



The View

June 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.

June 7, Rev. Michelle LaGrave: Soul Matters: *Flourishing Together.*

As we prepare to enter into the summer months, what does it mean for a community to flourish together?

June 14, Rev. Michelle: *Tumultuous Times.*

In the old days, when times were tough people tore their clothes and covered their bodies with ashes in order to lament. When tumultuous times now call for grief, rage, anger, perseverance, and so much more, how might we care for our spirits? How might we lament?

June 21, Rev Michelle will introduce The Rev. Jen Youngsun Ryu General Assembly Sunday.

Let's join in the excitement of General Assembly together! General Assembly, also known as GA, is our Unitarian Universalist Association's governing body to which we send delegates from Granite Peak. GA's Sunday morning worship is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate all things UU! (See page two for more information on the speaker.)

June 28, DeAnne DeVaul: *Charlie Brown Revisited in 2026*

Charlie Brown keeps getting disappointed, embarrassed, and knocked down, but he never completely gives up. That makes him the kind of hero we need now, to encourage all us regular people trying to hold it together in a stressful world.

Rev. DeAnne DeVaul, M.A.P.S., is an interfaith minister, educator, writer, and spiritual guide with a passion for creating compassionate worship experiences, recovery resources, and meaningful community connection.

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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.



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.

UUA GA Sunday Worship Speaker June 21

The Rev. Jen Youngsun Ryu (she/her) serves the Unitarian Universalist Church in



Eugene, arriving in 2021 while the building was still closed and the congregation was finding its way back to one another. Born in Seoul and raised in Ohio, she found Unitarian Universalism as a young adult in Baltimore and was drawn to a faith that honors both the tough mind and the tender heart.

After years of lay leadership, she entered seminary in 2002, then spent nearly a decade in parish ministry with the Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists, alongside service at the district level and on the UUMA Board. Her vocational path later led her into healthcare chaplaincy, where she specialized in oncology care and earned board certification. Working as a staff chaplain in Charleston deepened her pastoral skills and broadened her interest in spiritual care research.

In the wake of the pandemic, Rev. Ryu felt called back to the parish and to the rhythms of a multigenerational community. This year, she celebrates the 20th anniversary of her ordination with a steady conviction that our liberal faith, practiced with honesty and love, changes lives for the good.

We look forward to welcoming Rev. Jen to the GA 2026 Sunday Morning Worship experience.

Ministerial Musings

Rev. Michelle LaGrave

Rev. Michelle was on leave during the last two weeks of May.



From the President Rick Denney



Dear Friends,

As the month of May recedes into the past and summer approaches, Granite Peak is soon coming to the end of a highly successful fiscal year that will end June 30. It seems almost impossible that last year at this time, we were meeting in Davis Hall, watching anxiously as the old Sanctuary was being demolished and the new structure was emerging. What an exciting time that was!

This past year, we also had the pleasure of welcoming Rev. Michelle to lead us. I vividly recall that October Sunday when Rev. Michelle, our worship leaders, the children and choir processed into the new Sanctuary to hold the first service in the new space. And the following weekend when Tracy Powers and Stephen Lovejoy tied the knot!

It has taken some time and experimentation to dampen excessive reverberation and improve sound clarity. There are still tweaks being made here and there, but all in all, what a delightful, uplifting space we now have! Thanks to all who have played a part in so many ways!

We all thank our amazing Stewardship Team for again completing a successful pledge drive to support the Congregation's work for another fiscal year. This success reflects the optimism and enthusiasm that is palpable whenever we gather. Let us keep the momentum going!



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JUNE 14 – 21, 2026

MEET THE MOMENT: TOGETHER EVERYWHERE

Leadership Development

The Granite Peak UU Congregation will be streaming the 2026 General Assembly Ware Lecture in our sanctuary on Saturday, June 20 at 5 pm. Join us for UU Happy Hour including drinks, munchies and an exciting presentation.



This year's Ware lecturer is Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde from the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, DC (see notice below). You may remember her as the minister who delivered the homily at the January 2025 interfaith prayer service following Donald Trump's second presidential inauguration. Her sermon called for compassion and mercy toward marginalized groups. Trump and some of his supporters criticized her remarks, while other public figures and faith leaders praised her message.

The Ware Lecture is a treasured General Assembly tradition that invites prophetic voices to speak to our faith and our times. This year's Ware Lecturer will challenge and inspire us to live more fully into our values, to open ourselves to transformation, and to take bold action for justice and liberation.



We are honored to announce that Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde will serve as the 2026 Ware Lecturer at General Assembly.

Each year, the UUA President extends an invitation to a distinguished guest to address General Assembly as the Ware Lecturer. In 2026, the Ware Lecture will take place on Saturday, June 20, at 8 pm Eastern / 6 pm Mountain / 4 pm Alaska.

Bishop Budde serves as the spiritual leader of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, which includes congregations and Episcopal schools in the District of Columbia and four Maryland counties. The first woman elected to this role, she is widely respected

for her steady pastoral leadership, her commitment to justice and mercy, and her deep belief in the dignity of every human being. Her preaching and writing consistently invite people to live with courage, faith, and compassion, especially in times that call for moral clarity.

With GA registration, participants will be able to experience the Ware Lecture in several ways. Studio Site registrants can watch in person at the Galt House Hotel in Louisville, KY. Satellite Sites and Community Gatherings can watch the livestream together in shared space. Fully online registrants can watch live from wherever they are, and all registrants will have access to the video on-demand when it becomes available.

We look forward to welcoming Bishop Budde to General Assembly 2026 and to the wisdom she will bring to this year's Ware Lecture.



From the Membership Committee

Are you a visitor to Granite Peak and interested in how to become a member? The Membership Committee is planning the next

Informational Meeting for Saturday morning **June 6, 9:30 to 12:00** across the street in the Faith Development building.

We'll serve a continental breakfast, and follow this in an informal, friendly meeting. We'll talk about our Unitarian history in general and GPUUC specifically and how we operate as a congregation.

Of course we'll also share how to become a member. There will be time to ask questions of our minister and committee members. If you decide right there and then to join GPUUC, you can sign our membership book – or leave it for later. Let this be our invitation to this informational event.

We'd like to hear from anyone who wants to join us. Questions? Contact Kelsey Wilkes, from the membership committee.



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.

Care Team Corner:

Congratulations to Prescott High School graduate, Audrey Jarnigan! Our congregation has watched you grow into a fine young woman, and we wish you all the best in the years ahead at ASU.



Beloved Granite Peaker and former Board member, Barbara Wilson, will celebrate her birthday on June 12. She would love to stay in touch with her Granite Peak friends. Cards may be sent to:



Barbara Wilson
Silverado Memory Care Red Rock
7540 Smoke Ranch Road
Las Vegas, NV 89128

For those wishing to honor the passing of Rhea Batteredman's sister, Tamara Voss, donations may be made to Prescott Meals on Wheels or Broadway Cares.

Anne Hopkins had her 9-mile hike stunted by a fall which resulted in a fractured left wrist and a sore back. She is in an arm splint and a sling and is glad that she is right-handed. Cards and texts would absolutely facilitate her healing.

Big congratulations to the mother and father of the bride, Stephanie and Brian Willison, on the marriage of their daughter, Ainsley, to Donald Mata on Saturday, June 6!



Help Wanted: Coffee Hour

Just about everyone enjoys the Coffee Hour after the service – but you may not realize that it takes a lot of work to put it together.

Someone has to make coffee, plate refreshments, get out coffee cups, plates, and utensils, and set up the serving tables. After the service, someone must keep the serving items tidy, then clear and clean the serving table and coffee maker, put away unused food items, run many dishwasher loads, put clean cups and dishes away, and clean up the kitchen.

Sounds like a lot of work! But as the saying goes: *"Many hands make light work."* The Coffee Crew could use a few more volunteers to lighten the load. Ideally, we'd like 2-3 volunteers before and 2-3 volunteers after each service. One Sunday a month on either set up OR cleanup is all we ask. Can't do heavy lifting? That's okay! A fellow volunteer can do it, or we can use disposable plates for that Sunday. Please let us know if you would be willing to volunteer! Training provided! First dibs on those tasty homemade snacks!

Contact Kris Parsons, or Margy Olmstead.



Our Shelves are Empty!

We need your help for the upcoming collection on June 13 in PV! When we receive, sort, and deliver green bag donations to our pantry.

Please sign up on May 31 or June 7 In Davis Hall
Many opportunities available from 8:30 AM - 12.
Please help us help them.

Recurring Granite Peak Groups



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

Contact Sukey Jones—open to everyone. Topic: (page 6)



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 movements. 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.

Lena's concert on Sunday, May 24, was delightful. Here you see concert goers showing their appreciation with flower bouquets.





PAGAN GATHERING

June 20, 11 - 12:30
Faith Development Building

The Sun Deities

Solar deities have been central figures in numerous cultures, embodying the life-giving power of the Sun, symbolizing creation, authority, and the eternal cycles of day and night and the seasons. Today we honor these gods and goddesses. Please bring something for the altar that represents the sun for you.

Annual Solstice Drumming at Watson Lake Sunday, June 21, 6:30 pm Meet up on the ledge below the Upper Ramada. Gather together to celebrate the longest day of the year and the turning of the wheel. Drumming, readings, and chanting. Bring drums or shaker, chair, water, hat, and bug repellent and readings you may want to share.

Follow Us on Instagram



LGBTQ

Welcoming Congregation



Renew Your Heart and Spirit at UU Camp de Benneville Pines

Has the constant drone of civilization and day to day life worn down your heart and spirit? Seeking to connect with like-minded peers in the solitude of the quiet forest? Our camp offers what your heart needs. Here, bonding with others in a loving and safe community happens every day. Want to strengthen your creative mind through art, music, yoga, or theater? Or are you just looking to set your worries aside for a moment, and enjoy all sorts of games and activities here in our mountain retreat, surrounded by friends and family? **Camp de Benneville Pines awaits you!**

To learn more about this wonderful UU Camp that is open to all ages, please visit: <https://uucamp.org/>

UU Family Summer Camp registration:

<https://uucamp.org/camps-for-adults/2026-uu-summer-family-camp/>

Camp de Benneville Pines is located in the San Bernardino National Forest about 90 miles east of Los Angeles at an elevation of 6,800 feet. The mountain hosts a forest of towering pines, cedars, and oaks. Lending to the beauty and feeling of remoteness, the camp is surrounded by U.S. Forest Wilderness. Camp de Benneville Pines operates as an independent non-profit. It is supported by the 50 + member congregations of the Pacific Southwest District (PSWD) of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA).

Faith Development Happenings

By Sandra Palacios



April 26, 2026: Mother Earth/Madre Tierra.



“Plant a tree, plant a life.” Earth Day took place on April 22, with the theme being “*Our Power, Our Planet.*” The Three R’s for Earth Day are Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. The founder of Earth Day was Gaylord Nelson (1916-2005) who served as Governor and as Senator of Wisconsin. In September 1969, he proposed a nationwide grassroots demonstration to force environmental issues. The first Earth Day was held on April 22, 1970. Some principles to highlight on Earth Day include the following:

- “We over me” mindset encourages people to take care of shared space.
- All wisdom is stored in the trees.

- Until you dig a hole, plant a tree, you water it and make it survive; you haven’t done a thing.
- Earth provides enough to satisfy every human’s need, but not every human’s greed.

In Japan, exceptional cleanliness is driven by a culture of shared responsibility. Key factors include teaching children to keep their schools clean. Students are expected to clean their classrooms, hallways and bathrooms. Trash cans are seldom seen in public; therefore, you must take your trash with you to dispose of on your own.

The students of Faith Development created a stunning picture of the Earth using paint and cotton balls on a background of black construction paper.

May 3, 2026: Curiosity.



Curiosity is a strong desire to learn, know or understand something, characterized by inquisitions and an interest in new experiences, novel things or hidden information.

Types of curiosity:

Out of Curiosity- “I open the old book, just out of curiosity.”

Satisfy Curiosity- “She read the final chapter to satisfy her curiosity.”

Inquisitiveness- the core trait of asking questions

Exploration- it pushes individuals to explore, ask questions and engage with the environment

Continuous Questioning- frequently asking “how”, “what”, “why” and “if.”

Today’s lesson included an exercise called the “Mystery Box”. The students took turns placing their hands inside a decorated cardboard box. Without looking inside the box, they had to describe the objects that they felt inside using specific details. Later, they were each able to take and keep items that they selected from the box.

May 17, 2026: Spring Flowers.



Spring flowers commonly symbolize hope, rebirth and new beginnings, making the transition from Winter to warmer weather. Key blooms of Spring-time include, daffodils (new beginnings), tulips (perfect love) irises (faith/wisdom) and lilacs (first love). The vibrant colors of Spring flowers are used to express joy, friendship and affection to others. The Faith Development students each made a beautiful flower collage, painting with sponges and stencils. Together, we watched an interesting video which showed time-lapsed flowers in bloom set to relaxing music.

May 24, 2026: Summer Break.



Today’s lesson was provided by Ainslee. The students of Faith Development were asked the question: “What are you looking forward to this Summer?” Their answers included the following: “swimming”, “going to the Great Wolf Lodge”, “Camp de Benneville Pines”, “Stone Harbor”, and unanimously, “eating ice cream!”

The students made their own ice cream snacks today. The activity required them to use measuring skills and make choices from various toppings that were provided. It was a delicious and satisfying activity.



From the Social Justice Council

The recipient of our June Seeds of Support will be the Museum of Indigenous Peoples.



Founded in 1935, the Museum of Indigenous People is dedicated to preserving, honoring, and amplifying Indigenous cultures of the Southwest and northern Mexico. Its historic stone campus—listed on the National Register of Historic Places—stands as a testament to nearly a century of cultural stewardship and community engagement.

Originally established by a local civic group, the museum was renamed in 2020 to better reflect its commitment to the Native communities it serves. Today, MIP is a place where Indigenous voices are centered, stories are shared with integrity, and cultural knowledge is respected across generations.

The exhibits feature pre-historic, historic, and contemporary Indigenous art and cultural materials—offering visitors a deeper understanding of traditions that transcend political borders and continue to shape the present.

EMPTY BOWLS — 2026 —



EMPTY BOWLS. Our 29th Annual Empty Bowls event is scheduled for **Sunday, September 13, 2026**, at the Prescott Courthouse Plaza, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

We will begin by asking for volunteer sign-ups shortly; if you are interested in volunteering, you will receive an Empty Bowls T-shirt, but you **MUST SIGN UP BY AUGUST 1** to get a shirt. Contact Dixie King to sign-up. We will also have after-service sign-ups in July.

If you have an interest in social justice issues and would like to find out more about our work, contact Dixie King.

Newsletter Deadlines Midnight

July 2026 newsletter due: June 23, 2026

August newsletter due: July 21, 2026

Send articles to: newslettergpuuc@gmail.com

“
IF YOU ARE FREE, YOU NEED
TO FREE SOMEBODY ELSE.
IF YOU HAVE SOME POWER,
THEN YOUR JOB IS TO
EMPOWER SOMEBODY ELSE.
”

— TONI MORRISON

“
WHEN WE IDENTIFY WHERE OUR
PRIVILEGE INTERSECTS WITH
SOMEBODY ELSE'S OPPRESSION,
WE'LL FIND OUR OPPORTUNITIES
TO MAKE REAL CHANGE.
”

— IJEOMA OLUO