



The View

August 2026

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 any updates.

August 2, Jeanne Casteen, M Ed: “ Separation of Church and State.”

Learn about Arizona's post-primary political landscape and what we can do to combat Christian nationalism in our own backyard and at every level of government.

Jeanne Casteen is a former English and Social Studies teacher, and was a school board member for eight years. She is currently Executive Director and Lobbyist for *Secular Arizona*, a nonpartisan nonprofit advocacy organization dedicated to protecting the constitutional separation of church and state in Arizona. The organization educates lawmakers and the public, tracks state legislation, and mobilizes supporters to advance freedom of conscience and evidence-based public policy for Arizonans of all faiths and none.

August 9. Feather Levey: “Thriving While Neurodivergent.”

What does that mean, and why does it matter?”

Feather Levey is a South African immigrant who grew up in the Northeast of America. They moved to Prescott in July of 2025 to be a spiritual healer, and ended up in politics instead. A year later, life has settled down, and they are once again spending the majority of their time in spiritual practice. They graduated from Worcester Polytechnic Institute, a small polytechnic university, in Massachusetts with a bachelors in writing and a masters in business. Upon graduating they co-founded a technology company that created and patented a novel blockchain algorithm.

August 16, Rev. Michelle LaGrave: TBA. Please watch the Weekly Peak for information on this and the following services.

August 23, Rev. Michelle LaGrave: TBA.

August 30, Rev. Michelle LaGrave: TBA.

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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.



Ministerial Musings

Rev. Michelle LaGrave

Rev. Michelle is on leave. She will be in her office on Tuesday, August 11.

From the President

By Catherine Marsh

Thank you, Granite Peak, for the confidence and trust you have placed in me to help lead our congregation over the next couple of years. It is an honor to serve as President of the Board of Trustees.

A little about me: I am a scientist by training and have spent much of my career developing new technologies for the intelligence community and the Department of Defense. I became a Unitarian Universalist in what may seem like an unlikely place—Salt Lake City, Utah—when I was in my early thirties.

After moving back to Rhode Island, I became very active in the Westminster Unitarian Universalist Congregation in East Greenwich. I served as treasurer for several years and taught religious education for our teens, including the Our Whole Lives (OWL) curriculum. Later, after relocating to Northern Virginia, I became involved with the UU Church in Reston, where I taught religious education and participated in many congregational fundraisers. Eventually, I found a spiritual home at River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation (RRUUC), where I was an active member for 15 years.

When I moved to Prescott in 2024, I was delighted to discover Granite Peak. From the moment I arrived, I found a welcoming congregation filled with caring people, and it quickly became a place I was proud to call home.



One of the most important opportunities before us this year will be the process of calling a settled minister. This will be an early priority for the Board, and we look forward to sharing more information and updates with the congregation in the coming weeks as the process unfolds.

As Board President, my goal is to lead with openness and transparency. If you have questions, concerns, or ideas that you would like the Board to consider, I encourage you to reach out. Your perspectives are important, and we will do our best to listen thoughtfully and respond in ways that strengthen our congregation.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve. What gives me hope is the warmth, generosity, and spirit of this congregation. From the moment I arrived, I felt welcomed, and I am grateful to call Granite Peak my spiritual home.. I look forward to working alongside all of you as we continue to nurture a welcoming community, grow together, and shape our future.

Wishing you all a wonderful month.

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.



Talk to the Board

Each month, on the third Sunday, you will find two board members in Davis Hall after the service who will be ready and willing to answer your questions, hear your concerns, or even just chat with you so you can get to know us.

Recurring Granite Peak Groups



CUUPS
3rd Saturday, 11-1:00 pm
Faith Development

Contact Sukey Jones—open to everyone.
Topic: (page 4.)



GP Forum

On Zoom, Wednesday
<https://zoom.us/j/524691598>
(Password=Forum)

Politics and Religion—
open to everyone.



Mahjong

Every Tuesday, 1 pm-2:30
Davis Hall

Contact Lila Witt,
open to everyone.



Meditation
Every Thursday, 3 pm Faith
Development

Buddhist teachings and
meditation—open to
everyone. Teacher is Peg Travis.



Moving Meditation
Every Wednesday 9-10 am.

Chi gong and similar meditative move-
ments. Led by Thomas Camargo.

Men's Group
Raven Boys



2nd Saturday, 8-10:30
Faith Development

Contact Russ Erickson for information.

Women's Groups

Varies

Contact Charlotte Skuse for information



Writers GP Group

Second (2nd) Thursday from
1:00 - 3:00 pm in the Faith
Development Bldg.

The group is open to all members and
friends of the congregation, both current
and aspiring writers.



Next Green Bag collection date: August 2nd!



LGBTQ

Welcoming Congregation





PAGAN GATHERING

August 22, 11 - 12:30

Faith Development Building

Among the Celts, in early August at the Lughnasadh celebration, the first fruits of the harvest were cut down and offered to the gods. Join us to give thanks as our vegetable gardens flourish and corn is bountiful and to consider what we are harvesting in our own lives.

We will also continue our discussion of "What is a Pagan?"

These gatherings are sponsored by Kindred Spirits, the Granite Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation (GPUUC) Chapter of the national Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS). The mission of the Kindred Spirits is to connect UUs and Pagans of many different faiths in an inclusive, welcoming space. We celebrate our Earth-based traditions in harmony with our UU principles.

Church Center Update

Emails have been sent to all members and friends inviting you to join our new online directory through Church Center) You can choose what information you share, and we encourage everyone to participate as other directory formats will be phased out.

If you need the invitation email re-sent, please contact Stephanie Willison at treasurer@prescottuu.org.

Important: In addition to joining the directory, please download and set up the Church Center app. This will allow you to access the directory, update your information, and use additional features as they become available.



Granite Peak Women: Save The Date of Sat., Aug. 29

The GPUUC Women's group, "Decadent Dames" is hosting an afternoon soiree from 3 to 5 pm in Davis Hall for ALL Granite Peak women. Please bring a savory appetizer, dessert or beverage to share.

Hope you can join us!

RSVP to Marianne Erickson.



Care Corner

Bev Bostrom is at home and is managing well following her July 15th spinal surgery. She welcomes phone calls, cards or texts.

Carol Miller is home following recent treatment for a broken hip. No Care Team needs at this point, however calls and cards are appreciated!

On behalf of the congregation, the Care Team expresses abundant thanks to an anonymous donor for the recently gifted Steinway piano. Our pianist, Lena Hubin, is over the moon and we are humbled by your generosity. This lovely instrument is the icing on the cake in our new sanctuary!

Please contact Bobbie Bollinger with Care Team concerns/needs.



GPUUC 2026 Fall Auction News

Do You Like Fun?

Join the fun as the Auction Team begins planning for the annual GPUUC fall auction that will include an online auction over several days, a silent auction and live auction on Friday, October 23rd! – SAVE THE DATE!

We will meet in person (And on Zoom) twice a month to discuss volunteer roles, a theme, food, auction items and other important auction details.

Auction Team meetings will be held twice a month through the fall. During that time, after one meeting each month, we will enjoy an early supper together at a nearby restaurant.

Please contact me if you would like to join the GPUUC Auction Team or if you have questions about this important GPUUC annual fundraiser.

Marianne Erickson, GPUUC Auction Co-Chair.



Cakes for the Queen of Heaven: In Ancient Times

Presented by Mary Ann Clark and Sue Wilkes

November 7, 14, 21, 28, and 11/4 from 1-3 in Faith Development Building.

An introduction to feminist theology and women's religious history with a focus on reclaiming women's contributions to art, literature and religion using the work of archeologists, anthropologists, and historians. Learn women's half of the human story and consider new questions about the earliest human civilizations.

For more information, contact Mary Ann Clark

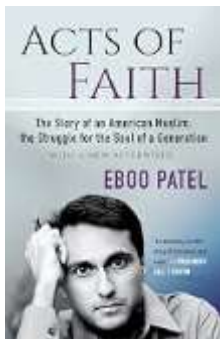
Adult Faith Development



Introduction to Islam

Presented by Mary Ann Clark and Sandi Brito

September 9, 16, 23 from 1-3 in Faith Development Building.



Come learn more about Islam from a scholar (Mary Ann) and a practicing Muslim (Sandi). If possible, before the first class, please read *Acts of Faith: The Story of an American Muslim, the Struggle for the Soul of a Generation*, by Eboo Patel. Copies are available in the GPUUC library.

For more information, contact Mary Ann Clark.

Faith Development Happenings

By Sandra Palacios



July 12, 2026: Charlie Brown's Philosophy

The philosophy of the character from the "Peanuts" cartoon strip by Charles Schulz is rooted in existential resilience and compassion.

Despite constantly facing failure and the "loveable loser" label that he embodies, Charlie Brown demonstrates the ultimate perseverance. His ethos centers on getting back up, loving others unconditionally and finding quiet meaning in a world meant to disappoint.



Existential Resilience: Charlie Brown is often cited by philosophers as a model of the modern existentialist. He continuously faces absurdity; whether it is Lucy pulling away the football as he is about to kick, a kite-eating tree or perpetual defeat on the baseball mound.

- *“Life is like an ice cream cone: you have to learn to lick it.”*
- *“I have a new philosophy: I’m only going to dread one day at a time.”*
- *“I think I’ve discovered the secret of life: you just hang around until you get used to it”.*

The students drew a picture of Charlie Brown, following a step-by-step procedure for today’s activity.

July 19, 2026: Contemplating the “F” Word: Fruits!

Fruits are natural nutrients, packed with essential vitamins, minerals, fiber and antioxidants.

Eating a diverse, color-rich variety of fruit is associated with a lower risk of chronic health conditions including heart disease, stroke, type-2 diabetes and certain cancers.

Benefits of eating fruits:

- Boosts your immune system
- Lowers the risk of chronic illness
- Promotes healthy digestion
- Aids in weight management
- Naturally hydrates your body

The students learned about the importance of several fruits and selected from the following fruits to make their own smoothie today: blueberries, blackberries, strawberries, bananas, and mangoes. The fruits that they chose were placed in a blender along with acai, yogurt and coconut milk. Delicious!



4th of July Potluck—what fun!



EMPTY BOWLS

— 2026 —



From the Social Justice Council



Seeds of Support

Each month one-half of all proceeds gathered during the Offertory are donated to a local charity. The August Seeds of Support recipient is...(drum roll, please): EMPTY BOWLS Prescott

EMPTY BOWLS Prescott (Of course!)

A joint venture of GPUUC and Prescott Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (PUUF), our 29th Annual Empty Bowls Prescott fundraiser to support local food pantries will take place on Sunday, September 13, 2026 at the Prescott Courthouse Plaza from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Empty Bowls is a nationwide fundraiser that seeks to bring attention to and help address food insecurity in

local jurisdictions. Guests at the event donate \$25 and select a handmade ceramic or wooden bowl made and donated by a local artisan. Local restaurants provide each guest with two servings of a gourmet soup, and local bakeries provide bread. Guests also have a chance to bid on art donated by local artists, watch bowl-making demonstrations, and enjoy music from the Sucha Ruckus Band.

Last year we served 940 people. Thanks to these participants and our business sponsors, we were able to raise \$34,000 that was distributed between eight food pantries in the greater Quad City area!

This year's restaurants (so far!) include: Milo's, Slow Food Prescott, Meals on Wheels, Catering by Liz, The Ravel, Park Plaza and Deli, Limoncello, Bill's Grill, Angry Crab Shack, 1888 Club (the one-time Club at Prescott Lakes!), El Gato Azul, and Red, White and Brew.

If you aren't already volunteering, please plan to attend this remarkable event! You'll have a great time AND help feed your neighbors!

Like more information?

Write socialjustice@prescottuu.org or contact Dixie King.

Dark in August!

The Social Justice Council will be dark in the month of August but will resume monthly meetings on Monday, September 7, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 noon in the Faith Development Building. Regular meeting times are the first Monday of the month. GPUUC members and non-members interested in our work are welcome to attend and observe. For additional information, write socialjustice@prescottuu.org.

We're on the Web! Find us at:

<http://www.prescottuu.org>

Newsletter Deadlines Midnight

September newsletter due: August 25, 2026

October newsletter due: September 22, 2026

Send articles to: newslettergpuuc@gmail.com