



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

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www.NamaquaUU.org

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Upcoming Services

December 1: What Does It Mean To Be a People of Awe?- Rev. Laurel Liefert & Worship Associate Peter Schenk

As physicists tell us, contemplation of the vast universe doesn't make them feel small, it makes them realize the larger story of which they are a part. We are stardust. To be a people of awe is not so much about feeling small; it's about feeling connected.

December 8: Reverence - Rev. Laurel Liefert and Worship Associate Angela Sunderland

"Why reverence? Because we have forgotten what it means. Because reverence fosters leadership and education. Most important, because reverence kindles warmth in friendship and family life. And because without reverence, things fall apart." (Reverence: Renewing a Forgotten Virtue by Paul Woodruff)

December 15: Preparing for the Longest Night - Worship Associate Kathy Hartman and Mim Neal

In keeping with our Namaqua tradition, this morning's multi-generational service will include a participatory ritual in which we will build several wreaths together, adorning them with our wishes for the coming year. Then on Saturday evening, December 21st, we will burn the wreaths.

Wednesday, December 18 (7:00- 8:00 PM): Healing - Rev. Laurel Liefert and Worship Associate Janet Gillette

This evening we will come together for a tender and quiet service of healing. While the outer world dazzles with colorful lights, parties, and holiday cheer, some of us are struggling. It is hard to celebrate when your heart is breaking. Or perhaps your heart is full of gratitude - "joy and woe are woven fine." You are invited to bring all that you are, all that you love, all that you've lost, all that you long for into a circle of quiet and healing. Join us.

Saturday, December 21 (5:00-7:00 PM): Winter Solstice Potluck and Ritual - Rev. Laurel Liefert and Fun & Fellowship

Join us for a potluck supper followed by our annual Winter Solstice ritual. We will drum and sing chants and burn the wreaths we decorated with our wishes, sending them with the smoke into the winter sky. Once again, with the help of Fun & Fellowship, Kathy Hartman has generously offered her home - 945 E.6th St - for our potluck and celebration.

December 22: Celebrate & Sing! - Rev. Laurel Liefert & Director of Religious Education Janen Wright

On this Sunday before Christmas, let's come together as a community of seekers to celebrate and sing!

(continued on next page...)

Upcoming Services (con't)

December 24: 4:00-5:00 PM - Christmas Presents - Director of Religious Education Janen Wright & Rev. Laurel Liefert

Join us for our family Christmas Eve service! Did you know that some of the best Christmas presents we can give to people we love don't even come from stores? After a service of singing and stories and candlelight, join us for cookies and cocoa in Parker Hall.

December 24: 8:00 PM Contemplative Christmas Eve - Rev. Laurel Liefert & Worship Associate Elizabeth Fraser

If you would like to take time this evening to be quiet, peaceful, and grateful together, join us. We will be nourished by silence and poetry and music, closing with a candlelight ceremony as we sing "Silent Night."

December 29: Sounds of Silence - Rev. Laurel Liefert & Worship Associate Kathy Hartman

Borrowing from a Taize-style service, we will sit together in silence, meditation, prayer, and song, as we say farewell to 2019 and wonder what 2020 will bring.

Religious Education

At this time of year, and always, there is so much to be in awe of - which is our church theme for December. It brings to my mind Thornton Wilder's play *Our Town*. In it Emily, a 12 year old girl, is allowed to look back from heaven at one day of her life - her 12th birthday. This is what she says before leaving. "I can't look at everything hard enough. Wait! One more look. Goodbye, goodbye, world. Goodbye Grover's Corners...Mama and Papa. Goodbye to clocks ticking and Mama's sunflowers. And food...and new ironed dresses and hot baths ...and sleeping and waking up. Oh earth, you're too wonderful for anybody to realize you. Do any human beings ever realize life while they live it, every, every minute?"

Indeed, just to be is a blessing. I am going into this holiday season determined to simplify so I can see every aspect of my life and everyone in it with new eyes. It has always struck me how kids, in particular, have a natural born sense of wonder and awe and seeing things through their eyes is always a treat. Thank you for bringing your children to church. I see the blessing it can be in their lives and wish it for all children.

In the month of November our past Mid-High teachers and youth brainstormed what it is we are going for this year. We have decided to meet the 2nd and 4th Sundays at 1:30 starting in January. We will both do activities and plan Out of Church events for which we can invite the youth from neighboring faiths to join us. The First Presbyterian church invited our youth to join

them for the Loveland Festival of Lights on Nov. 22 so this is a starting place in our getting to know youth from fellow churches.

The youth would also love a space to call their own and, at least a temporary idea, is to use the balcony of the sanctuary for a youth space. The idea is to round up some some bean bag chairs or other casual seating that can be stored in the bell tower on Sundays and brought out for youth gatherings. If any of you have a bean bag chair that you could donate for this cause please let me know.

Looking forward, the teens have also agreed to help me with a Parent's Night Out on Dec. 13. from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. We are planning a Christmas party for all children, complete with a spaghetti dinner, crafts, games and movies so parents can take a night to relax or get some Christmas shopping done free of charge! Also remember the Family Christmas Eve Service on Dec. 24 @ 4:00. We will have Christmas carols and story pictures up on the screen using our new church projector and end at 4:45 with cookies and hot cocoa. All are invited to attend with or without children. (There will also be a more contemplative Christmas Eve Service at 8:00 this year.)

And finally, we are collecting new or gently used toys to help the Larimer County Toys for Tots up until Dec. 15th. (Look for a large box in the Parker Hall.) It's a great time to clean out those closets in anticipation of Santa's next visit. Have a jolly holiday season and Merry Christmas to all!

Janen Wright, Director of Religious Education

President's Message

We've held our **Fall Congregational Meeting**, in which we presented the state of our congregation – strong and active– and with a good listening session around the question:

“How can we foster growth and UU Principles inside and outside of our walls?”

Listening to one another incorporated a **Restorative Practice**, passing a talking stick – or a talking giraffe, which Laurel brought, with its big heart and its long neck sticking out, as perhaps some of us did with our ideas. A good practice for us to integrate into our culture.

While I can't list all the good thoughts here, I've made an attempt to categorize the 40 responses:

- Outreach:
 - Develop programs for families, including youth; attract more young families!
 - Be active in outside organizations and bring our values to them.
 - Invite other organizations here as a meeting place; get them used to us.
 - Create classes/forums/workshops of interest to the community and invite them.
 - Reach out to neighbors.
 - Radiate hospitality.
- In-reach:
 - Be intentional about meeting and fostering relationships with newer members.
 - Always stay at the table. Listen to one another. Teach us and other restorative practices.
 - Don't spread ourselves too thin. Do what we do well.
 - Music attracts! Get a Music Director.
- Facilities / Space:
 - Improve sanctuary functionality (e.g., pews on wheels to reconfigure the space).
 - Expand Parker Hall to host public events.
 - Be careful about spending too much money on remodeling our space; we may go to another before too long.
 - Look for future space options – start keeping our ears open for other properties.

Good ideas there, and a very positive tone overall. Thanks to all who participated!

Meantime, what has your Board been up to?

- We reviewed our policy on whether **members can be employees**: yes, and we now require a covenant, as we recognize the relationship is affected by becoming an employee/employer.
- We're looking for **administrative help**. Tiffany has done an outstanding job—and we need more administrative time. (If you're interested or know someone who might be, let me know).
- We're considering **making the pews mobile**. There's an 'experimental' pew enabled, the first pew on the right as you come into the sanctuary. Should we spend \$700 to mobilize all of them?

Finances are stable and we're on-track for the next loan payment in February, thanks in no small part to those who took part in *Wake Now Our Vision, putting NUUC in their will, and gaining us a \$15,000 bonus of which we've gained the first half.*

Please show your support at the *Homeless Rally, 12/5 7:00-8:30pm at St. John's Catholic—see the advertisement within. The Mayor and several City Council members will attend. I'll see you there!*

Yours in building beloved community together,
Doug





Minister's Musings

Building Beloved Community

Dear Ones,

Why do we go to the trouble of getting out of our pajamas and leaving our homes to come to church on Sunday mornings? Why do we march for climate justice and immigrant's rights? Why do we pledge a meaningful share of our "treasure" to Namaqua? Why do we volunteer to make coffee and bring snacks and spend hours in meetings? Why do we play music for free in our Sunday services? Why do we gather for a candlelight vigil on the Transgender Day of Remembrance? Why do we spend a Friday evening with our children carving pumpkins?

I found a beautiful way to answer these questions in a chapter called "What We Receive: The Discipline of Gratitude" in *God-Revised: How Religion Must Evolve in a Scientific Age* by UU minister Galen Guengerich.

"In the movie *Shall We Dance*, Richard Gere plays a bored middle-aged attorney who surreptitiously takes up ballroom dancing. His wife, played by Susan Sarandon, becomes suspicious at his renewed energy and vitality. She hires a private detective, who discovers the dance studio and reports the news. She decides to let her husband continue dancing undisturbed.

"In the scene where she meets the private detective in a bar to pay his fee and end the investigation, they linger over a drink and discuss why people marry in the first place. The detective, whose countless investigations into infidelity have rendered him cynical about marriage, suggests that the desire to marry has something to do with hormones and passing fancy.

"She disagrees. The reason we marry, she insists, is that "we need a witness to our lives. There's a billion people on the planet... I mean, what does any one life really mean? But in a marriage, you're promising to care about everything. The good things, the bad things, the terrible things, the mundane things... all of it, all the time, every day. You're saying "Your life will not go unnoticed because I will notice it. Your life will not go unwitnessed because I will be your witness."

"The sacramental bond that units two people in a marriage or committed relationship is known as a covenant. A Covenant – the word means mutual agreement – is a promise to bear witness to the life of another: the good things, the terrible things, the mundane things.

"At its heart, the relationship among members of a religious community is covenantal as well. As with marriage, the relationship also includes other dimensions, such as friendship and perhaps financial and/or legal partnership. But the defining commitment that members of a religious community make to each other arises from their calling – their covenantal duty – to bear witness to each other's lives: the lives they lead now and the lives they hope to lead in the future, and the world they now occupy and the world they hope to occupy in the future.

"It's worth remembering that the word "religion" does not mean liberating or setting free, but rather binding together. Religion unites the purpose of our lives as human beings with the purpose that animates the universe. Religion unites the spirit of humanity with the energy that keeps the stars shining, the planets spinning, and the flowers blooming in the springtime. Gratitude is the appropriate religious response to our experience of being part of, yet utterly dependent upon, the people around us and the universe that sustains us."

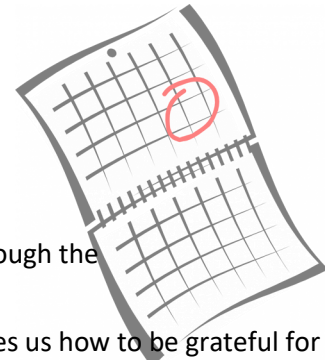
May we embody our covenant, as we bear witness to one another – the good things, the terrible things, the mundane things. May the message we say to one another in our words and in our actions be "your life will not go unnoticed because I will notice it. Your life will not go unwitnessed because I will witness it."

And when we fall short, as we inevitably will, may we forgive ourselves and each other, and begin again in love.

From Laurel, With Love

*This column is an excerpt from my October 20th homily. In that service, Barbara Fleming offered to write a column called "Building Beloved Community" for the Crossings, Namaqua's monthly newsletter. Please take the time to help us witness one another's lives by submitting in writing news of your joys and sorrows to BuildingBelovedCommunity@namaquauu.org. Thank you!

Mark Your Calendars!



7th Principle Circle

Beginning at **7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 3**, Kim Skyelander will lead the 7th Principle Circle through the lessons of "Gives Praise" woman, the Clan Mother of the Twelfth Moon Cycle.

As the group gathers in Parker Hall, we will hear the story of the Clan Mother who teaches us how to be grateful for everything we experience in life. On pages 240-259 of Jamie Sams' book, *The 13 Original Clan Mothers*, Sams writes "...magic is no more than a change in consciousness. Right attitude and a change of heart have created more miracles in people's lives than all the sorcery ever performed throughout time."

As usual, we will start with check-in, smudging, and calling the seven directions. 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. 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, December 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 December 20th. 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!

Winter Solstice Potluck & Celebration

Saturday, December 21 5:00 - 7:00 pm

Join this family friendly evening for a potluck supper followed by our annual Winter Solstice Ritual. We will drum and sing chants and burn the wreaths we built the previous Sunday. The smoke will carry our wishes into the winter sky.

Festivities will take place at the home of Kathy Hartman, 945 E. 6th St in Loveland, just around the corner from the church. Please bring food to share. Beverages provided. A small set-up crew is needed at 3:30 pm. Call Kathy at 970-980-5101 to assist.

Kindness Column

In the spirit of Mr. Rogers' quote: "When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping,'" we are starting a Kindness Column. Do you have a story, an experience, an observation you'd like to share that demonstrates our ability to help others possibly more than we thought possible? If so, send it to me, Kathy Hartman at knhumans@gmail.com

Here's one to get us started.

Moroccan Proverb: Two reeds drink from the same stream. One is hollow, the other is sugarcane.

In my travels back from Casablanca on the flight from Atlanta to Denver an instructive event occurred.

A "little old man" – 55? 65? – a bit odd, with a too-big oxford shirt and a mismatched bright green tie was guided to the middle seat in the row in front of me.

He sat down and took off his tie and shirt revealing a very hairy torso and began to wave his arms about, intruding into his neighbors' space. Tried to put his cell phone on the seat back in front and it started to fall forward. Disruptive, to be sure. The man to his right, 35ish, smartly dressed, yelled at the intrusion, pulled himself away and crouched into the window to make himself as small as possible. The man on the aisle started to talk with him. He pushed the call light as did the row in front and the seat across the aisle. Told him his phone would fall and handed it back to him; told him he needed to put his clothes back on. Talked with him gently and calmly. Asked him what he might need; offered him water.

Two flight attendants appeared, one calmly asked the

man how he was doing and how she could help. The other demanded that he put his shirt back on immediately. The man was clearly confused and not able to maneuver in the seat to get the shirt on. The gentleman on his left helped dress him and buttoned each button for him. Continued to talk with him calmly. The guy on the right was still pissed off and made some mildly threatening comments and gestures and asked to have this man moved. The plane was full.

Flight attendants left. The man was still confused – maybe with a mental illness or a developmental issue. Travelling alone. Now I see the man on the aisle is a 50-something Indian man. He continues to kindly, calmly and quietly dedicate himself to taking care of this distressed stranger.

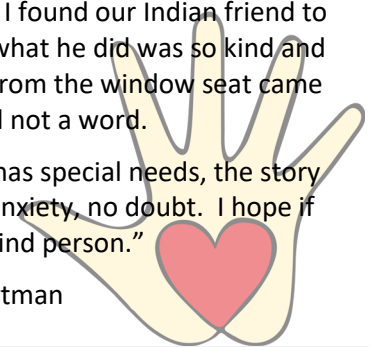
Next our little man says that he's feeling sick and 3 call lights get pressed. They eventually move the man to the back row after getting someone's agreement to relocate. He settles in to his new seat. The Indian man asks about him and eventually goes back to check on him and reports back that all seems well.

The flight attendant comes later to give 7 people some form of compensation for the disruption they experienced. All accepted. I wondered who needed it more than the little old man.

When we got off the plane, I found our Indian friend to thank him. I told him that what he did was so kind and beautiful. The fearful man from the window seat came and shook his hand but said not a word.

I told my son Nathan, who has special needs, the story and he said, "Mom, that's anxiety, no doubt. I hope if it happens to me I sit by a kind person."

I hope we all do! Kathy Hartman



Save the Date

Join Tom Mitchell and Rebecca Williamson at their home in Fort Collins on **January 25 at 5:00** for the first circle sUUpper of 2020! Tom and Rebecca will provide the main dish (TBA) and drinks. A sign-up sheet will soon magically appear in Parker Hall that will give you the opportunity to volunteer a side dish, an appetizer, a salad, bread, or maybe some dessert. There will be room for 8 other Namaquans- and one of those spots is already spoken for!

Come join us and get to know some of your fellow UU's on a whole new level! More details are coming soon!

Leadership Experience

January 17-19, 2020 in Golden, CO & 6 online sessions (Feb - April)

. . . Calling all Current & Emerging Leaders . . .

If you are reading this before Dec 1 you are not too late to register for this year's Leadership Experience. Participants will gain a deeper grounding in Unitarian Universalism and knowledge and skills regarding mission-focused leadership, systems thinking, change management, anti-oppression and multicultural transformation, and conflict transformation as well as other topics.

Many of us have not had the opportunity to attend the Russell Lockwood Leadership school which this replaces. Attendees have found this training to be life transforming and deeply meaningful. This is a major commitment - a full weekend retreat + 6 video call sessions over 3 months presumably with homework. And it costs \$450.

There are some scholarships from the school, and the Board allocated up to \$500 to help defray people's costs (that's a total, not per-person). LDC also has some funds to support attendance. LDC is the coordination point.

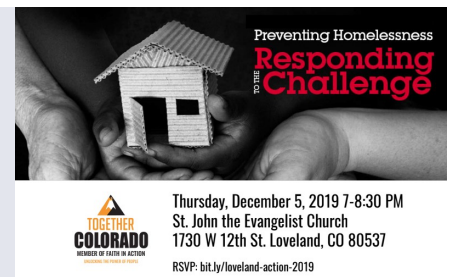
Please contact Kathy Hartman, Karen Brock, Sarah Jane Wilhelm or Doug Stewart for more information, to inquire about further details and to check in about available funds. We would really like to see a few people attend.

Rally for the Homeless

Show your presence! Demonstrate the importance of Loveland helping the homeless by attending:

Much to their credit, the Loveland City Council commissioned a plan to address homelessness in Loveland. **Now the plan is back, and we need to show our support in their instituting its first steps.** The Mayor and several City Council members have agreed to attend. Please show your support in their helping the homeless by your presence!

(Questions? See Doug Stewart or Laurel)



Holiday Giving Tree

Our annual holiday Giving Tree makes its appearance November 24th, and this year we've organized two opportunities to share with those in need:

Bring non-perishable food to be donated to Larimer County Food Bank. Last year we donated about 300 pounds of food! Can we do better this year?

Donate to The Habitat for Humanity towards a "Faith Build" home meaning all Loveland churches and faith communities have been asked to volunteer and raise funds for the home. This home is for a couple that are getting married, Sarah and Caleb, who don't have affordable housing options otherwise. Caleb is currently paying over 50% of his income for an apartment with a roommate and Sarah is living with her parents. Checks payable to Habitat for Humanity can be attached to our tree.

Interfaith Solidarity and Accompaniment Coalition (ISAAC) Board Position Open

The Namaqua Social Justice Ministry has joined the Interfaith Sanctuary and Accompaniment Coalition (ISAAC), on behalf of Namaqua. ISAAC formed in 2017, when the Foothills UU Church in Fort Collins called congregations together to support their ministry as a Sanctuary congregation. The ISAAC's steering committee quickly realized that immigrant needs beyond Sanctuary were pressing in Larimer County and renamed the organization the Immigrant Solidarity and Accompaniment Coalition.

ISAAC raises money to help immigrant families whose head of household has been detained, to help DACA recipients pay for their renewals, and to help asylum-seeking families that are struggling with homelessness. Recently, ISAAC along with Fuerza Latina and La Cocina has begun the Edgar Chocoy Initiative to assist undocumented minors with legal fees.

ISAAC offers educational events to the public. Speakers have included Janina Farinas, psychologist with La Cocina, who specializes in issues facing immigrants, Laura Lunn, lawyer for the Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network (RMIAN), Miguel De La Torre, professor and activist at Iliff Theological Seminary and Sarah Jackson of Casa de Paz.

Accompaniment by ISAAC includes vigils for the people who have died at the border and participation in the Rocking Grannies Rally that Laurel Liefert MC'ed last year. ISAAC also sponsors a yearly card writing event for people in ICE jail. This year it will take place on Dec. 1 beginning at 2:00pm at Every Day Joe's in Fort Collins. Sarah Jackson will be there to lead a discussion about detention and join in the festivities.

Serving on ISAAC's steering committee, and now board, was Francey Liefert's inspiration to initiate the Immigrant Freedom Fund with Namaqua as the fiscal sponsor. She will be leaving the ISAAC board in order to devote more time and energy to the bond fund. If you are interested in stepping up to keep Namaqua representation on the ISAAC board, please contact Francey at 970-391-2547 or at franceyliefert@gmail.com.



Immigrant Freedom Fund

We're continuing to bond out asylum seekers and others who have been incarcerated by ICE in Aurora. In the middle of November we bonded out our 23rd and 24th bondee, and we are working on recovering the bond money from the first person we bonded out whose immigration case has been resolved. That money will be returned to the fund to help another immigrant gain freedom while they work on their case. People outside the ICE jail are much more likely to win their cases because they have easier access to legal counsel, have more time to prepare their cases, and they have the support of family and friends.

Please help us bring more people home for the holidays by donating to the Immigrant Freedom Fund at Namaqua by check or electronically at our website www.immigrantfreedomfund.org.



Opening doors for justice.

Talk to our steering committee members if you would like more information. We are Francey Liefert, Mim Neal, Kathy Hartman, Doug Stewart, Nancy Kain and two wonderful folks from the Loveland community at large, Scott and Susan Johnson.

Building Beloved Community

December 2019

As a child during World War II, I gathered with my fellow students once a week in the hallway of our school, seated on the floor in front of a full-sized console radio. From it issued forth the rich, cultured, avuncular voice of the President of the United States who, with his words of reassurance and comfort, spun invisible ties among us as we listened to him. In those moments, his fireside chats bound us in community. Now, decades later, I invite you to share your sorrows, your concerns and your joys, spinning bonds of connection as together we build enduring beloved community. Come; sit with me by the fire. Let's chat.

Nancy Amsler: I had a dear cousin die, I had a dear niece give birth much sooner than expected but all is well, a beloved grandson got married, and I just returned from a high school reunion in Omaha, with a continuation with some of the "girls" to Wisconsin for a few days. Whew!

Rebecca Williamson: For the last 12 or so years, my high school girlfriends and our spouses have been getting together every other year for a long weekend. We didn't start doing this until after our 40th high school class reunion when we realized that the only reason we went back to Plainfield, Indiana, every 10 years was to see each other. We also realized, much to our amazement, how similar we still were in our (liberal, progressive) views of the world. So in October we gathered in Murray, Kentucky, at friend Cynthia's house- we mainly drank wine, ate, and laughed for almost three days. We all live in different states, so we crisscross the country for these get-togethers. The next visit will be in Seattle, Washington.

Michaela Mattes: I was on a CSU internship. I enjoyed it very much and I learned a lot. Mark Rose, who makes videos for CSU, made a video about my internship experience. It was shown recently at the Extension Forum. Here is the link: <https://youtu.be/jtydObZSvcl>.

Barbara Fleming: In September my brother-in-law, Don Hutchinson, died after a fall. He was 88 years old, and he and my sister, Peggy, had been married for 54 years. Such a sudden, unexpected death has been difficult for all of us; now, she has to sell the mountain home the Hutchinsons built together and fashion a new life for herself. We sisters are thankful to have each other.

Kent Robertson: Ginny Weigel is in a rehabilitation and nursing facility in Fort Collins and is slowly improving.

Fran Green: Our granddaughters, Malena (11) and Isla (7) have had artwork chosen for a 2020 fundraiser calendar for the town of Englewood. Both are students at All Souls Catholic School in Englewood.

Vicki Clark: My niece, Cindy, has died after a long battle with lung cancer. Her family lives in Indiana. Our grown grandkids all made visits to say goodbye to their other grandmother who is in home hospice care after contracting the MRSA bacteria for which there are no current antibiotics. Tom and I are grateful to be part of their support as they walk this unfamiliar path.

Alice Cain: My brother, Jim Timmons, was recently diagnosed with cancer of the esophagus. He lives in a small town in southwestern Nebraska near McCook. After his first chemotherapy treatment he had a good deal of pain. It turned out he had internal bleeding. The doctor in McCook had him flown to Lincoln. He is in a hospital there. He has developed pneumonia so is quite weak. I ask for healing thoughts for him.

Laurel Liefert: My UU minister son Marcus and I attended the first of three 3-day retreats at the Whidbey Institute with poet David Whyte. "Listening to David recite his poetry is like listening to music." Each participant chose an artist to study during the course of the year; I chose poet John O'Donohue and Marcus chose Walt Whitman. The next retreat will be in February 2020.

Rev. Laurel: Jauna Drake's husband, Andy, died unexpectedly on October 29. We held a graveside service on November 8. Andy wanted a green burial. Then the Celebration of Life was at Namaqua on November 9. Andy was not a member of Namaqua, but Jauna joined last spring. The two of them moved here last March, a dream come true.

Mim Neal: Despite residential and anatomical plumbing problems of epic proportions, I had a grand tour of New Orleans and fine ride on a paddle wheel cruise up the Mississippi.

Heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to this first column. Join the conversation by emailing BuildingBelovedCommunity@namaquauu.org.



Women's Group Holiday Fun

Wed. December 11 at 6:30 PM at church

Calling all ladies for some holiday fun time with the women's group. We will eat (bring an hors d'oeuvre), sing (bring instrument if you want), exchange gifts (bring fun, dangly thing to hang somewhere, around \$5.) and laugh and talk. Bring wine or beer if you wish. Tea, coffee and soda will be there. Come one, come all.....

Andrea Van Nest and Janen Wright are the hostesses

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

Dec 7 Judi O'Neil

Dec 13 Laura Henderson

Dec 14 Meagan Foster

Dec 15 Cherry Sokoloski

Dec 18 Kaylee Dornseif-Briles

Dec 24 Hayden Butcher

Dec 25 D Moritz



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

NOVEMBER 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.

Congregational Meeting

There was a discussion of ideas to increase attendance at our Congregational Meetings, e.g.,

- For several weeks leading up to the Congregational Meetings, share that this is the time not only to hear about the current state-of-the-church but also to share feedback and give input, (Need "sexy" advertising to convey this message.)
- Short 30 minute meeting, festive (read: good food!) coffee hour, then the regular discussion

The ideas that showed up most often at the Fall Congregational speak-up were:

- Music is important
- The hosting of community events is important to get the larger community into the building

Personnel Business

A draft policy to allow Members as Employees was approved.

Facilities Update

Jim Danforth reports that

- The updated fire protection plan is still in process
- Regarding future AV plans, Tom Clark & Jim recall that there was a proposal for dual pull-down screens, but there was congregational concern about that.

To provide for more flexible use of the sanctuary, making pews mobile was discussed - doing that would cost approximately \$700. A decision on that action was tabled for later consideration.

Financial Update

Dick Barton, treasurer, reports

- After we transfer \$13,750 to the building fund, we can use other funds to complete our \$16,667 payment due February 2020. The Board approved the move of \$8,750 from the Wake Now Our Vision Fund and a \$5,000 gift into the Building Fund. [Totaling \$13,750].

Next Board meeting: December 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.

Send items for publication to newsletter@namaquauu.org

Due dates for the next two issues:

For the January Newsletter: December 15 (due to the holidays)

For the February Newsletter: January 19

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