



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

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Upcoming Services

November 3 (Daylight Savings Time ends - Fall back): How Do We Want To Be Remembered? - Worship Associates Doug Stewart and Felicia Stein

We all leave footprints in the sands of time; so will we as a congregation. How does each of us want to be remembered as an individual and how do we want to be remembered for our time together? Worship Associates Felicia Stein and Doug Stewart will take a step back from the hustle and bustle and pause to consider these questions.

November 10: What Does It Mean To Be a People of Attention? - Rev. Laurel Liefert and Worship Associate Lauren Daley

Alice Walker famously wrote, "I think it pisses God off if you walk by the color purple in a field somewhere and don't notice it." Our monthly worship theme of Attention goes hand in hand with gratitude. Paying attention wakes us up to notice and appreciate life's many gifts. Paying attention also makes it impossible to ignore life's pain. In this service, we will explore how attention both makes us fall in love with life's beauty and also awakens in us a commitment to give of ourselves to protect that beauty.

November 17: Prayer: The Path of Turning Our Attention to What Matters Most - Rev. Laurel, Worship Associate Angela Arvola, and Guest Musicians Phoenix

Initially, Unitarian Universalists may scoff at the idea of prayer - "I don't believe in prayer! To ask God for what you want is like asking Santa Claus to bring toys at Christmas!" This is not the kind of prayer we will be talking about. "If the only prayer you ever say in your life is thank you, it will be enough." (Meister Eckhart) Dare to bring your open minds and hearts to consider how prayer can be as diverse as our interpretations of that which we call Holy. Special music will be provided by Phoenix, Colorado's Trans Community Choir.

November 20 (Wednesday, 7:00-8:00 PM): Transgender Day of Remembrance - Rev. Laurel Liefert, Worship Associate Elizabeth Fraser, and Social Justice Chair Sheryl Griese

Once again, Namaqua will hold an evening service in honor of the Transgender Day of Remembrance. Our candlelight vigil will memorialize those who have been murdered as a result of transphobia, and will draw attention to the continued violence endured by the transgender community.

November 24: Give Thanks - Worship Associates Janet Gillette and Susan Moody

To whom or what do we give thanks? To whom or what do we pray? With the Thanksgiving Holiday on the horizon, join Worship Associates Janet Gillette and Susan Moody as they explore how "Attention" and "Prayer" relate to the practice of giving thanks from the perspective of Unitarian Universalists.

President's Message

November! The leaves have changed their colors and they've let go on late October winds. Fall is here!

By the time you read this, we'll have taken stock of ourselves in our Fall Congregational Meeting, our 'State of the Union'. I'm in the midst of preparing for it, and glad to say we're in good shape. Consider:

- We have a wonderful **minister** in Laurel. We're so fortunate to have found one another and to have cultivated such a mutually caring, trusting, and healthy relationship over the years.
- We're off to a wonderful beginning with our new **Director of Religious Education**, Janen, who is already making a difference with our village's children.
- **Finances** are running on-budget, good! But see the article in this issue to get connected up to grocery store rebates for Namaqua – that's free money for us.
- We thank **Shirley Rawson** for long service in **writing our checks** to pay our bills and thank **Debra Downing** for taking this on for us!
- Our **building** is solid, with normal maintenance. Thanks to those who pitched in on 'maintenance day' on Saturday, October 26th! Too, we're in process of getting an upgraded fire alarm that will be connected to the fire station.

The Committee on Shared Ministries (CoSM), who is responsible for our programs, and Leadership Development Committee, responsible for recruiting and matching elected positions and, well, leadership development, will speak for themselves, but from the Board's perspective they're doing a wonderful job.

What's on the Board's radar? A couple things in the near term:

- **Administrator:** Tiffany is doing a wonderful job, but is limited to 5 hours a week and now lives in Boulder. CoSM and Laurel could use more administrative help. The good news is we have money in the budget for more, something around another 3-5 hours / week.
- **Member-Employees:** But, in the October Board meeting, we decided we could wait a month before advertising this, to decide in the November meeting whether we want to change our current employment policy which allows members to be employees.
 - This is tricky, we're finding. Some congregations simply ban it outright. Others have a more nuanced policy, recognizing it has both benefits and the potential for harming the employee and the congregation. It'll be a good discussion.

I always have an eye on creating Beloved Community; I hope you do too. There are two opportunities I'd especially like to call your attention to, one within these walls and one outside of them:

- **LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation Workshop:** Being a *LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation* is part of Namaqua's DNA – but only if each of us brings awareness. Just what *does* being an LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation mean, for each of us? *This workshop develops and deepens our sense*. If you haven't attended this in the past, please do so if you can. **Thursday, November 14, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm in Parker Hall**. Sign up in the Adult RE binder in the social hall.
- **Rally for the Homeless:** A rare opportunity to stand up and be counted when it counts. Much to their credit, the Loveland City Council authorized a study on how to help the homeless. The study is back– now the City Council needs to implement it. This rally is to learn more about how and show the City Council our support for doing so. We're part of advertising this widely and expecting 200-300 people; please be one of them! **Sunday, November 10th 5:00–6:30pm Eagles Nest at St. John's Catholic, 1730 W 12th St, Loveland.**

Yours in creating beloved community together, Doug

Religious Education

Thank you to all who have made this first month of being a new DRE at Namaqua so wonderful. I have found so much joy in this early work and, combined with a trip to New England to repeatedly happen upon UU historical sites, I couldn't feel more blessed to be a Unitarian Universalist!

If you are a parent/guardian who couldn't make it to our Kick Off meeting on the 18th please stop by to get a letter about all that we have in the works this year. (They are tied with red ribbon and a pin and are in a basket on the registration table.) For my wonderful RE Ministry Team and the parents who made it to the meeting we had a great discussion of what makes us excited about our faith and how we can share that enthusiasm with the young people in our lives. We talked about how children come naturally spiritual- full of wonder and awe and hopefulness as well as how they, too, thirst for purpose and belonging and answers every bit as much as adults do. To truly belong to a spiritual community can really make a difference in a child or teen's life so thank you parents and guardians for bringing your kids to church as often as you are able and thank you to everyone for making them feel like the important part of our congregation that they are.

The first thing I did when I was hired for this position is make a picture song poster of the hymn Spirit of Life due to a lesson I learned from a 7-year-old girl in my last congregation. This little girl was, frankly, a bit of a holy terror, to the point that some weeks her dad had to accompany her to RE in order to keep her in check. One week that her dad wasn't with us (yet), we sang Spirit of Life in Opening Circle and as soon as we finished this little girl asked if we could sing it again. I was surprised, to say the least, and watched the transfixed glow on her face as we sang it a second time. After church she came up to me and asked me if I would write the words down for her and sing it again so she could remember it.

As I wrote out the words for her I shared with her that this song had magic in it for me too. In fact I showed her how I had cross-stitched the words and framed them and how whenever I was feeling anxious or sad I would think of this song and it would always make me feel better- no matter what. Of course she clearly already knew for herself the power of this song. It spoke directly to her soul.

I have had a wonderful time teaching the Elementary class with the assistants who have signed up to help me. (There are more dates available on the sign-up poster of the RE door if you are able to offer me a Sunday.) I am also looking forward to meeting with our Mid-High Youth to figure out a time that they can get together and what kind of a program they would like to be involved in this year. Stay tuned and I'll keep you posted!

Blessings, Janen Wright



Minister's Musings



Building Beloved Community

During the October 20 Sunday service, Barbara Fleming spoke about her offer to strengthen our church community by sharing congregational news through the newsletter in a column she is calling Building Beloved Community. Through this monthly communication we can learn of joys, accomplishments, concerns and sorrows even if we have not been in church on the Sunday when they were shared with the congregation; even if they have not been shared in church at all.

It is our hope that, with the opening of hearts and lives to each other in this way, we can build stronger bonds, come to know each other more deeply, and create a closer community. Barbara is offering to do this for three months on a trial basis, partly to honor her late husband, Tom Fleming, who gave so much of himself to NUUC. If you feel this will benefit our congregation and you are willing to tell others your news, whatever it may be, contact her at

BuildingBelovedCommunity@namaquauu.org. If she gets enough support she will continue to contribute the column as long as she is able, and she hopes it will continue into the future.

Creative Corner

Many thanks to **Trish Murtha** for gracing our Creative Corner during October with her lovely watercolors. Maybe you found a pack of cards in her basket to purchase.

During November, you'll have the opportunity to see some of the new techniques **Renie Poole** has been exploring when she displays a selection of her latest photos. Enjoy her bio below:

Renie Poole is the artist of the month for November. Photography has been her passion for many years. She was one of the photographers to exhibit their work at the Cecil County Art Council's First Annual Photography Exhibit in Maryland, in the late 90's. Her first entry earned her the People's Choice Award. She recently achieved the highest ranking, Master's 2, within the Loveland Photographic Society. Renie spent about 14 years doing the graphics and photography for over 70 websites, has photographed several weddings, and created several pictorial directories for churches both here and on the east coast. Her work has been published in books, brochures, web sites, and magazines.

After relocating to CO, her photography outings turned to mountains and sunsets, and all the wonderful scenery of the west. Recently she's been doing more abstract photography some of which will be featured in Namaqua's Creative Corner for the month of November. More of her photography can be seen at www.LKPoole.com.

Fair Trade Coffee Announcement

Do you need a new gift idea? How about a bag of coffee from the counter in Parker Hall next to the program sign-up sheets? Do you realize they're a NUUC fundraiser very much in keeping with our social justice principles? The items are all Fair Trade—that means the beans are sustainably produced and farmers are paid a fair price for them. NUUC sells each bag for \$11.00 which is competitive with mainstream groceries for high end coffees. But this way the markup (\$2/bag) goes to us instead of a major multinational corporation! There are both regular and decaf products in whole bean as well as ground versions. It's a trust system—place either cash or checks—with 'coffee' on the memo line—in the marked envelope. Come on, Coffee drinkers, check out excellent coffee that helps farmers in developing countries as well as our own congregation!

Mark Your Calendars!

Climate Change in Colorado: How it is affecting our Home and our Health

This 2-hour discussion will be presented on **Sunday, Nov. 10th from 6-8pm, at Namaqua Unitarian Universalist Church** in Loveland, 745 E. 5th St.

CSU Professor Emeritus William Parton, at the Natural Resources Ecology Lab, has been researching the effects of climate change in Colorado and will report his findings. James Danforth, MD, a retired family physician with interest in preventive medicine, will discuss what we know about how climate change is impacting, and will continue to impact our health. The presentation is free and open to all.

Welcoming Congregation Workshop

Improve your understanding of LGBTQ+ identities and experiences by joining a two-hour session **Thursday, November 14, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm in Parker Hall**. We will have small group, large group and reflective time during this session. Facilitated by Doug Stewart dougstewart@gmail.com and Sheryl Griese sherylgriese@gmail.com. Support our designation as a Welcoming Congregation!

7th Principle Circle

Cindy Black and Janen Wright will lead the 7th Principle Circle gathering beginning **7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 5, in Parker Hall**. They will be sharing the lessons of "Walks Tall Woman" (pages 220-239 in *The 13 Original Clan Mothers* by Jamie Sams). The Clan Mother of the 11th moon is she Who Walks Her Talk, a leader of integrity who must learn the value of contemplation in balance with achievement.

As usual, we will start with check-in, smudging, and calling the seven directions. The gathering 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. Please bring refreshments/ snacks if you can. Circle meetings are held once a month on the first Tuesday evening.

Namaqua's Open Mic Night

Friday, November 15th

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 November 15th. Bring your friends!

Be The Gift: Angel House and Community Kitchen

This holiday season we will be helping those beyond our walls and here's how you can be the gift. Through Angel House, we partner with King of Glory Lutheran Church to support families with children who find themselves temporarily homeless. We will be providing dinners on **Tuesday, December 17th and Thursday, December 19th**. We'll need a main dish, a salad, and a dessert and would love to have you be a part of this team making spirits bright!

Then on **Friday, December 27th** we'll be serving lunch to those in our community who need it most at the Loveland Community Kitchen. The Kitchen is located at 427 N. Garfield Ave., just behind Meals on Wheels. There's no cooking involved here, as the food is generously provided by Meals on Wheels and our team will be there to set up, serve lunch, and clean up from 10:30am-1:00pm.

Please contact Linda Danforth at (970) 646-1201 or lindaldanforth@gmail.com to lend your helping hands! Thank you!

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

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

To reach the President, email 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

Nov 2 Bill Parton

Nov 4 Elliot Milden

Nov 5 John Poole

Nov 7 Don Rawson

Nov 10 Nancy Kain

Nov 12 Aidan Christiansen

Nov 12 Carol Koch

Nov 16 Sawyer Brooks

Nov 21 Linda Danforth

Nov 23 Wil Brumley

Nov 25 Brenda Henderson

Nov 28 Trish Murtha

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

The Board continued their discussion of this year's deep chair common read: *The Growing Church: Keys to Congregational Vitality*, Thom Belore, editor.

New Director of Religious Education (DRE)

Rev Laurel reported that she and new DRE, Janen Wright, met for almost 3 hours last week and plan to meet at least every other week. Their next meeting will include some time with Kathy Vaughn to bring Janen up to speed on specific traditions, such as making sugar skeletons for Día de los Muertos. Janen and the RE Committee met last week.

Other Personnel Business

- Doug is following up on a new working agreement with Laurel.
- Wendy Darling's snow removal and lawn mowing contract is signed.
- Tiffany Beisner (administrative assistant) is working remotely 5 hours a week (although 8 hours have been budgeted); ministries need that other 3 hours covered; the Congregation needs "paid" time, **not** volunteer (a lot of unnecessary energy expenditure goes into finding volunteer staff).
- Before advertising for the administrative position, Board will make a decision on whether we can hire members of the congregation. Current policy allows for members to be employees. Doug will follow up with more info on pros and cons and will distribute to Board. Plan: Make a decision next (November) Board meeting.
- Continuing to try to constitute a personnel committee.

Facilities Update

Jim Danforth reports that we are

- Looking for an electrician to take care of stabilizer
- Looking for a person to clean the gutters
- Waiting for fire department approval of Quality Life's proposed plan

Pete Buchmeier distributed a list of needed maintenance and repairs. He asked for Board help prioritizing the maintenance/repair jobs that need done.

Financial Update

Dick Barton, treasurer, reports

- An e-vote was taken in support of our Immigrant Freedom Fund Committee; the Committee was authorized to open a bank account in Aurora - nearer the detention - center under the auspices of Namaqua Unitarian Universalist Congregation, NUUC, including using NUUC's tax exempt status, to conduct their business.
There were no calls for discussion. The motion passed with four "yes" votes and no "no" votes.
- We are looking into what it would take for us to be able to accept credit cards e.g., auction payments and pledges.
- Budget-wise: basically same amount of dollars in as dollars out. We did receive \$2000 in early pledges which will be moved to Operating funds.

Next Board meeting: November 12, 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.

Send items for publication to newsletter@namaquauu.org

Due dates for the next two issues:

For the November Newsletter: November 17

For the December Newsletter: December 15

NUUC E-mail Addresses

AdultEnrichment@NamaquaUU.org
 Board@NamaquaUU.org
 BuildingBelovedCommunity@NamaquaUU.org
 Buildings@NamaquaUU.org
 Calendar@NamaquaUU.org
 CoSM@NamaquaUU.org
 DenominationalAffairs@NamaquaUU.org
 Directory@NamaquaUU.org
 DRE@NamaquaUU.org
 Facebook@NamaquaUU.org
 Membership@NamaquaUU.org
 Music@NamaquaUU.org
 Newsletter@NamaquaUU.org
 nuucForum@NamaquaUU.org
 OoS@NamaquaUU.org
 PastoralCare@NamaquaUU.org
 Photos@NamaquaUU.org
 President@NamaquaUU.org
 Publicity@NamaquaUU.org
 SocialJustice@NamaquaUU.org
 Visitor@NamaquaUU.org
 nuuc@NamaquaUU.org (to send an e-mail message to the congregation)



Mailing address:

NUUC

745 E. 5th Street

Loveland CO 80537