



The View

January 2025

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.

January 5, Rabbi Nina Perlmutter: *Welcoming a New Year Jewishly.*

The official Jewish New Year comes every fall—not January. While celebrated with joy, there are some meaningful, more serious practices & ideas about using the time for self-reflection and change. Let's learn and discuss them.

January 12, Rev. Roger Fritts: *A Model for Ministry.*

I need other people I can admire, people whom I can use as models, for my own life. Of course, everyone is imperfect, and I take that into account. Still a few imperfect people have served as a source of the values that guide me. One is Dr. King. If he had lived, Wednesday, January 15, 2025, he would have turned 96 years of age. The sermon will explore the highlights of his early ministry.

January 19, Rev. Roger Fritts: *Keep Calm.*

The "*Keep Calm and Carry On*" poster was produced by the British government in 1939 in preparation for World War II. The poster was not well received. Working-class British people regarded "*Keep Calm and Carry On*" as the upper classes treating them like children. As a result, the poster was rarely displayed.

Recently, however, the message about stoic, public spirited hardiness in the face of adversity has been used in parodies such as "*Keep Calm and Eat Cake,*" or "*Keep Caffeinated and Carry On.*" Despite the parodies, the original message still raises an important question. How do we keep calm? How do we cope with our fears, given the uncertainties of the future? I will explore these questions the day before the inauguration of Mr. Trump.

January 26, Dr. Steven Teagarden: *Love Speaks to Us All.*

Love is the essence of our being, yet it can be difficult to express in words. This introspective talk will reflect on the nature of love, help us in discerning its guidance, and in allowing love to play a more central role in 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.

In This Issue

Services	1
From the Minister	2
From the President	2
Mission & vision	2
Board Buzz	3
Facilities Brief	3
Treasurer's Report	3
Treasurer Needed for FY 2025	3
FY 2025 Vacancies	3
Bridge Group	3
Information Session	4
Care Corner	4
Pagan Gathering	4
The Forum	4
Women's & Men's Groups	4
Mahjong	4
Adult Faith Development	5
Children's Faith Development	5-6
Birthdays	6
Seeds of Support	6
UUA General Assembly	7
Newsletter Deadlines	8
Who's Who	8

From the Minister

Rev. Roger Fritts



I like this New Years Prayer by Rev. Sylvia Howe.

We gather with part of us looking backward
and part of us looking forward.

We gather on the edge of the New Year
Saddened by our losses,
Cherishing our joys,
Aware of our failures,
Mindful of days gone by.

We gather on the cusp of this New Year
Eager to begin anew,
Hopeful for what lies ahead,
Promising to make changes,
Anticipating tomorrows and tomorrows.

Knowing that life includes both good and bad, both endings and beginnings.



From the President

Rick Denney

Beloved friends,

Here it is again! The Holiday Season is upon us! Karen and I will be spending the holidays with family in the Northeast (Boston, MA and Rochester, NY). I suspect we will experience colder weather and even some snow there. And maybe, some snow when we return? It has happened before! We will have to share the Solstice celebration and the Christmas Eve Carol service with you via Zoom.

Rev. Roger's recently shared with us how sometime UU Charles Dickens, author of the timeless "A Christmas Carol," changed the English world's

attitude toward Christmas celebration from fireworks and drinking to charity. Charity. Now there's a UU value for you!

On Sunday December 15, the Project Team presented exciting plans for the long hoped-for renovation of our Sanctuary. Construction plans are in the hands of the City of Prescott for permitting and the building contractor for bidding. We should be hearing from both City and contractor over the next few weeks. If all goes well, we could have a renovated sanctuary by summer or fall! Numerous, dedicated members have dreamed creatively and worked tirelessly to bring us to this point.

Plan for the kickoff of the Capital Campaign for the renovation scheduled for January 17! Be generous, but please keep in mind Granite Peak's regular annual fundraising needs for operating expenses. Do not make a pledge to the renovation funds that jeopardize your crucial on-going support of our invaluable staff, building upkeep and social justice commitments! You will start hearing more about both fund-raising campaigns in videos at Sunday services starting in January.

As if all this were not enough, we have completed the arduous posting of a request for a Contract Minister to join us when the incomparable Rev. Roger plans to leave us next summer. We are so fortunate that he agreed to share his wisdom and experience for the year he is with us. Filling this position will be an on-going challenge over the next few months. A BIG THANKS to the volunteers who made this happen.

With love, 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: Highlights from the Board's December meeting

Update from the Board of Trustees meeting: It will be a very busy jump start to our new year, with wonderful activity on many fronts. Capital Campaign will kick off January 17 - Please be there for the party to celebrate our much needed refurbish (it's not just a facelift)!

Progress in our journey to a contract minister is being made, helped tremendously by Rev. Roger's advice and support.

There will be many opportunities to actively engage in lots of GPUUC endeavors this next year. While the annual rummage sale is likely to happen in the Fall instead of the Spring, this opens options to instead join teams for the pledge drive, spring landscape and garden support, and food pantry, or the bridge club. Expand your GPUUC horizons this year and enjoy our community.

Best wishes for your holiday season, Dawn Korade

Facilities Update: Regarding the water pressure in Davis Hall.

While it seems we may need to replace the main water supply pipe, we will manage this hopefully with very minimal disruption to building use. Good news, it should completely cure the low-pressure issues we have suffered for years.

GPUUC's financials continue to look good through November. It will be important to keep up with our pledges as we go into the renovation and capital campaign, since pledges are 75% of our operating budget.

Pledge statements were just sent out via email so you can see where you are through November. If you missed yours or want it mailed to you, please let me know. November financial reports can be found on our website.



Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer Needed....

It has been an honor to serve as the Treasurer for GP for the past year, and I will be continuing for the next 6 months. However, I will be stepping down as Treasurer on July 1, so we need a new volunteer!

With the help of the finance committee, we are splitting the role and looking for an Assistant Treasurer as well. The Treasurer will serve on the Board and Finance Committee, and primarily prepare the budget, monthly and the end of year reports.

The Assistant Treasurer can start at any time and will help with the weekly or bi-weekly tasks such as pay requests, payroll etc. I can share more with anyone who is interested and am happy to train and/or have you shadow me etc. These are critical roles for the future of our congregation, so look forward to hearing from you!

Respectfully Submitted, Tracy Augustine, Treasurer

Board of Trustees and Nominating Committee Suggestions Needed.

In early January you will receive a survey by email to suggest whom you would like to see on your Board of Trustees and as members of the Nominating Committee. If email is not your thing, please fill out a form and drop in the box in the foyer.

In order to be nominated to the Board of Trustees, members need to have been UUs for two years, one of which as a member of GPUUC. Don't worry about this requirement as all names will be welcomed by the Nominating Committee for 2025 or later elections.

There are several openings on the Board and at least 2 openings on the Nominating Committee.

Bridge Group

Third (3rd) Wednesday of the Month in Davis Hall - A commitment is required, no Drop Ins. Please contact Lea Phillips.



**UU/GPUUC Information
Session to be offered
1/11/2025**



9:30 am—11:30 am in the GPUUC Sanctuary.

A continental breakfast will be provided. All are welcome to attend these classes, members, friends and those interested in membership. Please notify the office if you plan on attending. Child care will be provided upon request.

The Information Session covers our American Unitarian and Universalist historical roots and Granite Peak’s history. It will share the many opportunities which exist to become involved in the life of the Congregation.



Care
Corner

Barbara Wilson is residing at Prescott Valley Assisted Living, 6081 N. Dodge Drive, Prescott Valley and welcomes visitors!

Calling the facility ahead of time at (928) 772-3616 will confirm her availability. Visitors arriving and speaking with each other in pairs will help alleviate her frustration with communication.

PAGAN GATHERING.

January 18, 11:00 - 12:30
Faith Development Building

**Exploring Sigil Magic
Plus, Ideas to celebrate
Imbolc**



All are invited to the next gathering of the Granite Peak Unitarian Universalist Chapter of CUUPS.* We’ll learn a simple technique for drawing a sigil, a perfect exercise for starting the new year. A sigil is an intention-charged symbol, used to symbolically represent and manifest our own desires. We’ll also talk about the next Turn of the Wheel, Imbolc, and ways to celebrate it.

**What is GPUUC CUUPS? We are an interfaith Pagan group sponsored by the Granite Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation. Each month we create ritual and learn more about Pagan and Earth-centered religions and encourage all to share their wisdom. For more information, please email*

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 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 .



**Martin Luther King Day
March & Celebration
Strength in Diversity**

January 20, 2025

10:00 am: March at Prescott College Welcome Center
11:00 am: Celebration at Prescott United Methodist Church



Adult Faith Development

The Adult Faith Development Committee is sponsoring **An Introduction to Buddhism presented by Peg Travis on January 29, February 5 and February 12 from 1-2:30** in the Faith Development Building.

Many people remember Peg’s meditation group that used to meet at GPUUC. During this class she will discuss Early Buddhist History and the traditions that have developed, Buddhism Today and its evolution in the US, and Meditation techniques and uses for health and spiritual growth.

Peg was ordained a Pure Land Priest in Taiwan 2001. Since then, she has conducted meditation groups in Massachusetts and Arizona. She teaches meditation techniques including mantra, visualization, and breath meditation. Her teachings are a gift to the receiver with the hope that meditation will bring peace and love. She is also trained in various Buddhist traditions including Pure Land and Tibetan practice.



Faith Development Happenings

By Sandra Palacios



December 1, 2024: Being Thankful in Difficult Times

Meditation is a practice that involves focusing the mind to achieve a state of calm and clarity. The students did several meditation practices on yoga mats. They closed their eyes, took simple breaths in/out for several minutes. Afterwards, they sat down and wrote or drew on tongue depressors, what they were grateful for. The students were calm and had achieved a sense of peace and balance.

December 8, 2024: Under the Bodhi Tree

The Bodhi Tree stands as a symbol of profound spiritual awakening. It embodies a universal pursuit of enlightenment and inner peace. Read excerpts from several inspirational books, including “Zen Happiness”, “A Handful of Quiet” and “The Seed of Compassion”. We watched a short video titled, “Under the Bodhi Tree.” The students then participated in making their own Bodhi Tree. They enjoyed traditional snacks of fig cookies, fig jelly on crackers and rice.



Social Justice



Seeds of Support for the January Sunday Sermons is PRISM.

Building Bridges for Rural LGBTQ Communities across Northern Arizona.

Prism Network (formerly Greater Yavapai County Coalition) is a non-profit collaboration of Organizations that provide an umbrella of support to members and allies of the LGBTQ+ Community in Yavapai County, Arizona.

What we do:

- SUPPORT & EDUCATION for the LGBTQ Community and Allies through sponsored events, programs and resources.
- FUNDING through our non-profit foundation, fundraising opportunities, grants and donations.
- SAFE PLACES for people to gather and share ideas to create a strong LGBTQ Community
- CONNECT & NETWORK to provide resources, connect services, offer training and provide inclusive faith connections.



December 15, 2024: Ornaments

Han Grenier started making glass ball ornaments, called “baubles,” during the 1800’s, which became the first manufactured Christmas ornaments. F.W. Woolworth brought the idea to America. Ornaments such as paper flowers, cookies, fruit and nuts were used to decorate Christmas trees as a sign that Spring and life would return in the coming months. The students enjoyed making several ornaments of their own to take home.



January Birthdays

Davis	Judy	2
Grady	Leslie	4
Richards	Sally	7
Withaar	LeDona	7
Shaffer	Kathleen	11
Gorski	Art	12
Willison	Brian	13
Denis	Toni	20
Steenhoek	Mary	22
Denney	Richard	28
Wooldridge	Tefra	28
Harper	Dyan	30
Jeter	Jan	31

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Justice

Each of us has worth and dignity, and that worth includes our gender and our sexuality. As Unitarian Universalists (UUs), we not only open our doors to people of all sexual orientations and gender identities, we value diversity of sexuality and gender and see it as a spiritual gift. We create inclusive religious communities and work for LGBTQ justice and equity as a core part of who we are. *All of who you are is sacred. All of who you are is welcome.*



Get Ready for General Assembly 2025: Registration and Housing Open December 9!

Financial Assistance and Special Discounts

Registration and Housing Support: Financial aid is available to assist with registration and housing. Qualified recipients will receive promo codes for discounted registration and housing links for hotel or dorm reservations. Apply here: [Financial Aid](#).

First-Time Attendees: If 2025 will be your first in-person GA, use the promo code WELCOME100 to save \$100 on multiplatform registration. First-timers will also be invited to a welcome orientation on Wednesday, June 18 and a post-GA debrief session. Only 100 discounts are available, so act fast!

Inclusion Promo Code: Attendees holding a historically marginalized identity (e.g., BIPOC, LGBTQ+, or people with disabilities) who face financial hardship can use the promo code INCLUSION100 for a \$100 registration discount. A total of 100 discounts are available.

Volunteer at GA

GA is powered by hundreds of volunteers who assist with everything from tech support to hanging congregational banners. Volunteers receive complimentary full-time multiplatform registration. Interested? Learn more here: [Volunteer Opportunities](#).

While hotel reservations open December 9, dorm housing and home hospitality options may be available in the new year. Stay tuned for updates about these alternatives. [Sign up to be notified](#) if and when dormitory housing is secured.

Mark your calendar and visit uua.org/ga on December 9 to [register](#), [reserve housing](#), and make the most of all GA has to offer!

“May you be blessed
with good companions on the journey,
Kindred spirits to uphold you
in the face of challenges
And to share in your joy.
May you find in yourself
the strength to rise above fear,
A commitment to do justice,
And the willingness to be enlarged by love.”
~ Rev. Kathleen McTigue