walk into the Grand Canyon which I accomplished—all the way down and up—in December of 2022. Thank you, Jack. The journey was hard. I was still recovering from my bout with COVID and was not in my best condition. I am proud of that walk.

My time with Granite Peak has been a brush with that pesky world of goals. I have befriended getting to destinations and find myself proud of walking 1000 miles of a pilgrimage route and doing that hike into and out of the Grand Canyon. If I were to go up

Timpanogos again, I would definitely go that last stretch. You have helped me believe in climbing mountains.

I believe that together, we have accomplished much. The pandemic was a mountain that we climbed together all the way to the top, with no path but the one we forged.

Of the fruits of our shared COVID ministry, I am most proud of our Neighborhood Outreach Ministry. We still have a food pantry on Fridays that has given us relationships with neighbors. LINC is now becoming part of that ministry which has also been providing for the needs of immigrant families and others in need. I believe that this ministry embodies who we are.

It was our outreach into the greater community that became CCJ, a place where people who do not have houses can find refuge. Empty Bowls is reaching into the greater community to help with the growing food insecurity. Responding to the needs we encounter, we are focusing the reach of our opportunity scholarship on certificates that would lead to viable work for the children of immigrant families. Through these certificates, we will be empowering young people to climb mountains.

I will be talking more about this in our service on June 9 which will be followed by a "*Songs of the Earth*" concert to raise money for the "*Feed Your Neighbors*" program. Do you know that the community connected with us through the Neighborhood Outreach Ministry has the most recipients for their program? That means that we have been able to connect the farmers with the places of food insecurity in that wonderful reciprocity that benefits all.

We have another mountain to climb as we say goodbye. Let us look back at our years together and value all that we have done together. This will be hard. It is easy to look back and see what we couldn't do! But let us take this challenge and see those mountain tops we climbed. There are more ahead. You have a mountain to climb in making the decision about what to do with the sanctuary. Do not shy away from this decision but forge ahead. We have been walking since dawn and the summit is in sight.

With a newly found love of mountaintops, Patty
Rev. Patty Willis

From the President

Rick Denney



Well! We at Granite Peak UUC find ourselves in a situation very different from our situation two months ago! With Rev. Patty's resignation, we are faced with finding a new minister. Members of your Board of Trustees made a valiant effort to work with the Unitarian Universalist Association to secure an Interim Minister who would begin service on August 1. Sadly, that effort came to naught.

We have been advised by UUA professionals to convert to a search for a Contract Minister, rather than an Interim. I know some congregants were never in favor of hiring an Interim Minister, in part because of the likely two-year commitment to someone who would by contract have to leave after their time here was up.

There is one advantage to a contract, rather than an interim, arrangement: more flexibility in the contractual agreement. If we find a Contract Minister we are pleased with, and who is happy with us, they can stay as long as it is mutually agreeable. Your Board is determined to work through the process of finding a suitable candidate, though we all must be patient during this transitional time.

We all can be pleased and proud that our Annual Congregational Meeting on May 5 was such a success. We easily passed the budget that was made possible by a remarkably successful Stewardship campaign. Thanks, Stewards! We are fortunate to have such a talented and dedicated Stewardship team. At that meeting, we also elected Dick Walter as a new Board member to replace the incomparable Bobbie Bollinger. Welcome, Dick, and thank you, Bobbie, for your years of selfless service!

To round out an incredibly busy fiscal year that ends June 30, please plan to come to a formal presentation on June 2 (after service) of some options for much-needed upgrades and three possible Sanctuary renovation alternatives. The Project Team has

worked tirelessly to distill ideas from many members who over the years have sincerely wanted to improve the ambiance of our Sanctuary. One option would leave the current Sanctuary roof and ceiling intact, but improve their lighting and general appearance. Two other, more extensive options, would convert the flat ceiling to a higher, pitched ceiling.

Yes, all options include changing the carpet! The Sunday after the June 2 presentation, there will be a Community Chat on June 9 to answer questions and seek feedback about the alternative plans. Finally, on June 16 the Board is calling a Special Congregational meeting where we will vote on which, if any, of these options we should pursue as we look to the future. Be aware that all the contemplated options will require congregational approval to establish a capital fundraising campaign. Please plan to participate in this momentous decision about the future of our sanctuary!

Rick Denney, Board President.



Board Buzz, Board goals for 2023-2024: Highlights of May 21, 2024, Board Meeting

1. Promote positive relationships that utilize clear, respectful communication.
2. Create a greater welcome through upkeep and changes to the exterior grounds, entry, and interior of our building that would better reflect our values and pride in our tradition.
3. Facilitate a clear congregational decision about the sanctuary remodel.

Update on Ministerial Search: With the resignation of Rev. Patty at the end of June, the Search Committee has been exploring ministerial options available to our congregation. Due in part to the small number of Interim Ministers searching for congregations, Granite Peak's pursuit of an Interim Minister was unsuccessful.

Our next option is to hire a Contract Minister which may be more in line with what some congregants saw as more appropriate for the state of our congregation.

Contract ministers are hired for one year with an option to renew and may be called by a congregation if they are a good match. There are many questions to be answered so the Search Committee will be attending an all-day Zoom conference presented by the UUA in June which explains all about Contract Ministry to the UU congregations across the country who are in search.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer, Tracy Augustine, has been working closely with the Finance Committee. Bottom line: We are in good financial shape! We are now at 87% of our current fiscal year. Our total revenue to date is 87% of budgeted income. Our total expenses are at 83%.

Minister's Report: Rev. Patty and the Social Justice team have been working extensively with our Neighborhood Outreach Ministry. This is touching lives by establishing community relationships, restructuring our former LINC program, and running our Food Pantry. They are considering placing a portion of the Brownlee funds into scholarship programs at Yavapai College for undocumented students. The Social Justice team feels strongly that they are working better at this time without a paid Social Justice coordinator.

Sanctuary Renovation Planning: Granite Peak is at its Visioning stage of what congregants want to see happen in upgrading our Sanctuary. The Projects Team has been working extensively to present three suggested options with ballpark costs to the congregation on Sunday, June 2. The following Sunday, June 9, a Congregational Chat will enable questions and answers and on Sunday, June 16 a preferential vote on one of the three plans will be taken. Once the Projects Team knows which option the congregation prefers, the stage will be set for fundraising. Before committing to a Capital Campaign congregants would know the specifics of what their funds would be supporting.

A list of current Board Members is on the last page of each monthly View. (See this copy.)

The Next Board meeting will be on Tuesday, June 18 from 3:30 – 5:00 pm.

Important Meetings After Sunday Service!

Sunday, June 2: Presentation of Sanctuary Renovation Options.

Sunday, June 9: Congregational chat on the Options.

Sunday, June 16,: Congregation Meeting—Vote on the Options!

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; and
- Serves the world we live in.

Farewell Gathering for Rev. Patty Willis and Mary Lou Prince, Saturday, June 15, 2024

“Mountains We Have Climbed Together”

Dear Beloved Community, Please come and celebrate Patty and Mary Lou's six years of ministry at Granite Peak UU Congregation. If you would like to come and say goodbye and share a memory, please come! Of course, our marvelous choir will sing!

- Program from 5:00 - 5:45 pm in the Sanctuary
- Potluck at 6:00 pm in Davis Hall
- Dancing and music from 6:45 pm or until everyone gets tired.

Please RSVP for planning to 928 541-0000 or granitepeakuu@gmail.com



The Forum

Zoom meetings are on Wednesdays from 10:00 am to 11:30 am. We won't solve all the world's problems, but we will discuss them and learn from each other.

Contact Fred Kraps for "The Forum" information. <https://zoom.us/j/524691598> (Password=Forum)

Women's Group & Men's Group

Interested in joining one of our Women's Groups here at GPUUC?

Please contact Charlotte Skuse.

Interested in joining our Men's Groups here at GPUUC? Please contact Russ Erickson.



The general sessions are:

- 11 am and 1 pm on Thursday, June 20,
- 11:30 pm on Friday, June 21 and
- Saturday June 22, (Ware Lecture) and
- noon on Sunday, June 23.

The Ware Lecture by Julia Watts Belser, (she/her) a rabbi, scholar, spiritual teacher and a longtime activist for disability and gender justice, is at 4 pm on Saturday, June 22. For more information about Rabbi Belser, see <https://www.uua.org/ga/program/highlights/ware-lecture>

Join us June 20 - 23 for an all-virtual General Assembly 2024. Full online registration includes access to GA 2024 in the WHOVA event app, as well as on-demand programming, featured speakers, and major worships.

[Click here for registration page.](#)



New to GPUUC Class

Are you new to Granite Peak or to Unitarian Universalism or do you just want to know more about our history?

Join us for community and conversation.
Lunch and drinks included.
Date to be Determined.

Please register, once we have those interested we will determine a date.

Contact the GPUUC Office to Register 928 541-0000 or granitepeakuu@gmail.com



MahJong!

The Tuesday afternoon MahJong group is now meeting at 1:00 pm in Davis Hall and welcomes new

members. If you're an experienced player, just drop in and join us. If you have never played, you may either drop in and learn by watching or call or email one of us for a private lesson. We're very happy to teach.

Lila Witt.



The Leadership Development Committee has made arrangements for members and friends of the congregation to watch the GA general (business) sessions and the Ware Lecture in the sanctuary.

Third (3rd) Wednesday of the Month in Davis Hall - We are looking for people to join the **Bridge Group.**



A commitment is required, no Drop Ins.
Please contact Bonnie Forte.

Meet Bill Swahlen



Bill Swahlen found our Congregation almost a year ago, though he spends the colder months “down in “the Valley” – where it is more comfortable to play his favorite outdoor sport: tennis. He’s actually a native of Arizona, where his family had a cattle ranch in Tempe before all the houses sprung up.

The college years found Bill in Southern California, where he studied economics. Trying his hand in business as a purchasing agent for a manufacturing company in San Francisco he found that business life not to his liking. Working outdoors suited him better, using his skills in construction work, which led to carpentry, which led to a contractor license and building houses for the last 40 years.

While searching for a spiritual connection he became interested in Eastern religions, specifically Buddhism, and was part of a movement for a while. He liked the more open and progressive outlook of our congregations, particularly the involvement in social justice, an aspect that is important to him.

His parents had retired to Prescott and in 2009 he moved here also to be near them in their declining years. He grew up in the Episcopal faith, but during his college years, that connection pretty well went by the wayside. Looking for a community that shares his values he found our Congregation.

As a UU member, he let no grass grow under his feet and joined our activities. He did not hesitate to help with last Fall’s Auction. He just recently also became a member of our Project Committee. That’s the group that is charged with looking at our perennially talked-about building plans. With his professional background in the building trade, he seems a natural choice for this committee. His extensive experience

in that field should give us a valuable voice in our search for our long-term effort in maybe transforming our building. Be sure to get to know him and maybe during coffee hour find out more about this personable relatively new member.

June Birthdays

| Last Name | First Name | June |
|------------|------------|------|
| Erickson | Jon | 4 |
| Anderson | Barbara | 8 |
| Korade | Timothy | 10 |
| Wilson | Barbara | 12 |
| Beeson | Frank | 13 |
| Bunnell | Paul | 16 |
| Moran | Patrick | 17 |
| Bostrom | Bev | 18 |
| Riordan | Dan | 18 |
| Burroughs | Paula | 21 |
| Gappa-Levi | Lavon | 24 |
| Keen | Jane | 26 |

Front Door Renovation Project.





The Pagan Gathering is Celebrating Litha: the Summer Solstice

June 15 11-12:30, Faith Development Building

The Summer Solstice (aka Litha or Midsummer) marks the longest day and shortest night of the year. In the past and present, many cultures have celebrated it with various rituals and customs, such as bonfires and dancing. Come learn about its history and its significance for modern pagans, as well as fun ways to celebrate it.

“Paganism is an umbrella term that covers many spiritual traditions and beliefs that have existed since ancient times. There are many different types of Pagan religions, each with its own set of beliefs and practices. Some of the most popular include Wicca, Druidism, Asatru, Heathenism, and Shamanism. By understanding the history and beliefs of these religions, we can gain a deeper appreciation for the beauty and complexity of the world around us.”



Stonewall Riots Anniversary—June 28

June 28, 1969 marks the beginning of the Stonewall Uprising, a series of events between police and LGBTQ+ protesters which stretched over six days. It was not the first time police raided a gay bar, and it was not the first time LGBTQ+ people fought back, but the events that would unfold over the next six days would fundamentally change the discourse surrounding LGBTQ+ activism in the United States.

Music Notes

Mary Lou Prince



A few years ago at a UU music conference, someone asked the question: “When did you know for sure that your life would be music?” For me, the answer was clear and quick. It was when I was 13 years old and I had the good fortune to be able to travel to the UK with my parents for a month. We entered a cathedral somewhere in England and an organist was playing an organ solo in one of Brahms’ symphonies. I recognized the piece and was moved to tears when I heard it.

At that moment, I knew, somehow, that my life would be music, even though I wasn’t sure how that would come to be or what it would look like in my future. But I knew. And ever since that moment, somehow, my life has been music.

When I came to Prescott in 2019, I became the music director at Granite Peak and it has been a great joy in my life. I have loved the choir and we have worked closely together on worship service music and music that we could take into the community. We have given benefit concerts of music that Patty and I composed for several organizations and raised thousands of dollars. We have laughed together and cried together. We have endured the pandemic together and we kept going through all of the challenges.

I will truly miss being here and I’m hopeful that I’ll be leaving you in good hands. My heartfelt thanks to all of you, especially Lena for her incredible support and willingness to play all of the music that I asked her to play!

Our choir is joining forces with the Interfaith Choir for a concert on June 9 at Trinity Presbyterian Church at 3:00 PM. We will sing *Songs of the Earth*, a choral song cycle that Patty and I composed (she wrote the lyrics and storytelling and I wrote the music). This will be a benefit concert for “*Feed Your Neighbors*,” the program that Marie Higgins talked to us about during one of our worship services in May. Please put that date on your calendars and join us for this event!

Adult Faith Development

By MaryAnn Clark

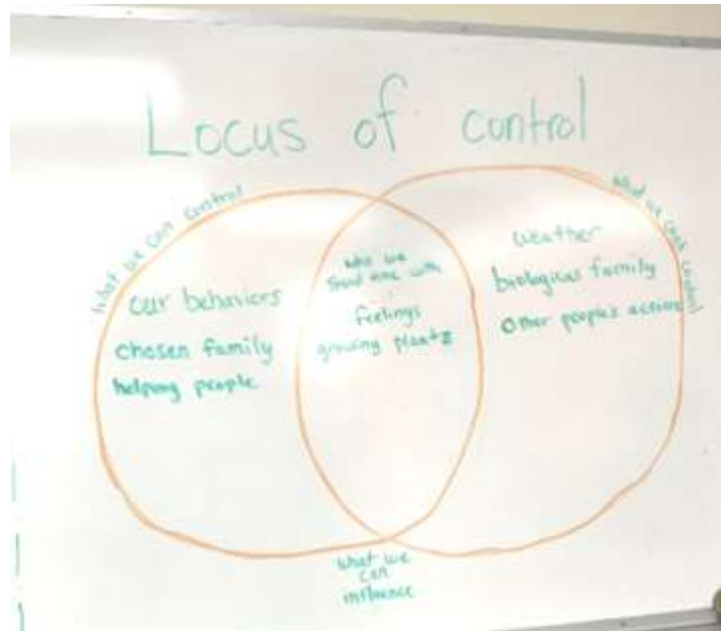


The GPUUC Adults Faith Development program has finished for this year. We will resume classes in the fall. If you have any suggestions or would like to volunteer to present a class, please contact Mary Ann Clark, Jo Sprague or Annette Shellenger.

Thanks, Mary Ann

May 5, 2024: Sensory Activities

Today's remarkable lesson was provided by Ainslee. Sensory perception and feelings were explored with the students. Sensory issues are problems related to processing information from the senses, e.g. sight, sound, and touch. Ainslee read books about sensory processing. There was a discussion about "sensory overload", what it means, and what it feels like. The students created their own sensory bottles to take home.



Faith Development Happenings

By Sandra Palacios

April 28, 2024: Riding on a Cloud

The students learned about different kinds of clouds. Clouds form when the air becomes saturated, or filled, with water vapor. We learned about various clouds such as arcus, undulatus, asperitas, cirrus, cumulus, stratus, and nimbus. The students went outside to look at the clouds in the sky. They learned how to draw and then paint a cloud.



May 19, 2024: The First People of Prescott

The students spent time out in the garden with Stephen Lovejoy. They enjoyed looking at the blooming poppies. They were excited to see herbs that they planted last season making a comeback.



There were discussions about what kind of food the Yavapai people planted and cultivated, including the “Three Sisters”- corn, squash, and beans.



The students also enjoyed playing on the new outdoor playground equipment.

Afterward, some students sampled the Succotash dish that was provided in Davis Hall.



June Seeds of Support is PRISM.

Building Bridges For Rural LGBTQ+ Communities Across Northern AZ.

What we do:

- **We host meetings:** PRISM hosts monthly coalition meetings to bring the **LGBTQ+** community and allies together.
- **We provide resources:** PRISM provides resources and referral information for all types of needs, including: healthcare, housing, food, employment, events, connections and much, much more!
- **We educate:** PRISM provides a range of community education and training for professionals, including: **LGBTQ+** education, specialized topics in **LGBTQ+** in a range of fields, and suicide prevention just to name a few.
- **We host events:** PRISM hosts signature events each year and supports events and happenings in the community at large.
- **We host faith bridge:** PRISM hosts a faith bridge program that builds bridges with churches to provide more inclusive spaces for fellowship.
- **We host NAZGEM:** NAZGEM is meant to support transgender and gender non-conforming people across the southwest.

June is LGBTQ+ PRIDE month!

