



Horizons Newsletter

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH IN IDAHO FALLS

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.

November Worship

November 2018

Sunday Services 10:30am

November 4 "Hope As An Antidote"

For many people, the days since the 2016 election have been dark and turbulent. There is despair and little hope about our ability as citizens of this country, and increasingly our ability as humans across this planet, to work for the common good. And now with the November 6 mid-term elections, people have told me they're not willing to hold out hope. When I asked them why, they said they held out hope in the 2016 election and look what happened! Yet, hope is what we must have, for it is one of the most powerful tools we can employ for our personal sanity and for our forward movement. If our ancestors didn't have hope for a better tomorrow we would not be here today. Hope is a powerful antidote to despair. Join me as I offer reasons to be hopeful. "Another world is not only possible, she is on her way. On a quiet day I can hear her breathing."

November 11 "The 11th Hour of the 11th Day of the 11th Month Plus 100 Years"

A service with Worship Associate Katharine Giovanna
This Sunday's service will commemorate WWI with poetry selections from that time. From the horror of the world-wide conflict came some of the most beautiful poetry of the twentieth century; some of it written by those who would die in the war.
This Sunday will also be our Second Sunday Shared Meal following the service. Bring along a potluck dish to share and join us for our monthly community meal. .

November 18 "Planning Your Future Together"

It's an exceptionally exciting time for your church as you are poised to boldly move forward into a new future. Why is it exciting? Because you're entering into the process of doing a nationwide search for your next settled minister! One of the first steps in that process is budgeting for the search process. And that additional budgeting needs to merge with the annual pledge drive. Your normal annual pledge drive asks for your financial support to maintain all the things needed to keep the doors open, to provide money for your various programs and events and to support the staff you've hired -- all of which spiritually nurture your minds and hearts. Last year the theme of your annual pledge drive, Navigating our Future, was chosen to represent the loss of your minister due to her retirement and the changes that would naturally entail. From my perspective as a newcomer, I say you've navigated your future so far quite well. Now it is time to PLAN your future together in all kinds of ways including the excitement of planning together a new budget.

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Steve Wike
Lisa Christenson

In my sermon I am going to encourage, ask and invite you to participate in one of the first important and vital steps in planning your future together by making a financial pledge. I intend to entice you in as many ways as I can to pledge again . . . and add some more to the 2019 budget. Now, wouldn't you just love to know how I plan to entice you?

November 25

“Why I Quit Mormon Apologetics and Became UU”

A service with Worship Associate Kerry Shirts.

Kerry will talk to us about his life experiences that led him to leave his previous spiritual practice and become a Unitarian Universalist.

Up-Coming Special Events and Services at UUCIF

November 7: A Post Mid-Term Election Evening Gathering (TBD)

December 21: A Contemporary Contemplative Winter Solstice Service at 7 p.m.
Winter Solstice is by far Unitarian Universalists' favorite holiday!

December 24: A Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (TBD)

Still Wanted: Drums and Other Objects To Use As Drums

As you know, I will be offering a Contemporary Contemplative Winter Solstice service on Friday, December 21 at the church and it includes a lot of drumming. This special service will be open to the public and often the general public doesn't bring a drum and thus they aren't able to participate in the drumming as they would probably like to. In order to increase the possibility that everyone will have a drum to play on, I am still asking UUCIF members and friends to save their 1 and 2 pound coffee cans and lids, round Quaker Oats Oatmeal boxes and lids, and anything else that can be used as a drum. When you have some saved, please put them in a bag and give them to me after a service or drop them off at the office. Thanks. ~ Rev. Jackie



“We’re expected to determine our own beliefs, our own credos. However, there is a catch.”

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

Greetings good people.

Part III

A little while ago a member of the congregation said to me that she was not a theist, she was an atheist and didn’t particularly care for hearing “traditional” religious language in a service. Her comment led me to think about a time in the past when I was serving another congregation. At a particular morning service one of the readers in the service told me that he didn’t believe in God and then asked me if he had to read the word “God” in the reading he was going to offer. I shared with him that many different religious and spiritual perspectives were going to be offered in the service in order to honor the religious pluralism within the congregation. I invited him to consider that for him to say the word “God” was a gift he could give to those in the congregation for whom the concept of “God” was important in their spirituality. With wonderful grace, with “panache,” he responded, “I can do that. I can give them this as a gift!”

To me, he exemplified a real understanding of this statement: “Grateful for the religious pluralism which enriches and ennoble our faith, we are inspired to deepen our understanding and expand our vision.” This is a sentence in the last paragraph of the Principles and Purposes and Sources of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations that member congregations freely affirm. For me as a minister, respecting and honoring the religious pluralism inherent today within Unitarian Universalist communities is very important. It is essential to what we are as a World Religion! It distinguishes us from other religions in significant ways. It is a signature, the hallmark of our faith! It is the beauty of our religion. As you know, few Unitarian Universalists, if any, believe exactly what another person believes. We’re not creedalists. We’re expected to determine our own beliefs, our own credos. However, there is a catch. Though we are not bound by a creed, we do agree to support each other in our personal spiritual journey. Indeed, we explicitly promote and affirm each person’s spiritual journey through these two Principles: “Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations” and “A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.”

So, the next time you’re at a service and you hear something in a reflection/sermon or a conversation or . . . fill in the blank . . . that does not agree with your sense of how you name or understand the holy, divine or sacred, have some panache. I invite you to consider not saying anything. Perhaps you will thereby be giving a gift to someone who **does** resonate to what was said. Sometime, someday, someone may give you a gift too!

Good people, I lift up again, may you know that the challenges this interim period brings are opportunities in disguise!

In the spirit of love, Rev. Jackie



“People who choose to lead are often extraordinary individuals blessed with vision, energy, and charisma. Leaders are on a path of growth just as we are.”

Rev. Jackie

Less Than Perfect: The Humanity of Leaders

When we recognize someone as a leader, we often place our faith in that person to a degree that exceeds what is humanly possible. In other words, we expect them to be beyond fault and to not make mistakes. This, of course, is neither realistic nor fair. Just like us, these people are living human lives, and part of the deal is learning through experience and working out our individual karmas. There will always be missteps and things they would do differently given a second chance. If we are to be fair, we must grant our leaders the same forgiveness, compassion, and understanding that we grant our closest friends as they navigate the complex challenges of this human life.

Leaders are special people who have the ability to guide and represent large groups of people. In this calling, they agree to be responsible for the well-being of others. Because of this, we hold them up to a higher standard of behavior. However, we will only be disappointed and disillusioned if we expect them to be perfect. Perhaps the most we can expect of our leaders is that they make it a practice to acknowledge their shortcomings and learn from their experiences. Beyond this, when our leaders let us down, it is up to us to forgive and move on. Dwelling on disappointment and negativity creates more of the same.

People who choose to lead are often extraordinary individuals blessed with vision, energy, and charisma. Leaders are on a path of growth just as we are. Perhaps this is something to remember when we have the opportunity to choose somebody in a leadership role, or perhaps you are ready to step into a role of leadership yourself. ~ Author Unknown

Game Night at UUCIF Drums

Game night returns to UUCIF Friday, November 30th, at 6:00 pm Bring your family, bring your family-friendly board games and card games, and come share pizza and soda with other families (pizza and soda provided, you are welcome to bring other food if you prefer your own dinner). Organized by the Cogliatis.



Around UUCIF

A Post Mid-Term Gathering with Jim Frances

Join us for a post mid-term elections gathering at UUCIF on Wednesday, November 7th at 7 p.m. where Jim Francis offers the presentation “Hamilton, Jefferson, and the Election of 1800: From Floor Fights (Literally) to an Inaugural Address for the Ages--Despair and Hope.” After the presentation there will be a reception.

As you know, the 2018 mid-term elections may be a time of celebration for some and for others it may be a time of lamentation. **One** of the gathering’s intent is to hold up HOPE for everyone by helping people understand and celebrate that we’ve only had one civil war since the founding of our Republic, even though there have been many other extremely difficult periods of time during our country’s history.

Jim is a recipient of many awards as an educator. Among those awards is the Idaho Falls Bar Association’s Liberty Bell Award for his dedication to the teaching of democracy and the Idaho Falls City Club’s 2017 John Hansen Award for Civility and Public Service. Jim currently serves as a member of the Idaho Falls City Council.

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

Update on Change for Change

Members and friends collectively donated \$267.54 for our October’s “Change for Change” recipient, The Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Center. Indeed, a VERY generous sum!

Our November “Change for Change” recipient will be one of the Community Food Basket. We chose a food pantry because with every \$1.00 they receive they are able to purchase \$5.00 in food!

So look under and between the couch cushions, in your pant pockets or purse, in the ashtray of your car, or wherever you stash your coins, pull out some dollar bills or write a special check with “Change for Change” on the memo line and place it in an offering basket. In this small yet very effective way UUCIF will help deserving nonprofit agencies defray some of the costs associated with offering their services, and thus together we’ll help make a difference in the quality of life in the larger community.

You’re invited to let the Board know what local or Bonneville County nonprofit agencies you’d like to see be recipients of “Change for Change” by filling out a sign-up sheet in the social hall during the coffee hour.

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UUCIF, You, and KISU

KISU – FM is our local “ear to the world” and is a popular source for news, music, and information to many in the UUCIF congregation. So it should come as no surprise that members of our congregation are big supporters of KISU, writing a check (or checks) to ensure KISU FM stays on the air. But did you know you can double the impact of those dollars? Simply note with your check that you would like your donation credited to UUCIF’s account. You get the tax deduction and the satisfaction of supporting a worthy cause, UUCIF gets on air recognition and KISU stays on the air. What could be better?