



Our Vision

The Unitarian Universalist Church in Idaho Falls is a vibrant and welcoming church home for everyone. With a tradition of thoughtful searching, we are a beacon of truth, love and justice.

Our Mission

Honor the individual's right to religious and spiritual freedom
Minister to each other and the community at large
Nurture the search for truth and meaning
Be a loving and intergenerational community welcoming to all beliefs, races, sexual orientations, ethnicities and gender identities
Improve the quality of life by living our values and working for local and universal justice

Our Covenant

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

Horizons Newsletter

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH IN IDAHO FALLS

June 2019

June Worship

Sunday Services 10:30am

Flowers Requested for the June 2 Flower Communion Service

In our June 2 service we will observe the uniquely Unitarian Universalist Flower Communion ceremony. Please bring to this service a flower or a bunch of flowers to share with any guests or visitors who attend. When you enter the sanctuary please place your flower(s) in one of the vases in the front of the pulpit.

June 2

“Crossing Up -- Moving Onwards and Upwards and The Flower Communion: A Multi-Generational Two-Part Service”

Interim Minister, Rev. Jacqueline Ziegler and Director of Religious Education and Exploration, Elizabeth Cogliati offer this two-part service.

In the “Crossing Up -- Moving Onwards and Upwards” part of the service we celebrate all our children and youth at the end of one school year as they look forward to the next one starting on the other side of summer.

A SPECIAL NOTE FROM ELIZABETH COGLIATI: I want to include all the children and youth from our preschool-age children all the way through to our youth in middle school and beyond. If your family will be attending, please let me know at dree.uucif@gmail.com so I know how many kids to plan for.

The “Flowers for Communion” part of the service is a communion ritual created by Dr. Norbert F. Čapek, Minister of the Unitarian Church in Prague, who offered the first Flower Communion Service on Sunday, June 4, 1923. The beauty and significance of his Flower Communion Service has led to its observance annually in adapted forms by many Unitarian and Universalist Churches and Fellowships in the United States since 1940.

ANOTHER SPECIAL NOTE: For this ritual, everyone is asked to bring to the service a flower or bunch of flowers of your own choice, whether from your garden or lawn or store bought, and place them in one of the vases in front of the pulpit.

June 9

“Is an Evangelical Unitarian Universalist an Oxymoron?”

Rev. Jacqueline Ziegler speaking.

I invite you to imagine yourself at a dinner party, the only person there who goes to a church. When this telling bit of information inadvertently leaks out, you pique the curiosity of your dinner companions – all of whom graduated from organized religion years ago. They want to know why. You don't want to evangelize so you respond a little defensively, “Well, it's not

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Lisa Christenson
Katharine Giovanna
Kerry Shirts

really a church. You see, I am a Unitarian Universalist.” They want to know more. The conversation continues and you are pushing spin control buttons.

Is there no such thing as an evangelical Unitarian Universalist? In my book there is. For me, an evangelical Unitarian Universalist is not an oxymoron. In this reflection I’ll share why this is so. Hopefully, one of you (or all of you) will become one heck of an “EVANGELICAL” Unitarian Universalist.

June 16 “Summertime and the Livin' Ain't Easy”

Rev. Jacqueline Ziegler speaking.

Jumping off from the lyrics of Gershwin’s popular song from his opera, *Porgy and Bess*, “Summertime ... and the livin' is easy,” we’ll look at how summertime often is anything but a time of “easy” living.

June 23 “About Grief”

A service from Worship Team Leader Annette Lovell.

Grief is an universal experience. Even so, everyone experiences it differently. Join us for a meditation written by UUCIF member Allen McCrady.

June 30 TBA

Rally to Support the Juliana v. US Hearing Tuesday, June 4, 2019 at 11:15 AM in front of the Court House, 605 N Capital

Rev. Ziegler asks people to participate in a rally to support the youth climate lawsuit “Juliana v. US” hearing. Please bring posters, signs, flags, etc.

On this day, this constitutional youth climate lawsuit will be heard before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in Portland, Oregon. The 21 youth who filed their constitutional climate lawsuit assert that, through the government’s affirmative actions that cause climate change, it has violated the youngest generation’s constitutional rights to life, liberty and property, as well as failed to protect essential public trust resources.

Beside the rally it might be possible to watch a live streaming of the court hearing. Watch for additional information about this on the UU Church in Idaho Falls’ Facebook page.



“I want to offer a heartfelt thank you to some exceptionally helpful people.”

So This Minister Walks into a Congregation and . . . Interim and Other Ministry Topics

Greetings,

Part I

It’s hard to believe how fast the time has gone by since I came to serve you last September! I think it has been a very good year. During this time, I’ve come to understand and appreciate how much the leaders and members care about the well-being and future of their beloved religious community. Because of this, my work as your interim minister has been particularly fruitful. So I want to offer a heartfelt thank you to some exceptionally helpful people.

During my first year, I have had the benefit of briefly working with two really great Boards of Directors. From September 2018 to January 2019 I worked with Daniel Schwen, Molly Brinkerhoff, Josh Cogliati, Lisa Christianson, Cindy Logan and Steve Wike. From February 2019 to the present time I’ve been working with Daniel Schwen, Molly Brinkerhoff, Josh Cogliati, Lisa Christianson, Katharine Giovanni, Cindy Logan and Kerry Shirts. Both Boards had challenges to tackle. Each Board member took his or her role and responsibilities very seriously and rose to the challenges with a spirit of adventure. All of their work, decisions, and implementations were done with the utmost integrity and consideration of what is best for the Congregation as a whole. The significant amount of time and energy they gave to the Unitarian Universalist Church in Idaho Falls, (UUCIF) is a testament to the deep love they have for this Congregation and Unitarian Universalism (UU) itself. It was an honor and privilege to work with all of them. To these visionary, hardworking, articulate, and deeply caring passionate souls I say, “Thank you and blessings upon you!”

My work would have been immensely more difficult if it were not for the support of the Transition Team: Henk Boland, Bob Goetsch, Dennis Jorgenson and Charlotte Shirts. They spent many hours working with me on the developmental interim tasks that the Board asked me to act on during this first interim year. They were the sounding board that UUCIF members and friends went to with their concerns and joys about me and/or about the changes that were happening in the Congregation. They were the behind-the-scene movers and shakers who made a difference in getting many things accomplished. To these gentle, thorough, thoughtful and most generous souls I say, “Thank you and blessings upon you!”

I deeply appreciate the help of the Worship Team: Vic Allen, Molly Brinkerhoff, Josh



“I feel gratitude toward the many others who participated in the shared ministry of this Congregation by offering their skills and time to serve as members of the committees that serve UUCIF’s mission.”

Cogliati, Arthur Kull, Annette Lovell, Victoria McDonald and Kerry Shirts. They helped me understand UUCIF’s liturgy and then helped me combine my professional ministerial liturgical approach into it. They listened to my thoughts on the design of worship from a professionally trained minister’s perspective and they asked important questions. This dedicated group found and arranged guest speakers for the Sundays I was not in the pulpit. They faithfully took turns being Worship Assistants. They listened carefully to comments from UUCIF’s members and friends about the changes in Sunday services. Then they tactfully and lovingly shared those comments with me. To these gentle, thorough, thoughtful, imaginative and most generous souls I say, “Thank you and blessings upon you!”

I thank UUCIF’s musicians: Bonnie Anderson, Henk Boland, June Cannon, Jessica Kuipers, Lisa Loret, John Tanner and Sue Wilde. Their musical wisdom and their individual musical skills always helped make each service all the more meaningful. I also want to especially thank Molly Brinkerhoff for talking to the musicians and scheduling them for services. To these creative, thoughtful, generous and tireless souls I say, “Thank you and blessings upon you!”

I have to give a huge shout out of thanks to the Caring Team that responded to my call to re-create a much needed congregational resource. The members are Lala Chambers, Karan Croft, Bill Kohn, Pam Liburn, John Tanner and Rhonda Wilke. They have met steadily for the past 5 or so months to define what their mission and goals are. To this wonderfully dedicated, diligent and profoundly caring team I say “Thank you and blessings upon you!”

I feel gratitude toward the many others who participated in the shared ministry of this Congregation by offering their skills and time to serve as members of the committees that serve UUCIF’s mission. I wish I could name all of you but it would take up too much space, so let me simply name some of those committees: Facilities, Nominating, Pledge Drive/Stewardship, Religious Education and Exploration Committee, Social Justice Committee and Sunday Social Hour Team! To all of you I say, “Thank you and blessings upon you!”

Unitarian Universalism seeks to nurture and promote individual spiritual growth and it also promotes individuals working in community. All of you demonstrate that you know what it means to be in community, to create community, and the difference that being in community makes in the quality of your lives. Importantly, you’ve created a community that makes a profound and transformative difference in lives of people beyond UUCIF’s doors. Margaret Mead once said, **“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”** In many ways all of you embody this ideal. Thank you for making a difference!

Part II

This probably will be my last column until September. So I want to share with you some of what I will be doing this summer.

As of the end of May, I offered 31 of the 37 reflections (sermons) that I am contracted to offer. To meet my contractual obligation I will offer 3 services in June and then a service on July 14 and 21.

As a full-time minister, my contract gives me four weeks off for study time and four weeks off for personal vacation time. I will take the four weeks of study time over the



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summer, although I “probably” will not take all those some more of my vacation in September, when my husband and I have company coming from Italy. When I am not on study time or taking vacation time, I plan to work on congregational matters, attend certain meetings and host some of the parties that I offered in the auction.

I don’t have another Unitarian Universalist minister to fill in for me for the times when I will be gone. Therefore, if you have an emergency during those periods, please don’t hesitate to call me through my cell phone and home landline. I will return your call as soon as I can.

Part III

I have some exciting and fun news to share. The exciting part is that my son Michael is going to be living with me beginning June 1. He is coming to help me around the house and to focus on his art (acrylic paintings) and hopefully to start his own fine arts business. The fun part is that we haven’t lived together since he was 19 years old! It is going to be an interesting time for sure!

I close my last column of the church year by proclaiming that our next church year will be an exciting one! It will be a year of preparing even more for the calling of your new settled parish minister. The year will offer new opportunities for nurturing and deepening your spirituality, as well as expanding your sense of Unitarian Universalism’s importance in your life and the gifts it can and does offer the larger world.

Friends, I hope to see you over the summer, either at a service or just around town. If our paths don’t cross, I look forward to seeing you when we’re back into our more formal Sunday services. May your summer be full of delightful days, which include opportunities for some real rest.

Quoting my colleague Lynn Ungar, I’ve “gone to the fields to be lovely. Be back when I’m through blooming.” ~ Rev. Jacqueline Ziegler

We’re Still Looking for a Few Good People to Become Worship Associates!

Worship Associates (WA) help lead our Sunday worship services, collaborating with the minister to reflect on meaning, purpose, and the life of the congregation. Members and active friends who are moved and inspired by worship and want to contribute to the congregation’s Sunday service are invited to become Worship Associates. Worship Associates will serve for two years, beginning September 2019 through August 2021 and generally they serve as a WA once every 6 weeks. Worship Associates are not members of the Worship Team, although they could apply to be a member of the Worship Team too.

If you’re interested in being a WA please contact Rev. Ziegler at revziegler369@yahoo.com or 208-881-5539 for an application. When there are enough people interested, mutually convenient dates for training will be decided upon. Rev. Ziegler will provide the training.



“Thanks to the Jensen’s willingness to take action and the quick response of UUCIF members and friends the damage seems minimal.”

DREE Office Hours
Thursday: 8:30am—11am

News From Upstairs

Elizabeth Cogliati

There will be a milestones/bridging ceremony for all children who will be going on to the next grade on June 2. All families with school-aged children are invited to attend this intergen service.

Religious Education & Exploration will have one class in the summertime, for ages 4 to 12. We will be doing fun arts & crafts. The nursery will be open.

Formal classes and youth group will resume in the fall.

Has Anyone Seen Noah?

It started with a Good Samaritan and a phone call. Sarah Jensen and her husband were passing by our building saw the sprinkler system had malfunctioned and was sending a cascade of water down the basement access ramp. They shut the water off and contacted Rev. Cameron, unaware of her recent retirement. Rev. Lyn called several UUCIF folks and before long several hardy souls were at the church removing three inches of water from Fellowship Hall (temporarily renamed “Fellowship Lake”)



Vic Allen, Lisa Christenson, Steve and Rhonda Wike, Rob Logan, Kerry Shirts, Bill Kohn, Eric Hershberger and Eric’s friend visiting from North Carolina, Chris, spent nearly four hours pumping, sweeping, and mopping to get all the water out of our hall. An unpleasant chore made bearable by the good humor of all involved.

Upon investigation it appears a water line in our sprinkler system failed allowing water to run down the access ramp to the basement. The drain at the bottom of the ramp also failed and water flowed into Fellowship Hall. The line was repaired and Eric and Chris spent the better part of four hours mucking out the failed drain. We will have a plumber in sometime in the next few days to modify the drain to prevent another failure.

Thanks to the Jensen’s willingness to take action and the quick response of UUCIF members and friends the damage seems minimal. Slight damage to the edge of the vinyl floor in the restroom and a couple loosened floor tiles were the only obvious results.

News From the Garden

The weather is warming and our garden is showing signs of life again! Lots of folks have been hard at work making our Peace Garden an even more welcoming area.

Special thanks to Dave Benefield and Maryanne Bithell who have been doing lots of work in the past weeks getting the garden in shape!



DREE Office Hours
Thursday: 8:30am—
11am

**Office Administrator
Hours**

Mon. 2:30p – 5:30p
Wed. 2:30 - 5:30pm_
Thu. 2:30p – 5:30p

Notes from Your Board May-June 2019

Cindy Logan, Sec.

Some of your board members and friends spent some time prior to our May 13th meeting in a Worship Committee Meeting, and I would like to thank them very much for all they do to make the services inspirational, thought provoking, enlightening and beautiful. Following a short reading, we all gave a couple of hours of earnest effort to handle the business and work involved in the general operation and facilities upkeep here at the UUCIF. Last minute preparations for the annual service auction were set forth, and final assignments were being made and completed. Religious Education and Exploration report by Elizabeth Cogliati included plans made to cover summer REE classes for children as needed and providing for adults to lead when DREE was not able to be present. The Treasurer's report indicated that our congregation was generally making timely pledge donations that helped keep the regular bills and utilities paid on time.

New business included a request by Vic Allen to obtain a proper storage cabinet for office supplies. He is in the process of reorganizing the office space to allow for more user friendly equipment and storage areas. Kerry Shirts will also be helping out by doing some minor construction on the storage closet. Under \$400 was set aside for the cabinet and \$75 was set aside for the closet/stairs. On a building related note, it was determined that detailed instructions are needed to be placed beside each double door instructing uses on how to unlock and re-lock the doors securely without damaging them in the process. Change for Change donation for the month set to go to the Summer Food Program to be held beginning in June in Kate Curley Park. UUCIF people are also asked to help serve the lunches for one week in June. Please see Lisa Christenson or Vic Allen if you can help at lunchtime during our assigned week.

The board voted to end the annual financial commitment to KISU radio after the final installment of \$356 is paid in full. We haven't had our own congregants donating on behalf of UUCIF this year so the bill has come due. It would be nice if people from the congregation came forward to contribute towards this last bill. Donations to KISU remain tax deductible.

Bid(s) for painting the exterior of our building, masonry and railing will be solicited to move forward with this overdue project. It doesn't appear feasible to solicit Habitat for Humanity for the majority of the actual labor required for a project of this scope, and we do not have a large enough contingent of able bodied volunteers available to undertake the project ourselves.

Molly Brinkerhoff and Katharine Giovanna will be leaving their board positions this summer to assume new roles on the Search Committee for our next Settled Minister. Lisa Christenson has accepted the upcoming role of Vice President and Eric Hershberger has accepted one of the Member At Large positions. Andrew White and Amanda Logan have volunteered to assume the other MAL position.

Our Book Table was discussed and members believe it is time to update the offerings, or "shelve" the current selections elsewhere. Also, discussion began on how and where to locate pamphlets and information for interested persons. An improved location and offerings are hopefully going to come about. Right now, the History Wall has dislocated some of our "stuff", and even when the wall is taken down, we still need a good solution as to how to organize, select and place printed materials outside the main sanctuary.



“A solemn, older gentleman, casually dressed with a neatly trimmed gray beard, leaning heavily on a wooden cane.

“Would you mind if I came in and looked around?”

One Man’s Story

Vic Allen

The man stood as I approached the office door. A solemn, older gentleman, casually dressed with a neatly trimmed gray beard, leaning heavily on a wooden cane. “Would you mind if I came in and looked around?” A bit puzzled at the request I asked why. It turned out our visitor had a tale to tell.

His name is Mike Johnson. Recently retired he has moved back to Idaho Falls to care for his 97 year old mother. In his professional life he had been an undertaker and had done his training here, in our old building.

Mike and I walked through our building with Mike pointing out where things had changed from the building’s mortuary days. He had worked here from 1971 to 1973 for Don and Leo Williams, the father and son team who owned Williams Funeral Services which operated on these premises. His co-worker was John Coltrin who eventually bought the Williams out. At the time John, his wife, and six children lived upstairs. Mike had also lived on the premises in the house later torn down to make room for our Peace Garden. At the time the E Street post office had yet to be built and the LDS hospital stood where the stakehouse adjacent the Idaho Falls Temple now stands.

Mike said he believed our building was originally constructed in the early part of the 20th century as a private residence. It was converted to a mortuary in the early 1920’s. The Williams added the sanctuary and foyer in 1968.

One particular item Mike passed along I was particularly bemused by. It seems our Fellowship Hall was the casket sales and display area. Mike commented that the floor tile is still the same. He also said he was very impressed with the overall condition of the building and complemented us on our upkeep.

At the end of our visit Mike said he had numerous items from his time here and promised to bring them by to share with us. I look forward to that visit and to learn more about our building’s history.

Exposing Truths of the Murder of Rev. James Reeb

NPR has just released a new Serial podcast about the murder of Rev. James Reeb during the Selma campaign of the Civil Rights movement. Rev. Reeb, from Boston, was one of three people murdered during the campaign, the other two being Jimmie Lee Jackson and Viola Liuzzo.

While Jackson, a local African American activist, was not a Unitarian Universalist, both Rev. Reeb and Ms Liuzzo could be considered our first Unitarian Universalist martyrs. Rev. Reeb was a minister working with low-income and marginalized folks in Boston; Viola Liuzzo who is known as a “Detroit housewife” was an activist who didn’t hesitate to put her beliefs into action Both felt called to Selma because of their Unitarian Universalist faith.

As you listen to the first episode, which sets the stage for the rest of the series, I encourage you to take advantage of the many resources the UUA has compiled about these events. I especially encourage folks to look into the murder of Viola Liuzzo and its aftermath,



The Spokane region is the gateway for adventure and exploration in the Intermountain Northwest. Located driving distance from Glacier National Park and Yellowstone, Spokane is nestled in natural beauty.

Spokane is located on interstate I-90, 110 miles from the Canadian border and 18 miles from Idaho.

It is the largest city between Seattle and Minneapolis.

Spokane International Airport (GEG) is serviced by Alaska, American, Delta, Frontier, Southwest, and United Airlines.

Nonstop service is offered to 17 destinations, including Minneapolis, Chicago, Dallas, Phoenix, and LAX.D

which included FBI Director James Edgar Hoover besmirching her name and reputation. We also invite you to ponder these questions through journaling, art, meditation, or discussion with a friend:

What was your initial reaction to the story? What made you sorrowful? What made you angry? Did you laugh or experience other emotions?

What did you already know about this story? What did you learn? Reflecting on Ms. Joanne Bland's story about the department store, when have you generalized your experience as the experience everyone had? When was a time that you realized that your experience was very different than that of the others around you?

In his interview, Rev. Orloff Miller speaks about standing in front of Walker's Cafe alone, alluding to its quiet beauty and how it could be any Midwest town like the town in Ohio where he grew up. Many Northern towns have a history of being sundown towns. What is the history of your community?

As you reflect on these personal questions, I also encourage you to look into the hidden, unspoken history of your town and church. What stories do we tell and what stories remain hidden?

Some UU churches have identified that money from the Transatlantic Slave Trade built their buildings; others have discovered that the reason there are two congregations in town is because of a split due to involvement in the Civil Rights movement (or not); others have trap doors from when the congregation used to hide folks from slave hunters. Some of our congregations formed during the Civil Rights movement. What's the story of your church? What other stories can be uncovered in your community?

How can our actions now and living our Principles, help us navigate painful history while building toward the future? What can we learn from our past?

General Assembly is Coming

General Assembly is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association. Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend; congregations must certify annually to send voting delegates. The 2019 General Assembly will be June 19-23 in Spokane, Washington. Most General Assembly events will be held in the Spokane Convention Center.

The Power of We

What do we want Unitarian Universalism to be? It is a time when we are asking big questions in our faith, and GA 2019 will be focused on digging into those questions together. It is a critical chance for congregational leaders and passionate UUs to set new goals and aspirations for our religious community. Help begin to reshape our Association and our congregations in new and powerful ways.

This year's theme is about collective power, "The Power of We," as well as the possibility, the purpose, the struggle and the joy of what it means to be together in faithful community. In the past two years, Unitarian Universalism has recommitted to the work of liberation inside and outside our faith community. The antidote to a time of dangerous dehumanization is a love that connects us to our deeper humanity. Come to Spokane to experience what our shared faith can become when we embrace the Power of We.

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