



Namaqua Unitarian Universalist Congregation

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

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Upcoming Services

April 4: Spring Redemption: Sun God and Mother Earth — Worship Associates Trish Murtha & Doug Stewart

For Unitarian Universalists, Passover and Easter can be a complex quandary about the penultimate "events" at the basis of Judaic and Christian belief. So many important sources for UUs come from both of these faith traditions, so let's reflect together on how we thoughtfully join the "Eostre" celebrations for an array of universal, seasonal, and spiritual meanings.

April 11: "Lighten Up!" Taking Humor Seriously — Worship Associates Kathy Hartman and Janen Wright

Join in this Full Church Service for some good laughs and (in the words of Oscar Wilde) a reminder that *"life is too important to be taken seriously."*

April 18: Becoming... What? — Worship Associates Janet Gillette & Fred Schrekinger

Becoming something isn't a linear journey. As Unitarian Universalists, we don't expect to attain perfection; we aim for progress. Go with us through the circuitous path of constant change.

April 25: Awakening to Our Earth's Need — Worship Associates Mim Neal & Susan Moody

During this past week we celebrated Earth Day on the 22nd. Today we want to focus on the spiritual connection we share with our earthly home. As a part of our service, we will expand on the spiritual and personal value of actively becoming stewards for this planet.

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

Contact Us: 970-685-0427
745 E. 5th St.
Loveland, CO 80537

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



President's Message

Spring is here! Covid numbers are down. A significant number of people are gaining their inoculations. Our Leadership Development Committee (3 folks) met *in-person* at Kathy Hartman's home, being very careful – but the first in-person meeting I've heard of among our community in a long time. The Worship Associates plan to practice speaking from the pulpit in the sanctuary in their April meeting.

There remains plenty to be concerned about, of course, but **just maybe things are looking up.**

Too, we have **good news about the flooding under the sanctuary**, caused last month by the perfect storm of the furnace going out and, well, a storm with its very cold snap. After the water went down, Andy Carlson, who restores historic buildings as his vocation, and Pete Buchmeier, our fixer-of-all-things, took a look. They reported **no foundational damage** and only one joist (of many) having its support eroded, and those likely added for non-structural reasons, to remove floor bounce. Even better, **the furnace is fixed**, coordinated by Bill Rosquist. And **Pete repaired the pipe**, so we'll soon be able to turn the water back on and provide water to Parker Hall.

There's still retaining wall work to be done down there, and keeping this from happening again could lead us to bury the water pipe instead of it running through the crawl space. We could put a remote temperature sensor down there too. But **the sanctuary (and Parker Hall) will be usable when we're ready to be in-person.**

We're looking forward to that day, intentionally, by having formed a **hybrid service task force**. Once some of us begin meeting for Sunday services in the sanctuary, we're planning to continue to offer the service on-line. We're working on **upgrading our internet** service to support this.

To support these and other ongoing community efforts (like our wonderful staff's salaries!), we need a budget for next year. The end of March marks **the official end of Pledge Drive!** Thanks to Bill Rosquist and Mickey McGuire for coordinating this, not an easy task in these remote-only days. **But some of us still need to send our pledge in** – so please hurry to avoid us nagging you with phone calls. Or our escalating to an on-line visit and offering a hug. (Is that extortion?) Seriously, if you can't pledge this year, just let them know – and if you can, we're a good cause; every bit helps. If you haven't pledged, **please put this on the top of your to-do list; it's easy to do on-line.** Contact Mickey McGuire if you need a pledge form: m McGuire@gmail.com

So far this year, **finances are well in the black...** for personnel, we're looking forward to **Laurel's return from sabbatical on May 1st**, which is also our **new ministerial intern clare's first day**. Our **spring congregational meeting is scheduled for May 23rd** – we'll vote on the budget and our elected leaders, a slate proposed by the *Leadership Development Committee*. If you have any interest in serving, let them know, ldc@namaquauu.org.

So, **steady as we go** – which is quite an accomplishment in such a crazy year. It's taken a lot of flexibility, resilience, and out-of-the-box thinking... and I'm drawn to wondering if we UU's might be particularly good at these. Not having dogma might mean we're more at home in juggling while going with the flow. I know **I'm glad to be juggling while going with the flow with you.**

Yours in beloved community,

Doug

Religious Education

Reflection and Report — On Becoming

Although this kitten is not actually destined to become a lion one of the beauties of childhood is that there is so much to dream about, look forward to and be inspired by! Maybe by seeing a lion in the mirror we recognize in ourselves some of its bravery. Yet both kittens and lions have their own place in the world.

One of the reasons it is my pleasure to work with our kids and youth at Namaqua is because I love having a front row seat in watching our kids grow and develop with every passing year. Now that my own kids are all young adults I have watched the evolution up close from baby to toddler to child then teen --and now they have flown the coop and are making their own way in the world. (Not sure what the holdup is as far as grandchildren go!)

When I talk to our Namaqua kids I see glimpses of the future people they are becoming --and yet they are absolutely complete just how they are and each age is so precious. The swift development of kids is one of the most powerful reminders of how we need to be present and appreciate each step of the journey, "for life goes not backward nor tarries with yesterday."

Kahlil Gabran



RE Calendar for April

Soulful Home Link for April on Becoming

soulmatterssharingcircle.com/uploads/9/4/5/0/94501751/sm_2021-04_sh_becoming.pdf

Sunday April 4-- Happy Easter!

Wednesday evenings starting April 7 @ 6:30-7:30 in April ----**Online Parent Support and Discussion Group**

Sunday April 11-- Full Church Service by Worship Associates Janen Wright and Kathy Hartman. This should be a fun one for all ages. The title is "*Lighten Up! Taking Humor Seriously!*" I would love our kids to share a favorite joke or two during the Time for All Ages. If your child or youth would be up for that please contact me at namaquadre@gmail.com and we will put them on the Order of Service. It would be a real treat to hear jokes from our own youth!

Note: We will not have our regular 2nd Sunday RE Circle in April because of the Full Church Service.

Looking Ahead-

May 2--Second Sunday RE Circle on Story!

May 23-- Annual RE Service with Rev. Laurel and Janen Wright

Stay tuned to find out if we can hold a **Hooray! Summer Is Here!!!!** party in person towards the end of May!

In service,

Janen



Introducing our New Members

Loretta Hogg



I was raised in a small farming town just north of the Canadian border in British Columbia. My folks had eloped to escape the Prairies during the Depression.

My life changed markedly when I went to the University of British Columbia and met an American from

Long Island. We were then off to Illinois and California for graduate work and spent most of the next 30 years in Ohio. Sabbaticals took us to Seattle and Salt Lake City.

With a degree in bacteriology I worked in research for 6 years and then stayed home for 10 years with our two children. I upgraded my bacteriology and biochemistry and also looked into an MBA but without any family support I was limited in my job options as the university was many miles from our home. Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring" revelations truly directed my future. A wealthy family in the community decided that the school district needed an environmentalist and a science/nature teacher for the elementary schools. I started as a volunteer and in time had the teaching position. Then I got a Masters in Science Education at the U. of Utah and teacher certification while working part-time. For the first few years I coordinated science nature rooms with mother volunteers in 4 schools. In time I became a special science teacher available to all classes Grades K-7.

My husband was both a biologist and an artist so we (he) created unique science rooms that rotated from school to school until space became a factor.

My path in looking for a religion was self-directed via the United Church of Canada as a teenager. My parents were supportive but did not attend. My scientist husband was happy with science and had been raised Presbyterian. We never could agree on joining a church for our children who were active in the local Methodist

church as teenagers. The somewhat distant Unitarian Church was too "out there for him and them".

I have been fairly comfortable as an agnostic and belonging to a church was not a priority until I moved here and was on my own after my husband passed away.

I moved to Windsor in 2015 to help my single parent son with a handicapped son. My daughter then moved here as well so my little family is within 20 minutes of each other after spending the prior 25 years at least 1,000 miles apart.

Bob and I had retired to Bellingham, WA to be near family in B.C. and now I was in a place where I knew no one. I immediately joined the League of Women Voters to become active in the community. I also attended Foothills Unitarian church for a couple of years. Its size and distance from Windsor kept me from getting to know many people. It was there that I learned about Namaqua and finally visited in November of 2019. I feel fortunate to have been involved long enough to join a class and be part of the Thursday lunch group. I am looking for a group of like-minded people to work on social and environmental issues and to provide support for others.

Judson Brown



I came to Fort Collins from a small farm town in Illinois after high school and fell in love with the Colorado mountains and the outdoors and the 300 days of sunshine. After graduating from CSU in Wildlife Biology, I moved around a bit for my career, not in the Natural Resource field,

but in varied entrepreneur, financial, and academic/career service career chapters. Before retiring back to Fort Collins, I spent 15 years at the University of Wyoming counseling college students in academic majors and career exploration. I have been back in Fort Collins for about 15 years and have spent over half my

(continued on next page)

New Members (continued) & Other News

Judson Brown (continued)

life here in the Rocky Mountain west.

I grew up Presbyterian in my small town, with an eclectic exposure to varied Protestant and Catholic churches. I spent a lot of time outdoors in nature, local parks, and on relatives' farms and the underlying spirituality of the writings of Thoreau and Emerson and others always seemed to connect for me. Buddhist and Zen masters and their writings also have spoken to me so the UU principles seem like a natural fit. My wife Donna has been a Unitarian since her college days so I knew that her spiritual values and mine meshed well. Namaqua UU Church community seemed like the right fit for us. Gene Decker, one of my first CSU profs, is a member of Namaqua and we have a long history of connection going back to my college days and an African trip we took together many years ago as well. Things seem to have gone full circle for me and it all just feels like home in many different aspects.



April Birthdays

Birthdays

Apr 5 — Karen Dornseif
 Apr 13 — Jim Danforth
 Apr 15 — Jess Milden
 Gene Decker
 Apr 18 — Michaela Mattes
 Apr 22 — Francey Liefert
 Tim Black
 Apr 24 — Vicki Clark
 Apr 30 — Andrea Van Nest



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

Historic Moment in NUUC COVID History



The Leadership Development Committee, Kathy Hartman, Susan Moody and Cherry Sokoloski, held their March 12 meeting IN PERSON! All have been vaccinated and additionally, it is a very small group. LDC is meeting to begin work on recruiting for elected positions for NUUC leadership. Elections will take place at the May 23 Congregational Meeting.

LDC also coordinates attendance and financial assistance for the UUA General Assembly being held in June, virtually. Recently all NUUC members and friends should have received a survey to assess the interests and needs

within our congregation. If you have interest in any of the positions currently available please contact any LDC member. Positions are open in the Board of Trustees, the Committee on Shared Ministries and there are lots of volunteer opportunities within the ministries. In particular, we have needs for 2 specific and important positions — Chair of the Social Justice Ministry and Chair of Communications.

Building Beloved Community *by Barbara Fleming*



**Love is the spirit of this church and service is its law. This is our great covenant:
To dwell together in peace, to seek the truth in love and to help one another.**

The inspiration for this statement came from the covenant statement written in 1894 by James Vila Blake when he was minister of the Church of All Souls, Evanston, Illinois. Blake would later serve as minister of the First Unitarian Church in Denver. Each Sunday, members and friends of Namaqua UU Congregation recite this covenant together, with one word change—from “law” to “call.” The paragraph above gives us the origin of the promise we make to one another.

Among our community:

- **Tom Mitchell** is home from the hospital but had to return daily for treatments. **Rebecca Williamson**, his wife, appreciated the cards, food and visits during his hospital stay and convalescence.
- **Fred Schreking** has recovered from an emergency appendectomy.
- **Vonne Zdenek’s** daughter, who lives in Texas, recently underwent emergency surgery. **Mickey McGuire** enjoyed a visit from his son and grandsons in March.
- A cousin of **Atulya Johnson** recently died.
- **Traci Jones** requires specialized surgery in Boston in April, since surgeons in Denver were not trained to do the procedure.
- **Peter Schenk** has undergone removal of all of his teeth, which will be replaced by dentures.
- **Barbara Fleming** attended a memorial service via Zoom in honor of her cousin, Phyllis Tarr, who died in February.
- **Kent Robertson** is in a rehabilitation facility.

We keep all these joys and sorrows in our hearts, sharing among our community the love and concern for each and everyone of us.



A memorial service for NUUC’s beloved Glenda Bell will be held via Zoom on Sunday April 11th at 2:00pm. Rev. Laurel Liefert will briefly interrupt her sabbatical to lead the service. Please join us in honoring this remarkable woman.



Board of Trustees



Board Meeting Highlights

The Board met virtually via Zoom on March 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.

Summit participation : On 2/27, the Committee on Shared Ministry (CoSM) hosted a summit of the elected leadership (Board, CoSM, Leadership Development Committee) and staff (Laurel and Janen) in which we discussed:

- Laurel's sabbatical coverage (3/1 – 4/30); we're well prepared
- Gaining our new ministerial intern clare hammoor, who starts on 5/1; we have an Internship Committee in place
- Hybrid services, looking forward to the day when we can attend Sunday services in-person – to plan to continue to offer them live on-line(!). We formed a Hybrid Services task force.

Finances:

- We're in good shape year-to-date, running \$16,886 in the black, not including the PPP grant. February however was \$1,264 in the red.
- Loan payment of \$16,667 is to be made; we have the funds.
- Annual Budget Drive for 2021-22 is underway; officially ends 3/31.
- Auction: backed up behind identifying on-line auction software. Doug investigating.

Personnel:

- Will review benefit packages in April's Board meeting.

Facilities

- Sanctuary basement flood from broken pipe does not appear too bad. Andy Carlson and Pete Buchmeier inspected the damage – no apparent foundational damage, one joist support eroded, but not a structural concern. Furnace and pipe need to be repaired [this has since been done] and the retaining wall rebuilt. Longer term we may want to bury the water pipe.
- We're dealing with Comcast for upgrading our internet service; they want \$200/month for 300 Mbps, which is likely much more than we need. Hybrid Services task force to provide bandwidth requirements.

Spring Congregational Meeting: Scheduled for 5/23.

Next Board meeting scheduled for April 13, at 6:00 pm – via Zoom

Submitted by Doug Stewart, Board President.

Annual Pledge Drive

Pledge Drive Notes

On Sunday, March 21st, I posed two questions. The first was “Who is responsible for NUUC?” The obvious answer is “We, the congregation are.” There is no one else. The second question I posed was “Do you have skin in the game?” Now many people may never have heard this expression but it’s an old sports metaphor, asking the question about how battered and bruised you are in helping your team win. The more recent use of this expression now is usually in reference to having money invested in something. When you own your home, you have “skin in the game,” you are deeply invested. Environmentalists have an expression which I think is right on the mark, “You only protect that which you love.” As of March 21st, we were over 80% of the way toward our goal. Interestingly, we have accomplished this with only 40% of the available pledging community having returned their pledge forms. With the drive ending on March 31st, will we make our goal? Remember, a pledge is a promise to donate, in our case during the church year July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022. You can send in the money you pledge any time during the church year. So if you are able, pledge any amount, it doesn’t matter if it’s \$20 or something larger. Just pledge, and have some skin in the game. Thank you.

Bill Rosquist, rosqui9@aol.com

Mickey McGuire, m McGuiremr@gmail.com

Pledge Co-chairs



UPDATED

NUUC COVID-19 Response Plan

ADDENDUM C, VERSION 5

In accordance with Larimer County Health Department Public Health Order dated February 5, 2021:

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 ([Plan Approval Request Form – Indoor and Outdoor Events \(jotform.com\)](#)) 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.

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 May Newsletter: April 18

For the June Newsletter: May 23

NUUC E-mail Addresses

Admin@NamaquaUU.org
 AdultEnrichment@NamaquaUU.org
 Board@NamaquaUU.org
 BuildingBelovedCommunity@NamaquaUU.org
 Buildings@NamaquaUU.org
 Calendar@NamaquaUU.org
 Communications@NamaquaUU.org
 CoSM@NamaquaUU.org
 DenominationalAffairs@NamaquaUU.org
 Directory@NamaquaUU.org
 DRE@NamaquaUU.org
 Facebook@NamaquaUU.org
 Membership@NamaquaUU.org
 Music@NamaquaUU.org
 Newsletter@NamaquaUU.org
 nuucForum@NamaquaUU.org
 OoS@NamaquaUU.org
 PastoralCare@NamaquaUU.org
 Photos@NamaquaUU.org
 President@NamaquaUU.org
 Publicity@NamaquaUU.org
 SocialJustice@NamaquaUU.org
 Visitor@NamaquaUU.org



Mailing address:

NUUC

745 E. 5th Street

Loveland CO 80537