

Unitarian Universalist Church of Greeley

April Unifax 2015

Helping you grow spiritually, live meaningfully, and have the courage to help heal the world.



Join us for Sunday Services at 10:00am

Childcare for babies and toddlers will be provided every Sunday during services.

Find out more at

www.greeleyuuc.org

or

find us on facebook!

Worship Liberally



Our theological theme for March is *Brokenness*

April 5 - Resurrection: The Power of Transforming Love - Rev. Kelly Dignan

On this Easter Sunday, Rev. Kelly will explore a Unitarian Universalist view of the death and resurrection of Jesus and how our faith holds us in brokenness.

After the service we will have an Easter "egg" hunt for all children, 5th grade and younger. Please bring a basket to collect canned foods to turn in for a "goodie bag".

April 12 - Creation Abounds- Elizabeth Mount

Climate science tells us that the environment has been damaged by human choices. Knowing our past could lead to focus only on what we have broken. Or, we could focus on a new creative hope, if we commit to respond with fresh perspective.

Elizabeth Mount is a lifelong UU from Denver, Colorado and a seminarian at Meadville Lombard Theological School. Elizabeth has been a community organizer for over twelve years in the areas of racial justice, immigration, and environmental justice. She is excited to be working on environmental issues with the UU Young Adults for Climate Justice for the second year of the organization's existence, and she hopes to continue working with UUs and eco-justice activists for many years to come.

April 19 – Valuing Vulnerability - Rev. Kelly Dignan

Rev. Kelly will explore the work of Dr. Brené Brown who has interviewed hundreds of people as part of an ongoing study of vulnerability. "The research shows that we try to ward disappointment [brokenness] with a shield of cynicism, disarm shame by numbing ourselves against joy, and circumvent grief by shutting off our willingness to love," explains Dr. Brown. When we become aware of these patterns, she teaches, we begin to become conscious of how much we sacrifice in the name of self-defense—and how much richer our lives become when we open ourselves to vulnerability. After the service, our Theme Thoughts discussion will focus on *brokenness* and the month-long Commit 2 Respond spiritual journey for those who have been on it.

April 26 - Broken Open at Last - Rev. Dr. Marlin Lavanhar

Each of us have things we keep hidden. We may be afraid to tell others our true stories. Rev. Marlin explores how every day is an opportunity to become more fully ourselves by sharing our stories and receiving the support available in our community.



Children's Religious Education -

April 5- Easter and Children's Chapel with RE Coordinator, Tabitha Covey
Easter Egg (canned food) Hunt after the Service.

April 12-

Primary Class- "People- Similar and Different"
Teacher: Marcia Free

Intermediate Class- "The Ten Commandments"
Teacher: Michelle Noftsker

April 19- Children's Chapel

April 26- Primary & Intermediate Class will celebrate Earth Day together with all the teachers.

Don't forget to bring cans to donate to the Weld Food Bank for our Easter Egg hunt and a basket to gather them in on April 5th.

The RE Ministry is planning for the summer. We are looking for volunteers to be guest leaders **Sundays May 31- September 6**. This is where you get to use your gifts with our children. And it only requires a one-time commitment. Come lead the kids in crafts, music, games, art, social justice projects, woodworking, etc. It's your choice! There is a sign up sheet in the foyer, and we can't wait to see how you participate. Don't miss this chance to interact with our kids.

Adult Religious Exploration

Mark your calendars for **Building Your Own Theology**. Rev. Kelly will lead this six-session class.
Dates: **May 12, 19, 26 and June 9, 16 and 23**

Join Rev. Kelly on the **third Sundays** after the service for **Theme Thoughts** - a discussion about our monthly theme. We'll meet in the Barbara Bowles room at **11:30**.

April 10-12, 2015 - Mountain Desert District Annual Meeting

This is an unusual opportunity to participate in the wider work of our UU Association, close to home, and will probably not be repeated for several years. The site will be at the Marriott Hotel – Denver Tech Center. Pre-registration is available now at mdduua.org/events. Details concerning costs and hotel registration can be found there.

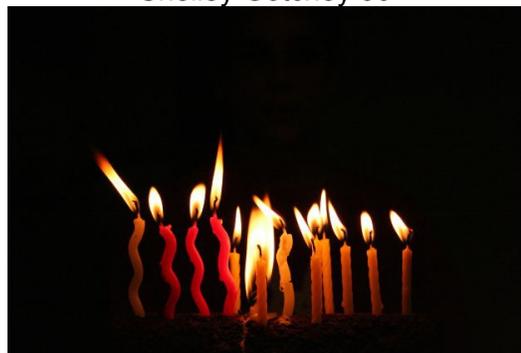
On-site registration will open at 1:00 pm on Friday, April 3rd, in the Marriott lobby.

Highlights

- Mark Ewert, author of *The Generous Path*, is our keynote speaker and a workshop leader. He will be available for 3 congregational appointments on Saturday afternoon.
- Rev. Dr. Ken Brown will host congregational appointments by Skype in the afternoon about multi-site.
- Rev. Jeanelyse Doran Adams will lead a workshop of Faith Formation in the 21st Century.
- Critical Conversations in Unitarian Universalism: Individualism, Authority and Exceptionalism
- The MDD Board will present our district awards.

Happy Birthday!

Fedelina Chiniqy 7
Margaret Chiniqy 9
Jean Fleming 10
Ruth Zachary 27
Michelle Noftsker 27
Shelley Gotchey 30



If we forgot your April Birthday, please let us know- we would love to add you to the list! Send an email to office_manager@greeleyuuc.org Birthdays are celebrated every first Sunday with cake.

Gather in a Caring Community

Welcome to our newest members! Daniel Blum, Sarah and Adam Gostenik, Ana Schultz and Kim Womantree. We are thrilled you have joined us as we walk together in love and loyalty.

Bill Gotchey has been a member of a men philosophical group for a few years. He really enjoys it and he would like to start one beginning in May with the UU guys. The plan would be to meet the first, third and fifth Saturday of each month. The meetings could be at the church or like his other group at a coffee shop. If interested, contact Bill Gotchey at gotchey@comcast.net

Card Sharks- Do you enjoy playing cards? If you do, Card Sharks will meet the **3rd Thursday** of the month from **7:00-8:30**. All are invited.

Saturday, May 16: SAVE THE DATE

Please save the date for a fun evening on Saturday **May 16** for an Auction and Party. This will be an opportunity for fun, as well as help support the church. Please consider what you could donate for this auction, and what businesses in town, that you frequent, might like to donate a gift card for our cause. When businesses donate, it gives them free advertising, possible new customers and good will to current customers. Who could you ask to donate? It could be a product, a massage, manicure, garden tools, classes, coffee, books, shoes etc. The options are as many as businesses. Also consider what you might like to donate. Items from the past include artwork, wine, chocolate, home made bread, progressive dinners, pots of chili, a toaster oven, houseplants, honey, jewelry. If you have questions, or **would like to help, please contact Hollis or Tim.**

Using the Church Building

If you plan to use the building for a church-related event or a personal event, you must complete the Building Use Application on the cork board in the office. Until it is on the public calendar, don't assume your event is confirmed. The public calendar can be found at our website as a tab under "This Week": <http://www.greeleyuuc.org/calendar.html> Non-church related events will be marked "Rental" or "Private Event." If you are not a Pledging Member of the church, rental fees will apply.

Contact Dianne Culver with any care or concerns.

Serve in Partnership

Social Change Circle - Third Tuesdays 11:30 - 1:30

The Social Change Circle helps us to focus more on spiritual and social transformation and less on tasks, campaigns, and the roller coaster of political wins and losses. We spend the first hour sharing spiritual practices and stories. During the second hour, we network with each other and brainstorm how we'll make change in the world. Rev. Kelly and Hollis Berendt lead the Circle. Bring a sack lunch.

Lead and Manage Mindfully

The standing ministry group meetings are as follow:

Board of Trustees - **First Tuesdays 7:00 - 9:00**

Membership Ministry - **Second Tuesdays 1:00 - 3:00**

Worship Ministry - **Third Tuesdays 5:30 - 6:45**

Religious Education Ministry - **Fourth Tuesdays 1:00 - 2:30**

March 29 - Informational Meeting about Multi-site Options **11:15 - 11:45**

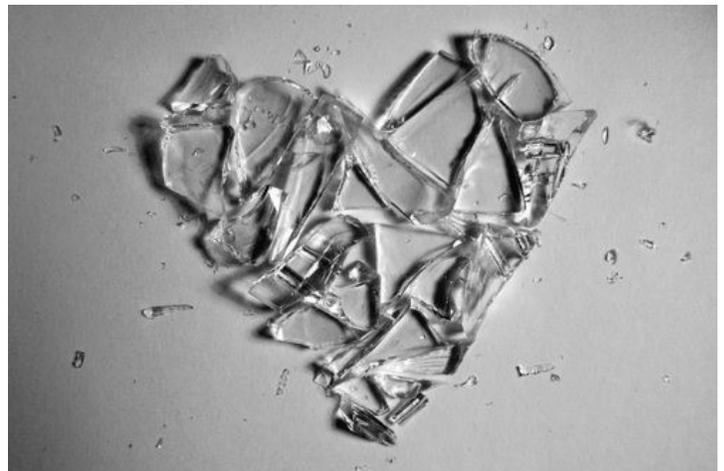
April 26 - Budget Forum after the service

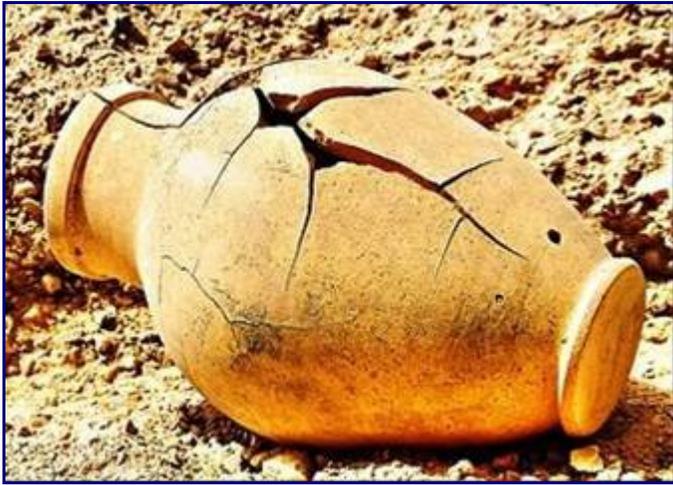
May 17 - Congregational Meeting. You will receive an agenda by email two weeks prior.

Give in Gratitude

Share the Plate. On **March 1**, we shared our plate with The Children's Garden. You are a generous people. \$264 was collected!

Please bring cans of food, pasta, or rice for the Weld Food Bank. We are having an Easter canned food hunt, where our children will find the food hidden in the yard and return it for a "goodie bag". This is a UU of Greeley Church tradition and it provides an opportunity to collect food for people who need it and not give our children more sugar.





Brokenness is our theme this month. Have you ever felt broken? We often feel that way during transition. Remember clear back to August when we talked about the three stages of transition? The Ending, The Neutral Zone, The New Beginning. Often, broken is how I feel during the Neutral Zone.

Once I went to a weekend retreat with [Mark Nepo](#). He talked about how all religious traditions teach that brokenness leads to healing; how every crack in our heart becomes an opening. In Tibetan mythology, spiritual warriors have a crack in their heart so mysteries can get in. In the Jewish Talmud, it is said that God places words on our broken hearts like honey. The Sufi mystic Hazrat Inayat Kahn says that God breaks the heart until it stays open. The Chinese say that they will find enlightenment when they have sincerity. By enlightenment, they mean the light that lives within us will come out (through the cracks). What do they mean by sincerity?

An often repeated folk etymology of the word *sincere* suggests that it is derived from the Latin *sine* = without, *cera* = wax. According to one popular explanation, during the Renaissance, dishonest sculptors in Rome or Greece would cover flaws in their work with wax to deceive the viewer; therefore, a sculpture "without wax" would mean honesty in its perfection; sincerity. If we rush to fill the cracks in our broken hearts, we may end up lacking sincerity. We may miss the chance to become more real, more whole.

I usually rush to fill the cracks in my heart. But I do remember when my dad died and I decided to let myself feel the brokenness. I let the mysteries seep in

as I recalled the times when he and I fished on the Colorado River. When we watched the Rockies games. I cried tears of happiness as I dug through old boxes of his journals and read them. As I cleaned out his closet, I took in the scent he had left behind, letting it wash over me like butter (which was his favorite food, I'm pretty sure).

My heart was staying open and Universal Love was rushing in. Slowly but surely, the light that lives within me was coming out through those cracks. I was more sincere, more compassionate, more whole.

What are the ways in which you protect yourself from being broken? Have you ever taken the time to let the cracks stay open? What happened? These are questions we'll explore this month. And we'll take a deeper look at how Unitarian Universalism helps us through brokenness.

I'm grateful to be with you in community. I'm growing spiritually, living meaningfully and getting more courage to help heal the world.

Love,
Rev. Kelly