



# Namaqua Unitarian Universalist Congregation

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

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NUUC meets each Sunday  
at 10:00am on Zoom:  
[Meeting ID: 95746329454](https://www.zoom.us/j/95746329454)

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



## Upcoming Services

### **December 6 (11:30am): Finding Ourselves in Stillness and Waiting - Rev. Laurel Liefert & Rev. Marcus Liefert**

We begin December with service for two congregations—Namaqua and the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Marin in Northern California—featuring Rev. Laurel and her son Rev. Marcus Liefert. In this time of shorter days and longer nights, we may find ourselves in stillness and waiting.

### **December 13: The Art of Stillness - Rev. Laurel Liefert & Worship Associate Mim Neal**

British-born travel writer Pico Iyer in his book The Art of Stillness: Adventures in Going Nowhere writes that "Heaven is the place where you think of nowhere else." Inspired by the lives of Leonard Cohen, Mahatma Gandhi, Marcel Proust, and Emily Dickinson, Iyer recommends the age-old practice of slowing down to discover the simple, surprising, cathartic thrill of stillness.

### **December 20: Preparing for the Longest Night - Rev. Laurel Liefert & Worship Associate Fred Schrekinger**

Our Namaqua tradition in years past has been to dedicate the Sunday before the Winter Solstice to building a wreath together. Each person was invited to write a wish for the coming year or something they wish to let go of on a small slip of paper and attach it to the wreath. The wreath would then be burned during the Winter Solstice Ceremony, the smoke releasing all of the wishes into the night sky. This year you are invited to send your wishes to Rev. Laurel by **Wednesday, December 16th**, and they will be woven into a tapestry of wishes to be read (anonymously) during the December 20th service.

### **December 21 (6:00pm): Winter Solstice and Holiday Healing - Rev. Laurel Liefert & Worship Associate Janet Gillette**

On this, the darkest night of the year, join Rev. Laurel and Janet for a quiet evening service of healing and comfort. It will be an opportunity for you to be present to whatever this holiday season means to you. You will be invited to relax into the quiet and the darkness, sharing thoughts and stories, poetry and music, inviting hope into the places of darkness in the season.

### **December 24 (recorded and accessible at the time of your choosing): Family Christmas Eve - Worship Associate Janen Wright**

In a Family Christmas Eve Service titled, *Home for the Holidays*, join Janen Wright and her son Dallin Wright for a trip around the world to see how other cultures celebrate Christmas!

### **December 24 (8:00pm): Contemplative Christmas Eve - Rev. Laurel Liefert & Worship Associate Kathy Hartman**

A quiet hour to relax in the company of community. Come be nourished with music and silence, poetry and stories, grateful for the simple pleasure of being together.

### **December 27 Reflections on the Threshold of a New Year - Trish Murtha & the NUUC Worship Associate Team**

The year 2020 is nearly a "wrap." What we have learned in that last 525,600 minutes that has strengthened and/or weakened us as people and as a Congregation? Includes a medley of Readings and Music to pack into our bags as we head into 2021.

## NUUC COVID-19 Response Plan

COVID-19 Task Force will regularly monitor announcements from the Center for Disease Control ([www.CDC.gov](http://www.CDC.gov)), Larimer County Health Department ([www.Larimer.org/health](http://www.Larimer.org/health)) and UUA ([www.UUA.org](http://www.UUA.org)) as well as other recognized experts and make recommendations to NUUC Board of Trustees and CoSM on best policies and practices to ensure compliance with Colorado government instructions and recommendations. The Task Force will meet as necessary to review and update NUUC policy and guidelines.

### COMMUNICATION

- NUUC's primary communication tools will be our e-mail blast system and the NUUC website [www.NamaquaUU.org](http://www.NamaquaUU.org)
- Any member or friend who would like to sign up for email blasts should send a request to [Admin@NamaquaUU.org](mailto:Admin@NamaquaUU.org)
- Current policy, announcements and information will be posted on the church's website: [www.NamaquaUU.org](http://www.NamaquaUU.org) in the Events box at top right on home page. To post an announcement, send notice to [nuuc@NamaquaUU.org](mailto:nuuc@NamaquaUU.org)
- Larimer County Health Department approved signs will be posted at all church entrances stating that masks need to be worn indoors and no one with COVID symptoms may enter buildings
- Current NUUC COVID-19 policy will be distributed with *Building Use Guidelines* when a member reserves an indoor room for any purpose.

### INDOOR SERVICES and PROGRAMS

- Sanctuary occupancy will be limited to 25 individuals
- Parker Hall occupancy will be limited to 15 individuals
- Only NUUC staff, members and friends will be routinely allowed into the buildings. Others with need (repair, special guests) may enter accompanied by NUUC individuals.
- All indoor NUUC services/programs/activities must be led by a NUUC leader or designee who has been trained during either Fall 2020 Leadership Summit or CoSM Council meeting.
- Program lead must submit a Larimer County variance plan [jotform.com/form/201706022336140](http://jotform.com/form/201706022336140) and obtain approval if more than 10 people are expected to attend any indoor event. Send plan to NUUC Administrative Assistant for filing.
- Attendance lists with contact information for all programs must be established by program lead and sent with variance plan and closing checklist to Administrative Assistant for filing.
- A NUUC Closing Building checklist must be completed by program lead and sent to NUUC Administrative Assistant for filing.

- All protective practices must be followed as outlined below: social distancing, wearing masks, no home-made food, cleaning/disinfecting.
- Parent/guardian of any child participating in an indoor activity must sign a NUUC consent form outlining and acknowledging their responsibilities in following church policy.
- As much as possible, staff and volunteers should continue to work from home.

### HOLDING/CANCELLING SERVICES and PROGRAMS

- While on-site services and programs will be allowed once attached Pre-Conditions are met, it is recommended that virtual services via the internet be continued as long as Colorado Safer-At-Home Guidance is in place and "at-risk individuals are encouraged to minimize contact with people outside their households." Announcement/instructions will be made via email blasts and on website.
- Indoor service/program leaders is responsible for insuring all safety precautions as outlined here are complied with and for completing Closing Buildings Checklist which will be distributed when room is reserved.
- Individual members may enter building for essential purposes.
- NUUC programs may be held virtually or outdoors as determined by the lead.
- Outdoor activities must be socially distanced and participants will wear masks.
- 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.
- No outside groups may use the buildings for any purpose.

### PROTECTIVE PRACTICES

- Larimer County Health Department Safer-At-Home Places of Worship Checklist must be completed by Board of Trustees and posted in office
- No one is to enter NUUC buildings if they are sick or exhibiting COVID symptoms (fever, sore throat, headache, cough, loss of taste or smell, shortness of breath, ear aches, body aches, diarrhea, fatigue, vomiting, abdominal pain). Symptom checks must be completed before employees and volunteers enter the building. Anyone symptomatic must self-isolate for 10 days.
- 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

## NUUC COVID-19 Response Plan (continued)

### PROTECTIVE PRACTICES (continued)

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
- Everyone who enters building must have their temperatures checked at the door by an individual designated by the program lead and be questioned regarding any COVID-19 symptoms. No one with a temperature above 100.4 or with COVID-19 symptoms may enter building.
- Once the building capacity is met, no more will be admitted and must wait outside 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
- No singing will be allowed inside buildings
- Multiple supplies of masks, hand-sanitizer, and disinfecting wipes/spray will be made available in both sanctuary and Parker Hall.
- Cleaning/Disinfecting Surfaces
  - Weekly (by NUUC Custodian) if building has been used for any group (if no group events have been held, custodian may clean every two weeks) and as- used (by staff member/volunteer or program lead), CDC-approved chlorine and alcohol-based (at least 60%) solutions and disposable paper towels will be used 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
  - CoSM Building Operations Ministry is responsible for ensuring sufficient CDC-approved cleaning agents, supplies and equipment are available at all times
  - Cleaning responsibility will be described in Building Use Guidelines.
- Refreshments will be limited to commercially wrapped food items and juices. No home-made foods will be allowed.
- Disposable dishes and flatware will be used
- 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 (PCT) at [PastoralCare@NamaquaUU.org](mailto: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

### ADDENDUM A

In accordance with Larimer County Health Department Public Health Order dated October 23, 2020: All activities in NUUC buildings are limited to 10 people from no more than two households. Worship services are exempt from this limitation.

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

## **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

### **NUUC Again Closes our Buildings to Meetings**

As you are no doubt aware, COVID is rising rapidly in Larimer County and we are now in the COVID red zone and more health department restrictions went into place Tuesday Nov 24th . The repeated message is distancing—as well as masks, of course. Latest recommendation is for no more than two households to gather.

The NUUC COVID Task Force is again amending our COVID policy to close the building to all gatherings except services and ‘life rites’ (weddings/funerals) which are allowed exceptions to the current health department recommendations.

There is some good news! On Congressman Neguse’s Nov 23rd town hall meeting, multiple state health department leaders all said ‘hang tough, there is light at end of tunnel’—tho it may not be until summer that things are ‘normal’ again. And there is a Larimer County plan to roll out vaccines starting in December. Healthcare workers are first in line; at-risk individuals in Stage 2.

Stay safe, Everyone—we can get through this if we all stay together!

## President's Message

The days are getting shorter, approaching the winter solstice, and a nip is in the air when I let the dogs out each morning into darkness. It's a good time of year to nestle-in.

All the more so by that virus thing surging around. **Stay safe, everyone!**

Our "**C-team**" of Sally Henry, Jim Danforth, Pete Buchmeier and Tom Mitchell continue to monitor Larimer county, Colorado and CDC guidelines and adapt them to us. Not surprisingly, the **building use policy** is conservative right now. The latest can be found on our website. The main thing is our safety.

I look forward to connecting in our Zoom **Sunday services**, but I must admit longing for being there in person, hearing the hum of conversations before the service and listening to live music (though I'm not sure those near me who endure my attempt to follow hymns would agree). Still, it's good to see everyone, gain a sense of how we're all doing through life's joys and sorrows, and take in the reflection, which always shows such care. I often have difficulty stepping back, quieting my mind, and I realize the familiarity of our Sunday services slows me down, brings me more context, calms me. **Yoga for my spirit.**

Too, I'm so pleased the election is behind us and the outcome clear enough. I was never worried our democracy would continue, and it's nice to have what I was not worrying about in the rear-view mirror. **Now I can nestle in more comfortably.**

**Being able to do so is a privilege**, of course. There are those who live on the edge in so many ways, and those in our world who live beyond it—the homeless, for instance. We are a member of the northern branch of *Together Colorado*, a multi-denominational social action organization that has taken up homelessness as a cause. Another member, First United Presbyterian Church ("First on Fourth," just a couple blocks from us) is planning to open up for inclement weather shelter. As they say in a favorite Covid-inspired binge-watching Australian show, *A Place Called Home*, "Good on ya!"

Good on ourselves during the **forest fires**, with the couple of people in our congregation who were wise to evacuate finding welcoming homes to stay in. Cam and I have a spare guest room that could be put to use, if that would ever help anyone. And an outreach for a pastoral care situation generated thousands of extra dollars for the **Pastoral Care Fund**. We are a compassionate, beloved community indeed.

A thank-you to those who attended the **Congregational Meeting** on November 15<sup>th</sup>. This was an informative one – nothing up for a vote – and we heard status and plans from our staff and governing bodies before we used breakout rooms to discuss what's working and how to make us even better. Laurel is looking forward to seeing if our application for a **ministerial intern** for the 2021-22 church year is approved, and us thereby becoming a **Teaching Congregation**. We'll find out if we'll receive a grant to pay half the intern's salary in a few weeks. The other half would come from her desire to return to **¾ time ministry** next church year.

Too, the Board voted to grant Laurel part of an overdue **sabbatical this coming March and April**. We'll be putting plans in place to at least partially fill her large shoes—fortunately (well, through intentional shared ministry), we have **super-strong teams** in Worship Associates and Pastoral Care, among others, and Janen and Margo are pillars themselves.

Stay safe, and if you can, give yourself some nestle-in time. You're worth it!

Yours in beloved community,

*Doug*

## Religious Education

### In our Practiced Pessimism

O, God, in our practiced pessimism it is difficult to be less than cynical about Christmas. We too have followed stars but they never led us to Bethlehem. We have known many wise ones whose wisdom faded when tested by our experience. Angel voices for us usually turn out to be singing commercials. Words of peace are used to defend acts of aggression. Herod and Caesar still reign. The world is created not as we would have it and yet, and yet...



Somewhere a child just drew its first breath and the parents share in the primal joy of Christmas. A child estranged from its parents has decided to call home and the sound of his voice will bring the hope of reconciliation. Someone has given a gift where there was no expectation of giving or receiving. An aged person, ill and unloved, has just found mercy in the mantle of death.

O God, it's not your world, it's ours. Give us the courage to accept it, the grace to embrace it, the will to love it. Enable us we pray, to appreciate and expand the moments of joy in life, whenever they come. Let them be for us bearers of hope which will enable us to endure any hour of despair, to the end that we, while the gift of life is ours, may help push back the dark with the flame of our faith.

*by Paul N Carnes (Longing of the Heart 1973)*

I love this reading. To me, it is a reminder that life is HUGE on it's own without any supernatural influence required -- and our work of expanding joy is cut out for us!

### RE Calendar

#### Link to December *Soulful Home*

[soulmatterssharingcircle.com/uploads/9/4/5/0/94501751/sm\\_2020-12\\_sh\\_stillness.pdf](https://soulmatterssharingcircle.com/uploads/9/4/5/0/94501751/sm_2020-12_sh_stillness.pdf)

**Note to Parents:** It was so lovely to see your children's artwork in the November 22 Worship service. If you know how, would you please send a short recording to me at [Namaquadre@gmail.com](mailto:Namaquadre@gmail.com) of your children saying what they love most about Christmas. (Yes, the presents and maybe something else....?) Let's set the deadline for these recordings to be sent by Dec.13th so my son has a chance to put it all together for our Family Christmas Eve service (see below.) I thought the kids might like seeing each other at this special time of year! I know I love seeing them!

Due to the spike in Covid cases we decided it best to cancel our *Family Fall Festival in November*. We will keep an eye out for our *Christmas Ornament-Making Party* slated for the 12th of December and see if restrictions are lifted by then.

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## Religious Education (continued)

**Dec. 13-- Second Sunday Circle @ 9:30-9:50 in Zoom Room 2 **What we can Learn from the Grinch! Join us in the second Zoom Room at this link!****

[zoom.us/j/92550309257?pwd=MXgwUVJqZk5DcTVHVGN4Ry9xNEJOUT09](https://zoom.us/j/92550309257?pwd=MXgwUVJqZk5DcTVHVGN4Ry9xNEJOUT09)

Also everyone is invited to our **Family Christmas Eve Service** which we hope to pre-record so you can watch it when it best suits your schedule! It is titled, *Home for the Holidays!!* Join me, Janen Wright, and my dear son, Dallin Wright, for a trip around the world to see how other cultures celebrate Christmas and hear my favorite *Little House on the Prairie* Christmas story, *Mr. Edwards Meets Santa Clause!*

Coming in January

**Mystery Pals**-This year we will expand Mystery Pals to include adult to adult Pals too

**Parent Support and Discussion Group**--every other week Thursday evenings on Zoom- more information coming soon!

Yours in service,

*Janen*



## Community Building

Finding ways to connect with each other within our Namaqua community has been challenging in this time of COVID. But we are blessed to have folks in our congregation who have been willing to lead the way in finding NEW ways of connecting remotely. Please keep an eye on the Newsletter and take a look at email blasts to see if something calls to you to join in (remotely). Please contact Jennifer Buchmeier if you have any other ideas of how we can get together remotely.

- **Social Sisterhood:** Contact Nancy Amsler or Alice Cain to get put on the mailing list. This group meets many Thursdays at 1 PM.
- **Covenant Groups:** Sort of a blend between learning and connecting. No groups are active right now, but Laurel is thinking she will restart groups (as desired) early next year.
- **Non-fiction Book Club:** This ad hoc group will choose a book to read and discuss. Chad Escallier will put out some choices for you and then set up a meeting to discuss your thought on the selection. No firm date yet...just keep an eye out.
- **Game Night:** Curtis and Donna Hopehill are thinking that they are willing to coordinate something. They know how to do this. Watch newsletter and email for instructions and date/time.

## Minister's Musings



December 2020

Holiday Season, Democracy, Life & Death Matters

Dear Ones, this month a mixed bag of reflections.

You will see that we have a lot of Upcoming Services in December as we approach the longest night on Winter Solstice. This month, perhaps more than ever, let's work together to keep our web of connection warm and strong. Please read the article in this newsletter by the Pastoral Care Team and let us know whether you would like to participate.

As we are finally on track to transition to a new federal administration, I recall a reflection about democracy from the March 2020 edition of the Church of the Larger Fellowship's monthly publication *Quest*. In the cover article "Democracy is Essential" by Rev. Stephanie May, she quotes from [Daring Democracy: Igniting Power, Meaning, and Connection for the America We Want](#) by Frances Moore Lappe and Adam Eichen:

*Creating democracies truly accountable to their citizens is essential to our very survival – to the flourishing of societies supporting human life, and now, because of climate change, to the survival of the Earth as we've inherited it.*

*This is a colossal claim, we know. But there's one point on which human history makes us absolutely certain: it's not the magnitude of a challenge that crushes the human spirit...What most defeats us is feeling useless...that we have nothing to say, nothing to contribute, that we don't count.*

Fulfilling our mission right here in our corner of the world means continuing to play an active, meaningful part in shaping the world we want to live in. I find hope in the *butterfly effect* in chaos theory - that a small change, such as our work to build Beloved Community here and now, to be the change we want to see in the world, can ripple out and contribute to making a large difference in the evolving world we co-create with all other living beings.

Personally, this year's season of increasing darkness, after such a uniquely stressful 2020, and now the recent death of beloved member Sharon Reif, has me reflecting even more deeply than usual about my own life. I am among the many in our congregation born in 1950 (Francey Liefert, Tim Black, Sharon Reif, me, Kathy Hartman, Janet Gillette), which means we all turned 70 this year. Sharon's death at age 70 from pancreatic cancer, which my sister Carolyn also died of at age 63 last February, along with the worldwide deaths from COVID with a disproportionate impact on people of color, mean that mortality and the fragility of life loom large for me these days. I imagine this is true for all of us. There is so much we cannot control. But one thing we can control is our response to all of this.

For me, I remember the line of poetry I learned in high school from Wallace Stevens's poem "Sunday Morning": *Death is the mother of beauty*. Every morning in my spiritual practice - as I light the candles on my altar, sending out prayers, healing thoughts and love, holding two of my Zuni fetishes in my warm, alive hands - and when I walk my dog Rosie around the cul-de-sac, breathing deeply of the clean air and noticing the outline of the bare trees sketched against the blue sky - oh my, what a wonderful world, what a great day to be alive! *Now I walk in beauty, beauty is before me, beauty is behind me, above and below me.*

If I died today, I would feel that my life has been meaningful; that, as Forrest Church put it, I believe I have lived a life worth dying for. It is my sincere and fervent hope that all of you, too, feel that your lives have been and continue to be meaningful. This is what we are doing here together in our religious community - making meaning in our wild and precious lives.

*(continued on next page)*

## Minister's Musings (continued)

It's interesting to me that in the past month or so, I've been given several opportunities to reflect on my life. What an honor to have participated in the Living Her Legacy interview that Barbara Fleming made possible, and the KRFC interview on "Faith in Progress" with Rabbi Hillel Katzir, and the World Wisdoms Project panel about "Spiritual Practice in Times of Crisis." With gratitude and humility, I've included the links to these in case you are interested in hearing your minister talk more. (Though you may get enough of this on Sunday mornings!)

I'm spending time with my family in California this month, but I am with you not only in spirit. I also look forward to seeing you on Zoom in our many December services, as we reflect on Stillness and celebrate the various holidays and take time to heal and love ourselves and one another.

### *From Laurel, With Love*

#### **Living Her Legacy**

Interview of Rev. Laurel by Living Her Legacy founder Patti Smith.

[youtube.com/watch?v=GYJVGB76qhA](https://youtube.com/watch?v=GYJVGB76qhA)

**Faith in Progress on KRFC 88.9** FM Radio Fort Collins: Rabbi Hillel has a conversation with Rev. Laurel Liefert of Namaqua Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Loveland about spiritual practices that they each have been using to get through this period of crises in our country. [krfcfm.org/shows/faith-in-progress](http://krfcfm.org/shows/faith-in-progress) (aired on 11/17/1010 - will be posted in Podcast Archive)

#### **WORLD WISDOM PROJECT PANEL ABOUT "SPIRITUAL PRACTICES IN TIME OF CRISIS"**

Rabbi Hillel, Rev. Jane Anne Ferguson of Plymouth UCC Church in Fort Collins, Rev. Eric Smith of Scott United Methodist Church in Denver, and Rev. Laurel of the Namaqua UU Congregation in Loveland engage in a panel discussion about "Spiritual Practices in Times of Crisis." [youtu.be/3UBD0llytx4](https://youtu.be/3UBD0llytx4) [worldwisdomsproject.org](http://worldwisdomsproject.org).

## Namaqua Star

**Sally Henry** spent the early part of her life on the east coast where she worked as a critical care nurse. After she obtained a Masters Degree in adult education, she was the Director of Education for a hospital system in New Jersey. After that, she moved to Oregon and became the Executive Director of a healthcare nonprofit. In 2005 she moved to Loveland and joined the Namaqua UU Congregation.

Sally was an active and dedicated member from the beginning. When the church was meeting in its temporary location of the alternative high school, she was one who could be counted on to set up and take down chairs for the service in the shared space. At that time, Namaqua had a part-time itinerant minister who drove from Denver (Rev. Alicia Forde).

During the process of seeking and finding our current minister, Laurel, she was an integral part of the search team. She has worked tirelessly in service of our congregation serving as Board President for two years and CoSM chair for five years. She has also headed up the Leadership Development Committee. However, her biggest passion is heading up the Pastoral Care Committee. Pastoral Care is where her heart lies, keeping her team members connected to the members of the church and their needs for assistance, food, transportation and a caring presence in times of grief, sickness or other problems. **Sally is a bright Namaqua Star!**



## Building Beloved Community *by Barbara Fleming*



The roots of Unitarianism are Christian; it began as a movement to deny the trinity, which proponents (one of whom was burned at the stake for expressing his beliefs) maintained was an artificial construct not in the bible. And it is of later origin; the triumvirate of father, son and holy ghost was created by church officials in 325 AD (or Common Era, as many prefer to designate these most recent millennia) during a council at Nicea as a way to explain the virgin birth. This has left UUs challenged during the Christmas season. Typically, our congregations have focused on the positive aspects of the holiday—goodwill toward others, generosity of spirit and help for those in need. Still, we sing the traditional hymns (although some words have been changed), follow most Christmas traditions, and incorporate birth stories from other religious traditions into our services. As a Unitarian Universalist, you are left to fashion your own ways of observing Christmas. Whatever those may be, here's to a warm and loving holiday for all of us.

Among us:

A warm and loving welcome to the newest member of our NUUC family, **Harmony Rodriguez**, whose parents, **Hannah** and **Michael**, are rejoicing her safe arrival and thriving infancy.

**Peter Buchmeier's** sister, **Margaret Suboda**, has recovered from Covid-19. **Jennifer's** brother is recovering from a kidney transplant.

**Alice** and **Roger Cain's** daughter, **Becky Castor**, and their granddaughter, **Anna Castor**, have both completed black belts in tae kwon do.

**Mim Neal** is grateful for the assistance of **Way** and **Aidan Christiansen** with yard work, and of **Katie Fox** to meet other needs so she can stay in her own home.

**Margo Ervin's** husband, **Tim**, has been diagnosed with Covid-19. His symptoms are mild and no one else in the family is affected.

Condolences to **Kathy Hartman**, whose mother, **Lillian Hartman**, died in October.

**Vicki Clark** enjoyed a visit with her daughter, **Stephanie Irwin**, and her granddaughters, **Megan McFarland** and **Sharyce Winters** in October.

**Kent Robertson** has completed radiation treatments for prostate cancer with apparently positive results. He has also had some dental procedures.

**Janet Gillette's** granddaughter, **Mia Michelle McKinney**, has been accepted into a prestigious arts academy in New York City and recently traveled there with her mother.

**Susan Moody's** son, **Jason Taylor**, has returned safely from a visit to his girlfriend in Brazil.

**Angela Arvola's** surgery has been postponed due to Covid-19.

**Barbara Fleming** has been diagnosed with chronic idiopathic interstitial pulmonary fibrosis—scarring on the lungs—which inhibits her breathing. She is now on oxygen full time and will soon have a portable unit that will allow her to be more mobile.

We extend our condolences, shared joy and concern for those joys and sorrows shared and those that remain unspoken in our hearts.

## Board of Trustees Highlights

The Board met virtually via Zoom on November 10, 2020.

The Board's continued their discussion of this church year's common read: *Growing A Beloved Community: Twelve Hallmarks of a Healthy Congregation* by Tom Owen-Towle.

Update reports were shared by Rev. Laurel, Sara Suriani for the Committee for Shared Ministry (CoSM) and Kathy Hartman for the Leadership Development Committee (LDC.)

### Rev. Laurel's Time

#### Sabbatical

- Rev. Laurel requested to take a sabbatical March - April 2021. She feels all should move along smoothly in her absence because of the great team of ten Worship Associates we have. In addition, there are funds available for guest ministers. The motion that Laurel be granted a much needed sabbatical from March-April 2021 passed unanimously.

#### Employment

- Rev. Laurel would like to go to ¾ time for the 2020-21 church year. Not only would she like to slow down a bit; she also has some pressing family issues that need her attention. The motion that Rev Laurel have the option of going to ¾ time for the 2020-21 church year was passed unanimously.

#### Ministerial Intern

- Rev. Laurel is qualified to supervise a ministerial intern and would love to do it. She feels that NUUC would be a great teaching congregation and that now is a good time because the NUUC staff is very strong. With Laurel going to ¾ time, it would free up funds for an intern. In addition, we have applied for a grant to supplement the intern's salary.
- We would need an intern committee.
- Intern dates would be August 15 to May 15 - but timing is flexible.
- The motion that the Board is in support of Namaqua
  - becoming a teaching congregation
  - providing at least 50% of the minimum salary, and
  - creating an Intern Committee, using the guidelines in the Internship Manual
 was passed unanimously.

### Financial Update – Dick Barton

- A ministerial intern for nine months will cost NUUC \$15,000 - \$24,000. This would be mostly paid for by the Intern Grant (just applied for) from UUA and by Rev Laurel going to ¾ time. Therefore, the net increase in expenses would be about \$1000. (Dick feels the budget can easily flex for that.)
- In October
  - We spent \$3800 more than we brought in.
  - Restricted funds have increased considerably thanks to funds contributed to Pastoral Care.
  - Still waiting for Fed approval of PPP funds as a grant; therefore, just holding them in savings for now.

### Personnel Update – Doug Stewart

- Elizabeth Fraser has been employed as custodian. If building is used, she will clean every week. If building is not used, she will clean every other week.

(continued on next page)

## Board of Trustees Highlights (continued)

### Facilities Report – Pete Buchmeier

- A couple of building repairs needed are:
  - The woodpecker-attacked ramp handrail into Parker Hall. Pete volunteered to fix that.
  - The moldy smell coming from the basement that is drifting in to Laurel’s office. Pete suggested fans to mitigate smell.
- Outside maintenance can wait - other than the cleaning out of the gutters.
- On-going Internet situation
  - Comcast says new fiber optics is not going to be running for another 3 months. Therefore, we have only one option available with our current configuration. The cost might be around \$4000. Pete will double check on this. Sara said she will check on Century Link.

### ABD

It is time to recruit Annual Budget Drive (ABD) leaders. Leonard (the ABD co-chair the last two years) will be happy to advise the new leader(s).

IF ANYONE IS INTERESTED IN HEADING UP THIS VERY IMPORTANT ACTIVITY, PLEASE LET DOUG, DICK OR LEONARD KNOW.

**Next Board meeting scheduled for December 8, at 6:30 pm – via Zoom**

Respectfully submitted by Rebecca Williamson, Board of Trustees Secretary.

## King Soopers Grocery Cards

When you use your Sooper Card or Alt ID (phone number at King Soopers, you can automatically designate Namaqua UU to receive 5% of ALL of your purchases (including gas and lottery tickets!). **However, you must designate NUUC as your Community Rewards recipient on the King Soopers web site.** To do that:

1. Go to [www.kingsoopers.com](http://www.kingsoopers.com).
2. If you’ve already been on the site, sign in to your account. If you have not visited the site before, go to [www.kingsoopers.com/signin?redirectUrl=/](http://www.kingsoopers.com/signin?redirectUrl=/) and click on the *Create an account link at the bottom of the page, next to “New to King Soopers?”*. You will be asked for some basic information, a valid email address, and your King Soopers reward number. *If you do not have a King Soopers rewards card, they are available at the customer service desk at any King Soopers.*
3. Once you have signed into your account, hover over “My Account” (under your name in the top right corner of the page), then click on My Account in the drop-down menu.
4. On the left side of the page is a list of links. Under “My Account”, click on the last link titled *Community Rewards*.
5. Search for *Namaqua Unitarian Universalist Congregation* and then click *Enroll*.

When you make a purchase, you will see NUU noted at the bottom of your receipt. If you are a Safeway Shopper and do not have a rechargeable card, or have any questions, please contact Jeanne Miller or at [jkm530@hotmail.com](mailto:jkm530@hotmail.com) or 626-437-1950.

## Social Justice and Environmental Justice



The Social Justice Ministry is supporting an organization called People and Pollinators. This group is working to educate Colorado about pollinators, their decline, and the effects this has on the human population.

Pollinators include species of insects, birds, and bats that are responsible for a great deal of plant reproduction. Due to the prevalence of monoculture, habitat loss, insecticide use and climate change, these species are diminishing.

**People and Pollinators Action Network** works with both local and state governmental agencies and elected officials to encourage pollinator friendly policies in land and facility management.

At the state legislature, they were successful in passing a resolution in 2017 to designate I-76 as Colorado's first pollinator highway from the Nebraska border to metro Denver. They have worked with CDOT to encourage the development of pollinator friendly roadway management policies. They have also engaged state legislators in educational opportunities to learn more about the importance of pollinators to our overall biodiversity, our agricultural systems, and healthy habitats.

The group is working to get special **Pollinator License Plates** to recognize the significant role pollinators play in supporting food systems and ecosystems. Please consider signing the petition to develop a license plate in Colorado honoring pollinators by going to [peopleandpollinators.org/pollinator-plates-petition/](https://peopleandpollinators.org/pollinator-plates-petition/). Three thousand signatures are needed.

For more information about this important issue that affects all of us go to [peopleandpollinators.org](https://peopleandpollinators.org).



The Social Justice Team typically decorates the **Giving Tree** this time of year. The pandemic has changed that. Our team knows the local needs are great. We ask you to consider a donation to the Giving Tree from the "Give" link on NUUC's website. We want to support three organizations: Larimer County Food Bank, Neighbor to Neighbor, and Alternatives to Justice. These three organizations help people who have been severely affected by the pandemic. Please consider a generous donation to the Giving Tree. The link will be available now through December 22. May you have a happy holiday season .

### December Birthdays

Dec 7 Judi O'Neal  
 Dec 13 Laura Henderson  
 Dec 14 Meagan Foster  
 Dec 15 Cherry Sokoloski  
 Dec 18 Kaylee Dornseif-Briles  
 Dec 24 Hayden Butcher  
 Dec 28 Tom Clark



If you'd like your birthday or anniversary listed in the newsletter please email: [newsletter@namaquauu.org](mailto:newsletter@namaquauu.org)

## From the Pastoral Care Team

### ???Want More Folks to Connect With???

The COVID 19 pandemic hit hard last March—that's 8 months ago. Eight long months of varying degrees of "STAY AT HOME!". Reduced contact with extended family, reduced time with friends, reduced travel, reduced social life, reduced shopping, reduced eating out. The list goes on and on—"reduce, cut back, stay local, avoid others". It's a lonely, isolating time for some—an anxious and depressing time for many.

Pastoral Care Team is wondering if you'd like another way to connect with members of our community. Would you be interested in 1) having a person from the church reach out to you on a regular basis or 2) volunteering as a person to reach out to others? The PCT is willing to set up a registry of members and friends who would like some regular 1:1 times (well-distanced, of course) to help cope with these pandemic-related stressors. Sort of like COVID-era *Not Going Out for Coffee*.

At this point, over the winter, we expect that volunteers will mostly reach out via phone every week or so and have friendly conversations along the lines of "How's it going?", "What's happening with you?", "Do you need any help?" or whatever you'd like to talk about. The actual meeting times, intervals and methods will be up to each pair.

If you are interested in volunteering, requesting a contact, learning more or would like to help organize it (!), please email [pastoralcare@namaquauu.org](mailto:pastoralcare@namaquauu.org) or contact a member of the PCT: Cindy Black, Els Deininger, Kathy Hartman, Sally Henry or Rev. Laurel Liefert.

## Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Care Team supports the congregation members and friends during difficult times. They take care of such needs as arranging for meals and running errands, rides to appointments, help with moving, 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, Els Deininger, Kathy Hartman, Sally Henry, Rev Laurel Liefert. [PastoralCare@NamaquaUU.org](mailto: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](mailto:Board@NamaquaUU.org)  
 To reach the President, email [President@NamaquaUU.org](mailto:President@NamaquaUU.org)

## NUUC Elected Leaders

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

Sara Suriani (term expires 2022)  
 Brian Jarvis (term expires 2021)  
 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](http://www.NamaquaUU.org)

## Our Mission

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

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

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

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

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

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

**For the January Newsletter: December 20**

**For the February Newsletter: January 24**

### NUUC E-mail Addresses

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 BuildingBelovedCommunity@NamaquaUU.org  
 Buildings@NamaquaUU.org  
 Calendar@NamaquaUU.org  
 Communications@NamaquaUU.org  
 CoSM@NamaquaUU.org  
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