



# The View

## April 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.

### April 6, Rev. Roger Fritts: “The Kingdom of God is Within You.”

The sermon will explore Christian, Buddhist, and spring break ideas about feeling at peace, feeling satisfied with life. This is an auction sermon for Ed & Bev Bostrom.

### April 13, Rev. Roger Fritts: “The Risk of Social Justice.”

Palm Sunday commemorates the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. It was an act of courage. After many months in the countryside calling for changes in the Jewish establishment, Jesus felt that his campaign to reform Judaism had grown strong enough that he could risk bringing his movement for change to center of Jewish life. Palm Sunday is found whenever we serve a noble cause.

### April 20, Rev. Roger Fritts: “Honk If You Love Jesus.”

The sermon will explore one Unitarian Universalist’s ideas about Jesus.

### April 27, Patrick Grady: "Earth Week sermon: Building a Resilient Community Together."

This message, in honor of Earth Day, looks at the challenges facing our nation and even our own local community that threaten the environment and the future of the planet. We will look at GPUU's legacy of climate advocacy as well as the love, hope and action required to engage in positive community-building.

Patrick Grady is the co-lead of the GPUU Social Justice Ministry Council. He also is involved in the Quad Cities Climate Collaborative, the Interfaith Climate Action Team and the newly formed Working Group on Sustainability. He finds both peace and love in community, in the beauty of our natural surroundings of lakes and mountains, and in family.

#### 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.

#### *In This Issue*

Services	1
From the Minister	2
From the President	2
Board Buzz	3
Nominees for May Election	3
Treasurer’s Report	4
Leadership Development	4
New Members	4
Stewardship	5
The Forum	5
Women’s & Men’s Groups	5
Mahjong	5
NEW Drum Circle	5
Meditation Group	5
Easter Potluck	6
Pagan Gathering	6
April Memorial Services	6
Adult Faith Development	6
Children’s Faith Development	7-8
Birthdays	8
Seeds of Support	8
UUA General Assembly	9
Newsletter Deadlines	10

## From the Minister

Rev. Roger Fritts

In addition to the great news of a new minister coming this August, the exciting work of building a new worship space is well under way.



Unitarian Universalists have many famous buildings. The oldest church in continuous use of any denomination in the United States is the Unitarian Universalist church in Hingham, Massachusetts, the Old Ship Meetinghouse. Built in 1681, it is the only remaining 17th century Puritan meetinghouse in America. Inside the plain, unadorned walls of the meetinghouse the ceiling, made of great oak beams, looks like the inverted frame of a ship. It is a National Historic Landmark.

Less than a hundred years later Kings Chapel was built in what is now downtown Boston. The stone building, made of Quincy granite, was opened in 1754. A bell forged in England was hung in 1772. It cracked in 1814. Paul Revere recast and rehung it in 1816. Revere said it was “the sweetest bell I ever made.” It still rings every Sunday morning to summon parishioners to service. Kings Chapel became Unitarian in 1785. They use the book of common prayer, with all the references to the Trinity removed. It is a National Historic Landmark, well worth visiting.

The most expensive Unitarian building is in Fairhaven, Massachusetts. Working for Standard Oil Company, Henry Huttleston Rogers earned a personal wealth of over half a billion dollars. His mother was dedicated to her Unitarian church, so Henry used his enormous wealth to build a church to honor the memory of his mother. The church copies the style of a 15th century English Gothic Cathedral. The outside is of granite and limestone. The interior woodwork consists of rare English bog oak, shipped from England and carved by wood carvers brought over from Germany. Beautiful stain glass windows cover the walls. In 1904 it cost forty million dollars to build. The church was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1996.

The two most famous Unitarian Churches are both by Frank Lloyd Wright. Unity Temple is in Oak Park Illinois. Completed in 1908, it was Wright’s first public building. A square room, no one is more than forty-five feet from the pulpit and the congregation can see each other. Unity Temple is a National Historic Landmark and on the UNESCO World Heritage List. If you are in Chicago, I encourage you to visit it. The second Frank Lloyd Wright Unitarian Universalist Church is the Unitarian Meeting House in Madison, Wisconsin. It was completed in 1951 and is also a National Historic Landmark.

I love grand buildings, but I also love simple religious buildings. We make a space sacred by saying this place, of all the places on earth, is where I will stand and say the vows when I join in union with another person. This is where I will stand and say for all the community to hear the name of my newborn child. This where I will come with a gathered community to remember and celebrate the lives of my friends and my relatives after they have died. Having been the space for these important events in our lives, each time we enter this sacred space it touches our emotions; it gives us a feeling of safety. It gives us inspiration; it lifts our spirits. You are creating such a space.

## From the President

Rick Denney



Beloved friends,

As I write this, it has been three weeks since our Sunday services have been held in Davis Hall because of our congregation’s overwhelming decision to proceed with the sanctuary renovation, which is proceeding apace. Our intrepid volunteers, led by Brian Willison, continue to tweak the seating arrangements to accommodate the admittedly somewhat crowded conditions, but all in all, I have been impressed with how well it is worked. Our worship leaders and Rev. Roger, as well as Rev Becky Gunn, last week’s guest minister, have all risen to the occasion. Kudos to all!



## Board Buzz: Highlights from the Board's March Meeting

Concerning the renovation project, the removal of the raised concrete areas around the sanctuary proved to be easier than anticipated. Trenches around the inner perimeter of the existing walls are being dug and prepared for the pouring of concrete footers that will support the new fourteen-foot walls. Word is that framing of those new walls may start within the next three weeks! The dreams that many of us have had for a more inspiring sanctuary space are taking shape day by day!

I know that many are curious about the selection process that culminated in the hiring of Rev. Michelle LaGrave as our new minister starting August 1st. The UUA process to hire a Settled Minister is at minimum a two-year effort. The Board elected to undertake the more streamlined UUA option of seeking a Contract Minister, an arrangement that is increasingly common, especially among smaller UU congregations like ours. A Board-appointed group took on the task of updating our congregation's profile on the UUA Ministry Search Portal and monitoring for interested applicants.

When Rev. LaGrave submitted her detailed Ministerial and work record and expressed enthusiastic interest in serving GPUUC, the committee phoned references, each of whom strongly praised her Ministerial qualifications and pastoral skills. The search team then conducted a series of Zoom meetings with Rev. LaGrave. Finally, the search team unanimously recommended to the Board that Rev. LaGrave be hired on a two-year, renewable contract, and the Board unanimously agreed. As a Contract Minister, Rev. LaGrave will be eligible to be chosen later as our Settled Minister should the congregation choose to make her so.

We have the good fortune of taking part in a historic moment in our congregational history. We will soon occupy a newly built sanctuary. We have had an influx of talented, new members joining, as witnessed by the welcoming ceremony at a recent service. Incredibly, the sanctuary renovation may well be largely complete by the time Rev. LaGrave joins us on August 1. New beginnings, indeed!

The first thing on everyone's mind is the construction project – The demolition phase is done, the conduit for the sound system cables is in (Thanks Tim for coordinating with the construction guys on this), excavation started March 24, and in 2-3 weeks they may be able to start the framing. Wow! At the other end of the building, the waterline is being replaced. We have every expectation that our water pressure will be wonderful by next Sunday's congregation, and we can remove those extra jugs of flushing water from the restrooms. Yay!

Finances on all fronts seem to be progressing pretty well, so keep it going! Remember to make your annual pledge soon so the financial committee doesn't have to rewrite the budget for next fiscal year (pretty please). And note that our fiscal year is July 1 to June 30 each year.

We seem to have enough people to fill nominations for the slate of GPUUC officers we get to vote for in May. Roger and Rick seem to agree that we have an unusually pleasant bunch of people running our Congregation. :

Dawn, Secretary of the Board of Trustees.

### Nominees for May Election

#### Board of Trustees:

President: Rick Denney  
 Vice President: Dick Walter  
 Treasurer: Stephanie Willison  
 At-Large: Karen Hagberg  
 At-Large: Catherine Marsh  
 At-Large: Thomas Camargo

(Dawn Korade stays as Secretary, Rick Denney is the current President, Dick Walter is currently an at-large member.)

#### Nominating Committee:

Udelle Stuckey, Brian Willison, Elayne Hayes



## Treasurer Report

Through February, we are 66% through the year ending on 6/30/25, and we are 70% of the way to our pledge goal. Thank you! Our operating budget continues to be in good shape. We are ahead in revenue by 7% and

under in expenses by 12%. You'll find the monthly financial reports on the GP website.

### The More You Know!

As a reminder, Granite Peak's budget year goes from July 1st to June 30th. So, we have three months left in our '24-'25 fiscal year. We'll be emailing your pledge statements in April, so you'll know where you are with this year's pledge and what your balance is, if any. As you know, our Stewardship drive for next year ends soon. You don't need to make your pledges now, but we do need your pledge commitments! If you wish to pay your pledge early before the new fiscal year starts on July 1, please note "25-26 Pre-Paid Pledge" in the memo of your check.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Tracy Augustine, Treasurer

## Leadership Development—Applications Now Being Accepted for General Assembly Funding

The 2025 UUA General Assembly will be held from Jun 18 to 22 in Baltimore and remotely. If you are interested in being a congregational delegate to the business meeting, contact the Board of Trustees.

The Ethan Davis Leadership Fund was established to encourage the development of lay leaders of the congregation. The Leadership Development Committee is 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 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, so you can attend in person for 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 Lisa ([granitepeakuu@gmail.com](mailto:granitepeakuu@gmail.com)) or Mary Ann Clark for either an electronic or printed copy of the form.



## Have You Met Our New Members?

During the March, 2 Sunday service, Reverend Fritts and Membership Chair Lydia Garrett were pleased to welcome the following new members into our lively and active congregation. Also welcomed were members who had previously joined but had not formally been introduced in a Welcoming Ceremony since November 2024.

Jack and Mary Fran Bennet

Martin Bramhall

Thomas Camargo

Jay Casey

Shaunte' Coats

Lisa DeLeo

Dawna Hill

Catherine Marsh

Krista Munson

Amy Nelson

Margy Olmstead

Carol Parr

Moira Patterson

Mary Pomerene

Ann Sawyer

Please welcome our new members with the warmth and camaraderie of our beloved community.

**COMING SOON.....to  
Davis HALL!!!**



**Our Granite Peak Capital Campaign  
Kickoff!!**

**Stay tuned...more info on its way!!**



## **Spirit of Commitment**

**Thank you to all the members and friends who have pledged for the next fiscal year! We are moving toward our Operating Fund goal but have not arrived there yet!**



**Make your pledge today:**

[Click Here](#) or scan the QR code above.

**We need to complete our stewardship pledge drive A.S.A.P. to allow the Board of Trustees ample time to prepare the FY 25-26 budget for the required proposed budget publishing fifteen days prior to our early May Annual Meeting.**

If you have not already been contacted by a Granite Peak U.U. steward, please let me know. We want to reach out to EVERY member and friend of our beloved congregation so we can FULLY fund operations in the next fiscal year, when our new minister, Rev. Michelle LaGrave, arrives. This will really demonstrate our Spirit of Commitment!

**Marianne Erickson.**

## **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..



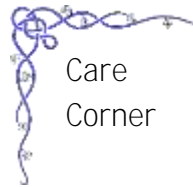
## **Drum Circle**



Our monthly Drum Circle in April will meet at noon 4/20 , after the potluck, in the Faith Development Bldg

On the following 3rd Sundays we'll resume meeting at 11:30. Bring a drum if you have one, or drums provided. For more information please contact: Bronwyn Butterfield or Lynne Ilhstrom .

**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 Fridays at 2 pm. Jack Wood will facilitate.



Care  
Corner

## Memorial Services at Granite Peak

**Eunice G. Lovejoy**  
Saturday, April 19 at 3 pm.

**Caren Greenberg**  
Saturday, April, 26, 11 am

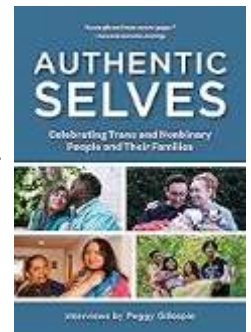


## Adult Faith Development

Join Fred Kraps and Jo Sprague in an exploration of this year's UUA

Common Read, *Authentic Selves* on Wednesdays, April 14, 21, 28 at 2 pm.

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,



## Pagan Gathering

### The Gods and Goddesses of Healing

April 19. 11-12:30  
Faith Development Building

In many traditions, healing rituals are performed in tandem with a petition to the god or goddess of the pantheon who is representative of healing and wellness. Wikipedia lists over 130 gods and goddesses of health from cultures around the world! Who might you communicate with and how would you do it? Ours is a space to share and learn.

*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, contact Sukey Jones.*

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 GPUUC library. You can also get a copy from the Prescott Public Library, Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Bookshop and UU InSpirit, the UU Book and Gift Shop.



## Faith Development Happenings

By Sandra Palacios

### March 2, 2025: International Women's Day

The theme for International Women's Day 2025 is "Accelerate Action". The emphasis for this year focuses on how collectively, we can accelerate action in solidarity for women's issues.

March 8 is an important day to acknowledge and increase awareness of the achievements of women. It all began in New York City in March 1857, when female textile workers marched in protest of unfair work conditions, demanding equal rights for women. A purple ribbon is worn to symbolize solidarity and support for gender equality and is associated with international Women's Day. The students colored in purple ribbons, selected a significant woman from history, and wrote their name on the ribbon.



### March 9, 2025: Planting the Seeds of Hope

Today the students learned about germination. Germination is the process of seeds developing into new plants. Steven Lovejoy came and demonstrated the procedure to the students.



How germination works: 1. Seeds remain dormant until conditions are right. 2. When conditions are favorable, water and oxygen are absorbed through the seed coat. 3. The embryo's cell enlarges. 4. The seed coat breaks open and the root emerges. 5. The shoot emerges, containing the leaves and stem.

Sunflowers are the national flower and most beloved bloom of Ukraine. It represents resistance, unity and hope. This symbol of hope holds a meaningful place in the hearts of our Ukrainian friends, family, neighbors and co-workers. The students created a beautiful sunflower out of yarn on cardboard.

### March 16, 2025: Ostara/ Vernal Equinox

Ainslee provided today's lesson. Ostara is another name for the Vernal (Spring) Equinox (Equal Night),

in acknowledgement of Eostar, the goddess of dawn, new beginnings, Spring and rebirth. During the equinox, there are 12 hours of day and 12 hours of night. The students participated in open and closed ended questions, such as, “Did anyone see the full blood moon lunar eclipse on Thursday night?” Students made buttons and collages of the Spring Equinox.



**March 23, 2025: Spring**

Spring is a time or season of growth and development. The season usually includes the months of March, April and May. Spring signifies new beginnings, growth, renewal and rebirth; mirroring nature’s awakening after Winter and offering a sense of hope and optimism. Spring represents a chance to leave behind the old and embrace the new, both in nature and in our own lives.

The students were very creative in making Spring floral prints. They also shared ideas of what they enjoy the most about Spring-time.



**April Birthdays**

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

**Social Justice**



**Seeds of Support for April is the Feed Your Neighbors program of the Prescott Farmers Market.**

Thanks to the assistance from individual donors, community partners, volunteers and partnering organizations, the Feed Your Neighbors (FYN) program has fed thousands of food-insecure individuals in our community since March of 2020. With charitable funding, we purchase fresh produce from our local farmers. We then partner with local agencies to identify those who are in need and provide food assistance for them- be it delivering a FYN box of veggies, providing shopping assistance at the market utilizing FYN Food Vouchers, or simply ensuring our local food pantries are supplied with fresh options.

This program is a win-win because it provides fresh food to those who are struggling to put food on the table, while also supporting small family farms and, in turn, boosting the local economy.





**Join us June 18 - 22 for General Assembly 2025.**

The 64th UUA General Assembly will be a multi-platform event with the main stage at the Baltimore Convention Center in Baltimore, Maryland.

Multiplatform and Single-day In-person registrants will receive a GA Name Badge to identify one another at in-person events on the General Assembly [Schedule](#). Meals are not included.

Multiplatform registrants will receive access to the 2025 General Assembly Event App, Whova, including interactive and on-demand video content, the virtual exhibit hall, and networking. Business-only registrants will have access to the online Delegate Participation Platform, but not to the Whova event app or in-person events.

All registrants agree to adhere to [our event covenant](#).

Register Now: [Adult Registration](#)

**GA 2025 Featured Speaker: Deepa Iyer**

We are thrilled to announce Deepa Iyer as a Featured Speaker at General Assembly 2025! A writer, strategist, and justice advocate, Deepa brings a wealth of experience in movement building, community solidarity, and social change.



Deepa will offer insight into how we, as Unitarian Universalists, can strengthen our collective efforts for justice and deepen our commitment to building a more equitable world. Whether you are new to activism or a seasoned advocate, her message will inspire and challenge us all.

Deepa Iyer is a writer, strategist, and lawyer who has been engaged in supporting social movements for justice over the past 25 years. Currently, Deepa is the Senior Director of Strategic Initiatives at the Building Movement Project, a national nonprofit organization that catalyzes social change through research, strategic partnerships, and resources for movements and nonprofits.

Deepa conducts workshops and trainings, uplifts narratives through the Solidarity Is This podcast, and facilitates solidarity strategy for cohorts and networks.

She graduated from the University of Notre Dame Law School and Vanderbilt University. Don't miss this opportunity to learn from Deepa Iyer at GA 2025!