



The View

March 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.

March 2, Rev. Roger Fritts: *Treasured Dishes, Fragile Cups.*

"Treasured Dishes, Fragile Cups" written by Rev. Dr. Patrick T. O'Neill, rewritten (with permission from Patrick) by Rev Roger Fritts. At the end of the service there will be a service new member welcome ceremony.

March 9, Rev. Roger Fritts: *My Favorite Canadian Poet.*

Margaret Atwood is probably best known for her novel, *A Handmaid's Tale*. However, she's also an accomplished poet. A sermon for International Women's Day, March 8.

March 16, Rev. Roger Fritts: *The Dublin Unitarians.*

Saint Patrick's Day, is a religious and cultural holiday held March 17. The day before the service will explore the history of Unitarians in Dublin. There is no dress code, but, if you have any green in your closet today is the day to wear it!

March 23, Rev. Becky Gunn: *Do We Need to be Perfect?*

Consider the pressure we create for ourselves if we are constantly seeking perfection and failing; as we will surely fall short of perfection because we are human. How do we cope in a society that requires a level of performance beyond the possible? Let's consider how we become the best we can be while recognizing that perfection is not necessary.

March 30, Rev. Roger Fritts: *From Ash Wednesday to Easter.*

Have you ever given up anything (food or something else) for a religious reason? The sermon will explore this question.

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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.

From the Minister

Rev. Roger Fritts



How do you decide on a topic each week for your sermon?

I try to vary the topics I pick. I look at newspapers to see what stories are popular. I looked at the calendar for holidays and anniversaries that fall on or near a Sunday. I look at the past sermons of colleagues for ideas.

About thirty years ago I was serving as a minister in Bethesda, Maryland and we invited the Rev. Dr. Patrick T. O'Neill to speak at our annual Stewardship Sunday Service. "Treasured Dishes, Fragile Cups" was his title. Patrick's words touched and moved me in a very profound way. I still think about the story in the sermon. With Patrick's permission, and with some rewriting of my own, I will share his message on our Stewardship Sunday, March 2.

The next Saturday, March 8, is International Woman's Day. I remembered attending a wonderful poetry reading a few years ago by the Canadian writer Margaret Atwood at the Edinburgh International Book Festival. Also, I remember seeing two autograph copies of a poetry book by Atwood at Peregrine Book Company on North Cortez Street in Prescott. I got excited about the thought of preparing a biographical sermon about Atwood for March 9. (This is part of the way I decide on a topic each week. I look for something that excites me.)

A few years back, I spent a day with the minister of the Dublin Unitarian Church, learning about their congregation's story. St. Patrick's Day is Monday, March 17. I think it is a very, very interesting story, but I wonder; are Prescott Unitarian Universalists interested in the history of a Unitarian Church that is 5,000 miles away? We will see on March 16. (Announcing sermon topics ahead of time is risky. Some of my colleagues refuse to do so.)

The next week we have a guest speaker, but there are five weeks in March. For March 30 I am thinking about Lent, which starts Wednesday, March 5, and ends on Thursday, April 17. Lent is a 40-day period of self-improvement through self-denial.

Talking about Lent offers opportunities for humor. But seriously, do liberal religious people practice self-denial? (This feels even riskier than talking about Irish Unitarians.)

Of course, events can make it necessary to change a sermon topic. Sunday morning August 31, 1997, all the parish clergy in the United Kingdom woke to the news about the death of Princess Diana. They had a few minutes to toss out what they had planned and prepare words to minister to their shocked congregations. I pray that nothing like that happens, but I know it can. Therefore, the topics above are just tentative plans. Life will unfold and I will respond as best I can.

From the President

Rick Denney



Beloved friends,

What a remarkable time in which we find ourselves! Beyond our GPUUC community, it seems that our country and the wider are in turmoil. Closer to home, it could be said that Granite Peak UUC is now exhibiting a balance of stability and POSITIVE turmoil.

Regarding stability, we continue to revel in our good fortune of having so many talented and dedicated members. And many outstanding, talented new members, too! Adding to our solid stability, we continue to promote timeless values of compassion, justice, and honesty among ourselves and to the world at large.

But our stability is only half the story. After years of brainstorming, arguing, compromising, planning and diligent effort by many dedicated members, we are finally going to renovate our Sanctuary! The City of Prescott has issued us a building permit (with NO CHANGES!), and our General Contractor will tell us shortly when his crew can be expected to begin work. It is conceivable that we could be in our stunning, new sanctuary space by summer's end! The congregational decision to undertake this work is truly a milestone in the history of Granite Peak UUC!

Another factor contributing to turmoil at GPUUC is the sad fact that Rev. Roger will be leaving us at the end of this fiscal year, as scheduled. We have truly been blessed by his wisdom in this transitional period. I hope soon to have more information about the ministerial situation starting in August.

In the meantime, revel in your good fortune of being a valued member of this beloved community! Hug your family! Hug your friends (should you be so inclined)! Take deep, calming breaths! Keep living your values! Continue to work for justice and compassion! These acts will not only bring us personal peace but be a gift to our friends and neighbors.



Board Buzz: Highlights from the Board's February meeting

The Weekly Peak email will now contain the Board Buzz for the previous Board of Trustee's meeting.

Through January, we are 58% through the year ending on 6/30/25, and we are 65% of the way to our pledge goal. Thank you!



Our operating budget continues to be in good shape. We are ahead in revenue by 10% and under in expenses by 11%. You'll find the monthly financial reports on the GP website. As you know, our Stewardship drive has started. You don't need to make your pledges now, but we do need your pledge commitments.

If you wish to pay your pledge early before the new fiscal year starts on July 1, please note "25-26 Pre-Paid Pledge" in the memo of your check.

Great News!

Stephanie Willison has generously volunteered to be the Treasurer and join the Board starting July 1, pending the approval of the Congregation at the Annual Meeting. And Elayne Hayes, has agreed to be our Assistant Treasurer. They will begin training after March 1 to ensure a smooth transition. I can't thank both of them enough, and hope you will too.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tracy Augustine, Treasurer

Coffee Hour Plea

Brother, can you spare a dime?! Please remember that we pay for coffee, creamer, condiments, and birthday cakes with the dollars you add to our jar each Sunday. If everyone pitched in a dollar, we'd have plenty, but currently we are falling behind financially.

Help us keep up our high hospitality standards by tossing in a buck when you're able. And, a gracious 'thank you' to those who bring in food each week, and those who volunteer during set up and clean up - we appreciate you! Chris

Nominees for May Election

Board of Trustees:

President: Rick Denney
Vice President: Dick Walter
Treasurer: Stephanie Willison
At-Large: Karen Hagberg
At-Large: Catherine Marsh
At-Large: Thomas Camargo

(Dawn Korade stays as Secretary, Rick Denney is the current President, Dick Walter is currently at-large.)

Nominating Committee:

Udelle Stuckey, Brian Willison, **need one more**

Biographies will be in the April Newsletter

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.

PAGAN (CUUPS) GATHERING.

Saturday, March 15.
11:00-12:30

Faith Development Building

SPRING EQUINOX

Come celebrate the arrival of Spring! In many cultures this time of year marked the beginning of the agricultural cycle, and thus celebrations often symbolized fertility, rebirth, and renewal. As the earth comes back to life each spring, so do we! What metaphorical seeds do you want to plant? Today in pagan circles it is also known as *Ostara*, or among Druids, *Alban Eiler*. Mary Ann Clark will help us delve into the deeper meanings to be found in this season, and ways to celebrate.



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 Sukey Jones.



Drum Circle

Beginning Sunday March 16 11:30-12:30 pm Drum Circle- every 3rd Sunday in Faith Development Bldg. Bring a drum if you have one.

For more info: Bronwyn Butterfield..

Bridge Group

The Granite Peak Bridge group has been canceled due to lack of interest.



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.

GPUUC Meditation Group, Peg Travis, who led the Introduction to Buddhism Adult Faith class, has volunteered to lead a weekly meditation group for the congregation. The new group will meet on Fridays at 2 pm. Jack Wood will facilitate.



Spirit of Commitment

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

**At The Prescott Centennial Center
1989 Wineglass Drive Prescott, AZ 86301**

(Rt. 89 N to the 1st roundabout, right on Perkins Dr.,
turn left on Wineglass Drive to the site.)

Saturday, March 1, 2025
5:00 – 7:30 P. M.

Menu:

Appetizers - veggie and relish trays,
crackers, cheese, hummus

Chicken in a spinach cream sauce
(gluten free) with creamy potatoes,
vegie medley, green salad, rolls
(including gluten free rolls), butter

Vegan Lemon-Garlic Mediterranean Quinoa
for the vegetarians and vegans

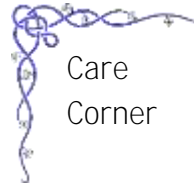
One free glass of wine
with additional glasses for \$5

Coffee, Iced Tea and water

Cake for dessert and gluten free brownies

Sign up by: Sunday, February 23, 2024
to reserve your seat at the dinner.

Rides are available for those who do not drive at
night.



Care
Corner

Caren Greenburg died on Saturday,
March 22, 2025. More details will fol-
low.

Adult Faith Development

GPUUC Meditation Group

Peg Travis, who led the Introduction
to Buddhism Adult Faith class, has
volunteered to lead a weekly meditation group for the
congregation. Many people remember Peg's medita-
tion group that used to meet at GPUUC before the
pandemic. The new group will meet on Fridays at 2
pm. Jack will facilitate.

If you are interested to participating in this group
please contact Mary Ann Clark.

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 re-
ceiver with the hope that meditation will bring peace
and love. She is also trained in various Buddhist tra-
ditions including Pure Land and Tibetan practice.

The Book of Longings

Join Annette Skellenger and Kelsey Wilkes as we
read and explore The Book of
Longings, by Sue Monk Kidd.
"Grounded in meticulous re-
search and written with a rever-
ential approach to Jesus' life that
focuses on his humanity," the
story imagines that Jesus is mar-
ried to Ana, a young, ambitious,
gifted woman with longings far
beyond expectations for women
of her time and culture. This re-
markable book gives a radical reimagining to the
New Testament and the influence of Jesus's wife.



Join us for three Mondays in March, spaced a week



apart, to allow time to read and ponder the story – your ah-ha moments, the surprising twists and turns, its historical relevance, and the power of Ana’s longings.

March 3, March 17, March 31 from 10:30 am – 12:00 pm in Davis Hall. Snacks provided, bring a beverage. A copy of the book is available in the GPUUC library.

RSVP to Annette Skellenger or Kelsey Wilkes

For the first session, to move things along, we are hoping participants will read the first section, *Sepphoris - 16-17 CE*.

UUA Common Read, *Authentic Selves*

Join Fred Kraps and Jo Sprague in an exploration of this year’s UUA Common Read, *Authentic Selves* on Mondays, April 7, 14, 21, and 28. With the current political focus on LGBTQ+ people, especially our trans and non-binary friends, the book is groundbreaking in its depictions of joy and community. *Authentic Selves* celebrates trans and nonbinary people and their families in stunning photographs and their own words. With a foreword by transgender activist Jazz Jennings and her mom and fellow activist, Jeanette Jennings, this important new book was developed in collaboration with PFLAG National and Transgender Legal Defense & Education Fund.

So often trans and nonbinary people’s stories are told only through the lens of their struggles and challenges, including their political battles for legal rights, but trans and nonbinary people live rich and fulfilling lives full of joy and community too. *Authentic Selves* is a sweeping compilation of life stories and portraits of trans and nonbinary people, as well as their partners, parents, children, siblings, and chosen family members.

The compelling stories in *Authentic Selves* provide a glimpse into the real lives, both the challenges and the triumphs, of these remarkable people and their families—people like Senator Sarah McBride, disability justice advocate Parker Glick, drag entertainer TAYLOR ALXNDR, September 11 first responder Jozepi Angelo Morelli, model Lana Patel, youth activist Elliott Bertrand, and so many others

—all of whom are working to create a more just,

diverse, and compassionate world.

There is one copy of *Authentic Selves* in the GPUUP library. You can also get a copy from the Prescott Public Library, Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and Bookshop and the UU InSpirit: The UU Book and Gift Shop.



Faith Development Happenings

By Sandra Palacios

January 26, 2025: Holocaust Remembrance Day

The book for today was a collection of children’s drawings and poems from the Terez Concentration Camp 1942-1944, called “*I Never Saw Another Butterfly*”, by Pavel Friedmann.



Remembering the Children. In July 1943, a transport arrived with 1,200 Jewish children from Poland. Caked with dirt and crawling with lice, they were placed in an off-limits area. Fifty-three doctors and nurses were selected to attend to them. No one else, not even the leader of the Council of Jews was allowed near them. These children wrote the poetry that is in Friedmann’s book.

Here is an example of a poem:

For seven weeks, I've lived in here,
 penned up inside the ghetto,
 But I have found what I love here.
 The dandelions call to me
 And the white chestnut branches in the court
 Only I never saw another butterfly,
 That butterfly was the last one.
 Butterflies don't live in here
 In the ghetto.

For the art project, the students each created a butterfly, using coffee filters, markers and spray bottles to create their own design.

February 2, 2025: Groundhog's Day



Each February 2nd, in Pennsylvania, Punxsutawney Phil the groundhog comes out of his burrow. He will confirm whether or not we have to suffer through six more weeks of Winter, based on whether or not he sees his shadow. Although early February still feels far from Spring, it actually marks the halfway point between the Winter Solstice and Spring Equinox. The origin of this practice is attributed to the German settlers who arrived in Pennsylvania in 1886. In Germany, they would utilize a hedgehog as a predictor of the seasonal change.

However, in finding no local hedgehogs, they chose the groundhog. If Phil sees his shadow, there will be

six more weeks of Winter. If he doesn't see his shadow, we are in store for an early Spring. Groundhog's day delivers a powerful message about change, love and being a good person. The students created a groundhog using heart-shaped cut outs. "There is no tomorrow because tomorrow is not today" (from the movie, "Groundhog's Day".)

February 9, 2025: Love



Today the students read the following books: "*What is Love?*" and "I love you through and through". Love is a complex set of emotions, behaviors and beliefs associated with strong feelings of affection, protection, warmth and respect. The students were able to explore the emotion of love by asking these simple questions: Who do you like? Who do you care for?

One student answered, "love is trust." Another student said that they loved their cat. We created a project using different types of hearts and wrote out the names of who or what they cared for.

February 16, 2025

Black History Month

Today's lesson was provided by Ainslee. She taught a well-planned out lesson which gave a detailed description of Black history using a timeline from 1526-1954. Topics included: American Slavery, Segregation and Mass Incarceration.

The 13th Amendment of the Constitution abolished slavery, but legalized involuntary servitude for a crime.

Some notable historical figures mentioned were:

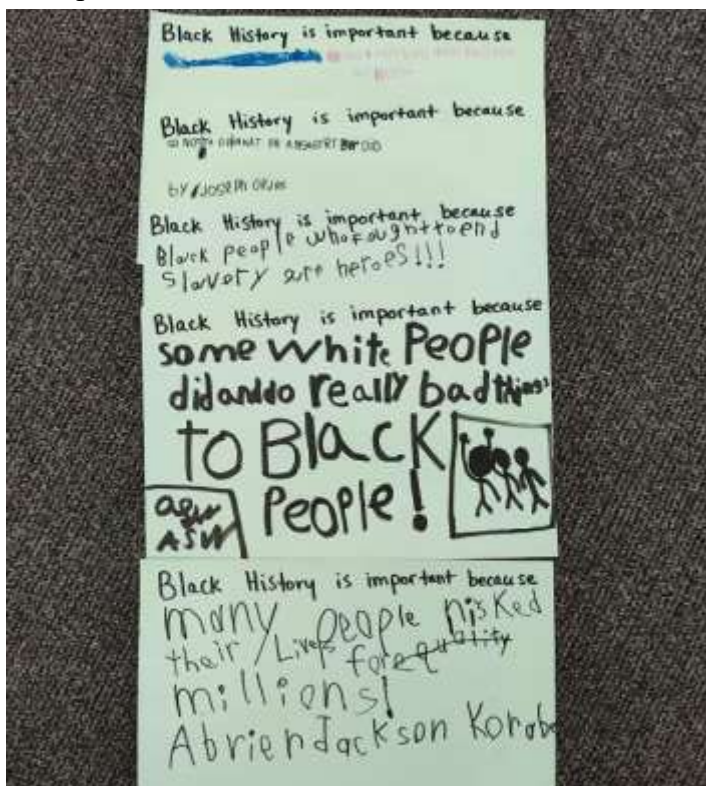
Barack Obama first African- American President of the United States

Harriet Tubman first woman to lead an armed military raid and combat in 1863

Hallie Quinn Brown helped establish Black Women’s Organization and first Black woman to speak at the International Women’s Conference

Johnnie Lacy permanently paralysed by polio, she created the Berkeley Center for Independent Living.

The students wrote out ideas about why Black history is important.



March Birthdays

Bunnell	Clara	1
Kraps	Fred	2
Beaupre	Wilfred	5
McHugh	Kristi	6
Greenberg	Caren	8
Walter	Dick	13
Ditzler	Mel	14
Forte	Fred	21
Appel	Steve	25
Hubin	Lena	28
Jacobsen	Barbara	29

Social Justice



Seeds of Support for March is the Coalition for Compassion and Justice.

CCJ Mission: Our board and staff team are committed to:

- Maintaining our client-centered focus so that our responses are relevant.
- Ensuring our organizational agility so we can respond to client needs quickly and effectively.
- Working collaboratively with many partners while advocating for change in our community.

We desire to educate through action and have a deep sense of connection throughout the CCJ community. We carry a belief that there can be an end to homelessness and seek that through our daily interactions with our clients.

“Unless we start to fight and defeat the enemies in our own country, poverty and racism, and make our talk of equality and opportunity ring true, we are exposed in the eyes of the world as hypocrites when we talk about making people free.”—Shirley Chisholm, first Black woman to be elected to Congress (in 1968) and to run for president (in 1972)



Join us June 18 - 22 for General Assembly 2025.

The 64th UUA General Assembly will be a multi-platform event with the main stage at the Baltimore Convention Center in Baltimore, Maryland.

Multiplatform and Single-day In-person registrants will receive a GA Name Badge to identify one another at in-person events on the General Assembly [Schedule](#). Meals are not included.

Multiplatform registrants will receive access to the 2025 General Assembly Event App, Whova, including interactive and on-demand video content, the virtual exhibit hall, and networking. Business-only registrants will have access to the online Delegate Participation Platform, but not to the Whova event app or in-person events.

All registrants agree to adhere to [our event covenant](#).

Register Now: [Adult Registration](#)

Featured Speaker at GA 2025: Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis

Join us at the 2025 UUA General Assembly to hear from Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis,

co-chair of the Poor People’s Campaign and a leading voice in the movement to end poverty.

Rev. Theoharis will share insights from her thirty years of anti-poverty organizing, highlighting the unsung heroes leading this work and exploring how the poor must shape a more just society. She will challenge Unitarian Universalists to deepen our commitment to justice and become part of this vital movement to reclaim democracy.

Her upcoming book, *You Only Get What You’re Organized to Take*, co-authored with Noam Sandweiss-Back, will be published by Beacon Press in April 2025. Don’t miss this inspiring call to action for collective change.

Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis is a prominent theologian, author, and activist dedicated to eradicating systemic poverty and injustice. Raised in a family committed to social justice, civil liberties and human rights, she has been involved in the movement for her whole life. She has been organizing among poor and low-income communities for thirty years with organizations such as the National Union of the Homeless, the National Welfare Rights Union, the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, Domestic Workers United and many more.