



The View

February 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.

February 1, Rev. Becky Gunn: *Living Simply*.

In our increasingly complex world, it is incredibly difficult to live simply. How do we then live our priorities? Let us consider giving ourselves the gift of living as simply as possible leading to greater happiness and spiritual depth.

February 8, Rev. Michelle LaGrave: *Radical Salvation*.

In 1819, William Ellery Channing radically redefined salvation when he delivered the famous Baltimore Sermon. He said that humans have free will and can affect their own salvation. Now, over 200 years later, how might UUs, once again, radically redefine salvation? What is salvific? What if it is not ourselves we are meant to save?

February 15, Rev. Michelle: *Soul Matters: Embodying Resilience*.

When times get tough, it is often due to circumstances outside of our control. How might we shore up our resources to make it through?

February 22, 2026, Sarah Mahler: *Celebrating Hinduism and its Spring Festival of Holi*.

A service for all ages. Unitarians come from and practice many different faith traditions. During this day we will learn a bit about Hinduism and celebrate its colorful spring festival of Holi through chants, dance, and its message of good triumphing over evil. Come in your bright, vibrant garb to have fun!

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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Ministerial Musings

Rev. Michelle LaGrave

In this season of love, my heart is tender . Perhaps yours is, too . I feel for our nation . I feel for those who continue to be targeted with

hate and oppression . I feel for my colleagues . So much is going on right now to feel tender about . In times like these, how do you keep your heart full?

I wonder what it would be like if, instead of sending Valentine's, we exchanged cards filled with little moments that keep our hearts full.

Here are some that I would send... Today I received a message from a childhood friend who I have not spoken with in many years . She asked me if I would send a postcard to her friend's daughter's 1st grade class from Arizona . Of course, I said yes.

Last week, I was able to take a walk with my family just below beautiful Bell Rock.

Recently, I met a new person with whom I instantly connected, and I felt I could easily become a good and dear friend.

Soon, I will move into a new house, just across the way, with more space and a beautiful view of Granite Mountain.

What is keeping your heart full? What cards would you send?

From the President

Rick Denney

Dear Friends,

The Holiday Season is behind us. New Year 2026 has begun. It is truly astounding how much change took place at Granite Peak UU Congregation over the last year. We bask each week in our airy, bright, inviting new Sanctuary. We began to settle in with our wise new minister, Rev. Michelle.



On Sundays I regularly encounter new folks, some of whom have recently become new members. We are growing! Thank you, Membership Team! Vitality, enthusiasm and good will wash over me whenever I join gatherings at GPUUC. I find our liberal, religious community a place of safety, grounding and renewal, especially in these incredibly trying times.

As winter draws to a close and spring approaches, it is time to begin thinking about the upcoming Stewardship campaign for fiscal year 2026-2027, which starts July 1. Granite Peak UUC plays a vital role in its members' lives. It fosters goodwill and provides needed aid to the wider Tri-City community. Our able and committed staff, and incredible volunteers, work tirelessly to help make a better world. It is hard for me to imagine living here without this remarkable community.

Peace.

It Takes All of Us

Granite Peak UUC Stewardship Campaign

"It Takes All of Us" is the theme of Granite Peak UU Congregation's **Operating Fund Stewardship Campaign**, which will take place this spring. The Stewardship Committee has been hard at work since July preparing for the campaign.

During January Sunday services, you've seen **Congregational Moment** videos thoughtfully recorded by Lisa DeLeo during her break from Meadville Lombard Theological Seminary. New and returning stewards have also begun signing up to visit members and friends to receive pledges for the fiscal year beginning July 1.

Mary Ann Clark has designed the stewardship website and campaign materials, and last week the Board of Trustees and Finance Committee finalized the proposed FY 2026-27 budget and campaign goal.

With the support of all Granite Peak UU members and friends, we are confident we can fully fund the operations of our beloved community for the coming year.

Sign ups for the Congregational Dinner, March 7, begin the first Sunday in February. Sign up to get a ride or give a ride to the dinner.



Board Buzz

Jo Sprague, Secretary, Board of Trustees

Board Buzz will return next month. In the meantime:

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.



2025 Granite Peak Holiday Giving Project Is COMPLETE!

THANKS to all GP congregants and friends who so generously donated time, money, and good cheer to this worthy annual endeavor.

We served twenty-nine needy families this year:

14 through Humboldt Unified School District

English Learners Program Coordinator Jennifer Medina and her partner Jessica McCormick, whose PK-12th grade teachers identified families in distress (Photo is at HUSD delivery point: Jennifer at Right, Jessica at Left).

13 through relationships with adult ESL students, employees, and other community members in need.

2 through *Alianza* Spanish news editor and Lovejoy award recipient Rosanna Feyera-bend.

We can't begin to convey the immense, warming gratitude we've been privileged to receive on your behalf, nor the blessings so many have asked us to pass on to you all. Again, THANK YOU.

GPUUC Facilities update

Dawn Korade, Facilities Chairperson



Not a lot has visibly changed since the last news, but we have several bids on the repairs for the drywall, and the library is in the planning process of moving to the old office off Davis Hall.

Thanks to Dick and Wilfred for mounting the TV on the wall in Davis Hall.

I plan to have the ceiling tiles in the FD building up soon, and that's all the major news for now.

If anyone is interested in helping to keep our buildings and grounds beautiful and safe going forward, there are often small projects that could be arranged by one person, such as getting a repair person out for the water station in Davis Hall. Or small one-time chores like mounting hooks on the wall for the food bank bags. These things don't require lots of meetings or long obligations but would really help to spread the work out and get things done in a more timely way.

E-mail facilities@prescottuu.org for more info or to volunteer.

Update on Capital Campaign

We are pleased and very appreciative of the Contributions for Granite Peak's Capital Campaign. To date, 12/31/25, we have received \$605,455, which is 65% of the total amount expected. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Russ Erickson and Norma Meier
Co-chairs of the Capital Campaign.

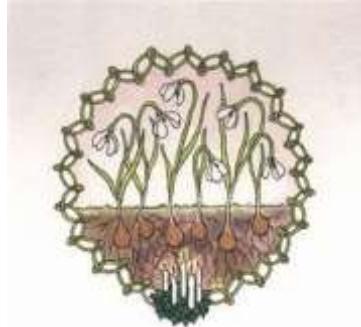
Share the Love
Volunteer Sign Up
February 15, 2026
Come Meet our
GPUUC committees



Pagan Gathering

February 21. 11:00-
12:30

Faith Development
Building



Rite for the First Light of Spring

Mother Earth slowly starts to wake. In Arizona's Central Highlands, Spring arrives in late February. This will be a celebration of attention: What first signs of spring do you see? Our rite will include planting seeds, both literal and spiritual, during this time of transition. *"The ground may still freeze. The weather may worsen. Hope, at this stage, must be quiet to survive."*

These gatherings are sponsored by *GPUUC CUUPS, 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 Sukey Jones..*

The Social Justice Council will be hosting a fundraiser for our food pantry on Saturday, **February 28, at 4 pm at Granite Peak..** Tom Neilson, composer, singer, and activist will be performing original work in the Sanctuary: *"Music with a Social Justice Twist."*



Suggested donation is \$20.

GPUUC Meditation Group

Peg Travis, who led the Introduction to Buddhism Adult Faith class, has volunteered to lead a weekly meditation group for the congregation. The new group will meet on **Thursdays at 3 pm** in the Faith Development Building.



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 & Men's Groups

Interested in joining one of our Women's Groups here at GPUUC? Please contact Charlotte Skuse.

Interested in joining our Men's Group 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.



Moving Meditation Led by Thomas Camargo

This no-cost weekly class utilizes Chi Gong and other movement forms as a gentle way to improve internal and external balance, flexibility, and strength. Through mindful movement and focused breathing, participants are guided toward meditative awareness.

The class is open and adaptable to all fitness levels. Comfortable, loose-fitting clothing is recommended.

We hope you'll join us.



Rummage SALE March 23-28

What You Can Bring for The Rummage Sale

FIRST, what not to bring: Opened liquids, Men's clothing , large tools, Large-heavy furniture.

BRING:

Women's and children's clothing, women's, children's and men's shoes, Linens (please size.)

Jewelry, watches, purses.

Sheets, glass ware, dishes, plastics, bath, office, sewing, health, Holiday decorations, small appliances (working only), electronics (only flat screen TV's), again working only, label all equipment, so we know what it is.

Books, DVD's, hand tools, luggage, puzzles, small furniture pieces, sporting and camping things, exercise equipment, toys, plants, and yard "stuff"...

If in doubt, please contact Charlotte Skuse or Barb Nigh.

From the Membership Committee

By Lydia Garrett



We look forward to continued growth of our congregation, not least thanks to our inviting new Sanctuary. These past few weeks longtime UUs, who each come from other UU congregations, Janice Lodato and Dale James have signed our membership book. Be sure to welcome them when you see them either at Sunday service or during our coffee hour chats.

We continue to welcome new visitors. Our committee therefore is planning the next Informational Meeting for prospective new GPUU members for **Saturday, February 7, 9:30 to 12:00**, in the Faith Development Building. We start with a continental breakfast. Congregational members and our minister Rev. Michelle LaGrave will give an overview of our UU faith and organization, and particularly our own Granite Peak community. We will explain what is involved in membership with GPUUC.

This meeting is open to anyone who would like to find out more about Unitarian Universalist background and the history of our faith. We have an Information packet for you and are ready to answer questions. If we have your address from our visitor log, invitations will go out later this month, but you need to tell us if you plan to attend. Call or email Kelly at our office at 928-541-0000 or email Kelsey Wilkes..



Care
Corner

Care Corner:

Long-time Prescott UU Fellowship member and friend to Granite Peak, Ron Ricklefs, passed away in December at the age of 91. He will be fondly remembered at a Celebration of Life at 2:00 pm on Saturday, January 31 at PUUF.

Brian and Stephanie Willison expect to be out of town through mid-February as they support Stephanie's father who is in hospice.

Music News

Several members of the Granite Peak Singers have also enjoyed being a part of the Prescott Interfaith Choir which is made up of singers from six or seven local faith traditions. That choir has recently changed its name to the Building Bridges Interfaith Choir as it draws singers from a wider circle than just Prescott. If you're interested in singing with them, many of the Granite Peak Singers can give you additional information regarding practices, performances, etc.



Social Justice

From the Social Justice Council



Undies Sunday. We will be sponsoring our second “Undies Sunday” on February 15. Please consider contributing new underwear and socks and/or gently used outerwear to our local veterans in need.

Hold the date for the Tom Neilson Concert! The Social Justice Council will be hosting a fundraiser for our food pantry on **Saturday, February 28 from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.** Tom Neilson, composer, singer, and activist will be performing original work: “Music with a Social Justice Twist.” Suggested donation is \$20. Consider bringing non-perishable foodstuff or personal care items to donate to the pantry!

Lovejoy/Pettit Awards Dinner. We have a date for this year's Lovejoy/Pettit Awards dinner: April 16, 2026, at 5:00 p.m., at the Crossroads Center. We look forward to honoring this year's recipients—soon to be announced!

Empty Bowls 2025. The Social Justice Council is happy to report that thanks to a record-breaking year with Empty Bowls, we will be distributing \$4,250 to each of eight food pantries in Yavapai County, for a total of \$34,000! Thank you, one and all, for your contributions to this amazing community event! Interested in being part of Empty Bowls in 2026? Our 29th Annual Empty Bowls will be held on Sunday,

September 13. We are currently recruiting for our Steering Committee, and we will be looking to recruit Area Leads within a few months. Consider being part of this fabulous event! Contact Dixie King.

Your 2026 Social Justice Council Survey. In 2024, the Council put out a survey to learn more about congregants' level of interest in social justice volunteer opportunities. Even if you are not in a position to volunteer currently, please do complete the survey. Some activities and events require a one-time commitment of just a few hours. Others require somewhat more! You can use this link to complete the survey on your phone, tablet, or computer—or pick up a hard copy on Sunday, January 25.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Social_Justice_Council_Survey



Seeds of Support for February is Prism Network

Prism provides LGBTQ+ peer support groups, suicide prevention, community resources and referrals, resources specific to transgender and gender diverse people, and LGBTQ+ events and education.

GPUUC Food Pantry:

Thank you to everyone in this Congregation who so generously donates to the ongoing needs of our food pantry. We generally have between 40 and 50 patrons every week who visit on Fridays!

The GPUUC Food Pantry is unique because we supply paper products (T.P. and Paper Towels) and personal care items. No other food pantry in the area does this – many patrons tell us this is why they come every week. We get many, many expressions of thanks from our patrons. This year we gave out gift cards over the holidays, and this has resulted in many new faces coming to our pantry over the past few weeks.

The needs in this community are significant. If you have any questions, please reach out to Catherine Marsh, Kris Parsons, or Moira Patterson.

Our next GPUUC Green Bag Collection**Is February 8th****Please bring your bag to Service on Sunday****or****Drop it off in the Office before February 13th****Please remember to put your name in or on the bag**If you have questions, please reach out to team members:
Catherine Marsh, Kris Parsons, Jack Bennett, and Moira Patterson.**Volunteers Needed for The GPUUC Green Bag February 14 Distribution**

Sign Up sheets will be available in Davis Hall on Sunday February 1 and Sunday February 8. We will also make them available on line.

Volunteers will be needed for the following activities:

- February 13, afternoon: transport from GPUUC and deliver to the Park Collective, 7450 E. Pav Way, P.V. 1-2 volunteers and a truck.
- February 14, 8:30 AM – 10:30 AM: at the Park Collective, set up the tables, accept packages, unpack food and sort into crates – 5-8 volunteers needed.
- February 14, 8:30 AM – 11:00 AM: transport food from the Park Collective to GPUUC 5 trucks and drivers.
- February 14 9:00 AM – 12:00 AM: at GPUUC empty trucks of food and load it onto the storage shelves. Must be able to lift boxes which may be heavy. 4-6 volunteers needed.
- February 14 10:30 AM: transport tables back to GPUUC. 1 volunteer and a truck needed.

Thanks to all who are able to assist. Any questions please reach out to Catherine Marsh, Kris Parsons, Jack Bennet or Moira Patterson.

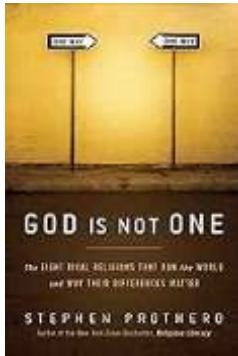
**AZ Corporation Commission:
Reasonable and Just?****March 8, 2 to 4 PM in Davis Hall, GPUUC.**

The Social Justice Council compiled a Resource Directory for the use of our community members and friends. The Directory includes names, phone numbers, and brief descriptions of programs available to assist individuals experiencing mental health challenges, food insecurity, homelessness, domestic violence, job insecurity, substance abuse, veterans services, and additional needs.

The Directory can be accessed from the GPUUC website's homepage. Click or tap on the Local Resources icon/button. additionally, there will be "hard copies" of the Directory on the table in the Sanctuary lobby.

**Adult Faith Development**

Mary Ann Clark



Introduction to World Religions based on *God is Not One*: Part 3
Confucianism, Taoism, Judaism, Atheism and Civil Religion presented by Mary Ann Clark.
February 4, 11, 18, 25, 1 to 3 PM in Faith Development-A.

In God is Not One: The Eight Religions that Run the World, best-selling author of Religious Literacy and religion scholar Stephen Prothero argues that persistent attempts to portray all religions as different paths to the same God overlook the distinct problem that each tradition seeks to solve. There is a copy of the book at the public library. It is also available from Amazon, Audible, and other book sellers. For more information, contact Mary Ann Clark. (

AZ Corporation Commission: Reasonable and Just? March 8, 2 to 4 PM in Davis Hall.

The Little-Known 4th Branch of Government and the Ethics of Electric Bills presented by Melanie Beikman, head of Interfaith Power and Light and

sponsored by the GPUUC Adult Faith Development Committee, the GPUUC Social Justice Council, the Interfaith Power and Light, Northern AZ Climate Change Alliance, and Interfaith Climate Action Tea. Join us for a conversation about electricity: who regulates it, who decides your electricity bill, and Arizona's role in the climate crisis.

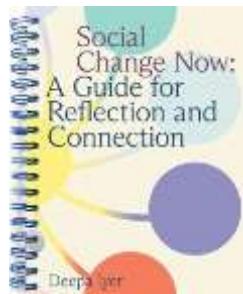
There is a little known "4th branch" of Arizona government" that regulates utilities and other businesses. In that role, the 5-member Arizona Corporation Commission impacts your utility bills as well as how we produce the electricity we all use.

As UU's we look at the cost of energy through the lens of Justice, Equity and Compassion in Human Relations, and we consider the sources of our energy use in light of the Respect for the Interdependent Web of Existence and our stewardship of creation.

The UUA Common Read for this year, Social Change Now: A Guide for Reflection and Connection by Deepa Iyer (Skinner House) see

<https://www.uua.org/lifespan/curricula/read> facilitated by Jo Sprague and Fred Kraps will be presented next spring. Watch for more information.

For more information, contact Mary Ann Clark.



February Birthdays

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

Faith Development Happenings

By Sandra Palacios

January 4, 2026: Kwanzaa



Kwanzaa was created in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga, a professor and activist, in the aftermath of the Watts Riots in Los Angeles. Kwanzaa is modeled on the traditional African harvest festivals, such as those of the Shanti and Zulu people, to emphasize community, collective work, and the fruit of labor. The name "Kwanzaa" comes from the Swahili phrase "matunda ya kwanzaa" meaning "first fruit."

1. The celebration centers around seven core principles, "Nquzo Saba":
2. Umga-Unity
3. Kujichagulia-Self-determination
4. Ujima-Collective work and responsibility
5. Ujamaa-Cooperative Economics
6. Nia-Purpose
7. Kuumba-Creativity
8. Iman-Faith



The students created a woven pattern using strips of brightly colored construction paper.

January 11, 2026: Time of All Ages/Three Kings Day

Today began with the students in the sanctuary,

listening to Rev. Michelle read her own illustrated story, "Time for All Ages." The message of the story involved several situations where we may find ourselves helping each other make decisions about our lives.

Three Kings Day is also known as the Feast of the Epiphany, in some traditions, and is celebrated on January 6. It is meant to signify the arrival of the Wiseman, or Magi, in Bethlehem.

In Mexico and many other Latin American countries, Santa Claus is not as popular as the Three Kings, who are believed to be the bearers of gifts, therefore leaving presents for children in or near a pair of their shoes.

The "Rosca de Reyes" or King Ring Cake, is a food tradition in places such as Spain, France, and Latin America. The Rosca de Reyes is a sweet, wreath-shaped bread containing candied fruit, and often with figurines of the baby Jesus hidden inside. Whoever finds the token Jesus in their slice of bread, is obligated to host an upcoming party for the others present at the celebration.



The names of the multinational Three Kings are as follows: Melchoir from Persia, Gaspar from India and Baltazar from Arabia.

The students each enjoyed cutting their own slice of the Kings Cake, all hoping to **not** find a baby figurine!

January 18, 2026: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day

The focus today was not solely on Martin Luther King, but on the four children that he had with his wife, Coretta Scott King. All four children were quite young when he was assassinated on April 4, 1968. All of Dr. King's children have worked to honor his legacy by promoting civil rights and social justice.



Yolanda Denise King, the eldest child born in 1955, was 12 years old when her father was killed. She grew up to become a minister, civil rights activist, and advocate for women's rights. Sadly, she passed away from a heart condition in 2007.

Martin Luther King III, born in 1957, was 10 years old when his father died. He is a professor and a human rights activist. He had traveled with his father on several social justice missions prior to King's death.

Dexter Scott King, born in 1961, served as chairman of the King Center for social justice in Atlanta. He was 7 years old when his father was assassinated. Unfortunately, Dexter passed away in 2024 due to prostate cancer.

Bernice Albertine King, born in 1963, the youngest of the King children, was just 5 years old when her father was killed. She is a lawyer, minister, and civil rights leader.

Yolanda Renee King, born in 2008, is the only grandchild of Dr. King and is daughter to Martin Luther King III. She is currently a 17-year-old youth activist, author, and speaker. She continues her grandparent's legacy by advocating for gun violence prevention, voting rights and climate justice. She authored the book "We Dream a World" in 2024.

The students of Faith Development created a poster of the ‘*Hands of Love*’ and shared their dreams for the future.

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.



Engage, Educate, Empower: Uniting to End HIV/AIDS in Black Communities, February 7

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NBHAAD) is dedicated to raising awareness about the disproportionate impact of HIV on Black and African American communities. First observed in 1999, NBHAAD highlights the importance of community involvement and improved access to HIV education, prevention, testing, and treatment services. This year’s theme is “Engage, Educate, Empower: Uniting to End HIV/AIDS in Black Communities.”

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), national HIV prevention efforts led to a 10 percent decrease in the number of Black or African American people diagnosed with HIV between 2017 and 2021. Despite this decrease, HIV continues to have a disproportionate impact in Black communities.

In 2021, 40 percent of new HIV diagnoses occurred in Black and African American people, although this population accounted for only 13 percent of the total population. This disparity is even wider in the South, where Black and African Ameri-

can people accounted for 49 percent of new diagnoses in 2021 but comprised only 19 percent of the population.

In addition, the majority of new HIV diagnoses occur in Black or African American gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (MSM). Within this population, young Black and African American MSM are the most affected subpopulation—three of four new HIV diagnoses in Black and African American MSM are among people ages 13-34.



We grieve the killing of Renee Nicole Good, a 37 year-old mother and legal observer, by Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Minneapolis yesterday—an act of state violence that has stolen a life and reverberates through an already-wounded community. This is not an isolated incident, but the result of policies that criminalize immigration and enforce borders through fear, surveillance, and force rather than care.

Side With Love is in solidarity with immigrant communities in Minneapolis and across the country who live under constant threat of detention, separation, and death at the hands of the state. We are in solidarity with the faithful masses of people showing up to build a world where the worth and dignity of all are held as sacred and unshakable truth.

As people of faith and conscience, we are called by love to tell the truth about this violence, to accompany those most impacted, and to keep organizing toward fulfilling the promise of our communities and institutions to make safety, belonging, and freedom real for all.

We join many others in demanding accountability and an immediate end to I.C.E. operations in all our communities. We invite all people of faith and conscience to grieve together, to refuse the normalization of state violence, and to commit themselves to the long work of transforming the systems that betray our deepest moral and spiritual commitments..