



The View

September 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.

September 6, Prescott Peacebuilders: *Invest in Peace- For Everyone, Everywhere, Every Day.*

Meet Peace Activists the Peace Pilgrim, George Lakey, and Rivera Sun, portrayed by Leslie Grady, Patrick Grady, and Jovita Fine, as we learn how "everyday people" help to promote peace in our communities, our nation, and the world every day. Meg Bohrman and Rick Shore will share their music for this peace journey.

September 13, Rev Michelle: *Soul Matters: Beginnings.*

On this first Sunday after Labor Day, we find ourselves at the beginning of both a congregational year and the Jewish New Year. This is one of many beginnings (and endings) we encounter throughout the calendar year. What is arising in your spirit at this time?

September 13, 11 am at the Square *Empty Bowls!*

September 20, Rev Michelle: *Water Communion.*

As we begin a new year together, we also gather the waters of our lives. Please bring a small amount of water representing a gift from your life this past summer to share. Children and youth will worship with their families before moving to the Faith Development building later in the service.

September 27, Rev Michelle: *God as a Verb.*

The topic of this sermon was purchased by Karen Denney at last year's congregational auction. Whatever will Rev. Michelle say? Come and find out!

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

Greetings!

I am excited to begin another year with all of you here at Granite Peak! I've been doing all of those beginning of the year things like planning out worship services and going to retreats with the Worship Team and the Board and checking out the work of the new Social Committee (also known as going to the Line Dancing party) and thinking a lot about the year ahead.

We are at the beginning of the second year of our ministry contract, so I'd like to say what that is and what that means to all of us. We are in a type of ministry called "contract to call." That means that unlike interim ministry, which prohibits a minister from staying on after the interim ministry period, the congregation can choose to call the minister.

In the past, all the ministers here at Granite Peak were either interim ministers or called ministers. Interim ministers are offered time-limited contracts voted on by the Board. Called ministers have been voted in by the entire congregation and can stay as long as the ministry makes sense.

The contract to call process is outlined by a decision tree chart. The first question asks whether the Leadership (the Board) would like to engage in the call process with the minister. The Board has answered "yes" to this question! The second question is whether the minister would like to pursue a call with the congregation. I have answered "yes" to this question! The third question requires the formation of a "task force" to answer and that is whether the congregation would like to continue to explore the call process.

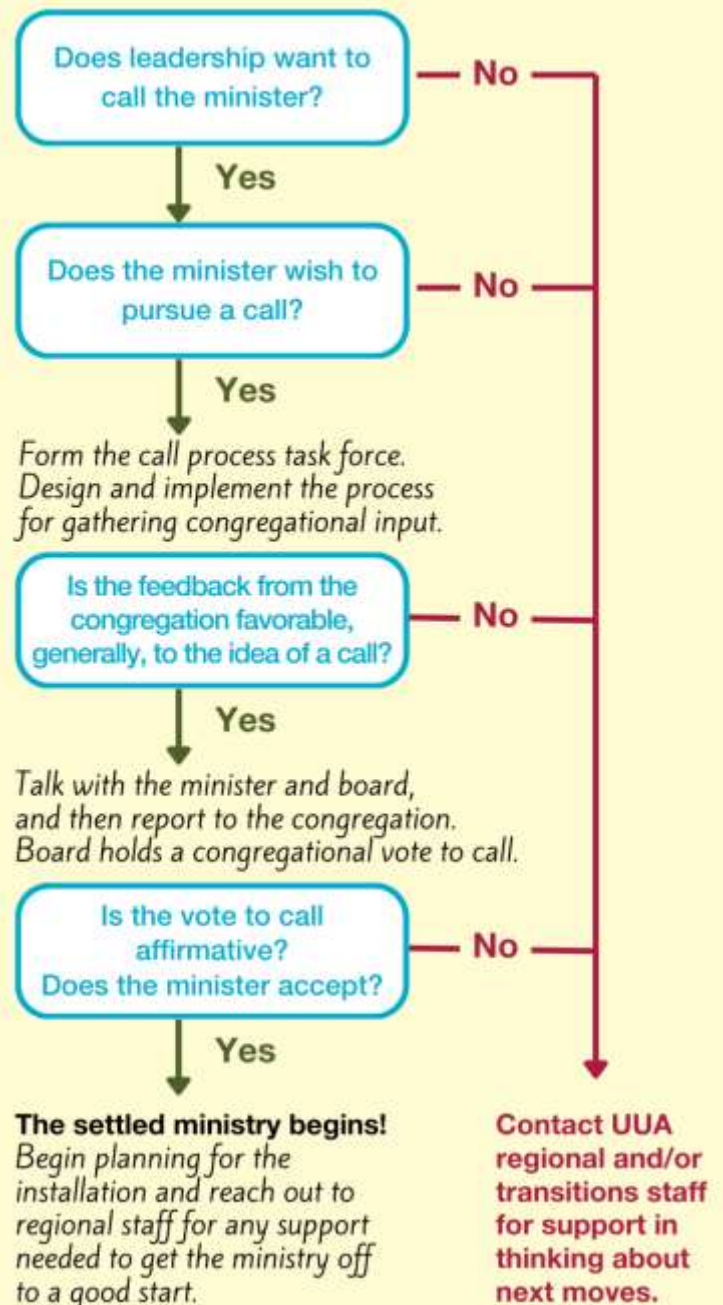
We are at this stage of the process, forming the task force. If the task force answers "yes" to this question, the process will continue, and a congregational vote will be scheduled and held. The vote is typically over 95% to 100% of the congregation voting "yes" for the minister to agree to accept the call. Yes, those

numbers are high and yes, many, many congregations get there.

In the meantime, we will continue our ministry together and continue learning about the contract to call process and what it means to call a minister.

Looking forward to a good year with all of you. Rev. Michelle

Contract to Call Decision Tree



From the President

By Catherine Marsh



Hello Friends,

As we start this new Congregational year it is amazing how very busy things already are with Reverend Michelle back and so many activities like the fabulous Western Round up this past week. There are so many opportunities to get involved and have fun I really encourage everyone to check out the upcoming activities that are highlighted in the Weekly Peak. There is something for everyone!

As the board is coming together and getting to know one another, we conducted our first retreat on August 25 and have a lot planned for this upcoming year. We will share the goals with the Congregation next month once we have them finalized. I can share that the board has decided to move to a model of governance for our meetings that is based on Consensus rather than Robert's Rules of Order.

There is no right or wrong way of conducting business, this is just a different model that is a creative and dynamic way of reaching agreement between all members of our group. Instead of simply voting for an item, a group using consensus is committed to finding solutions that everyone actively supports or at least can live with. This ensures that all opinions, ideas and concerns are considered. Through listening closely to each other, the group tries to come up with proposals that work for everyone.

This model helps in building a stronger community that respects all voices. What I love about consensus is the focus on "win-win" solutions that are acceptable for everyone. Our board meetings are open, so everyone is welcome, we meet on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 4 PM in the faith development building – if you wish to join us.

As we move forward in this year, we will continue the "Meet the Board" opportunities and hope that all of you come out and meet us – share with us your thoughts, or a cup of coffee or ask us for some assistance – we are here to serve you.

We are fortunate to be members and friends of our GPUU Congregation. We have a fabulous history and are fortunate to be on the cusp of exciting new beginnings!

Wishing you all a wonderful September'.



Board Buzz:



The new 26-27 Granite Peak Board of Trustees held their first meeting on July 29, 2026. We will be setting up a Task Force to survey the Congregation and decide if Granite Peak will be calling Rev. Michelle as our settled minister in December or, alternatively, offering her an extension of her contract with us. Board members were assigned Liaison positions for the coming year.

A motion was passed by the Board to authorize a credit card for our Congregational Administrator, Ainslee O'Donnell. A motion also passed to approve a 3 bid process for any expenditures of \$5,000 or more, using a form with specific requirements, for consistency.

The new Board is looking forward to serving the Congregation for this coming year, and will be meeting on August 25 to set our goals for the 26-27 Congregational year.

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.



From The Treasurer

We are off to a great start on our 26-27 fiscal year - thank you for meeting your pledge over this next year. Some of you have already paid 100% of your pledge, some have paid 50%, 20% or even 12%. If you have any questions about how to make a payment - let me know - I can help you set up an automatic monthly, quarterly or otherwise.

DID YOU KNOW? Do you shop at Fry's?

Support Us When Shopping

Whenever you make a purchase at any Fry's Food Store, a donation will be made to us if you are signed up for the Fry's Community Rewards program. Search for Granite Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation.

Below is the fiscal year end report of Granite Peak's Capital Campaign, 6/30/26.

Our project is almost done, just working on some little odds and ends. The numbers are good, with 1 year left for the Capital Campaign. If you have questions please contact Norma Meier. Good Work Everyone!!

Norma Meier & Russ Erickson, Co-Chairs

Help needed with Sanctuary Dedication Invitations list:

If you know people outside of Granite Peak who might be interested in receiving an invitation to our October 3rd Sanctuary Dedication and 30th Birthday Party, please send those names with contact information to Ainslee at office@prescottuu.org.

This might include past members, past ministers, folks who have moved out of town, people with a strong history at Granite Peak, etc. Many of them shared our dreams for a dramatically improved sanctuary space and would be delighted to celebrate with us. Thank you!

GRANITE PEAK CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

REPORT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2026

<i>TOTAL COMMITMENTS as of 6/30/2026</i>	(\$ 929,487.39)
<i>SANCTUARY LOAN BALANCE as of 6/30/26</i>	(\$ 100,000.00)
Commitment payments received to date:	(\$ 825,541.00)
Sale of Sound Board	(\$ 1,400.00)
Interest Income	(\$ 3,038.57)
TOTAL INCOME	(\$ 829,979.57)
Project expenses, not including interest expense (per information from GP Accounting people)	(\$ 877,615.43)
Interest Expense	(\$ 17,324.99)
TOTAL EXPENSES	(\$ 894,940.42)

7/28/2026

NJM

Recurring Granite Peak Groups



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

Contact Sukey Jones—open to everyone.
Topic: (page 8.)



GP Forum

On Zoom, Wednesday
<https://zoom.us/j/524691598>
(Password=Forum)

Politics and Religion—
open to everyone.



Mahjong

Every Tuesday, 1 pm-2:30
Davis Hall

Contact Lila Witt,
open to everyone.



Meditation
Every Thursday, 3 pm Faith
Development

Buddhist teachings and
meditation—open to
everyone. Teacher is Peg Travis.



Moving Meditation
Every Wednesday 9-10 am.

Chigong and similar meditative move-
ments. Led by Thomas Camargo.

Men's Group
Raven Boys



2nd Saturday, 8-10:30
Faith Development

Contact Russ Erickson for information.

Women's Groups

Varies

Contact Charlotte Skuse for information



Writers GP Group

Second (2nd) Thursday from
1:00 - 3:00 pm in the Faith
Development Bldg.

The group is open to all members and
friends of the congregation, both current
and aspiring writers.



Next Green Bag collection date: October 4.



LGBTQ

Welcoming Congregation



Follow Us on Instagram



Facilities – GPUUC August 2026

Hello all! We have several projects upcoming, but first some requests:

PLEASE do NOT place anything in the hallway between Davis Hall and the Ministers office. This is a big safety issue. There is storage across the street in Ed's shed for ladders taller than 6ft and other items that need storing.

Do NOT leave or store equipment or tools of any kind in the play area behind the FD building. Kids are kids... lead them not into temptation, please. Again, we have sheds and the composting yard available.

If you do work, or plan to do work, of any kind on our grounds and facilities (repair chairs, trim trees, weeding...) Please email or text or call me to let me know.

Facilities@prescottuu.org.

I appreciate the trees getting trimmed recently and could have removed the limbs from the bicycle parking area if I had known they were there.

THANK YOU

Projects underway:

The carpet in the office will be replaced on Monday Aug 31. The office is normally closed on Mondays, so this should not be a big inconvenience for anyone. The threshold from the lobby to Davis Hall will also be replaced as it has become a trip hazard.

The flooring around the door to the south parking area from Davis Hall will be replaced with tiles, and the seal around the door replaced. This has not been scheduled yet.

We had a thorough building inspection done in August. As the facilities committee and the BOT go through this report, I'll keep you updated on future projects. No worries, as no urgent safety issues were found.

We are researching to get the water station repaired and appreciate your patience. It's been a busy couple of years!

If you have questions, suggestions, or would like to report a facilities issue that needs addressing, please do e-mail facilities@prescottuu.org.

Respectfully, Dawn Korade, facilities coordinator



Empty Bowls will be taking place on Sunday, September 13. Those who signed up to be volunteers at the event by the deadline can pick up

t-shirts on Wednesday, 5:00 - 5:30 p.m. at the Faith Development Building, Unit B (the right hand door) OR either Sunday, August 31 or Sunday September 6 between 11:15 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. at Davis Hall. Please do plan to attend the event if you are not volunteering, and support our local food banks.

SOUP TIME!

Sunday, September 13th, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

EMPTY BOWLS

SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

PRESCOTT, ARIZONA

Live Band • Silent Auction • Art Raffle • Demonstrations

Your

\$25

DONATION

INCLUDES:

- 1 handcrafted bowl
- 2 gourmet soups
- Locally baked bread
- A bottle of water

Thanks to our local potters, bakeries, and restaurants, the Prescott Area Woodturners, Sucha Ruckus, Credit Union West, and so many more for their contributions!

NET PROCEEDS GO TO LOCAL AREA FOOD BANKS

PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS:

Angry Crab Shack
Catering by Liz
Club at Prescott Lakes

El Gato Azul
Gingerly Catered
Meals on Wheels
Milo's

Park Plaza
Red, White, and Brew
The Raven



Helping Hands Needed!

Kudos to our wonderful volunteers who work diligently managing the Friday GPUUC Pantry and Sunday Coffee/Social Hours!

We urgently need more volunteers to help us continue to keep these welcoming spaces running smoothly and encourage you to help us.

The Pantry:

Open every Friday from 10a-1p serving patrons in need who are neighbors and from the local community.

Seasoned volunteers work with newbies to help them learn the Pantry process and workflow. Shifts are 90 minutes to 3 hours.

Pantry volunteers are always buddied up with another volunteer. A commitment of one Friday a month will be a great help.

Please contact Kris Parsons or Moira Patterson or email foodpantry@prescottuu.org.

Coffee/Social Hour:

Setup Crew: 9a-10a is responsible for making coffee and setting out other beverages, dishes, and treats.



Cleanup Crew: 11a-12p-ish is responsible for general kitchen cleanup, doing dishes, packing away leftovers.

Seasoned volunteers will work with newbies to learn the process and workflow. Volunteers will never work alone.

Please contact Kris Parsons or Margy Olmstead or poke your head in the kitchen after service and give one of the volunteers your info and you will be contacted.

Themes for small groups

You may be familiar with the *Soul Matters* theme that is the basis for Rev. Michele's once a month sermon.

We have recently purchased a subscription to *Soul Matters* for small groups.

The material for the theme of the month will now be available for women's groups, men's groups and new groups yet to be formed.

Here are the themes for 2026.



Care Corner

Lea and Craig Phillips and Ed Rosage are mourning the passing of Craig's 8-year old service dog. Reaching out with cards, notes or calls is always appreciated.



Congratulations to both Dyan Harper and Lydia Garrett who will be meeting their goals of downsizing into smaller homes in the near future. Happy housewarming to you both!

Please reach out to Marianne Erickson if you are able to help her with transportation while her fractured lower leg heals. She is unable to drive for the next month or so.



Please come celebrate the life of Judy Davis at GPUUC sanctuary on Thursday, **September 10 at 3 o'clock** with a reception following.

DAVIS, Ethan & Judy



Granite Peak U.U. Congregation's Annual Fall Auction

The Annual Auction provides the largest annual FUNdraiser in support of our programs, our ministries, our minister and our staff.

SAVE THE DATES:

Finale: Silent & Live Auction
& Dinner:

Friday, October 23 @ 4:30 PM
(With appetizers and bar)

Important Information & Dates:

Donation forms are NOW in the foyer.

Online entry site:

<https://bit.ly/GPUUCAuction2026>

Sun., Sept. 13 @ 5 pm:
Auction Item Donation deadline.

Mon., Sept. 14 @ 1:30 pm:
Final Item Photography Session.

Sun., Sept. 27:
Auction catalogs available.

Sun., Oct. 5 @ 11 am:
Begin Dinner Reservations.

Mon., Oct. 12 @ 2 pm:
Online Auction Kickoff (and GPUUC Mask-making Gathering) in Davis Hall and on Zoom.

Sun. Oct. 19th @ 5 pm:
End Dinner Reservations.

Wed., Oct. 21st @ 10 pm:
Online Auction Ends.



Pagan Gathering
Sept. 20. 11:00-12:30
Faith Development
Building

For some Pagans, the **Autumnal Equinox** is celebrated as Mabon. Modern Druids call it Alban Elfed, which means *'The Light of the Water'*. The Practioners' Handbook says, *"In the spirit of Alban Elfed, Druids and their fellow celebrants engage in a tapestry of traditions and customs that bridge the ancient with the contemporary. These rituals embody the essence of gratitude, reflection, and reverence for the Earth and her bountiful gifts. They serve as a poignant reminder of our intrinsic connection to the natural world and the eternal dance of light and darkness that weaves through the cosmos and our own souls."* Come join us!

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.

Paganism is an umbrella term that covers many spiritual traditions and beliefs that have existed since ancient times. There are many different types of Pagan religions, each with its own set of beliefs and practices. Some of the most popular include Wicca, Druidism, Asatru, Heathenism, and Shamanism. By understanding the history and beliefs of these religions, we can gain a deeper appreciation for the beauty and complexity of the world around us.

Church Center Update

Emails have been sent to all members and friends inviting you to join our new online directory through Church Center) You can choose what information you share, and we encourage everyone to participate as other directory formats will be phased out. If you need the invitation email re-sent, please contact Stephanie Willison at treasurer@prescottuu.org.

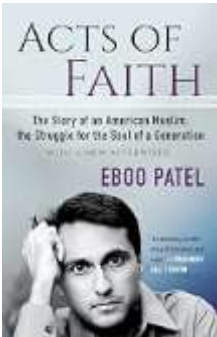


Adult Faith Development

Introduction to Islam

Presented by Mary Ann Clark and Sandi Brito

September 9, 16, 23 from 1-3 in Faith Development Building.



Come learn more about Islam from a scholar (Mary Ann) and a practicing Muslim (Sandi). If possible, before the first class, please read *Acts of Faith: The Story of an American Muslim, the Struggle for the Soul of a Generation*, by Eboo Patel. Copies are available in the GPUUC library.

For more information, contact Mary Ann Clark.



Learn women's half of the human story and consider new questions about the earliest human civilizations.

Leadership Development

Nuts and Bolts Workshop, September 26 from 10 to 12 in FD.



All congregational leaders, potential leaders, members, and friends of the congregation. Come learn more about meeting logistics, the GPUUC organizational structure, using our Google Drive, working with our administrator, planning meeting agendas, minutes and notes, congregational leadership opportunities. And get a walkthrough of our physical plant to learn about heating and air conditioning thermostats, fire extinguishers, first aid kits, and more. Presented by the Leadership Development Committee.

For more information, contact Mary Ann Clark .



Cakes for the Queen of Heaven: In Ancient Times

Presented by Mary Ann Clark and Sue Wilkes

October 7, 14, 21, 28, and 11/4 from 1-3 in Faith Development Building.

An introduction to feminist theology and women's religious history with a focus on reclaiming women's contributions to art, literature and religion using the work of archeologists, anthropologists, and historians.

Faith Development Happenings

By Sandra Palacios

July 26, 2026: Water is Life

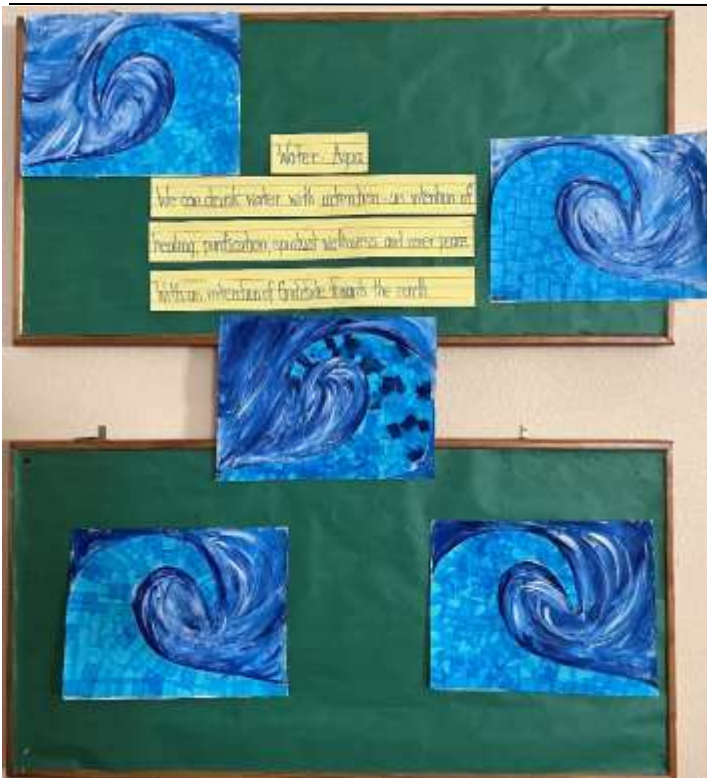
Water universally symbolizes life, purification and transformation.

Spiritually, water represents purification, emotional depth and the flow of life. Across many traditions, water acts as a universal cleanser of the soul.

Water is a representation of wisdom, peace and purity. The spiritual meaning of water lies within its reflection of the human spirit and the interconnection of all creations.

The students of Faith Development discussed the significance of water in our world, including the threat of insufficient water in the future and the implications of water shortage. Today they created beautiful art projects in homage of water.





August 2, 2026: Sustainability

Sustainability means using things today in a way that does not use them up or ruin them for tomorrow. It is about living in a balance so that the Earth stays healthy for future generations.

The students of Faith Development have been growing plants in the beautiful garden that we have nurtured from seedlings. There are currently a variety of plants flourishing in the garden, such as, tomatoes, beans, squash, peppers and herbs. Basil is one of these herbs. Today, the students each made a batch of fresh pesto utilizing the basil that we have grown. They combined the following ingredients in a blender: olive oil, garlic, spices and a variety of nuts including pine nuts, cashews and walnuts. The result was delicious homemade pesto to be shared with the congregation during the social hour. It was delicious!

August 9, 2026: Mud Makers

Today, Ainslee and the students of Faith Development welcomed Heather, Lee and Connie from the Mud Makers. They came to GPUUC to lead a ceramic bowl-making workshop with the kids!

The Mud Makers is a local ceramics community non-profit organization working to provide a community ceramics studio.



They brought clay and supplies and led the children through the process of rolling out the clay, flattening it into a slab, and using texture stamps and rollers to add diverse textures to the clay. Then, they showed the students how to put the slabs into a bowl mold. They then cut the lip of the bowl to be even. The students rolled out a coil of clay to create a circular foot, attaching it to the bottom of the bowl. The students really enjoyed playing and creating with the clay!

The Mud Makers will be at the Fairweather Social Club for “Mug Madness” on October 11 from 10 am-3 pm. Join them for a day full of ceramic demonstrations, activities and events!



August 16, 2026: Obon Festival

The Obon Festival is an annual Japanese-Buddhist-Confucian custom which celebrates the spirits of one's ancestors.

Celebrated for over 500 years, it is rooted in the belief that ancestral spirits temporarily return to the living world. Families reunite, clean graves, hang lanterns and dance to welcome/farewell their departed loved ones.

“*Chochin*” lanterns are paper lanterns are hung outside homes and temples to guide the spirits of ancestors back to their earthly families.

The lanterns can be; red and white- symbolizing good luck and joy or orange and yellow- a guiding path for the spirits of the ancestors.

The students of Faith Development created their own *chochin* lanterns today.



From the Social Justice Council Seeds of Support



peace, justice, and mutual respect. Peacebuilders hosts events (speakers, music, storytelling circles,

The Prescott Peacebuilders' mission is to inspire our community to believe in and work toward a more peaceful, sustainable world. Prescott Peacebuilders is inclusive and is committed to building an identity of

films, etc.) designed to uplift, educate, and connect members of the community to one another. For additional information, contact Leslie Grady.



Bisexuals Get Visible on September 23

Marking the 28th annual bi-visibility day.

The date highlights bisexuality and the challenges posed by biphobia and bisexual erasure, as well as celebrating the work of a growing number of local, national and international organizations around the world which champion bisexual visibility and equality. It was first marked in 1999 and recognition has grown greatly in recent years. It is a celebration in particular of bi identity but also of other identities under the “bi+ umbrella” like pansexual, polysexual and omnisexual.

It is anticipated there will be more than 250 events marking the date. Around the world these range from exhibitions, talks and film screenings to picnics and socials in bi-friendly bars. A host of public buildings around the world fly the pink, purple and blue bisexual flag, and many business LGBT staff networks host specially themed meetings.

We're on the Web! Find us at:

<http://www.prescottuu.org>

Newsletter Deadlines Midnight

October newsletter due: September 22, 2026.

November newsletter due: October 20, 2026.

Send articles to: newslettergpuuc@gmail.com