



Unitarian Universalist Church of Greeley

November 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
Like us on Facebook

Contacting UUCG Staff and Board

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Board President, Julie Miller: jmilleruucg@gmail.com
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Worship Liberally

November Theme: Compassion

The month of November our theme is Compassion. The Oxford dictionary says that compassion is a feeling of "sympathetic pity and concern for the sufferings or misfortunes of others," but most religious thinkers and theologians would have a different take. As Reverend Norris will explore with us from the pulpit this week, true compassion has less to do with pity towards others and more to do with a shared feeling of relationship. Our final service will be a lay lead exploration by members of the Buddhist study group exploring what that tradition has to say about the powerful expression of compassion. Our explorations on Sunday will help us define what compassion means to a Unitarian Universalist community and what is so important about compassion.

11-3-2019- **Multi-gen Dia de los Muertos with
Rev. Aaron Norris Followed by a potluck.**

11-10-2019-**Rev. Aaron Norris**

11-17-2019- **Rev. Aaron Norris**

11-24-2019- **Buddhist Class on Compassion**

Ministerial Musings

Friends,

I write this note to you now with icicles dripping off the roof of the church outside my window. The little Church Squirrel who has been trying to raise her young ones on the sunflower seeds that have grown in our yard bounced past the door in the early afternoon, but I expect that she and her children are getting ready to bed down for the winter. Fall seems to have late and decided to leave early. Growing up in Colorado, I know that traditionally November is the second heaviest month for snow. If late October is any guide, that will hold true again.

And yet, unlike Church Squirrel, we don't meet the season with a sudden rush of activity followed by a long nap period. Our work goes the whole year round. Though it too looks different depending on the season. We have some exciting things that are coming up. Early this month, we will celebrate our All Souls/Day of the Dead Service. It will be

good to acknowledge the role that our departed continue to play in our lives as we practice our role as the living - a somber day that is filled with bittersweet joy in shared community.

Starting off the month of November with Day of the Dead, I hope prepares us for our theme. In the immediate weeks, our monthly theme is compassion which is a topic related to both the themes of peace and empathy we just passed through. Often we get compassion mixed up with the important ideas of charity and mercy. All those ideas are related, but true compassion is not exactly any of them. Compassion literally means "to suffer alongside." When we have compassion for someone, we are so much offering someone something out of pity, but being with them out of concern, finding a way to walk or sit with them in a time of need, both theirs and ours. Everything we've talked about in both the months of empathy and peace will play a role in our exploration of compassion (on Sundays and during other events during the week).

People often think of November as a time for giving thanks for the bounty in our lives, which will be an interesting facet to explore in our month of compassion. As the minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Greeley, I have recently had several things that I am thankful for on behalf of the church.

I was so happy that several of our affinity groups gathered this past month, the pagans for the Samhain celebration and the choir members for their retreat. We have two really great Build Your Own Theology classes that are in the midst of wrestling with some great questions of meaning making. The Buddhist group is wrapping up this coming month with a lunch and the Fermenting Theology group has found a home at the taphouse down the street. If the weather cooperates, we'll have a theological walk later in November. Our church is humming with life.

And yet there is still space for more. How can we help create more space for you to come alive? What ideas do you have that you want to bring to this church and where are your passions? Perhaps you have an itch to become more involved in social justice or helping grow the church. I'd love to get you connected to those ministries. Maybe you have an itch to have more influence on our worship services. Maybe you have some ideas you can't quite put

your finger on. I want to talk to you all about it. There is more room at all the tables.

Yours in Faith and Fellowship,
Rev. Aaron Norris

Your Board At Work

The furnace is back up and running, just in time for our wintry weather. The sprinklers have been blown out and the preparations for winter have been mobilized. The BOT has been busy with the calendar and upcoming events for the fall, including our Day of the Dead and Stone Soup Potlucks. Please watch for them and planning on attending. I know I love our time together sharing a meal.

Our Sanctuary has been beautiful due to the organizational skills of our Chalice Arts group and the many students from the Greeley School system who have participated. Each will be receiving a ribbon for their participation.

October found a short discussion about the distribution of funds from the Match Fund Challenge that was completed last year. It's been very beneficial to hear your input, as well as have several surveys that have been completed about people's interests in the past few years. We hope not to disappoint with the potential upcoming events and utilization of those funds.

We look forward to your continued participation and watch for activities in which you might wish to participate.

Julie Miller

Artist Reception for Elementary and Middle School Artists

There will be a reception for the **Day of the Dead Artists displayed in the Sanctuary on Friday, November 1st from 6:30 PM until 8 PM**. Please plan on attending and bring some finger food to share. The pieces are amazing and it's a wonderful way to support the youth of our community.

Faith Flags

What are faith flags? Flags that you make to represent your faith and what UUCG means to you. They are the brainstorm of Julie Miller and Reverend Aaron Norris. We had Judith Meyers beautiful paper flags in the foyer for a number of years, but the wind and dust took their toll on them. And, they were missed. Julie met Judith once and

really enjoyed her contact with Judith and it greatly influenced her participation in the church. So, her influence "keeps on giving".

What do you need to do to participate? Easy peasy. We have the pieces of material on which you can paint (we have the paints at the church, too), or embroider or quilt or whatever. Some people are going to be making their flags out of old t-shirts that are meaningful to them. The dimensions are 11 inches by 10 or 10.5 inches. If you are not in the area, find a piece of material that you like, make your design and that's the "artsy" part. The next step is to include the following information in written form for the "Faith Flag Book". This will continue to be on display with the Faith Flags for years to come. Include your name, the date, and your age, along with a short description of what inspired you to create your faith flag. Then, we will take a photo of the flag and the information and put them in our book. So, when you see a flag that interests you, you can check out the artist and their inspiration in the book. This will be an ongoing process and we will send photos of certain flags as we go forward. It's an amazing way for people to see who we are as a congregation and participants of UUCG.

So, even as you read this and you may live afar, please do send us your faith flag and your information. Become a part of our story and remind us of YOUR part in our history!!!

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report- September 2019

Income \$ \$ 3,140.20

Expenses \$ 4,438.64

Checking balance \$ 9,518.90

Savings balance \$ 33,078.93

Service Auction

Janelle Helling and her family have generously donated a ½ Cord of wood to the church for our November Service Auction Item. Contact Michele at the main office to put in a bid.

Calling all Crafters..We will have a Craft Show on December 14th from 1- 4pm, along with a special event for the whole family. If you would like to have a table to sell your things, please speak to Kathy Vaughn

Grow in Spirit



Youth Religious Education

It's time to begin the Fall Classes. We will hear the Universe tell stories of chaos and creativity. It includes our Unitarian Universalist Creation Story, of how we are connected to everything on earth and were born 14 billion years ago. Teachers: Claire Metuselum and Kathy Vaughn

UNICEF boxes are due back to the Church on Nov. 3rd.

November Dates

November 3-- Multi-gen Día de los Muertos Service

November 10- Class #2 You Are Made of Stardust.

November 17- Class #3 Remember Who You Are.

November 24--Chapel on Compassion

Caring Community

Día de Muertos/All Souls

As we prepare for our annual Día de Muertos/All Souls service on the first Sunday in November, folks are encouraged to reflect on members of their family and friends who have passed in the last 12 months that they would like to have recognized in the slideshow during the service. If you have a picture of the departed that you would like shared, please give a copy, electronic or physical to Rev. Aaron Norris (minister@greeleyuuc.org)

Faith Flags

Everyone has done a great job of getting their materials for the faith flags that we want to display in our entry, but we've all been a little slow in bringing them back in. Rev. Norris' flag looks a little lonely up there by itself. As the flags come back in, we intend to get them up and show what the community at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Greeley is all about. If you haven't gotten your flag yet, contact Julie Miller or Michele Masters and they'll arrange it. If you've got the material but haven't brought it in, we want to see it! If you're feeling a little intimidated by the whole artistic expression part, remember that Rev. Norris

has some small stamps that you can use to make a flag without the need for much artistic skill; you're welcome to use them after service!

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's 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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



**Maggie Chiniquy
Bonnie White
Chris Haberkorn
Ana Schultz
Sharlene Meydell**

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

Searching Community



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. The next class date is November 3 following the potluck. Please follow copy this link and paste to your browser to sign up:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeXqa2DAtIYtI_GhhM4iFJG8rzj-m3XqJMlyA7kvSQA_azCBQ/viewform

Walk and Talks

Well we got snowed out in October, but the Theological Walks with Rev. Norris will continue weather permitting.

All are welcome to join Rev. Norris on monthly theological walks the fourth Monday of every month at 12:00 p.m. on site. 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 November, Rev. Norris will lead a walk around and in the immediate vicinity of Montview Park. Those interested can have lunch together to continue the conversation.

Buddhist and Meditation classes at Unitarian Universalist Church of Greeley, 929 15th St, Greeley, CO 80631 the Second Tuesday of each month.

Buddhist Class - November 12 Meditation - 2:30 pm.

For additional information email Janelle Helling at: janelle.helling@gmail.com



We need hosts on Sunday mornings and sign changers every two weeks in the beginning of the week.

Contact Josette with any questions.

Serving Community

Social Justice Ministry

A big thanks to all who came out to join the Women's International League of Peace and Freedom at the Greeley Climate event last month. Many of our members were seen there and some were actually quoted in the paper.

Social Justice Ministry meeting at **11:00 am on November 18th**. We are recruiting members who are interested in bending the arc of the moral universe a little faster.

Upcoming Events

Day of the Dead Potluck

Please bring your photos for the remembrance table and a dish to pass for the Day of the Dead celebration at the Sunday, November 3rd service.



Parade of Lights

The Parade of Lights will be staged in the UUC parking lot starting November 30th, at 4:30pm-6:30pm. All are welcome to join.



Holiday Craft Day December 14 from 1-4pm

Craft Fair and Children's Craft Activities.

Art activities, make ornaments, listen to holiday music, eat cookies. Parents will have time to leave to shop while children stay.

We are looking for people who want to sell crafts for this event.

Giving in Gratitude



Please purchase a Safeway gift card if you are a Safeway shopper. 5% of your purchase will go to our church! Also, don't forget to enroll in the King Soopers Community Rewards that also donates 5% of your purchase to UU Church of Greeley. See Josette with any questions.

Thank You

Thank you to the Chalice Arts committee for the wonderful Art Display and Janelle Helling for finding the participant ribbons.

Thank you to Kathy and Jim Vaughn in dealing with the furnace.

Thank you Julie Miller for shoveling snow.

Memories This Month

Just some of the wonderful art from the Dia De Los Muertos Art Show that we co-hosted with the students from Chappelow Magnet School.

