



Unitarian Universalist Church of Greeley

February 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 February is *Love*

February 1 - Currency of Love - Rev. Kelly Dignan

Rev. Kelly will kick off our pledge canvass and talk about about money and love. *"Money flows through all our lives, sometimes like a rushing river, sometimes like a trickle. When it is flowing, it can purify, cleanse, create growth and nourish. Like water, money is a carrier. It can carry possibility, and intention or it can carry control, domination and guilt. It can be a current or currency of love—a conduit for commitment—or a carrier of hurt or harm,"* Lynn Twist, the Soul of Money.

Together at UUCG, let's make money a currency of love and a conduit for commitment to our faith and future!

February 8 - What is Love? Rev. Audette Fulbright

Rev. Audette joins us from Cheyenne as she and Rev. Kelly "exchange pulpits" today. Audette is passionate about keeping her sermon content a mystery - believing two key things: one, that we come to church in order to live our faith in community, and two, that every preacher must have the opportunity to respond to the last-minute call of the spirit as well as the needs of the day. So join her this Sunday as we discover together "What Is Love?"

February 15- Love Creation- Rev. Kelly Dignan

Rev. Kelly will join thousands of other ministers across the nation for the 5th annual "Preach-In on Global Warming." What does our Unitarian Universalist tradition say about loving creation?

Join in a conversation about the monthly theme after the service starting at 11:10.

February 22- Love Our Neighbor - Rev. Dr. Marlin Lavanhar and Rev. Bruce Hoppe

Join us to watch a video of Rev. Dr. Marlin Lavanhar preaching in 2011 with Rev. Bruce Hoppe who is the Pastor of Community and Care at Christ Community Church right here in Greeley. In this video, they talk about their friendship and how they love beyond belief.



Children's Religious Education

Why is religious education important for kids? Good question! It is important because it helps them:

- understand their own gifts, power, beliefs and areas for growth
- develop their capacity for love and not hate, unleashing the power to end violence and bring peace
- understand the interconnected web of which we are a part and foster respect for our environment
- form a common knowledge of world religions
- develop spiritual practices
- form a caring community of peers and adults who can support them
- understand how Unitarian Universalism can help them live a meaningful life.

We hope your kids will come regularly to reap these benefits! We also know that churches grow when there are strong programs for kids. When families visit, it is important that our regular members are there to greet and welcome them so their kids don't feel alone. Help us do that, will you?

The Winter 2015 Children's Chapel program (first, third and fifth Sundays) will continue to focus on our monthly themes and spiritual practices from around the world. Since adults explore the themes during worship, your whole family can talk about our faith and the theme in particular when you get home.

The Winter 2015 curriculum (second and fourth Sundays) will focus on our Unitarian Universalist roots in the Judeo Christian tradition. Specifically, we will familiarize kids with key stories from the Hebrew Bible which pervade our Western culture. Several parents have commented that when their kids are on the playground they get teased when they don't know Bible characters and stories. One parent told the story of when her daughter opened a drawer at a motel, pulled out the book, and said, "Who is Holly Bible?" :-). Kids will learn about stories from the "Holy Bible": Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Noah, Abraham and Isaac, Jacob and Esau, Moses and the escape from Egypt, and the Ten Commandments. All lessons are grounded in our Unitarian Universalist interpretation, helping them find meaning in the myths of old but not viewing them as the ultimate truth. Here is the weekly plan:

Religious Education at Greeley UU Second Semester 2014-2015 Sundays at 10:00

Feb. 1 - Children's Chapel: Love
Feb. 8 - Lesson # 3 Noah and the Flood
Feb. 15 - Children's Chapel: Love
Feb. 22 Lesson #4 Abraham and Issac
March 1 - Multigenerational Service
March 8 - Lesson #5 Jacob and Esau
March 15 - Children's Chapel: Justice
March 22 Lesson # 6 Escape from Egypt
March 29 - Children's Chapel: Justice
April 5 - Easter Children's Chapel: Brokenness
April 12 - Lesson #7 Ten Commandments
April 19 - Children's Chapel: Brokenness
April 26 - Earth Day Project: All teachers
May 3 - Children's Chapel: Transformation
May 10 - Julia Ward Howe and Mother's Day
May 17 - Children's Chapel: Transformation
May 24 - Summer Begins; Let's Play

Goals: To familiarize our kids with key stories from the Hebrew Bible which pervade our Western Culture

Follow the RAINBOW PATH:

Respect all people, Offer fair and kind treatment to all, Yearn to learn throughout your life, Grow in spirit and in mind, Believe in your ideals, and act upon them, Insist on a fair and peaceful world, Value our connections to all of life.

RE Ministry Committee: Kathy Vaughn, Tabitha Covey**, Shelley Gotchey (January Lessons), Michelle Noftsker (February Lessons), Josette Schaffer (March Lessons), and Marcia Free (April and May Lessons) **RE Director

Adult Religious Exploration

Getting to Know UU will be February 10th 6:30 - 9:00 at the church. Dinner and childcare are provided. Join Rev. Kelly for an interactive session that provides an overview of Unitarian Universalism and our church here in Greeley. Everyone is welcome, and a RSVP is required. Email minister@greeleyuuc.org.

Living Fully, Dying Well

Many of us try to avoid thinking about death--until the moment we come face to face with it. But when we have the courage to accept our inevitable mortality--and even to contemplate it actively, as a spiritual practice--we open the door to living fully, joyfully, and in complete presence. When death approaches, many of us undergo a profound transformation--we let go of old distractions and focus with new clarity on what gives our life meaning. Yet we can invite these profound "deathbed revelations" at any point in our lives by engaging in an honest inquiry into our own mortality.

This circle provides an opportunity to begin your own exploration of both the mysteries of death, and the deeper things of life from which we draw meaning---from the cultural myths about dying, to the personal fears we all share, from the big questions about life, to the struggles we all have in living fully. It will include much time for structured personal reflection on these topics, and some intimate sharing at any level you feel comfortable. The conversation will be respectful and caring, leading to greater understanding. All participants will have the opportunity to share their perspectives, tell their stories, and listen deeply.

In addition, this circle will offer an exploration of "advance directives" (legal documentation of your wishes for end-of-life care) as a pragmatic step toward preparing for your own death, and to help make talking about death a more comfortable conversation. Ms. Free has long had an interest in the spiritual aspects of death and dying, as well as holistic wellness for optimal living. She enjoys leading spiritual circles (small groups) to deepen connection among people, and provide an opportunity for both spiritual exploration, and making meaning of our lives and our world.

What: Living Fully, Dying Well Spiritual Exploration Circle

When: Four consecutive Sundays from 11:30am to 1pm, beginning 2-15-15

Who: Any spiritual seeker who would like to reflect on and prepare for death to assist in finding their life's meaning

Where: Unitarian Universalist Church of Greeley at 929 15th Street, Greeley, CO 80631

For More Info and to Register: Contact Marcia Free at marcia.mae.free@gmail.com

Mark you 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

Choir Schedule—Spring 2015

Wed, Jan 7th: Rehearsal 7:00-8:30pm

Wed, Jan 21st: Rehearsal 7:00-8:30pm

Sun, Jan. 25th: Church performance (9:30am call, 10:00am performance)

Wed, Feb 4th: Rehearsal 7:00-8:30pm

Wed, Feb 11th: Rehearsal 7:00-8:30pm

Sun, Feb 15th: Church performance (9:30am call, 10:00am performance)

Wed, Mar 4th: Rehearsal 7:00-8:30pm

Wed, Mar 25th: Rehearsal 7:00-8:30pm

Sun, Mar 29th: Church performance (9:30am call, 10:00am performance)

Wed, Apr 8th: Rehearsal 7:00-8:30pm

Wed, Apr 15th: Rehearsal 7:00-8:30pm

Sun, Apr 19th: Church performance (9:30am call, 10:00am performance)

Wed, Apr 29th: Rehearsal 7:00-8:30pm

Wed, May 13th: Rehearsal 7:00-8:30pm

Sun, May 17th: Church performance (9:30 call, 10:00am performance)

Creativity as a Spiritual Practice

Saturday February 28th at 10:00am. Let's get together and begin brainstorming ideas for a new banner or community piece of artwork. Questions- Contact Erika Coan at eacoan@gmail.com

The Heartbeat Survey results are in!

Thank you for your input!

The Committee on Shared Ministry interpreted the data and recommends the related actions:

1. The communication of what we were doing does not seem to be impacting folks or complete. (We are not sure that people are reading the newsletters!) So we have developed a slide show to communicate what the church has been doing. It will be shown at the Budget Forum and the Let's Create Some Magic party.
2. The congregation is generally very pleased with what's happening and with Kelly
3. People would like more Adult RE opportunities. We recommend that the RE Ministry continue to offer Adult RE (as well as remind us of what's been offered). Kelly will experiment with holding monthly conversations with the minister about the theme. The first will be February 15 after the service.
4. There are people who would like to be more involved, but aren't sure how to do that. We recommend they attend Getting to Know UU. (On the last page, is the full heartbeat survey)

Gather in a Caring Community

Did you know that we've gotten 50 "likes" on our Facebook page since September? That means that our word is spreading!

Using the Church Building

If you plan to use the building for a church-related event or a personal event, you must inform the Office Manager and complete the Building Use Process. 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."

Contact Dianne Culver with any care or concerns.

Pagan Group- "Spring Equinox"

Saturday, February 28 at 6pm. Ritual and potluck afterwards.

Come celebrate Imbolc, or the Spring equinox a little late. All people interested are invited to attend, we share roles equally between women and men. Please bring a dish to share. Children are welcome, as long

as they respect the space and ritual. Questions...call Kathy Vaughn [970 371-1522](tel:9703711522)

Serve in Partnership

Share Our Plate

On February 1, our entire offering plate collection will be shared with SEVA Community. Its mission is to support young parents and their children. They provide early literacy and oral language development instruction to the children and a community of support for both parents and children. Our own UUCG members Shelley Gotchey and Josette Schaffer volunteer at SEVA. Give generously so that we can support this worthy cause in our community.

Citizens Climate Lobby

We will be meeting the first Saturday of every month at 11:00. Our next meeting is Saturday February 7, at 11:00 at the UU Church of Greeley. Please bring your mobile phone if you have one. If you'd like more information about CCL, please go to the website; www.CitizensClimateLobby.org or you can call Hollis with other questions.

PFLAG

PFLAG is the nation's largest family and ally organization uniting people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) with families, friends, and allies. It is committed to advancing equality and full societal affirmation of LGBTQ people through its threefold mission of support, education, and advocacy. A chapter is starting here in Greeley. Several of our members attended the first organizational meeting. There will be another in mid-February. If you are interested, be sure to contact Rev. Kelly.

Community Forum and Discussion- Ayotzinapa

Join in solidarity with the Latino/Latina community in Greeley. Learn about and discuss the disappearance of 43 students from Ayotzinapa Normal School in Mexico. We are co-sponsoring and hosting this with our partners Al Frente de Lucha and their partner Colorado Committee Sin Fronteras. February 28, 2015, 4:00 pm at our church.

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

Second Annual UU Leadership Day

Early bird end pricing ends January 31 so register

now for the Second Annual Front Range UU

Leadership and Technology Conference

February 21, 2015 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

\$16 per person [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/front-range-uu-leadership-and-technology-conference-tickets-](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/front-range-uu-leadership-and-technology-conference-tickets-15185751993)

[15185751993](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/front-range-uu-leadership-and-technology-conference-tickets-15185751993) Join with UUs from across Colorado and Wyoming to share, learn, and deepen your faith.

Designed for anyone involved in the church in any way.

Staff Update

We welcome two new employees!

Meghan Groves is our new Office Manager. She is a pre-nursing student at University of Northern Colorado with prior experience in office administration. She is extremely organized and technologically savvy. Her office hours (which may be subject to change) are:

Tuesdays 11:00 - 1:00

Fridays 10:30 - 12:30.

She will work from home one hour a week.

Our bookkeeping will be done by Foothills

Unitarian Church in Fort Collins. Some of our processes for check requests and reimbursements will change slightly starting February 9th. All new forms are to be on the credenza in the church office. If you have any questions, be sure to ask Rev. Kelly.

David Fetkewicz is our new childcare provider on Sunday mornings. He attends University Schools and has experience working with children through his volunteer work at the Global Refugee Center.

Also welcome **Sam Henline** as our full-time accompanist.

Give in Gratitude

Let's Create Some Magic! That's the theme for our *pledge canvass* this year. Not sure what a *pledge canvass* is? It's the process we go through to raise money for our church.

On February 1st after the service there will be a 30 minute Budget Forum where the Finance Ministry Group will present the Program Budget (how expenses are allocated across the programs we offer). A detailed line-item budget will be available, but not covered in depth. Childcare is provided. The meeting will start at 11:20 - after coffee hour.

February 7th will be our annual canvass party. Harry Potter is the theme. You should have received an official invitation through eVite. If not, be sure to let Meghan Groves know: office_manager@greeleyuuc.org. We are going to have a wonderful, wizardly time. Don't miss it!

Splinters from the board

The board has been drafting and voting on policies this year and compiling them into a manual. If a question arises we have a road map to follow. We have written several policies which will be made available to you shortly. Here is the policy on Gift Giving.

Gift Giving

The board thanks each and every one of you that donates physical goods to the church. Because of limited space to store such items, a subset of the Building and Grounds Ministry Group will approve any donations. Accepting donations will be based on the church's need, space and style fit. These donations could include but are not limited to art, furniture, supplies, equipment, plants, and garden items. Please do not donate any garage sale items unless we have announced a date for a garage sale. If you have a donation to make, please contact the Church. Upon acceptance of such items, the building and grounds committee along with Chalice Arts committee will determine location and timing of use of said items. Again, we thank you for your generous donations.

"Give without expecting anything in return (not even a thank you). That is unconditional kindness. Everything else is ego." Timber Hawkeye

"For it is in giving that we receive." ~St. Francis Of Assisi

Happy Birthday!

Woody Myers 4
Griffin Meyers 7
Rachelle Oldright 20
Ginger Suttle 24



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

Rev. Kelly's Reflections



Our theological theme for February is *Love*. Every Sunday we say in our Covenant: "Love is the spirit of this church." One of our mottos is that we love beyond belief. Our national campaign for justice is "Standing on the Side of Love." I've read newspaper articles where Unitarian Universalists are referred to as "those love people in their yellow shirts." Indeed, love is the cornerstone of our faith. Almost always, we aim to weave the theme of love into our lives, worship, studies, and work for justice. This month we will apply love to some specific topics, as you see in the worship schedule. But what kind of love are we talking about?

The [Greek language](#) distinguishes at least four different words for [love](#): agápe, éros, philía, and storgē.

- [Agápe](#) means brotherly love, charity, the love of God for man and of man for God, feelings for one's children and the feelings for a spouse. It can also be described as the feeling of being content or holding one in high regard.
- [Éros](#) means love, mostly of the sexual passion. The Modern Greek word "erotas" means "intimate love." It can also apply to dating relationships as well as marriage.
- [Philia](#) means "affectionate regard, friendship," usually "between equals." It is a dispassionate virtuous love, a concept developed by [Aristotle](#).
- [Storge](#) means "love, affection" and "especially of parents and children." It is natural affection, like that felt by parents for offspring. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_words_for_love)

This month is Black History month, and as you have noticed by now, we have a sign outside of our church that says, "Black Lives Matter." That is in response to a proposal I made during my sermon on January 18. You can listen here:

<http://www.greeleyuuc.org/sermons/active-hope>

My proposal, in the context of love, was that we offer *Agápe and Philia Love* to the black community - to let them know that we hold them in high regard and offer them sibling love. I also hope that our sign reminds the rest of Greeley to offer that kind of love to their black neighbors. (Thanks to very generous Jim Shearer and Dennis Francen for donating money for the banner)



I know some of us talked about rotating banners that say things like "Immigrant Lives Matter" or "Gay Lives Matter" or "All Lives Matter." I reached out to other ministers and most importantly, our black partners, to hear what they thought of that idea. Rev. Kierstin Homblette pointed me to these two articles that speak to using the "____ Lives Matter" slogan on other issues.

<http://thefeministwire.com/2014/10/blacklivesmatter-2/>
http://colorlines.com/archives/2014/10/facing_race_spotlight_organizer_alicia_garza_on_why_black_lives_matter.html

An excerpt: "When you drop "Black" from the equation of whose lives matter, and then fail to acknowledge it came from somewhere, you further a legacy of erasing Black lives and Black contributions from our movement legacy. And consider whether or not when dropping the Black you are, intentionally or unintentionally, erasing Black folks from the conversation or homogenizing very different experiences.....When you adopt Black Lives Matter

and transform it into something else (if you feel you really need to do that—see above for the arguments not to), it's appropriate politically to credit the lineage from which your adapted work derived."

To the same point, Rev. Mike Morran at First Unitarian in Denver wrote this in his newsletter: "What we have heard consistently from the African American Community and the coalitions that are forming is that "All Lives Matter," is perceived by the African American community as another example of white privilege, attempting to change the conversation, denying the reality of black lives, denying the history of black marginalization, and attempting to control (whitewash) the path forward rather than being supportive allies."

Kierstin suggested that we reach out to communities and ask what slogan they'd like us to use to show our love and solidarity. For example, we could ask our immigrant friends what phrase they use and get a poster made with that on it. Maybe it's "We Walk with Immigrants." Let's ask our gay and lesbian friends and members how they'd like us to represent our solidarity in poster language. How about our Native American friends? What would they like us to proclaim in public about our love for them? Let's keep listening to our partners. And let me know what you hear.

This month, consider this: Which kinds of love do you offer and receive? To whom and from whom? Tune into Facebook for quotes, suggested readings, spiritual practices, and more.

With Philia Love,
Rev. Kelly