



The View

April 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.

April 5, Rev. Michelle LaGrave: *Happy Easter! Happy Pesach! Happy Spring!*

Join us for a special holiday service exploring themes of freedom, survival, and renewal. The children and youth will remain with us for the first part of the service.

April 12, Rev. Michelle: *Soul Matters: Embracing Possibility.*

Where is there room in our lives for possibility? What might happen if we were to embrace possibility?

April 19, Rev. Michelle: *Flower Communion.*

Bring a flower or two to share and join us in this traditional Unitarian Universalist ritual.

April 26, Patrick Grady: *Turbulent Times: The Impact on the Environment.*

In honor of Earth Day, it is important to step back from daily chaos and look more closely at the current threats to the environment. What does it mean for our community, our country, for the planet? What can we do?

Patrick Grady has been an environmental activist for a number of years and currently serves on the GPUU Social Justice Council and is a member of Prescott City Council.

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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.



Ministerial Musings

Rev. Michelle LaGrave

Happy Spring Everyone!

I've received multiple requests for reprints of the Granite Peak Beatitudes I created for the Sermon on the Amount, so here they are once more!

Blessed are those who would welcome in the stranger, for you shall belong

Blessed are those who gather together to listen closely to one another, for you shall be heard

Blessed are those who feed their neighbors, for you shall be fed

Blessed are those who make bowls and fill them full of soup, for you shall be nourished

Blessed are those who clothe their retired warriors in new undergarments, for you shall be protected

Blessed are those who provide spiritual care for children in detention, for you shall be fulfilled

Blessed are those who care for the sick, lonely, isolated, and injured among you, for you shall be cared for

Blessed are those who teach their neighbors English, for you shall be understood

Blessed are those who demand justice, rise in protest, and protect the refugee, for you shall find (new?) sanctuary

Blessed are those who reuse and recycle, for you shall be reincarnated

Blessed are those who provide for one another's needs, for you shall have all you need

Blessed are those who learn, grow, and stretch their whole lives through, for you shall be transformed

Blessed are those who sing, laugh, play, and dance together, for you shall be joyful

Blessed are those who shine their lights and live their values, for you shall be seen

Blessed are those who form beloved community, in the face of oppression, Rejoice and be glad, for great shall be your reward here on earth

From the President Rick Denney



Dear Friends,

Winter certainly went out like an over-heated lion!

Can you believe these 90-degree temperatures so early in the season? I know we at Granite Peak are doing our utmost to keep thoughtful, "cool" heads in these climatically and politically overheated times.

Karen and I attended a wonderful Circle Supper last night with thirteen (!) participants. These dinners are usually smaller, but two groups ended up being combined. It was a delightful evening with old and newly minted GP members from teenage to >80 years.

If you haven't yet participated in a Circle Dinner, I urge you to give one a try. They are an ideal way to deepen friendships over a shared (and, should I say, delectable?) meal. What amazing cooks we have at GP!

Finally, I remind everyone that we are in the middle of our annual Stewardship season to support Granite Peak and its outreach activities. If you haven't already done so, please look into your hearts and minds to reflect upon how important Granite Peak UU Congregation is in your lives and to the wider community.

I look forward to the annual Congregational meeting on May 31 when we will be asked to elect new officers and approve a balanced budget for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. We at GP have accomplished so much this past year! Let us strive to keep the momentum going!



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.



Leadership Development

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 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 Sunday, June 14 through Sunday, June 21, 2026, 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 April 9. Contact Kelly (office@prescottuu.org) 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 Kelly for a copy) and return it to the Board of Trustees.



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
JUNE 14 – 21, 2026

MEET THE MOMENT: TOGETHER EVERYWHERE

UUA General Assembly 2026: Virtual with Community Gatherings

General Assembly (GA) is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists where we conduct the business of the Association, explore the theological grounding of our faith, and live out our shared mission and values.

GA 2026 offers an accessible and inclusive experience for all. This year's event will be fully virtual, with optional Community Gatherings at congregations for those who want to watch and participate together.

Wherever you choose to participate, we will share worship, learning, and celebration as one faith community.

In 2026, GA will take place from Sunday, June 14 through Sunday, June 21, 2026.

June 14–16: Business of the Association. This segment of GA is a fully virtual experience. It begins with Sunday's Ingathering Service, followed by three days of General Sessions led by Co-Moderators Rev. Kimberly Quinn Johnson and Bill Young. Delegates will conduct the official business of the Association, including elections, reports, and discussion on key issues shaping Unitarian Universalism.

June 17–18: Connection, Travel, or Personal Time. The midweek pause offers time for professional groups, identity organizations, and affiliates to gather, or for participants to take personal time for rest and reflection. These days may also be used for travel to the Studio Site in preparation for the weekend portion of GA.

June 19–21: Worship, Learning, and Celebration. The weekend features worship, learning, and community events including the Meet the Moment Opening Program, Ware Lecture, Community Sing, and Sunday Worship, bringing our movement together in faith, spirit, and purpose.

Registration

Registration will open at [UUA.org/GA](https://www.uua.org/ga). Individual registration provides full access to all virtual programming, live-streamed events, and on-demand content. Congregations that host Community Gatherings will receive additional resources and toolkits to support group participation.

Participants may pay their registration fee in installments through a payment plan option, allowing smaller payments over several months with as little as \$50 down.

What to Expect: GA 2026 is a fully virtual event that you can experience from home,

at a Community Gathering hosted by a congregation, or in person at the Studio Site in Louisville. This model emphasizes inclusion, accessibility, and sustainability:

Participants can engage fully from home, at local Community Gatherings, or at the Studio Site.

Congregations can create their own local gathering experiences with UUA support.

The GA Studio Site will host the live production of worship and featured events while also welcoming some attendees to participate onsite.

This approach expands access, reduces costs, and deepens connection across our movement.



Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde Is Our 2026 Ware Lecturer

We are honored to announce that Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde will serve as the 2026 Ware Lecturer at General Assembly.

Each year, the UUA President extends an invitation to a distinguished guest to address General Assembly as the Ware Lecturer. In 2026, the Ware Lecture will take place on Saturday, June 20, at 8 pm Eastern / 6 pm Mountain / 4 pm Alaska.

Let me remind you of just who is Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde:

During a prayer service at Washington's National Cathedral Tuesday, the Episcopal bishop of Washington directly confronted President Trump while he and Vice President J.D. Vance were seated in the front row.

"Let me make one final plea, Mr. President," Bishop Mariann Budde said in her 15-minute sermon. "Millions have put their trust in you. And as you told the nation yesterday, you have felt the providential

hand of a loving God. In the name of our God, I ask you to have mercy upon the people in our country who are scared now," said Budde, as she appeared to look towards the president.

"There are gay, lesbian and transgender children in Democratic, Republican, and independent families, some who fear for their lives."

This came just one day after Trump issued a slate of executive orders, including one which has a section dedicated to "recognizing that women are biologically distinct from men," one that declared a national emergency at the country's southern border and issued several others related to immigration, including one attempting to do away with birthright citizenship.

Budde challenged these orders and much of the rhetoric that has surrounded them.

Bishop Budde serves as the spiritual leader of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, which includes congregations and Episcopal schools in the District of Columbia and four Maryland counties. The first woman elected to this role, she is widely respected for her steady pastoral leadership, her commitment to justice and mercy, and her deep belief in the dignity of every human being. Her preaching and writing consistently invite people to live with courage, faith, and compassion, especially in times that call for moral clarity.

We look forward to welcoming Bishop Budde to General Assembly 2026 and to the wisdom she will bring to this year's Ware Lecture.

For More Info Click Here: <https://www.uua.org/ga/program/highlights/ware-lecture>

Nominations for GP Election May 31

- Board President: Catherine Marsh
- Board Secretary: Jenny Jones
- Board At-Large: TBA
- Nominating Committee: Rick Denney
- Endowment Committee: Art Gorski

Granite Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation
2026 ALBERT LOVEJOY AND TOM PETTIT
SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARDS



Awards Ceremony and Networking Event
For Prescott's Community Activists
We Honor this year's grant recipients

Albert Lovejoy Social Justice Award
JOHN DUNCAN

For his advocacy for LGBTQ rights and Social Justice issues

Tom Petit Organization Award
THE LAUNCH PAD

For their inspirational work with Prescott area teens

Thursday, April 16 at 5:30 PM

At Prescott College Crossroads Cafe, 220 Grove Ave, Prescott AZ

Catering by El Gato Azul; Cost per Person: \$30.00

RSVP to lovejoypetitdinner@prescottuu.org by April 5

Or after Service 3/29/26 and 4/5/26

Recurring Granite Peak Groups

CUUPS	3rd Saturday, 11-1:00 pm Faith Development	Contact Sukey Jones—open to everyone. Topic: The Magic of Beltane (page 10 for details.)
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.
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



It Takes All of US

We have entered the fourth and final week of GPUUC's annual operational budget Stewardship pledge campaign. **Every pledge matters to help us to fully fund our congregation's FY 26-27 budget for July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027!**

The suggested multiplier of 1.14x is recommended for calculating your pledge for the next fiscal year, if possible. Last year, there was no increase in the operating budget because of the concurrent building fund drive.

If you have not been contacted by a steward OR if you have a question, please contact me OR stop by the Stewardship table in Davis Hall after the Sunday Service.

Thanks for your help!

Marianne Erickson, GPUUC Stewardship Committee

From the Membership Committee

By Lydia Garrett



We trust you were present at the March 15 New Member Ceremony where our Congregation welcomed several new congregants into our ranks. We can add a latecomer to this group who just signed our Membership book. They are Janice Lodato, Dale James, Marti Gerdes and Fred Crafts, Catherine Forthun, Megan Lookup, Patti Anderson, Katie Patterson and the family of Jim Wangerin, Holy Knies and daughter Ainsley Wangerin. Our total membership roll now surpasses 150!

We have the reputation of being an open and welcoming congregation, so let's make sure to live up to that reputation and make an extra effort to recognize and greet these new GPUU family members. This also includes seeking out and talking to visitors.

The Membership Committee will try and organize an easy Sunday later afternoon "tea party" for new members and anyone from our Congregation to come and spend a couple of hours for conversation and fun, with the purpose to get to know each other. Keep looking for future announcements in our weekly publication.



Adult Faith Development

Mary Ann Clark

Ho'oponopono - The Hawaiian

Practice of Forgiveness & Resolution, presented by Barry & Gayla Gordon will be presented Saturday, April 4 & 11, 11am to 1pm FD-A.

Ho'oponopono (ho-o-pono-pono) is the ancient Hawaiian spiritual practice for healing relationships and releasing karmic problems that is both practical and profound. In day one of this experiential workshop, participants will learn a simple daily practice, which is immediately life changing. On day two, we will experience the longer ceremonial form of Ho'oponopono prayers and fire ceremony.



Ho'oponopono practice offers a path to emotional freedom by clearing resentments, guilt, and painful memories - whether from recent conflicts or deep-seated wounds. The beauty of Ho'oponopono is that it works whether the other person is present, or not, living or deceased, and requires no confrontation.

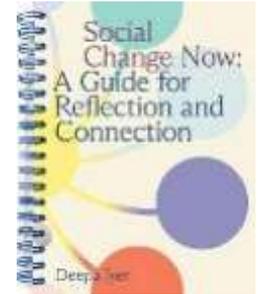
What Participants Will Learn:

- Ho'oponopono's Traditional and Modern versions
- The six-statement Ho'oponopono practice for daily use
- How forgiveness liberates you, as well as the other person
- How/why taking 100% responsibility is the key to emotional freedom
- The long-form Ho'oponopono Prayer for deeper healing

Facilitator's Background:

Barry and Gayla Gordon are Transformational Life Counselors with decades of experience teaching spiritual practices, energy psychology, and Hawaiian Ho'oponopono. Gayla has lineage with Mornnah Sim-eona (teacher of Dr Ihaleakala Hew Len, who is the teacher of Dr Joe Vitale), and Barry has lineage with Big Daddy Bray, one of the first Kahunas to share Hawaiian wisdom with Westerners.

This year's *UU Common Read*, *Social Change Now: A Guide for Reflection and Connection* by Deepa Iyer (Skinner House) see <https://www.uua.org/lifespan/curricula/read>, will be presented by Jo Sprague and Fred Krap on Saturday, April 25 from 10 to 12pm in FD-A.



We have a copy of the book in the congregational library. You can also purchase the book through the InSpirit UU Book and Gift shop: <https://uuabookstore.org/products/social-change-now> or other online vendors.

In a workbook format, Iyer guides the reader to consider a social justice group or movement as an ecosystem, supported by ten interconnected roles people can bring to the group's shared mission.

Social Change Now guides readers to examine their personal connection with one or more role-builder, storyteller, disrupter, caregiver, weaver, and more. Readers explore what each role gives and what people performing that role may need in support.

Social Change Now offers real-world examples, prompts with room to write responses, and suggested practices to try immediately. It is a resource to accompany individuals and organizations throughout their lifelong social change journeys to build connected communities and equitable systems in our world.

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.

Faith Development Happenings

By Sandra Palacios

February 22, 2026: Celebrating Hinduism/ Spring Festival of Holi

Holi is a vibrant, ancient Hindu “festival of colors”. It is celebrated in India primarily in March, to mark the arrival of Spring and the end of Winter, as well as the victory of good over evil.



March 1, 2026: History of Stained Glass

The use of stained glass in churches dates to the 7th century in the Middle East and Europe. It was primarily used as a “poor man’s Bible” to educate a largely illiterate population on Biblical stories and theology. Since many people could not read, the window served as visual storytelling. Stained glass windows spiritually symbolize the transformation of natural light into divine, heavenly light reverberating into the soul. The students made their own version of a stained-glass design, using transparent sheet protectors, permanent markers and aluminium foil to create and name a unique illusion.



March 8, 2026: Economics 101

During these troubling economic times, we all need to be aware of the value of money. Therefore, today’s lesson involved each student creating and executing a monthly budget. They were presented with an itemized list of expenses that would be typical of the average household, e.g. rent, utilities, food, entertainment, etc. Also on hand, were advertisements from local supermarkets. The students were each given a certain amount of play money and proceeded to calculate the



The students of Faith Development participated in the “Story of All Ages” presented in the sanctuary by Sarah Mahler. There was a celebration of music and dance, during which the students passed out colorful, bright orange and yellow leis to the entire congregation. Afterwards, the students served Madras lentils and Basmati rice to the congregation in Davis Hall.



various expenses. As a result, many of them found that they did not have enough money for preferred items, the least of all being entertainment. It was a hard reality to bear for some and valuable lesson for all.



March 15, 2026: Four Leaf Clover

The four-leaf clover is widely recognized as a symbol of luck, faith, hope and love. The leaf itself is a rare, mutant variation of a three-leaf clover, with a 1/10,000 chance of discovery. Traditions can be traced back to at least the 17th century. The symbolism takes root in various cultures such as the Celtic, Druids and Egyptians. Historically, it was believed to ward off evil spirits and often kept as a lucky charm. Legends suggest that they would allow the owner to see fairies. Not to be confused with a three-leaf clover, also known as a shamrock, which is a symbol of Ireland. Today, the students created an art project which contained a symmetrical version of the clover, which they decorated with bright colors.



Newsletter Deadlines Midnight

May 2026 newsletter due:
April 21, 2026, Tuesday by midnight.

June 2026 newsletter due:
May 26, 2026.

Send articles to: newslettergpuuc@gmail.com

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LGBTQ

Welcoming Congregation

GPUUC Acknowledges GLBTQI+ Celebrations

There are a number of days and months observed, celebrated, and honored by the LGBTQ community.

- April 6: International Asexuality Day
- April 10: National Youth HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
- Third Friday of April: Day of Silence
- April 18: National Transgender HIV Testing Day
- April 18: Nonbinary Parents Day
- April 26: Lesbian Visibility Day



From the Social Justice Council

Lovejoy/Pettit Awards Dinner. The Lovejoy/Pettit Awards dinner will be held April 16, 2026, at 5:30 p.m., at the Prescott College Crossroads Center. This year's recipient for the Lovejoy Award is John Duncan, publisher of 5senses. The Launch Pad is receiving the Pettit Award for its outstanding work with local youth. Come join in the celebration! Tickets are \$30/person. RSVP to lovejoypettitdinner@prescottuu.org by April 5 or after Service 3/29/26 and 4/5/26.



Empty Bowls 2026. We will be kicking off our Empty Bowls fundraising year on Wednesday, April 8, at the Peregrine Book Company, 219A North Cortez Street! Peregrine will be donating 5% of their sales that day to Empty Bowls. This is your opportunity to stock up on books for summer reading while benefiting a great cause! Also, we are still recruiting for our Steering Committee, and we will be looking to recruit Area Leads within a few months. Consider being part of this fabulous event! Contact Dixie King.



SEEDS OF SUPPORT FOR APRIL:

Prescott Area Shelter Services (PASS) provides a safe shelter for women and children, homeless transition services, and an Education to Employability program to assist its guests with the "soft skills" related to employment. In 2025, the PASS Emergency Shelter served 97 women, 10 families, and 22 children, while another 39 women, 2 men, 13 families, and 20 children participated in Transitional Housing. Please be

generous in your support for this organization and its important work!

New members of the SJC are welcome! If you are interested in learning more about the work of the Social Justice Council, you are welcome to attend our **April meeting, to be held Monday, April 6 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the Faith Development Building.** For additional information, contact Dixie King.



The Magic of Beltane

11:00-12:30 pm
Faith Development Building



Get ready for Beltane (also spelled Beltain), celebrated around May 1, also known as May Day.

It is a joyful, festive occasion celebrated by many earth-based cultures. It is a time for coming together, to celebrate life. Join us as we explore its history and meaning and learn fun ways to cele-