



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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[@NamaquaUU](https://www.instagram.com/NamaquaUU)

Upcoming Services

May 3: Blessing: The Path of Making Visible the Gifts that Get Us Through - Rev. Laurel Liefert & Doug Stewart, Worship Associate: When we come together on Sunday morning, we come to bless and be blessed. We come to find the blessing of connection, the comfort and joy of seeing one another's faces. We come for the reassurance of a love that will not let us go. We come to awaken to the longings deep in our hearts and to restore our courage in this challenging time. We know that we are better together than we are alone.

Spring Congregational Meeting: Please stay after the service for our annual Spring Congregational Meeting from 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM via Zoom. We'll vote on new leadership and the budget for the forthcoming church year, which starts July 1, and hear reports from Rev. Laurel, the Board, Committee on Shared Ministry, and Leadership Development Committee. Zoom info to be announced. Come help set our course for the new church year and help make sure we have a quorum!

May 10: Mother's Day: A Celebration of Peace and Love - Janen Wright, Director of Religious Education, & Kathy Hartman, Worship Associates: Historically, Mother's Day has been claimed for two different purposes. It was born as a day for women to give voice to their longings for peace from war. Later it became a day to honor mothers. Today we will have a double celebration and celebrate both reasons for Mother's Day!! Please join us online.

May 17: Namaqua 2030 - Doug Stewart and Peter Schenk, Worship Associates: Just before Coronavirus became a household word, your elected leadership team and staff met to envision our possible future, the way we might be 10 years from now. What did we come up with, and, more importantly, how can the way we came up with these visions foster beloved community?

May 24: (Memorial Day weekend) Thresholds: Now why did I come in here?- Janet Gillette & Kathy Hartman, Worship Associates Our whole world has changed drastically, requiring us to make adjustments to the way we move about in it. Join us as we explore our monthly Soul Matters topic of thresholds as transitions; how beginnings and endings occur and how they affect us physically and mentally.

May 31: On the Threshold of the Full Catastrophe - Susan Moody & Lauren Daley, Worship Associates: In this time of dealing with the loss and fear of a world pandemic, we will investigate the personal challenges of the immediate moment. We will look at this process as crossing the threshold into a different way of living with all the uncertainties and possibilities of a traveler to parts unknown.

NUUC COVID-19 Response Plan

COMMUNICATION

- NUUC's primary communication tools will be our e-mail blast system and the NUUC website
- Any member or friend who would like to sign up for email blasts should send a request to Admin@NamaquaUU.org
- Announcements and information will be posted on the church's website: www.NamaquaUU.org in the Events box at top right on home page.
- To post an announcement, send notice to nuuc@NamaquaUU.org
- General instructions on managing contagion will be posted at all church doors
- Church leaders including Minister, Board of Trustees, CoSM and others will monitor daily announcements from the Center for Disease Control (www.CDC.gov), Larimer County Health Department (www.larimer.org/health) and UUA (www.UUA.org)

CANCELLING SERVICES and PROGRAMS

- As per established NUUC policy, services and programs may be cancelled by consensus of at least two of the following people: Minister, President, Chair of COSM, Ministry Chair or program/activity lead
- When services/programs are cancelled, the activity lead will make (or delegate) every effort to contact participants directly by email or phone as well as notice on website as appropriate.
- Virtual services via the internet will be planned by Minister and Worship Associates as technically possible and announcement/instructions made via email blasts and on website

PROTECTIVE PRACTICES

- Practice 'social distancing' by staying at least 6' from other individuals
- Cleaning/Disinfecting Surfaces
- CDC-approved chlorine and alcohol-based (at least 60%) solutions and disposable paper towels will be used after each building use to wipe down all surfaces which may have been

touched including pews, tables, chairs, light/heat switches doorknobs, railings, faucet handles in both kitchen and rest rooms

- Cleaners should wear protective gloves while cleaning
- NUUC Janitor will be responsible for weekly cleaning
- Activity organizer will be responsible for cleaning & disinfecting all surfaces touched during their programs. Cleaning responsibility will be included in Building Use Guidelines.
- Refreshments at services will be limited to commercially wrapped food items and juices. No home-made finger foods will be allowed.
- If non-disposable dishes/flatware/serving pieces are used, they must be washed in the dishwasher, not hand-washed.
- Multiple containers of hand-sanitizer, disinfecting wipes/spray will be made available in both sanctuary and Parker Hall as available.
- NUUC staff and volunteers should work remotely as much as possible

CARING FOR EACH OTHER

- Stay home if you are ill, especially with a fever or cough
- If any member/friend would like 'wellness checks' (a church member to call you regularly to stay in touch and reduce social isolation), please contact Pastoral Care Team at PastoralCare@NamaquaUU.org and they will set up a system
- If you would like assistance with groceries or other urgent supplies, please contact Pastoral Care who will arrange for home delivery (leaving on front porch/garage)
- If you are ill, please let either the minister or PCT know. They will respect your confidentiality as you wish.
- Pastoral Care has a modest Emergency Fund for folks who are financially vulnerable, if you are in need contact PCT

ABOVE ALL USE WELL-INFORMED COMMON SENSE WHEN MAKING ANY DECISIONS

President's Message

From the Board President:

I'm impressed with our congregation's goings-on while we've been "sheltering in place"!

Sunday Services have continued, thanks to the Zoom we're all learning. We're navigating through the technical challenges and it's so good to see everyone's faces and to have that time of grounding, re-centering and inspiration.

Your governance has been meeting virtually too. The **Board**, with Treasurer Dick Barton's guidance, has a **proposed budget** for us to discuss and vote on in the **May 3 Congregational Meeting** after the service; it's based on a **successful pledge drive** led by Brian Jarvis and Leonard Sokoloski; much thanks to them – and to all who pledged! (And if you haven't, you can still let Dick or me know your intended pledge). We're also moving ahead with the results of Jim Danforth's investigations with **audio-visual upgrades** – visual, to be specific, thanks to generous donations by Glenda Bell and last auction's "paddle raiser". And our ad-hoc personnel task force is interviewing for our **Admin position** – we'll miss Tiffany very much and wish her well in motherhood!

Before 'all this' happened, we had planned a much-deserved **one-month sabbatical for Laurel** to take during the month of May. We're still planning to honor this, with worthy Worship Associates leading Sunday Services and pastoral care led by Sally Henry. Laurel is way over-due a sabbatical, and we're way strong enough to carry on – though we'll miss you, Laurel, and eagerly welcome your return! The plan is for Laurel to join us Sunday 5/3 and then take the rest of the month for rest and rejuvenation.

The **Committee on Shared Ministry** has been busy too, working with Laurel to keep our programs going, most notably Sunday Services, but committees and now classes too. Laurel has been overly busy scheduling Zoom meetings. We're trying a second Zoom account to move this off her shoulders. And the **Leadership Development Committee** has been working on providing us a slate of candidates for our elected positions to offer the congregation at the May 3rd Congregational Meeting.

While we're navigating how to handle the trick of being together while staying apart, of course we're all hoping to get back together physically at some point. When we do, we won't take gathering for granted! I'm especially looking forward to live music, and, eventually, holding hands at the end of the service.

Yet we must stay safe, and many of our members, friends and visitors are at relatively high risk if we were to become infected. So we want to err on the side of being careful. **We will be.**

Being careful means we are likely to meet virtually for some time to come. When do we start meeting physically? Right now, our nation and the world doesn't have effective treatments, a vaccine and 'herd immunity' are many months away, and contact tracking (similar as is done with tuberculosis) depends on testing abilities which, while perhaps nearer term, are still months away. So getting together physically may be awhile.

In the meantime, "**virtual is It!**". We'll get real good at Zoom, I suspect. Events are listed on our website's home page and see the weekly email blast and this monthly *Crossings for goings-on*. *It's important we stay connected. Please look for ways to do so.*

We really are figuring out how to stay connected, grounded and inspired as we go through this together.

Stay safe and **take wonderful care of yourself**. You deserve it!

Doug

Religious Education

For children and youth in particular, along with their families, the month of May has always been a big one and it is always about crossing **thresholds** (our May church theme.) This is the month when kids complete their grade in school, along with extracurricular activities, which all come with their attendant graduations and end of the year programs and recitals. It is a mixed emotion month of both happy celebration and tearful farewells.

Of course this year is unique in that we, as a whole nation, following the rest of the world, crossed a threshold in the middle of March with the onset of the Coronavirus which has been altering our normal way of going about life. It brings to mind how some thresholds we cross gladly, all too happy to find ourselves on the other side, while other thresholds find us dragging our feet and looking back over our shoulders for one last view of the chapter we have to leave behind. One thing is certain, just like the weather, the only thing we *can count on in this life is change. All of us have passed through many thresholds and I'm sure will pass through many more. Still, it is cheering to remember that all our experiences go into making us who we are and there is something we take with us from each stage of our lives.*

I appreciate the words of Madeleine L'Engle, author of "A Wrinkle in Time", ***"I am still every age that I have been. Because I was once a child, I am always a child. Because I was once a searching adolescent, given to moods and ecstasies, these are still part of me, and always will be... This does not mean that I ought to be trapped or enclosed in any of these ages... but that they are in me to be drawn on... Far too many people think that forgetting what it is like to think and feel and touch and smell and taste and see and hear like a three-year-old or a thirteen-year-old or a twenty- three-year-old means being grown up. When I'm with these people I feel that if this is what it means to be a grown-up, then I don't ever want to be one. Instead of which, if I can retain a child's awareness and joy, and be fifty-one, then I will really learn what it means to be grown up."***

Who knows what the month of May will bring but thus far I have enjoyed sending out our RE lessons to our families each week. I hope these Soul Matter lessons have been helpful for families in engaging with each other and exploring different topics. In May we will think about the Door of Shelter, the Door of Welcome, the Door of Growing Up, the Door of Courage (Memorial Day) and the Door of Imagination. We also set up two Sunday RE Zoom Meet and Greets on April 26 and May 17th. Both will start at 11:45 and give us a chance to catch up with one another. It was a lot of fun to see the kids and teens that were able to attend last time. Thank you all for your support! Stay brave, safe and happy.

Blessings,
Janen Wright (Director of Religious Education)



Minister's Musings



May 2020 Minister's Musings *Gone to the Fields*

Dear ones,

As I contemplate taking some time away this month, I offer you two poems by my Unitarian Universalist colleague Lynn Ungar. Lynn also is the one who put Rumi's poem to music in "Come, Come, Whoever You Are." I am no poet, but my soul speaks in poetry, and so here are some beautiful images and words for to enjoy as I go to the fields to rest and bloom. May you feel my continued love and support, sending you comfort. I will return in June and look forward to continuing our journey together.

From Laurel, With Love

Camas Lilies

*Consider the lilies of the field,
the blue banks of camas opening
into acres of sky along the road.
Would the longing to lie down
and be washed by that beauty
abate if you knew their usefulness,
how the natives ground their bulbs
for flour, how the settlers' hogs
uprooted them, grunting in gleeful
oblivion as the flowers fell?
And you—what of your rushed
and useful life? Imagine setting it all down—
papers, plans, appointments, everything—
leaving only a note: "Gone
to the fields to be lovely. Be back
when I'm through with blooming."
Even now, unneeded and uneaten,
the camas lilies gaze out above the grass
from their tender blue eyes.
Even in sleep your life will shine.
Make no mistake. Of course
your work will always matter.
Yet Solomon in all his glory
was not arrayed like one of these.*



Pandemic

What if you thought of it
as the Jews consider the Sabbath—
the most sacred of times?
Cease from travel.
Cease from buying and selling.
Give up, just for now,
on trying to make the world
different than it is.
Sing. Pray. Touch only those
to whom you commit your life.
Center down.

And when your body has become still,
reach out with your heart.
Know that we are connected
in ways that are terrifying and beautiful.
(You could hardly deny it now.)
Know that our lives
are in one another's hands.
(Surely, that has come clear.)
Do not reach out your hands.
Reach out your heart.
Reach out your words.
Reach out all the tendrils
of compassion that move, invisibly,
where we cannot touch.

Promise this world your love—
for better or for worse,
in sickness and in health,
so long as we all shall live.

CoSM Notes: Ministries in the Time of COVID 19

That nasty ol' virus isn't stopping Namaqua from living its mission! Despite severe distancing restrictions and economic challenges, our church continues to thrive. Social Justice Ministry is actively finding community non-profits to support, Adult Enrichment is offering two covenant groups and virtual lunches provide Community Building. Our Communications Ministry keeps us all informed with our new website, Pastoral Care stands prepared to offer assistance and our Building is secure. While Music is limited, Worship and Youth RE are excited to find new high tech ways of feeding our somewhat depleted souls. NUUC has not abandoned anyone--it's just found new ways of creating community and raising our spirits. Come and participate—there's plenty to do these days and we need creative thinkers. Let it be so.

Social Justice Ministry Asking For Support

The Social Justice Ministry is asking for your help related to the pandemic right here in Loveland. The team chose Neighbor to Neighbor (N2N) as a recipient of a fund raising campaign. N2N began in 1970 helping a neighbor make house payments and today it has expanded to support people with financial needs, people looking for housing, and even people looking for housemates.

In late March and early April, N2N had 170 requests for eviction prevention and 250 requests for assistance. N2N mailed \$11,000 in checks to 17 households between April 1-3. They are projecting the need for \$100,000-\$150,000 per month in April and May.

Here is one example of how N2N helps:

“I took a week off work as a hairdresser to attend my brother's funeral out of state in early March. Came back to learn all salons are closed until at least end of April. Might not have gone to his funeral if I'd known it would be my last paycheck.”

Please consider going to the website to make a donation to Neighbor to Neighbor. Thank you. n2n.org

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

May Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

May 5 – Nancy Amsler

May 7 – Janice Ralph

May 9 – Gary Cline

Matt Milden

Sally Henry

May 11 – Alice Cain

May 18 – Sara Suriani

May 22 - Sawyer Hartenstine
(Sally Henry's grandson)

May 23 – Marion Cox

Anniversaries

23 – Don & Shirley Rawson

26 – Gary & Jenifer Cline

If you'd like to have your birthday or anniversary listed, please contact Kathy Hartman or enter it in the calendar in Parker Hall. You never know what might show up if you are on our list!!

Many returns of the day and humble apologies to those celebrating birthdays in April. Lost in the Covid-19 madness, I forgot to send to Tiffany. kh

Benson Park Garden & NUUC Plants

Many of you know about or have worked on the Peace Garden that NUUC maintains at Benson Sculpture Park. Typically on the first Saturday of June volunteers gather at the park to weed, plant and maintain the garden. This year due to COVID-19 the Planting Day has been cancelled. Instead everyone is being encouraged to plant and weed on a day of our choice probably in late May or early June. Clay Benton organizes our efforts at the garden so please contact him if you are interested and a work day can be set up.

Here's what's happening in the churchyard: our Linden and Filbert saplings on the east side are leafing out nicely. They are headed into their third summer under our care and were given to us and planted by the City. Right next to the church, sadly, the daffodils were beaten down by two spring snowstorms so there are no flowers this year. But the ninebark is leafing out and the grasses and lavender are showing some green. The rose bush, smoke bush and Rose of Sharon are waiting for a little more warmth. The "cast iron" iris are looking mighty healthy. Here's hoping we can soon get back to church to enjoy our past plantings

Spring Congregational Meeting

Sunday May 3rd

We'll have our spring Congregational Meeting Sunday May 3rd after the service. Take part in our democratically-led governance; nobody on high to tell us what to do, we're it!

- Understand the state of our (beloved) union - brief report-outs
- Approve our budget for our next fiscal year (which starts July 1)
- Elect our leaders

In keeping with the times, we'll hold this 'virtually', by Zoom - details will be on our website at namaquauu.org. See you there!

Building Beloved Community

by Barbara Fleming

Cherry Sokolowski's mother, Burnette Young, of Osage, Iowa, died in March at 99. She was born in 1920, the year women gained the vote in America.

Jennifer and Peter Buchmeier's daughter, Rachel, and her husband, Seth, have returned safely from Jordan

and are now in New Hampshire.

Taylor Trull, daughter of Dona Leonard, has qualified for State History Day, held in April at the University of Denver. Taylor's project, "Rewriting Herstory," details the history of women's suffrage. The annual History Day event is a social studies and literacy program focused on critical thinking skills, research and analysis, involving over 23,000 students statewide. Taylor represented her school, New Vision Charter School, in the competition, with state winners competing at a national level in June.

Francey Liefert announced that the Immigrant Freedom Fund received a grant of \$10,000 from the National Immigration Law Center. More than 40 people have been bonded out, and the detention center has released a sizable number of people to ease crowding.

Rev. Laurel thanks the congregation for stepping up to pledge. The amount exceeds last year's, a milestone to be celebrated in this difficult time.

On April 19, 1995, a bomb planted by Timothy McVeigh destroyed the federal building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. **Jauna Drake** was in that building and asks remembrance and sorrow for the nearly 200 people—men, women, and children in day care—who died that day.

Healing thoughts go to **Brenda Christiansen**, who has been diagnosed with probable COVID-19. Recovery at home is slow.

A Great Opportunity

General Assembly is the annual conference that gathers thousands of Unitarian Universalists usually in some cool place. This year that place is Loveland, Colorado. How lucky are we! Just like so much of life right now, GA has gone virtual. That gives so many more of us the opportunity to attend.

The cost is remarkably reasonable plus no airfare or hotel or

unnecessary souvenirs. The cost is \$150. GA starts on Wednesday, June 24 and ends on Sunday, June 28. NUUC Leadership Development Committee has scholarships available so let's take advantage of this great opportunity.

More information will be forthcoming as to speakers and other specifics of GA. Let Karen Brock, Kathy Hartman, Sarah Jane Wilhelm or Reverend Laurel know of your interest and we can talk subsidies!

Board of Trustees Highlights

The Board met virtually via Zoom which everyone felt worked well for us.

Personnel

- Looking to have the new administrative assistant hired before the end of May so that current administrative assistant, Tiffany, can help train them.

Facilities Update

- In light of COVID-19 and the financial insecurity it brings many, Jim asked if we should go ahead with the planned AV upgrades. After much discussion, it was decided that Jim should move ahead with the AV upgrades that had been planned originally- with the funds that have already been earmarked.

Financial Update

- The Annual Budget Drive resulted in approximately \$143,000 in pledges.
- CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act)
This is part of the \$2.2 trillion bailout from the Federal government (specifically, Small Business Administration (SBA) and Department of Treasury). It allows us to apply for:
 - Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). We are in the process of applying for \$20,900, (which would be a grant); and

- Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL). We will apply for \$10,000 (this sum may possibly be forgiven or will have a very low interest rate over a long period of time)

The Board voted unanimously to apply for both programs.

COVID-19 Response

- We are looking into setting up a second Zoom account because of the uptick in groups and committees meeting virtually. The Board will use discretionary funds to pay for it (approximately \$110/year).
- Our May 3 Congregational Meeting will be virtual. More information about how that will work will be coming soon.
- It was decided that we will not have the annual Auction this fiscal year; but we will tentatively plan on an auction in the Fall.
- Laurel feels the coronavirus situation is still so unsure that we also need to postpone the NUUC 20-year Celebration, scheduled for June, until the Fall.
- To be thinking about: What are the criteria for deciding when we can re-gather in the sanctuary?

Next Board meeting scheduled for May 12, at 6:30 pm - may take place virtually

Respectfully submitted by Rebecca Williamson, Board of Trustees Secretary

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:

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)

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 June Newsletter: May 24

For the July Newsletter: June 21

NUUC E-mail Addresses

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 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:

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