



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

May 2019

May Worship

Sunday Services 10:30am

May 5

“Pride as a Vice or a Virtue?”

Interim Minister Rev. Jacqueline Ziegler speaking. Josh Cogliati is the Worship Associate. Jessica Kuipers is the pianist.

Few words in our moral vocabulary convey so wide a spectrum of meanings as “pride.” It is one of the Seven Deadly Sins in Christianity and considered to be THE cardinal sin. However, today the word can connote anything from narcissism to self-confidence to self-respect. As we Unitarian Universalists straddle and struggle with its many meanings, I’ll share how those meanings may or may not be useful for us.

Immediately after the service, adults, children and youth are invited to gather outside in our garden area to participate in our traditional Maypole dance with music provided by David Sealander. If there is inclement weather, the rain date will be Sunday, May 12.

May 12

“Widening the Circle of Blessed Mothers”

Rev. Jacqueline Ziegler speaking. Vic Allen is the Worship Associate. Jessica Kuipers is the pianist.

This Mother’s Day reflection invites us to think about the word “mother” as a verb as a way to widen the circle of who can be understood as a mother. To honor your special mother person, everyone will have the opportunity to pick a red or white carnation as a way to let others know whether that person is alive or has passed away.

Early in this service we will hold a New Member Ceremony. As this is an important add-on to the service time, our regular liturgical elements, Joys and Concerns and the Time for All Ages will not be offered but will return in future services

NOTE: Please see page?? for information about the “A Stand for Peace Rally” being held in conjunction with this service.

May 19

“Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People? Exploring Theodicy” (Tentative)

Rev. Jacqueline Ziegler is speaking. Annette Lovell is the Worship Associate. June Cannon is our pianist.

We Unitarian Universalists have had a hard time thinking clearly about good and evil because we have always been a decidedly optimistic religion. To balance that, so-to-speak, I’ll explore the very profound, difficult complexities and contradictions of human nature. I’ll explore the questions of why does suffering exist and what is the nature of evil. In relationship to the many forms of injustice in our world, regardless of your theology or philosophy, it is good

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to know what beliefs form the foundation for your actions.

This is my third reflection in a 6 part series called “**What Do We Believe?**” This series looks at some of the most basic philosophical/spiritual/religious topics of all time. The first reflection was “Exploring Epistemology” and the second was “Exploring Teleology.” Please join us as we explore what the nature of evil could be for Unitarian Universalists today.

May 26 “Memorial Day: What They Gave Their Lives For”

Rev. Jacqueline Ziegler speaking. Kerry Shirts is the Worship Associate. June Cannon is our pianist.

Past and present generations of Americans were and are still profoundly moved by the “American Dream.” Many veterans of war fought and died to keep that dream alive. But defining what the American Dream means is a slippery slope as it gets confused with the “American Way of Life.” So in honor of Memorial Day, I’ll share my understanding of that elusive “American Dream.”

In this service, in addition to my reflection, we’ll take time to honor UUCIF’s members who gave their lives in a war and we’ll honor members and friends of the congregation who are alive and served in a war.

Dance Around Our Maypole Sunday, May 5 at Noon (or earlier)

The May Day dance, also known as the Maypole dance, may seem a trifle outdated, but every spring in communities here and there across America, celebrants follow the ancient custom, erecting a maypole, usually cedar or birch, and dancing around it, typically weaving colorful ribbons around the pole as they go. Sometimes the dancers are just celebrating springtime; other times the revelry is explicitly tied to pagan fertility rites or ethnic history.

So, shortly after our Sunday service, for whatever reason is meaningful to you, everyone -- adults, children and youth -- are invited to gather outside in our garden area to participate in UUCIF’s traditional Maypole dance. Music will be provided by David Sealander.

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 who are moved and inspired by worship and want to contribute to the congregation’s depth of experience in a 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.



“I am devoting part of this month’s column to parents who have children and who may be trying to decide if and when to attend our congregation..”

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

Greetings,

Part I

I am devoting part of this month’s column to parents who have children and who may be trying to decide if and when to attend our congregation. I offer for your consideration this April 25, 2010 article by Jane Roper, “Why I Finally Joined a Church” which she wrote for *Salon*, an on-line magazine. Although it is from 2010, I believe it is even more relevant today. She wrote:

“I was a religious skeptic who bristled at joining a community. But two things changed that: My kids.

Our family just joined a church.

This may not sound like a radical statement -- not here in America, arguably the churchiest nation in the world. But hearing these words from my own mouth feels about as natural as, “I’ve just joined the Marines.”

Granted, the church in question is Unitarian Universalist, a relatively laid-back faith whose central tenet is that all religions have wisdom to offer, and that we must love one another -- and recycle. But it’s still a religious community, a culture I haven’t been a part of for more than 15 years.

When I was growing up, my family was active in a Congregational church. I sang in the choir, did Sunday school and youth group, and was confirmed at 14. The whole shebang. But by my late teens, I’d begun questioning the notion that Jesus was anything more than a charismatic leader who got a lot of things right. By college, I considered myself Christian only in heritage and love of Christmas.

I’d also grown wary of organizations, period. Whereas my high school career was dominated by endless clubs and activities, by college I was done with the Tracy Flick routine -- tired of meetings and obligations and bickering about minutiae. For the next 15 years, I avoided extracurricular commitments of any kind. I was captain of my own ship. Joining a church would have been unthinkable.

My husband, meanwhile, has a Jewish mother and an Episcopalian father, neither of them very religious. As a child, he was exposed to both traditions, but in a primarily secular context. Above all, he was taught to be skeptical about religion and religious institutions. If I was an anti-joiner by my early 20s, he’d basically been one since birth.

So why, now, have we gone and joined a church? We who, until recently, couldn’t handle being members of anything beyond Netflix?

In a word, children.

Our twin daughters are only 3. Currently, their Big Questions are



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mostly along the lines of "Where is my Cookie Monster doll?" and "Why can't I have more raisins?"

But it won't be long before they'll start asking what happens to people after they die, and why so many bad things happen in the world, and whether or not there's a God. There will be other, less metaphysical religious questions we'll need to answer. Like: Who is that lady in the blue dress standing in the clamshell in our neighbor's yard? And can we get one?

By being a part of a U.U. church and going to religious education classes, our girls will learn about their Judeo-Christian heritage and any number of other religious traditions. They'll be given a framework for thinking about spiritual matters and be exposed to principles and ideas that we value, in a context other than our own parenting. They will get, we hope, a spiritual grounding that will allow them to choose -- or refuse -- their own paths as they get older.

But there's more to our decision than just this heady spirituality stuff. Because there's more to a church -- this one, anyway -- than just services and Sunday school. There are fundraisers, social events, service projects, study groups, retreats and, of course, committees. Oh, the committees.

It's precisely the sort of join-o-rama I've avoided for most of my adulthood. But although there's a part of me that still resists, quite fiercely, I'm trying to embrace it again.

I want my children to see that a group of people can work together, give of their time and talents, and support each other through life's joys and sorrows not because they're family or even necessarily friends, but because they believe that it's an important part of being human.

I also want to expose them to good, old-fashioned community in a world where, increasingly, community happens only in virtual spaces. I'm a huge fan of blogs, Facebook and Twitter, but I don't think there will ever be a substitute for sharing the same physical space with a group of people -- having conversations, making music together, offering each other a handshake, a smile, or a word of sympathy.

I know how earnest this sounds, and the cynic in me cringes to type the words. But the rest of me believes this is the stuff that matters. My girls will figure out irony and irreverence and how to craft a pithy, 140-character dispatch on their own -- probably sooner than I think. But before that happens, I want to make damned sure they understand kindness, empathy and respect for other people. Of course, joining a religious community isn't the only way to do this. But it's a way to practice and think about these values on a regular basis, with intention. Lord knows I could use the practice, too.”

If her thoughts speak to you and you are fundamentally in agreement with our principles -- namely, the freedom to develop your own religious beliefs and an acceptance of spiritual diversity, being involved in justice activities and events -- then bring your



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child(ren) and let them participate in our religious education program while you attend our service. Give us a try. If we're not your "cup of tea" you can simply stop coming, it's as simple as that.

Part II

As you may know, during the April 14 Sunday service, I and the Transition Team announced that the church's History Wall was up on panels in the front foyer facing 5th Street and ready for people to investigate. We encouraged everyone to take time to read the comments already on the Wall that express past presidents' experiences and feelings about events that took place, starting with the founding of the Unitarian Universalist Church in Idaho Falls, through Rev. Lyn Stangland Cameron's retirement. And we invited members and friends to add to the History Wall their own comments about events, experiences and feelings.

Both invitations are still active. So, we invite you to take time to read the comments on the History Wall AND add your own. The History Wall will be up through the end of May. Then, as is customary, I will take the panels down and burn them. And I will offer a summary perspective on what I feel the Wall says.

The creation of the History Wall is one of the interim tasks that I have responsibility for assisting the congregation in looking at. That task is claiming and honoring the congregation's past and engaging and honoring its griefs and conflicts!

I look forward to seeing you at a service, at a UUCIF event or around town!
Bright Blessings, Rev. Jackie

Our Annual Auction Is Coming

The Annual Goods & Services Auction is Saturday, May 18, at 5:30 pm. Come have a delicious picnic dinner, and buy some awesome donations from our congregation's members and friends. Offerings include: home-baked bread, jewelry, and a dinner in a gazebo overlooking Palisades Lake, plus much, much more! Tickets are on sale now through April 28 for \$20 each. Tickets include free childcare.

Volunteers needed for the Auction! We need people to bake desserts, people to help put dinner together, and people to help roast turkey breast. Donations of goods and services are also still being accepted. Please see Elizabeth or Clarissa Cogliati to volunteer or donate.

Saturday, April 27, is the City of Idaho Falls Earth Day celebration in Tautphaus Park. We will have a booth there, and we need volunteers for set up and clean up, plus sitting in the booth from 10 am to 3 pm. See Elizabeth Cogliati to volunteer.



“Hugelkultur are no-dig raised beds with a difference.”

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.

News From the Garden

Hugelkultur are no-dig raised beds with a difference. They hold moisture, build fertility, maximize surface volume and are great spaces for growing fruit, vegetables and herbs. Hugelkultur, pronounced Hoo-gul-culture, means hill culture or hill mound.

This is one of the ideas being used (possibly) in the Peace Garden. It will require some digging and some donations of (hopefully aged) logs and sticks. The wood is used as a base at the bottom of the mound to retain moisture, decreasing the need for additional surface watering.

If you have some aged wood you might be able to donate please contact the UUCIF office.

Helping Eaarth’s Critters

~One of Rev. Ziegler’s Ministries

Wasps and Bees: What to Know About Them and Nonlethal Ways to Remove Them

<http://www.peta.org/issues/wildlife/wasps-and-bees.aspx>

(Note from Rev. Ziegler: With summer just around the corner we know these little critters will be appearing too. Unless you’re an entomologist (insect specialist), you probably don’t know much about these critters, their important ecological niche and how to co-exist with them. This article offers helpful information. Though it doesn’t say anything about religion, as a minister I feel this article lifts up intrinsic –religious-- reasons for their existence. I encourage you to send this article to your family and friends. BTW, Eaarth, is the new way that Bill McKibben spells earth.

Most of the 20,000 species of wasps are solitary, but because solitary wasps do not sting, most humans are more familiar with social wasps--who live in complex communities--than they are with those gregarious wasps' solitary cousins. Though very few social wasps, such as paper wasps, mud daubers, yellow jackets, hornets, and umbrella wasps, create homes near human dwellings, **all** wasps play **vital** roles in ecosystems.

Wasps are classified in the same insect order (**Hymenoptera**) as bees, so it's not surprising that people often mistake common wasps like yellow jackets, who have fuzzy yellow and black-striped bodies, for bees.

Wasps are the pinnacle of animal architects. They construct hanging nests (hives) from structures or build subterranean combs or ground nests. When wasps build hives, they don't re-use them from year to year, because they disintegrate over the winter. Ground nests, on the other hand, are extremely durable. One type of wasp in South America builds such resilient structures that ground nests from the 1700s are still intact today.

Yellow jackets are social wasps and generally nest in the ground, but they will occasionally nest in hollow logs and cinderblock fences. Their nests are made into thousands of cells from masticated wood pulp and leaf litter.

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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

Around 900 species of the world's social wasps live in highly organized societies consisting almost entirely of females. A single female yellow jacket begins a new colony each spring. During the summer, worker wasps emerge, and the colony begins to grow to as large as 25,000 individuals. This is usually when the nest becomes noticeable to humans. But in the fall, colonies will begin to decline as the male workers die and the queens leave their nests to search for places to hibernate, such as under loose bark or in decaying stumps.

Did You Know?
Yellow jackets and wasps **are** complicated and fascinating social insects who communicate with each other through the complex use of chemicals known as pheromones. Wasps and other insects use different hormones produced in their bodies to signal where food can be found or to alert the colony to the presence of an intruder. For example, when a wasp stings a human approaching a nest, the small insect simultaneously emits a chemical that signals the rest of the colony to attack.

Only female bees and wasps can sting. Males do not have the egg-laying ovipositor that is modified into a stinger on female insects. Unlike bees, these female wasps have the ability to sting a target multiple times because their stinger does not fall off after use.

If yellow jackets seem more aggressive than bees or hornets, it's for a good reason. They are the only wasps in North America who produce a large amount of offspring. Because of this, their nests offer a great nutrient jackpot to predators like raccoons, skunks, and bears, causing these wasps to selflessly defend their families.

Humane Control

Yellow jackets will almost never sting a person at rest, unless they have been disturbed by some agitation of their nest OR threatened by swatting OR other quick movement of the arms or legs. They may land on your skin to inspect a smell or get water, but they will leave if you stay calm and do **NOT** move quickly.

Because of the beneficial predatory role that wasps play in suppressing a wide variety of insects, your objective should be to reduce encounters with these animals, not to eliminate them from the area entirely. Wasps eat ticks and feed their young other insects such as houseflies and blowflies. They also pollinate crops such as melons and spinach.

In order to remove an active nest, you should simply wait for the queen to vacate the nest and then fill the remaining hole with soil to keep another queen from occupying the same gallery the following spring.

To avoid contact with wasps, never work in the yard or garden wearing yellow or white, since these colors attract insects. Many insects cannot see red, making it a good color to wear when working in the yard. You should also minimize olfactory enticements such as perfumes, colognes, hair sprays, and other fragrances, and by all means, never walk barefoot.

Don't leave outside lights on any longer than you have to at night, since this attracts insects and everything that eats them. You should also avoid squashing a wasp—the action causes the wasp's dead body to release a chemical alarm that signals other wasps in the area to attack.

Avoid sugar and meat snacks, especially in open containers, and keep garbage cans well sealed and as clean as possible. Companion animals should be fed indoors or on screened porches. If you have playground equipment, make sure you plug the ends of the pipes to prevent wasps from settling in them.

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“Solitary wasps can be effectively removed one by one by catching them in a jar and releasing them. BUT since solitary wasps do not sting, it is probably best to leave them alone.”

Removal or relocations by live trapping should always be a **last** resort. Solitary wasps can be effectively removed one by one by catching them in a jar and releasing them. **BUT** since solitary wasps do not sting, it is probably best to leave them alone.

Communal wasp colonies easily maintain and reproduce their population, so removing individuals will not effectively reduce their numbers. The whole community must be removed at once, which can be a dangerous task, so it's far better to leave the wasps alone during the problem season, and then seal up the points of entry during the fall or winter.

If a wasp enters your moving car, pull over to the side of the road and stop if possible. Open the car windows or doors and wait for the insect to leave. If the wasp is moving slowly, deliberately guide it out of the vehicle with a piece of paper.

Meet Char and Kerry Shirts

Lisa Christenson

Walking in the front door of the log cabin (built in the 1930's) where Charlotte (Char) and Kerry have lived together in for 31 years (married most of that time) I was struck by the art, the antlers, and the books. It's clear what they do in their spare time: they both love to read, create art, and spend time outdoors. What comes out in conversation is their strong partnership and their extraordinary abilities to create works of art and to live self-sufficiently.

The walls of their home are covered with the intricately detailed wood arts that Kerry creates with a scroll saw and with Char's amazing quilts and paintings; she also makes silver and copper jewelry. A cabinet is full of Char's pottery, which she fires in the backyard in a shed that Kerry built and she wired for electricity. As we were chatting, Char would say "Kerry made that wolf on the wall behind you" and then Kerry would say "Char made that quilt, and that painting, and all of that pottery." Each complimenting the other on the work they'd done, neither looking for compliments for their own work.

The antlers that decorate the loft railing (moose, antelope, sheep) are mostly from Char's second marriage, to a man working as pack hunter. She was part of that team, riding out with the clients and helping with the butchering. Now, she butchers the elk and deer that Kerry brings home from hunting.

Kerry also built a pergola and fire pit in the backyard, perfect for a summer party (hint, hint).

It's a very animal-friendly household. They have a little dog named Sassy ("Spoiled rotten," says Kerry), who was ecstatic when Kerry came in the house and with whom Kerry played the entire time I was there, except when he went out to feed the feral cat who lives in the shed. I was greeted on the front porch by a hen, but it turns out she's a neighbor, not part of the Shirts household.

Kerry grew up in Idaho Falls and was raised in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS). If you attended the service he led last fall you know about his journey from being LDS to what he calls "agnostic and searching". If you didn't attend, I hope you can get a transcript of the sermon because it was fascinating and gives insight into how Kerry thinks deeply about important matters. You can find Kerry's optimistic videos about chess,

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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

history, philosophy, religion – just about anything he finds interesting – on YouTube under The Backyard Professor.

Char has lived in Idaho Falls for 43 years. She moved here after traveling much of the country with her first husband: Chicago, Texas, upstate New York, New Jersey, and Florida. Char taught herself to type when she was young and found work in the print industry wherever she lived. Once in Idaho Falls she started a graphic arts company and supported several small businesses until she retired a few years ago. She was raised fundamentalist Christian and was a member of the LDS church for five years.

Char and Kerry met when she went to the mall in Idaho Falls to buy a new purse. She stopped by the store where a friend worked – and Kerry also worked. Her friend said to Kerry “You go shopping with her.” And he did. They must have had fun because that was the beginning of this relationship.

Char is quiet and reserved. Kerry is...not. It was so interesting spending time with them, learning how they work together as real partners, appreciating and complementing each other’s different qualities. I hope they stay part of the UUCIF community for a long time.

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.

Registration and Housing Open

GA Registration and the GA Housing Reservation System open at 9 a.m. PST at www.uua.org/ga

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