



# The View

## April 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.

### April 7, Danielle Hollinger: *"From Crisis to Stability."*

Danielle Hollinger from Prescott Area Shelter Services will bring us stories from the people they serve, as we hear about it's mission to serve homeless women, families, and veterans.

### April 14, Rev. Patty Willis: *"Don't Believe Everything You Think!"*

Come and explore mindfulness as a community. This practice can sustain us when lightning strikes the earth around us.

### April 21, Rev. Patty Willis: *"Flowers for Pachamama."*

Come join in this Unitarian Universalist tradition of honoring how we are each different from one another. When Norbert Capek, a beloved Unitarian minister, looked out at a spring meadow full of beautiful wildflowers, all their difference and beauty reminded him of the people in his congregation. He created this ceremony to celebrate our differences. On this Earth Day, may our flowers also symbolize our love and care for the Earth that provides us this beauty year after year. After the service, the Social Justice Ministry Council will be sharing different opportunities to put your energy into your values.

### April 28, Rev. Patty Willis: *"Riding on a Cloud."*

In your childhood, did you see animals flying through the sky? Could they have meaning now? Come explore the role of clouds in our lives. (This service will be blessed with music for cello, koto, and piano.)

#### 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.

<i>In This Issue</i>	
Services	1
Minister's Message	2
From the President	3
Board Buzz	3
GP Mission & Vision	4
Hope Grows Here (Stewardship)	4
New to GPUUC Class	4
Rummage Sale	5
The Forum	5
Women's & Men's Groups	5
Mahjong	5
April Birthdays	5
Pagan Gathering	5
\$ for GA. Applications Available	6
Music Notes	6
Concert	7
Adult Faith Development	8
Children's Faith Development	9-10
Seeds of Support	10
Ware Lecturer	10
Photos!	11
Newsletter Deadlines	12
Who's Who	12

## Minister's Message

Rev. Patty Willis



### Do not fear!

We have a sculpture in our entryway of Yakushi Nyorai, a Buddha of healing. In one hand, he holds a container of medicine, and his other hand is held up in the reassuring gesture of “Do not fear.” I believe that releasing from fear is good medicine for this time. A grandfather of the village that was our home for 14 years, carved this Buddha from the soft stone found in the mountains around us. When I return, it reminds me not to fear. I wonder when you feel fear and when you use the words “*That is scary*” or “*I am afraid...*”

Have you noticed, as I have during the past decade, an upsurge in the usage of words that express fear? I believe that we need to be careful about the way we use those words. We need to be careful about the way that fear can find its way into larger and larger parts of our lives. Fear strengthens the object of our fear. We can give our power away with fear. Fear can paralyze us. Fear separates us from each other and from the world.

Martin Luther King, Jr., wrote: “*Fear is mastered through love. Hate is rooted in fear, and the only cure for fear-hate is love. Is not fear one of the major causes of war? We say that war is a consequence of hate, but close scrutiny reveals this sequence; first fear, then hate, then war, and finally deeper hatred. We are afraid of the superiority of other people, of failure, and of the scorn of disapproval of those whose opinions we most value.*”

*Envy, jealousy, a lack of self confidence, a feeling of insecurity, and a haunting sense of inferiority are all rooted in fear. Is there a cure for these annoying fears that pervert our personal lives? Yes, a deep and abiding commitment to the way of love. ‘Perfect love casteth out fear.’ Hatred and bitterness can never cure the disease of fear; only love can do that.’”*

After the first Gulf War, Mary Lou and I traveled to Syria. Although we mostly and surprisingly experienced a welcome, we were also shoved off a sidewalk, and in our hotel in Damascus, we felt an unfriendly vibe from the people at the front desk. I love to travel but sometimes, if I let the seed of a fear take root in my mind, that fear can increase---and is the source of suffering.

Up in our room, I could see that we had bought way too many strawberries for ourselves. I decided to take them downstairs to the men at the front desk. When I arrived, they looked at me askance—like what do you want? And I held out the bowl of fragrant ripe strawberries and bravely smiled. They looked very surprised, and then when they realized this was a gift, they broke into smiles. Our stay in the city transformed.

I have experienced such moments in Prescott. When I feel an unpleasant vibe that could turn into my thinking that it is “scary” to live here, I try to melt my own fear into something else. I smile. Perhaps that was my mother’s greatest gift to me: her belief that smiles were the best gift we could give. You might even give a smile that you don’t mean at first. But if the smile catches hold and is returned, the possibility of fear dissipates. Mindfulness teaches us to smile at ourselves in the same way. When we make a mistake, we can develop a habit of turning to ourselves as one would a treasured friend and smiling and even saying, “*I love you.*”

I believe that this is good work within us, among us, and around us. I challenge you to listen to how you use words connected with fear. Sometimes we can use that word, not meaning it at first, but grow into it. Don’t let the seed be planted. Do not fear! Instead, work on courageously transforming that fear into love.

With hope, Patty, Rev. Patty Willis

“We are very afraid of being powerless. But we have the power to look deeply at our fears, and then fear cannot control us.”

—**Thích Nhất Hạnh**, *Fear: Essential Wisdom for Getting Through the Storm*

## From the President

Rick Denney



### Greetings from the Board to all Granite Peakers!

Karen and I had the delightful opportunity to make a brief visit to my son's family in Marlborough Massachusetts. As we drove home from the airport today, I noticed a sign that March is Women's History Month. It occurred to me that in planning our trip explicitly to experience our granddaughter's special musical performances, we were building upon the history of women in my family who treasured and practiced music as a central part of their lives.

My mother's mother, a church organist, refused to give my own mother any keyboard lessons herself. However, she encouraged my mother from an early age to become the amazing piano performer that she ultimately became. My daughter and granddaughters (son and grandson, too!) are continuing this long family love affair with music.

To begin our stay in Massachusetts, granddaughter Lianna continued to build her own history by performing at the famed Boston Symphony Hall with two hundred fifty fellow high school students in the All-State Choir of Massachusetts. Immediately thereafter, she rushed home to play a lead role in the third and final performance of her high school's spring musical. What a weekend! Did we ever have that much energy in our youth?

While Lianna was busy, her mother Kathryn was directing the orchestra and singers in an inspirational performance of the beloved classic "*Wizard of Oz*," staged by the Open Door Theater Company. We identify with the show's heart-warming message of "*There is no Place Like Home*." I say, "There is no place like Granite Peak!" The "*Oz*" production was imbued through and through with UU values: nearly half of the fifty cast members (and many in the standing-room-only audience) were individuals with special needs!

Closer to home, I am delighted to see that improvements in our building and grounds are continuing

apace! The Hospitality team is pleased with the new commercial dishwasher and sink fixtures that were installed earlier this month. The Project team reports that we have acquired a play structure that will be installed outside the Faith Development Building for our young Granite Peakers. Also, word is that continued landscape improvements around the West side of the main building will be underway by the time you receive this message! Lest you think that progress grinds to a halt when the President of the Board is out of town, nothing could be further from the truth! I really should go away more often! The reality is that we at GPUUC are blessed with a remarkable community of dedicated members and staff! Keep up the great work!

Rick Denney, Board President.



### Board Buzz, Highlights of March 12, 2024 , Board meeting

#### Board goals for 2023-2024:

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.

**Mortgage payments to Oddfellows:** Oddfellows treasurer, Sandy DeVille reported on how the Oddfellows have used Granite Peak's mortgage payments for the past three years. A summary of how our payments have turned around to benefit numerous organizations supported by the Oddfellows will appear in the May View. Sandy will also share this information with the Social Justice Council.

**Treasurer's Report:** The newly-proposed Windfall Policy, for unexpected donations over \$5,000, was unanimously approved. An up-to-date report on this month's Stewardship drive was given, reporting \$160,000 in pledges for the first ten days of the thirty-day drive, with a goal of raising just over \$253,000 to support next year's budget.

Treasurer, Tracy Augustine, brought the Board up to date on the transition being made from a former to a new accounting system.

**Minister’s Report:** The Board unanimously voted to support an Amicus Brief, filed by Interfaith Power and Light, against a mining company that wants to mine on sacred Arizona lands of indigenous people. The Social Justice Ministry Council also backs the decision to support this brief.

**Sanctuary Renovation Planning:** Plans are being formulated on how to present possible options to the congregation for making aesthetic/structural improvements to the sanctuary. The Board is committed to having a concrete plan in place for the congregation by the end of this fiscal year on June 30, per its third goal.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be on Sunday, May 5, 2024.

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, April 16 from 3:30 – 5:00 pm. on Zoom

“The whole art of government consists in the art of being honest. Only aim to do your duty, and mankind will give you credit where you fail.”  
—Thomas Jefferson, A Summary View of the Rights of British America

### Granite Peak Vision and Mission Statements

**Vision:** Where ALL are welcomed, encouraged and nurtured.

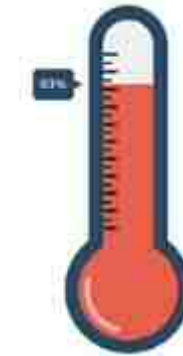
**Mission:** We are a compassionate spiritual community that:

- 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.



## Hope Grows Here.

### FY 24-25 Stewardship Campaign Update



We are **VERY grateful** for our stewards and our **current pledges of \$210,016, 83% of the \$253,443 Goal.** We are a little more than 4/5 of the way, with just a few days to go!

Stewards are making contact with ALL Granite Peak U.U. members and friends.

If you have not heard from a Stewardship volunteer, or for more information, please contact Marianne Erickson.

To pledge online, go to: <https://www.prescottuu.org/2024-campaign>

With great appreciation from the GPUUC Stewardship Committee of Tracy Augustine, Bobbie Bollinger, Mary Ann Clark, Marianne Erickson and Brian Willison



New to GPUUC Classes to be offered in April for folks who either are new to Granite Peak or new to Unitarian Universalist or those that just want to know more about our history. Lunch and drinks included. For questions or to attend, please email the office. [granitepeakuu@gmail.com](mailto:granitepeakuu@gmail.com)



**May We Have Your Attention Please !!**

Charlotte and Barb want to announce the results of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Rummage Sale. We have taken in as of this report: \$5,557.00!! There are still items that will be offered Online, so that amount hopefully will be greater in the future!

We want to thank everyone who helped this year. t is our best year ever!!!

Charlotte Skuse and Barb Nigh

### 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.

### 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.



### PAGAN GATHERING

April 20, 2024 11 to 12:30

Faith Development Building



Come learn more about the Beltane (May Day), that lusty, Pagan holiday between the Spring Equinox and the Summer Solstice. Learn about the meaning of the May pole, Flora, the Goddess of Spring, the May Queen, the May Bride. The Young Oak King, as Jack-In-The-Green, as the Green Man and other seasonal customs. Beltane celebrates the new life that will emerge during this seasonal transition.

Birthdays		April
Clark	Mary Ann	1
Hedge	Jackie	1
Beardsley	Bart	3
Bostrom	Ed	4
Skuse	Charlotte W.	7
Palacios	Sandra	9
Butterfield	Bronwyn	14
Lauchlan	Phyllis	17
Lovejoy	Eunice	18
Beaupre	Peggy	21
Brown	Joan	26
Wood	Jack	27
Anderson	Ron	29



### Annual Congregational Meeting

**May 5, 2024**

11:30 am, after the Sunday Service  
Annual Budget Approval  
Election of Officers, Endowment Committee  
and Nominating Committee.



## Applications Now Being Accepted for General Assembly Funding

The Ethan Davis Leadership Fund has been established to encourage the development of lay leaders of the congregation. The Endowment Committee has been tasked with disbursing funds annually for this purpose.

The committee will make awards based on the following priorities: registration fees for the UUA General Assembly, registration fees for other UUA training, and other training or purposes that foster the development of leadership for the congregation. Priority will be given to individuals who could not otherwise afford to attend, or if it would be a significant financial hardship to do so. To be eligible, you must be a signed member in good standing or an active member of our youth group.

This year's General Assembly will take place virtually from Thursday, June 20 through Sunday, June 23, 2024, so you can attend from the comfort of your own home. For more information: <https://www.uua.org/ga>.

If you wish to be considered for an award, please fill out the Stipend Application form and return it to the Leadership Development Committee by April 9. Contact Tracy ([granitepeakuu@gmail.com](mailto:granitepeakuu@gmail.com)) or Mary Ann Clark ([drmaryann49@mac.com](mailto:drmaryann49@mac.com)) for either an electronic or printed copy of the form.

If you are interested in being considered for one of our three delegate positions for the General Assembly, complete the GA Delegate form (contact Tracy for a copy) and return it to the Board of Trustees.

"Ah, music," he said, wiping his eyes. "A magic beyond all we do here!"

—**J.K. Rowling**, Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone

## Music Notes

Mary Lou Prince



I am preparing for a Granite Peak benefit concert this month and I hope that you will put Saturday, April 27th at 7:00 PM on your calendars. The concert will be held at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 630 Park Avenue in Prescott.

The core of the program is a piece called TOPAZ, inspired by an autobiography by Miné Okubo, a gifted artist from California who was interned at the Topaz incarceration camp in Utah during World War II. The piece is for string quartet and Japanese koto (a Japanese harp) and Patty will be doing some storytelling and singing. Our Quad City Interfaith Choir will perform one of the songs from Women of Courage.

Also on the program is music that I recently composed for cello and koto, to be performed by Sarah Walder Amata, an incredible cellist from Flagstaff who I have had the amazing luck to be working with. I'll play the koto. Please join us!

Last month, the Interfaith choir gave another performance of Women of Courage in Sun City at the Church of the Palms United Church of Christ. Here is a letter that I received from someone who attended:

*"On March 3, my partner and I attended your "Women of Courage" concert in Sun City, AZ at the Church of the Palms. It was absolutely breathtaking, both in content and performance. The narrative provided for each original song and the woman who was being remembered and honored in the song, was heartfelt and informative. The words and melodies of all the songs brought tears to our eyes and put a lump in our throats. The combination of the conductor's professionalism and the quality and precision of the voices created a masterpiece! So beautiful..."*

*We are interested in knowing whether the Quad City Interfaith Choir will be performing this program, or any other program, in the greater Phoenix area in the future."*

I certainly hope so! Mary Lou

# Artist at Topaz



Illustration by Patty Christiena Willis

## Music for String Quartet, Koto, Cello, Voice and Choir

April 27, 2024 7:00 PM  
Trinity Presbyterian Church  
630 Park Avenue, Prescott AZ

Mary Lou Prince, koto and piano  
Sarah Walder Amata, cello  
Patty Christiena Willis,  
vocals and storytelling

Michael DiBarry, violin  
Kin (Desmond) Siu, violin  
Kimberly Sullivan, viola  
Quad City Interfaith Choir

**Suggested donation \$20**

Proceeds to benefit Granite Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation, a community that promotes justice and equity in the greater community through a neighborhood food pantry and outreach to immigrant families.

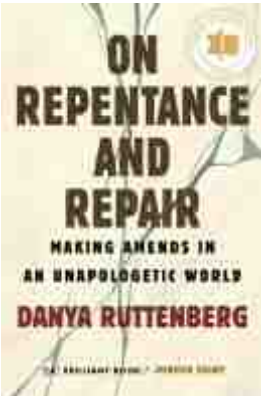
**Please make checks payable to GPUUC**

## Adult Faith Development

By MaryAnn Clark



March 27, April 3, April 10,  
April 17



UUA Common Read: On Repentance and Repair by Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg, presented by Jo Sprague and Fred Kraps in Faith Development Building A

When we do a UU Common Read together, we share in reflection, learning, and action. A UU Common Read can take us on a powerful journey into what it means to be human and account-

able in a world filled with both pain and joy.

This Common Read offers a glimpse into one of our faith's foundational sources, Judaism. Readers explore the call to accountability as we follow Rabbi Ruttenberg into a framework for making amends offered by the 12th-century Jewish physician and scholar, Maimonides.

On Repentance and Repair invites readers of any faith to explore practices for accountability that can bring us into wholeness and really make a difference in our personal, community, and national relationships. Purchase On Repentance and Repair from inSpirit: The UU Book and Gift Shop. An audio copy is also available. A copy is available in the Prescott Public Library.

(<https://catalog.yln.info/Union/Search?view=list&showCovers=on&lookfor=On+Repentance+and+Repair&searchIndex=Keyword&searchSource=local>) and our own GPUUC library.

### April 17, 4 pm in the Sanctuary

Introduction to Yavapai Tribal History presented by Linda Ogo, Culture Research Department Director, Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe.

Come learn more about Yavapai History, Foods, Culture, and Care for the Land.

## April 24, May 1, and May 8 in Faith Development A

Reviewing the Proposed Revisions to our Principles presented by the Leadership Development Committee

The UUA and its member congregations are developing a revision to our current Principles and Sources. A group has been working on these revisions for several years and a preliminary proposal was presented at last year's General Assembly. The final version of revisions (including some amendments) will be voted on by the delegates to the UUA General Assembly in June 2024.

Let's talk about what these changes mean and how we want our delegates to vote on both the amendments and the final version of the proposal.

This workshop will review how our current principles and sources were developed. We will consider the process that has led to the Values statements that are proposed to replace them as well as the Values statements themselves including the amendments that will be presented at this year's General Assembly.

If these Value statements are accepted, they will become the way we define ourselves as individual Unitarian Universalists, as congregations, and as a denomination.

Let's learn more so we can give guidance to our congregational delegates about these important questions.





## Faith Development Happenings

By Sandra Palacios



### February 25, 2024: Shintoism- The Way of the Divine / Hospitality

A lesson on Japanese Shintoism was presented by Ainslee. It is an indigenous Japanese spirituality, belief, and practice focused on love and respect for all. After the lesson, the students went to the hall and served the congregation. Specialties of the day in-



cluded homemade chilaquiles. The students enjoyed engaging in conversation with members of the congregation.

### March 3, 2024: The History of Peanut Butter

The students learned about the origins of peanut butter. The Aztecs of Mexico and the Incas of Peru actually invented peanut butter, sometime during the 14th and 15th centuries. Peanut butter appeared in the modern world when American doctor and nutritionist John Harvey Kellogg patented the production of it in 1895. The students used architectural techniques and made houses using peanut butter, graham crackers, saltines, and pretzels.

## March 10, 2024: International Women's Day/ Celebration of Girl Scouts



With the experience and knowledge gained from being a Girl Scout, Ainslee gave us a great presentation today. The Girl Scouts were founded in 1912 by Juliette Gordon Low in her hometown of Savannah, Georgia. She also explained the significance of the "trefoil" symbol and discussed how the scouts learn about taking risks, trusting instincts, collaboration, service, authority, interfaith, and gender expansiveness. The students also made posters for the upcoming rummage sale.





### March 24, 2024: Ramadan

The students learned about Ramadan, the ninth and holiest month of the Islamic calendar. According to the holy book of the Quran, it is a significant month for Muslims to express gratitude, seek forgiveness, and observe fasting. It is a time of self-discipline and letting go of grudges, which was discussed within the group. The students created the crescent moon and star which are symbolic within the Muslim faith. For a snack, we made our own yogurt dip with cucumber, mint, dill, and salt. It was eaten with pita bread.



### April Seeds of Support is "Step Up for Kids."

Our peer-to-peer "Mom to Mom" program exists to support parents as they adapt to their new, demanding role.

We know the value of a smooth transition into parenthood, and believe that children blossom from supported parents. So, we are inspired to initiate a volunteer-driven model of post-partum care, in hopes that many more may benefit from the resulting social and practical support.

### Our Vision

The founders of Step Up for Kids envision a community where children and their parents may live a dignified, supportive existence.

Ultimately, we would like to create a drop-in center, The Parent Company, where new parents may go with their children to give and receive support during the emotionally rigorous times of postpartum to pre-school parenthood.

### Announcing 2024 GA Ware Lecturer

Each year, the Unitarian Universalist Association invites a distinguished guest to address the General Assembly as the Ware Lecturer. With gratitude, we proudly introduce Julia Watts Belser as this year's General Assembly Ware Lecturer. This much anticipated program will be live-streamed on the GA App Saturday, June 22 at 7pm ET/ 6pm CT / 5pm MT / 4pm PT. GA registration is required to access the live-stream.



Julia Watts Belser (she/her) is a rabbi, scholar, spiritual teacher and a longtime activist for disability and gender justice. She is Professor of Jewish Studies in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies at Georgetown University, as well as core faculty in Georgetown's Disability Studies Program and a Senior Research Fellow at the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs.

Her work brings ancient Jewish texts into dialogue with disability studies, feminist thought, queer theory, and environmental justice ethics. She is a cultural historian of rabbinic Jewish literature and a contemporary Jewish feminist theologian who draws disability arts and culture into provocative conversation with Jewish tradition to challenge structural violence, deepen our capacity for social justice, and honor the sacredness of disabled people's lives.

# In Case you missed it-Congregational Dinner and Rummage Sale Photos

