



Unitarian Universalist Church of Greeley

August 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
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

August Theme: Labor

Thoughts from the minister about our Theme: "The culture that we live in is obsessed with labor. Indeed the Hebrew bible in Genesis 3:19 has God telling the first human as punishment for disobedience: 'In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.' Which is pretty tough stuff. Even though Unitarian Universalists reject the concept of original sin, we do live in a world that has for a long time embraced this view that people are dirt and they are only deserving of life 'by the sweat of their brow.'" In other words, your identity is wrapped up in your labor. This month, we'll explore what work has to do with who we are, if at all."

Date Officiant

**8/4/19 Paul Gibb - "Close Encounters of the Wild Kind"
UU from the Boulder Valley Fellowship. My adventures on
a Wyoming river, and what my environmentalism means**

to me. Paul is a lifelong UU, he's a former English professor who has also been everything from a New York City taxi driver to a railroad worker to the owner of a

telecommunications company. He has given sermons more than 60 times at UU congregations, mostly along the Colorado Front Range.

8/11/19 Rev. Aaron Norris

8/18/19 TBA

8/25/19 Julie Miller, Board President

Contacting UUCG Staff and Board

Reverend Aaron Norris: minister@greeleyuuc.org Board President, Julie Miller: jmilleruucg@gmail.com

Board Vice President

Board Treasurer, Kathy Vaughn Kathy.jinka@gmail.com

Board Member At Large, Sharlene Meydell

smahrdesign@gmail.com

Board Member at Large Janelle Helling

janelle.helling@gmail.com

Board Secretary, Josette Bond josettebond@outlook.com

Ministerial Musings

Ministerial Musings

Friends,

I always end up writing these words a few weeks before they actually get published so they require a bit of skill in both reminiscing and predicting. It is now one of the very hot moments in the year, but by the time you read this, hopefully the "dog days" of summer will be behind us and, speaking for myself, I'll be looking to that time when the temperatures are a bit more moderate.

I'm glad to see that, at least so far, we have not lost in the momentum of the church. Yes, the summers will always be slightly slower, but the energy really has been pretty high

this year. It's the mark of our commitment to being a relevant community of faith in northern Colorado that we have continued to build on that forward movement, rather than fall back into a sleepy summer nap. Certainly the world around us hasn't appeared to take a break, the President has doubled down on racist comments emboldening vitriol, the government has accelerated programs designed to take people into custody despite either willfully or negligently failing to attend to the basic needs of those it holds in prison, including children separated from their families, and finally our on-going low level hostility. Even if we had decided to take the summer off, it's clear that the problems of the world wouldn't have.

We didn't pause however. We continued to build community and raise our voices. We showed up for the students of Bella Romero at an interfaith service to publicly witness the 20 plus well-fracking operation next to their playground. I was honored to be invited to give one of the three prayers at the service. My prayer is posted in the newsletter. We also coordinated with our partners to host the PRIDE service in Greeley (Special thanks to our Board President Julie Miller for all her hard work) and the potluck that followed. We joined our sibling church at Namaqua UU in Loveland - and we found out how cool it is when your minister can jam on the guitar (Sorry, Folks!). Most importantly, we continued to build our community within the walls of our sanctuary, bringing and sharing so much time, talent and treasure, on Sundays and many other days.

This month, our theme is labor and it is fitting and proper we think of labor, because a faith community is an expression of a labor of love. Much of the human experience is centered around work, what we chose to do, and so our labor says a great deal about who we are theologically- how we make meaning of our lives and this world.

I especially want to thank the board for their retreat last month. Meeting on a Monday for more than half a day is a real commitment and sacrifice by the leadership of this church. I hope you'll take the time to thank them personally for the work they've done for you and us all. At the retreat, we challenged one another and brainstormed for visions about where we were going with this faith community. I was inspired.

I've tried to keep up that brainstorming, and I hope you will too. One project that I have been inspired to try is what I'm going to call "Theological Walks" which are something of a riff off of the Walkabouts that Sharlene Meydell and Jane Wheeler ran this spring, combined with an experience I had attending the Babi Yar Memorial park in Denver in mid-July. The 60ish minute walks will be a mixture of historical tour, Socratic dialogue, walking meditation, and community building. Depending on how folks feel, we'll probably get lunch together afterwards. Our first Theological Walk will take place downtown on August 26th at 12:00 and I hope to continue them throughout the year on the fourth Monday of the month.

I know I'm not the only one who has been brainstorming about our work. In our past month of regeneration, the pagan group at church has begun making plans to restart some traditions and make some new ones. I hope you'll consider joining them for a celebration of Lammas. Lammas - an Anglo-Saxon word meaning "loaf-mass" as the first of three harvest Sabbats. More details are in the Unifax.

As we approach the end of summer and start thinking about the ingathering, I want to remind you to collect a little water to share next month for our water communion. It is always a fun experience to mark the turn of the church year with the waters from far and wide- and near and dear.

Enjoy the rest of the summer my friends. You are all in my thoughts.

Yours in Faith and Fellowship,
Rev. Aaron

Your Board at Work

Summer is a busy time. I call it the "Season of Ants" as there is always a flurry of activity both indoors and out. Not that the rest of the year isn't busy, as well, but rather, there seems to be an opportunity to get out and about more, as school is out and we travel and are visited by family and friends. And so it is that summer at UUCG as summer is an exciting time, as well. We the congregation, get visits from family and friends as they passed through and there is also a LOT of activity with a great number of new faces coming through the door and the warmth of those who remain familiar to us. At the July Board Retreat, the UUCG BOT focused on preparation for the new Church

Year as we set goals and the calendar. Immediate tasks include searching for new Worship Committee Chairs as Shelly and Brian Gaza step down from the position this month. We've established a new Community Hour process (Formerly Coffee Hour) in which members take a more active role in helping us with another important facet of our Sunday mornings together and you all will be receiving information on this as discussed at the May Congregational Meeting. We are working on a process of distributing the Match Funds we were able to collect at the end of the 2018-2019 Church Year and this too will be shared as we get this finalized. I find it so hard to believe it will be August already, as you read this. Please do enjoy whatever time you have left in the summer. Take some time to be appreciative of the legacy we have been given through our amazing UUCG community - its building, facility, people and leadership. Enjoy!

UUCG Hosts the 1st Greeley PRIDE Weekend Worship Service and Potluck

On Sunday, July 28th UUCG hosted the first ever Worship Service for the inaugural Greeley PRIDE Weekend. Hundreds of people attended activities throughout the weekend and UUCG hosted 50+ people at its worship service and Love Wins Potluck. Thanks go out to Julie Miller and Janet Bland for the potluck preparation and to Sharlene Meydell and Linda Bennett and the many others who participated in tirelessly keeping the table monitored and helping with cleanup. It was amazing! Janet Bland and Bill Thomas ran the AV portion of the service and Julie Miller, worship leader, may have led the very first conga line at the close of a UUCG service! It was a wonderful time and many positive comments were made with people in attendance from all parts of Northern Colorado and as UUCG we were there!

Worship Committee Chairs Wanted

Please consider volunteering to aid our worship services in the upcoming year. Shelly and Brian Gaza have done an exceptional job the past two years and are stepping down this month. Our Worship Committee Chair helps recruit presenters for the Sundays when we do not have speakers, lines up Worship Associates (for which we already have some volunteers, but certainly can always use more), and typically conducts a Worship Committee meeting once per month. As a lay led church, it is our responsibility to ensure the needs of the congregation are met and we need you. Please consider assisting us in volunteering. It's a

very rewarding position, but then you can ask Shelly and Brian about that, too. Please consider serving.

Fellowship Coffee Hour Process & Membership Involvement

As discussed in September at our Congregational Meeting, we will be implementing a new process for our Fellowship Coffee Hour, offered at the end of each worship service. There is an art to a coffee hour and newcomers often judge a congregation by its coffee hour hospitality—especially newcomers. It is an integral part of our legacy to help them feel welcome ***or not***. It is a time when we, as congregants get to share ourselves and what UUCG, as a faith home, can be as you/we are the ambassadors. As we have had fewer numbers of volunteers for the coffee hour and after much discussion with other UU church leaders, it has been decided to give a new process a try. I (Julie Miller) take full responsibility for its shortcomings, if they develop. However, please know we are only asking you to assist us for **one** Sunday. And yes, that's what I said, **one Sunday**. As I sat down with board members at our retreat, we looked at the calendar and eliminated some Sundays for the upcoming year due to special events or potlucks. And, please do keep in mind there is a LOT of work that goes on behind the scenes to provide a potluck as the tables and setup does not magically appear nor get cleaned up. It's all done by volunteers and we ALL benefit from this. So, as part of our legacy, I and the board, are asking for your participation with our Fellowship Coffee Hour. We need it. Of course, if you want to ever help with ANY event, it's always welcomed and you can contact me or leave a message at the church office. You will be receiving a letter from myself and Sharlene Meydell explaining the process and the establishment of the calendar for the year. You will be reminded about your Sunday in advance, but it will be up to you to follow-up and let us know, if you are not able to provide the treats and set-up and clean-up, as requested. We would hope you could find a substitute, if possible, otherwise we may forego the coffee hour for that Sunday. Typically, it is a about a 2 hour commitment, including set-up and clean-up, unless you decide to get things set up during the service. Often times, people set up before our service, attend service, exit a few minutes before the end of the service, and then do clean-up after people disperse. Treats can be as limited or as extravagant as you would like. If you find yourself physically unable to contribute, please just let us know, as we can help work out ways for you to contribute. If you have been to our gathering, you know we are often happy with something as simple as granola bars and fruit to crackers and cheese and

cake and pie – the ideas are limitless. The focus, however, isn't on the quantity of food, but rather the quality of time shared and being able to offer a time for us to be ambassadors to our guests and visitors. Of course, it's also the time we find out when there may also be needs of the congregation of which we may not be otherwise aware. There will be directions on how to prepare the hot water and coffee, as well as suggestions on how to proceed with this process. Worship Associates will be responsible for opening the church and a Board Member or the Minister will complete the lock-up. If you have any questions we will be there to assist you. In advance, thank you for your cooperation and afterwards we can sit down to a cup of coffee to see how it felt for you to be a part of the process. I will look forward to your comments.

Julie Miller

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report- June 2019

Income \$ 7,038.25

Expenses \$ 4,172.38

Checking balance \$ 5,042.41

Savings balance \$ 33,078.93

Roof total \$ 24,500.00

Pathways to Membership

This class is designed to go over some of the basic history of Unitarian Universalism. It also helps you to better understand our congregation and see how you may deepen your involvement. It also is a great opportunity to meet others who are new to our church as well, but also have an interest in becoming more involved. While it is not required for membership, I highly recommend that you participate in this class as a first step to considering membership. The class is offered about once every six weeks or so and taught by our minister, Reverend Aaron Norris. The class takes about 90 minutes and follows a service. Whether you're a lifelong Unitarian Universalist or this is the first time you have ever walked into a UU Church, this is a great class to get acquainted with the Unitarian Universalist church of Greeley. Class dates are as follows: June 30th, 2019 & August 11th, 2019. Please follow copy this link and paste to your browser to sign up:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeXqa2DAtYtIGhhM4iFJIG8rzi-m3XqJMlyA7kvSQA_azCBQ/viewform

Walk and Talks (NEW)

Theological Walks with Rev. Norris

All are welcome to join Rev. Norris on monthly theological walks the fourth Monday of every month at 12:00 p.m. The walks will be a combination of historical tour, Socratic

dialogue, walking meditation, and community building. Each walk will be about an hour. The topic of the walk will take into account the route chosen. Contact Rev. Norris if you are interested or arrive at the church at 11:40 to join him before he leaves for the walk.

In the month of August, Rev. Norris will lead a walk around and in the immediate vicinity of Lincoln Park. Those interested can have lunch together to continue the conversation. Our conversation is likely to touch on the theological implications of Utopia, planned societies verse organic societies, the tension between ideals and reality, displacement and immigration.

Buddhist and Meditation classes at UU Church of Greeley

Held at Unitarian Universalist Church of Greeley, 929 15th St, Greeley, CO 80631 the Second Tuesday of each month.

Buddhist Class - August 13, 1:30 pm. Meditation - August 13, 2:30 pm. Topic for August, Bodhicitta and Compassion. Reading - **the Metta Sutra, page 97-98, the Mangala Sutra, page 98-99. Remaining classes: September 10, October 8, November 12.**

For additional information email Janelle Helling at:

janelle.helling@gmail.com

Grow in Spirit



Youth Religious Education

We will continue with some informal RE Sundays in August put in a few classes. We will start formal

curriculum in September.

August Dates

August 4- Informal, activities in the Sanctuary

August 11- What does God mean to you?

August 18- Informal, activities in the Sanctuary

August 25- Finding God in the everyday.

Questions...contact Kathy Vaughn.

Gather in a Caring Community

"Welcome Michele Masters!"

We welcome our new Office Manager, Michele Masters to UUCG. Michele comes to us with a background in administration and is a former Medical Assistant. She is a people person, fun, and outgoing. Michele is a Greeley resident, mother of three, married 11 years and is currently

working on her Bachelor's in Addiction Counseling. We will be having a welcome for her sometime in August. Please do say "hello" when your paths cross. Welcome Michele!

Upcoming Events

Pagan Group Event

The Pagan Group will be having a **Lammas/Lughassadh ritual at 1pm on Saturday August 3rd at UUCG**. All are welcome. Please, bring a snack to share after the ritual. Also, there will be an **organizational meeting for the group for anyone interested Monday, August 5th at 6:30**.

Please contact Michelle Noftsker: noftnancy@yahoo.com or call me at 303-709-1652

Choir Announcement

July 2019 NO CHOIR Practice or Performances as our music director will be out of town. See you in August 2019.

Social Justice Ministry

Social Justice meetings will resume in September due to members being out of town. Social Justice Ministry meetings will be held on the **third Monday of the month at 11:00 am. The next meeting is September 16th.** Please come and help plan our future projects

Clothing Drive

The Social Justice Ministry will begin a clothing drive starting in **July through the end of September 2019**. Please donate clean and wearable items. We accept all types of clothing for all ages to be donated to the Greeley Interfaith Clothing Bank. We are also looking for business attire for women including, dresses, suits, slacks, shoes, purses and jewelry to donate to Leanna's Closet.

Please bring your items to church and deposit in the box provided.

Thank you for your generous donations.
Social Justice Ministry

Happy Birthday!



Rhalina Noftsker-1
Joe Joyner-8

If we forgot your August Birthday, please let us know- we would love to add yours to the list! Send an email to office_manager@greeleyuuc.org.

Giving in Gratitude



King Soopers has changed their procedures for contributing to our church. It sounds scary, but once registered, you will be donating anytime you enter your loyalty number or scan your King Soopers barcode! If you need help, please contact Josette at 381-7891.

Here are the steps:

1. **Create a King Soopers account on kingsoopers.com**
2. **Scroll down to the bottom and click on King Soopers Community Rewards**
3. **Click on Enroll Now**
4. **Search for Unitarian Universalist Church of Greeley**
5. **Choose this organization**
6. **You're done and our church reaps the benefits of your shopping, without having to remember to reload gift cards!!**

A new Scrip order for Walgreens, Sprouts and others will be placed on September 1st. Please contact Josette to place your order!

Thank YOU

Thanks to Kathy Vaughn, Shelly and Brain Gaza, Julie Miller for the Services you lead in July.

Thanks to coffee makers and people who helped clean up on Sundays, Chris H., Linda B., Sharlene M., and Rosemary E. Please help out by signing up on the Clipboard for August.

Thanks to Janelle and Bob Helling for pulling weeds, hauling of yard waste, etc. Julie was also



involved in some yard maintenance.

Prayer at the Bella Romero Academy

The following Prayer was offered as part of an interfaith service on the grounds of the Bella Romero Academy on July 13, 2019 by Rev. Aaron Norris, in the shadow and din of the active fracking operation creating twenty industrial gas wells.

“Spirit of Life and Love,
God of a thousand names,
Source of ten thousand things,
To you we direct our prayer,

We gather here humble in your presence,
Grateful that you have made us in
your image- creative and wise
loving and powerful

But we are also ashamed
Ashamed that we have not cared for our children and
this world as you have called us to do

that you have put this world and the next generation in
our charge and even now we shirk our duty

We know that the bounty of this world is enough,
But we have failed to learn to say: “Enough.”

You have given us the wisdom
to see the future in the eyes of our children
to learn from the past in lessons of our teachers
but on the grounds of this great school
we have scorned your gift of wisdom.

Instead we have built in its shadow an altar to greed and
avarice.

Rather than celebrate the learning and nature of the children
and teachers of this school,
We have chosen to sacrifice their health and wellbeing on this
altar of industry.

We are foolish. Forgive Us.
Mother, Father, Spirit -

Those gathered few of us today know that this is not the way
forward.

We know that we are not alone.

We know we are presented with a false choice
of our children’s future and health
for our economic wellbeing.

The Optimal World is only unavailable by choice.

Help us to choose wisely.

Heaven on this earth is a choice.

Help us to choose rightly.

Justice, Mercy and Peace are all choices.

Help us choose well.

In the name of Justice, Mercy, Peace
Mother, Father, Spirit
Hear our Prayer-

For the children and students of Bella Romero-
that they might have a powerful year of learning & growth,
that they might thrive both physically and mentally,
that the dangers of this industrial complex might pass over,
that sins of adults in this community not be their burden.

Hear Our Prayer

For the teachers of Bella Romero-
that they might fulfill their calling
- teaching the young people well & truly,
that not be distracted from their calling
by the daily reminder of this drill,
that they not needlessly sacrifice for the cause of our
children.

Hear Our Prayer

For the gathered here-
that we might act as the conscience of this
community and not look away from this injustice,
that we might act as the voice of this community and
call out the continuing threat of harm,
that we might be the heart of this community, and
build in it the courage to choose right and wisely and
to build the Love necessary to make that choice.

Oh Mother, Father, Spirit,
Hear Our Prayers-

Open the eyes of our community
that we might see beyond the immediate gratification and
realize the length of generations.

Open the ears of our community,
that we might hear the warnings of the doctors and scientists
who have advised us of the folly of this path.

Break open the heart of this community,
that we might love one another not seeing each other as
enemies but friends in deep need of compassion.

Spirit of Love,

Turn the heads of our leadership away from the voices in
Houston and back to the multitudes that cry out in this
community. To hear us all.

For the workers on that platform,
that they might come to see the damage that their
work is doing in this world.
that they realize the true cost of their labor and that
our community continues to provide for them and their family.

We pray for Mark Erickson, Matt Ownes and Rust Kelley, the
mean who lead Extraction Oil and Gas that owns this pad.

May their attention be turned away from mercenary goals of
profit to the prophethood of building a just, peaceful, and
merciful world.

It is to the Spirit of Life, which animates all living things, we
direct these prayers.

May we come to know the true value of compassion,
May we learn to embrace community,
May we hearten and encourage one another as we support our
children and bring about the Beloved Community amongst us.

Amen, Blessed Be.”