



# The View

May 2024

Granite Peak  
 Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
 882 Sunset Avenue  
 Prescott, AZ 86305  
 (928) 541-0000  
<http://www.prescottuu.org>

Worship : All worship services are held at 10:00 am, unless otherwise noted. Join us on ZOOM or in-person for the Sunday Service. Please see the Weekly Peak for updates.

**May 5, Rev. Patty and Marie Higgins: "A human rights revolution from the tomato fields of Immokalee, Florida, to the Prescott Farmer's Market."**

There is a movement underway to bring justice where there has been suffering in the world of farmworkers in the United States. During our May services, our Seeds of Support will go to "Feed Our Neighbors," a program that our congregation has been deeply connected with since the pandemic. How are food insecurity and farmworkers' rights connected? What is our role in this place?

**May 12, Rev. Patty Willis: "Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo."**

When Azucena Villaflor's son and his fiancé disappeared, she would not be silent. When she found other mothers with missing children, a movement was born. The mothers' non-violent resistance changed everything. On that plaza, as ours, people had to learn how to keep their cool. After our service, we will learn from Brian Willison about the first steps of how to do this.

**May 19, Manuel Lucero IV, Cherokee and Director of the Museum of Indigenous People: "The First Peoples of Prescott."**

The original inhabitants of this area and who they are today. He and his family are deeply involved with the local Native community and participate in Pow-Wow and Gourd Dances throughout the Southwest.

**May 26, Rev Anthony Mtuaswa Johnson, minister at Sedona Unitarian Universalist Fellowship: "The Gift of Pluralism."**

This service celebrates the rich tapestry of beliefs, cultures, and identities that make up our world, honoring pluralism as a spiritual gift that enriches our communities and enhances our understanding of the divine. Pluralism underscores the importance of embracing diversity, fostering inclusivity, and promoting a deep respect for the myriad paths that lead to truth and meaning.

**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.

| <i>In This Issue</i>               |      |
|------------------------------------|------|
| Services                           | 1    |
| Minister's Message                 | 2    |
| From the President                 | 2-3  |
| Board Buzz                         | 3    |
| GP Mission & Vision                | 4    |
| The Budget Explained!              | 4    |
| New to GPUUC Class                 | 4    |
| GP Fundraisers                     | 5    |
| GP Composting Tips                 | 5    |
| May Birthdays                      | 5    |
| The Forum                          | 6    |
| Women's & Men's Groups             | 6    |
| Mahjong                            | 6    |
| GA in Prescott Schedule            | 6    |
| \$ for GA. Applications Available  | 6    |
| Congregational Meeting & Elections | 7    |
| Pagan Gathering                    | 7    |
| Music Notes                        | 8    |
| Adult Faith Development            | 8-9  |
| Children's Faith Development       | 9-10 |
| <b>Circle Dinners</b>              | 10   |
| Seeds of Support                   | 11   |
| Get to Know Tracy                  | 11   |
| Newsletter Deadlines               | 12   |
| Who's Who                          | 12   |

## Minister's Message

Rev. Patty Willis

### Being Present to Saying Goodbye



At the beginning of April, I wrote a letter which I read to you in a video. I am not sure that even now, all of you have had a chance to listen. Here is a link to both the video and the letter.

#### [LINK](#)

When I spoke to one of you on the phone about my decision to leave at the end of this church year, we said some naughty words together! I have been happy here and will deeply miss both you and the beautiful nature that surrounds you. Even though I know that this is the right decision, I am sad to leave this congregation.

You have expressed sadness to me as the news spread through our community. And, many of you have expressed both sadness and happiness. With your sadness is happiness for me and Mary Lou as we engage more fully in our creativity. Some of you are remembering your own choices to follow your heart even when it made others unhappy.

In the Weekly Peak and in my videos, I extend to you an invitation to come and see me so that we can spend time together. I'd love to share with you any thoughts you have in this moment. We could even sit and cry or say bad words. It is okay for us to be sad right now. Eventually or even in the midst of the sadness, we will begin to find laughter and joy. We have lots of good times to remember from the past five years and, of course, there is the present.

As Thich Nhat Hanh reveals to us, happiness already exists inside and around us in this moment. We must simply open the door... But in order to open the door, we must be attentive to the sadness that is with us. If you who have gone through the death of a loved one, you know that it is impossible to wish our sadness away. We must be faithful to our grief in order for it to open into joy. I promise to be faithful with you.

How can we do that?

During our Sunday worship services, I haven't wanted to bring up this sadness because that might be confusing for our new people. Please come to me after a service, if you are feeling sad or happy, and say, "Shall we spend some time?" I will say, "Yes!" I will be with you in this and be hoping that we can all find that door that will open onto joy. It is there. Always. Waiting.

On June 15 from 5 p.m., in our sanctuary, we will have a farewell service and I hope that you take the time to write to me or plan on saying something at that service. Tell me about what you will remember. How have we supported each other during these past five years? What have we learned? How have we laughed? How will we be forever changed? After that service, we will dance. I invite you to be present to saying goodbye.

For now, I'm going out on our deck to listen to the ponderosa and watch for that bird who comes each year to nest.

With love and tears, Patty,  
Rev. Patty Willis

## From the President

Rick Denney



Many of us are mourning the departure of Rev. Patty at the end of June. Her tenure here has marked a very memorable period in the history of our congregation. She has enriched us with her dedication and creative talents. We thank her for her service and wish her the very best in the pursuit of her creative endeavors!

What a whirlwind of activity there has been at Granite Peak this past month!

The extensive landscape improvements around the main building greatly improve the image we present to the surrounding community!



## **Board Buzz, Highlights of April 16, 2024 , and April 18 Special-Board meeting**

And, thanks to our hard-working Projects Team, more improvements are on the way! In the next few weeks, you will see big Improvements in our parking and landscaping behind the FD building. The purpose of the FD building landscaping is to prepare for the installation of playground equipment for our ever-active, young Granite Peakers. Volunteers on the facilities team are poised to assemble the equipment once the site is ready. Sandra Palacios and the children have reason to be excited!

I am pleased to report that members of your Board, working to a punishingly short deadline of April 18, completed an exhaustively detailed application to the UUA for an interim minister for a one year period beginning August 1st, renewable for a second year.

On behalf of the Board, I want to thank Rev. Patty for her generous assistance with the application. I have heard fervent, opposing opinions about the desirability of a one year versus a two year interim. In fact, the argument is moot. The UUA no longer accepts specific requests for a one year or two year interim appointments. All UUA interim contracts now specify one year with an option of renewal for a second. Over the next month, we will see whether we can attract interesting applicants.

Please plan to come to our Annual Congregational Meeting scheduled May 5 after the Sunday service. A critical purpose of the meeting will be to approve the budget for fiscal year 2024-2025 that starts July 1.

The outstanding news is that WE HAVE EXCEEDED OUR PLEDGE GOAL! Kudos to our incomparable Stewardship Team! If you know you are not going to be able to attend, please arrange to sign and deliver a proxy to a member who will be present.

Finally, the Project team is preparing information about much-needed upgrades and aspirational renovation alternatives. They have scheduled a presentation after service on June 2nd and will ask for a vote on alternative options the following Sunday, June 9. Please plan to participate in this momentous decision about the future of our sanctuary!

Rick Denney, Board President.

### **Board goals for 2023-2024:**

1. Promote positive relationships that utilize clear, respectful communication.
2. Create a greater welcome through upkeep and changes to the exterior grounds, entry, and interior of our building that would better reflect our values and pride in our tradition.
3. Facilitate a clear congregational decision about the sanctuary remodel.

Minister's Resignation: Following Rev. Patty's decision to resign at the end of June, the Board began working with UUA representatives to guide us through a ministerial transition. Per their recommendation that a Transitions Team be made up of 3-5 Board members, Barbara Wilson, Dawn Korade, Treasurer Tracy Augustine and President Rick Denney were chosen to put together a packet of information about our congregation for ministerial candidates to review.

The pros and cons of Contract Ministry vs Interim Ministry were discussed and a decision will be made after the submission of our packet. It should be noted that Rev. Patty has expressed her highest regard for our congregation and has honored her word of providing five years of ministry to us. She will go on to pursue her many creative interests full time and we truly wish her well. She and her dynamic ministry will be missed! A farewell party for her and Music Director, Mary Lou Prince will be held on Saturday, June 15 at 5:00 pm.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer, Tracy Augustine, reported that, with 75% of the fiscal year completed, we have collected 81% of our budgeted revenue. With expenses so far at 75%, committee chairs need to be reminded to keep their expenses within budget amounts for the rest of this fiscal year (ending June 30, 2024).

This year's Stewardship Drive resulted in our largest amount of pledged income ever. Pledged income to date for 2024-2025 is \$253,481 which is slightly over our budgeted goal!

Minister's Report: Decisions are in the works regarding the best use of the Brownlee funds that were allocated to Social Justice. Under consideration are providing financial assistance to the Farmers Market "Feed Your Neighbors" program which provides food boxes to families experiencing food insecurity.

Another program might provide scholarships at Yavapai College to students who are studying a specific trade. A "New to UU" class was held and the 4th Friday potlucks encourage new members to share a meal with current members.

Sanctuary Renovation Planning: The Projects Team is planning a Sunday, June 2 presentation to the congregation on three suggested options for remodeling our Sanctuary, with their approximate costs. A yes or no vote on whether or not to have a Capital Campaign will be held Sunday, June 9. And if voters approve a capital campaign, which of the three options would congregants prefer? The Board is committed to have a concrete plan in place for the congregation by the end of this fiscal year on June 30, per its third goal.

List of current Board Members is on the last page of each monthly View. (See this copy.)

Next Board meeting will be on Tuesday, May 21 from 3:30 – 5:00 pm. in person.

## 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.

## Office Hours with the Treasurer

Do you wish you understood our budget a little better before the Annual Meeting? Do you struggle understanding those pesky financial reports? Do you have questions that keep you up at night about Granite Peak's budgeting process or finances?

Well your prayers have been answered!

Your Treasurer, Tracy Augustine will be offering "office hours" three different times before the 5/5 Annual Meeting to review the budget, and answer your questions. Two sessions will be on Zoom and one will be live if there is interest. You will need to RSVP and if you are joining Zoom I'll need your email so I can send you a link. If there is interest in the live session, I will bring copies of the budget.

Please call or email Tracy Augustine and let her know which session you plan to attend.

Office Hours will be held if there is interest at the following times:

- Tuesday 4/30 from 3-4pm on Zoom
- Thursday 5/2 from 5-6pm on Zoom
- Sunday 5/5 at 9am in Davis Hall before the service and Annual Meeting

Hope to see you soon!

Tracy Augustine, GPUUC Treasurer



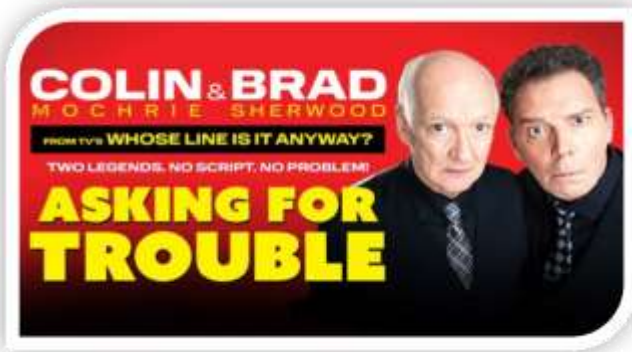
## New to GP; New to UU?

New to GPUUC Classes to be offered May 13, from 11 am to 1 pm for folks who either are new to Granite Peak or new to Unitarian Universalist or those that just want to know more about our history. Lunch and drinks included.

For questions or to attend, please email the office. [granitepeakuugmail.com](mailto:granitepeakuugmail.com) or call 928-541-0000 during office hours.



## GPUUC Operating Expense Fundraisers - A Raffle and a "Like New" Roof Rack



Upcoming May 25 PREMIUM Comedy Show Tickets (Donated by Edie Ingersoll) Raffle GPUUC Fundraiser on Sundays, April 28, May 5 and May 12.



Remaining Rummage Sale Item – Like New Roof Rack (Donated by Dick Walter.)

Condition: Used - like new. See it in the GPUUC Utility Room in Davis Hall.

50"x 45", adjustable, includes locks, mounting brackets and mounting tool. Used once. Originally \$1,300. Quad City (Prescott area) delivery available.

Proceeds to GPUUC General Operating Fund. Questions Contact Marianne Erickson

### Granite Peak Composting Tips

By Stephen Lovejoy

- When putting food scraps in the compost bins north of the faith development building please remember to cut the scraps, such as flowers, into sections and more than 5 inches long. This requirement makes turning the compost much easier.

- Also, when putting food scraps in the bin, make sure it's the bin that doesn't have the gray Cloth around the outside. That one is finished or finishing material. We want the new scraps in the bin that has the loose sleeves.
- Cover the food scraps with the leaves provided.
- Only vegetable or vegetative matter should be put in the compost, not fats or meat scraps.
- Also one last thing, please don't put in any plastic. Even though it may be designated as compostable plastic, the time it takes for this material to decompose won't work for our composting project.
- I'm happy to report that I think there's been robust use of the compost bins and the only limitation that we have is space and leaves and when we run out of those, we have to stop.

Thanks again

### May Birthdays

| Last Name  | First     | May |
|------------|-----------|-----|
| Meier      | Hugh      | 2   |
| Skellenger | Annette   | 3   |
| Jeter      | Author    | 3   |
| Flurry     | Maria     | 5   |
| Stanton    | Jack      | 6   |
| Anderson   | Karen     | 9   |
| Batterman  | Rhea      | 11  |
| Cooper     | Susan     | 12  |
| Beeson     | Nancy     | 21  |
| Prince     | Mary Lou  | 22  |
| Augustine  | Tracy     | 27  |
| Crayton    | Catherine | 29  |
| Nigh       | Cal       | 29  |
| Willis     | Patty     | 29  |



## 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.



## MahJongg!

The Tuesday afternoon MahJongg 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.



The Leadership Development Committee has made arrangements for members and friends of the congregation to watch the GA general (business) sessions and the Ware Lecture in the sanctuary.

The general sessions are:

- 11 am and 1 pm on Thursday, June 20,
- 11:30 pm on Friday, June 21 and
- Saturday June 22, and
- noon on Sunday, June 23.

The Ware Lecture by Julia Watts Belser, (she/her) a rabbi, scholar, spiritual teacher and a longtime activist for disability and gender justice, is at 4 pm on Saturday, June 22. For more information about Rabbi Belser, see <https://www.uua.org/ga/program/highlights/ware-lecture>

## Applications Now Being Accepted for General Assembly Funding

The Ethan Davis Leadership Fund has been established to encourage development of lay leaders of the congregation. The Endowment Committee has been 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, and other 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 Thursday, June 20 through Sunday, June 23, 2024 so you can attend 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 ASAP. Contact Tracy ([granitepeakuu@gmail.com](mailto:granitepeakuu@gmail.com)) or Mary Ann Clark for either an electronic or printed copy of the form.

If you are interested in being considered for one of our three delegate positions for General Assembly, complete the GA Delegate form (contact Tracy for a copy) and return it to the Board of Trustees.



**Annual Congregational Meeting**

**May 5, 2024**

11:30 am, after the Sunday Service  
Annual Budget Approval  
Election of Officers, Endowment Committee  
and Nominating Committee.

**Nominees Election on May 5, 2024.**

Nominee for Secretary of the Board of Trustees:  
Dawn Korade.



Nominee for Trustee at Large: Dick Walter



Nominee for Endowment Committee: Sarah Mahler



The Endowment Committee has another vacancy which the Nominating Committee was not able to fill.

The Nominating Committee has no vacancies at this time.

**Pagan Gathering is QiQong**



May 25. 11:00 - 12:30, Important: Notice the date change to the fourth Saturday!)

Everyone is invited! Come discover the joy of QiQong!

QiQong is a system of coordinated body-posture and movement, breathing, and meditation, useful for health and spirituality

QiQong master Tara Tech will lead us in a series of fluid movements and active tapping that will leave you feeling like you've just received an hour-long massage!

Small donation is appreciated.

Meet in the GPUUC Sanctuary and wear comfortable clothes.

This special event is offered by Kindred Spirits CUUPS and GPUUC Adult Faith Development



## Music Notes

Mary Lou Prince



It has been a busy month for the choir! In April we were invited to perform at several events. First was the Earth Week event at Temple B'rith Shalom when we sang two songs from Songs of the Earth. Then, there was the benefit concert for Granite Peak at Trinity Presbyterian Church when we sang Artist at Topaz from Women of Courage. Finally, the Dia del Niño celebration in Prescott Valley when we sang Sí, Se Puede. It is so nice to have these opportunities to gather and sing!

Here's a photo of the choir at the Synagogue during the Earth Week event. Mary Lou



## Adult Faith Development

By MaryAnn Clark

April 24, May 1, May 8 in Faith Development A

**Introduction to Proposed Changes to the UU Principles and Sources (Article II of the UUA Bylaws) presented by Mary Ann Clark**

The UUA and its members congregations are developing a revision to our current Principles and

Sources. A group has been working on these revisions for several years and a preliminary proposal was presented at last year's General Assembly. The final version of revisions (including some amendments) will be voted on by the delegates to the UUA General Assembly in June 2024.

Let's talk about what these changes mean and how we want our delegates to vote on both the amendments and final version of the proposal.

This workshop will review how our current principles and sources were developed. We will consider the process that as lead to the Values statements that are proposed to replace them as well as the Values statements themselves including the amendments that will be presented at this year's General Assembly.

If these Value statements are accepted, they will become the way we define ourselves as individual Unitarian Universalists, as congregations, and as a denomination.

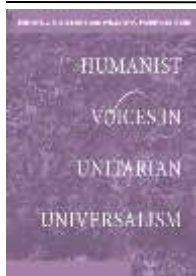
Let's learn more so we can give guidance to our congregational delegates about these important questions.



May 15, May 22, May 29, June 5 in Faith Development A

**Introduction to UU Humanism presented by Mary Ann Clark**





Come explore Humanism from a Unitarian Universalist perspective, including Humanist history, beliefs, approaches to life, social justice, community and religious education. Learn more about this passionate affirmation of a rich and dynamic tradi-

tion.

The course book, *Humanist Voices in Unitarian Universalism*, is available from the <https://www.uuabookstore.org/Search.aspx?k=humanist+voices> for \$14. There is also a copy in the GPUUC library.

For more information, contact Mary Ann.

## Faith Development Happenings

By Sandra Palacios



### March 31, 2024 : Spring Equinox

The Spring Equinox symbolizes renewal and rejuvenation. The students paid homage to the Spring Equinox by making a spring flower collage. The symbols of Ostara include spring flowers, fairies, butterflies, rabbits, and eggs. The colors of Ostara are pastels, yellow, orange, lavender, and green.



Additionally, the students assembled “Bags of Gratitude” to give to the less fortunate of our community. Included in the bags were special cards with messages of encouragement.



### April 7, 2024: Total Eclipse of the Heart

Ainslee did a great presentation on the solar eclipse. She explained in detail, using graphs and diagrams, the stages and time frames of the eclipse. The students were shown an example of the safety glasses used during a solar eclipse. Afterward, they created an art project of the solar eclipse.





## April 14, 2024: Mindfulness



The students were introduced to a program called “Kids Yoga” today. It was a step-by-step process but proved quite suc-

cessful. They went into a state of total mindfulness and relaxation, taking deep breaths and stretching. During the meditation, the students assembled Mala beads. Each time they strung a bead, their breathing (inhaling/exhaling) was paired with an intention of mindfulness. Mala beads are rooted in Hinduism and Buddhism and are meant to help you focus your mind during meditation.



## Let’s have Dinner together again!



Remember Circle Dinners, aka Dinners for Eight? For years different small groups from our GPUU congregation met every month in small groups and in homes to share a meal and get to know each other. Stephanie Willison and Lydia Garrett got together to rekindle that long-standing event. This will replace the Progressive Dinners.

The groups will be different each month, taking turns as hosts and helping with the whole meal. The assignments will be planned for several months at a time so participants will know in advance the group they are a part of. Dates are chosen by each group to find their best day during the particular month.

More detailed info is available. We would like to plan dinners in May and June to start with. Interested? Come sign up in Davis Hall after services, or contact either Stephanie or Lydia . - This invitation also goes to PUUF.



## April 21, 2024: Flowers for Pachamama

Pachamama is usually translated as Mother Earth in the Aymara and Quechua languages. “Pacha” means “world” and “mama” means “mother”. The students watched a video of the Pachamama ceremony in the Andes mountains of Cusco, Peru. They created a glue-free Earth project using cardboard and paper tiles on adhesive paper. Afterward, the students took flowers to the sanctuary to commemorate The Flower Communion.



## May Seeds of Support is Feed Your Neighbors at the Prescott Farmer's 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.

### Get to Know Tracy Augustine



Tracy was born in Brooklyn, NY, the oldest of five daughters. She was brought up as a Catholic and was very involved, including Folk Group where she played the guitar, and Teens Engaged In Active Ministry.

She was the first of her family to go away to college where she continued with Catholic services as co-leader of the Folk Mass on campus. She also sang in the Duke University Chapel Choir and was one of

the founding members of a women's acapella singing group which is still in existence at Duke, forty years later!

It was at Duke that her faith journey took a real change; after taking a religion class there, she switched her major from political science to religion and began to study religion more critically. She got to study a semester abroad in Israel which included an archaeological dig, one of her favorite experiences to date. After graduating, she left Catholicism and over the years tried various churches, and years of no church, until meeting Chris Hawthorne, now her husband, when they moved to Denver and became members of a UCC church.

Tracy and Chris moved from CO back to NY (for 9 years) and then lived in the Bay Area for 11 years before moving to Gilbert, AZ in 2016 with their son, Gabe, who attended Chandler High School. In their explorations of Arizona, they visited Prescott and thought how wonderful it would be to live here. When Gabe went off to college, they moved to Williamson Valley in August 2020, during the pandemic. It had been several years since they had found a church that aligned with their values, but they thought it would be especially important to find one living here, which was the most conservative town they had lived in.

Even on Zoom, GPUUC stood out to them, and they joined while still online, and didn't get to meet everyone face-to-face until a year later! 3.5 years later, Tracy is very active at GPUUC as Treasurer and Board member, a member of the Granite Peak Singers, and she will be leaving the Communications Team to join the Personnel Team this month. She and Chris are also co-chairs of Empty Bowls this year and are looking forward to another great fundraising year for our area food banks!

Join us June 20 - 23 for an all-virtual General Assembly 2024. Full online registration includes access to GA 2024 in the Whova event app, as well as on-demand programming, featured speakers, and major worship.

[Click here for registration page.](#)