



The View

June 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.

June 1, Rev. Roger Fritts: *The Purpose of Music.*

Charles Darwin thought the purpose of music was to help us find mates. Darwin suggested that early humans, unable to express their love in words, "*endeavored to charm each other with musical notes and rhythm,*" as birds do. In response to this theory, one man wrote, "*I play first trombone in one of the finest orchestras in the world. If music evolved to help people select mates, why can't I get a date?*" The sermon will explore the question "Why do we like music?"

June 8, Rev. Roger Fritts: *What have I learned from my years as a UU Minister and how have the different congregations impacted that learning process?*

Last fall at our service auction I agreed to sell the right to pick a sermon topic twice. This will be my second auction sermon. I could take several hours to answer the question posed by Tracy Powers, but I will try to keep it to the regular one-hour service.

June 15, Rev. Roger Fritts: *No Kings.*

The day after demonstrations across the country the sermon will reflect on where we stand as a country.

June 22, CUUPS: *The Spiritual Meaning of the Summer Solstice.*

As cultures have been doing for millennia, let us open ourselves to the beauty and abundance of the season, leaning into the energy of the sun. Presented by GPUUC CUUPS Kindred Spirits.

June 29, Rev. Roger Fritts: *Scotland and the American Declaration of Independence.*

When I was the guest minister in Edinburgh in 2007, I read about the Scottish Enlightenment, a period in 18th century Scotland characterized by many of intellectual accomplishments (funded by the tobacco trade with the American colonies). I learned that ideas from Scotland, particularly the ideas of one member of the Scottish clergy, greatly influenced the text of our Declaration of Independence.

Our Covenant: Love is the doctrine of this congregation, the quest for truth its sacrament and service is its prayer. To dwell together in peace, to seek knowledge in freedom, to serve others in community, thus do we covenant together.

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From the Minister

The drama of President Biden's retirement is so sad. He is a very good man. In retrospect we all have a clearer understanding of how he could have done things better. He should have announced in November 2022 that he would not run for a second term.

His story raised in my own mind the question of when to stop, when to retire. My Dad retired when he was 60. For many years I planned to retire when I turned 65, which would have been in January of 2016. However, things were going well in my ministry in Sarasota in 2016. I stayed another four years, stopping when I was 69.

In retirement over two years, I cleaned and renovated the basement of our home in Maryland and took several enjoyable road trips. In 2022 there was a shortage of Unitarian Universalist Ministers, and I decided to help by taking an interim ministry in Media, Pennsylvania, 130 miles north of our home in Maryland. (Media's slogan is "Everybody's Hometown.") After one year in Media, I retired again.

A year passed. We did more traveling to Canada, Arizona, Virginia, Kentucky, Vermont (to see the solar eclipse), California and Scotland. In June 2024 the Unitarian Universalist Association said there was still a shortage of ministers and one place that was looking was Prescott (slogan, "Everybody's Hometown"). *"You do not want to spend your life watching Netflix,"* said my partner, Leslie Westbrook. I think this was an exaggeration, but she had a point.

I really love serving as your interim minister. I feel useful. However, living here reminds me that my dad died at the Prescott hospital in 2002 at age 82. I will be 82 in eight years. I am guessing that (with luck) I am good for about eight more years. I am going to give retirement another try, starting August 1. I will enter this new chapter in my life with very, very positive feelings, because of my wonderful year with all of you. Thank you.



From the President

Rick Denney

Beloved friends,

What a whirlwind of activity we are seeing at Granite Peak UU Congregation! The Sanctuary renovation project is proceeding apace. Window frames with trim and backing for the ivy trellises have materialized over the last few days. The blue roof (the underlayment) will soon be covered by the green steel roof that is currently arrayed on the pavement in front of Davis Hall. It will soon take up its rightful place on the roof! If you haven't yet done so, I urge you to enter the sanctuary through the door in the parking lot and sense the uplifting space that will soon be our new spiritual home!

Our annual Congregational meeting on May 11 went off like clockwork, thanks in no small part to the expert presentation the prior Sunday of the proposed operational budget by our soon to be departing secretary, Tracy Augustine. Both Tracy, and husband Chris Hawthorne, will be sorely missed when they depart soon for their new home in the Northeast. Budgetary questions were raised and answered that prior Sunday, so the balanced 2025-2026 budget was passed unanimously and without further discussion.

Also approved unanimously on May 11 was the proposed slate of Board candidates, including me (President), Dick Walter (Vice President), Stephanie Willison (Treasurer), and members-at-large Karen Hagberg, Catherine Marsh, and Thomas Camargo. Also elected were Nominating Committee members Udelle Stucky, Brian Willison and Elayne Hayes. Congratulations to all! Someone commented that the March 11 annual meeting was one of the shortest Congregational meetings in recent history! Perhaps because it occurred on Mother's Day had something to do with that!

Earlier today (May 20), a number of GPUUC members attended the Prescott City Council meeting where our friend and fellow congregant Patrick Grady was elected to fill the recently vacated, seventh seat.



Congratulations to Patrick for his outstanding presentation to the council and for receiving the well-deserved nod to fill the vacancy. We know Patrick will serve Prescott well as a disciplined, courageous and ethical leader.

Sadly, we will soon have to say goodbye to Rev. Roger Fritts, who has led us with such grace and wisdom over the past year. However, we eagerly look forward to the arrival of Rev. Michelle LaGrave and family who will be leading us in worship in August. It is reasonable to hope that by midsummer, we will be holding services in the renovated sanctuary. How exciting is that?



Board Buzz: Highlights from the Board's April Meeting

Board Buzz: Hello all and happy spring weather! Our new sanctuary is springing up as well. Also, UUA General Assembly is coming up shortly – June 18. Elayne Hayes, Kelsey Wilkes, Mary Anne Clark will be our GPUUC representatives, so keep an eye for news from them after the GA.

Our annual Board of Trustees retreat will happen in August, with training for all our board members. Welcome to all the newly elected- Rick Denney our president (for a return engagement), Dick Walter now Vice- President, Treasurer Stephanie Willison, and at-large members Karen Hagberg, Catherine Marsh, and Thomas Camargo. I'll stay on as secretary for another year. Also, sincere thanks to all the other members who worked hard on or with the board this past year, including especially Barbara Wilson, Elayne Hayes, Chris Hawthorne, Ardella Moran, and (until recently) treasurer Tracy Augustine.

You all know the stewardship pledges have gone well, and our budget was approved easily in congregational meeting. Personally, I am very proud of our congregation and many ways we support each other.

I have heard we have a new partner for the food bank as well, so look for more news on that.

Happy Spring, Dawn Korade, BOT Secretary



Treasurer Report

Through April, we are 83% through the year and 81% of the way to our pledge goal. We need your help to catch up in May and June and we can make our pledge goal! Our operating budget continues to be in good shape. We are ahead in revenue by 1% and under in expenses by 15%. You'll find the monthly financial reports on the GP website.

The More You Know!

Granite Peak's budget year is from July 1 to June 30. So, at this writing, we have 5 and a half weeks left in our 24-25 fiscal year. You should have just received your pledge statement that tells you where you are with this year's pledge and what your balance is, if any. Thank you in advance for meeting your pledge! We also need committee leads to get their expenses in as soon as possible. Thank you all for helping us finish out the year as strong as possible.

Respectfully Submitted, Tracy Augustine, Treasurer

From Facilities

While the new Sanctuary is the biggest (and best) new building update, I have some other items of interest for you. If you have comments or suggestions regarding these, please feel free to email me, Dawn Korade.)

As you probably noticed, the water pressure is still not what it should be, so we'll have to get nearly all the interior plumbing replaced. We have 2 estimates for this, with a 3rd estimate in the works. The new pipes would run through the attic spaces, so very little 'destruction' to make these changes. That pillow looking thing behind the kitchen, which is the back-flow prevention valve covered in insulation, will also get moved inside instead of hanging around the rear outdoor social area.

I am looking for a company to re-asphalt the channel that was cut to replace the water main pipe to the building and patch the hole in the parking lot at that end. Anyone know anything about that hole and pipe that might have been for a parking lot drain?

Also, any recommendations for a company to do the asphalt work?

I understand we have a great new partner for the food bank, so in preparation for that, we'll be doing some re-organizing in the faith development building. Also needing volunteers for especially June 14. Please save the date if you may be available and look for upcoming info from the social justice/food bank groups.

Has anyone made use of the rebate programs from the City of Prescott water department? As we do some new plumbing, we may update a toilet or two (or other things if necessary). If you have experience with these programs, please email me. I am reaching to someone from the Water Resource dept to get more details.

Regarding the weeds – Thank you for your patience! I'll get a better system in place, so we don't get taken over.

Regarding landscaping – the new trellis's have arrived. In looking for an evergreen, non-invasive, hardy, and attractive plant I have found Clematis. It has lovely flowers and by mixing several varieties, we could get blooms from early spring to late fall. Anyone with experience to share? Please email me. On that note also- I would like to take the fountain that was moved from the north end rear side of the sanctuary and move it to the south end rear side and make it into a planter. We could add a trellis (smaller than the new ones) and make that part of the building match the others. Thoughts?

The coming year promises to be as exciting as the last one, so I encourage you to jump in and be part of the updates. I am looking forward to it!

Your facilities committee chair, Dawn Korade



From the Care Team:

Care
Corner

Granite Peak's Care Team is available to provide needed support for those who may need temporary assistance with meals, home or hospital visits, transportation, running errands, etc. If members or friends have been recently discharged from the hospital or are in need of personal support, assistance from our caring community may be available by contacting Bobbie Bollinger.

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 Krapts 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 is June 15 meet at 11:30, after the service.

Bring a drum if you have one, or drums provided. For more info: Bronwyn 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.





Empty Bowls Volunteer Sign-ups

The steering committee and area leads have been meeting monthly since March. We're so excited to have new leaders joining Empty Bowls this year, and we are almost ready to fill volunteer slots for the event on Sunday, September 14. We will have a sign-up sheet available after service on the second, third and fourth Sundays in June.

The leads of each area will be listed on the sheet, so you may contact them with any questions you may have about responsibilities or requirements before signing up. You may also email Chris Hawthorne any questions you have prior to the sign-ups.

Adult Faith Development

There are no Adult Faith Development Class this summer. Classes will return in the Fall.



Three Ways to Celebrate the Summer Solstice!

Annual Solstice Drumming at Watson Lake

Friday, June 20, 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 Blessings....

Bring drum or shaker, chair, water, hat, and bug repellent and readings you may want to share.

Pagan Gathering.

Saturday, June 21, 11-12:30

Faith Development Building

Celebrating Litha: the Summer Solstice

In the past and present, many cultures have celebrated the Summer Solstice with various rituals and customs, such as bonfires and dancing. Come learn about its history and its significance for modern pagans, as well as fun ways to celebrate it.

Sunday Service—Sunday June 22 10:00

The Spiritual Meaning of the Summer Solstice

As cultures have been doing for millennia, let us open ourselves to the beauty and abundance of the season, leaning into the energy of the sun. Presented by GPUUC CUUPS Kindred Spirits

From the Membership Committee:

Only two new people could make it to our Informational Meeting on Saturday, May 17, but several members joined us that morning. Rev. Roger's telling of the interesting history that led to Unitarianism and the development of our Unitarian/Universalist movement over the centuries was fascinating to hear. Did you know that a unitarian versus trinitarian belief can be traced clear back to Roman times. Since our March 2 congregational signing ceremony, seven new members signed our membership book. We are planning another such ceremony for June 29. If you are a relatively recent member who missed the March event, and would like to be part of it in June, please let us know. Send an email to Lydia Garrett, membership chair.

Music Note

This past Sunday, 5/18/25, we bid farewell to music director Marshall. Karen Denny made this lovely cake to honor him.



Faith Development Happenings

By Sandra Palacios



Earth cure me. Earth receive my woe. Rock strengthen me. Rock receive my weakness. Rain wash my sadness away. Rain receive my doubt. Sun make sweet my song. Sun receive the anger from my heart. Water flows from high in the mountain. Water runs deep in the Earth. Miraculously, water comes to us and sustains all life. Water and sun, green these plants, when the rain of compassion falls, ever a desert becomes an immense, green ocean.

-Thich N'Hat Hahn



April 27, 2025: Mother Earth ("El Día de la Tierra")

In Nahuatl, "Mother Earth" can be translated as *Tonuntzin* ("Our Mother"), also *Tlalli* ("Earth"). The theme for Earth Day 2025 is "*Our Power, Our Planet*". This theme emphasizes the urgency of transition to renewable energy. Earth Day was founded by U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson from Wisconsin in 1970 to raise awareness about the environment. In Faith Development today, the students will be celebrating various activities that promote environmental awareness/ action, community, clean-up, tree planting, conservation of water and recycling. The importance of taking care of Mother Earth will be emphasized and students will make their own Mother Earth t-shirt.

May 4, 2025: World Laughter Day

The First Sunday of May is World Laughter Day; a celebration that raises awareness about all the benefits of laughing and promoting world peace through laughter. Students of Faith Development will take part in World Laughter Day, helping to spread positivity and cheerfulness in a way that could help change the world. They will each make a book with their Favorite jokes. This day is about happiness, peace and sharing laughter. The students do a laughter exercise.

Q. What do you call a polar bear in Hawaii? A. Lost
Q. How come hyenas are so healthy? A. Because laughter is the best medicine

Nothing is worth more than laughter. It is strength to laugh and to abandon oneself, to be light.

-Frida Kahlo



May 11, 2025: Hello Mother, Hello Father (Allan Sherman) Loving Caregivers

Anna Jarvis of Philadelphia, whose mother had organized a women's group to promote friendship and health, originated Mother's Day on May 12, 1907. Within 5 years, virtually every state was observing the day, and in 1914, U.S. President Woodrow Wilson officially dedicated the Second Sunday in May as Mother's Day in the USA.

The tradition in Mexico known as "*Día de las Madres*" is celebrated on the 10th of May. The importance of the month in Mexica culture, is dedicated to the Virgin Mary.

The students of Faith Development will be reading the following books: "Love You Forever", "Is Your Mama A Llama?" and "Momma Where Are You From?" and make a yarn activity using the word "Mom."



May 18, 2025: Mental Health Awareness Month

"It's Okay to Not be Okay"- Lesson by Ainslee

A day founded by Mental Health America in 1949.

Educates the public on the importance of mental health

Reduces stigma towards therapy, mental illness and people with mental illness

Students from Faith Development learned about what mental health means, (Emotional Coping Wheel), discussion of well-being beyond the physical (thoughts and feelings) including one's ability to cope with stress and learning to effectively use their abilities. What helps you feel better when you are feeling:

Sad- alone time, crying, food, music, talking to Mom

Mad- screaming in a pillow, fist clench, food

Scared-reading, loving words, facing fear, cover up, breathe

The students made a blank "chatterbox" and wrote down possible feelings.



June Birthdays

Erickson	Jon	4
Hill	Dawna	7
Anderson	Barbara	8
Korade	Timothy	10
Wilson	Barbara	12
Beeson	Frank	13
Bunnell	Paul	16
Moran	Patrick	17
Bostrom	Bev	18
Riordan	Dan	18
Burroughs	Paula	21
Gappa-Levi	Lavon	24
Keen	Jane	26

Today there are currently 12 raised beds, 3 recently planted fruit trees and agave plants. Seeds of Support funding is needed to make further site improvements, including fencing to keep the deer and elk out of the garden.

June is LGBTQI+ Pride Month



Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) Pride Month is currently celebrated each year in the month of June to honor the 1969 Stonewall Uprising in Manhattan. The Stonewall Uprising was a tipping point for the Gay Liberation Movement in the United States.

In the United States the last Sunday in June was initially celebrated as "Gay Pride Day," but the actual day was flexible. In major cities across the nation the "day" soon grew to encompass a month-long series of events.

Today, celebrations include pride parades, picnics, parties, workshops, symposia and concerts, and LGBTQ Pride Month events attract millions of participants around the world. Memorials are held during this month for those members of the community who have been lost to hate crimes or HIV/AIDS. The purpose of the commemorative month is to recognize the impact that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals have had on history locally, nationally, and internationally.

The Gathering ACTION CENTER



June 9, 2025 8:00 PM -
9:15 PM ET Online National

Join us for The Gathering, a monthly virtual event from Side With Love designed to offer: Spiritual Grounding – Strengthen your heart and spirit for the work ahead. Political Analysis – Understand the threats to democracy and justice. Collective Action – Organize with others to block anti-democratic forces and build a just and loving world.

https://secure.everyaction.com/ULay_XXIBk-LCDjKOyWcWA2

Social Justice



Seeds of Support for June is Yavapai Prescott Indian Nation Community Garden

This garden project is being done in cooperation with the Indigenous Food Team of Slow Food Prescott.

The garden has 4 major goals:

- Combat diabetes, heart disease and obesity by creating space to grow and harvest vegetables and fruit to eat
- Encourage healthy food choices by offering cooking classes
- Create an opportunity to learn about traditional food for nourishment and healing
- Strengthen families and community intergenerational connectedness by providing a place where they can gather



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.

Baltimore, Maryland, is a city with a deep connection to Unitarian Universalism.

It's home to one of the first Unitarian churches in the United States, First Unitarian Church of Baltimore. It's where Rev. William Ellery Channing gave his seminal "*Baltimore Sermon*," which laid the foundation for Unitarian theology in America.

This summer—200 years since the chartering of the American Unitarian Association, which preceded the UUA—UUs will make new memories in that beloved city when we gather in Baltimore for General Assembly.



GA 2025 Ware Lecturer is Imara Jones

Each year, the UUA President invites a visionary leader to share their wisdom as the Ware Lecturer at General Assembly—

and we're thrilled to announce that Imara Jones will take the stage in 2025! An award-winning journalist, thought-leader, and changemaker, Imara is known for challenging conventional thinking and inspiring bold action to transform our world.

Imara, whose work has won Emmy and Peabody Awards, is the creator of TransLash Media, a cross-platform journalism, personal storytelling and narrative project, which produces content to shift the current culture of hostility towards transgender people in the US. As part of her work at TransLash, Imara hosts the WEBBY-nominated, TransLash Podcast with Imara Jones as well as the investigative, limited series, *The Anti-Trans Hate Machine: A Plot Against Equality*.

In 2020 Imara was featured on the cover of Time Magazine as part of its New American Revolution special edition. In 2019 she chaired the first-ever UN High Level Meeting on Gender Diversity with over 600 participants. Imara's work as a host, on-air news analyst, and writer focuses on the full-range of social justice and equity issues

The Ware Lecture is Saturday, June 21 at 7:00 pm ET / 6:00 pm CT / 5:00 pm MT / 4:00 pm PT.