



Unitarian Universalist Church of Greeley

October Unifax 2019

Helping you grow spiritually, live meaningfully, and have the courage to help heal the world.

Contacting UUCG Staff and Board

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Board Secretary, Josette Bond josettebond@outlook.com

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
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Worship Liberally

Ministerial Musings

October Theme: Peace

The month of October our theme is Peace. Peace is a promise and an aspiration for nearly all religious and faith communities, but what does it mean? This monthly Rev. Norris will be joined by one of our former ministers, Rev. Kelly Dignan, and representatives from an organization near and dear to many of our congregants hearts, the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom. These four explorations on Sunday will help us define what Peace means to a Unitarian Universalist community and what is so important about Peace.

- 10-6-2019- Rev. Aaron Norris
- 10-13-2019-Rev. Kelly Dignan
- 10- 20-201- Rev. Aaron Norris
- 10-27-2019 **Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom**

Reverend Aaron Norris: minister@greeleyuuc.org



Rev. Norris and members of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom at Greeley’s Climate Strike Event. Photo by Trevor Reid of the Greeley Tribune

Friends,
Our church year is off to a very good start. We are blessed with a great deal of energy and momentum that comes from the year that we just went through together. I am excited to see the board unveil their plan to the congregation this month of what new and innovative things they will guide us to spend the extra money donated

through the donor matching fund and their thoughts on how that will continue the growth and energy in this faith community. It is one of the most remarkable things about a congregational system that the folks in the room, are the beginning of the font of inspiration in our faith.

We are starting up the Build Your Own Theology classes again this fall and I am looking forward to the involvement of both returning and new faces. The second class is set, but there is room for new folks in the Introduction classes. The purpose of Build Your Own Theology is to develop an explicit meaning making process and have the opportunity to discuss it and explore it in a group. Many of us give ourselves labels and shortcuts in our belief system that help us navigate through a normal day, but this is an opportunity to really figure out what you believe. One of the major benefits to working out your own meaning making process is that you aren't taken off guard and an especially trying time and force to grapple with what you think about your life experience at a moment of crisis, rather than a moment of calm. I've saved a couple of seats for anyone interested in the introductory program this fall.

As we begin our month exploring the theme of peace, it seems like not a moment too soon. Reflecting on my own thoughts, I find myself thinking about the announcement last week that we are sending soldiers to Saudi Arabia, though not in numbers that would be in the thousands. The Yemeni war in that region has brought many interests into conflict, I do have concerns about even small increases in our forces there.

Peace is a difficult thing to achieve. The center of gravity often seems to be conflict and the path to war often seems to be downhill. If we want peace, it seems clear that we will have to work for it; to prepare for it. Even more than that, however, I think it will be important to recognize what peace will actually mean when it is achieved. Often we recognize what a thing is not before we can ever say what a thing is. We seem to think we'll "know it when we see it." And as such, we often go down every mistaken path, hit a dead end and have to circle back. Instead, we might ask ourselves where we actually want to go instead of reminding ourselves where we don't want to be. Just a thought.

So here are some thoughts from me about where peace is. Peace is a place where justice is manifest. No justice, no

peace. This is not a threat, it is a requirement of peace. If we don't have justice, there cannot be actual peace. Second, peace is lasting. Hence, it must be sustainable. Without sustainability, peace is merely a pause between moments of the status quo. It further means that peace must be part of stability. It cannot rest on one or two very fine points or it will easily tip over. Peace also must be recognized as a choice. Peace can be upset if individuals want to do so. What else is required of peace? What thoughts do you have?

I look forward to this coming month of explorations with you and I how you are looking forward to them as well. May our time together be rewarding and insightful and may we deepen our appreciation of peace.

Yours in Faith and Fellowship,

Rev. Aaron Norris

Your Board At Work

We are looking forward to the Informational Congregational Meeting that will be held on October 6th, after the worship service. It will be to inform the Congregation of how the Board hopes to utilize the Matching Funds that were raised during the past church year. There have been, of course, a lot of ideas on how we can utilize them, but most importantly, I feel we should be thankful to have a challenge such as this!

We have had a busy start to the Church Year already and we look forward to the coming months being very busy - filled with activities, friends, and fellowship. It's good to see so many familiar faces returning to the Sanctuary as Autumn is making its presence known. It seems like we just got the sprinklers up and running and yet soon it will be time to winterize them again. School is back in session, the warmth of our hands around a hot mug becomes more appealing and we continue our one more circle round the sun.

Informational Congregational Meeting and Potluck - October 6, 2019

Please bring a dish to pass, as we discuss the BOT's decisions on how to utilize the Matched Funds raised last year. The meeting will begin promptly at 11:30 in the Sanctuary.

The Sum of Our Parts through the Arts

Well, I had to come up with some type of catchy title. Those of you who were fortunate enough to know Judith Meyers, know that we have had the paper flags she created hanging in the foyer for some time. Their colors and intricate patterns have captured and brought her continued energy to UUCG. Due to wear and tear, we have to take them down, so they aren't completely destroyed. In their place are some smaller, not quite so meaningful flags instead. In October, I and Reverend Norris will be introducing a Congregational Art Project which we hope will also contribute to the beauty of our church. Much like quilt making, each part of our project may perhaps be considered a masterpiece on its own, but when we combine our work together it can often be something even more harmonious and extraordinary - something more profound - a gift for the church in the days and years ahead. It will be an ongoing project and of course, the artist - that's you - will determine their own direction on each piece of the project. So stay tuned and be ready to get to work on designing your own flag for our project. We will be supplying some materials and when we are ready, we'll share more details with you. Until then!

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report- August 2019

Income \$ 6,590.00
Expenses \$ 3,930.17
Checking balance \$ 11,128.99
Savings balance \$ 33,078.93

Service Auction

This month's Service Auction item is a new 28" LED Insignia Television with remote. Make a bid by calling the church number, 970 351-6751 or talking to Kathy Vaughn. Bids start at \$50.

Pagan Ceremony

On October 26 from 3:30- 5pm We will celebrate Samhain, the end of the harvest season and the beginning of the dark half of the year. It's usually celebrated on October 31/ November 1st, and it was the origins of Halloween. We will honor our ancestors. Please bring a snack to share. Everyone is welcome.

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. Claire Metuselum and Kathy Vaughn with bem teaching.

October Dates

October 6- Class #2 You Are Made Of Stardust

October 13- Class # 3 Remember Who You Are

October 20- Prep for Day of the Dead

October 27- Clas #4 Earth had a Challenging Childhood

We will be Trick or Treating for UNICEF with our special boxes to help other children in the world. Please give generously when we Trick or Treat on Sunday in October.

Caring Community

Congregational Meeting

Sunday October 6th, 11:30 AM to let the congregation know about the Board's planned distribution of the Matched Funds that were raised during the last church year.

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)

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.

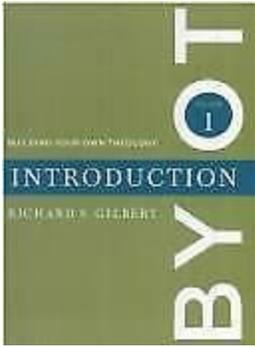
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



- Antony Noftsker 10**
- Patti Joyner 11**
- Eulice Kogovsek 12**
- Debbie Conley 20**
- Sylvia Perchlik 22**

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

Searching Community



Build Your Own Theology

The sessions of the introduction course on Build Your Own Theology have started, but there are some seats still available for those interested in joining. The next class is on Monday, October 7th at 1 p.m.

This class has no prerequisite as is designed for the searcher who wants to explore with others exactly how they make meaning in the world. Biweekly readings normally involve a page or two, with some journaling practice. Each class is about 120 minutes. You are welcome to sign up with Rev. Aaron at minister@greeleyuuc.org



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. 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

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 October, Rev. Norris will lead a walk around and in the immediate vicinity of Bittersweet 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 - October 8, 1:30 pm. Meditation - October 8, 2:30 pm. Remaining classes: November 12

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 October 21st**. We are recruiting members who are interested in bending the arc of the moral universe a little faster.

Upcoming Events

Choir News

The music retreat will be on October 26 from 12pm-3pm. We will be singing hymns and songs, as well as having a potluck afterwards. All are welcome!

October 4 welcomes the annual Day of Music that the UNC School of Music hosts! Luminos, a quartet I participate in, will be performing Palestrina's Missa Brevis at 1:10! I am also participating in a choir flash-mob performing Earth Song by Frank Ticheli at 12:05pm. Both events will take place at UNC's McKee Hall!



Renee Performance Tuesday October 8th at 7pm Our very own music director Renee Racek will be performing with the women's and men's glee club and middle concert choir. The concert takes place at the campus commons performance hall at UNC "1021 22nd st". Ample parking is available.

The Greeley Chorale

Saturday October 5th, 7:30 pm at UNC Campus Commons, 1051 22nd Street, Greeley. Tickets: 970-356-5000 or greeleychorale.org (Preseason discounts if purchased by October 1st!) Carol Brinkley is a member of our church as well as the Chorale and will be on stage singing. We are encouraged to go and show our support.

Chalice Arts Students from Chappelow Middle School and Greeley Central High School will be exhibiting work for Day Of the Dead Show starting mid-October.

We will have a First Friday Open House on November 1st for the community to see this Art Show. The Open House is from 6:30- 8pm. If you can bring a snack to share, let

Kathy Vaughn know. 970 371-1522.

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.

In Gratitude For Service

Thank you to Sharlene Meydell, Linda Burnett, Julie Miller and Josette Bond for making coffee this month.

Thanks to Hollis & Tim Berendt and Linda Burnett for setting up the tables and getting the potluck going. Thanks to all who helped Clean Up after the potluck.

Thank you to Julie Miller for cleaning up the parking lot after the big wind event.

Memories This Month

Members of our congregation participating in the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom supported the Climate Strike on September 19th.



Rosemary Edminson waving at passing cars honking their support.



Hollis Berendt, Anne Masterson address the gathering while Jane Wheeler and others listen.



Tim Berendt raising the warning signs.