



# Namaqua Unitarian Universalist Congregation

*A Home for Spiritual Growth, Free  
Thought and Loving Action*

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**NUUC meets each Sunday  
at 10:00 am at our home**  
745 East 5th Street  
Loveland, Colorado

**Contact Us: 970-685-0427**

Find us on the web  
[www.NamaquaUU.org](http://www.NamaquaUU.org)

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## Upcoming Services

### **September 1: Expectations - Worship Associates Doug Stewart and Felicia Stein**

Join us this Sunday to begin our exploration of September's theme of expectations. When, in the course of our lives, is having expectations a Good Thing, food for our soul - and when should we let go, and go with the flow?

### **September 8: Water Communion - Rev. Laurel Liefert, Worship Associate Janen Wright, and Guest Musician Katherine Azari**

You won't want to miss our traditional multi-generational ritual as we come together to celebrate the official beginning of a new church after the summer. You are invited to bring a small sample of water from (or representing) the places where you spent the summer. During the water communion, you will be invited to pour the water you brought into a common container, briefly sharing where it came from. In the coming year we will use this "holy water" for our Child Dedications and December Service of Healing and other special ceremonies. The combined water represents our diverse faith community working to build Beloved Community in Loveland and beyond. Special music will be provided by cellist Katherine Azari.

### **September 15: The Power/Possibility/Struggle/Joy of We - Rev. Laurel Liefert and Worship Associate Kathy Hartman**

Last June the 58th Annual General Assembly ("GA") of the Unitarian Universalist Association was held in Spokane, Washington. This was Rev. Laurel's 15th GA and Kathy's first. Thousands of UUs joined together under the theme "The Power/Possibility/Struggle/Joy of We," engaging in deeper discernment about the future of our faith. Come hear what Rev. Laurel and Kathy have brought home to change and heal ourselves, our covenanted communities, our association, and our hurting world. Who might be inspired to join us next June for the 59th Annual GA in Providence, Rhode Island?

### **September 22 - Worship Associates Lauren Daley and Peter Schenk**

We all might be familiar with the line, "We get what we expect." But are we prepared, through faith, to expect the unexpected? Join us this Sunday as we explore the magic in the unexpected and unexplained.

### **September 29: Faith: The Practice of Hopeful Expectation - Rev. Laurel, Worship Associate Susan Moody, and Guest Musician Tober Schorr**

This Sunday will focus on the connection between the Soul Matters monthly theme of "Expectation" and the sacred word "Faith." This year Soul Matters is offering what it calls a "Sacred Words Supplement" each month to deepen the potential theological dimension of our Sunday services. What does faith have to say about being a people of expectation? How does the idea of faith deepen our understanding of being a people of expectation? Guest musician Tober Schorr is one of the drum teachers who holds weekly classes in our Sanctuary and, in return, will be offering his musical gifts in some of our Sunday services

## President's Message

I'm writing in the second half of August, and already things are stirring in preparation for coming back together after the summer, starting with the Water Ceremony on September 8th.

The good team of Brenda Christiansen, Meagan Foster and Laurel have been interviewing candidates for our DRE position, and I'm hearing they've identified one or two good candidates already, wonderful news! However, best case, it'll take "a while" to determine a match, put a contract in place, and then for our new DRE to spin up. In the meantime, let's keep our ears open for how we can help out with Children's RE. Especially in the near term – but someone observed if we each take one or two Sundays a year to help out with our littler ones, we'd more than have enough helpers, and get to know our youngest generation better too.

Our Children's Religious Education ministry within the Committee on Shared Ministry (CoSM) is driving DRE selection and the Children's RE program, with the Board providing our whole-hearted support.

Meanwhile, the Board has developed quite a list of Things-To-Do for the year, and begun making progress. I've divvied up our Board work into 4 areas:

**Personnel:** hire DRE (working with CoSM, obviously; the Board signs the contract); Minister personnel review; build our Personnel Committee and review our personnel policies; perhaps gain more Admin support, as Tiffany is limited to 5 hours/week and we have 8 hours budgeted – and we'd like to offload Laurel as much as possible.

**Building:** gain fire protection; put Audio-Visual plans in place (and we have \$7k to start executing them, thanks to Glenda and the auction paddle-raiser); perhaps look at possible building remodeling plans, like more RE classrooms or increased social hall space, to handle current needs and future numeric growth.

**Financial:** Make our building loan payment of \$17k in February; prepare for a likely Capital Campaign in the Fall of 2020 to retire the remaining \$33k building debt – and fund those possible building remodeling / renovation opportunities. And "the usual": auction, Annual Budget Drive and creating the Budget, with congregational approval.

**Strategic:** Prepare for numeric growth, including thinking through 2 services, which seems a 'when' and not an 'if', if we keep up our good numeric growth (we welcomed 20 new members last year!); build our Restorative Practices capability, support our Welcoming Congregation designation and support Beloved Conversations anti-racism initiative.

Whew! That'll keep us out of mischief. Are we missing anything? Let me know...

Your Board is already digging into this list. We approved spending funds on fire protection (seems like a wise move); if something were to go amiss, we'll have an automatic alert to the fire station. Last meeting, your Board spent a fair amount of time on Laurel's personnel review; we seem to like her (!) – and want her to exemplify good work/life balance. We were glad to see she has put together a calendar of vacation and study leave for the year ahead.

So, yes, our church year has started up! I'm looking forward to seeing you at the Water Ceremony on September 8th – remember to bring a bit of water representing your summer.

Yours in building beloved community,  
Doug



## Minister's Musings



### Draw the Circle Wide!

I missed being with you all last month. But after some heavenly time off with family and friends, I am excited about what lies ahead for us. Can you believe that this is my 9th

year serving as your minister? And did you know that June 2020 marks the 20th anniversary of Namaqua?

Before I took off for vacation in early August, I completed two documents: (1) a 7-page Parish Minister Self-Evaluation of 2018-2019 for the Board of Trustees and (2) a 6-page 2019-2020 Overview that I sent to all of Namaqua's elected leaders. Both documents are available upon request to me or Board President Doug Stewart. Here I'd like to share with you how I began my Overview. It's an excerpt from [Bless the Imperfect: Meditations for Congregational Leaders](#), edited by Kathleen Montgomery, called "The Paradox of Organized Religion" by Dan Hotchkiss:

*Religion at its best is no friend of the status quo. Religion transforms people; no one touches holy ground and stays the same. Religious leaders stir the pot by pointing to the contrast between life as it is and life as it should be, and urging us to close the gap. Religious insights provide the handhold that people need to criticize injustice, rise above self-interest, and take risks to provide healing to a wounded world.*

*Organization, on the other hand, conserves. Institutions capture, schematize, and codify persistent patterns of activity. People sometimes say, "Institutions are conservative," and smile as if they had said something clever. But conservation is what institutions do. A well-ordered congregation lays down schedules, puts policies on paper, places people in positions, and generally brings order out of chaos. Organizations can be flexible, creative, and iconoclastic, but only by resisting some of D*

*No wonder "organized religion" is so difficult!*

*Congregations create sanctuaries where people can nurture and inspire each other – with results no one can predict. The stability of a religious institution is necessary for the instability that religious transformation brings. The need to balance both sides of this paradox – the transforming power of religious and the stabilizing power of organizations – makes leading congregations a unique challenge.*

I have immense gratitude for the brave leaders of Namaqua who have risen to this unique challenge. I also believe that this congregation is an example of an organization that can be flexible, creative, and iconoclastic, capable of balancing the paradox that Hotchkiss describes.

The theme I have in mind for this year is "Draw the Circle Wide," the title of a song written by Mark Miller, words by Gordon Light. Below is a version of the song by a high school chorus that I really like.

[Link to "Draw the Circle Wide"](#)

Draw the circle wide, draw the circle wide. No one stands alone; we'll stand side by side. Draw the circle wide; draw it wider still. Let this be our song! No one stands alone. Standing side by side, draw the circle wide!

Please join me – standing side by side - drawing the circle wide!

With Love, From Laurel



Liefert family on vacation in Yosemite

## Creative Corner

Carole Barton

Carole began painting with watercolor after retiring from Loveland High School in 2006. She has experimented with other media but always comes back to watercolor because of its unique properties. Most watercolor paint is transparent so the white of the paper glows through the paint and makes for brilliant color and texture.

She enjoys painting landscapes, portraits, and most recently abstracts with large curvilinear shapes derived from various things in nature such as flowers, rocks, slot canyons, and frost.

She is a member of the Colorado Watercolor Society and her work is on display at The Art Center of Estes Park.

Thanks to the many artists who shared their sketches, photography, coloring, and paintings throughout the August SUMMER SPLASH.



## Music Sharing Group

Again, I'm going to start a music sharing group. Those who come to Parker Hall bringing a CD or USB file will have it played on equipment I will provide so that we all can hear what music each of us enjoys. This will be open to anyone at Namaqua, whether they bring music or not. There will also be space for dancing to any music for those who want to. The initial date I'm hoping for will be Thursday Sept. 5th – I will confirm this later.

If you are in any way interested please let me know by texting 408-666-5305 or emailing me at peter@pschenk.com Responding to this is in no way a commitment to being there. Hope to hear from you. –Peter Schenk

## 7<sup>th</sup> Principle Circle

One of the lessons of "Setting Sun Woman," the Clan Mother of the 9th Moon Cycle is how to "be impeccable in preserving the Earth Mother's resources." Her story is told in "The 13 Original Clan Mothers" book by Jamie Sams. In that story, the evening/morning star joins with Setting Sun Woman to help assure future generations "a legacy of harmony and life abundant."

Nancy Amsler will share Setting Sun Woman's lessons when the 7th Principle Circle meets at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 3, in Mim Neal's home (733 W. 5th St.).

The circle is open to all those who identify as women whether or not they have participated in an earlier session and/or expect that they will be able to attend future gatherings. If you need a copy of the book, Mim Neal will help you find one.

If you can bring refreshments (or just want to know more) please contact Mim (mimneal@msn.com). Circle meetings are held once a month on the first Tuesday evening.

## Namaqua's Open Mic Night

**Friday, September 20th  
6:30—8:30 PM**

Come one, come all musicians, poets, comedians, actors, dancers, storytellers, jugglers - anyone who has something to share or wants to be part of a supportive audience is welcome.

Join us from 6:30—8:30 pm in the Sanctuary on September 20th. Bring your friends!



## The Power/Possibility/Struggle/Joy of We

**UUA General Assembly (GA), June 19-23, 2019 Spokane,  
Washington**

*“ . . . Hear: squeaky playground swings, trains whistling,  
or whispers across café tables, Hear: the doors we open  
for each other all day, saying: hello / shalom,  
buon giorno / howdy / namaste / or buenos días  
in the language my mother taught me—in every language  
spoken into one wind carrying our lives  
without prejudice, as these words break from my lips.”*

~ Richard Blanco, 2019 UUA Ware Lecturer, from One Day, a  
poem for Barack Obama’s Inauguration

Richard Blanco’s gentle, inspiring keynote lecture was just one of many moments at GA that pulled me in to a collective, uplifting gathering. I went alone to GA and very soon I felt a part of a large movement of creative, committed, activist Unitarian Universalists. My friends were in each of the chairs next to me at any service, workshop or meeting. We shared stories and ideas and suggestions on how to improve our services, communities or selves. I got to see the joy in Laurel’s voice as she sang with a large stage-filling choir. I could give you many details but mostly I’d like to invite you to find out for yourself by attending a General Assembly – next year in Providence, Rhode Island, June 24-28.

And, oh, the young people. If you want to believe that change and correction are possible, I can’t recommend a better venue. From an all-species parade to calls for future action to the formation of an orca whale with black umbrellas gathered around organized white spaces, the youth were rowdy and smart and give me great hope.

Gathering with other UUs is a transformative experience: “I” easily is seen through the lens of “we.”

And then to top it off – I found my people: the UU Hysterical Society. You shall benefit from this find.

Thank you for covering some of the expense of making this trip. I am forever grateful.

Kathy Hartman  
Past President & current member of Leadership Development  
Committee

*On a light note: Next time you order kale, say it with a silent “k.” It tastes much better.*

## Leadership Development Committee News

LDC currently consists of Karen Brock, Sara Jane Wilhelm and myself with appreciation to departing members Bill Rosquist and Cindy Black.

Our role, according to our bylaws, is to publicize, solicit and submit names of candidates for vacant positions on the Board, CoSM & LDC; to maintain job descriptions and resource files for all volunteer positions; to provide and promote leadership development, retreat planning, resources and assistance for elected leaders; and to assess individual skills. Big job – we’re doing parts of it really well and we’re looking to get even better. We’re busy right now planning for the Leadership Summit of all elected leaders on Sept. 14.

Another way we will be providing resources for current and future leaders is to tap into the vast resources of UUA. I will be digging into Denominational Affairs, the intent of which is to provide a liaison between the congregation and both the Unitarian Universalist Association and the region. I hope to tantalize you with opportunities to learn, to travel, to collaborate.

UU Fact: NamaquaUUC is part of the Mountain Desert District which includes eight states: Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, New Mexico with congregations in eastern Idaho, west Texas and western Nebraska. It is part of the Pacific Western Region of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Stay tuned . . .

Kathy Hartman

## Women's group is back!!

Andrea Van Nest , Diane Michel, and Janene Wright will head it. **Our first Get-together is Weds night, at church, Sept. 18th at 7 pm.** Please sign the sheet in church if you want to be on the mailing list and a regular. We will have a theme for each Get-together. Please e-mail Andrea Van Nest at [andreavannest@yahoo.com](mailto:andreavannest@yahoo.com) for info or questions.

## Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Care Team supports the congregation and friends during difficult times. They take care of such needs as arranging for meals and running errands, rides to appointments, help with moving or yard work, sick visits and companion walks for those recovering. They also help celebrate happy accomplishments.

If you, or someone you know, are in need of special support, please contact one of the team members:

Cindy Black: 970.214.8350

Els Deininger: 970.667.5881

Sally Henry: 970.391.1785

Rev Laurel Liefert: 970.685.0427

[PastoralCare@NamaquaUU.org](mailto:PastoralCare@NamaquaUU.org)

**Board meetings are held at 6:00 pm the second Tuesday of the month at 745 E. 5th Street in Parker Hall. All are welcome to observe.**

### **NUUC Board of Trustees for 2017-2018:**

Doug Stewart, President (Board term expires June 30, 2020)

Jim Danforth, Vice President (Board term expires 2020)

Dick Barton, Treasurer (Board term expires 2022)

Rebecca Williamson, Secretary (Board term expires 2021)

Pete Buchmeier, Trustee (term expires 2022)

Brenda Christiansen, Trustee (term expires 2020)

Jessie Allen-Young, Trustee (term expires 2021)

Rev. Laurel Liefert, ex-officio

To comment to the Board, email [Board@NamaquaUU.org](mailto:Board@NamaquaUU.org)

To reach the President, email [President@NamaquaUU.org](mailto:President@NamaquaUU.org)

## NUUC Elected Leaders

### **Committee on Shared Ministries (CoSM)**

Sara Suriani (term expires 2022)

Brian Jarvis (term expires 2021)

Paul McCarter (term expires 2022)

Sally Henry (term expires 2020)

Elaine Axon (term expires 2020)

### **Leadership Development Committee (LDC)**

Karen Brock (term expires 2020)

Cindy Black (term expires 2020)

Sarah Wilhelm (term expires 2021)

Kathy Hartman (term expires 2022)

## Birthdays

Sep 3 Ron Griese

Sep 8 Felicia Stein

Sep 10 Kim Jefferies

Sep 12 Titan Butcher

Sep 13 Bill Rosquist

Sep 14 Sheryl Griese

Sep 16 Pete Buchmeier

Sep 17 Nathan Hughes

Pedro Lopez

Sep 18 Peter Schenk

Sep 22 Kathy Hartman

Sep 23 David Urion

Sep 25 Shirley Rawson



## Anniversaries

Sep 6 Bill Parton & Leni Bohren

Sep 15 Nance Horowitz

Sep 24 Rob & Emily VanDoren

Sep 30 Meagan Foster & Glenn Pease

Let us know if you have a birthday or anniversary that you would like recognized in the newsletter. There is a sign-up calendar on the ledge above the sink in Parker Hall.

## Board of Trustees Highlights

### AUGUST Board of Trustees Highlights

#### Facilities Update

Bryan Jarvis and Jim Danforth report their most recent findings on fire-protecting our buildings:

- Jim again contacted Carie Dann Loveland Battalion Chief/Deputy Fire Marshal. He found out that we don't have to hook up with the fire department; but, if we do, we have to meet code. Therefore, Quality of Life had given us the most competitive bid to meet code (\$4000). This bid included a safety notification of people inside the building; plus taking over the current ADT system. It would also cover external AND internal alarm systems.
- Jim moved to accept the bid. Brenda seconded.

After discussion, the motion was amended to include an additional one time \$300 charge to connect up the security system.

The amended motion was passed unanimously.

- Next step: Isaac at Quality of Life will show his final plan to Carie Dann. If she approves, Bryan will be in touch with Isaac to give him the go ahead.

#### Financial Update

Dick Barton, treasurer, reports:

- There was more income than expenses in July- always a good thing.
- A problem did arise: the check sent to the Namaqua Center (our 1/2 plate recipient) was for full plate instead of ½ (\$2968.24 instead of \$1484.12). Board discussed possible solutions and decided that we definitely did NOT want to ask for \$1484.12 back. Possible options to compensate for the error down the road were discussed; but, nothing has been decided upon yet.

#### Rev Laurel's Parish Minister Evaluation (June 30, 2018 to July 1, 2019)

- The Board reviewed Rev Laurel's overview and self evaluation of eight major areas of her work with us: Worship and Music, Social Justice, Membership, Two Services, Youth Religious Education, Restorative Practice, Adult Enrichment, Community Involvement.
- The Board spent more than an hour discussing what Rev Laurel had written in addition to adding their own comments and feedback to each of the eight major areas. Selected Board members will meet with Laurel upon her return to provide her with the Board's feedback.

**Next Board meeting: September 10, at 6:30 pm in Parker Hall**

Respectfully submitted by Rebecca Williamson, Board of Trustees Secretary

**We are on the web!**  
**www.NamaquaUU.org**

## Our Mission

Namaqua Unitarian Universalist Congregation fosters a beloved community that celebrates diversity, strives for peace and justice, acts mindfully for the good of the planet, and inspires spiritual growth through a free and loving search for truth and meaning.

Namaqua Unitarian Universalist Congregation is a liberal congregation in the Loveland-Berthoud area with about **200 members and friends** from diverse religious and cultural backgrounds .

We affirm the worth of every human being and welcome to our congregation all persons without regard to age, gender, race, sexual orientation, disability, or other class of exclusion.

Our faith tradition calls us to actively engage in justice-making by advocating on behalf of oppressed peoples, working toward a healthier, more sustainable world, and witnessing for a more just and tolerant society.

You can save money and trees by choosing the email version of this newsletter. If you would like to receive Namaqua Crossings through email, send your request to [nuuc@namaquauu.org](mailto:nuuc@namaquauu.org).

Send items for publication to [newsletter@namaquauu.org](mailto:newsletter@namaquauu.org)

**Due dates for the next two issues:**

**For the October Newsletter: September 22**

**For the November Newsletter: October 20**

### NUUC E-mail Addresses

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