



Unitarian Universalist Church of Greeley

March 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.
Office Hours: M, 10a-12p /Tue & Fridays 1p – 3p**

Theme: Nature

Worship Liberally

Sunday, Mar. 3rd- “Resilience: A Take Away from Nature and Chernobyl” - Julie Miller

Abandoned in place. Forgotten. Revived and thriving. Are we talking about our Self or Chernobyl? We examine the dynamic process of succession by Nature and the amazing lessons Nature continues to teach us about living in a place considered to be uninhabitable.

RE: Class #3 – Rites of Passage

Sunday, Mar. 10th - “The Colors Of The Spirit”

Rev. Aaron Norris

“Nature always wears the colors of the spirit,” noted the great Unitarian Transcendentalist Ralph Waldo Emerson. This week Rev. Norris unpacks the history of Unitarian and Universalist inspirations found in nature and what they can teach us today.

RE: Celebration of Spring

Sunday Mar. 17th – “Pagan Spring”- UUCG Pagan Circle

Service will be a celebration of Eostre or Ostara. Eostre was the goddess of spring and of the dawn in many pagan traditions, and the Christian religion built upon this tradition in the Easter story of Jesus’ return to life.

RE: Secret of The Peaceful Warrior

Sunday, Mar. 24th – “Climate Justice & Essential Rythm” - Rev. Aaron Norris

With spring now sprung, Rev. Norris delivers his message to the Greeley Church in concert with other Unitarian Universalist congregations around the country who are called by the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee on this Justice Sunday to witness for climate justice.

RE: Class #4 – The Weight of a Snow Flake

Sunday, Mar. 31st – “TBA”

RE: Chapel – The Three Questions

2019-2020 B.O.T Congregational Meeting

The Board of Trustees Officers Congregational Meeting will be upon us in a few short months and we will be searching for Board of Trustee Officers for the positions of President and Vice President. If you have interests in the positions or know of someone who might be willing to participate in a leadership role that is one of the most amazing parts of our legacy of a church, please contact the Nominating Committee: Julie Miller, Kathy Wise, Josette Schaeffer, or Sharlene Meydell.

Ministerial Musings

Friends,

I signed off my musings last month by saying how excited I was about our shared ministry and where we were headed. As we just ended the sixth month of our church year, I find myself continuing to be excited. As a new minister here, I really couldn't be more impressed with this community and the enthusiasm that has been shown. You are definitely a people of resilience. Things have not always broken your way, and yet you all keep showing up for one another. As we finish our month of Loving, your actions are perhaps the greatest testimony to our community. Not that we are a perfect community, but that we continue to be an engaged one, a loving one and therefore a more perfect one.

Over the last few months, we've been lucky enough to be introduced to the Woerner family who travel a great distance to be with us on Sundays. It can't always be easy getting everybody packed up and ready to go, but this family does it often to be part of our community at services. I'm always impressed when they arrive, being a father myself and knowing what it takes to have that kind of organization in the morning. In February, Angela wrote on one of our social media platforms that the Unitarian Universalist Church of Greeley was "open, honest, accepting, loving." I can't think of a better description for our community to be, to aspire to be and to continue to be. If we remain the kind of community Angela calls us while remaining dedicated to our mission as a congregation to grow spiritually, live meaningfully, and help heal the world, we really can build the kind of transformational community that I charge us to be at the end of every service.

In our church year, we have had two great collections of themes so far: first with Calling, Responsibility, and Justice and then with Family, Community, and Love. This month we will begin a new series with Nature, Environment, and Cycle. In the first month of Nature, I hope to see you all on my two Sundays, but I am also excited to hear our Board President Julie Miller's kickoff exploration on the theme and more about Kim Woman tree's service on Pagan Spring. At the time of this writing, I also wait with baited breath for our mystery guest at the end of the month.

Finally, as we slide into the second half of the year, we will have more opportunities to recommit ourselves to our vision in a couple of concrete ways. Showing up is always a big one; your presence on Sundays is the single best thing that you can do to show support for the church community, but also take advantage of the learning opportunities and community events at other times as well. Also, if you haven't already done so, consider becoming a member. The Unitarian Universalist Association recently changed their rules so that congregational dues are no longer pegged on a per member formula but rather as a percentage of the congregation's

budget. As a community, there is no longer any downside to having more members join the church. Talk to me or one of the board about membership if you are even thinking you might want to join. Lastly, as a community we have the opportunity to contribute financially. We are lucky and thankful to have some extremely generous members and friends in this church. Already this year, we have crossed the threshold of pledges collected from last year's mark. This means that any further pledge money collected this year, including additions to the current pledges, are being doubled at the end of the year by the anonymous donor. That's really great news for our church.

I spoke last month about how Love spreads between the imperfect reality of the beloved and the perfectible aspiration of the beloved. We started the church year in September with a great deal of hope that we would have something of an awakening. That hope first budded and now has really begun to come into fruition. Our hope is not yet completely ripened, but if we continue to strive, stay committed and excited about what is possible, the kind of love I described last month -- that love we feel for this community -- will help us continue to realize that hope. As I end most Sundays with you all, may we make it so, with the loving work of our hearts and our hands. Have a fantastic March and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Yours in Faith and Fellowship,

Rev. Aaron Norris

Your Board at Work

We have a lot to get done in a short period of time. It always seems we have plenty of time for the Church Year and then, "Boom!" it's almost over. We've been planning a great number of things - fundraisers, the Pledge Drive, searching for a Music Director, examining the mid-year budget, developing a ministerial evaluation, and celebrating our Year of Living Generously. Whew! That's enough! I cannot say enough of how proud I am of the board and the things we have accomplished. When you see your BOT representatives, office Margaret Chiniquy or Pastor Norris, please express your thanks. We have been busy!

Contacting UUCG Staff and Board

Reverend Aaron Norris: minister@greeleyuuc.org
Board President, Julie Miller: jmilleruuc@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 Schaffer
joletteschaffer@msn.com

Treasurers Report

January 2019

Income:	\$ 6747.06
Expenses:	\$ 5251.16
checkbook balance	\$ 4738.23
Savings	\$ 48762.03

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Vaughn, Treasurer

Happy Birthday!



March

Kathy Wise - 7
John Coan – 7
Hollis Berendt – 9
Tim Berendt – 14
Bill Thomas - 22
Sandy Meyers – 27
Jonathan Hofmann – 31

If we forgot your March 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

Build Your Own Theology Tues. @ 6pm

Book Club 3RD Thurs. of the Month @1pm

Writing Club Last Friday of the Month @ 3pm

Contact Julie Miller with any care or concerns at

Jmilleruucg@gmail.com or Magaret Chiniqay 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?

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. RE team: Claire Metusalem and Kathy Vaughn

Mar 3- Class #3 Rites of Passage

Mar 10- Celebration of Spring

Mar 17- Secret of the peaceful warrior

Mar 24- The weight of a snowflake

Mar 31 – Chapel – The Three Questions



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

Gather in a Caring Community

Writing Group

Ruth Zachary is leading a writing group Fridays 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.

Greeters Announcement:

There will be an informational meeting at 11:30 on March 10th for anyone interested in volunteering. This will be an opportunity for you to learn about being a host formerly known as greeter. See Josette if you have any questions.

Social Justice Committee

The Social Justice Committee is recruiting new members. Anyone interested in joining our church's commitment to social justice and working with other members and the ministry is encouraged to contact co-chairs: Hollis Berendt (hollisbeth28@gmail.com) and Ana Schultz (ana.schultz@yahoo.com)



Fermenting Spirituality

Our monthly drop-in 'spiritual symposium' is again on Monday March 11th will focus on our monthly theme of Nature. Our discussion will begin with quotes from theological thinkers and questions curated by Rev. Norris and end wherever nature calls us. We've had great turn out the past few months with old and new faces. For this month we will meet again at Patrick's Pub at 6:00pm. The discussions normally last for an hour and a half or a bit more.

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 for our March 21 selection. 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, a young musician who recently died 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 to help honor his memory.

Living Generously

Our March designated organizations for are:

- 1) **UUSC for climate change** UUSC's Environmental Justice & Climate Action work focuses on advancing and protecting the rights of populations at risk of climate-forced displacement caused by slow-onset climate impacts. UUSC's program emboldens the principle of the right to self-determination by prioritizing building protections in place and when necessary and required by our partners, supporting communities to relocate with dignity.
- 2) **Poudre Learning Center** - Our mission is to awaken a sense of wonder and inspire environmental stewardship and citizenship through education of students, families and local residents along the Colorado Northern Front Range.

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.



Goodness!
Gracious! Great Bowls of
Fire!
Chili and Salsa Challenge
Pledge Dinner. Saturday
March 23rd, 5:30 PM to
7:00 PM

Please mark your calendars for our Annual Pledge Drive and Chili Cook-off. We will be having two divisions in the Chili portion of the competition - the "seasoned cooks" for those 15 years or older and for those under 14, a Youth Competition. And, if you aren't into chili, please bring us your best Salsa, as there will be a Salsa Competition, as well. And yes, there will be trophies for each category! Dress in your best 50's costume and come ready to pledge and play! There will be a sign-up sheet to get a count of those who will be able to attend and for those brave enough to take on the challenge. At the latest Board of Trustees meeting, the gauntlet was thrown down between the Board President and the Minister. Whew! It's gettin' hot in here!

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.

March Service Item to be auctioned: Two 9-inch square baking pans of Julie Miller's Almost Famous Lasagna. If you are lucky, you tasted it at our Lasagna Luncheon, now own some yourself and share with your family or friends and help keep the mission of UUCG. She will provide two meat lasagnas or two vegetable lasagnas, or one of each - baked or with baking instructions to do it yourself. Delivery will be arranged with her, once you have secured the item. The beginning bid is \$15.

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.

Giving in Gratitude



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 7th. See Josette with questions.

OR Buy your rechargeable King Sooper and Safeway cards on the first Sunday of each month in the foyer! Let me know if you have questions. Josette 381-7891 or josetteschaffer@msn.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!!

Music Director Search

We are in the process of receiving resumes at the church office and will have begun interviews by the time you read this. Please contact Julie Miller or Reverend Norris with any perspective applicants.

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."

Echoes of Gratitude

The Unitarian Universalist Church would like to Thank the Following :

Guest Speakers: Dana Lightsey and Janelle Helling, Thank you for your time and sharing!

Worship Associates: Kathy Vaughn, Brian Gaza, Claire Metusalem, and Karen Clugston, Thank you for your confidence and leadership! We value your time!

Coffee / Snacks: Romy Miller, Rosemary Edmiston, & Margaret Chiniquy. Thank you for giving your time and efforts so we can enjoy time together in fellowship after the sermon on Sundays!

A/V: Bill Thomas, Margaret Chiniquy, Brian Gaza, & Julie Miller. You rock! Thank you for coming in early to set up the sound & recording the service!

R.E.: Claire Metusalem and Kathy Vaughn, our future is in your capable hands! Thank you for your time with our kiddos in R.E.

Thank you to Reverend Norris for spearheading the memorial service for Sam Henline. It was an amazing success. Your time and talents in getting this organized with such a large number of individuals and organizations was a gift to our church, community, and the many family members and friends of Sam's in attendance.

*All the helpers who made the Lasagna Luncheon such a success! Kathy and Jim Vaughn, Dianne and Andy Culver (Dianne, your decorative eye is a wonderful part of our events) Sharlene Meydell, Josette Schaeffer, Rosemary Edmiston, and apologies to anyone that may have been omitted. Sam's parents enjoyed the lasagna and fellowship with the congregation. It was wonderful to see so many in attendance and enjoying our stories and time together.

Chalice Arts – Janelle Helling



Thank you Janelle for sharing your art!

VALENTINES FOR REFUGEES



Thank you for The Valentines Messages! They were appreciated by The Immigration and Refugee Center of Northern Colorado.