



The View

September 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.

Sept. 1, Toni Denis: *The Need for a Spiritual View in Artificial Intelligence.*

On this Labor Day Sunday, Toni Denis asks us to take a new perspective on labor, as we enter a new era in which artificial intelligence will change the workforce, create new careers—and end others. Ultimately, we will all need to play a role in forcing technology companies to integrate our ethical and spiritual principles into this brave new world of technology, from access to medical technologies to universal basic income to fair wages for freelancers and artists and restrictions on war technologies. Toni is a member of our congregation. She and her husband have operated a website called Seeflection.com on artificial intelligence news.

Sept. 8, Jean Littlehale: *Building Community—Sharing Food.*

Jean Littlehale, District Manager for the "Yavapai Food Neighbors Project (Green bags)", will share the remarkably effective and efficient way of helping our food banks and schools have a reliable source of food for the many in need.

See the Weekly Peak for more information on Rev. Roger Fritts sermons.

Sept. 15, Rev. Roger Fritts: *My Needs for Religious Community.*

Sept. 22, Rev. Roger Fritts: *The Roots of Unitarianism.*

Sept. 29, Rev. Roger Fritts: *The Roots of American Universalism: A Conversation with Hosea Ballou.*

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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.

Celebrating our New Minister!

September 14, 3 pm.

Let's give Rev. Roger Fritts a big Granite Peak welcome! join us for a Meet and Greet on Saturday, Sept. 14, from 3:00 - 5:00 in Davis Hall.

Please bring an appetizer or finger food. Beverages provided. Let's introduce ourselves and help him feel at home before his first Sunday in the pulpit on Sept. 15.



Volunteers have been working to control the weeds around our building and the newly renewed parking lot. The food pantry continues to serve needy locals.

How fortunate we are to be part of such a vibrant, caring community!



Board Buzz: Highlights from the Board's meeting of August 22.

The next mtg date is Sept 17, 2024. This is planned to be an in-person meeting and Rev Fritz will probably be in attendance.

Treasurer's report: We are doing well, and ahead of our expenses at the moment. For more details see the notes from Tracy A, our wonderful treasurer.

Lisa DeLeo, our new office administrator, has been a wonderful addition to the terrific team of people we have working every day to make GPUUC such an active force for good.

An engineer is being hired to give us a structural report on the walls and foundation of the sanctuary so that we can proceed appropriately with the remodeling plans. You may have noticed this involved some destruction, but internal reflection leads to new truths, right? We'll see which direction this sends us.

GPUUC will be hosting the space for Empty Bowls to place their shed, to store the bowls and other items for the annual fundraiser. It will be in the rear of the parking lot.

Norma Meier and Russ Erickson have generously (and heroically) offered to coordinate the Capital Campaign. They have been very active in starting to lay plans. We are still searching for a professional Capital Campaign organizer.

Landscaper update: Still working on this. Sorry, I'm a little slower since I have been out of state for family matters. I will have someone work on the weeds while we get quotes for continuing maintenance and tree work.

Peace, Dawn (Secretary of the BOT)

From the President

Rick Denney



We all anxiously await the arrival of our new minister Rev. Roger Fritts, who will be leading our services beginning Sunday, September 15. We should all extend thanks to our outstanding Worship Team that has done such an admirable job scheduling thought-provoking and insightful speakers during this hiatus between Rev. Patty's leaving and "Rev. Roger's" coming.

As I write this, Karen and I are on the last day of a week-long trip to the Northwest to visit family and friends and attend my 60th High School Reunion in Portland. It has been a fulfilling experience, but we look forward to rejoining all our friends at Granite Peak this weekend.

Much is happening at GP. With Tracy Powers' resignation, we must thank our Personnel Committee for their success in hiring an excellent, new Office Administrator.

The Project Team has met weekly and is consulting an engineer and architect about the best and most cost-effective way to implement the planned renovation of our Sanctuary. In parallel, plans for initiating a Capital Campaign to support the renovation are proceeding apace.

New to GPUUC Class

A “New to GPUUC” class is planned for Saturday September 21, from 9:30-12. 9-30-12 is a Continental Breakfast meet and greet. Class starts at 10.



All are welcome to attend these classes, members, friends and those interested in membership. Please contact the Granite Peak office to sign up. Child care will be provided upon request. The class covers our historical roots and the values that we covenant to affirm and promote. They will also cover Granite Peak’s history, its governance process, and will share the many opportunities which exist to become involved in the life of the Congregation.



Our fiscal year is off to a strong start with \$31,360.47 received in pledges which is 12% of our commitment and we are only 8% of the way into the new fiscal year.

Our rental income had a very strong month bringing us to 17% of our rental income budget in month one. July closed 3% ahead in revenue, at 11%, and 4% under in expenses, at 4%, which gives us a net operating revenue surplus of \$24,277.91. July’s finance reports are on our website.

The More You Know.....

This month I’d like to talk about Sunday’s plate/offering collections and your Seeds of Support (SOS) contributions. There was a little confusion about this, but any donations made in **cash** during the Sunday offering are split between the operating fund and SOS.

Any checks put in the offering don’t get split; they go where you direct them in the Memo line and if there is nothing in the Memo line, they go to your pledge or if you have met your pledge, they go to the “other income” line into our operating budget.

If you would like 100% of your donation to go to SOS in the Sunday offering, you need to write a check and put “SOS” in the memo line, or you can

make a donation through PayPal but you must add the note online that says it goes to “SOS”. (And remember that checks are preferable because there are no transaction fees.)

If you wish to set up a regular monthly donation for SOS, you might consider setting up a separate autopay through your bank with “Seeds of Support” in the Memo/Note field.

Lastly, if you wish to see your donations on your tax statement, checks are best, and it saves us so much time if you designate in the Memo where you want your donation to go.

Respectfully Submitted, Tracy Augustine
Treasurer, GPUUC Board of Trustees

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.

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)



GPUUC Annual Auction 2024 "Fabulous 50's"

The Auction Team is forming and hard at work to plan this annual fundraiser that helps to bridge the gap between operating fund pledges and the actual cost of our beloved congregation's expenses. These dates are important for you to know:

Auction Calendar Dates:

- Sept. Auction Team Meetings:
 - Tuesday, Sept. 10 at 4 pm in Davis Hall
 - Tuesday, Sept. 24 at 4 pm on Zoom

(We still need team members to help with the Silent Auction, logistics, and the kitchen on Auction Night, Nov. 15.)

- Deadline for donations is Sunday, Sept. 29. If you would like to donate an item of service, a meal, a valuable, a day trip, a vacation stay, or a treasured possession, please do so by submitting a donation form (found in the GPUUC flyer) or entering your item online here:

<https://bit.ly/GPUUC2024Auction>

- Auction Night Dinner Tickets go on sale, Sunday, Oct. 13.
- Catalogs ready for distribution on Sunday, October 27.
- The online Auction begins with Davis Hall dessert gathering on Thursday, Nov. 7 at 2 pm with homemade desserts.
- Online Auction ends at 9 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 13.
- The last day to buy dinner tickets (beef brisket, chicken, or vegan) is Sunday, Nov. 3.
- Auction Night is FRIDAY, NOV. 15 Mark your calendar! Consider a fabulous 50's costume!

Contact Marianne Erickson for more information!

Hospitality/Coffee Team



Are any members or friends seeking a fun, highly caffeinated group to join? We could use your help on Sunday mornings in the kitchen! Shifts are available before or after service, and all training is provided. We'd like to build our numbers back up so that everyone only needs to work once or twice per month. Please see Chris Hawthorne to inquire.



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.



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.

Soup's On...

Sunday September 8th

11am - 2pm

**Prescott Empty Bowls is
back on the Plaza
for its 27th year!**



**LIVE BAND ★ ART RAFFLE
SILENT AUCTION**

For a \$20 donation, select a handcrafted bowl,
two gourmet soups, locally baked bread and a bottle of water.

*Thanks to local potters, Prescott Area Woodturners, Sucha Ruckus,
local bakeries, Credit Union West, and more for their contributions!*

PROCEEDS GO TO LOCAL FOOD BANKS

Some of our Participating Restaurants:

The Club at Prescott Lakes (*Host*)
Angry Crab Shack
BIGA
Brunch, Broth & Bloom
Catering by Liz & El Charro Norte
El Gato Azul
The Local

Meals on Wheels
The Palace
Raven Cafe
Red, White, & Brew
Slow Food Prescott
Tara Thai
Torme

Website:



Music Notes

The Granite Peak Singers are back just in time for Rev. Roger Fritts' arrival on 9/15! Your choir will be welcoming Roger in song, thanks to the leadership and expertise of our own choir member, Karen Denney, who will be our Guest Music Director for two rehearsals leading up to 9/15, and for that Sunday's service.



Then, in the UU spirit of experimentation and trying new things, we will be welcoming two Music Directors in Residence this fall who will each lead the choir in rehearsal and at the service once a month from September through December.

So the GP Singers will be rehearsing two Saturdays a month and singing two Sundays a month at Granite Peak, and those who sing in the Prescott Interfaith Choir will be singing the other two Saturdays with PIC under the alternating direction of Mary Lou and Kelly. Singing all month for the choir; who could ask for anything more?

And for the congregation, you'll be hearing new music selected and led by two people with different backgrounds and styles. It will be a new experience for all that we are trying out this Sept-Dec, and we are excited to see where it takes us! We'll share our schedule and introduce these Music Directors in future weekly newsletters.

Leadership Development

Nuts and Bolts Workshop, 10/26/24, 10 am

Join the Leadership Development Committee for their annual Nuts and Bolts Workshop on Saturday, October 26 from 10 to noon.

Are you a new or returning congregational leader or someone who just wants to know more about the logistics of the congregation? This is the workshop for you.

You'll learn about the organization of our congregational volunteer groups, how to use the GPUUC

Google Drive and website, and the layout of our buildings, including information on our Wi-Fi connections, heat and air, defibrillator, and first aid kits.

Also learn how to reserve a room for your meeting, get a key or the door codes, and share some hints toward running your meetings.

Everyone is welcome. Please contact Mary Ann with questions and concerns.

Adult Faith Development

Watch the upcoming GPUUC Weekly messages for information about upcoming Adult Faith Development workshops, including an exploration of our new core values statements, The Book of Longings by Sue Monk Kidd, and more.

If there's a program you'd like to see or if you have something you want to present, contact Mary Ann Clark or Annette Shellenger .



September Birthdays

Pettit	Taffy	1
Moran	Ardella	7
Mahler	Sarah	8
Pomerene	Mary	8
Korade	Dawn	10
Willison	Stephanie	11
Allgood	B.J.	13
Magers	Mary	15
Schwartz	Deidre	18
Forte	Bonnie	20
Hayes	Elayne	20
Alden	John	24
Deville	Sandy	25
Hagberg	Karen	25
Denney	Karen	28

"Happily we bask in this warm September sun,
which illuminates all creatures."

-Henry David Thoreau



Pagan Gathering

Saturday, September 21

11:00-12:30

Faith Development Building

Come learn about and join in the celebration of the Autumn Equinox, also known as Mabon or Alban Elfed, as we take time to honor the changing seasons and give thanks for the things we have. At the equinox, day and night are of equal length, in balance, so this is also a perfect time to examine how balance is playing out in our lives.



Faith Development Happenings

By Sandra Palacios



July 28, 2024: Buffalo Soldiers

Today the students learned about the Buffalo Soldiers. The Buffalo Soldiers were United States Army regiments composed exclusively of African-American soldiers. American Plains Indians who fought against these soldiers referred to the black cavalry troops as “buffalo” warriors because of their dark, curly hair, which to them, resembled the coat of a buffalo. Their fierce nature of fighting also contributed to this name.

The activity for today involved gathering basil and garlic that has been growing outside, in the garden. We took turns making fresh pesto which was then shared with the congregation.



August 4, 2024

The Olympics

Today’s discussion about the Olympics included looking at maps and globes to locate Paris, France

as well as some of the nations who are participating in the Olympic games. The Olympic symbol was originally created in 1913 by Pierre de Coubertin. He appeared to have intended the rings to represent the five inhabited continents: Africa, America, Asia, Europe, and Oceania. It has been claimed that Pierre de Coubertin found the design of five interlocked rings on an ancient altar in Delphi, Greece. The interconnected rings symbolize how the games bring the world together to compete. We watched a few video clips of some Olympic events from this past week and the students created their own five colored rings.

August 11, 2024

Weather

Today’s lesson was provided by Ainslee. The topic was about the weather, including the monsoon season. Monsoons are seasonal, with a prevailing wind, rain, thunder, and lightning. The difference in air temperature over land and water causes seasonal shifts in wind direction. The land warms faster than water, causing the air above land to warm and rise. This shift creates a low-pressure area that draws moist air from water, always blowing cold to warm areas in Arizona’s South/Southeast. The students created a multimedia art project depicting their favorite weather.



August 18, 2024

Sensory/Tactile Activity

Today's lesson by Ainslee involved the students combining various materials to create their own slime. The students enjoyed making the slime using the simple ingredients of glue, boric acid, and food coloring. Following a procedure, they mixed the ingredients together, and kneaded them well, which then resulted in quality slime. They happily took home what they created .



Social Justice



September Seeds of Support is Granite Peak Neighborhood Food Pantry.

Our Neighborhood Outreach Food Pantry is serving more and more people. And, in contrast to the goals of food pantries in the area, our goal is to serve a few families and individuals in greater depth to create a big difference in their lives.

When people come to us, they can choose the food and amounts of food and other products that they take with them. We tailor what we offer to the needs that are presented. We are the only food pantry we know of to offer paper and personal products.

These offerings have helped people not just get through the week, we have accompanied individuals who have gone from shelter services to apartments in affordable housing units. The food pantry has connected some people with tutors for reading and English language classes which supports their dreams to advance in their employment.

Our volunteers take time to listen to the people who come to us. Sometimes just listening is what people need and sometimes it opens up the possibility of further assistance.

Unitarian Universalist Values Adopted June 2024.



Interdependence. We honor the interdependent web of all existence. With reverence for the great web of life and with humility, we acknowledge our place in it.

We covenant to protect Earth and all beings from exploitation. We will create and nurture sustainable relationships of care and respect, mutuality and justice. We will work to repair harm and damaged relationships.

Pluralism. We celebrate that we are all sacred beings, diverse in culture, experience, and theology.

We covenant to learn from one another in our free and responsible search for truth and meaning. We embrace our differences and commonalities with Love, curiosity, and respect.

Justice. We work to be diverse multicultural Beloved Communities where all thrive.

We covenant to dismantle racism and all forms of systemic oppression. We support the use of inclusive democratic processes to make decisions within our congregations, our Association, and society at large.

Transformation. We adapt to the changing world.

We covenant to collectively transform and grow spiritually and ethically. Openness to change is fundamental to our Unitarian and Universalist heritages, never complete and never perfect.

Generosity. We cultivate a spirit of gratitude and hope.

We covenant to freely and compassionately share our faith, presence, and resources. Our generosity connects us to one another in relationships of interdependence and mutuality.

Equity. We declare that every person is inherently worthy and has the right to flourish with dignity, love, and compassion.

We covenant to use our time, wisdom, attention, and money to build and sustain fully accessible and inclusive communities.