



The View

February 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.

Feb 4. CUUPS: *Imbolc - The Promise of Spring.*

Outside it's still cold and bare, but deep underground, nature is slowly stirring. What does this time of slow awakening, this time of transition in nature hold for you? Join us in the old Celtic celebration of Imbolc.

Feb. 11, Dr. Will Fisher: *On Being a Quaker.*

We recognize the man on the Quaker Oats box, but who are the Quakers and how might they relate to UU's? Dr. Fisher, a practicing Quaker will speak on the history, the people, and the beliefs of the Religious Society of Friends.

Feb. 18, Rev. Tom Catlin. *Whatever Happened to the Age of Aquarius?*

Remember when we were entering the age of peace, love and understanding. What in the world has happened? Here's a possible alternative way to think about it.

Feb. 2, Rev. Patty Willis: *Imago Dei.*

What is your image of God---even the one you no longer believe in? Does the image matter? What can we learn from Shintoism, the ancient faith that has large and small temples throughout the forests, mountains and cities of Japan?

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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.

Minister's Message

Rev. Patty Willis



A Goal of Being Present

Last year at this time in mid-January, Mary Lou and I were preparing to travel. We had an important anniversary to celebrate, and we hadn't traveled together since before the pandemic. That was a wonderful time for us and this year we have a creative project that has been brewing for years that we want to complete.

Instead of concentrating on the goal of that project, we are going to try the advice of the coach at ASU and focus on being present to the Earth and the joy of each day. On the top of our list is to be present to the sunrise and sunset of each day. One evening in January, we drove to Costco to pick up a prescription in the midst of a brilliant deep pink sunset and on the way back, we saw pale colors streaking through the sky. Did we see the aurora borealis? The whole experience of the sunset and what happened after it filled us with wonder. And, we knew that we could have easily missed it.

When one of us takes our dog Louie out for his last hurrah before bedtime, we often notice a moon, stars or the sound of an owl. There is such beauty happening around us in each moment. During my month away, I plan to be more present to that beauty. To support that effort, we are both enrolled in an online course with Jack Kornfield and Tara Brach that is full of mindfulness exercises.

Each morning, we will set an intention as we light our makeshift chalice of a candle in a bowl. On adventures outside, we will look for objects to put in the bowl like interesting stones or pieces of wood and leaves. What will we find? Once, years ago, we found a robin's egg. I plan to return to that chalice during the day when I take breaks from my work. I also want to be open to the strands that connect me with family and friends and be present to them.

Will we finish our project or will something completely new emerge? I look forward to giving you the results of this experiment when we return.

Will you join me in a month of intentionally being present? I wonder what stories we will have to tell.

May you be well, and may you know that you are loved.

Patty, Rev. Patty Willis

From the President

Rick Denney



Can you believe it is almost February? The new year at Granite Peak began with an important Special Congregational Meeting that the GPUUC Board had called to ask for your approval to move forward to accomplish some much-needed projects. My (and the Board's) concern about whether we get a Quorum of 51% on a rainy Sunday proved completely unnecessary.

The cogent questions that arose and the subsequent overwhelming vote of approval are impressive illustrations of how much we all care for this special community. I urge those who have special interest in specific projects to get involved in finalizing the details of how they should best be accomplished.

Now we can actually GET GOING! I say, YAY!

Rick Denney, Board President.

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.



Board Buzz, Summary of January 16, 2024, Board meeting:

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.

Discussions regarding next year's budget and the upcoming Congregational Meeting dominated the January Board meeting.

Following a joint Board/ Finance Committee meeting, the budget for the 2024-25 fiscal year was adjusted, balanced, and finalized, ahead of the upcoming Stewardship Campaign which will be rolled out in February.

The details needed by the congregation for the January 21 Congregational Meeting were finalized where members were asked to approve expenditures up to \$50,000 to improve the safety, identity, functionality, welcoming and aesthetic appeal of our facility. These funds are readily available from the Brownlee Grant and a savings account and do not need to be covered by additional fundraising. (Addendum: By a strong majority, this issue was passed by the congregation at the January 21 meeting.)

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be on Sunday, May 5, 2024.

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

Next Board meeting will be on Tuesday, Feb. 13 from 3:30 – 5:00 pm.

“Create a vision for the life you really want and then work relentlessly towards making it a reality.” —Roy T. Bennett

Save the Date



Hope Grows Here.

You are cordially invited to the Annual
Granite Peak Unitarian Universalist
Congregational Dinner.

At The Centennial Center
1989 Clubhouse Drive
Prescott, AZ 86301

Saturday, March 2, 2024*

5:00 – 7:30 P. M.

Menu:

Appetizers - vegie and relish trays, crackers, cheese, hummus.

Chicken picatta (gluten free) with creamy potatoes, vegie medley, green salad, rolls (including gluten free), butter and a special entrée for the vegetarians and vegans.

One free glass of wine with additional glasses @ \$5.

Coffee, Iced Tea and water.

Cake for dessert and gluten free brownies.

Sign up in Davis Hall by

Sunday, February 25, 2024

to reserve your seat at the dinner.

***Request a ride if you need one.**



Endowment Presentation

The Endowment Committee invites all members and friends to attend a presentation, live and on Zoom, on Sunday, February 25th at 11:30am after the Sunday Service. Learn about Granite Peak’s efforts to build an endowment to guarantee the future of the congregation.

Find out how you can join the John A. Gurley Society, a group of members and friends that have committed to support the Endowment through their gifts and estate plans. In the meantime, contact Art Gorski if you have any questions.

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.

Bridge Group



Meets 3rd Wednesday of the Month at Noon At Lea Phillips and Ed Rosage's Home.

Commitment Required; no Drop Ins.

Looking for people who are interested in playing Bridge.

Please email or call Lea Phillips.

New to GPUUC Classes offered on Feb. 10 from 11am to -1pm for folks who either are new to Granitite 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 call Kathleen Shaffer.



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.



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)



PAGAN GATHERING

February 17, 11 - 12:30
Faith Development Room A

“Divination”



Divination, also known as “divining,” is a method of gaining knowledge or guidance through the use of signs, symbols, or other forms of communication that are believed to come from a higher power. Have you ever tried tarot cards, the I-Ching, Norse Runes, tea leaves, pendulums, numerology or one of the other many methods? All are welcome to this exploration of a practice going back to ancient civilizations.

Leadership Development Grants

Registration has opened for the 2024 Unitarian Universalist General Assembly to be held June 20 through 23. Full online registration will be \$280 through February 29 when the price increases to \$315. The price will increase again after May 15. To register, go to <https://www.uua.org/ga/registration>.

The Leadership Development Committee encourages all members of the congregation to consider attending this online-only event. We have funds to offset some or all of the expenses through the Ethan Davis Fund. Contact Mary Ann Clark, or Tracy Powers, granitepeakuu@gmail.com, for more information.

Click here for GA details: <https://www.uua.org/ga>



Music Notes

Mary Lou Prince



Our choir continues to work with the Quad City Interfaith Choir in the community. Last month we were invited to perform during the annual Martin Luther King Jr. celebration at the United Methodist Church. It was great to see so many members of Granite Peak in the audience that day and the choir was honored to be on the program.



Our upcoming plans are to perform “Women of Courage” again with the Quad City Interfaith Choir

at the Church of the Palms in Sun City on March 3 at 3:00 PM. If you missed our other performances in Prescott and Sedona, come to this one!

SAVE THE DATE! On Sunday, April 28 I will be presenting a concert featuring the “koto” (the Japanese harp that I have played sometimes during services) along with cello, viola, and violins. The concert will take place at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 630 Park Avenue, Prescott at 3:00 PM. More details to follow in the next newsletters and I hope you’ll put that date on your calendars and join us.

Adult Faith Development

By MaryAnn Clark



Pagan and Earth-Centered Voices- The Role of Ritual in our Lives

Feb. 7. 2:00-3:30 Faith Development Room A

This will be the final class of the series based on the book, *Pagan and Earth-Centered Voices in Unitarian Universalism*.

It is not necessary to have the book, but for those who do, we will be talking about the following essays: *Celebrating Seasons, Drumbeats in the Sanctuary, Designing Ritual for All, Earth Song: Pagan Chant in UU Churches, and Cultural Sharing and Misappropriation.*



For more information, contact Sukey Jones.

Decision-Making in Beloved Community



February 14 and 21, 2-3:30 in Faith Development Building

Our fifth UU Principle says we affirm and promote “*The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.*”

On Wednesday, February 14, and February 21 the Leadership Development Committee will be presenting a workshop to help us dig deeper into what we mean by the use of democratic process. This year will give us several opportunities to explore our use of the democratic process both in our congregation and in society at large.

On February 14 we will focus on refining our understanding of how our individual values help us make decisions. Then on February 21, we'll talk more specifically about using the democratic process to make decisions as members of a beloved community.

We look forward to learning more about your ideas around these issues.

Questions? Contact Mary Ann Clark.

Reading Medieval Art, presented by Caren Greenberg

February 28 and March 6, 2-3:30 by Zoom

Watch for more information in the Weekly View.

Future Programs

* UU Common Read, *On Repentance and Repair*, presented by Fred Kraps and Jo Sprague.

Faith Development Happenings

By Sandra Palacios



December 24, 2023: Winter Solstice and Kwanzaa

Today's lessons were presented by Ainslee on the topics of: the Winter Solstice and Kwanzaa. This solstice typically falls on December 21, but the day can vary. In the Northern Hemisphere, it is the shortest day of the year. Kwanzaa is an African-American celebration of life that occurs from December 26 though January 1. During Kwanzaa, a candle is lit on each of 7 nights to observe the what is known as Nguzo Saba.



The students drew and colored in a candelabra, which is called a Kinara.

December 31, 2023:

Seven Principles/Salt Painting

The students engaged in a discussion of the significance of the Seven Principles. Then, they each chose a principle, and created a salt art painting, using that principle. This technique involved writing out the words in glue, then pouring salt over the words and finishing it off using paint.



January 7, 2024

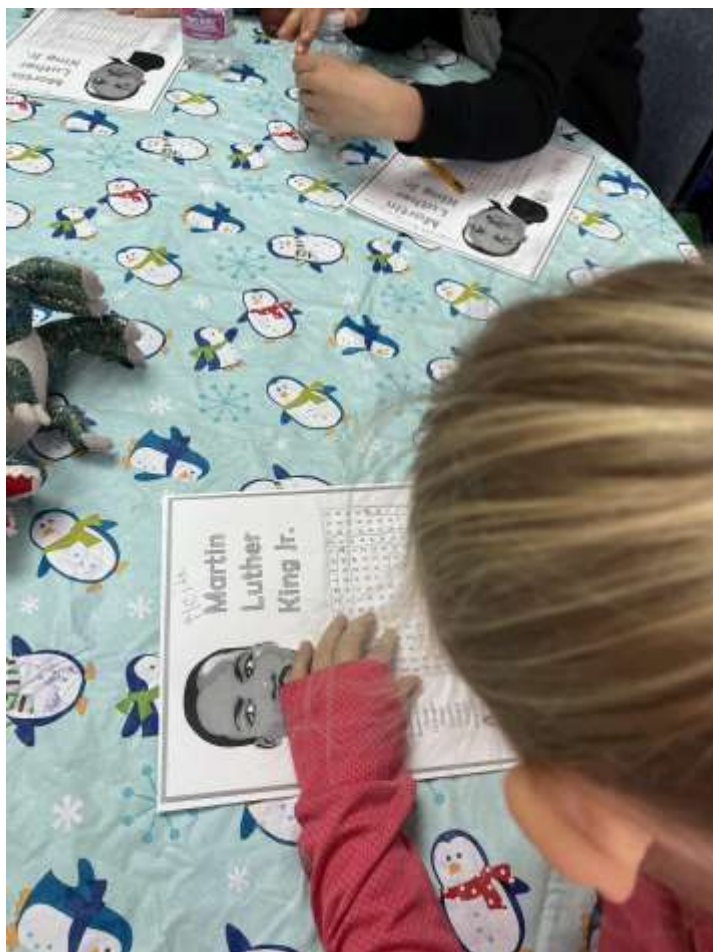
Program cancelled due to inclement weather.

January 14, 2024

Martin Luther King Jr. and Snow Making

In the interest of better understanding the importance of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, the students watched several stories about Martin’s childhood and upbringing in the South. The struggles due to racism were discussed. The students then completed worksheets about MLK. We also created artificial snow as a sensory project using different materials.

January 21, 2024



Social Justice



January Seeds of Support is The Opportunity Scholarship at Yavapai College

Granite Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation established a scholarship with the Yavapai College Foundation called the ‘**Opportunity Scholarship,**’ designed to provide scholarships to “Dreamers.” who were brought to the United States as children by their undocumented parents.

Help a Dreamer attend college!

The following message was passed on to us from a recipient of the Opportunity Scholarship

“My name is Adriana I was recently selected as a recipient of The Opportunity Scholarship. I am truly honored that you found me eligible for this year and wanted to thank you and let you know how much I appreciate your support.

I am a senior in the Radiologic Technologist Program entering my last semester and had an unexpected financial crisis. My husband had to have surgery and these semester’s costs were worrisome, until your generous donation!

Give Peace A Chance

The students were encouraged to share their thoughts on what “Peace” means to them. There were a variety of responses. They were then given the opportunity to create an art project, where they wrote their thoughts on sections of a paper plate, designed with a peace sign, then painted around it using watercolors.

I am the very first in my family to be attending college and pursuing a degree, with your helpful donation I will be able to concentrate more time on studying rather than my financial needs. Thank you once again for your generosity and support, I will make your donation worth it and promise to work hard towards my degree and one day give back to my community and help someone that's in need just as I am.



Welcoming the Stranger

by Tracy Bleakney

A child journeys far from home

Fearful and brave,

in need of safe harbor.

Guided by this chalice, may we seek to understand the causes of flight.

Like the comfort of a candle flickering in a window of darkness,

Let us welcome this child into our home with warmth, nourishment, and love.

Would we not want the same for our own child, lost and alone in a strange land?



Love Unites, Stories Ignite

In a world filled with division and challenges, the theme for this year's General Assembly is a powerful reminder of the core principles that unite us as Unitarian Universalists. "Love Unites, Stories Ignite" celebrates the profound impact of love as a binding force that transcends boundaries and fosters connections within our faith community and beyond.

Our faith has always been rooted in the power of storytelling, and this year we'll explore how our stories can ignite change, inspire compassion, and help us build a more just and equitable world. Through storytelling, we share our experiences, our dreams, our struggles, and our triumphs. It is through these stories that we can find common ground, deepening our understanding of one another and the world around us.

The 63rd General Assembly will take place virtually Thursday, June 20 through Sunday, June 23, 2024.

[Summary Schedule Grid Document\(PDF\)](#). The GA Schedule is subject to change.

<https://www.uua.org/ga/program/schedule>

At this GA, delegates will vote on the Article II revision which changes the current Principles to the Values in the graphic below.

A description of the process why it was done and the final proposal can be found in the article by the UUWORLD magazine.

<https://www.uuworld.org/articles/mcdonald-a2qa>

Or on this webpage:

<https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission>

