



# Unitarian Universalist Church of Greeley

929 15<sup>th</sup> St., Greeley, co 80631

970-351-6751

December Unifax 2017

*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 every Sunday during services. **Find out more at** [www.greeleyuuc.org](http://www.greeleyuuc.org).

**970-351-6751** or Find us on Facebook.

**Office Hours: M, W, TH 10a-12p /Tue 9a-11a and  
Fridays 1p-3p**

**Worship Liberally**

**December 3rd- “The Power Of Hope”**

**Rev. Barry Bloom**

In the depths of WWII, when we were losing, and the casualty lists were staggering, in the millions worldwide, there was a smothering darkness that filled the home countries of the Allies. Then, the tide turned. Hope returned. Such has it been throughout history. Ebb and flow. Up and down. But, here we are. And will remain. We will explore the power of hope and its capacity to transform us for the better once again. **\*\*\*Potluck & Survey Results Following the service!**

**RE: Chapel On Hope**

**December 10th- “The 5th Principle vs. Energy Corporations: Hope for Democracy”**

**Jeff Lockwood**

Jeffrey Lockwood, University of Wyoming Professor, and U.U. from Laramie will talk about his recently published book, Behind the Carbon Curtain, will highlight specific stories regarding the clash between wealthy energy corporations and free speech—and how the resulting acts of censorship conflict with Unitarian Universalist principles and the ideal of American democracy.

**RE: Jewish Holiday of Hanukkah**

**December 17th- “The Light Of The World”**

**Rev. Barry Bloom**

Jesus was described by many as the “light of the world.” There was great hope that he, the Messiah, would change the world. The poor would finally inherit the earth. He was not actually born in the season that we celebrate. Probably a spring baby. Many of the mystical aspects of the birth story are more myth than “fact.” But his followers started a religion that now counts more than a billion members worldwide. Something important is true and right here. We need listen. What does this mean for us as UU’s?

**RE: Class Epiphany #4**

**December 24th- “Annual Christmas Eve (Day) Service” – Rev. Barry Bloom**

We will sing many carols, light the candles that proclaim the light of the season, ask our adults and children to read Christmas readings that remind us of what the season is actually about, then, after the end of the service, consume a few more goodies than usual before heading out into the world carrying a new sense of hope for the future. **Please bring your favorite cookies or appetizers to share at the coffee fellowship following our 10:00 AM Service. UUCG will be providing beverages.**

**RE: NO RE or CHILDCARE**

**December 31st-**

**RE: NO RE or CHILDCARE**

## Rev. Barry Blooms Reflections

The theme for this month is, of course, HOPE. Every UU church in the country will be doing a variation on this theme that fits the holidays so well. From the hope born of Thanksgiving to the bright hope that the birth of Jesus brought to the world.

Hope is not a popular subject these days. As progressives who have lost our world, our sense of safety and well-being, the days have been filled with an anxious review of what the tweets said today. Or more deeply, which building blocks of democracy are wobbling today? Where is hope for the future? When I feel that way, at my best, I recover by going on a walk in the splendor of Colorado's style of nature, spend time with some children and elders, and go out and gaze and gaze at the stars. There is where I find my compass. It then points to the bright future rather than grubbing along in the dark and muck of "how awful it is," and how awful HE is. It also reminds me that we have been here many times before and not only survived, but transformed as a result. The stars remind me. The services that I am leading reflect these holiday and hopeful themes. I invite you to, especially, come to the Christmas Eve Day service of carols and candles and readings. As Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year, **this annual service will be held on Sunday morning at the regular 10:00 a.m. time and not in the early evening as in the past.** Please use that evening time to be with your families in joyful celebration of Christmas.

Peace,  
Rev Barry Bloom

## Contacting UUCG Staff and Board

Rev. Barry Bloom: [revbarrybloom@gmail.com](mailto:revbarrybloom@gmail.com)  
Sharlene Meydell - Treasurer :  
[smshardesign@gmail.com](mailto:smshardesign@gmail.com)  
Julie Miller – Board President:  
[Jmilleruucg@gmail.com](mailto:Jmilleruucg@gmail.com)  
Kathy Vaughn – Vice President of the Board:  
[Kathy.jinka@gmail.com](mailto:Kathy.jinka@gmail.com)  
Contact Julie Miller with any care or concerns at  
[Jmilleruucg@gmail.com](mailto:Jmilleruucg@gmail.com) or Magaret Chiniquy at  
[office\\_manager@greeleyuuc.org](mailto:office_manager@greeleyuuc.org) or 970-351-6751.

## Your Board At Work

"In our gathering here, may we dream and help to design a bold future, may we bring our best selves to this task, remembering we hold the door open for those yet to enter here. Serving together, giving selflessly of our time and talents, we are a blessing to each other and making the world a better place." These are the words shared at our Cottage Meetings this past month as we approach the task of selecting a new minister. They speak of a future, the gifts of our time and talents, and the knowledge that we are a blessing to each other, for indeed we are. I was reminded of this as I travelled with a car full of frozen turkeys for deliveries just this past Sunday morning. It was a dark, damp, chilly morning, but all deliveries were met with bright smiles and thanks – a reminder of how very fortunate we are to have the gifts of community, warmth, and love in our small but mighty church. There's something very special about the energy of giving that gives back. I know it's why I volunteer. How about you? Your board has been at work, as usual. This last month the church had a challenging plumbing issue with the west restroom which has been resolved – a reminder that capital funds are an important thing to maintain. UUCG hosted about 30 youth "Trippers" in November and it was a great joy to have the opportunity to spend some time with them and share in their enthusiasm. Our savings is intact and our renters have renewed their contracts. UUCG serves as a welcome haven for a number of activities each month. The survey results are in and I look forward to sharing them with you on December 3 at our social. On behalf of your Board of Trustees may you all HAVE A SAFE, WARM, AND WONDERFUL HOLIDAY SEASON!

**Next Board Meeting Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> at 1130 am**

## Treasures Report for 2017

Banking as of November 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2017	
Savings ( <b>Statements are quarterly</b> )	\$46,961.26
Checking as of Nov. 1, 2017	\$ 1,700.05
Deposits	\$ 3,505.49
Expenses	\$ 6,432.16
Ending Checking Balance	<b>-\$ 1,226.62</b>
Total Monies	\$43,734.64

Sharlene Meydell, Treasurer

## Gather in a Caring Community

### Chalice Arts

The Chalice Arts Working Group invites you to share some art work from your collection. We will hang the pieces the week of November 26-Dec 1st. For the December show. Please contact Kristian Bain at [jeff.kristina@centurylink.net](mailto:jeff.kristina@centurylink.net) or talk with Kathy Vaughn or leave a message on the Church voice mail.

### Saturday, December 2nd - Clean-up / Winterize

Come and help winterize and spruce up the building for the Holidays, from 9am to Noon. Have some coffee and donuts. We need to put up the storm windows, replace some bulbs, and fix up a few pews. An hour or two of your time would be most helpful.

### Winter Social / Potluck and Survey Results

We will be having a Winter Social on **December 3rd at 11:30 AM** following the service. Please bring one of your favorite dishes to share. It will be a time to talk, chat, huddle, and discover what our wishes are for a new minister. Julie Miller will also reveal a short video that she created for our website. Please come join us! **If you have transportation issues, please let Julie know by Friday, December 1st. We will be watching for you!**

### Choir Blurb

Choir rehearsal will be after church on the first and second Sundays of each month in the sanctuary after services. We look forward to hearing your lovely voices!

## Lead and Manage Mindfully

The standing ministry group meetings are as follows:  
Spirituality, Religion and Conversation  
Meet on the second and fourth Tuesday at 7PM

### The Social Justice Circle

The Social Justice Circle Meets on **the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the Month**. Next Meeting is **December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 9:30am**.

### BOOK CLUB

Book Club Meets every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the Month. We will be meeting on December 21<sup>st</sup>, at 1pm at Your Place Coffee, 2308 W 17th St, Greeley, CO 80631

### Worship Committee –

Thank you for making us feel welcome at UUCG, and for sharing your experience and expertise as we learn the ins and outs of worship planning. **We will continue to meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Month after the Service.** Also, if any of your friends or family members are interested in being involved as a Worship Associate as well, bring them along! Finally, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us:

Brian Gaza: [braingaza@mac.com](mailto:braingaza@mac.com)

Shelly Gaza: [shelly.gaza@unco.edu](mailto:shelly.gaza@unco.edu)

Warmest Regards, Shelly and Brian Gaza

## Grow In Spirit



Youth Religious Education  
Miles Holcomb -  
Religious Education  
Coordinator

Maggie Bryant is the  
Childcare assistant.  
Miles Holcomb will be

going home to Atlanta over the Winter Break. We will have some subs this month, including Michelle Noftsker and Kathy Vaughn. Maggie Bryant, our assistant will be here most weeks.

**December 3- Chapel On Hope**

**December 10- Jewish Holiday of Hanukah**

**December 17- Class on the Christian Holiday, Epiphany**

**December 24- Multi-gen Christmas Eve Service in the morning.**

**December 31- NO RE Classes or Child Care**

Table Grace: *"May we hold hands quietly for a moment feeling love flow around us and through us, knowing that as we give love away there is always more within."*

## Giving in Gratitude



### Social Justice Circle - Holiday Giving

We have two projects for the holidays, one is Collecting food for the Weld Food Bank.

The children in RE will

be handing out paper bags to fill with non-perishable food items to be returned. Please look for the box in the Foyer. The food will be delivered to the Food Bank weekly.



### Our other project is a Warm Clothing Drive.

Please bring new or gently used coats, gloves, mittens, scarfs, hats & new socks. This clothing will be given to refugees and others in need in our community. Please look for the Box in

the foyer.

### Grocery Certificates

**Are you ready to do some easy shopping and support our church at the same time?** How does 8% back to the church sound? Available in October are some order forms which include a variety of retail, restaurant and hotel establishments that will donate a percentage back to our church. Please come by the gift card table in the foyer or **contact Josette at 381-7891** or [josetteschaffer@msn.com](mailto:josetteschaffer@msn.com) to find out more

worldwide. In The future look for our donation jar and help us support those who support others!

### Please Recycle

Have you Noticed Our (2) Blue Recycling Bins in the Church? One is located by the North Entrance under our information station. The other is located in the Barbara Bowles Room by the East entrance.

### 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 that of a pet or another part of the interdependent web when you are out in nature? Simply write a check with “birthday fund” in the memo, or place cash in an envelope with “birthday fund” written on the outside. Each month as we report in the Unifax how much money we’ve taken in with pledges and offerings in 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.”

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



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### Coffee

We use Equal Exchange Fairly Traded coffee and most teas. A portion of our purchase helps fund the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, our UU outreach service organization. Equal Exchange trades fairly and directly with 40 small-scale farmer cooperatives

## Happy Birthday!



Rosemary Edmiston – 4  
Dianne Culver – 5  
Adrian Oxtan – 7  
Marika Barth – 26  
Josette Shaffer – 28  
Sarah Vaughn – 31  
Karen Clugston - 31

If we forgot your December Birthday, please let us know- we would love to add yours to the list! Send an email to [office\\_manager@greeleyuuc.org](mailto:office_manager@greeleyuuc.org). Birthdays are celebrated every first Sunday with cake

### Echoes of Gratitude

As a small but mighty congregation, we give often of our time, talents, and finances. However, we may often be unaware of certain gifts that keep UUCG running and functioning successfully. As a congregation, please take time to thank or acknowledge your fellow congregants for their recent contributions, including:

To Ron Chiniquy for his generous donation of 25 turkeys that were shared with Greeley community organizations and individuals. Congregants and board members delivered the on November 19th. Thank you, Ron!

Sharlene Meydell for her assistance in compiling the survey results. Certainly not an easy task. Julie hopes you won't be needing new glasses because of it!

Karen Clugston has delivered some badly needed fertilizer for the trees on the south side of the church. It should help them bloom again next summer and deliver their lovely fragrant flowers.

Thank you, Miles, for your wonderful assistance with the Day of the Dead service. We appreciate your time and talents to our RE program and our congregation.

Shelly and Brian Gaza are the new Worship Committee Chairs. In advance, thank you for your time and talents. We look forward to your plans for the future.

A special thanks to the Scrip Card group, including Josette Schaffer, Janet Bland, and Sharlene Meydell. As the holidays are a busy time for them. It takes planning and time to be sure your cards are ready and received in a timely manner.

A Big Thank You to: Hollis & Tim Berendt for their help with The Colorado Freedom Tour.

Diane Culver for her hard work in the kitchen, making sure it's clean and organized!

Special Thanks to: Kathy and Jim Vaughn give tirelessly of their time and talents each month. Many are the times you will see them checking on the heat at the church, working with the cleaning crew, and ensuring the sanctuary and all parts of the church are working properly. They have been doing this for over 30 years. Thank you, Kathy and Jim! The furnace also thanks you for its new set of lungs.

We are always grateful as a community for our lovely church dwelling, the warmth and haven it offers on these cold chilly mornings, and the shelter and strength that provides us space in which to worship as a community. As our year begins to draw to a close, we are always thankful to all our volunteers and to those whose names may not have appeared here. We are forever grateful for your tireless efforts in ensuring UUCG is here for those who have yet to come who have not yet entered our doors. **To all of our lay volunteers who keep the church in running order... We Thank YOU!!!**