



The View

February 2025

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.

Feb. 2, Rev. Roger Fritts “*Worship among the Unitarian Universalists.*”

The word "worship" derives from an Old English term which referred to the process by which we ascribe worth or define what is of value and that is the focus of what we do on Sunday morning. Over the years UU worship has evolved. For many years our churches in New England included the Lord’s Prayer as part of the service. For a time in the 1970s many congregations held a “Talk back” as part of the service where church members would comment and ask questions of the speaker after the sermon. The lighting of a flame in a chalice started to be common in the 1970s. Singing Spirit of Life became popular in the 1990s. The sermon will describe these changes and others.

Feb. 9. Rev. Roger Fritts “*Are Sports a Religion?*”

In honor of the Super Bowl, the sermon will define the word sports and religion, along with some key religious terminology, such as: The two-minute warning - the point at which you realize the sermon is almost over and begin to gather up your belongings. Instant replay - the preacher loses his notes and falls back on last week’s illustrations. Sudden death - what happens to the attention span of the congregation if the preacher goes "overtime." Trap - you're called on to stand to sing and are asleep. End run - getting out of church quickly, without speaking to any guest or fellow member.

February 16 Rev. Roger Fritts “*The Wedding—A sermon about Love and Commitment.*”

During the last century (1993) our minister wrote a book about wedding services (it sold about 40,000 copies). The Sunday nearest Valentines Day he will reflect on the topic of marriage and love.

February 23 Rev. Sky Williams-Tao (they/them)

UUJAZ is the state action network for UUs in Arizona. In this critical time in our nation and in our state, what do the past, present, and future of UUJAZ teach us about what it means to do justice work in a UU way?

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.

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From the Minister

Rev. Roger Fritts

My first year of seminary was 1974-75 and my first sermon was in February 1975, fifty years ago, at the UU church in Hayward, California. I was twenty-four. It was not a very good sermon. I still work each week to prepare for a Sunday service, knowing my limits. I think of T.S. Eliot who wrote in one of his poems,

“Words strain,
Crack and sometimes break, under the burden,
Under the tension, slip, slide, perish,
Decay with imprecision, will not stay in place,
Will not stay still.”

At the end of fifty years of writing sermons, I give thanks for being here in Arizona. As I visit places in Prescott that I visited as a child, I think of other words from Eliot.

“We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time.”

It is good to be with you.



From the President

Rick Denney



Beloved friends,

Over the Holidays, Karen and I immersed ourselves with family in the chilly Northeast with grandkids and adult kids but are glad to be back in Prescott with our many friends at Granite Peak. It is still a shock to realize that it is now the year 2025, the beginning of another year, and another, vastly different four-year Presidential Term.

As Reverend Roger shared with us recently, as members of Granite Peak UU Community, we are called to do our best to face calmly the sometimes-harsh reality we now live in and to dream and work tirelessly together to build a more just and compassionate world.

I am excited to see how close we are to fulfilling a long-term dream of transforming the sanctuary into a more inspiring and contemplative space. We have a complete architectural plan by Stroh Architecture LLC that has been approved by the City of Prescott without a demand for modifications! It is highly unusual for City planners not to require modifications before issuing a building permit. This speaks well for the expertise and reputation of our architect.

We also have a highly experienced building contracting company (B’s Construction) ready and willing to initiate the work. However, before work can begin, there are decisions yet to be made about a number of structural and financial details, all of which will need to be presented and approved by the Congregation at a special meeting called for the purpose. Hopes and dreams for a major renovation of our sanctuary have been discussed for years. We are now on the threshold of getting the job done! I and the rest of the Board and Project Team will do our best to keep everyone informed!

Again, I am honored to be serving as President of the GPUUC Board. I could not be prouder of the dedicated staff and volunteers that make this community such an important institution in Prescott.

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.



Board Buzz: Highlights from the Board's January meeting

The Board discussed our rental policy. We have a proposal from a commercial for-profit company for a dance party to include liquor and possibly a show. They would need both Davis Hall and the Sanctuary. Currently, most of our renters are non-profits or similar community groups. It was decided to deny the request due to our pending construction.. However, the policy will be discussed next month including all the consequences, including tax and legal consequences, of having a production, with liquor sales and a cover charge, utilizing our building.

A report was made on the progress of the Renovation Project, please see the President's letter for the update.

Concerning the contract minister search. We have had two applications, one of which has been dismissed by the Search Committee as not being a good fit. The second candidate has just applied and is being evaluated now. We have expanded the search committee from the original three, Rick Denney, Bobbie Bollinger, and Elayne Hayes. These new members who will be involved in the current candidate and any subsequent candidates are Dawn Korade, Art Gorski, and Marianne Erickson.

The facility's project to improve water pressure is ongoing. The next step is to find the water line path from the street to the building.

Through December, we are halfway through the 2024-2025 budget year which ends 6/30/25. You received your pledge statements in email showing where you were in your pledges, and we are now 58% toward reaching our pledge goal. Thank you! Hitting our goal is the best way to keep our finances strong, since pledges are 75% of our operating budget. Our operating budget continues to be in good shape.



At 50% through the year, we are ahead in revenue by 11% and under in expenses by 10%.

December financial reports will be on the GP website shortly.

The More You Know....

We have five specific areas you can donate to GP outside of your pledges. What used to be called Emergency Assistance and LINC, is now grouped together as "Families in Need." The SJ Committee manages these donations to help those in our area during holiday time and throughout the year.

We still have the "Minister's Benevolence Fund" to be used at the minister's discretion to help those who privately come to the minister. You may also make a specific donation to the "Food Pantry" or to cover "Transaction Fees" for our payment platforms. Lastly, if you wish to contribute to our operating budget (this year, which would be especially helpful since we are not having the rummage sale due to our renovation), you can note "Other Income" or "Operating Fund" which goes to our operating budget.

As a reminder, please note this in the memo of your check or in the notes section of PayPal. Any donation received which is not designated, goes first to your pledge balance if you have one, then to other income (which goes to the operating fund).

RUMMAGE SALE ANNOUNCEMENT



The Annual Rummage Sale for this year has been cancelled. A good date for use of the facility could not be found before or after the renovation.

Mark your Calendars for the week of March 8, 2026. That is the projected date. If that needs to be changed, we will let you know. Thank you everyone who was willing to go into high gear for something this year. Hope to work with all of you next year.

Thank you, Charlotte and Barb

PAGAN GATHERING.

Saturday, Feb. 15
11-12:30
Faith Development Building



Communing with the Goddess Mother of all living things... (even Men)

Gary Stuart will talk about re-balancing the Eternal Feminine Power during the Modern Age. Gary is a regular at our Pagan Gathering and the author of *Venus Envy: Busting the Male Misogyny Myth*. He'll bring his Goddess Oracle Card deck, and supplies to draw your own Goddess Oracle card.

**What is GPUUC CUUPS? We are an interfaith Pagan group sponsored by the Granite Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation. Each month we create ritual and learn more about Pagan and Earth-centered religions and encourage all to share their wisdom. For more information, please email Susan (Sukey) Jones.*



Drum Circle

Beginning Sunday February 16 11:30-12:30 pm Drum Circle- every 3rd Sunday in Faith Development Bldg. Bring a drum if you have one.

For more info contact Bronwyn Butterfield or Lynn Hlstrom.



Bridge Group

Third (3rd) Wednesday of the Month in Davis Hall - A commitment is required, no Drop Ins. Please contact Lea Phillips.

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 MahJongg 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.





Spirit of Commitment

**You are cordially invited to the Annual
Granite Peak Unitarian Universalist
Congregational Dinner**

**At The Prescott Centennial Center
1989 Wineglass Drive Prescott, AZ 86301**

(Rt. 89 N to the 1st roundabout, right on Perkins Dr.,
turn left on Wineglass Drive to the site.)

Saturday, March 1, 2025
5:00 – 7:30 P. M.

Menu:

Appetizers - vegie and relish trays,
crackers, cheese, hummus

Chicken in a spinach cream sauce
(gluten free) with creamy potatoes,
vegie medley, green salad, rolls
(including gluten free rolls), butter

Vegan Lemon-Garlic Mediterranean Quinoa
for the vegetarians and vegans

One free glass of wine
with additional glasses for \$5

Coffee, Iced Tea and water

Cake for dessert and gluten free brownies

Sign up by: Sunday, February 23, 2024
to reserve your seat at the dinner.

Rides are available for those who do not drive at
night.



Care
Corner

Anna Bess Robinson passed on
1/23/25. The family will notify the
congregation when a memorial
service is planned.

In the meantime, please send condolences and calls
to: James Robinson.

Friends of Barbara Wilson are encouraged to visit her
(at least two at a time) at:

Prescott Valley Assisted Living
081 N. Dodge Drive
Prescott Valley. 86314

You might call ahead of time to see when she will be
available: (928) 772-3616



Adult Faith Development

The Adult Faith Development Committee is sponsor-
ing **An Introduction to Buddhism** presented by Peg
Travis on **January 29, February 5, and February
12 from 1-2:30** in the Faith Development Building.
Many people remember Peg's meditation group that
used to meet at GPUUC. During this class she will
discuss Early Buddhist History and the traditions that
have developed, Buddhism Today and its evolution
in the US, and Meditation techniques and uses for
health and spiritual growth.

Peg was ordained a Pure Land Priest in Taiwan 2001.
Since then, she has conducted meditation groups in
Massachusetts and Arizona. She teaches meditation
techniques including mantra, visualization, and
breath meditation. Her teachings are a gift to the re-
ceiver with the hope that meditation will bring peace
and love. She is also trained in various Buddhist tra-
ditions including Pure Land and Tibetan practice.

Join Kelsey and Annette to read and explore *The Book of Longings* (Sue Monk Kidd) Mondays, **March 3, 17, and 31 at 10:30**. This is a meticulously researched imagining of the probability that Jesus would have had a wife. The story is primarily about Ana; a young, ambitious, gifted woman with longings far beyond expectations for women of her time and culture. The book gives realistic, detailed descriptions of daily life in Jesus's time. It presents Jesus entirely as an ordinary person, while also describing how some of the events in The Bible might have fit into his life.

Copies of this book are available at the [Prescott Public Library](#) and [Amazon](#) in various formats.

Watch for more detailed announcements in the Weekly View.

Join Fred Kraps and Jo Sprague in an exploration of this year's UUA Common Read, *Authentic Selves* on **Wednesdays, March 19, 26 and April 2**. Groundbreaking in its depictions of joy and community, *Authentic Selves* celebrates trans and nonbinary people and their families in stunning photographs and their own words. With a foreword by transgender activist Jazz Jennings and her mom and fellow activist, Jeanette Jennings, this important new book was developed in collaboration with PFLAG National and Transgender Legal Defense & Education Fund.

So often trans and nonbinary people's stories are told only through the lens of their struggles and challenges, including their political battles for legal rights, but trans and nonbinary people live rich and fulfilling lives full of joy and community too. *Authentic Selves* is a sweeping compilation of life stories and portraits of trans and nonbinary people, as well as their partners, parents, children, siblings, and chosen family members.

The compelling stories in *Authentic Selves* provide a glimpse into the real lives, both the challenges and the triumphs, of these remarkable people and their families—people like Senator Sarah McBride, disability justice advocate Parker Glick, drag entertainer TAYLOR ALXNDR, September 11th first responder Jozepi Angelo Morelli, model Lana Patel, youth activist Elliott Bertrand, and so many others—all of whom are working to create a more just, diverse, and compassionate world.

There is one copy of *Authentic Selves* in the GPUUP library. You can also get a copy from the [Prescott Public Library](#), [Amazon](#), [Barnes & Noble](#), and [Bookshop](#) and the UU [InSpirit: The UU Book and Gift Shop](#).

Faith Development Happenings

By Sandra Palacios



January 5, 2025: The Three Kings (Dia de Los Reyes Magos)



Also known as the Feast of the Epiphany in the Catholic tradition, Three Kings Day is considered the end of the Christmas celebration. It represents the day the three wise men gave gifts to baby Jesus. As in the Latin tradition, the students will be having a slice of the cake called the "Rosca de Reyes." Typically, this is eaten 12 days after Christmas, on January 6, at family gatherings to break bread together. Inside a slice of the bread, a small plastic baby representing baby Jesus, will be hidden.

Whoever gets the baby in the bread, will make a festive dinner for everyone present by February 2, on "El Dia de la Calendaria". Additionally, children leave their shoes at the front door, or next to the Nativity, in hopes that the three kings will leave them a gift. For our snack, the students had a slice of the Rosca de Reyes. None of them found a baby in their slice. However, when shared with the congregation, Mary Fran Bennett and Steve Lovejoy were the lucky ones who each found a baby! Thank you to them, as they will give the Faith Development students a pizza party on February 2.



January 12, 2025: Martin Luther King Jr.:

“I’ve always been a dreamer, but the only dream I can remember are the ones that I dream with my eyes wide open.”

The students learned about and discussed the idea that every good thing starts with a dream. We talked about Martin Luther King Jr. and his dream of an “Oasis of Freedom and Justice.” The students created a colorful collage and wrote out what their dreams are.



They symbolize longevity and the hope that by eating them, one will be ensured a long, prosperous life. Fried Rice represents harmony and happiness. Tangerines offered to guests means you are wishing them a full and wealthy New Year. Fortune Cookies give them an inspirational thought for the New Year.



January 19, 2025: Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year is a time for new beginnings, giving thanks and reunions with family and friends. It was first celebrated many centuries ago and is based on the lunar calendar, rather than the Gregorian calendar. Traditionally, the holiday is marked with a religious ceremony that honors Heaven and Earth. Chinese New Year begins at the second new moon after Winter solstice, sometime between mid-January and mid-February. The Chinese holiday has an emphasis on harmony.

“*The Tray of Togetherness*” Noodles are as important to this celebration as a birthday cake is to a birthday.

February Birthdays

Wilkes	Kelsey	1
Eggleston	Terry	2
Robinson	James	3
Anna	Flurry	3
Stuckey	Udelle	8
Hawthorne	Chris	10
Lynam	Maria	11
Erickson	Russell	16
Rogers	Maggie	18
Janes	Gwen	24
Carter	Collette	27



Seeds of Support for the February Sunday Sermons is The Launch Pad.

Our Vision

The Launch Pad is an all-inclusive space and does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, sexuality, class, religion, or ability. The Launch Pad is a youth driven and focused space, providing programming that is culturally relevant to teens in Yavapai County. We believe that youth are powerful agents for change in their own lives and in the lives of others, we believe they are the experts of their own lived experiences, and that the best way to serve youth is through love, compassion, stability, with a deep respect and belief in their capacity to be powerful members of our community.

- ◆ Teens will no longer engage in substance abuse and other high risk behaviors in Yavapai County.
- ◆ All teens in Yavapai County will have access to excellent mental health services and adult support and will not experience suicidal thoughts or yearnings.
- ◆ Teens will no longer experience or engage in bullying in Yavapai County.
- ◆ Teens will not experience discrimination or oppression on the basis of race, class, sexuality, ability, or gender.
- ◆ Teens in Yavapai County will be advocates for a just a peaceful world where everyone is welcome.
- ◆ Teens in Yavapai County will have the opportunities, confidence, and tools necessary to fulfill their life's aspirations.
- ◆ Teens will be more actively involved in positively impacting their community.
- ◆ Teens will feel prepared and confident to enter the workforce.

- ◆ Yavapai County will be a community that actively values and supports youth, and understands that they are an integral part of our community.

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NBHAAD)
February. 5. 2025

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NBHAAD), a national HIV testing and treatment community mobilization initiative targeted at Blacks in the United States and the Diaspora.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Black people account for 37% of new HIV cases, even though they make up only 12% of the U.S. population. NBHAAD helps raise awareness of HIV testing, prevention and treatment in communities of color.

MLK Day 2025 photos





Featured Speaker at GA 2025: Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis

Join us at the 2025 UUA General Assembly to hear from Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis, co-chair of the Poor People's Campaign and a leading voice in the movement to end poverty.

Rev. Theoharis will share insights from her thirty years of anti-poverty organizing, highlighting the unsung heroes leading this work and exploring how the poor must shape a more just society. She will challenge Unitarian Universalists to deepen our commitment to justice and become part of this vital movement to reclaim democracy.

Her upcoming book, *You Only Get What You're Organized to Take*, co-authored with Noam Sandweiss-Back, will be published by Beacon Press in April 2025. Don't miss this inspiring call to action for collective change.

Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis is a prominent theologian, author, and activist dedicated to eradicating systemic poverty and injustice. Raised in a family committed to social justice, civil liberties and human rights, she has been involved in the movement for her whole life. She has been organizing among poor and low-income communities for thirty years with organiza-

tions such as the National Union of the Homeless, the National Welfare Rights Union, the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, Domestic Workers United and many more.

Rev. Dr. Theoharis is currently the Executive Director of the Kairos Center for Religions, Rights, and Social Justice at Union Theological Seminary, which leads efforts to unite faith-based communities and grassroots organizations in advocating for transformative policies grounded in moral and social equity. Under her guidance, the Kairos Center has become a hub for movement-building, empowering leaders from marginalized communities to confront poverty, militarism, and ecological crises through education, direct action, and policy advocacy.

She co-chairs the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival alongside Rev. Dr. William Barber. Anchored by the nonprofit organization Repairers of the Breach and the Kairos Center, the Poor People's Campaign aims to mobilize a moral movement that addresses the interconnected crises of economic inequality, systemic racism, and environmental degradation. With Rev. Dr. Barber, Rev. Dr. Theoharis has revitalized Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision of a "revolution of values," amplifying the voices of the poor and dispossessed to shape a more equitable society.