December 2019

**OUR MISSION:**
Seek inspiration and understanding,
Embrace all on their individual spiritual journeys,
Serve our local and world communities.

**VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!**
We affirm the inherent worth and dignity of all people. We welcome diversity of race, age, abilities, culture, sexual orientation, and religious background.

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**CUUF Minister:**
Rev. Laura Shennum
881-9658
minister@cascadeuu.org

**Intern Minister**
Joel Courtney
575-650-0773
internminister@cascadeuu.org

**Religious Ed. Director**
Connor Dahlin
612-558-4317
redirector@cascadeuu.org

**Music Director**
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Sharon Page
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admin@cascadeuu.org

**Cascade UU Fellowship**
1550 Sunset Highway
E. Wenatchee WA 98802
(509) 886-4023
www.cascadeuu.org

**Our Worship Services**

**Traditional Services**
Our traditional services begin at 10:30am and end at 11:45am with messages given by Rev. Laura Shennum, guest speakers or members of CUUF. Childcare is available for nursery and preschoolers each Sunday. On Sunday mornings, children K-5 have religious exploration classes after the Time for All Ages. Please join us for coffee and fellowship immediately following the service.

**Our theme for December is:**
What does it mean to be a people of awe?

**December 1, 2019**
*Time Traveling with Trees*
10:30am Service
Speaker: Christina Davitt
Celebrant: Deb Bryant
As we move into the season of Advent, come find out how the majestic holiness of trees speaks to us. Are we the ones we’ve been waiting for all along?

**December 8, 2019**
*Full of Awe*
10:30am Service
Speaker: Joel Courtney
Celebrant: Sharon Page
Across many traditions, the Divine is described as both beautiful and terrifying. How does that dual nature relate to a modern understanding? **Note:** Service will be recorded

**December 15, 2019**
*Annual Service of Light*
10:30am Service
CUUF Youth Group
Join us for this beautiful service created by our youth to lift up prophets in our world who bring light and hope into being.

**December 22, 2019**
*Tapping Into Our “Awe”someness*
10:30am Service
Rev. Laura Shennum
Celebrant: Sharon Page
As Rev. Laura prepares to leave for sabbatical, she has a few words of wisdom and tasks to impart to the congregation. Come to the service to see her off and find your place in the coming months.

**December 24, 2019**
*Lessons & Carols — Christmas Eve Service*
7:00pm Service
Rev. Laura Shennum
Celebrant: Ash Woods
Let us join together to learn lessons from scripture and sing songs of the season. It will be a merry time full of joy and awe.

**December 29, 2019**
*Annual Fire Communion*
10:30am Service
Joel Courtney, Intern Minister
Celebrant: Deb Bryant
This community ritual is celebrated across many cultures and traditions around the world. Join us in letting go of the past year and welcoming the new year.
A MESSAGE FROM REV. LAURA SHENNUM

Holy Curiosity...

“We receive fragments of holiness, glimpses of eternity, brief moments of insight. Let us gather them up for the precious gifts that they are and, renewed by their grace, move boldly into the unknown”

- Sarah York

In this month, our focus is on awe. I find December has held different levels of awe throughout my life. I remember the waiting on Christmas morning for the time when my sister and I could finally wake up our parents to see what Santa brought. I also remember the pause between waking our parents up and my dad going through the ritual of making coffee and turning on the Christmas tree lights before we could go into the living room. I remember the joy in watching my own children go through the same waiting and excitement on Christmas morning.

I remember the first snowfall of the season and how all of nature was covered in white. The crispness of the air and the quiet of the snow. Yet, it was alive with energy. I remember the first Christmas Eve service I led and the beauty of the candles while we sang “Silent Night.”

I remember the reverence of remembering those who were no longer present in our world and the stories we shared to bring their spirits alive again.

As we explore this concept of awe in December, I hope you are able to find your own moments among the busyness of the season.

In Faith & Love,

Rev. Laura

Sabbatical FAQs

1. How long will Rev. Laura be gone? Rev. Laura will lead Christmas Eve Service and then will take a week's vacation with her family. She will be officially gone on Sabbatical from January 1, 2020 until she returns to the office on Monday, April 27.

2. Can we still call Rev. Laura while she is gone? Unfortunately, this is a time when Rev. Laura will be out of contact with the congregation. If Rev. Laura needs to be contacted for an emergency or major concern of the congregation, then the Board President, Julie McAllister or Intern Minister, Joel Courtney will contact her.

3. What if I see Rev. Laura in the community? Do I have to ignore her? No, you do not need to ignore her. However, please be mindful, that just like you are missing her, she is also missing you and it would be very easy for her to move into a ministerial role. A simple hello and good to see you will be just fine. Try to avoid any talk about the congregation. This is her time to rest and renew.

4. What will Rev. Laura do during this time and who will be running the congregation? Refer to the sabbatical brochure included in this newsletter for this information about the activities Rev. Laura has planned as well as who you can contact about congregational issues.

5. Will Rev. Laura leave the congregation after her sabbatical? In the contract the congregation has with Rev. Laura, she is required to stay 1 year after sabbatical. With that said, there are no plans at this time for her to leave within the next 3-5 years.
Our Tradition’s Sabbatical Practice
The Unitarian Universalist tradition of ministry has long embraced sabbaticals. The roots are ancient. “The Lord said to Moses on Mt. Sinai: ‘Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard and gather its fruits, but in the seventh year there shall be a Sabbath of solemn rest for the land.” (Leviticus 25)

In UU congregations, the purposes of the sabbatical are:
- To allow the clergy time and freedom to step away from intimate leadership of congregational life, so as to gain perspective on its context in larger life, and to acquire new resources for contributing to the congregation’s work; and
- To provide the congregation with the opportunity and impetus to sense its identity distinct from its professional minister’s, and to cultivate its independent resources for furthering its mission.

Our Minister At Large
Rev. Laura Shennum began ministry at CUUF in 2012. She has served the congregation for 7 years, which has allowed her to earn time to take a sabbatical. She will be gone from January through April.

During this time, Rev. Laura will take time to:
- Rest and renew her spirit through connecting with family and close friends.
- Gain a deeper understanding and practice of Qigong by attending a retreat in California.
- Study the field of Process Theology through reading and writing.
- Build skills in staff management through reading and attending a workshop.
- Retreat at Holden Village to set intentions on how to return to ministry.

Our Minister On-Site
Joel Courtney will continue his internship during the sabbatical. This is a time for Joel to step into ministerial authority while still remaining a student of ministry. During this time, Joel will:
- Have regular office hours;
- Lead worship, and co-lead with visiting ministers;
- Conduct rites of passage (weddings, memorials) for church members;
- Coordinate Pastoral Care in partnership with the Pastoral Care Team;
- Serve as Staff Supervisor in partnership with Board President, Julie McAllister.

Joel will be supervised by Rev. Peter Luton on a weekly basis and as needed.

Partners In Ministry
Church members who will lead our sabbatical’s renewal in ministry include:

Worship Team (Co-Chairs: Deb Bryant & Christina Davitt) who will lead and coordinate worship with guest ministers, speakers, and lay leaders.

Pastoral Care Team (Co-Coordinators: Verna Zuttermeister & Lori Nitchals) who will provide personal visitations and support.

Board of Trustees (President: Julie McAllister) who will provide leadership and guidance.

Internship Committee (Chair: Christina Davitt) who will support and guide Joel through this time.

Congregational Life Team (Co-Coordinators: Steve Clem & Kmbris Bond) who will coordinate congregational opportunities to engage in the life of the church.
A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Congregation,

“One is never afraid of the unknown; one is afraid of the known coming to an end.”
Krishnamurti

As December begins, we move toward the usual celebrations and events: our December CUUF Auction, our Christmas Eve service, the holidays – Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanza – and New Year’s Eve with the end of this year and the dawning of a new year full of possibilities, new hopes and possibly, resolutions. This year though, we as a Fellowship are forging ahead into the unknown – and if you are like me, there is excitement and a bit of “Whoa Nelly!” combined.

Our future adventures:

• As you know we shared a crucial Congregational Meeting Nov 10th on our next steps to building a new home for our worship. The Board will be chartering the Architectural Task Force to begin seeking architects for bids for a building design. I am so happy to be a part of this process and the difference that it will make for our Fellowship and the larger community.

• We also have a “first”: Reverend Laura will begin her sabbatical on Dec. 25th. I am excited for this opportunity for her growth and reflection – and excited for us to spread our wings a bit. The Worship Team, Visual Arts Team, Music Director and Children/Youth’s RE Director, and Congregational Life Committee are all working to fill our hearts, eyes and spirits throughout the 4 months.

• Joel, our intern minister, will be here providing continuity as well as delivering some sermons and helping provide leadership.

Love and peace to you during the holidays, and so looking forward to our Fellowship’s next steps and adventures.

Julie
As you may already know, the cities did not allow buildings without sprinkler systems to serve as emergency overnight shelters this winter. One facility will still be open at Holy Apostles Catholic Church through a separate contract with the cities.

While work on the shelter program for this winter did not end with overnight shelters throughout the city, it did bring a number of important people together for discussions that will be vital for the future of the community.

I was able to help Heather Coonrod coordinate the Thanksgiving Meal at the Powerhouse, which is a longstanding tradition that I’ve been eager to be a part of. Since returning from General Assembly in June, I have been volunteering with the Powerhouse during their daily operating hours. Not only did it provide wonderful learning opportunities for ministry, it helped me connect at a much deeper level with people my Focused Initiative was intended to serve.

October also brought other connection opportunities, including a chance to serve on the board of the local Emergency Food & Shelter Program with the United Way and Carrie Gavin. I also assisted Powerhouse with some fundraising and donation opportunities.

A great deal of time has been spent with Rev. Laura in preparation for her upcoming sabbatical. Pairing with lay leaders that have a depth of knowledge and mapping out responsibilities is helping to make all of our upcoming journeys as successful as possible.

Blessings,
Joel Courtney
Intern Minister
Greetings!

December's theme is awe. All of the topics this month aim to inspire goosebumps. Our topics are Love in Action, Slowing Down, Looking at the Night Sky, Noticing New Life, and Looking into Each Other’s Eyes. These topics approach awe in similar yet different ways. What a great topic this is for the onset of full winter; wonderment will help keep us on the up and up while the land around us freezes over.

Love in Action has us rehash stories from our history of when good triumphs. Reflecting on the good deeds and heartfelt sacrifices some have made for the betterment of humankind. Slowing Down is bringing us back to our living in the now topic from last month, the practice of savoring a moment and all of the detail that goes into it. It’s simple to feel awe if we are truly present. Looking at the Night Sky will have us geek out on astronomy and the wonders of space, from planets to dwarf stars, nebulae, and black holes, we bask in the wonder of how grand and various our universe is. Lastly, Looking into Each Other’s Eyes focusing on how we are not alone. How other people in our lives are going through an experience in the same way that we are. This hints at the subtle wonderment of life itself and the power of empathy and understanding. We are all in this together.

Awe and wonder are natural for the children of our congregation. This month we lean into it and hope to stoke the flames. Fascination is the beginning of all great works of passion. In this way we hope that both the parents and children of our congregation will be inspired to wonder this month and hopefully share this sense of wonder with each other at home. Life too often can seem humdrum and monotonous. Daily tasks, paperwork, and our means of making a living can often deprive us of this feeling of interest, fascination, and wonder. This month, we hope to inspire and reinvigorate a thirst for life and all of the beauty it offers.

Sincerely,
Connor

Adult Education Opportunities

Elder Talks

Wednesday, December 12, 10am to 11:30am, CUUF Sanctuary

What does it mean to age and how are you supposed to do it gracefully? This is a time to gather and explore the topic of aging. We will take the time to discuss the lessons we have learned in life that have shaped us into who we are today. Join us for coffee, tea, and some light refreshments.
“THE TAX MAN COMETH”
As the end of the 2019 tax year approaches, the Capital Campaign Management Committee wanted to take this opportunity to remind all with pledges made to be paid this year, (or ever perhaps next year if the situation permits) to get those contributions into Sharon before the end of this calendar year to take advantage of the 2019 tax deduction.
With Gratitude, The Capital Campaign Management Committee"

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

1st Sunday CUUF walk -
Dec. 1st after church.
Dress for the weather and wear/bring walking shoes. Meet at the church foyer around noon. We'll walk about 30 minutes on the loop, just enough to stretch our legs and have a little conversation. 1st Sunday every month, weather permitting.

CUUF Pybus Walk
What- “CUUF Pybus Walk”
Where- Meet at the south entrance of Pybus Market
When- Saturday, Dec 21th at 10:30am Note: later Time

Join Lori and Mija, Lori’s Golden Retriever, for about an hour walk on the Loop Trail. This is a dog and kid friendly event.

This fun event will be offered by Lori every third Saturday through December. If the weather is unsuitable for a walk or if the roads are icy, this event will be cancelled.

Questions? Email Lori at parishnurse@cascadeuu.org or call/text 509-264-0504

HOLIDAY GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Adopt a Family & Stuff-A-Sackpack
This year, CUUF will support a family within our congregation for the holidays. In addition, we will support local teens experiencing homelessness through the Stuff-A-Sackpack program. Lists will be posted in the sanctuary by Dec 1 for you to choose from. Please don’t deliver gifts until Sunday, Dec 15th. If you have questions or need to deliver earlier, then please contact Rev. Laura to coordinate at minister@cascadeuu.org or 509-881-9658.

Decorate Our Tree!
In December, bring NEW only, socks, underwear, gloves, and hats for children and adults to decorate our tree. These will be collected on Sun, Dec 15 and distributed to either Lee Elementary or Power House Day Shelter.

Lori & Mija
CUUF Pybus Walk
What- “CUUF Pybus Walk”
Where- Meet at the south entrance of Pybus Market
When- Saturday, Dec 21th at 10:30am Note: later Time
Attitude of Gratitude

Notes of Gratitude Overheard at CUUF

Thank You!
To Jeff Lau for leading the Highway Clean up crew.

Thank You!
For the opportunities to serve our community

Thank You!
To All those who helped rake leaves, wash windows and do yardwork!

Thank You!
To those who where there when I reached out for help!

Thank You!
For the beauty of fall leaves and sunshine!!
SOCIAL ACTION NEWS

Share the Plate—Sunday December 8th
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

In November we raised $984 for the Suicide Prevention Coalition

Thank You! For your generosity!

Our Share the Plate Recipient for the month of December is the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

The UUSC advances human rights through grassroots collaboration. In more than a dozen countries throughout the world, UUSC fosters social justice and works toward a world free from oppression. UUSC’s innovative approaches and measurable impact are grounded in the belief that all people have inherent power, dignity, and rights.

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

Saturday, Dec. 14 - Prepare community lunch at St. Luke's Church. Contact Don Shennum at 509-433-4074(phone or text), or don@donshennnum.com if you'd like to volunteer.

CIRCLE SUPPERS
Circle Suppers are large potluck dinners held in the homes of Fellowship members and friends. They are a good way to socialize with other friends and members of CUUF while sharing a great meal.

SUNDAY Circle Supper
December 8th @ 3pm
Hosts: Pam & Jack Toevs
9768 V NW, Quincy, WA 98848
RSVP: 509-787-2626

Please note the DAY & TIME (Look for more details coming soon)
Please let’s plan on carpooling!

SMALL DINNERS
Small Dinners are potluck dinners for eight people, including host. They are held on Saturday evenings in the homes of CUUF members and friends.

SMALL DINNER
Saturday, December 21 @ 6pm
Please sign up by Sunday, December 15
Sign-up sheets are in the kitchen on the back wall.

Questions contact: Jackie Halter 860-2978

Please Note the Earlier Times for the Winter Months!
You can view the auction catalog any time!

- From the home page, the catalog can be viewed as either a list or grid by clicking on the appropriate button at the top of the screen. In the list mode, click on “Category” to sort the items alphabetically by category for easy viewing. The grid view shows multiple items in a grid format. You can click on any category name in the box on the left side of the page to view items in a specific category.

Kick-off party with fixed price and “buy it now” items November 30 (5 – 7 pm) at CUUF!

- Come to do some holiday shopping and enjoy live music, fellowship, fun, and lots of “starry night” ambiance!
- You can win or take home some of the items that night, and sign up on bid sheets to secure a place at some of the fixed price classes and events you don’t want to miss.
- Suggested $5 donation covers appetizers and beverages.

Bid online for selected items December 1 – 13.

- To bid on an item, you must first log in at the log-in button at the top right corner of the page. (Log in using your phone number, including area code. Your pin is the last four digits of your phone number. This can be changed, if desired.)
- When you find an item you like, click the “place bid” link and enter your bid. You will get an email if you are out bid later. Some items have a buy it now price. If your bid reaches that level, you win it.
- Not all items will be available for online bidding. If you don't see the "Place Bid" button, then that item has a silent auction poster on the wall at CUUF.
- For a summary of items for which you have potential winning bids, go to the catalog grid view and click on the “my bids” link on the left side of the page.

Silent auction December 1 – 15 in the CUUF sanctuary.

The Silent Auction will end on Sunday, Dec. 15th with a 9 a.m. "Breakfast with the Stars" event. All bidding ends BEFORE the service at 10:15.

Also new this year--bidder numbers!

- Our auction software uses “bidder numbers”. These are like an account number that allows multiple purchases or payments to be tied to an individual or couple on one statement.
- Bidder numbers on shiny gold stars are attached to your CUUF name tags so you can refer to them “hands free” to bid at the silent auction.
- When bidding online, you do not need to reference your bidder number as it is already linked to your account when you sign in.
It's that time of year again. Thoughts turn to special holiday food, family and the cultural rituals of Christmas, Hanukah, Kwanza and New Year. All well-known holy days marking the dark days of Winter Solstice originating from the Judeo-Christian tradition that we in the West have adopted. For us Zen Buddhists, both converts like me and birthright, we turn toward deep practice and renewal of our Bodhisattva vows, as December 1 thru 8th approaches. We gather in some of the toughest sesshins or retreats of the year as we try to emulate the Buddha’s Enlightenment experience. The story goes that the World Honored One, almost dead from the effects of ascetic practices of eating very little food, no sleep and long hours of practice, accepted a bowl of milk from the Milkmaid and grew strong enough for one final push. So, revived he sat down under the Bodhi Tree and went into deep meditation for eight days and nights until on the morning of the eighth day he saw the Morning Star, Venus, and understood that for which he had been searching. He understood suffering is real, that it is our attachments and aversion around our belief in a separate self that causes the suffering and that there is a way out of suffering. These are the four Noble Truths, the last of which is the way out of suffering, the Noble Eightfold Path.

At Stone Blossom Sangha we don’t sit for eight days but we will sit deeply on the day of Rohatsu, December 8 at:

Beige House  
119 S Miller Street, Wenatchee  
$30 suggested donation, no one turned away  
Zazen, Walking Meditation, Vegetarian Lunch & Dinner  
Contact Sharon Meho Petit Sensei, shayknight@charter.net, or (509) 670-0883

Please join us for a practice we have adapted for our local sangha that we hope will inspire and bring much needed peace in this time of great suffering and separation in our country and the world. We will take a break after Rohatsu and return to our regular practice on the third week of January.

May the peace and love of all traditions be with you this wonderful Holy Season. -Meho
Groups & Programs

Book Group, Afternoon — 2\textsuperscript{nd} Wednesday of each month, 1:30pm, at the home of Louise Buchanan.
You are welcome to join in the discussion of the book of the month.
Contact Patty Ostendorff, 860-0761, postendorff@msn.com.

Book Group, Evening — Every other Monday of each month, 7:00pm, alternating at the home of a group member. No meetings during June, July, and August.
You are welcome to join for the discussion and reading of a non-fiction book.
Contact Emily Siroky, 884-9628, easiroky88@yahoo.com.

Choir — The Thursday preceding the 2\textsuperscript{nd} Sunday of each month, September - June, 7:00pm, CUUF sanctuary
The choir sings on special occasions and at least once a month during Sunday services.
Contact Larry Tobiska, at ltobiska@nwi.net or 881-5020; or Kmbris Bond, at kmbris.bond@gmail.com or (541)953-4442.

Circle Suppers and Small Dinners — Usually two Saturday evenings a month, September - June; July and August as scheduled; 6:00pm, at homes of CUUF members and friends, or at CUUF. CUUF members and friends are invited to bring a dish to share, and, if desired, a bottle of wine. A great chance to get to know one another better while savoring good food.
Contact Jackie Halter, 664-7032; Emily Siroky, 884-9628.

Covenant Groups — Various days, times and meeting places.
Small, supportive groups meet twice a month to reflect and share with each other. CUUF’s Covenant Group mission: “To add depth and breadth to our spiritual experience through creating deeper, more meaningful relationships with individuals and building broader, more caring connections to church and community”.
If you are interested in learning more or participating in a covenant group, please contact Rev. Laura Shennum.

Men’s Group — Last Wednesday of each month.
Meeting at a variety of locations and times, as selected by the group, to fit the group’s transitory interests.
Contact Larry Tobiska, at ltobiska@nwi.net or 881-5020.

Neighborhood Groups at CUUF!
CUUF is organized into nine neighborhood groups whose purpose is to introduce ourselves to people who live nearby, to build relationships in our congregation and to create mutual support and enjoyment. We join together for coffee, activities, service projects, or whatever the group chooses to do! Come and meet your CUUF neighbors!

To join contact the CUUF Office Assistant at 509-886-4023 or admin@cascadeuu.org!
December 2019

ALL EVENTS ARE HELD IN THE SANCTUARY UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

For details of Sunday mornings and special events, see the newsletter. To schedule an event using CUUF facilities or to include your event on the calendar, contact the office assistant at 886-4023 or admin@cascadeuu.org. [] indicate non-CUUF events or Private Rentals [PR]. *Italicized entries indicate they occur off-site.*

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**December Sermon Titles**

Dec 01—Time Traveling with Trees
Dec 08—Full of Awe
Dec 15—Service of Light
Dec 22—Tapping into Our “Awe”someness
Dec 29—Welcome the New Day Fire Communion
CUUF MINISTER
Rev. Laura Shennum
881-9658 | minister@cascadeuu.org

CUUF INTERN MINISTER
Joel Courtney
575-650-0773 | internminister@cascadeuu.org

CUUF BOARD OF TRUSTEES
boardoftrustees@cascadeuu.org
Julie McAllister, President ........ 669-0246
Vern Smith, Vice President......... 860-2008
Deb Miller, Secretary ................ 750-9707
Luke Evans, Treasurer ............... 470-1941
Leslie Marshall.......................... 670-2957
LeRoy Farmer............................ 669-3941
Linnea Shannon ......................... 206-402-1686

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CUUF COMMITTEES AND TEAMS

BOARD COMMITTEES:

BUILDING/ PROPERTY TASK FORCE
John Marshall Sharon Petit,
Don Oliver Chris Rader
Rich Trifletti Doug Taylor

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE (CCMC)
Don Flick, Treasurer and Chairperson
Steve Clem, Operations Manager
Luke Evans, CUUF Treasurer,
Rev. Laura Shennum, Minister

FINANCE COMMITTEE
Luke Evans, Treasurer Rev. Laura Shennum
Mark Seman Paige Balling

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE
Kmbris Bond, Chair, 541-953-4442
Carol Oliver Rich Trifletti
Heather Seman Mary Madsen

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
Ben Knecht, Chair
Carol Oliver
Linda Herrington

NOMINATING COMMITTEE
Jaime Krish, Chair
Heather Coonrod

GREETERS
Chris Rader, Chair - 888-0181
Deborah Bryant Dawn McKenzie
Barbara Edwards Pam Toevs
LeRoy Farmer Eliot Scull
Ryan Jacobsen Pat Taylor
KC Kwak Pat Whitfield
Peggy Love Vikki Williams
Sandy Limbeck Rhonnie Craven

PACKING FRIENDSHIP
Teresa Gelb, Chair 663-8240

PASTORAL CARE ASSOCIATES
Rev. Laura Shennum
Lori Nitchals, Parish Nurse
Dawn McKenzie
Patty Ostendorff Betsy Peirce
Mary Peterson Louise Rasmussen
Pat Taylor Verna Zuttermeister

WORSHIP TEAM
Deborah Bryant, Chair
Jim Bryant Chip Balling
Paige Balling Steve Clem
Kmbris Bond Christina Davitt
Lynn Madsen Deb Miller
Sharon Page Rev. Laura Shennum
Unitarian Universalism

There are seven principles which Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote:

* The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
* Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
* Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
* A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
* The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
* The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
* Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Unitarian Universalism draws from many sources:

* Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
* Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
* Wisdom from the world’s religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
* Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God’s love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
* Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit.
* Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.