



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

January Worship

January 2020

Sunday Services 10:30am

Jan. 5 “Bound in Covenant”

Interim Minister Rev. Jacqueline Ziegler offers this service. Josh Cogliati is the Worship Associate. Stuart Moser is our pianist.

The first service of 2020 is very important in relationship to your search for a new minister and it is important as that search moves forward. Now is the time to consider what the word “covenant” means in religious terms. You’ve most likely heard many times that Unitarian Universalism is a covenantal denomination in contrast to being a creedal denomination. But what does it mean when we say that we are a covenantal denomination? The sixty-four million dollar question is “does it really make a tinker’s damn to say we’re a covenantal religious community?” I’ll offer answers to all (and more) such questions. I’ll also lift up what it means to covenant with each other as members of Unitarian Universalist Church in Idaho Falls (UUCIF) and with the larger Unitarian Universalist community.

Jan. 12 “Yahoo! Let's All Celebrate and Have a Good Time”

Interim Minister Rev. Jacqueline Ziegler offers this service of various themes. Molly Brinkerhoff is the Worship Associate. Jessica Kuipers is our pianist and singer.

It’s time to lift up and celebrate the accomplishments of the 2019 Church year! So, as it takes the dedication of time, and energy of UUCIF’s members and friends to keep the Church’s building, programs, services, etc., viable over the year, we’ll acknowledge and thank those people in a Volunteer Recognition Ceremony. As the lyrics from that joyful old hippie song, “Celebration” by Kool and the Gang say, “Yahoo, we’re gonna celebrate and have a good time.”

After the service we’ll continue our celebration with good food and then our Annual Meeting where we’ll hear about the success of our 2020 Annual Budget Drive, find out about the successful work of UUIF’s committees and vote on important matters related to the Church’s next year and beyond. So come celebrate and party with us!

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Rev. Jacqueline Ziegler

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Office Administrator
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Kerry Shirts

Jan 19

“A MLK, Jr. Service: A Call for Holy Boldness in Today’s Justice Work”

The Rev. Jacqueline Ziegler is speaking. Victoria McDonald is the Worship Associate. June Cannon is the pianist.

Today, Unitarian Universalism demands of us a holy boldness if we are to promote justice in this nation and in the world. We cannot hold the values we proclaim, inherited from the Jews, and remain silent while innocent black and Latino men are killed by police brutality in our country, and while human slavery, misery, and degradation continue at the present pace in our country. Our country’s social inequality demands “a holy boldness” -- not a quiescent compliance. As the lyrics from “Ella’s Song” lift up, “We who believe in freedom cannot rest... We who believe in freedom cannot rest until it comes...” demands Unitarian Universalist must not rest but must work with a passionate holy boldness that would rouse praise even from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Jan. 26

“The Symbolism and Meaning of Trees”

Our guest speaker is Kerry Shirt. Kerry is a regular attending member of the congregation and is on the Board of Directors of the UUCIF.

In ancient times, trees were oracular living creatures who communicated with people. They were powerful reminders of the importance of nature and our place in it. The symbolism of trees is found in many ancient cultures in which their own gods and goddesses were considered to be trees as well! My sermon, hopefully, will provide a stronger basis for love of trees and caring for our planet's ecosystem.

UUCIF Annual Meeting Jan. 12

Our Unitarian Universalist Church in Idaho Falls Annual Meeting will be Sunday, Jan. 12, following our potluck meal. We will have an overview of our activities for 2019, a review of the 2020 budget and the election of new Board officers.

This will be a voting meeting. While everyone is welcome to attend only current members may vote. If you are a current member please be sure to attend as we need a quorum before any voting can take place.



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UUCIF's Service and Other Events Cancellation Announcement

Please note that Unitarian Universalist Church in Idaho Falls' services or other sponsored events may be cancelled during snow or other weather emergencies (when weather is bad enough that the authorities don't want people out and about). If there is such a city/county-wide emergency, and the minister and the Board of Directors' President deem it appropriate to cancel a service or event, if possible, a cancellation notice will be sent out through an emergency UUCIF E-announcement, posted on its Facebook page and website and a message put on UUCIF's office phone answering system.

The Board encourages people to use discretion and not attend any service or event if they feel the weather conditions are not suitable for driving, regardless of whether a service or a UUCIF event has not been officially cancelled. ~ The Board of Directors

A Few Words From Our Search Team

Just a few words from the Ministerial Search Committee:

- * Our Congregational Record is up and posted to prospective ministers
- * On January 2nd hopefully we will start getting applicants who wish to minister here.
- * Based on survey responses good preaching and pastoral care were the top two desires of a new minister. The ministerial team will be prioritizing these areas among the many other ministerial tasks and roles as we review applications and interview prospective ministers.
- * Remember that much of the search at this point is confidential so the committee can't tell you much. We will share what we can in the newsletter.



“I can think of several persons in our own congregation who have likewise had to surrender their homes and move forward into the unknown.”

So This Minister Walks into a Congregation and . . .

Interim and Other Ministry Topics

Rev. Jacqueline Ziegler’s Column

Greetings Good People.

Part I

I hope your holiday season was wonderful in that you had opportunities to enjoy the company of family and friends and time to relax and reflect. I look forward to seeing all of you and hearing some holiday stories.

I have to say that I am excited about all of the wonderful services, programs, and activities that are planned for the new year.

Part II

UUCIF members and friends have shared with me that they haven’t seen certain people at the Church for some time now. They – and I do too -- wonder why they haven’t graced their beloved community with their presence. So, I offer this message from one of my Unitarian Universalist colleagues, The Rev. Patrick O’Neill. It’s his "Annual Letter to a Missing Member." He writes

“As you probably know by now, it is not my practice as a minister to chase after anyone who happens to be absent from church for a while. Unless I hear directly that there’s a problem or an illness, I assume that friends will always return to church when circumstances are right. Weekly attendance at a UU church is by no means mandatory.

Of course, we hope folks will come to church as a practice, a regular part of their weekly routine. But we also know there are times when that won’t happen. So when an old friend does reappear after an absence, I don’t ask where you’ve been. I just say "Great to see you!"

To be perfectly honest, in a church as large as ours, with as many people as I greet each Sunday, I can’t always notice who is absent on a given week. But you may be sure that your absence is felt in our midst. This is, after all, a different place without you.



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As I've said before, I view church membership and participation as a cyclical thing. There will be times when the church is more or less a part of our lives. But the connections do remain. The "interdependent web" that is the church continues to attract new friends and attendees each week. Oh, your place remains reserved until you tell us otherwise, you may be sure. But this fact is true also: the church is shaped and directed by those who lend it their presence. There is no status quo in a living community.

If lately, for whatever reasons, you've been away from church, I want you to know you still have a cherished place among us. We've been growing and changing a bit since you were here last, as has no doubt been true for you too. It would be great to see you back among us again, and for you to meet some of the new friends who now make this church their own. We'll keep a light in the window."

I could not have said this any better. I hope we'll see you soon.

Part III

As you may realize by now, I am becoming a "short timer" in that my time as your interim minister is going to come to an end in the not too distant future. However, I'll still be working on interim tasks to help with the transition to a new minister. For example, I'll be offering a reflection on the nature of professional ministry as well as a reflection on congregational polity. So for my remaining time with you, know that I'll still be actively involved in helping UUCF prepare for its next called minister.

If you'd like to have a greater sense of what I've done over the last 18 months, you can look at my monthly report to the Board of Trustees (and thus the members of the Congregation) called "Rev. Ziegler's Monthly Activity Report." You can find them on UUCIF's website. I do these reports so people have a better idea of the many roles and responsibilities that are involved in being a professional minister. However, I want to say right now that your new minister may not want to create such a document; indeed, few ministers do. Again, I create them to let congregants know that professional ministry involves A LOT more than creating and delivering a sermon!

Good people, I look forward to seeing you at Sunday services and around town.
In the spirit of love, Rev. Jackie

Pathway to Membership Course Being Offered

If you or someone you have talked with is interested in becoming a member of Unitarian Universalist Church in Idaho Falls, the Pathway to Membership course is being offered. The course is a requirement to become a member. It involves two

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“The people collecting told me ours was the only donation, so I'm glad we were able to help out!”

News From Upstairs

Elizabeth Cogliati

I took the collected warm things for the elderly down to Fort Hall on Dec. 21. My trunk was 3/4 full, and my backseat was also full, so there was a lot! The people collecting told me ours was the only donation, so I'm glad we were able to help out!

REE classes and youth group will resume as usual on January 6.

Women's Study Group will meet on January 19 after the service. Childcare is provided.

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classes.

The first class is Sunday, January 19, at UUCIF, starting approximately at noon and it will end approximately at 4 p.m. It covers our American Unitarian and Universalist historical roots and the ethics and morals that we covenant to affirm and promote.

The second class is Sunday, February 2, at UUCIF and starts at approximately noon and ends at approximately 2 p.m. It covers UUCIF's history, its governance processes, by-laws and policies, membership expectations and it will share the many opportunities which exist to become involved in the life of congregation.

However, whether or not you need to take both classes depends upon your history with Unitarian Universalism. If you are new to Unitarian Universalism (UU) you will need to take both classes. If you are a Unitarian Universalist from another UU congregation then you only need to take the 2nd class on Sunday, February 2, although you are welcome to participate in the Saturday class too. That class is a very rich introduction to our American roots and people who have taken the Saturday course loved it!

If you're already a UUCIF member or someone who is just interested in knowing about Unitarian and Universalism but not interested yet in becoming a UUCIF member, you can register for one or both classes.

For those taking the course to become a member, a New Member Ceremony will take place during the Sunday, February 9 service.

Pre-registration is necessary and the deadline to register is Wednesday, January 15. You can register at the table in the downstairs social hall or email Rev. Ziegler at revziegler369@yahoo.com or call 928-379-7080 or talk with Karen Hagberg or Kathleen Shaffer. Again, both classes are free and will be held at UUCIF.

VERY IMPORTANT NOTICE: If you want to be able to participate in the special Congregational meeting and vote to call a new minister, UUCIF's By-laws say, "The right to vote at Congregational meetings shall be restricted to those persons who have been members for at least sixty (60) days." So this is the time to take this Course as it will not be offered again in enough time to meet this requirement!



“The January 12th watch parties will bring UUs together who are bringing our passion to the polls through issue-based advocacy, voter registration, outreach, and organizing around the 2020 elections to #VoteLove and #DefeatHate.”

UU the Vote

UUs from around the country are coming together to attend the #UUtheVote Launch on January 12, 2020. The UUA National UUtheVote Team will be hosting a nation-wide Zoom call and are asking people to watch in groups at their congregations, at house parties, and on-line together.

When: Sunday, January 12, 2020 at 1 pm PT, 2 pm MT, 3 pm CT & 4 pm ET

The January 12th watch parties will bring UUs together who are bringing our passion to the polls through issue-based advocacy, voter registration, outreach, and organizing around the 2020 elections to #VoteLove and #DefeatHate.

The #UUtheVote Campaign will support congregations and UU organizations in activating thousands of UUs to collaborate with partners in order to mobilize voters, counter voter suppression, leverage our resources, and to engage in spiritually grounded, values-based issue conversations with voters in our communities.

On the call we’ll hear from the National UUtheVote Team, from UUs already organizing in their communities and states, and from partner organizations who are working with UUs.

We’ll introduce you to organizing tools and spiritual grounding resources the UUA Organizing Strategy Team has put together to support your efforts and let you know about key moments and places coming up in 2020.

Our UUtheVote Toolkit has a section on Planning for the January 12th launch (see Section 3). It walks you through what you’ll need and best ways to recruit people to attend.

We will gather together in the spirit of our faith community. When UUs show up with our values, our bodies, and our resources at the ready, we can have big impacts in bending the arc of the universe toward justice. Let’s UUtheVote!

If you have questions about how to organize your event, write to: voting@uua.org.

See you on January 12th! Visit www.uuthevote.org for more information about the campaign, UU Funding Program GOTV grants, and a video message from UUA President Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray. We also hope that you will donate to the campaign. UU the Vote is a grassroots campaign that relies on grassroots support. Together we're going to #VoteLove and bring our passion to the polls.

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