

The View

November 2026



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

November 1, Rev Michelle LaGrave: *Honoring Our Ancestors* .

This is known as the time of year when the veil thins between this world and the next. People celebrate Sawhain, Dia de los Muertos, Halloween, and All Souls. Let us gather in this spirit and pay tribute to our ancestors.

November 8, Violet Mitchell-Enos: *Basketry: The People, Faith, and Balance*.

A brief history of the Yavapai people, the faith and resilience for future generations. Violet is an enrolled member of the Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe. Her work has been with tribes and tribal communities focused on human services. She has been instrumental in the rebuilding of their Community Garden, a Seeds of Support recipient.

November 15, Rev Michelle: *Soul Matters: Healing* .

Is it possible to change our relationships with those who have gone before? How might we reconcile honoring our ancestors while also acknowledging the harms of the past?

November 22, Rev Michelle: *Thanksgiving Service* .

Let us gather in the spirit of Thanksgiving and celebrate all that is good in our lives!

November 29, Rabbi Nina: *Gratitude in the Jewish Tradition*

Discover the profound mystical secrets of gratitude in the Jewish tradition and how this fresh perspective truly enriches our lives.

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.

Ministerial Musings Rev. Michelle LaGrave



When I first came to the high desert, about 15 months ago, I had never been to the desert before, nor had I ever been anywhere in the entire Southwest. This land is extraordinarily different from any I had experienced before. And I quickly fell in love with its stark beauty. I love the way the land asks me to pay attention to it, from the drastic mountain skyline to the beautiful clouds, to the more subtle ways the seasons progress from one to the other.

I often feel like I am on a scavenger hunt - for color, for beauty, for progressive spaces, for friends with whom I can share a laugh. And, I find them, I find them all.

There is so much to be grateful for here, it feels easy to enter this season of Thanksgiving. November is a time for counting our blessings, for taking note of those aspects of our lives which are good and true and for which we deserve no more, nor less, than anyone else.

It feels easy to enter this season of Thanksgiving despite the anxiety over the election, the worry over the state of democracy, the handwringing over the best, most ethical way to spend limited dollars, and the fear about how changes in technology might transform the future, all too rapidly.

I hope that you, too, can find some moments in the storm when you can experience some respite from all the anxiety, worry, and fear that surrounds us and is in us. Maybe set aside time to intentionally go looking for gratitude. Perhaps you'll be surprised by what, and how much, you'll find.



From the President Catherine Marsh



Hello Everyone,

As we move into November, honor the dedication of our new sanctuary, reflect on the wonderful fundraising success of Empty Bowls, and enjoy all the fun October brought us, I hope we can all see the commitment we are making together to the focus areas we have identified for this year. These priorities reflect who we are as a congregation and who we hope to become.

One important way we can put that commitment into action is by participating in our Contract to Call process. Several listening sessions are scheduled, offering each of us an opportunity to share our hopes and dreams for the future of shared ministry at GPUUC and to help identify the qualities of ministerial leadership that will best support that vision.

This is an intentional period of listening, reflection, and assessment. The team is gathering information from across our congregation to better understand what matters most to us as we look toward the future. And yes, as a scientist, I appreciate the importance of gathering good data! More importantly, though, this is about making sure every voice has an opportunity to be heard.

If a listening session isn't the right fit for you, we will also be sending a questionnaire to the congregation for you to complete and return. Whether you share your thoughts in person or through the questionnaire, your participation matters. The more perspectives we hear, the better we can understand our collective hopes and the path ahead.

GPUUC is a place where we gather, celebrate, mourn, question, learn, sing, serve, and grow together. It is a place where friendships take root, where we support one another through life's joys and challenges, and where we welcome others into a community grounded in shared values. As we consider our future ministry, we want to ensure that we are listening to your hearts and minds and creating a vision that reflects the congregation we are—and the congregation we aspire to be.

As you enjoy the experiences and treasures you won at this year's Auction and look forward to celebrating Thanksgiving traditions with family and friends, I hope you find many opportunities to appreciate the community we share and the many ways we make a difference together.

As for me, I'll be heading down under at the end of the month to Perth, Australia—one corner of that wonderful country I have yet to explore! I look forward to sharing a few adventures with you when I return.

Wishing you all a wonderful month filled with connection, gratitude, and community!

Board Buzz

Jenny Jones
Secretary, Granite Peak UU
Congregation Board of
Trustees



Board Buzz: Oct 2026:

The GPUUC Board of Trustees met on 9/23/2026. In this meeting, we finalized our goals for the 26/27 Congregational year as follows:

1. Building community and connection. We want to create and encourage strong relationships within GPUUC and throughout the greater community by offering fun and engaging programs while continuing our commitment to Social Justice and Community Outreach.

2. Moving forward with the Contract-to-Call process. We are committed to actively engaging in this process and to keeping our congregation informed and involved along the way.

3. Renewing our commitment to being a Welcoming Congregation. We want to recommit to our UUA Welcoming Congregation designation while also asking ourselves an important question: What does it truly mean to be welcoming? How can we continue to grow so that everyone who comes through our doors feels seen, valued, respected, and genuinely included?

4. Caring for our home and our future. We will be intentional about our infrastructure and maintenance, keeping the long-term well-being, sustainability, and safety of our spaces in mind. This includes establishing maintenance schedules and continuing to live into our Green Sanctuary values.

The members of the Call to Ministry Team were approved and charged with the following roles and responsibilities, as outlined by the UUA:

Gather information from the congregation about:

- their hopes and dreams for the future of shared ministry in general.
- the qualities of ministerial leadership needed by the congregation for that vision of shared ministry.
- whether the contract minister meets those qualities.

Synthesize the feedback into a summary report with a recommendation to the GPUUC Board of Trustees. The report should have enough detail so that the Board of Trustees (and congregation) has confidence in the recommendation.

Share the summary report with the Board of Trustees and the minister.

Hold appropriate confidentiality and privacy of the feedback participants.

Signup sheets have been posted on the wall outside the library, in Davis Hall, for small group listening sessions in person and on Zoom.

The Board approved the hiring of Jake Peterman as our new Music Director and an offer letter was sent and accepted. The Congregation had the pleasure of hearing Jake conduct his first service, along with the choir on Oct. 18th.

It has come to the Board's attention that the Granite Peak UU Congregation may possibly have legal rights to the inheritance of a longtime member of the Congregation, who passed away. It was decided that the Board of Trustees will hold a Special Congregational meeting to procure the funds to hire an attorney. The Congregation will **vote on the following proposal**, approved by both the Finance committee and the Board of Trustees.

The congregation may withdraw funds from the UUCEF (Unitarian Universalist Common Endowment Fund) as a Special Needs Distribution for the limited purpose of investigating and pursuing litigation regarding a deceased congregant's home in the Wildwood Estates neighborhood in which the congregation may hold, via a trust, a partial or full interest in the real property. The funds shall be used for reasonable attorney fees and costs. The initial attorney retainer is \$7,500.00.

Members of the Congregation, as of Sept 16, 2026, are eligible to vote in person, by Zoom, or by Proxy. For proxy information, please see Secretary Jenny Jones. The Special Meeting will be held on Nov. 8, 2026, at 11:30 am, in the Sanctuary. Per the bylaws, this proposal requires a 50% quorum of members and a two-thirds vote in favor, including Proxies. Quorum needs to be met by members physically present at the meeting.

The Board determined that it is no longer necessary to have a Library Committee. Annette Skellenger has agreed to serve as our Librarian and will oversee inventory going forward. She will be adding a Games and Puzzles section to the library, thanks to donations from Rev. Michelle.

The Board of Trustees will meet again on Oct 26, 2026, from 4pm to 6pm. All members of the Congregation are welcome to attend

Updates from the facilities front

Dawn Korade



Thank you to the person/s who so quickly cleaned up the broken branches from the storm. Also, to Brian for letting me know the branches were down.

We have a landscaping service that will cart away the branches now, so we don't need to use the dumpster can for branches anymore.

Reminder to please contact me at <mailto:facilities@prescottuu.org> to let me know if work needs doing, if work was done, or if you have questions. I really appreciate that people jump in and take care of things. It's helpful to know what gets done for next year's planning too.

I think Level Up Builders did a lovely job on the Davis Hall floor. They will also replace the weather stripping on that door to help prevent any water coming in.

Next items up for facilities is work to improve the FD building, based on a recent inspection of the building and site. I'll keep you updated.

GPUUC's Neighborhood Outreach "Holiday Giving 2026" project is afoot!



FIGURE 1 HOLIDAY GIVING 2025

What began as Bronwyn's Christmas giving to day workers, then became a festive yearly breakfast at Granite Peak, is now a wide-reaching private endeavor to provide our community immigrant families and friends in need with specific gifts of their choice for the holidays—and sometimes beyond.

More families than ever are on our list, in need of support this year—so we are requesting more help from YOU! If you would be willing to provide specific gifts for a designated family, wrap and label them, and deliver them to Granite Peak in an identified gift bag, please contact: Lena Hubin or Moira Patterson sign up by 11/14 in Davis Hall to provide a holiday bag.

Coffee Hour - Please Help



Please check your calendars against the Coffee Hour volunteer signup (please let me know if you need access to the signup). October 18 and 25 desperately need more volunteers, and November isn't looking too good yet either.

We have paper products available for the dates where there is no one available to manage the dishwasher heavy lifting, so don't let that stop you!

John and Rowena will be away from Prescott for the next few months - we certainly appreciate all of their efforts and are looking forward to working with them again in the spring.

From the Membership Committee



Have you been visiting Granite Peak UU a few times and are wondering how to become a member? The Membership Committee is planning the next Informational Meeting for that purpose soon, namely

Saturday, November 14, 2026, from 9:30 to noon

in the Educational Building (across the street from church)

Come at 9:30 for a light breakfast, stay for the presentations by Rev. Michelle LaGrave and GPUUC members to learn more about our UU organization and its history, as well as our own congregation. We will try to answer your questions and share how to become a member of GPUUC.

Our welcoming congregation has been growing, and we would be happy to have you join us as well.

Lydia Garrett for the GPUUC, Membership Comm.

Our new Music Director: Jake Petermann



Hi, everyone! As your new Granite Peak Music Director, I wanted to take a minute to introduce myself. Having grown up near New Orleans, LA, surrounded by interesting music and culture, I fell in love with playing piano at an early age. I soon started playing percussion in elementary school band and continued both instruments through high school and college, eventually graduating from Loyola University New Orleans with a degree in piano and percussion performance and a minor in business administration.

Soon after graduating, I moved to Atlanta, GA, where I worked in the music business for several years, and was an accompanist with community choral groups and a session musician with various local recording artists. Over the years, I've had many fun and interesting musical experiences including being the percussionist for a production of "Evita", playing timpani with an orchestra, and composing music for a visitor's center video exhibit. As an accompanist, I did choral arranging, including one published piece

for upper voices and orchestra. I also spent a short while as an assistant choral director.

I'm grateful to be your new Music Director and very much look forward to more musical experiences with the choir and beyond!



A huge

Thank you to the GPUUC Green bag program. As a result of this collection the shelves in our pantry which were bare on 13 October are now are overflowing with over 4,000 lbs of food!

OCTOBER COLLECTION ROUNDUP

53,803 POUNDS of FOOD

Here's a BIG shout out to the Chino Valley Collection Site for hosting their 50th collection. They've collected and shared over 29,000 pounds of food, which has had an amazing impact on the community.

Prescott collected 1,739 Green Bags of food totaling 25,905 pounds. It was distributed to The Community Cupboard, Bagdad Food Pantry and St. Luke's Episcopal Church Food Pantry.

Chino Valley collected 169 Green Bags totaling 2,539 pounds of food, but so much more food comes in that's not in a Green Bag. An additional 9,000 pounds of food was donated by the Quad Cities Church, Grace Church and the Chino Valley Education Foundation. This is food that the Chino Valley Hungry Kids Project will use for the children and their families.

Prescott Valley collected 1,091 Green Bags, totaling 16,365 pounds of food that was distributed to The Community Cupboard Prescott Valley Food Bank, **Granite Peak Universalist Unitarian Congregation Food Pantry** and the Mayer Schools Weekend Backpack Project.

Thank you to the many volunteers at the three collection sites who smoothly unloaded and sorted all that food.

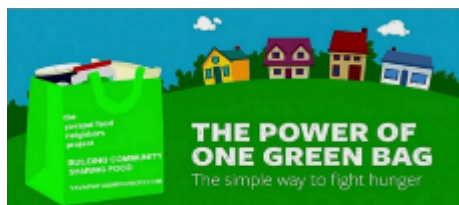


Men's Group
Raven Boys

Women's Groups



Writers GP Group



Next Green Bag collection date: 12/6



CUUPS 3rd Saturday, 11-1:00 pm Faith Development	Contact Sukey Jones—open to everyone. Topic: (page 7 .)
GP Forum On Zoom, Wednesday https://zoom.us/j/524691598 (Password=Forum)	Politics and Religion—open to everyone. Contact: Fred Kraps
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. Contact Elayne Hayes.
Moving Meditation Every Wednesday 9-10 am.	Chigong and similar meditative movements. Led by Thomas Camargo
2nd Saturday, 8-10:30 Faith Development	Contact Rick Denny for information
Varies	Contact Charlotte Skuse for information
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. Contact Clark



LGBTQ

Follow Us on Instagram

Care Team



Issues for the Care Team may be sent to Bobbie Bollinger at Care@PrescottUU.org

Pagan Gathering

Saturday, November,
11-12:30
Faith Development
Building



Gratitude as a Pagan Practice

November offers a moment to pause and give thanks for the year's journey—its growth, lessons, and transitions. Gratitude connects us to the cycles of nature, reminding us of the balance between receiving and giving, light and shadow, and beginnings and endings. How do we both express and enact gratitude?

Adult Faith Development

Mary Ann Clark



Chanting and Sacred Poetry

Presented by Cheryl Cross
November 7, 2-3:30 in Faith Development Building.

Experience the joy of chanting together and hearing poetry from a variety of spiritual traditions. These two methods calm the mind and body, and deepen connection. They uplift moods and create deep meditative states. (Singing ability is unnecessary).

Cakes for the Queen of Heaven: In Ancient Times

Presented by Mary Ann Clark and Sue Wilkes

Final session: November 11 (note change) 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. Learn women's half of the human

story and consider new questions about the earliest human civilizations

For more information, contact Mary Ann Clark.

Beloved as We Are

Presented by the Rev. Michelle Graves and Catherine Forthun

January 6, 13, 20, 27 and possibly February 3 in FD-A from 1 to 3 pm.

Based on the book *Beloved as We Are: Building a Congregational Culture of Disability Inclusion*, a powerful and much-needed collection that blends personal stories and resources to help members of liberal religious congregations foster accessible and inclusive communities for disabled people. Every congregation has work to do around ableism and this work is never finished. *Beloved as We Are*, both the book and the workshop offer both a call and a companion for communities committed to living their values more fully. A copy of the book is available in the GPUUC library.

Children's Faith Development



September 27, 2026: Autumnal Equinox



Aigean led the Faith Development program today and talked about how the Autumnal Equinox marks the first day of Fall. It is a day of equal day and night. The days following grow shorter and the nights grow longer from now until the Winter Solstice. We shared our gratitude; especially for things that have been growing or what we have been working on since the Spring Equinox in March.

This is a time of harvest for farmers. We discussed what the phrase "*you reap what you sow*" means, and how our thoughts and behaviors can impact our life and the lives around us. We shared our favorite parts of Autumn, like carving pumpkins, falling leaves Halloween, Fall Break, and rain. Indigenous Nations traditionally hold community

feasts, and honor the “*Three Sisters*”- beans, squash and corn.

The students made leaf mobiles out of real and paper leaves.



October 4, 2026: Soul Matters: Courage

Today’s lesson began in the sanctuary during “A Time for All Ages” with Rev. Michelle addressing the topic of “Courage”. She shared examples of courage in her own life and elicited various answers from the Faith Development students in response to the question of, “what is one time that you showed courage?”

True courage is the deliberate choice to act, move forward or speak the truth despite feeling fear, doubt or anxiety.

The students worked on their own “Courage” worksheet and discussed what courage means to them.



October 11, 2026: Every Child Matters

“Every Child Matters” is an Indigenous led movement and slogan, honoring the children who survived or died in Indian residential and boarding

schools, and advocates for the rights, safety and well-being of all indigenous children.

People are encouraged to wear orange shirts on the day of September 30th, coinciding with the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The orange shirt is used as a symbol of culture, freedom and self-esteem that were stripped from indigenous children.

The students watched a short documentary “Every Child Matters” and created a string painting activity using different shades of orange.



October 18, 2026: Papel Picado

The art of papel picado takes root in ancient Aztec culture. Long before Spanish colonization, the Aztecs chiselled spirit and deity figures into rough bark paper called “amate” and used it in a ritual to ask for protection or to ward off disease.

Papel Picado- represents the fragility of life, the wind and a spiritual connection between the living and the dead.

The Wind Element- during Dia de los Muertos, the fluttering tissue paper represents the wind acting as an invisible pathway to help guide returning souls to the altars, or “ofrendas”.



The colors used in papel picado are also significant:

- Red- passions, love, blood, sacrifices
- Yellow- sunlight and life,
- Blue- peace, souls of people who died in water,
- Green- nature, youth, hope and harvest,
- Orange- mourning, respect for the dead, the sun.

The students enjoyed playing the card game, "Loteria" (Mexican Bingo). Afterwards, they each created their own papel picado designs using tissue paper and scissors. The results were all so unique and beautiful and were later strung together into a multicolor banner.

Social Justice



Food Pantry

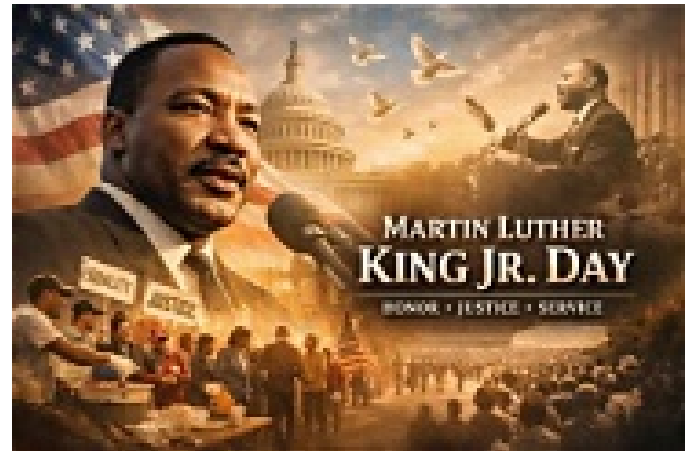
A virtual hug and huge Thank You! to the individual(s) who left rolls and rolls of paper towels and toilet paper in the sanctuary entryway on late Wednesday, the 14th, or Thursday, the 15th. It took 3 people to carry it all into the Pantry on Friday morning! Your generosity is much appreciated by all the volunteers and our patrons. And that appreciation carries over to everyone who donates. We are fortunate to be part of a community that over and over again truly shows up for our neighbors.

And we are fortunate and thrilled to welcome 3 new Pantry volunteers! Margy Olmstead, Bobbie

Bollinger, and Joyce Goodwin have all volunteered for an initial "learning" shift and then signed on for additional ones. You are all masters at the necessary tasks, and every one of you presents a friendly, warm, and welcoming presence in the Pantry. We're so grateful to have you on the team, and we hope to see you often. And we will always welcome new team members 😊.

And on to a new "Ask". We have new patrons and some returning patrons who don't have reusable bags and need to use the plastic bags we scavenge from various sources. We'd really like to reinforce our wish that individuals bring reusable bags - if they can access one or more. So, if you have any extra reusable bags, we'd love to rehome them for you 😊.

As always, thank you for all you do - we couldn't do this without you.



Seeds of Support this month is the Martin Luther King Committee.

Details about the Celebration will be available in the January newsletter. Typically, there is a march on MLK day (this year 1/18/27) and a service at a downtown church. The MLK Committee also has events during the year as well as MLK Day and march.

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that." — Martin Luther King Jr., [A Testament of Hope: The Essential Writings and Speeches](#)

Social Justice Council News



between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. Plan to attend—it's a blast!

EMPTY BOWLS

— SEPTEMBER 13, 2026 —



PRESCOTT, ARIZONA

The Empty Bowls Volunteer Celebration after Sunday's service on October 18 included a visit by Dori Hatton

of Jarz of Clay and Andrew Deering of Musicians with Heart. Dori's team of committed potters and new customers provided over 400 bowls this year! We'll be working with Dori to create some opportunities to participate in bowl making throughout next year if you'd like to learn and support Empty Bowls 2027!

Andrew started Musicians with Heart in partnership with Jersey Lilly Saloon a year ago. Every Wednesday evening, they sponsor an open mic for local musicians and all proceeds over the course of a three-month period go to a select charity. Andrew shared that having been through food insecurity himself as a child, Empty Bowls is a project near and dear to his heart. He announced the total donation to Empty Bowls this year--\$3,683! This brought the total cash donations from all business sponsors to \$11,482.49. Despite getting rained out during the second half of Empty Bowls on September 13, our "take" for the day was still an impressive \$21,853, bringing our total to date to \$33,235.49! We still must deduct expenses and put aside some money for next year—but we are looking good!



November 20, 2026

Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) is an annual observance on November 20 that honors the memory of the transgender people whose lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence.

Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) was started in 1999 by transgender advocate Gwendolyn Ann Smith as a vigil to honor the memory of Rita Hester, a transgender woman who was killed in 1998. The vigil commemorated all the transgender people lost to violence since Rita Hester's death and began an important tradition that has become the annual Transgender Day of Remembrance.

"Transgender Day of Remembrance seeks to highlight the losses we face due to anti-transgender bigotry and violence. I am no stranger to the need to fight for our rights, and the right to simply exist is first and foremost. With so many seeking to erase transgender people – sometimes in the most brutal ways possible – it is vitally important that those we lose are remembered, and that we continue to fight for justice."

- Transgender Day of Remembrance founder
Gwendolyn Ann Smith

This website has the stories of some of the transgender people who have been violently killed.
<https://www.transremembrance.org/>

Want to help add to this year's pot? You can help us sell bowls at the Prescott Farmers Market either Saturday November 14 or Saturday December 12! Please contact Dixie King to sign up! The Market runs from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. We'll set up

We're on the Web! Find us at:

<http://www.prescottuu.org>

To access the "Members Only"
section, go to that tab and sign in