



Namaqua Unitarian Universalist Congregation

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

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Upcoming Services

March 7: The Bridge to Commitment — Worship Associates Susan Moody & Janet Gillette

The Soul Matters theme in March is Commitment. We will look at what role our personal authenticity plays in developing our sense of commitment. Part of this is our commitment to being true to ourself as well as to a helping role with others. As we develop goals in our lives, we discover that commitment can be the bridge that gets us there!

March 14: Contemplating Unitarian Universalist Values — Worship Associates Doug Stewart & Chad Escallier

As Unitarian Universalists, we have guiding principles and sources, but what if we also had UU values? A value helps guide us through life. Values are about how someone wants to behave as a person. Different from a goal, which is typically has an end point, values are typically a life-long pursuit. What are your values and what actions do you take to realize them? Worship Associates Doug and Chad will discuss ways to identify and commit to our values as well as emphasize values that undergird the Unitarian Universalist principles and sources.

March 21: Personal Commitment to Unitarian Universalism — Worship Associates Kathy Hartman & Fred Schrekinger

What are the elements of our personal commitment to this spiritual endeavor? Fred will detail some history of UU Martyrs and Heroes in the Civil Rights Era and we'll explore additional examples of commitment to our faith in more modern times.

March 28: Hail and Hosanna! — Worship Associates Andy Carlson & Mim Neal

The Christian holy day of Palm Sunday commemorates the occasion on which Jesus made his triumphant return to Jerusalem. This usually-humble man appears to have relished the cheers of the adoring crowd there to greet him, although surely he must have known that, by returning to Jerusalem with such fanfare, he was walking into his own death. As we wrap up our month-long meditation on the theme of commitment, Worship Associates Andy Carlson and Mim Neal will consider the role praise can play in helping us stick to our commitments — both for those who receive the praise and for those who give it.

NUUC meets each Sunday
at 10:00am on Zoom:
[Meeting ID: 95746329454](#)

Contact Us: 970-685-0427
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Loveland, CO 80537

Find us on the web
www>NamaquaUU.org
[@NamaquaUU](https://www.instagram.com/NamaquaUU)



NUUC COVID-19 Response Plan

COVID-19 Task Force will regularly monitor announcements from the Center for Disease Control (www.CDC.gov), Larimer County Health Department (www.Larimer.org/health) and UUA (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
- Any member or friend who would like to sign up for email blasts should send a request to Admin@NamaquaUU.org
- Current policy, 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
- 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 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 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.

ADDENDUM B

In accordance with Larimer County Health Department Public Health Order dated November 13, 2020: All program activities in NUUC buildings are prohibited. Worship services and ‘life rites’ (weddings, funerals) are exempt from this limitation.

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

March Birthdays

Birthdays

Mar 5 — Elena Ervin
 Mar 7 — Curtis HopeHill
 Mar 9 — Katie Fox
 Mar 11 — Brenda Christiansen
 Mar 17 — Renie Poole
 Mar 18 — Tom Mitchell
 Mar 20 — Amy Carlson
 Mar 21 — Allen Van Nest
 Mar 24 — Kate Fens
 Jen Buchmeier



If you would like your birthday or anniversary listed in an upcoming newsletter, please email Newsletter@NamaquaUU.org.

President's Message

That cold wave in February not only affected Texas—**our church building too!**

The sanctuary furnace took an inopportune time to go out, the pipes froze and a pipe joint cracked. When it thawed the little furnace/storage area under the sanctuary **flooded with 18" of water!**

Very fortunately, Bill Rosquist caught it the very next morning, waiting for the furnace repair people, and sent out the alarm. Pete Buchmeier rushed over, found the street side shut off valve under the snow, and the City promptly arrived and shut it off. **Whew!**

Now we're in assessment and fix mode. The foundation is solid and unaffected, looks like. But a floor joist—one of many—has lost its support, a short brick dirt retaining wall. Several of us met by Zoom this last Sunday—we'll make sure it's safe to work down there, and then get the wall and joist fixed, along with the furnace and the pipes. We may call in a structural engineer, just to be sure. And start thinking about finances and our insurance. Stay tuned!

Meanwhile, the **water in Parker Hall is off** (the social hall, with its bathrooms and kitchen)—its feeder pipe is the one that leaked. Kind of a good thing we're not putting the building to use right now, so we can take our own good time in getting it all fixed right.

But if this were where I was living, I'd be cold and have no water. **Those poor people in Texas.** And the 20/20 hindsight on what they might have done differently to be better prepared—perhaps starting with a mindset that better comprehended Climate Change and the limitations of the market in meeting basic life needs, like warmth. **Bolstering our call for community social action.**

I have to be careful at throwing rocks, though. Coincidentally, the day we shut off the water, whew, our building crew received an email from our insurance company advertising an automatic basement water detector! 20/20 hindsight. We'll put that on our list to investigate.

The other Big News is happy. We have a **ministerial intern!** **clare hammoor** is going to Illiff Theological School, has a full-time job as a school administrator, *and* will be **our part-time intern from May 2021 through June 2023.** clare has a PhD in theatre and has produced plays in the Colorado prison system, among many other accomplishments. Laurel has recruited a fine **Internship Committee** to help guide our work together. We're so thrilled to have him join us and journey together, starting in May.

Laurel, the Board and CoSM have a comfortable plan in place to cover Laurel's overdue and much-deserved **sabbatical** in March and April. Worship Associates are lined up for Sunday Services and the Pastoral Care team is prepared with Rev. Aaron Norris of Greeley UU as our ministerial backup. We're in good hands, our own augmented with other's.

Finances to-date appear in good shape—the **Annual Budget Drive** is proceeding, ably led by Bill Rosquist and Mickey McGuire. ***If you haven't gotten your pledge drive in, please do so*** as we want to wrap up the drive in March. Dick Barton, our Treasurer, has next year's proposed budget, and **a very part-time music director might not be out of reach**, depending on the pledge drive. Another stay-tuned!

We remember and will miss **Glenda Bell**, who loved us at least as much as we loved her.

All our interactions — building and intern position-making and pledge-committing and dreaming for a better world — make for deepening hearts and beloved community. **I'm glad it's you I'm journeying with.**

Doug

Religious Education

Reflection and Report

Our church theme for March is **Commitment**. When I was reading about the Eightfold Path of Buddhism that includes Right view, Right resolve, Right speech, Right effort (and 4 more) it made me wonder what we have to offer *our* kids by way of how to walk our talk as committed Unitarian Universalists. I really like this list that the The American Humanist Association for Kids put together. Instead of the 10 Commandments (which I always thought set a rather low bar) here are **10 Commitments**. You don't have to be a humanist to appreciate the vision they inspire.



I love what it says about Responsibility. *"I will be a good person -- even when no one is looking -- and own the consequences of my actions."* I was just talking to a parent the other day about how easy it is for people who are trying to be good to take the peace of mind that that focus gives us for granted -- although we would miss it if this peace weren't a large part of our internal lives.

What a gift it is to know deep inside that we are *trying* to live our best life even if (or rather when) we make mistakes. It certainly makes it a lot easier to love ourselves and those around us. I am going to print off this poster and hang it in the RE room for when we return to church!

(continued on next page)

Religious Education (continued)

RE Calendar for March

Link to Soulful Home

www.soulmatterssharingcircle.com/uploads/9/4/5/0/94501751/2021-03_sh_commitment.pdf

A BIG thanks to all of you who participated in our **Mystery Pal Exchange** this year. Even without being able to meet in person your commitment made it a resounding success. Our children and youth are fortunate to have such kind and loving adults in their lives (and so am I!).

March 14 (Sunday, from 9:30-9:50 a.m.) **Second Sunday RE Circle**--This month we are going to explore a commitment to curiosity and think of all the amazing things we can wonder about in our fascinating world. (*Also Daylight Savings is today — remember to spring forward an hour!*)

Zoom Room 2:

Join Zoom Meeting

zoom.us/j/92550309257?pwd=MXqwUVJqZk5DcTVHVGN4Ry9xNEJOUT09

Meeting ID: 925 5030 9257

Passcode: 375670

March 15 - 19 Spring Break - for most public schools in Loveland



In service,

Janen

Minister's Musings



Belonging: The Meaning of Membership

Dear Ones,

On this occasion of welcoming twelve new/returning members last month, I was reminded of a column I wrote a few years back about belonging and the meaning of membership. As I now contemplate taking some time away, I offer you - in this new moment in time, when so much has changed – something that hasn't changed. Although our membership coordinator is now Alice Cain, instead of Vicki Clark, and although the people who just "virtually signed" our Membership Book are different, I hope you will recognize that the spirit still rings true.

From March 2018 Namaqua Crossings

The Pathways to Membership class last month touched a deep place in me. After a Sunday service on Perseverance, nine of us gathered around the table in my office nibbling on veggies and puff pastry treats as we shared our faith journeys. The group included me, the minister, Vicki Clark, membership coordinator, two women who had joined Namaqua last year, one who newly signed the membership book, and four relative newcomers to the congregation. We took turns going around the table, sharing our stories, and with each round I felt us drawing closer with one another. Our short time together had the quality of what Parker Palmer calls a *circle of trust*: a group of people who know how to sit quietly "in the woods" with each other and wait for the shy soul to show up. The simple, rare gift of respectful listening that afternoon brought out honesty, vulnerability, complexity, and sometimes tears – "I contain multitudes." "I feel safe here." "I belong."

It's no secret that I think Namaqua is a special congregation. Congregations, like people, are organic entities that grow and experience transformation. And while each new member reconstitutes our congregation in some way, there also are things that remain the same. When I was called to serve Namaqua in 2011, then celebrating its 10-year anniversary, I immediately recognized its genuine warmth and welcome. Those of you who have known other congregations know that each UU congregation has its own personality and identity, its ways of being and doing things. I believe that the genuine warmth, welcome, and spirit of improvisation I experienced from the beginning here are essential qualities of Namaqua. Even as we have grown and changed, now two years in our own home, I believe we still emanate that warmth and welcome that invites people to bring their whole perfectly imperfect selves to become part of our community.

Joining a congregation like Namaqua is a process, a gradual progression from lesser to greater commitment. I never would pressure someone to join, and at the same time I extend the invitation gladly. Here's an excerpt from a book called [The Blessings of Imperfection](#) by G. Peter Fleck, a highly committed layperson with a deep love of the church, that describes why someone might choose to join a religious community like Namaqua and make a commitment:

"Well, let's be frank and admit that the church has its aggravations. The eternal and oh-so-necessary concern about finances, the annually recurring problems of balancing a budget, or finding money for repainting... the ongoing criticism of the minister's sermons, which are too liberal for some and too orthodox for others, too pedantic for some and too colloquial for others, the endless committee meetings... the persistent shortage of tenors in the choir. Who wants it? Who needs it?"

"The answer to this question is that we...want it, because we need it. The answer is that the church, and I am now speaking of the liberal church, in spite of its shortcomings, the imperfection that characterizes everything made by humans, is better, infinitely better, than no church. Maybe I should not have said 'in spite of its shortcomings' but 'because of its shortcomings.' For isn't it true that in our churches, in these communities of the spirit, we have more resources than outside of our churches to accept each other's imperfections, to reconcile our differences, to forgive and be forgiven, to comfort and to be comforted, to love and to be loved? Isn't this what church is all about – because it is what life is all about?"

This is what I dedicate my life to. This is what I call holy.

From Laurel, With Love

Introducing our New Members

John Lewis



I was a real estate broker for over 25 years and was on the Loveland Planning Commission for 8 years. I am most proud of the book I researched, wrote and published on land use and property rights. My wife and I were charter members of NUUC and I served on almost every committee back in those early days. We now live in Pueblo where I keep busy with

home projects, fishing and long walks with our dog Annie. Zoom has allowed us to reconnect with the active congregation Namaqua has become.

Marcia Lewis



I grew up in a loving family that was active in the traditional Methodist church in East Aurora, NY that is renowned for its Tiffany stained glass windows. In graduate school I was introduced to Unitarian Universalism through John, now my husband. We were married by a UU minister in the Superstition Mountains east of Mesa, Arizona in 1975.

When we moved to Loveland in 1982 we were excited to be close to Foothills UU. We were actively involved until our jobs and two young children took all our time. (Back then it was a long distance call from Loveland to Fort Collins.) I was an administrator at Loveland Public Library for 34 years. In 1998 Foothills UU funded the start of a new congregation for southern Larimer County and I attended a weeklong new congregation training at UUA headquarters in Boston. There were many industrious and dedicated people who helped NUUC get started. It is great to see how it has grown since!

After I retired in 2017 we moved to Pueblo. I have enjoyed grandmothering two little boys who live near Denver, gardening, felting wool and learning about Southern Colorado history and culture.

We were saddened to see that the First Unitarian Society here was very small and barely viable. With the pandemic there have been no UU activities so I started watching NUUC Zoom services and we decided to rejoin Namaqua UU. In Loveland I was mostly involved with social justice and environmental issues and the UUSC. I love the slogan "Deed, not creeds" and also want to continue my search for truth and meaning.

Catherine Stacey



I grew up spending a lot of time on farms, in universities, and at churches in OK and WV. I earned a Political Science degree and met my husband of 30 years at Phillips University, a small liberal arts college that was affiliated with the Disciples of Christ. I've been in and out of "progressive" Protestant churches ever since but have had a long

standing affinity with Universalism. I fell in love with Namaqua at first sight when I visited in 2018 and feel so fortunate to finally land in a community where I feel at home and supported to grow spiritually. I look forward to getting to know you all, hopefully in person very soon!

Chad Escallier



My name is Chad Escallier. I am from Irvine, California. I lived in California most of my life until I started my first job out of law school in Denver in 2017. I currently work and live in Greeley.

I started going to Namaqua over a year ago with the simple goal of meeting new people. I've not only met kind, accomplished, and fun-loving people, but I also have had the opportunity to delve deeper into the spiritual side of my life. I went to a Christian church infrequently as a child and only had a cursory understanding of religion.

Introducing our New Members (continued)

Chad Escallier (continued)

Through being a Worship Associate at Namaqua, a member of multiple book clubs, my direct experiences, and learning at each Sunday service, my spirituality has evolved allowing it to become such a meaningful aspect of my life.

I look forward to meeting other Namaqua congregants in the near future.

Linda Bell



One thing I knew true from a very young age — I wasn't going to stay in Ohio. Too flat. Too boring. Too provincial. My wise and enlightened parents always encouraged me to use my wings and I am so grateful they did.

They also had the good sense to be charter

members of a nascent Unitarian congregation on the west side of Cleveland which provided a nurturing and safe place for my emerging intellect and social network as I matured over the years, often hanging out with my older siblings and their LRY (Liberal Religious Youth) chums.

Both my former husband and I majored in journalism at Ohio State University, graduating a year apart. On a lark, he took the US Foreign Service exam and passed. The next 30 years provided a kaleidoscope of cultural and geographical mobility. Our two daughters were both born in Africa — Morocco and Cote d'Ivoire respectively — and in the early 1970s they both learned Norwegian during a long tour in Oslo. After a three-year tour in the Washington, DC area I asked them how they would answer the "where are you from?" question when we got to our next post in Wellington, New Zealand. "Ohio" they both answered in unison! Oh my....

That realization and some work I'd been doing for the State Department about how children adapted to international mobility led me to eventually write a book based on oral history interviews, titled "Hidden Immigrants: Legacies of Growing Up Abroad." It was an early entry in a field that had not been studied. More tours

in Southern Africa — Zimbabwe and Zambia — capped off our career abroad and in 1993 we moved to Colorado and settled into a rural lifestyle north of Livermore. It was the first time we chose where to live in our married life without that decision being made for us by the US Government.

I became a Friend at Namaqua after Marc retired at Foothills Unitarian Church, but I was still living northwest of Fort Collins, about an hour and a half away between Livermore and Red Feather Lakes. The welcoming congregation and stimulating Sunday services were a big reason to eventually relocate to Loveland. I was lucky to be a part of the women's retreats at the CSU Pingree Campus two years running. I felt welcomed and bonded in ways that never happened at Foothills. I waited 3 years for a patio home opening at Mirasol Senior Community in Loveland. I signed a contract in late August 2020 for September 1 and used it as my evacuation roof during the Cameron Peak Fire when I was forced to flee the mountain twice. I sold my home of 19 years in November, grateful it didn't burn, but sad to leave. Now a new chapter begins.

General Assembly 2021

From Kathy Hartman

UUA 2021 General Assembly will once again be virtual. So I won't get to host you all in my home state and the beer capital of the world — Milwaukee, Wisconsin. And while that's a bummer for me it gives us all the opportunity to attend virtually.

Circle 'Round for Justice, Healing, Courage is the theme of the virtual assembly to be held June 23-27, 2021. The Leadership Development Committee has funds available to assist with the \$200 registration fee so let us know if you'd like to attend.

This is always an inspiring event and even without the ability to connect in person with UUs from around the country there will be lots for us to reflect upon, discuss and move forward with renewed spirit.



Board of Trustees Highlights

The Board met virtually via Zoom on February 9, 2021.

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 and Brian Jarvis for the Committee for Shared Ministry (CoSM)

Ministerial Update – Rev Laurel:

Intern:

- The process for acquiring an intern was as follows:
 - We applied for a grant available for congregations who are seeking an intern for the first time.
 - The grant was awarded for the sum of ½ intern salary.
 - The intern position was posted in multiple places.
 - Three people were interested.
- Doug and Laurel interviewed potential interns and chose clare hammoor. Because clare can't make a full time intern commitment due to his work schedule, a ½ time position over 2 years (instead of full time for one year) was negotiated. His internship period will be from May 2021 until June 2023.
- With Board authorization, Doug contacted clare to make the official offer. clare will be formally introduced to the congregation the last Sunday in February.

Financial Update – Dick Barton

- In January we brought in almost \$8K more than we spent; for the year we are up about \$15K. We haven't seen the kind of income shrinkage we might have expected during the pandemic.
- We received word that PPP will definitely *not* have to be paid back.
- Dick recommended that we pay ½ mortgage with PPP 3/31/2021 (\$16667) and pay off second half of mortgage in Fall using the remainder of the PPP funds plus capital funds
 - The board unanimously passed a motion to use PPP funds to supplement the capital fund to enable us to pay our loan commitment in March and next fall.
- All paid staff will receive a 4% raise for the next fiscal year.

Annual Budget Drive

- Projected timeline is:
 - February 2 – packets will be mailed out
 - February 7 – kick off Sunday
 - March 24 – contact people who have not responded
 - March 31 – drive is completed

Facilities

Internet:

- The board unanimously passed a motion to authorize Pete to get NUUC signed up for upgraded internet with Comcast by our next Board meeting in March.

Next Board meeting scheduled for March 9, at 6:30 pm – via Zoom

Respectfully submitted by Rebecca Williamson, Board of Trustees Secretary.

Building Beloved Community *by Barbara Fleming*



Unitarians and Universalists joined forces in 1961. These two small, relatively obscure religious groups were struggling to remain viable. They realized, in conversation among leaders, that their belief systems were very similar. Universalism had been built on the premise of universal salvation, that everyone could get into heaven, its adherents remaining for the most part faithful to the premise that Jesus was the son of God and had died on the cross to save them, a view contrary to that held by Unitarians. Over time, however, Universalists began abandoning their earlier firmly Christian views in favor of a more eclectic approach, and it became apparent in the turbulent 1960s that there would be strength in numbers. Today, the vast majority of our members call themselves Unitarians; some describe themselves as UUs, and a minority consider themselves Universalists. The line between those two faith constructs has long since blurred. Each member must of course decide what works for him or her.

Among our community:

We mourn the death of our beloved **Glenda Bell**, a bright light who warmed us with her smiles, cheered and entertained us with her stories, and delighted us with her hats. She is greatly missed.

Vicki Clark recently lost two friends and a cousin to Covid-19.

Kathy Hartman has lost a nephew, Jonathan.

Leonard Sokoloski's former mother-in-law is turning 109. **Sasha Sokoloski** is learning to play the violin.

Cindy Black's sister, Mindy, has been undergoing chemotherapy.

Karen Massaro is mourning the death of a close, "no matter what" friend.

Barbara Fleming's long-time friend Bettye Maxwell has died in Arizona. Two cousins died in February, one of cancer, the other of a heart attack.

Cameron and **Doug Stewart** and **Marcia** and **John Lewis** celebrated Valentine's Day anniversaries.

Janet Gillette is recovering from surgery and is looking forward to family coming to visit over spring break.

Vonne Zdenek's daughter, who lives in Texas, is coping with the aftermath of the freezing temperatures. Vonne also notes that her husband's, **Mickey McGuire's**, mother is in the hospital and that a friend of hers, Brenda, recently underwent a double mastectomy.

Good news: several members of NUUC have received one or both vaccinations for Covid-19.

Annual Pledge Drive

Why Do We Pledge?

Why not just pass the plate? Well, just like public radio, we have a pledge drive each spring because we are “Listener Supported” and we need to develop a budget. This is how we determine the things we can and will do in the upcoming fiscal year. We have lots we want to do, and our burning chalice light is a reminder of our mission to fight for justice, equality, and the inherent worth and dignity of everyone. By pledging, you become part of something that is bigger than each of us individually.

Remember, your pledge can be spread out over the entire year so that you can tailor your pledge to fit your budget. Do what works best for you. Our pledge drive ends on March 31st.

If you feel like you have been missed in our emailing, or if the email went into your spam file, let us know and we will gladly send you another. It’s through this email contact that we give you the option of sending in a pledge form through the U.S. Mail, or clicking ‘submit’ and sending in your pledge electronically. Either way, pledging should feel good, and we thank you.

Bill Rosquist, rosqui9@aol.com

Mickey McGuire, meguiremr@gmail.com

Pledge Co-chairs

Namaqua Star

The Namaqua Unitarian Universalist Congregation would like to say a big thank you to **Sheryl Griese** for leading the Social Justice Ministry the past three years. She has provided stellar leadership both as a leader and a participant. The pandemic has curtailed many of the Ministry’s regular activities but it has not interfered with taking positions on local state and national issues, letter writing and meeting regularly to monitor active programs such as the Immigrant Freedom Fund, the Half-Plate and the Giving Tree as well as supporting such activities as Coming Out Day. The Ministry not only serves the social justice needs of the Community, but also attracts visitors and members, as well as gives the Church a high profile in the Community for service for which UUs are recognized. Sheryl has certainly been a guiding light in walking the walk. The Ministry supports Women’s Rights and was disappointed in 2020 in not being able to follow through with plans to recognize the 100th anniversary of women’s suffrage. Discussions are still in progress for Gay Pride activities. Sheryl has also kept the flame burning for activities which have been curtailed such as Transgender Day, Black Lives Matter, MLK and other activities. When Church resumes, the flying of flags for many causes on Sundays will resume.

Sheryl sees NUUC as a wonderful community and “I love that we don’t have to think alike to love alike.” She was raised in a conservative Christian home and still finds many parts of Christianity relevant to her. She has gone through spiritual phases in her life. Sheryl is especially concerned about environmental issues. She grew up in the country and feels that has had an impact on her love of nature and her desire to protect the environment.

Sheryl was brought up by her parents to advocate for the “underdog” and the person who is “different.” That is why she has been such an effective leader as Chairperson of the Social Justice Ministry.



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 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 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 or 626-437-1950.

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

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 March Newsletter: March 21

For the April Newsletter: April 18

NUUC E-mail Addresses

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 DRE@NamaquaUU.org
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 Membership@NamaquaUU.org
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