



# The View

## October 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.

### October 6, Dennis Garvey: *Songs In the Key of Life!*

We all have songs that mark time in our lives, that make us stop and think! Dennis, aka Doc Garvey, will be playing and exploring a few that have made him stop and say, "wait! Let me hear that again!"

### October 13, Rev. Roger Fritts: *Native American Spirituality.*

October 14 is Columbus Day or Indigenous Peoples Day. I hope to attend some of the events at the Museum of Indigenous People on that day from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. I will describe Native American Spirituality, based on my readings and a visit to Hopi and Navajo communities.

### October 20, Rev. Roger Fritts: *Pro-Life or Pro-Choice -- one Unitarian Universalist's View.*

Abortion has been part of my religious life. In 1962 Sherri Finkbine was a member of the Phoenix Unitarian Universalist Church when she sought an abortion after discovering that the thalidomide she had been taking caused serious fetal deformities when used in the early stages of pregnancy. As you see, like many of you, I have been thinking about this issue for a long time. Because this is such a big issue in our election, as a minister I feel it is my responsibility to share my thoughts on this difficult topic.

### October 27, Rev. Roger Fritts: *A Liberal Religious Perspective on Immigration.*

As a child, I remember the Bracero Program, a U.S. Government-sponsored program that imported Mexican farm workers into the United States between the years 1942 and 1964. The word is from the Spanish term bracero [bra'se. ro], meaning "manual laborer" or "one who works using his arms." When I encountered braceros I never felt afraid. Now, 60 years later, we are encouraged to be afraid. Sometimes fear helps us survive, but is it the right approach in our current situation?

#### Our Covenant:

Love is the doctrine of this congregation, the quest for truth its sacrament and service is its prayer. To dwell together in peace, to seek knowledge in freedom, to serve others in community, thus do we covenant together.

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## From the Minister

Rev. Roger Fritts



I attended two Prescott Peace-builders events in September -- part of a Sunday afternoon concert at Granite Park and a Saturday night September 21 event at the Courthouse. I was inspired by the speakers.

Neither Unitarians nor Universalists are historically American peace churches. Many UUs have served in the military. The phrase "historic peace churches" refers to the Church of the Brethren, the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), and the Mennonites.

My own view, which has no official standing in our Granite Peak UU Congregation, reflects the fact that my mother came from a pacifist Mennonite background and my UU minister in Phoenix was a pacifist. I was 14 years old on Dec 5, 1965, when I heard Raymond Manker deliver a sermon at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Phoenix. In part Rev. Manker said,

*"I am a religious pacifist, I was raised as a Quaker, a member of the Religious Society of Friends, I was taught that human life was perhaps the most sacred entity on Earth. No man had a right to take the life of another human being. To take another human life was the ultimate in human degradation, Coupled with this idea and an integral part of it was the idea that human beings were divine, each man had the spark of divinity in his soul which, if properly nurtured, could help him develop into a sensitive, compassionate person."*

I have learned not to use sexist language, but otherwise, this is my view, and I try to live my life consistent with my beliefs. You will see it reflected in my year with you as your interim minister.

I was encouraged by the Prescott Peacebuilders events. In the words of the Catholic pacifist Dorothy Day, "No one has a right to sit down and feel hopeless. There is too much work to do."

## From the President

Rick Denney



Beloved friends,

After a long, hot summer, we have finally had a whiff of Fall in the air with nighttime temperatures around our Williamson Valley home dropping below 40 F on a few recent nights. Warmer days seem to be making a brief comeback, but the frantic flurry of twenty or more hummingbirds that have been draining our feeders seems to have thinned markedly as most of the tiny birds wisely are heading north.

As summer has drawn to a close, we have also shared a whirlwind of activity at Granite Peak these past few weeks. Reverend Fritts (preferring to be called Roger) has been with us for the past two Sundays when he delivered fascinating and informative messages detailing his own history as a UU minister and the importance of belonging to a community of shared values.

Last week he shared with us the long and honorable history of Unitarianism that dates to before the emperor Constantine established Christianity as the official religion of the Roman Empire. I know we can anticipate many more well-crafted and thoughtful messages from Roger.

Our music leaders, pianist Lena Hubin and choir conductors Marshall Voit (a graduate student in choral conducting at NAU), our own Karen Denney, and the Granite Peak Singers have provided high-quality music for recent services and will continue to do so throughout the Fall.

Our committees have been active over the summer. The Project has engaged a noted local architect to work out the details of our planned sanctuary renovation. Our food pantry volunteers have been faithfully welcoming needy visitors each Friday. Our Membership, Personnel, Finance, Social Justice, Stewardship and Care committees are all continuing to provide outstanding leadership and assistance to your Board.

As your President, I couldn't be prouder to be a part of our remarkable, liberal religious community.



## Board Buzz: Highlights from the Board's September meeting

Welcome to Rev Roger Fritts, who joined us for his first GPUUC BOT meeting. We are so happy to have you here.

It's been a terrifically busy month for GPUUC with Empty Bowls and the continuing redesign of the sanctuary. So many people have lately devoted so much of their time and effort to helping make our world a better place. Please get to know the members of each committee and team that make us what we are.

The Project committee has been meeting weekly with many emails flying across the "interwebs" between meetings. Numbers are becoming more firm, plans more concrete, and things are really taking shape! There are multiple characteristics of the sanctuary renewal being fine-tuned as the plans progress: windows, floor plan, and effects on the exterior appearance, to name a few.

Norma and Russ have decided to spearhead the capital campaign, so no outside contractor is needed for this now. Please give them your maximum support as we celebrate our congregation by making these goals for our sanctuary real.

Elayne Hayes will be filling in for Barbara Wilson on the board while Barbara is attending to her own healing. Thanks, Elayne.

Consultation with Rev Roger helped the BOT immensely in determining our path forward in our search for a settled minister. We have decided to apply for another contract minister with a 1-year term to give us time to find a settled minister. If we do not get a contract minister, we will then apply for an interim minister (probably a term of 2 years), and then we will apply for a settled minister dependent upon our time frame with a contract or interim minister.

There are more congregations needing ministers than there are ministers and this plan maximizes our opportunities and aligns with the time frames required for all the applications.

And, we have music directors for September through December :).

Karen Denny will share the work with Marshall, each responsible for one Sunday a month. This could continue through 2025, but we're all getting a trial period.

See you all soon, Dawn Korade. Secretary of the BOT



## Treasurer Report

The financials looked very good for August. We are 16.7% through the fiscal year ahead in revenue by 10.3% and under expenses by 6.7%. This gives us a Net Operating Revenue Surplus of \$59,131.63.

We received over \$50,000 in pledge contributions in August bringing us to 32% of the pledge budget (thank you!) and our rental income is still in good shape at 23% of the budget. August's finance reports are on our website.

The More You Know.....

This month I'd like to share a good question from someone in the congregation and answer it here in case others are wondering about this as well. The question was, if you have met your pledge and want to give to other parts of Granite Peak, what are the options and/or areas in need?

We have three designated areas for giving to Granite Peak (outside of pledges, plate, and hospitality collections): Families in Need (formerly known as Emergency Assistance), the Food Pantry, and transaction fee donations (to offset the fees from donations through our website or Square via PayPal or credit card).

All three of these rely on contributions and if you specify one of these areas in the Memo line of your check or with a note, your donation will go to that area. If you don't specify where you want your contribution to go, and you have already met your pledge, it will go to "Other Income" toward our operating budget.

There is also the Endowment and soon you will be able to contribute to the Renovation Capital Campaign, being led by Russ Erickson and Norma Meier.





## GPUUC Annual Auction 2024 "Fabulous 50's"

The Auction Team is forming and hard at work to plan this annual fundraiser that helps to bridge the gap between operating fund pledges and the actual cost of our beloved congregation's expenses. These dates are important for you to know:

### Auction Calendar Dates

Sept. Auction Team Meetings:

Tuesday, Sept. 10 at 4 pm in Davis Hall

Tuesday, Sept. 24 at 4 pm on Zoom

(We still need team members to help with the Silent Auction, logistics, and the kitchen on Auction Night, Nov. 15.)

The **deadline for donations is Sunday, Sept. 29**. If you would like to donate an item of service, a meal, a valuable, a day trip, a vacation stay, or a treasured possession, please do so by submitting a donation form (found in the GPUUC flyer) or entering your item online here:

<https://bit.ly/GPUUC2024Auction>

Auction Night Dinner Tickets go on sale, on Sunday, Oct. 13.

Catalogs will be ready for distribution on Sunday, October 27.

**The online Auction begins with Davis Hall dessert gathering on Thursday, Nov. 7 at 2 pm with homemade desserts.**

Online Auction ends at 9 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 13.

The last day to buy dinner tickets (beef brisket, chicken, or vegan) is Sunday, Nov. 3.



Auction Night is **FRIDAY, NOV. 15** Mark your calendar! Consider a fabulous 50's costume!

Contact Marianne Erickson for more information!

## Samhain / Day of the Dead Celebration



Come honor our dearly departed ancestors: those of blood (from whom we are descended), ancestors of spirit (mentors or historical figures whom you feel an affinity with), and ancestors of place (those peoples who previously inhabited the land where we live.) When we have gratitude for who came before, they in turn bless our future on Earth.

Join us around a sacred fire pit in the GPUUC parking lot, as together we sing, move, chant, and remember with gratitude.

This special Gathering begins at 5:00; we'll start the ritual at 5:30 - it's best not to be late!

Please bring a chair, beverage, flashlight, drums, and rattles if you have them, and some small thing to put on our outdoor altar in memory of those you would honor who have passed. There will be time for more drumming, socializing, and roasted marshmallows when it's over.

Note: Watch the Weekly Peak for date and further information! (Actual date of Day of the Dead is Nov. 1.)

Organized by GPUUC CUUPS Kindred Spirits

### 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.

## Hospitality/Coffee Team



Are any members or friends seeking a fun, highly caffeinated group to join? We could use your help on Sunday mornings in the kitchen! Shifts are available before or after service, and all training is provided. We'd like to build our numbers back up so that everyone only needs to work once or twice per month. Please see Chris Hawthorne to inquire.

## Bridge Group



Third (3rd) Wednesday of the Month in Davis Hall. We are looking for people to join the **Bridge Group**.

A commitment is required, no Drop Ins.  
Please contact Lea Phillips.



## 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.



## 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.

## This Month in Music



If you have been to our Sunday service on 9/15 or 9/22, you'll know that the Granite Peak Singers are back! We are thrilled to officially welcome our two part-time Music Directors for the fall, Marshall Voit and our very own, Karen Denny. It has already been such a treat to have them share their gifts with us.

Karen will be leading the choir twice in October for Sunday services on 10/13 and 10/20, and Marshall and Karen will each lead us in song on different weekends in November and December.

You can learn a bit more about these very talented Music Directors in our weekly newsletters and they will be sharing updates with you as well. For the choir's fall schedule, see this link:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1\\_YSJLg3Php01dQnVMt5apqxf8jHdWkuIpPRVB](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_YSJLg3Php01dQnVMt5apqxf8jHdWkuIpPRVB)

Then the singing enveloped me.  
It was furry and resonant, coming from every-  
one's very heart.  
There was no sense of performance or  
judgment, only that the music was  
breath and food.

ANNE LAMOTT



**Please join us after service on October 13 to celebrate and thank our Empty Bowls volunteers!**

We'll have food and drink, be joined by our PUUF partners, and have **BOWLS FOR SALE!** Bring your cash/credit cards and stock up on holiday gifts for friends & family. Bowls are \$15, and of course proceeds go to our county food banks.

**Leadership Development Nuts and Bolts Workshop, 10-26, 10-noon**

Join the Leadership Development Committee for their annual Nuts and Bolts Workshop on Saturday, October 26 from 10 to noon.

Are you a new or returning congregational leader or someone who just wants to know more about the logistics of the congregation? This is the workshop for you. You'll learn about the organization of our congregational volunteer groups, how to use the GPUUC Google Drive and website, and the layout of our buildings, including information on our WiFi connections, heat and air, defibrillator, and first aid kits. Also learn how to reserve a room for your meeting, get a key or the door codes, and share some hints toward running your meetings.

Everyone is welcome. Please contact Mary Ann with questions and concerns.



**Adult Faith Development**

Watch the upcoming GPUUC Weekly messages for information about upcoming Adult Faith Development workshops, including an exploration of our new core

values statements, The Book of Longings by Sue Monk Kidd, and more.

If there's a program you'd like to see or if you have something you want to present, contact Mary Ann or Annette Shellenger.



**Pagan Gathering**

**Walking the Labyrinth October 19. 11-12:30**

**(Note change of location)**

Prescott Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
945 S Rancho Vista Dr  
Prescott, AZ 86303

Join us in learning more about labyrinths as tools to quiet the mind, calm anxieties, recover balance in life, enhance creativity, and encourage meditation, insight, self-reflection, and stress reduction. A labyrinth is an ancient symbol that relates to wholeness.

It combines the imagery of the circle and the spiral into a meandering but purposeful path.

As we walk the labyrinth at PUUF, we will journey to our center and back again out into the world.

**October Birthdays**

<u>Last Name</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Date</u>
Knowles	Heather	3
Burroughs	Tom	6
Wilson	John A.	6
Nigh	Barbara	9
Fogel	JoAnn	13
Bennett	Jack	14
Deville	David	15
Lauchlan	Allan	22
Moglewer	Edna	26
Ewing	Maryhelen	28

## Faith Development Happenings

By Sandra Palacios



### August 25, 2024: Immigration

One form of immigration can be referred to as “immigration”, which means a person who has moved to a separate country. “Emigration” is the process of moving out of one’s own country, moving to another country, and settling there permanently. The students learned about how people from different countries migrate to different parts of the world. The comparison was made with the migration of birds following the fair climate. The art project for today was a creation called the “*Hand of Unity*”, a depiction of hands with differing skin tones joined together.

### September 1, 2024: The History of Cookies

Cookies appear to have their origins in the 7th century AD Persia. Shortly after the use of sugar became relatively common in the region, the making of cookies spread to Europe through the Muslim conquest of Spain. The name, “cookie”, is derived from the Dutch word “koekje, meaning “small or little cake”. The chocolate chip cookie is widely credited to Ruth Wakefield, who created the original recipe in the late 1930s, at her and her husband Kenneth’s Toll House restaurant in Massachusetts. The students learned the history of and the recipe for chocolate chip cookies and baked them for the congregation.



### September 8, 2024: Empty Bowls

The students of the Faith Development program were delighted to pass out cold bottles of water to the people waiting in line at the Empty Bowls event at the Prescott Courthouse. It is a great experience for them to participate in the activity and acknowledge the purpose behind the event. They developed insight and awareness of the need to give to the local food banks. Visibility of the youth program provided at Granite Peak UU was evident to all those in attendance.





**September 15, 2024: The Roots of Unitarian-ism**

Today's lesson provided by Ainslee was welcoming for Reverend Roger Fritts. The students were able to follow a timeline of the life of the Rev. Roger Fritts through the years 1951-1965-1981-1993-2020-2024. It was very informative for the students. They made welcoming cards for him.



**September 22, 2024: El Grito de la Independencia Nacional**

This annual holiday celebrates the beginning of the Mexican War of Independence, which ended Spanish rule in Mexico.

On September 16, 1810, priest Manuel Hidalgo y Costilla marked the beginning of the war during the "Grito de Dolores". Every year on the eve of Independence Day, the President of Mexico re-enacts the cry from the balcony of the National Palace in Mexico City while ringing the same bell used by Hidalgo in 1810. It is NOT Cinco de Mayo. The students did a Mexican Flag activity using rice, paper, glue, and acrylic paints.

# Social Justice

## October Seeds of Support is Neighborhood Outreach Christmas Giving

15 years ago when Bronwyn Butterfield (aka Mrs. Claus) began passing out gifts and breakfast to the immigrant workers at the trailer park on the corner of Hillside and Miller Valley. Soon afterwards a group of GP and PUUF members joined. That trailer park was torn down and Bronwyn asked if we could open up our doors at Granite Peak to serve this community. From there this seemingly small effort has grown into a coalition of dedicated GP and PUUF members and members of the local Latino immigrant community.

During the pandemic, we adapted the celebration and it transformed into an outreach ministry all year long. We will be gathering gifts for the Holidays. Please give generously.

On October 13 at 1:00 pm in Davis Hall, there will be a community forum, co-sponsored by the Social Justice Ministry Council, on Proposition 314. This proposition poses significant personal risks to vulnerable immigrant communities and undermines current federal authority over immigration. Come to learn more about these dangerous and inhumane provisions of 314. Sandra Weir, representing an advocacy group "working for a more just Arizona", will lead a discussion on this important issue that we all will be voting on in November.