



Newsletter of the
Idaho Falls
Unitarian Universalist
Church



All Services
10:30 a.m.

Meeting Place
555 "E" Street

Address

P.O. Box 50376
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83405-0376
Web Site: www.idahofallsuu.org

Minister

Rev. Lyn Stangland Cameron

Office Administrator

Theresa Gerstner
522-8269 or by appointment
office @idahofallsuu.org

Religious Education &
Exploration Administrator

Diane Harding
709-4128 or by appointment
Rebuild4RChildren@gmail.com

Executive Board

President: Kristi Brower
Past President: Hank Boland
President Elect: Alan Jines
Treasurer: Kay Vahalik
Secretary: Karen Schaefer
Members-at-large:
Jeff Leuschen
Ronda Knudson

For more information,
leave a message at 522-8269
or contact us via e-mail at
minister@idahofallsuu.org



Services Schedule for April 2009

April

Sunday Services
10:30 am



April 5

Hosea Ballou and the Audacity of Universalism

His was a "Rick Warren" sort of popularity, and during the mid-nineteenth century his Universalist message of hope inspired the founding of churches across the western prairies. What can we here learn from the wisdom of Hosea Ballou?

April 12

Easter, The Trick is Rising Again

Easter, is all about the mystery of the living Resurrection – the birthing and re-birthing of the world. Come, celebrate with us!

April 19

Earth Day: We Are All One Planet

A service of words and music with UU singer, songwriter Judy Fjell who will be our guest worship leader. Come celebrate the Earth with Judy Fjell.

April 26

Cakes, the Recipe for Transformation

Worship Associate Molly Brinkerhoff shares a response to the UU adventure into "feminist spirituality" that makes, "Cakes for the Queen of Heaven" such a rich learning experience.

May 3

Toxic Isolation

Immigration issues only affect other communities and other churches right? Why denial insulates us from reality and may cut us off from our best selves.

Cinco de Mayo/ MayPole – following the service all are invited out into the garden to participate in our fourth annual UU springtime celebration of the "Maypole Dance" with music and lots of fun as we try to weave ourselves together.



Riverside Rev-flections

by Lyn Stangland Cameron



Minister's Hours

This is a general guideline. The nature of ministry means that I may be called away for meetings and pastoral visits and may not be in the office even during announced times. Please know that I can be reached by phone message or email and that I will respond as soon as possible. In event of an emergency you may call my home phone, 523-1531 or Richard Wilde of the Committee on Ministry who will nearly always know how to reach me.

Monday
no regular hours

Tuesday
by appointment

Wednesday
10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Thursday
10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Friday
Writing

Saturday
by appointment

Sunday
10:30 – 2:00

The IFUUF Website is:
www.idahofallsuu.org/
Take a look and
checkout the links!

So Many Ways to Come Alive

No matter that “marching” usually describes steady movement in a clear direction, the character of “March” is one of indecision; the month seems unwilling to decide whether to linger adding more to winter or to become the foundation of spring. I almost hear chortling as we humans make assumptions and harbor expectations. Last week sunshine and light breezes persuaded most of our solid old dirt-covered snow to dissolve, sending shining liquid along sidewalks and roadsides and teasing us into jacketless walks. Those welcome promises of almost-warm lured many of us out on Saturday, to walk and bike and bask until Sunday when snarling winds returned armed with rain and hail and sleet and sideways snow. I am reminded that March is either a month that can't be trusted or a reminder that life offers us many opportunities to notice that control is simply an illusion. Maybe that is why gratitude and celebration are always so very welcome.

A couple of Sunday's ago following worship and a quick snack at Coffee Hour, I drove off to meet with neighboring Pocatello UU's. Leaving the melodic harmonies of our choir rehearsing downstairs, a few folks deeply engaged in thoughtful conversation in the Jefferson and Willard Rooms, and a sanctuary where a dozen or so forum folks were viewing a film featuring caring families sharing their support for GLBT youth, I was amazed by the lively energies generated in this living community. Flooded with gratitude and smiling tears I celebrate the life and difference our UU church makes for us and for others in this place.

As March and its indecision fades, April offers us several opportunities to reflect on the ways we choose to celebrate and be grateful. “Easter,” surely celebrates the resurrection of the living Earth, as we host our UU Second Sunday Potluck on Easter Sunday. This year the town Earth Day celebration will give us an opportunity to learn still more about the “greening” that is flooding our south-eastern corner of Idaho— (remember the work our Social Justice Team did preparing the “Green Jobs Now” booth at the CommUnity Festival?) Our own “Earth Day” worship service will feature beloved singer composer Judy Fjell. On Wednesday, April 15, we will honor the third of our UU “Fast” Days and gather that evening for a simple dedication and meal of soup and bread. On April 29th we will host our second Wednesday afternoon “Wisdom Conversation” at 1:00 PM. The focus for April will be on “Getting Our Family Members to Really Listen.”


Our Youth advisers, the chair of our Social Justice Committee and the PFLAG leadership have teamed up to sponsor a monthly “Teen Coffeehouse.” Diane our REE Administrator and the REE parents are busily planning a summer program that might include a summer camp.

Certainly we celebrate and show that we are grateful as we begin to reveal our own renewal energies in the new growth of springtime by our actions and our commitment. As we “march” into springtime let us rejoice that we have so many ways to contribute to the life of this church and so many ways to “come alive again” with the re-birth and greening of life. Happy Easter! Rev. Lyn

“Flooded with gratitude and smiling tears I celebrate the life and difference our UU church makes for us and for others in this place.”



On the Calendar for April

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Hatha Yoga 11:30-12:45 pm Wed. Together, Noon Med Group, 4-5 pm	2	3 Hatha Yoga 8:30-9:45 am	4
5 Service, 10:30 am Tea & Theology 3:00 pm	6 Recorder Practice 3:00-5:00 pm Hatha Yoga 5:00-6:15 pm	7	8 Hatha Yoga 11:30-12:45 pm Wed. Together, Noon Med Group, 4-5 pm	9	10 Hatha Yoga 8:30-9:45 am Men's & Women's Groups 5:30 pm	11
12 EASTER Service, 10:30 am Potluck Sunday	13 Recorder Practice 3:00-5:00 pm Hatha Yoga 5:00-6:15 pm	14	15 Hatha Yoga 11:30-12:45 pm Wed. Together, Noon Med Group, 4-5 pm Rune Study, 7:00 pm Fast Day, 5:30 pm	16 	17 Hatha Yoga 8:30-9:45 am Family Fun Night 5:00-8:00 pm	18 Soup Kitchen, 11:30 am Social Justice Committee Meeting 2:00 pm
19 Service, 10:30 am Forum, noon Tea & Theology 3:00 pm	20 Recorder Practice 3:00-5:00 pm Hatha Yoga 5:00-6:15 pm	21	22 Hatha Yoga 11:30-12:45 pm Wed. Together, Noon Med Group, 4-5 pm	23	24 Hatha Yoga 8:30-9:45 am	25 Community Earth Day Celebration 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
26 Service, 10:30 am	27 Recorder Practice 3:00-5:00 pm Hatha Yoga 5:00-6:15 pm Teen Coffee House 7:00 pm	28	29 Wisdom Convers. 1:00-3:00 pm	30		

Calendar "Highlights" for April

- 5 Tea & Theology — 3:00 pm
- 10 Men's & Women's Groups meet at —5:30 pm
- 12 Potluck Sunday
- 15 Rune Study Group — 7:00 pm
Fast for the Earth, meal —5:30 pm
- 17 Family Fun Night —5:00-8:00 pm
- 18 Soup Kitchen — 11:30 am
Social Justice Com. Mtg. —2:00 pm
- 19 Forum — 12:00 Noon
Tea & Theology —3:00 pm
- 25 Earth Day Celebration —10:00 am - 4:00 pm
- 27 Teen Coffee House — 7:00 pm
- 29 Wisdom Conversation — 1:00-3:00 pm



Ongoing — See Calendar for details

- Hatha Yoga
 - Mondays 5:00 - 6:15 pm
 - Wednesdays 11:30 am - 12:45 pm
 - Fridays 8:30-9:45 am
- Recorder Practice
 - Mondays from 3:00 - 5:00 pm
- Meditation Group
 - Wednesdays 4:00 - 5:00 pm
- Wednesdays Together
 - Every Wednesday at Noon
 - (Bring Brown Bag Lunch)

GENERAL ASSEMBLY IS JUNE 24-28, SALT LAKE CITY

FEATHER REMINDER:
When you see the "feather" displayed on the calendar, it is a reminder to send in your Horizon news by the end of the weekend.

The next newsletter deadline is
April 20th
Please send your items to
minister@idahofallsuu.org and to
kpschaef@datawav.net



Watch for changes or additions to this schedule in the Sunday Orders of Service



General Assembly
A Meeting of Congregations
June 24-28, 2009
Salt Lake City, Utah

Plan now to head to Salt Lake for "GA"

Join UU's from across the country who will gather to worship and sing and study and encounter "spirit" with thousands of other thinking and caring men and women and youth (the youth caucus nearly always provides important insights and plays a major role!) at UUA General Assembly—our annual meeting of congregations. "GA" includes workshops and worship, a chance to share time and meet new friends, an opportunity to hear moving speakers and attend thought-provoking discussions, concerts, dances and dinners. Registration and attendance are not limited to members. The fee for registration increases after May 1st however, attendance at Sunday's worship does not require registration. Just go to www.uua.org to check out General Assembly 2009 for more information.

Horizons by email! For those receiving Horizons in hard copy and are able and willing to receive via e-mail (blind carbon copy), please call Karen Schaefer at 208.522.6654 or e-mail her at kpschaefer@datawav.net. Let her know your email address. This will save \$1.00 an issue a month that could be used to help pay our membership fees to UUA.

by Karen Schaefer, Secretary

The full board met and heard Elizabeth share the Social Justice Comm. work on the Caring Congregation theme, mental health and Right Relations. She and Rev. Lyn will work on a draft Covenantal Relationship document for the members to consider in the future. We were all pleased with the new computer format for the Treasurer's report which made it much easier to consider our budget and finances. We will take up revising the budget next month as Kay and Tom's report indicate lower revenues. There are several jobs/activities we hope members will find interesting and volunteer to fulfill: July 4th Float Comm., Wayside Pulpit manager, and design and produce an addition to the billboard listing our web address, and helping with the Spring Auction. A new set of documents concerning the Building Use Policy was amended and approved and will be passed out to our user groups. Hopefully this will encourage more regular communication and some financial support from them as they see fit.

Join Others in Creating a UUCIF Behavior Covenant

At the March meeting of our UUCIF Executive Board, the Caring Congregation presented a list of behavior guidelines for board approval. After considerable discussion with the board Rev. Lyn and Caring Congregation Team and Social Justice Chair, Elizabeth Cogliati agreed to come up with revisions that could be presented at the Caring Congregation worship service on March 22. The following document is a result of their work and has been submitted to the congregation for discussion. Please join the Social Justice Team on Saturday April 18 at 2:00 PM to consider possible additions and changes to this as we work to promote right relations in all of our programs, activities and relationships.

Draft UUCIF Behavior Covenant / Covenant of Right Relations

As members, friends, children, and youth of the Unitarian Universalist Church in Idaho Falls we honor the precious and unique gift of self that each person brings to this community, and we covenant to maintain this congregation as a place where persons will speak and act courteously and respectfully. In the spirit of truth-seeking we welcome diversity of opinion, lifestyle and theological perspective and promise to walk together as a loving and caring community that is safe for everyone and courteous and respectful for all.

Poetry Blog

Jeff Leuschen has a poetry bog: The correct address is: http://jleuschenpoetryandstuff.blogspot.com I hope you like my poems but I will understand if otherwise because you might not share my expressed religious views.

I will be adding more poems over time.



Gathering Together



Fast for the Earth Wednesday April 15!

Wednesday, April 15 is “US Tax Day” – and we remember that typically half of our tax dollars go to support wars-- past and present. This Tax Day we will also honor the third of our UU “Fast Days.” The last two years we have honored a UU tradition from the 1800’s by “fasting” in remembrance of the War in Iraq. This year let us remember the impact all the wars have on the Earth and the future of human life as we “Fast for the Earth” on Wednesday April 15. The “fast” simply requires that we do not take solid food after midnight on the 14th until we meet at 5:30pm on the 15th for a brief moment of dedication and worship and that we then “break our fast” together with a simple communal meal of soup and bread at the church. If you have questions or would like to help plan the dedication and meal call 522-8269.

JULY 4TH

4th of July Parade Float—Come join our Committee

Attention parade fans: Are you interested in being part of an adhoc committee? If you are please contact Jeff Leuschen jeff41leuschen@yahoo.com or any other board members. We need to finalize our plans soon if we are going to put a float in the 4th of July Parade.

Wisdom Conversations

Wed. April 29th at from 1-3pm,
An Invitation from Rev. Lyn

This will be the second of what I am calling “wisdom conversations” because I realize that sometimes there is just not enough time for some of us to get a chance to really explore things that might have originally brought many of us to the doors of this UU church, for some of us quite a long time ago. Do **you** have questions you are still asking and discoveries you would like to share?

As we age, old friends pass and things change, our families make different demands and just plain living presents new challenges. Perhaps having conversations with others who are also coping with aspects of “aging” might provide resources and strengthen relationships?

This is an invitation to the start of an informal gathering I am calling “Wisdom Conversations.” The way this group might develop is completely up to the participants. Some topics I think folks might appreciate addressing are not limited to but might include:

- Independence. Wondering when one might need more support and figuring out how to get it.
- End of life. How much planning and whom should we tell what?
- Writing our way “home” – some of us have traveled a long way from our roots. (Lloyd Pickett has chosen to publish his theological journey.) What might others of us choose to share and how as we come to terms with this time in our lives.
- “Wonderings and curiosities” what keeps things interesting and where do we go from here?

I would like to invite “elders” to a gathering for conversation on Wed. April 29th from 1-3PM. (Remember that on Wednesdays at noon folks are invited to bring their own lunch and share companionship for lunch.)

Soup Kitchen

The front door opened and we were besieged by hungry diners.....luckily, our menu--pizza casserole, salad, pudding, & cookies--stretched to fill 133 plates. It was a busy, fun, worthwhile time, made possible by the efforts of Vic Allen, Cindy and Lindsey Bell, Bob Gherke, Bill and Alex Kohn, Marian Morgan, Catherine Nelson, Joe Plum, and Chris & Robin Hunt. Many, many thanks to all of you. Please call Marilyn Watts for next month, April 18, 11:30 am. —Robin Hunt

Tools Needed

Jeff Leuschen as Chairman of the Building and Grounds Committee is looking for members and friends to donate tools to the church. Useful items would be a flashlight, crescent wrench, set of allen wrenches, a pair of pliers (regular and needle-nose) and a socket wrench set.



Gathering Together

Men's Discussion Group

The Men's Group will meet at om Eddy's house, at 5:30 pm, Friday April 10th. Refreshments will be provided. Please come and bring a church friend who has not attended before. Call Richard Wilde at 522-6910 for information.

Women's Discussion Group

The next Women's Group meeting will be Friday, April 10th at Kay Vahalik's house at 5:30 pm. We will be watching a DVD about evolution and intelligent design (entitled A Flock of Dodos) and then discussing the video. Food will be pot luck. We're an informal group. Our goal is to have an enjoyable evening. Hope to see you there.

Got Runes?

An Introduction to Northern Spirituality, or a glimpse into the beliefs and practices of the Germanic tribes. Next class: Wednesday, April 15. 7:00 pm in the Jefferson Room. For information call Jeff Leuschen, 200-7496.

April Tea and Theology

Our Sunday afternoon video discussion of the Hindu religion continues this month with gatherings on April 5th and April 19th at 3:00 pm. Learning more about this ages-old religion and its teachings has created an opportunity for many rich conversations. We have been most fortunate to have Debu Majumdar as a local expert who is able to provide some firsthand clarifications.

Skill to do comes of doing.
—Ralph Waldo Emerson



Forum, Sunday March 15, 12 noon

Tax Time Tales: On this post tax day Sunday you have a chance to vent your steam or sing your praises as is your wont about taxes and how our governments, local, state and federal are handling the money. You may have a new tax policy in mind you would like to share, like flat tax, national sales tax, or no tax at all (send the spenders packing). What does the financial crisis mean to you? Where is capitalism heading? Are we drifting toward a socialist state as the right wingers are shouting? Is a world currency as suggested by the Chinese a good idea? What do you think about a national credit card for all adults 18 and over that begins the year with a \$20,000 limit. The card self destructs when the limit is reached or the end of the year which ever comes first? I'm brainstorming and I ask you to pick up the ball and come armed for bear with your own ideas.

Call Richard Wilde with any questions

Social Justice Committee News

What is the Social Justice committee? We identify areas of social injustice and ways in which we can help rectify those injustices. That may sound daunting, but our actions are all taken in the spirit of every little bit helps. Each individual action may seem tiny, but tiny actions can add up to big results.

The draft behavioral covenant for the congregation was introduced at the March 24 worship service. Please contact Elizabeth Cogliati if you did not get a copy and would like one. It will be discussed on April 18 at 2:00 pm at the church. See you there!

If you have questions or comments, please call or email Elizabeth Cogliati.

TEEN COFFEEHOUSE

The teen coffeehouse will be held on
Monday, April 27 at 7:00 pm

We will meet in the kitchen off the Fellowship Hall downstairs.

Attendees are asked to use the downstairs door (from the ramp) to enter the building.





Around the Church, the Community, and the World

Voluntary Simplicity Tips

At the UUA 2008 General Assembly, **Ethical Eating: Food and Environmental Justice** was selected as the new Congregational Study/Action Issue to be explored in depth through 2012.

With this in mind, please support or participate in our local sustainable farming and farmer's market events, and the local organic community gardening effort. Also at GA there will certainly be several classes on this topic you may attend.

The Idaho Falls community will celebrate Earth Day on Saturday, April 25th from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Public transportation from parking locations will be provided.

The Intermountain West Citizens for a Sustainable Future will have a booth at the Earth Day celebration, featuring sustainable activities implemented in several communities and activities occurring locally.

The Intermountain West Citizens for a Sustainable Future has created a blog, which features sustainability tips, events, websites, and local sustainability issues. Check it out at <http://citizensforsustainability.blogspot.com/>



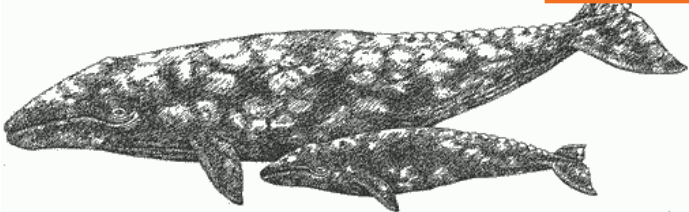
To know what you prefer instead of humbly saying Amen to what the world tells you you ought to prefer, is to have kept your soul alive.
—Robert Louis Stevenson

I believe a leaf of grass is no less than the journey-work of the stars.
—Walt Whitman

WhaleCoast Alaska 2009



Five Alaskan UU fellowships invite you to experience our program featuring UU homestays, Native Alaskan culture, bears, whales, and other wildlife—an unforgettable eco-cultural-spiritual tour.



NorthCentral Tour — June 13 - 22, 2009
Southeast Tour — July 20-28, 2009

From the Southeast coastal waters to the Arctic Ocean, from remote wilderness to modern cities. We experience the best that Alaska has to offer.

See wildlife: whales, seals, bears, moose, caribou, & more. Glaciers, islands, fjords, and mountain ranges. Native American artists and dancers. Alaska's finest museums. Spectacular travel by train, ferry, and plane.

Stay in Real Alaska! UU homestays, dinner parties, and services. Visit Anchorage, Fairbanks, Seward, Sitka and Juneau UUs.

Guides: David Frey, Fairbanks UU, a 28-year Alaskan resident and daughter Lily Walton, lifelong Alaskan.

DEADLINE: Extended to April 15

For more information contact:

Dave Frey, Director,
WhaleCoast Alaska
675 Gold Vein Rd.
Fairbanks, AK 99712
Phone: 907-322-4966
Visit www.whalecoastak.org, or email dfrey@whalecoastak.org

The WhaleCoast Alaska registration deadline has been extended to April 15. Alaska UUs would love to share our awe-inspiring state with you!

WhaleCoast Alaska involves 150 volunteers from 5 Alaska UU congregations. It is our biggest fundraising event, and a great way for UUs to experience Alaska. Thank you so much for your help.

Vision/Mission Statement

“We are a loving and caring religious community
that affirms the sacredness of all life.

We provide a spiritually nourishing
and intellectually stimulating environment
with respect and acceptance for each individual.

We encourage exploration and growth in a spirit of fellowship
and love for seekers of all ages.

With an attitude of cooperation, we will be a catalyst for
religious freedom, social justice, peacemaking,
and responsible stewardship of the Earth.”



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