



GLACIER UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

We celebrate our GUUF community, our sharing of work and play together, our delight in watching the children participate in our programs and services, our stretching out to learn, our caring and support for one another, and our coming together for the following services and programs.

May's Theme: Gratitude

Schedule of Services and Events

All services (unless otherwise noted) begin at 10 a.m. Sunday at the fellowship building. Religious education will be provided for children and youth the second, third and fourth Sunday of every month. Fifth Sundays are inter-generational services.

Discussion/Meditation Sunday

May 6th – Combination Discussion Sunday and Meditation Sunday. Service will start together and end together, but will separate for the focus part of service. Tea will be served. There is no RE classes or childcare on first Sundays however, please plan to attend the RE workshop from 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. (Childcare will be provided during the workshop)

Blessed are the Mothers

May 13th – In this service we will honor the blessing of motherhood by celebrating our 2nd Annual Child Dedication. In Unitarian Universalism, we do not perform baptisms; our commitment is to celebrate the inherent worth and original blessing of each child. Please join Rev Julia in welcoming four new infants to our community of faith as we offer our support and open arms to their extended family! Come meet Finley Gates, Devin Stevens, Solis Noftsinger, and Ali Campbell – our newest friends! Children will take part in the child dedication during the first half of the service, then classes and nursery care will be available for all.

GUUF Annual Community Celebration!

May 20th – This is the Sunday each year that the kids offer a presentation about what they have explored in their RE classes during a short worship. We will also honor our most important volunteers – those who work with our children! Then plan to stay for a soup and bread luncheon to learn about the successful year we have had, dream of the year to come, vote for the new slate of officers, and find places to offer your passion to the GUUF community. The children and youth will present their activities in classrooms and youth group during our Religious Education celebration service at 10:00, then the congregation will share a midmorning brunch. During the annual meeting, children and youth will have art and outside activities available led by our highschoolers.



Khaled Zaki and Irfan Khan do the call to prayer at GUUF on April 29th
- photo by Kasey Kephart

World Peace in Our Minds

May 27th – Rev Julia shares this service with YOU. This will be an interactive discussion oriented service -- so please bring your most potent ideas about world peace -- why we long for it, why we don't have it, and how we can reach for it. Nursery care provided, but older children and youth are encouraged to attend the service.

Come Dream a Dream With Us!

The Children and Youth Religious Education Committee invites all GUUF members and attenders to participate in a workshop on May 6 from 4:00 to 7:00 PM at the Fellowship building. Dinner and Childcare provided! We hope to provide an opportunity to learn about what is available in our classrooms, brainstorm new and unusual ideas, and find a few new volunteers for next year's classes. Mostly we just want to meet you and share our hopes and dreams for our wonderful collection of young congregants. New ideas and new faces are very welcome. Questions or RSVP's can be phoned to Kathy Neff at [...].

Jule's Jewels



Religion is an orientation, not a destination...

I imagine it does not surprise you that I contemplate religion and the role of religion in society a lot. One morning this week I woke up with the thought: *“Religion is an orientation, not a destination.”*

“Yes,” I continued, “Unitarian Universalists have always claimed that our faith is more about *who-you-are* than *what-you-believe*.” Good religion turns us toward empowerment, balance and beauty, and away from dis-ease, disturbance, and dysfunction.

In Unitarian Universalism, we hold that there is no single belief that is going to save us from the trials of life. Instead, there is learning from seekers and explorers that have mapped a course before us. Wise ones who have trodden the path – overcoming some of the same obstacles that we face now, making crucial decisions at the same crossroads, gaining wisdom from making mistakes or choosing a side path. We trust that we can learn from it all.

As your minister, I see it as one of my jobs to bring news of “best practices” from religious masters of many different traditions. There is no one image of God, no one religion that holds all of the truth. In Unitarian Universalism, we agree that what each of us knows about “truth” is only a piece of the Truth.

Buddhist Roshi Joan Halifax says: “There is no ‘silver bullet’ practice.” In other words, there is no one spiritual practice that will solve all of the problems of humanity once and for all. Instead, it is our job to listen to one another so that the best practices might surface from a conversation or interaction among equals.

In his book, *Bad Religion: How We Became a Nation of Heretics*, young conservative author Ross Douthat interestingly shows how the weakening of institutional religion in the United States (orthodoxy) has helped the unaffiliated Religious Right to co-opt the natural human impulse for meaning making into a political party-line. The majority of religious folks can be labeled “heretics” because they are no longer part of traditional denominational religion. He holds up the age-old tension between orthodoxy and heresy as crucial to healthy democracy. But instead, Americans are living in a “plutocracy” or “the rule of the wealthy” that independent evangelical religion is supporting through a “prosperity theology” and becoming mainstream. For Douthat, this is a “moral emergency” – we will find no way to equalize resources among all people under this kind of system.

When I think about Unitarian Universalism, I am GRATEFUL to be part of a religious tradition where people question what is happening in the status quo – where people are not intimidated by difference but instead are intrigued and interested by it.

I am GRATEFUL to be part of a tradition where we understand that each of us is born in ‘original blessing’, and that it’s a blessing that each of us was born. This is the impulse that moves us toward making sure ALL have the resources to live well, and in balance with nature and all life on the planet.

I am GRATEFUL to be part of a tradition where it matters what we do with our lives, but that we know we don’t have to do it alone. 40% of the United States population is living alone now – in isolation from family and community – the tragic result of our national value on self-focus and the idolization of independence (or heretical behavior, if you want to think about it that way).

I believe that it is possible to turn some of these trends in the United States around, but we have to understand and question some of the underlying assumptions that got us here in the first place. It is not enough to just be a heretic anymore – most US citizens are heretics according to Douthat. Instead, it must be about participating in community. It must be about working together toward the greatest good for the greatest number of people.

For me, *Unitarian Universalism is an orientation to life* that has historically been working at living into this and might just help us arrive at creating a better world if we work it. A destination we might never arrive at... but, a way of living that might just save our lives.

Peace out,

Rev J

Live My Life – Rilke

I live my life in widening rings

Which spread over earth and sky.

I may not ever complete the last one,

But that is what I will try.

I circle round God’s primordial tower,

And I circle ten thousand years long;

And I still don’t know if I’m a falcon,

A storm, or an unfinished song.

End of Year Youth Group Potluck!

All grade 6 to 12 Youth Groupers, their parents and siblings, and everyone who has helped at Youth Group this year is invited to the end of year Potluck on Wednesday May 9, 6:00 to 8:00 PM at GUUF. Bring an item for grill if you like, and a salad, fruit or dessert dish to share for each family.

Summer planning will happen, bring your ideas!

President's Corner

by Carol Barnes

Congregational Meeting will be Sunday, May 20th, right after the service. Please plan on attending! Your voice is very important to the future of GUUF. Lunch will be provided. Julia and the Board will provide the "State of GUUF" presentation. We will vote on the budget and new board members for the coming year. We will have time to appreciate the work of our outgoing and current leaders. The entire congregation is welcome and encouraged to attend but only members will be able to vote.

Like last year, the budget we submit this year will be higher than our projected income from pledges and other income. We use our savings to help support the budget gap. Although the final budget is not ready yet, the gap will be approximately \$19,000. As a congregation, we decided to do this to support our mission, keep a ¾ time professional minister, build our outreach program, and to improve the lives our congregation and the communities we serve. This gap is getting smaller each year but we must close it in the next year. Our savings will not last forever.

What can you do? If you have already submitted your pledge this year.....thank YOU! In the first 2 weeks of the pledge the drive over half of you responded. Incredible! Every pledge is important. Some of you were able to increase your pledge and we especially appreciate your effort – this goes a long way to closing the budget gap. We received new pledges also which also makes a huge difference. If you value GUUF and the work we do please get your pledge in, encourage new pledges, and increase your donation if you can. Be nice to the board person who might call you to inquire about your pledge! The congregation's resources come from our resources. This is a very generous congregation.

Special thanks to Bruce Haller who is coordinating the pledge drive this year. I was inspired by the presentations each week from members of our congregation talking about what GUUF and being a UU means to them. Thanks to all that have shared so far – Judy Spivey, Paige Rapplewey, and Sandy Anderson.

Hoping to see everyone on May 20th!

In fellowship,
Carol

Young Families Activities!

Child Dedication - May 13th! Join us for this longstanding Unitarian Universalist tradition of blessing out children! Come meet our newest babies and welcome them into this world and our community!

Young Families Night -- May 24th! 5:30-7:30! Join families with children elementary school aged and younger to eat, play, sing, and get to know one another! This will be our last gathering before the summer months! Bring a salad, bread, or dessert to share!

Building Committee News

Next Building Committee Meeting: We want your input!

The Building Committee will be having their next meeting on Wednesday, May 2, from 6-7:30 p.m. to plan our Summer Work Day to replace & paint our siding. We will also talk about what building projects we want to include in our 2012-13 budget. If you are handy and can help or have a suggestion for a building improvement for next year, we would love to have you attend. We will provide dinner. To RSVP, email Cathy Cooney at [...].

Recruiting volunteers for the spring project: Spend a Fun Day in the Sun at GUUF

We are planning our big 2012 project, which is fixing (or replacing) and painting our external siding. When this project is finished, it will make such a big difference in the appearance of our building.

If you would like to be on our siding replacement & painting team this spring (work date TBA for May or June), please email Cathy Cooney at [...].

Donation needed

Does anyone have a diaper pail to donate to GUUF? We need one for our Family Rest Room.

Religious Education News

By Kathy Neff

Please join us for the May 6 workshop/retreat as we brainstorm new ideas and plan for the future year. This is always a great opportunity to meet some of the folks who have been teaching in the classrooms and get some questions answered about what goes on in our 5 busy classrooms and the Youth Group. The retreat is at GUUF from 4 to 7 PM, and includes dinner and childcare, but please RSVP!

We have classes on May 13 after the child dedication service, and a special service on May 20 featuring our RE classes and youth group presenting their activities of the year.

As we move into our summer mode, Classes will combine to work on outdoor projects such as the Community Garden, and indoor arts and crafts. Our summer lessons will follow the adult services and explore the 7 UU Principles. If you don't know what they are, this will be a great chance to learn.

Please consider joining our RE Committee for 2011 to 2012 at the annual meeting if you wish to be more involved with this vibrant part of congregational life.

May 18th Journey Series: 6-9pm at GUUF



Street Art of Europe
with Sabine Brigitte-Stewart

A climb to the top of the Tour d’Eiffel, un café au lait at the Gare du Nord, and a crepe before an opera at the Palais Garnier is très magnifique, non? Oui, oui! C’est la vie en rose, but to take in the sophisticated street art of Paris on your way to see Rodin,

Cassatt, Manet, Benoit, et al at the Louvre & the Musee d’Orsay is to grasp the layered artistic vibrancy of this city merveilleux. Sabine will explore street art she photo’d in other Euro cities as well, such as in Oxford, London, Venice, Frankfurt, Vienna. Alongside Monet she hopes to make Banksy a household name. She’ll also talk a bit about staying with families in Paris, Baden-Baden, Edinburgh, and Rome to share another layer of experiencing the underbellies of these cities.

Potluck at 6pm: Bring your favorite Euro dish to share. Sabine will provide some French appetizers and German dessert. Photos & talk at 7-9pm.

Julia’s Hours

Office Hours at GUUF

Every Monday morning 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Call Hours

Sat-Mon and Weds-Thurs. 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Please call after hours only for emergency:
406-755-9255 (GUUF) [...] (cell)

Days Off

Tuesday and Friday. Contact regarding GUUF business on these days will be for emergencies only.

These office hours are for pastoral care appointments and to provide regular hours when Julia can be reached in the office at GUUF. However, if your schedule does not avail you to these particular hours, and you have need of an appointment time, Julia invites you to call her and schedule a time that meets your needs. Most importantly, she wants us to know that she is here for us!



Raquel Castellanos from the Ewam Garden of 1,000 Buddhas



Anwar-wat in Cambodia visited by Walter Weisenburger



Soren Anderson lights the chalice



Sandy Anderson explaining the family connection



Cecelia Rappleye’s birthday celebration (Kids shared their Uke with her)



Anna Stone portrays God solving the ‘Wall Between Believers’ problem

MAY 2012						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2

May Schedule of Events	
1 st	Toni's Tea
4 th	Valley-wide Circle of Eight Dinners
5 th	Valley-wide Circle of Eight Dinners
6 th	Meditation/Discussion Service
13 th	"Blessed are the Mothers"; Service with Rev. Julia
15 th	Toni's Tea
18 th	Journey Series; 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at GUUF
20 th	GUUF Annual Community Celebration; GUUF youth present their year's RE explorations; Honor those who volunteer to assist the youth; Brunch followed by the annual meeting.
24 th	Young Families Dinner; 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at GUUF
27 th	"World Peace in our Mind"; Service with Rev. Julia and the ideas of the GUUF congregation

The Story of the "Black Plastic"

Sometimes something falls into your life at just the right moment and really makes a difference.

Almost exactly a year ago I was visiting the Community Health Clinic for a routine insurance related blood draw. It was a beautiful day in May, and I had on my mind that this would be the year to finally start a GUUF Community Garden. We'd been talking about it in various committees off and on at GUUF for about 5 years, and it finally seemed time to actually do something with our land, our good soil and our sunny location. However I just kept hearing people tell me, "It is a nice idea, Kathy, but who is going to do all the weeding and watering?"

I mentioned this to the nurse drawing my blood. She said, "Well I use the black plastic". I had no idea what she meant, but she described to me a special nontoxic, nonporous plastic designed by an Amish farmer in northern Indiana and his chemical engineering son, which allows a garden to grow with almost no weeding or watering. It sounded too good to be true, but I looked it up on the website she suggested and that afternoon visited an elderly local farmer who had been ordering and distributing it locally. This kind gentleman showed me his amazing acre of yellow squash grown completely on the black plastic, that he didn't have to water once the whole previous summer. He also agreed to order one last roll of black plastic for me, even though he was no longer "in the business".

As far as I know, it is impossible to get this black plastic locally any more, but if you are intrigued, come visit the GUUF garden after a service in May. We had great success last year on a 20 by 20 foot piece of plastic, and the elementary age kids helped me roll out another piece yesterday (April 22, Earth Day) to double the garden size. We will be expanding the fence and have a generous recent new attender starting us tomatoes and squash in her greenhouse in Polson. I think we are going to have another great black plastic summer at GUUF!

We'll be doing a big planting day in our Community Garden after the service on June 10. As long as the weather is nice, the kids will do some work and planting in the garden through the summer, and of course there is always the harvest. We hope to have enough this year to share with local Foodbanks or any visitors who want a little extra produce. We'll make some garden soup again in the Fall for our September services as we did last year. I could go on and on about how easy it is to grow our garden on our Amish, nontoxic black plastic, but even better, come visit the garden yourself!

...and thanks to all who have participated so far and plan to do so again this year. You know who you are.

Kathy Neff

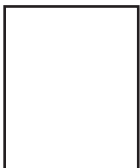
Glacier Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Visitors Welcome!

We meet at 1515 Trumble Creek Road — see the map for details on how to find us. We are south of the main airport and north of Evergreen. We meet at 10:00 a.m. every Sunday. (Meditation for adults is on the first Sunday of each month.) For the most up-to-date information please call our information line at (406) 755-9255.

Information Line (406) 755-9255

Visit our website at www.glacieruu.org



Glacier Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
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