



Unitarian Universalist Church of Greeley April Unifax 2019

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

**Join us for Sunday Services at
10:00am 929 15th Street, Greeley, CO
80631**

Childcare for babies and toddlers every Sunday during services. **Find out more at www.greeleyuuc.org, 970-351-6751** or Find us on Facebook.

Theme: Nature

Worship Liberally

Sunday, Apr. 7th- Lily pads or “The One Thing We All Have In Common” - Rev. Aaron Norris

Rev. Norris will kick off our explorations in the month of April on the Environment with a story his father once told him about Lily Pads. As this is the first Sunday, he is in the pulpit he will also have one of his all-time favorite stories for those of All Ages.

RE: Class #5 – A Tale of Two Ralphs

Please Join us after the service for a reception for our NEW Accompanist / Choir Director Renee Racek. We are also planning on going to Chilis after the reception if you purchased your card through Josette.

Sunday, Apr. 14th - “TBA” – Jeff Lockwood

Please Join Jeff Lockwood for an informative service on climate justice.

RE: Earth Day - Planting

Congregational Meeting

mark your calendars for the May Congregational Meeting & Potluck scheduled for May 19th at 11:30 AM.

Sunday, April 21st, “Passing Over and Resurrecting”- Rev. Aaron Norris

Rev. Norris will lead our congregation in a very busy exciting Sunday as we mark Passover, Easter and Earth Day all on one great celebration. This will be a wonderful time for families to gather and celebrate a season of renewal.

RE: Ostare, The Story of Easter / Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 28th – “Water: The Great Teacher” – Julie Miller

It's essential to life and it makes up most of our body. It's important not only as a part of us, but also as a teacher about how to live. We will focus on some of the adaptations water makes on it's many journeys in life and how we can take those lessons and use them in our everyday lives.

RE: Class #6 Gods Hat

Welcome Renee Racek, Music Director

You may have had the opportunity to hear Renee play, if you have attended our services recently. Like others who have come before her at UUCG, Renee is pursuing her Master's Degree in Music Education at UNC. She has been playing piano for 19 years and has enjoyed teaching students of a variety of ages. She has been a part of several choir groups and ensembles. In her spare time, Renee enjoys handcrafting, baking, and taking nice walks at parks. She also enjoys writing songs with my close friends. We will be having a reception for Renee on April 7th, following the service. Please plan on joining us for some coffee and goodies.

Ministerial Musings

Friends,

Well as the old saying goes, March came in like a lion with bitter temperatures on our first Sunday and a big snowstorm in the middle of the month, but it's going to go out like a lamb it appears. Which is how spring in Colorado is supposed to be, heavy March snows and a crazy beautiful (sadly often short) spring falling into a long warm summer.

It feels right to find ourselves in the middle of a three-part thematic worship series of Nature, Environment and Cycles. Which is the point of thematic worship: to explore and talk about theologically loaded topics on a semi regular basis and reconnect ourselves with the reality of this precious human life that we all live; to reflect on our common experience and try to gain some perspective in a world that is pretty good at dragging us back and forth with perceived crisis of the day; to offer us the chance to re-establish who we are as meaning making individuals drawn together as a community of faith that cares for one another and the world we live in.

April also means that we are also now in a church season of renewal that is the pledge drive, our annual recommitment to ourselves and the faith community we hold dear. If we allow it to be, it could be an uncomfortable exercise we do not look forward to, full of stress at being asked to give away money we could use for something else. If we want, we can make it a rote practice that we simply do without thought and largely out of habit. However, if we embrace the idea of renewal, it is an opportunity to reflect a moment on the transformative experiences you have had with us this past year and to spend a little time dreaming about what might be possible and thinking about what it might take for us all to get there. Pledge time can be an invitation to reconsider how deeply you want to engage in our shared beloved community this coming year. Like all springs, it is the moment to sow the seeds of our hopes and dreams in the coming year, with a faith that we will watch those seeds sprout, grow, blossom and bear fruit as they have done this past year.

My own hopes are very high for the coming year. I look back on our water communion and our stone soup pageant. I think about the wonderful conversations I've had with all who have participated in the Building Your Own Theology class and the Fermenting Spirituality class. I still feel the warmth of our Christmas Eve service and our That's Amore Spaghetti dinner. I consider the moments that we have gathered, marched and witnessed during the year, including our election night peace vigil, our participation in the women's march and the MLK event. I reflect with both pride and sadness at how well we remembered Sam at his memorial this year. I am

encouraged by how much we have been able to contribute to partner organizations through living generously. And after I think back on all that, I have a great deal of hope about our coming year and feel a swelling sense of excitement about participating in my first pledge drive this year that will set the tone and budget for all the things we might do next year together.

And after I reflect on all we've done, I let myself dream a little. Could we begin to inhabit the building more fully? Perhaps we might reanimate some of our art projects so that the building itself begins to more fully express our theology to guests and visitors. I expect that folks might want to more fully engage in volunteer opportunities. We could both deepen and broaden our musical offerings. Perhaps in the coming year our ministry might expand. Could we re-establish a youth program? Who will be the new people in the next year who come and settle in our beloved community as members? What are your dreams for our faith community?

I feel very lucky this spring to be with the Unitarian Universalist Church of Greeley and very lucky to be here at this time. Our church has a long-standing history in this community and I believe it has an equally long-standing future. As I muse this April, I'm glad to be spending it with you.

Yours in Faith and Fellowship, Rev. Aaron Norris

Your Board at Work

The BOT have had a busy month. We have updated some logistical issues in dealing with our renter groups, hosted the kick-off to the pledge drive for the upcoming church year with entertainment, offered a spaghetti dinner, been researching potential toilets to replace our ailing elder in the east bathroom, planning for the upcoming Congregational Meeting in May, researching potential leaders who may wish to participate on the BOT for the 2019-2020 year, and have hired a Music Director to carry us through to June (please see the additional information in the Unifax.) It seems with Spring, things just seem to pick up speed very quickly and I am sure there may be some cosmic explanation for that - or not. The theme of the Kick-Off was "The 50's" but prices certainly have changed since that time in maintaining the church. Utilities, employee salaries, regular maintenance, guest speakers, supplies - all are just a few of the things that require our funds to operate. And, I am optimistic as we look at the upcoming Church Year. I take great pride in what the board has accomplished during my tenure as President, especially with the opportunity afforded us

in working with Reverend Norris. These are a group of very dedicated people who give unselfishly of their time, talents, and additional monetary gifts to keep activities humming - things we too often take for granted. Attendance is up. New faces are coming through the door and the momentum has taken an upturn. I have been told that UU's are often more affluent than other congregations, yet we do not give accordingly. We need to be the face of something different. We are a liberal voice in an otherwise often conservative community and it's a legacy I carry proudly, as I am sure you do, as well. We have given generously to our community this year and it shows. Its People come back and hear our message - even from those organizations to which we have donated. I have heard the positive comments when I am out and about and perhaps most importantly, our guests and visitors are often most impressed with our message of service, justice, and love. So, what now? I think that's really what we need to examine. What now? Please do think about this one question as we move closer toward our timelines for the upcoming year and as the pledge drive will come to a close. It would be nice to be able to increase our minister's position to something 3/4 time and eventually full time. You've said you want that. You have told us your dreams. You have said it would be nice to make an addition to the kitchen. We need lights. Yup! We could use all of those things, but they just won't happen at the current pace of giving. Last year was definitely a challenge for us financially. So, let's change that. Let's make these things happen. Dreams require investments. I've said it before. Let's demand greatness. Yes, let's!! I can't wait to see of what we are capable. Can you?

Contacting UUCG Staff and Board

Reverend Aaron Norris: minister@greeleyuuc.org
Board President, Julie Miller: jmilleruucg@gmail.com
Board Vice President, Kathy Wise:
Tucker3747@gmail.com
Board Treasurer, Kathy Vaughn
Kathy.jinka@gmail.com
Board Member At Large, Sharlene Meydell
smahrdesign@gmail.com
Board Secretary, Josette Bond
josettebond@outlook.com

Grow In Spirit



Youth Religious Education.

This Spring Semester we will talk about the Rainbow Path and about some of our UU traditions. We will learn to express our principles in our own words, and how to

act on them. R.E. team: Claire Metusalem and Kathy Vaughn

Apr 7- Class #5 A Tale of Two Ralphs

Apr 14- Earth Day - Planting

Apr 21- Ostare, The Story of Easter

Apr 28-Class #6 Gods Hat



Some Thoughts on When to Invite Families with Children

All of us want to have a robust Religious Education Program and we regularly have new families that arrive with small children.

Indeed, small children

are often the reason new families begin to do church shopping because they find they need to help their children begin to establish a faith system. What can we do to help these families find a home in our community? One thing we can do is show them that they are not alone. Rather than have new families arrive randomly during the month, trying to help them arrive together is a powerful way to help build community. The first Sunday when I am in the pulpit, I always make sure that we have a story time for all ages in the service. This makes these services especially important to make as a time to invite young families. Their children will get an extra moment in service and they are more likely to meet new friends. Some of the other worship associates have committed to including a time like this in their worship services as well, so check if you're thinking of inviting a family, but know that Reverend Aaron's first service always has that moment.

Yours in our Family Fellowships,

Rev. Aaron

Treasurers Report

Income:	\$ 3,274.20
Expenses:	\$ 4,582.01
checkbook balance	\$ 5,754.43
Savings	\$48,762.03

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Vaughn, Treasurer

Happy Birthday!



April

- Fedelina Mendez – 7
- Adam Gostenik – 8
- Margaret Chiniquy – 9
- Jim Vaughn – 19
- Keila Cason – 25

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

Lead and Manage Mindfully

The Standing Group Meetings are as follows:
Social Justice Group – 2nd Tues. @ 10am

Board of Trustees – 3rd Monday @ 6pm

Worship Committee Meeting: 3rd Sun. 11am Next meeting: Sunday, May 19th (we will not meet in April because of Easter)

Build Your Own Theology Tues. @ 6pm

Contact Julie Miller with any care or concerns at jmilleruuc@gmail.com or Margaret Chiniquy at office_manager@greeleyuuc.org or 970-351-6751.

PSWD 2019 District Assembly

Save the weekend of April 26-28, 2019, for the next **Pacific Southwest District Assembly** at the UU Church of Long Beach, California! Our theme will be, "From the Ground Up: The Power of Our PSWD

Communities." The congregation is the foundation of our Unitarian Universalist faith. Everything we do as an expression of our faith is grounded in the local communities from which we all take comfort and strength. Some of our greatest joys sprout from the spiritual communities and the congregations of the Pacific Southwest District – both large and small. How does the theme apply to your congregation or your life?

Gather in a Caring Community

Writing Group

Ruth Zachary is leading a writing group on the 4th Friday of the Month from 3 pm - 5pm. Please bring a one-page sample of your writing. Writers may opt for peer response from others by bringing extra copies or simply reading your selection to the group. There may be a variety of types of writing such as essays, short stories, poetry, etc. Writing exercises may be suggested by members for future dates. Equal times for participation may be discussed if larger selections are in abundance. Call Ruth Zachary at [970-378-0876](tel:970-378-0876) for information or to join the group.

Fermenting Spirituality



Please join us the second Monday for our monthly theological discussion at High Brau Tap House, 915 16th Street, Greeley, CO 80631 at 6:00pm. As every month, this is an informal guided discussion over drinks on our monthly topic. This month's theme is Environment.

BOOK CLUB

The book club meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month, at 1:30 pm @ Your Place Coffee. Anyone is welcome to drop in. Our selection for April 18th will be any book, fiction or non-fiction, that has been turned into a movie. If you have any questions call Kristina Bain for more information (353-5418).

KLEZMER CONCERT

The Holocaust Memorial Observances are dedicating the events of 2019 to Sam Henline, UUCG Music Director, who died very unexpectedly in December and who added greatly to many past Holocaust Memorial Observances. His love for music was partially expressed in the yearly concert that he and his Klezmer band presented at the culmination of each year's events. He prepared the group with

heartfelt music and researched and presented it with historical relevance to our Observances. His full obituary listing many of his accomplishments is listed on theAdamsSwanson.com Funeral Home website and is quite impressive.

Please plan to attend the Klezmer Concert on Sunday, April 14th at 1:00pm to help honor his memory.

Clean up Klezmer concert

Please help Hollis clean up after the Klezmer concert. We need to have the church ready by 3:00p so that our renters Iglesia Apostolica is ready for their service. Please let her know if you are willing and able to help. call Hollis 970- 590-3289 (text or talk) Thank you!



Earth Day Fair at UUCG April 20 from 1:00pm -5:00pm Please invite your friends to hear drumming and stories of Indigenous Peoples about Mother Earth, test drive a Nissan Leaf electric car, hear about bees and pollinators. Visit tables from Sierra Club, Citizens Climate Lobby, Earth Democracy

from WILPF, Sandbox Solar, Weld Air and Water, Paint canvas grocery bags, (for a suggested donation), Hear from a master gardener and learn about water conservation and more. Don't miss this event put on by the Social Justice Ministry at UUCG.

Living Generously

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April's Theme:

Environments

1. The Rocky Mountain Raptor Program and Habitat for Humanity
For 33 years, the Rocky Mountain Raptor

Program has served the northern Colorado community through rescue, rehabilitation & release of injured birds of prey. The Rocky Mountain Raptor Program (RMRP) also plays a vital role in community education and outreach, providing hands-on learning about raptor species and the environment. The program admits about 300 raptors per year.

Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit organization that helps families build and improve places to call home. They believe affordable housing plays a critical role in strong and stable communities. Families who partner with Habitat help build their own homes alongside volunteers. Habitat works with families to help them acquire the access, skills and financial education necessary for them to be successful homeowners. "Through shelter, we empower."

Matching Fund

In the month of February, we crossed the threshold moment this year when we have gathered more in pledges than we did last year. This is a great moment for us for a couple of reasons. First, it means we are further along in our resource building than the year before and we would always be able to build on that success. We are doubly blessed this year however because of the challenge donation that was made by an anonymous donor. Every pledge dollar paid from here on out will be matched dollar for dollar by the donor. If you still have part of your pledge outstanding, every payment you submit will be doubled. If you want to increase your original giving on a satisfied pledge, that money too will be matched as it comes in. This is an amazing opportunity that all of us should consider taking advantage of. Increasing our pledging means that we can broaden our outreach, increase our impact on the local community, and strengthen our programming for our membership.

Monthly Service Auction

We are starting a monthly service auction to have an ongoing fundraiser for the church. It is open to members, friends, visitors, or anyone who would like to bid on the item for the month. The auction item for the month will be listed in the Unifax and bids will start the first Sunday of the month. Bids will end the third Sunday of the month at 11:30 AM after the regular service. Want to bid? Simply ask the Sunday Host (formerly known as Greeters) for the form on Sunday or during the week give Margaret a call to check on the bidding process during the week. All items will be delivered, once the bid has been submitted to the office. Future items may involve making some arrangements with whomever is providing the service or item. Want to offer a service, art work, talent, or something else for the auction? Let Margaret or Julie Miller know and we will get the item up for bid in the coming months ahead.

2. Habitat for Humanity



April Service Item to be auctioned:

Bill and Jean have offered 1 gallon of their award-winning chili as April's service auction item. The bid for one gallon will be starting at \$20. **Be sure to get your bid into Margaret or sign up on the clipboard in the office.** We already have offers of some amazing service items that will be up for auction in the upcoming months, so keep watching here to see what they might be.

Looking for way to contribute to UUCG on Sundays?

You don't have to speak in public or have the best voice in the world, as there are a number of ways in which you can help UUCG on Sundays.

- **Bring a snack for coffee/volunteer** - Our volunteers not only make the coffee but they often donate their own dollars for snacks for coffee. Your \$\$ donation for coffee time or snack donation can help offset those costs for our Coffee Hour volunteers. You can also volunteer to make coffee and help with clean-up. Talk to Margaret and she will get you connected.
- **Offer to shovel the sidewalks when it snows** - Just contact Julie Miller to help with the task. The more, the merrier and it will get done quickly. Shovels and snow remover are readily available at the church.
- **Greet** - A warm smile and a "hello" are a wonderful start to any Sunday morning. Bulletins are printed and waiting. You help us take a tally on attendance and make sure our guests are contacted by board members or our minister.
- **Help with our AV team** - We can always use some extra hands running our AV equipment - microphones, slideshows, videos & training is provided. Volunteers often are scheduled 1 time or less per month, based on availability.
- **Special Music** - Do you have some musical talent you would like to share? Please consider sharing it with us.

Walk-A-Bout Announcement

Please join us on a Walk-A-Bout lead by Sharlene Meydell & Jane Wheeler. If interested please be ready to meet in the Unitarian Universalist Church Parking Lot by 10am. These will be gentle walks. Bring a sack lunch. Dates are as follows:
Wednesday, April 24th – Bittersweet Park.
Wednesday, May 22nd – Glenmere Park
Wednesday, June 19th – Linn Grove Cemetery
If you have any questions please feel free to call Sharlene at 970-888-3707.

Giving in Gratitude



Scrip Announcement

Do you have a graduate who needs a gift? Consider purchasing a gift card from our Scrip account which will be an easy gift to give while giving back to the church. Amazon, Target, Walmart, Best Buy and Barnes and Noble are the focus stores. I will be placing an order on April 14th. See Josette with questions. **Buy your rechargeable King Sooper and Safeway cards can only be purchased on the first Sunday of each month in the foyer!** Let me know if you have questions. Josette 381- 7891 or josettebond@outlook.com

Don't forget to refill your King Soopers Cards. The church receives 5% of your purchase.

\$10 will get you a refillable Safeway Card!!

Reviving the UUCG Birthday Fund



Our first UU Principle affirms "the inherent worth and dignity of every person." This means that, "It's a blessing you were born," as the catchy song we sing

says! Blessings lead to gratitude, and the privilege of "paying it forward." We say in our service each week, "we are blessed, and so we are called to be a blessing." Have you recently been blessed with another year of life? Have you been blessed by someone else's life? Either way, the tradition of the UUCG Birthday Fund offers an opportunity to bless UUCG with an amount of money equal to the number of years of life (your own, or that of a person who has blessed you with their presence). Our seventh UU Principle affirms "respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part." Maybe you would like to contribute in honor of another year in the life of your beloved pet, a beloved tree/river/garden, or some other way to honor the interdependent web of life? Maybe you would like to honor the loss of a life you held dear (person, animal or nature)? Maybe you would like to begin teaching your children about honoring the gift of life, UU principles, generosity, paying it forward, etc. by helping them

contribute on their birthdays, or the plate, we will also report how much we've taken in for our Birthday Fund.

Please help us revive this UUCG tradition which reminds us of the quote by Albert Schweitzer, "What we call love is in its essence reverence for life."

Echoes of Gratitude

The Unitarian Universalist Church would like to Thank the Following :

Guest Speakers: Thank you to Julie Miller & Kim Womantree and The UUCG Pagans for their services.

Worship Associates: Thank you to Janelle Helling, Julie Miller, Danelle Beauvais, Karen Clugston and Hollis Berendt for your services as worship associates and Brian and Shelly Gaza for their work in organizing this group.

Coffee / Snacks: Thank you to Romy Miller, Dianne Culver, Ana Schultz and Rosemary Edmiston, for making our coffee and preparing our snacks for after service on Sundays!

Host/ Greeter: Kristina Bain, Michelle Noftsker, Josette Bond, and Margaret Chiniquy, thank you for your smiling happy faces that greet our members and newcomers on Sundays!

A/V: Thank you to Margaret Chiniquy, Bill Thomas, Julie Miller, Brian Gaza, and Joe Joyner for your work in the Audio-Visual portions of our Sunday Service.

R.E.: Thank you to Kathy Vaughn, Margaret Chiniquy and Claire Metusalem for your time with our kids in Religious Education.

• Special Thank you to Josette Bond, Julie Miller, Jim Vaughn, and Margaret Chiniquy for helping shovel out from the Snow Bomb. It was a team effort over two days!

• All those who volunteered and brought food for the Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser which helped us raise \$428. Thank you to Sharlene Maydell and Reverend Norris for spearheading the dinner. Thank you, Margaret Chiniquy, Kathy Vaughn and the many others who helped make it such a success.

• Julie Miller for her donation of the service item for the month of March. It helped raise \$40.

• Thank you to all who brought the wonderful Chili Entries, drinks, side dishes, and deserts at our Annual Chili Cook-Off! The judging was DIFFICULT but Bill Thomas was our WINNER!