



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

July 5: Straight to the Source - Kathy Hartman & Janet Gillette, Worship Associates

UUs treasure their sources. Some might say that white people haven't always stayed true to the original source material. Coming out of General Assembly with some greater insight, we will explore a couple of treasured materials that are problematic for people of color and indigenous peoples.

July 12: Bounty - Rev. Laurel Liefert & Rev. Aaron Norris

We have a tradition that every July the Namaqua UU Congregation and the Greeley UU Church come together for a combined service. In the past, it has been followed by brunch and conversation. Because of the pandemic and social distancing, this year will be different. Join us to nourish the connection between our two UU communities in Northern Colorado. No brunch this year, but perhaps we can have conversations with one another after the service in Zoom breakout rooms.

July 19: UU Sources - Worship Associates Janen Wright & Susan Moody

There are no Soul Matters themes over the summer, but we have a rich source of material to mine in our Unitarian Universalist Principles and Sources. Our living tradition draws not from only one Source, such as the Bible or Koran, but from six different Sources. Join Janen and Susan to learn more about how drawing from our many Sources can enhance our search for truth and meaning.

July 26: A Park Service to Celebrate the Lives of Nancy Kain and Don Cook - Rev. Laurel Liefert & Worship Associate Kathy Hartman

Beloved Namaqua member and passionate community activist Nancy Kain died in February. Twice since then services to celebrate Nancy's life had to be canceled because of the pandemic. In May, Nancy's husband of over 60 years and friend of Namaqua, Don Cook, died. It is time for us to remember and celebrate our dear friends. Holding the service outdoors at Namaqua Park will allow us to gather in person. More details to follow.

NUUC COVID-19 Response Plan

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) and follow all Colorado government instructions and recommendations.

COMMUNICATION

- NUUC's primary communication tools will be our e-mail blast system and the NUUC website www.NamaquaUU.org
- 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

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
- NUUC programs will be held virtually as determined by the lead.

PROTECTIVE PRACTICES

- Everyone inside the church buildings must wear face masks at all times. The only exception will be the minister and worship associate when conducting services as long as there is only one person in each building (sanctuary and Parker Hall).
- 'Social distancing' will be practiced by staying at least 6' from other individuals when crowd

restrictions allow face-to-face gatherings

- Once the building is full, no more will be admitted and must wait in outside grounds still remaining 6' apart; consider holding additional services
- Face masks will be worn by all attendees and the church will provide extra disposable masks in each building
- 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.
- Disposable dishes and flatware will be used
- Multiple containers of hand-sanitizer, disinfecting wipes/spray will be made available in both sanctuary and Parker Hall as available.
- NUUC staff and volunteers will work remotely as much as possible

CARING FOR EACH OTHER

- Stay home if you are ill
- 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 SCIENCE-BASED COMMON SENSE WHEN MAKING ANY DECISIONS

President's Message

From the Board President

We live in challenging times. I find solace and strength in navigating them with you!

With the pandemic, we are reminded by the challenges of nature. With the death – murder – of George Floyd at the hands of police officers, we are once again brought face-to-face with the challenges of our treatment of one another in the systems for which we as a democracy are responsible.

Francey noted in Joys and Sorrows on the maltreatment by a neighbor of their ill cat, and that something in the air – my paraphrase on all this – makes her more sensitive and irritable to the wrongs of the world. Her response was to place more energy into her Buddhist meditations. Someone once said they were under so much time pressure they needed to meditate more. Which sounds counterintuitive – and exactly what I wish I could be brave enough to do, when I get too caught up in life's bus-i-ness.

I don't know about you, but I seem to be cycling more from doldrums, in which things-to-do pile up, but why do them today? – and then stress, when I realize I don't even know what all is on the to-do list I should be keeping! For me, I'm finding doing something routine, like weeding or going for a walk, helps me remember what's important. Sometimes what springs to mind wouldn't even have ever made my to-do list – a little thoughtful touch on something, to put a little heart in.

We face how do we get through the pandemic with as much equanimity as we can muster. Yes, we can do some things, to reduce the risk of catching it ourselves and exposure to others. But the vast majority of my time is not making active efforts to reduce the spread – other than staying-in-place.

However, even in these times of enforced contemplation, we *can* be active about anti-racism and, with the election coming up, other social issues as well. With anti-racism, I'm on a journey with many other Namaquans to understand my white privilege and systemic racism. It starts with me, and us whites, and we must start to understand this first before we can use our privilege to create a more equitable and compassionate world. [Chad Escallier is starting a book group to read *White Fragility*](#) –recommended! – contact him at chadescallier@gmail.com. If it's full or already started, we'll start another.

White Fragility helped open me to the problem, which is the grounding. The first wave of *White Fragility* discussion groups is moving to a book discussion of *How To Be an Anti-racist*, which points toward solutions. We'll hold more of those discussion groups too, down the line. I suspect out of all this growing understanding will be actual feet-on-the-ground social action. Some of us are already protesting!

We have an opportunity to help address the inequality inherent in anti-racism and even more broadly, IF we can get the Fair Tax Initiative on the November ballot. The *Initiative* would replace Colorado's flat tax with a progressive one, raising taxes after the first \$250,000 of income. Half of the \$2 billion projected to be raised (!) would go toward educating our children. Our Social Justice Ministry supports offering the petition to us – look in the weekly email blasts for details of where to sign.

The Board has formed a task force to create safe Covid-19 policies for us: Jim Danforth, Pete Buchmeier, Sally Henry, and Tom Mitchell will keep us as safe as possible. Let them know of any desired building use and they'll weigh our options. Our safety is our paramount concern!

Stay safe and take (and give) care -

Doug

Religious Education

After Christmas the 4th of July is my favorite holiday. However, like many UU's, I have an ambivalent relationship with our country that brings up a myriad of feelings and sometimes makes patriotic songs difficult to sing in full voice. Two years ago I had a chance, for the first time, to visit the monuments and museums in Washington DC which was a *profound* experience. Also, I was recently moved by the visionary words of the Constitution, penned by our Founding Fathers. Although the "we" didn't include women or people of color at the time, the ideals were daring and noble and the men who gave birth to our nation went up against one of the strongest governments in the world to declare their rights to freedom. It was a magnificent start.

"We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

So *where* is this domestic tranquility, this more perfect union? *Where* is this justice? Clearly there is *much much* more work to be done but it is still impressive that the founders of our country staked their lives, their property, and their sacred honor on something they could only *imagine* at the time. One hundred years later, at the end of the Civil war, blacks would be freed from slavery - the start of justice for all- and following that, women would rise up and insist that man *and women* were endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights such as life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Despite there being so much farther to go there *has* been progress from where we started out as a brave new nation and it is this that gives me hope for the future of our country. The United States has been a big player on the world stage for promoting democracy and civil rights and the innovations that have come from capitalism have shaped the entire world--things like television, computers, smart phones, airplanes and the list goes on.

From where we stand in this year of 2020 we can't see the end results of all the good that will come from our labors. But we *have* to believe that the new seeds of justice and equality that we are planting today *will* grow and bear fruit like the good seeds did that were planted in our history. Unitarian Universalism is built on the vision for justice for *all* and we are charged with the task of transforming ourselves so we can transform the world. So when we hear, "**Oh, say does that star-spangled banner yet wave O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?**" let us answer a resounding "**yes**" and join with all those who insist we can do better as a country than we have yet done.

RE Report

In the month of June we had an outdoor movie night and watched a fascinating and very fun Disney documentary on dolphins. Thank you to Glenn Pease for setting it all up for us and to everyone who was able to attend. It was such a success we plan to do it again on a monthly basis since this activity allows us to be together while maintaining social distance. The next RE Movie Night is scheduled for Friday July 17th and we are going to try this one indoors so we can start at 7:00.

We will also have an RE Zoom meeting at 11:45 on July 12. This is for both kids and teens.

Stay healthy, happy and cool!

Blessings, Janen Wright, Director of Faith Formation



Minister's Musings



July 2020 : Looking Ahead

Dear ones,

I know how much we all miss being physically together. It's a challenge to keep our sense of community and connection alive and vibrant during the pandemic. Even though it's not the same, I appreciate those of you who faithfully join our virtual Sunday services. I love seeing your faces. And I miss seeing those of you who are not there. I notice, you know. Keep in mind that you can always access the recordings of previous Sunday services on our website – NamaquaUU.org. Another way to stay connected is to read the weekly email blasts and our monthly Crossings like this one. Here are a few things I want to lift up to keep you informed.

SUMMIT: Last month your outgoing and incoming elected lay leaders and your staff, namely Director Religious Education Janen Wright and me, your Minister, spent hours on a Saturday morning reflecting and brainstorming about how we can foster beloved community while we are physically apart. Please trust that we are working hard to do the right thing, balancing our longing to be together with all of the COVID-19 updates which inform us how to keep our members and friends safe and healthy. Because we know it will be awhile until the whole congregation can be together again, we are adapting by creating ways to nourish and even deepen the network of our relationships. Meeting in small groups provides just such an opportunity. For example, all are invited to join the Thursday Social Hour from 1:00-2:00 PM each week to visit with one another in our NUUC Zoom room. There are and will be other opportunities, such as book discussion groups. We encourage you to take some initiative to connect with others in the congregation. Look in the Directory and put together your own group of people you'd like to get to know. You could meet in a park or invite them to your home with safeguards such as social distancing. You are welcome to use the NUUC Zoom room by making a reservation – Calendar@NamaquaUU.org.

COVENANT GROUPS: I want to make a special pitch for you to consider joining a Covenant Group. We've had two ongoing groups since the end of April that will finish meeting in July. We will be forming new Covenant Groups in August and throughout the rest of this church year. The groups meet every other week for an hour and a half for a total of 8 sessions. The participants take turns doing a Chalice Lighting, sharing their Spiritual Journey, and Extinguishing the Chalice. The spiritual journeys shared in the first 10 minutes or so of our time together have been so wonderful. Then we spend the rest of the time immersed in the spiritual exercises and reflections about the Soul Matters theme for that gathering. The themes for this round have been Journey, Balance, Hope, Belonging, Courage, Wholeness, Vision, and Mystery. Why join a Soul Matters Covenant Group, you may ask. Here is how the purpose of these small groups is described in the Soul Matters Participant Guide: *Soul Matters groups offer the gift of spiritual connection. Around us swirls a shallow, frantic, and materialistic culture that regularly leaves us cut off from our deepest selves, life's gifts, and needs greater than our own. Many of us come to church hungry to mend these sacred connections that get frayed and torn. Soul Matters exists to support this journey of reconnection to life, others, and our selves.* If you are interested in joining or have questions, please email me at RevLaurel@NamaquaUU.org. Also let me know if you might be interested in facilitating a Covenant Group. It's easier than you might think.

UPCOMING SERVICES: Notice that among the services this month will be a special one. For our Sunday service on July 26th, we will gather under the shelter and some additional canopies at Namaqua Park to remember and celebrate the lives of Nancy Kain and her husband Don Cook. Nancy died in February. After our Plans A and B for a public memorial service were waylaid by the pandemic, we decided not to wait any longer. It is important for us to take time to honor and share memories of Nancy, a feisty beloved activist member of Namaqua, and her witty irreverent husband Don. Even if you didn't know them, please come and learn more about how our community has been shaped and enriched by each person who is a part of it.

From Laurel, With Love

Building Beloved Community

by Barbara Fleming

The Namaqua story, chapter two: First, an apology—I inadvertently omitted Mary Magruder’s name from the list of charter members in the June newsletter. In the beginning, Namaqua UU Congregation met monthly in the basement of the Pulliam building, with Jennifer Buchmeier and Mary Magruder holding religious education classes for the children. Member Kent Robertson, a retired Presbyterian minister, conducted a number of services. Other services were lay led, with occasional guest sermons by Rev. Roy Jones, Foothills Unitarian Church minister emeritus. Foothills supported NUUC with a financial contribution. The late Gretchen Snowden, a member of Foothills, served as liaison between the two congregations and greatly aided NUUC. Early in 2001 the congregation began meeting twice a month. Members adopted two sculptures in Benson Sculpture Park and collected funds for New York City relief following the September 11, 2001, attack.

And now news among us:

Brian Jarvis and **Milo Foster** celebrated birthdays as did **Tigg Young** and **Norma Fox**. **Brenda** and **Way Christiansen** celebrated 23 years of marriage. **Brenda** is still struggling with an ongoing illness.

The **Buchmeiers** enjoyed a visit from their daughter, **Rachel**, and her husband, **Seth**, and the **Liefert**s had the pleasure of a visit from their son **Marcus** and their grandson, **Henry**. **Francey**, **Marcus** and **Henry** spent a successful day fishing at Red Feather Lake, where **Marcus** caught three fish including a rare Palomino trout. **Glenda Bell**, who also likes to fish, got a three-pounder, one of the largest she’s ever caught, after a long day during which she saw an osprey nest.

Diane Hunt now has her guide dog, Elliot, a gentle, well-behaved poodle, and **Susan Moody**’s new canine companion is named Riley.

Hanna and **Michael Rodriguez** are expecting a girl, **Harmony Anne**, in October. In anticipation of her arrival, they recently moved into a larger apartment. They are grateful for the boxes and supplies provided by church members.

Rebecca Williamson rejoiced when she saw a yard sign in her neighborhood that read, “Black lives matter, and this family pledges to do better.”

Rev. Laurel and **Francey Liefert** mourn the loss of their

elderly cat.

Curtis and **Donna Hopehill** experienced both joy and sorrow when participating in a recent demonstration for racial equality.

On June 14 the cast of *WomanSpeak* performed the reader’s theater play splendidly via Zoom under the challenging circumstances which that venue presented. Kudos to them all. The play was recorded and is available for viewing on the Namaqua web site. In August it will be presented, by permission of the cast and director, on the Living Her Legacy Facebook page as part of a series leading up to the virtual unveiling of the first twelve portraits of honorees.



Namaqua Star

Sara Suriani



Thanks to her many and varied services to NUUC over the years, this paragraph about Namaqua Star Sara Suriani is lengthy. Not only has she patiently lent her technical expertise to make virtual Sunday services possible in recent months, she was instrumental in production of the Zoom performance of *WomanSpeak* on June 14, guiding the actors and director through uncharted waters. She was key in initiating use of computers for our annual services auctions and oversaw the process with cheerful efficiency, helping the auctions run smoothly. Rev. Laurel notes that Sara has been a tremendous ongoing resource for technical assistance with Survey Monkey and software selection, among other decisions and concerns. In the past Sara has served as president of the congregation, chaired the Religious Education Committee and later rejoined the committee, edited the monthly newsletter, prepared and delivered weekly orders of service and been on the Leadership Development Committee. She is currently co-chair of the Committee on Shared Ministries. She started the Outdoor Adventure Club, organizing canoe trips and other excursions. With her husband, Don, Sara has guided two amazing daughters, Elizabeth and Emily, to the threshold of womanhood, and the entire Suriani family has helped with church clean-up days and joined community fund-raising walks. The family also organized NUUC’s tenth anniversary celebration which was, says Karen Dornseif, “a great party!” For all this and quite possibly more that remains untold, Sara Suriani shines not just this month as Namaqua’s star but as an ongoing, bright light in our firmament.

CoSM Notes: NUUC Ministries during the COVID 19 Pandemic

On Saturday June 6th all Namaqua's leaders, both current and in-coming, had a very fruitful virtual 'summit' focusing on our congregation's response to the COVID 19 pandemic. It's increasingly apparent we will not be able to gather for our 'usual' services and activities for quite a time—in fact, the UUA is recommending that indoor services not resume until at least summer 2021! The leadership, which consists of our minister, Laurel Liefert, and religious education director, Janen Wright, as well as the Board of Trustees, members of Committee on Shared Ministries and Leadership Development Committee, all agreed that we will not let the inability to fully occupy our building deter us from realizing our Beloved Community. We will simply find more creative ways to be in community. More virtual covenant, book and social groups, outdoor services and celebrations, small groups in members' backyards and parks—all properly distanced and masked of course. All members and friends are invited to take advantage of these activities as they are planned. We cannot meet the old ways, so we must find new ways—and we need the help of everyone to make them work!

Additionally an on-going COVID Task Force has been formed to monitor regional recommendations and best practices. Thank you to Pete Buchmeier (Board), Tom Mitchell (CoSM), Jim Danforth MD and Sally Henry RN who have been charged with keeping our COVID Response Plan updated—you can always find the latest version on the Event Box on our website's home page, www.NamaquaUU.org.

We are determined to take care of our community—both our own at Namaqua and the larger one of Loveland as well.

A huge THANK YOU to this past year's hard-working CoSM especially out-going members Elaine Axon (completing her three-year term) and Sally Henry (completing her second term). Sally has served as CoSM's chair for the past 4 years and welcomes Brian Jarvis and Sara Suriani who will be stepping up next year as co-chairs along with new members Jauna Drake, Tom Mitchell and Fred Schrekinger.

Are You Interested In Applying To Be A Worship Associate?

Invitation to Apply: Rev. Laurel and the team of current Worship Associates are recruiting a few new Worship Associates to serve in the 2020-2021 church year. If you are interested in receiving an application, please write to revlaurel@namaquauu.org. Completed applications are due by Monday, July 13th.

Job Description: Worship Associates are trained lay people who participate in Sunday services in various ways throughout the church year. The number of services per year ranges from approximately three to nine. The preparation time for each service varies greatly, depending on the service and the person. We meet as a group each month from 9:00am-1:00pm. The primary focus of our time in the monthly meetings is sharing thoughts and written reflections as part of a sermon-writing seminar.

Qualifications: Worship Associates must be members of Namaqua who know or are willing to learn about the history and traditions of Unitarian Universalism and the history, traditions, and liturgy of this congregation. The application will ask what you are passionate about sharing with the congregation and how you would use your role in support of the congregation's mission. You also will be asked what skills, talents, experience, or special knowledge you can offer to the worshipping community, and what experience you have in public speaking.

Process: A committee will review the applications and notify who has been accepted into the program by July 20th. New Worship Associates will be required to attend an initial welcome and training session in late July or early August.

If you have questions, please feel free to ask Rev. Laurel or Worship Coordinator Janet Gillette. Feel free to talk with those who have served as a Worship Associates about their experience.

July Crossings 2020



Opening doors for justice.

Immigrant Freedom Fund News

from Francey Liefert

Through the generosity of our donors, the Immigrant Freedom Fund bonded out seven people in May and one more in June so far. The total number of ICE prisoners we have assisted now stands at fifty-three, and many more people have benefited from having their fathers, sons, husbands and community members released. All were prisoners in the ICE jail in Aurora that is run by the for-profit corporation GEO. Several members of the GEO staff have been diagnosed with COVID-19 since March, and now several inmates have also tested positive for the virus. Our work assisting people with immigration bond is increasingly urgent now that GEO is a breeding ground for the coronavirus.

Since our current federal administration has severely curtailed entry by asylum seekers into our country through Mexico, many of those applying for bond assistance are people who have been living in the United States for years. Men we bonded out in May were raising families here and contributing in other ways to their communities. Most of them live in Colorado and Utah and have returned to their families and friends. The immigration hearings that will determine whether they stay legally in the United States are not likely to occur before next year or the year after since immigration courts have backlog that has grown even bigger due to the coronavirus. Our hope is that there will be a seismic change in immigration policy at the federal level before the hearings take place. (Please vote in November.)

Happily, we also bonded out two young men who arrived at the border a few years ago seeking asylum as unaccompanied minors. They were apprehended and imprisoned by ICE in youth camps until they turned eighteen. When they reached that magic age, they were moved to GEO in Aurora. They both waited many months to have their bond hearings. I am grateful that our donors made it possible to bond each of them shortly after bond was granted. One of their bonds was \$3000 and the other was \$5000.

We were hopeful about assisting in paying bond for a young Ethiopian asylum seeker as well. He was imprisoned by ICE at the Otay Mesa facility in California, which is run by another for-profit corporation, CoreCivic. Ironically, he is trying to join his family in Aurora, Colorado. ICE set his bond at \$10,000 in March. When we joined with a California group to pay the bond, ICE refused to accept it because they claimed the man had not provided adequate identification papers. (We cannot help but wonder how they justify holding someone when they are supposedly unsure of who he is.) He lost his passport as he traveled from South America through Mexico and could only provide a copy of it through his family here. A copy of his birth certificate was also provided by his family, but that did not satisfy the ICE office at Otay Mesa. I tried to get help from him through the Congressman of his proposed home in Aurora, Jason Crow, who is sympathetic to those imprisoned in GEO. His office asked for signed permission from the prisoner to investigate his case. I sent the permission forms to our Ethiopian applicant, but he never received them. This was not surprising because Otay Mesa is notorious for not delivering inmates' mail. The young man is terrified of staying in Otay Mesa. As you may have read, an immigration prisoner died there of COVID-19 at the beginning of May. The people in California who are helping him managed to procure a form of identification that is acceptable to ICE. Now ICE says that the man's bond is no longer valid and that he will have to go before an immigration judge to try to get a new bond set. As I write this, the young man continues to wait in Otay Mesa for his bond hearing to be scheduled.

We have additional applicants who are waiting for their bond hearings in GEO in Aurora. They have been referred by the Colorado Immigrant Resource Coalition (CIRC) of which we are a member, by the Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network (RMIAN), which provides legal aid to those in detention, and by themselves as our phone numbers have been passed on through prison generosity. A twenty-four-year-old man has already had his bond set at \$20,000! Typical bonds have been \$3500, \$5000 and \$7500 lately. We are eager to have your contributions to cover the \$20,000 bond and the bonds which will be set next week.

As always, the Immigrant Freedom Fund depends on contributions to assist people with their immigration bond. Please donate what you can whenever you can and let your friends and contacts know about our work. You can send a check to Immigrant Freedom Fund at 745 East 5th St., Loveland, CO 80537, or, if you don't mind having some of your donation go to PayPal, you can donate on our secure website, www.immigrantfreedomfund.org.

Board of Trustees Highlights

The Board met virtually via Zoom on June 9, 2020.

Update reports were shared by Rev. Laurel, Sally Henry for the Committee for Shared Ministry (CoSM) and Sarah Jane Wilhelm for the Leadership Development Committee (LDC.)

Personnel – Doug Stewart

- Elaine Axon is retiring; therefore, we need to hire a new custodian. This is about a 6-hour/week position. See Doug if you are interested or know of someone who may be.
- Board OK'ed a monetary thank you parting gift for Elaine.

Facilities Update – Jim Danforth

- New AV system looks good. Our ISP (internet service provider) is weak which prevents Laurel from Zooming services at the church. We are currently trying to get pricing from Century Link and Pulse.
- Lawn is looking good.
- Northern Colorado Air did an inspection. All heating and cooling infrastructure seems to be functioning well - no anticipated needs for the next 2 or 3 years.
- We are going to need a shade in the sanctuary for the northeast window because of the new mounted screens.
- The bell tower was opened up for some sanctuary ventilation.
- Jim expressed appreciation to Pete Buchmeier and Brian Jarvis for their help and support in maintaining our church home.

Because Jim's term on the Board ended June 30 and Brian Jarvis is moving to co-chair CoSM, Pete Buchmeier will step in to Jim's shoes of "Facilities Czar."

Financial Update – Dick Barton

- We made the final payment for the A-V installation of \$2831.

COVID-19 Response

- Policy updates
The next version of Covid-19 Response Plan has been distributed. One significant change is that masks are now required in the sanctuary with the exception of the minister and the worship associates. This change was adopted by the Board without objection.
- An on-going COVID-19 Task force was established
Members include: Tom Mitchell from CoSM, Pete Buchmeier from the Board, Jim Danforth, and Sally Henry.
- Summit takeaways
Our COVID-19 policy will be driven by state and federal recommendations. A big takeaway: Importance of maintaining small groups.

Next steps

Each board member was challenged to invite 6 to 8 people to their home – outdoors – some time during the month of June.

Next Board meeting scheduled for July 14, at 6:30 pm – via Zoom

Respectfully submitted by Rebecca Williamson, Board of Trustees Secretary

#BLACKLIVESMATTER



Anti-Racism Book Club

Chad Escallier is looking for people to read and discuss the book [White Fragility](#) by Robin Diangelo. Robin Diangelo gave a series of workshops on the book at a recent Unitarian Universalist Association General

Assembly. She writes well on a challenging subject and is on the cutting edge of anti-racism work in our country. By reading and discussing her work, we may promote a better understanding of what we can do as individuals as well as a congregation to increase our work against racism.

Contact Chad at chadescallier@gmail.com if you are interested in joining this reading group. The start date is on Saturday, July 11, 2020 at 12 p.m. We will continue to meet every subsequent Saturday at 12 p.m. for a total of six meetings (2 chapters per week).



Half-Plate Recipient

The half-plate recipient for our first quarter is Neighbor to Neighbor. They help people stay in their homes, regain stability and in some cases achieve homeownership. They offer private counseling and budget education and foreclosure prevention counseling in both English and Spanish.

Custodian Position Available

We're expanding our search to replace Elaine Axon as our church building's custodian - big shoes to fill! Elaine reports the job usually takes 5-6 hours a week, and there's some flexibility on when it needs to be done. If you have interest or can recommend someone, let Doug know at dougstewart@gmail.com (note the middle initial 'e' hiding in there).



July Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

July 1 – Bob Jefferies
 July 3 – Glenn Pease
 Otto Koch
 July 7 – Fermor Black
 July 17 – Dick Barton
 July 18 – Andy Carlson
 July 28 – Paul McCarter
 July 31 – Nicole Gilbert

Anniversaries

July 13 - Hanna & Mike Rodriguez
 July 16 – Jim & Linda Danforth

If you would like notice of your special date in the newsletter please note it in the Birthday & Anniversary calendar in Parker Hall or call or email Kathy Hartman.

Leadership Development

July brings changes in Namaqua's elected leadership. This year we welcome 7 people into elected leadership positions. The Leadership Development Committee extends extreme gratitude to these folks who accepted our invitation to serve our congregation. Thanks also to those who think they aren't quite ready or have other obligations but were willing to have the conversation. We learned some good things in those talks. And . . . the time may come!

We so appreciate the leadership and extensive donated time and energy from those "taking a break." Thanks to Brenda Christensen, Jim Danforth, Sally Henry, Elaine Axon and Karen Brock. What a list of headliners that is and I don't have nearly enough digits to count the years of service from them! While they are no longer in elected positions, these are folks who always give a lot of assistance to our congregation.

This year we welcome Leonard Sokoloski and Sarah Jane Wilhelm, who is moving from LDC to the Board of Trustees. Tom Mitchell, Jauna Drake and Fred Schrekinger are joining new Chairpersons Sara Suriani and Brian Jarvis on the Committee on Shared Ministries. I welcome Cherry Sokoloski and Susan Moody to Leadership Development. Once again, we have a dream team of volunteers.

Let's welcome these new leaders with new ideas and undoubtedly different ways of doing things and incorporate those ideas and new energy into our current practices.

Kathy Hartman

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 either in our Zoom Room or 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, 2021)
 Sarah Jane Wilhelm, Vice President (Board term expires 2021)
 Dick Barton, Treasurer (Board term expires 2022)
 Rebecca Williamson, Secretary (Board term expires 2021)
 Pete Buchmeier, Trustee (term expires 2022)
 Leonard Sokoloski, Trustee (term expires 2023)
 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)
 Jauna Drake (term expires 2023)
 Tom Mitchell (term expires 2023)
 Fred Schrekinger (term expires 2023)

Leadership Development Committee (LDC)

Susan Moody (term expires 2023)
 Cherry Sokoloski (term expires 2023)
 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 August Newsletter: July 26

For the September Newsletter: August 23

NUUC E-mail Addresses

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 Buildings@NamaquaUU.org
 Calendar@NamaquaUU.org
 Communications@NamaquaUU.org
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 DRE@NamaquaUU.org
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