



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 OF THE
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH IN IDAHO FALLS

SEPTEMBER 2021

September Services

Sept. 5

“Beyond Walden Pond”

How a few Transcendentalists transformed American society

Sept. 12

““In Wildness Is the Preservation of the Soul”

In his essay, “Walking,” Thoreau famously said, “In Wildness is the preservation of the world,” and I couldn’t agree more! Science is starting to prove just how important nature and wild places are to our physical wellness – and I think this extends to our spiritual wellness too.

Note: The Water Communion will be postponed until a later date.

Sept. 19

“A Time for Harvests, Booths, and Sunlight Snakes”

A look at the spiritual importance of the Fall Equinox

Sept. 26

“Asking Essential Questions”

Join Worship Associate Annette Lovell as she revisits a sermon from UU Reverend Linda Whitenberg.

A Message From Your Board

In Person Services:

We had hoped to resume in-person services on September 12th, but after assessing the current state of the COVID pandemic in our community, we have decided the risk is still too great. We will continue offering online services only through the month of September and will continue to reassess for possible reopening in October. This decision is based on several factors, including:

1. Bonneville County and surrounding counties remain in the “red” high risk category for community transmission according to the CDC. This is largely due to the prevalence of the highly transmissible Delta variant that



Our Home
555 E Street
Idaho Falls, ID

Our Mailing Address
PO Box 50376
Idaho Falls, ID
83405

Our Web Site
www.idahofallsuu.org

Facebook
Unitarian Universalist
Church in Idaho Falls

Our Phone
(208) 522-8269

Our e-mails
minister@idahofallsuu.org
dree@idahofallsuu.org
office@idahofallsuu.org

Minister
Rev. Kevin Carson

**Director of Lifespan
Faith Development**
Elizabeth Cogliati

Office Administrator
Vic Allen

Executive Board

Lisa Christensen
Amanda Logan
Larry Frank
Davette Chambers
Bill Kohn
Kerry Shrits
Cindy Logan

now dominates cases throughout America, and the significant percentage of unvaccinated adults in Idaho.

2. The number of breakthrough infections among the vaccinated and the high rates of transmission of the Delta variant by vaccinated people continues to rise. There is hope that booster shots for the vaccinated will help this situation, but it will be several months before booster shots will be available to all adults.

3. Children under 12 are still not eligible for vaccination, and the number of pediatric cases and hospitalizations continues to rise significantly in recent weeks.

And if you saw Gov. Brad Little’s address this week, the situation in Idaho is deteriorating. From CNN’s reporting:

“In Idaho, Gov. Brad Little said the state has reached a point in the pandemic ‘we have not seen before’ with more Idahoans in the ICUs than ever before. He stressed multiple times that the ‘vast majority’ are unvaccinated.”

All of us are anxious to meet in-person again, and we must remain hopeful that we will be able to do so soon. In the meantime, we need to do everything we can to keep each other and our family and friends safe. Being together in community is important, too, and we are discussing the possibility of an outdoor picnic or something

similar in the coming weeks.

Please stay safe and encourage everyone you know to get vaccinated and wear masks when appropriate.

Rev. Kevin

Installation Ceremony:

Help us plan our official welcome ceremony for Rev. Kevin! Sometime in October we will have an installation ceremony for Rev. Kevin, finally! Please let Lisa Christenson (president@idahofallsuu.org) or Elizabeth Cogliati (dree@idahofallsuu.org) know if you are interested in helping to plan this exciting event.

Annual Fundraiser and Dinner:

We have some wonderful and generous donations for our fundraiser, and we’re still looking for more donations and sponsors. Please contact Cindy Logan (spudnut@gmail.com) if you would like to help organize this event or if you have items, services, or experiences that you would like to offer for bidding at the fundraiser. We have space in the building for items; just let Cindy or Vic Allen know and we will arrange to meet you there for drop-off.

Peace Garden:

The Peace Garden looks much better thanks to our small group of volunteers: Molly Brinkerhoff; Michael, Jatuporn, and Blue Burns; Elizabeth and Clarissa Cogliati; Katharine Giovanna; Bob Goetsch; Ron Goin; Alison McCready; and John Tanner. It needs

Continued on pg. 3



Our Home
555 E Street
Idaho Falls, ID

Our Mailing Address
PO Box 50376
Idaho Falls, ID
83405

Our Web Site
www.idahofallsuu.org

Facebook
Unitarian Universalist
Church in Idaho Falls

Our Phone
(208) 522-8269

Our e-mails
minister@idahofallsuu.org
dree@idahofallsuu.org
office@idahofallsuu.org

Minister
Rev. Kevin Carson

**Director of Lifespan
Faith Development**
Elizabeth Cogliati

Office Administrator
Vic Allen

Executive Board

Lisa Christensen
Amanda Logan
Larry Frank
Davette Chambers
Bill Kohn
Kerry Shrits
Cindy Logan

**“Message From Your Board”
continued from pg. 2**

much more attention than this group can give. If you are interested in helping and are physically able, please contact Elizabeth Cogliati (dree@idahofallsuu.org) and let her know. If we cannot get enough people to work on the Garden, we will have to seek other options such as turning it into a lawn. All suggestions are welcome.

The trees in the Peace Garden and the tree on the west side of the building are looking unhealthy. Elizabeth has contacted Advantage Tree Service for a quote on trimming the trees so they are in better shape

Religious Education:

Elizabeth Cogliati has been preparing the sanctuary and the rooms upstairs for when we return to in-person services. Please contact Elizabeth (dree@idahofallsuu.org) for more information on our religious education programs and our youth group, or to volunteer for either.

Elizabeth and Bob Goetsch are building and stocking a Little Free Library, which will be located on the east side of the lower parking lot, near the Peace Garden.

Community Volunteering:

During the second week of August, the UUCIF crew served lunches to children in Kate Curley Park and Highland Park through the Summer Food Service Program. Thanks very much to Cindy and Bill Miller, Molly and Tom Brinkerhoff, Kathy Duplessis, Vic Allen, Judee Stanley, Rev. Kevin, and Lisa Christenson for helping with t

his project. We prepared, bagged, and served about 100 lunches each day.

Building and Grounds:

Bill Kohn continues to walk through the building at least once a week to check for problems. He had Sermon Electric come and fix some minor electrical problems and fixed a minor issue with the sprinklers in the Peace Garden. Bill and Vic Allen accompanied the Idaho Falls Fire Marshal on an inspection of the building. Thanks to some preparatory work by Bill, Elizabeth Cogliati, and Cindy Logan, we have only minor issues to address, both of which Bill has well in hand.

The first is to put three illuminated exit signs on the main floor of the building; Bill has ordered these and will put them up when they arrive.

The second is to eliminate the extension cords that currently power the computer for our live-streamed services. Bill has donated a power strip with a 15-foot cord, which will solve that problem. Thanks, Bill!

The exterior of the building is looking dingy and we are exploring options for having it power washed. Any suggestions are welcome; please contact the board (board@idahofallsuu.org.)

We’ve also discovered a leak in our roof that has caused damage in both upstairs and main floors. We have contacted our insurance company and are in the process of evaluating the damage the leak has caused. Stay tuned...

Continued on pg. 4



“We don’t experience things as they are, we experience them as we are.”
Anais Nin, paraphrase

**“Message From Your Board”
 continued from pg. 3**

Endowment Committee:

We have received no volunteers for the Endowment Committee. If you would like to volunteer for the committee, please send an email to the Board (board@idahofallsuu.org). If the committee membership cannot be filled, the Board will propose changes to the Bylaws to remove the requirement for the Endowment Committee, with the associated responsibilities reverting to the Board, and largely the Treasurer. Any changes to the Bylaws will be discussed at an annual meeting to be called sometime in the fall.

Your Board: Lisa Christenson (President); Amanda Logan (Vice President); Larry Frank (Treasurer); Davette Bogart (Secretary); Cindy Logan, Bill Kohn, Kerry Shirts (Members-at-Large)

Save the Date

Reflect, Rejoice, Renew:
Pacific Western Regional Assembly 2022 will gather UUs from across the west to hold space for multigenerational community, large and small, group worship, activities, discussion, and learning. Come celebrate our history and people and connect with each other, our faith, and our future
 When: Friday, February 4 through Sunday, February 6, 2022
 Where: Hyatt Regency Mission Bay, 1441 Quivira Road, San Diego, CA

Double Your Dollar’s Impact



If you financially support NPR/KISU Radio you can double the impact of your donations. Just be sure to note your donation should also credit UUCIF. We get credit and you get a tax deduction. That credit goes toward airing UUCIF announcements during NPR/KISU programming. It’s wins all the way down!

Save the date **COMPASS**
 A Liberatory, Everyday
 Theology for Changing Times
December 11 & 12, 2021
A national virtual event that will include workshops, networking, worship and more
It’s a time to be with other congregational leaders on the journey towards our shared future.



BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOUR CONGREGATIONAL LIFE STAFF



Thriving Among the Thorns

By Tomo Hillbo

We don’t experience things as they are, we experience them as we are.
 —Anais Nin, paraphrased

My house came with a mess of a garden. It was as messy as the divorce I was going through at the time: a forest of thorny, 6-foot-tall thistles with a rusty fire pit and an old plum



“My garden became a healing place for one of my daughters as she recovered from a long illness. Little did I know that it was healing me, too.”

tree. Cleaning up this garden and keeping it tidy gave me a sense of control I desperately needed.

For several years I diligently weeded, added plants, grew vegetables, hosted alfresco discussion groups for church and s’more parties for kids. My garden became a healing place for one of my daughters as she recovered from a long illness. Little did I know that it was healing me, too.

I remarried, and when my daughter regained enough strength to launch herself back into life, I took a full-time office job. Gardening time shrunk to zero. My workload is especially heavy during spring, right when Chicago flora wakes up from deep winter slumber. By the time I get through it, it’s already July and my garden is too much of a mess to deal with. The space that I had kept immaculate and neat was now weedy and unkempt. Echinaceas were getting weaker and eaten almost to the ground by rabbits. Bee balms were withering, Russian sage was shrinking, and last spring the old plum tree didn’t wake up. I felt so guilty for letting it all go. In three years it reverted back to being a thistle forest, now without the plum tree. I felt defeated. I kept the curtains drawn toward the remnant of my garden.

This year, after the spring madness at work had passed, my husband coaxed me outside to clean up. The ground

The ground was moist and we could pull the tall, prickly thistles without much effort. He counted: 291.

To my great surprise, the garden was thriving among thistles and other “weeds.” Thriving! Tall, skinny thistles not only didn’t shade other plants, but also were acting as support structures for perennials that needed some hand-holding while growing. Pesky creeping charlie turned out to be fantastic ground cover, keeping the soil cool and moist and controlling other kinds of “weeds.” Accidental green lantern plants were lifting false indigo. And the echinaceas were growing to be full height, supported and protected by everything around them.

I realized it is my inadvertent letting go that made this wild, interdependent beauty possible. And at that very moment, I knew I didn’t need that sort of control anymore. How liberating it was!

We left a grove of the thistles in one corner—an altar for my husband who loves thistles, and for me to thank them for welcoming me back to their garden.

Prayer

Spirit of Life, Mother Nature, thank you for reminding us that we are intertwined in something much larger and beautiful and supported by it, even when we can’t see the whole picture. Grant us the strength to disrupt our routine ways of thinking and the courage to let go of any sense of control. And may we all learn to love the thistles of our lives. Amen.



**“The attacks
on
reproductive
rights, our
bodies, and
our identities
has to stop! ”**

This Has To Stop

The attacks on reproductive rights, our bodies, and our identities has to stop! Texas just passed a series of dexecutive actions that gut voting rights, criminalize abortion access, institute Operation Lone Star to use National Guard troops to arrest undocumented migrants, expand already dangerous gun laws and carry out six more executions by the end of this year. Texas has also been a locus of many high profile movements resisting this repression: fighting voter suppression, working to expand Medicaid, organizing mutual aid after the winter storm in Houston that left thousands without power for several days, and joining our LGBTQ+ siblings in the struggle to pass the Equality Act to win federal protection from discrimination. But it’s not just Texas.

Across the country, white nationalism and authoritarianism are more and more prevalent in our streets and our legislatures. Recently, 49 states have introduced over 400 voter suppression bills. As of today, 25 states have asked the Supreme Court to overturn Roe v. Wade. And 16 years after hurricane Katrina, we are witnessing how the climate crisis continues to displace and threaten the lives of folks made vulnerable from intersecting oppressions.

It is not just Texas. It is your community and your state where we need our communities to show up to Side With Love. That is why we're activating all our campaigns (UU the Vote, Create Climate Justice, and Uplift LGBTQ+ & Gender Justice) to organizing in this defining moment.

Through our collective commitment to justice, we live out our faith in a better world. Join leaders from our major campaigns to take action and grow UU organizing across the country. We need you and your fellow UUs at the launch of the Side With Love Action Center on Sunday, September 12 at 2pm EST/1pm CST/11am PST.

Register for Action Center

<https://secure.everyaction.com/vLTcCVc2uEaxYanS7jSPmA2?emci=a77d023a-e20b-ec11-981f-501ac57ba3ed&mdi=57d11a86-310c-ec11-981f-501ac57ba3ed&ceid=19286704>

The Action Center a is place to join in national and local action to take on these battles. Right now, bills that could expand voting rights, create a pathway to citizenship, address homelessness and poverty, and transform how we confront the climate crisis hang in the balance because our representatives have chosen profit over people, and the oppression of many over liberation for all. Together we have opportunities to tip the scales towards justice.

Continued on pg. 7



“We must--we WILL--meet the challenges of this moment by showing up together. Join us for the launch of the Side With Love Action Center to find out how you can join in mobilizing UU across the country for these impending battles and build beloved communities for the long haul ”

“This Has to Stop” continued from pg. 6

Join the us for the launch of the Side With Love Action Center on Sunday, September 12 at 2pm EST/1pm CST/ 11am PST to take action and learn how your congregation can grow our justice work in this critical moment.

We know that systems of oppression overlap and intersect, and the web of injustice they create can feel impossible to untangle. But we also know that when we weave our love together through collective action, the fabric of beloved community is the most powerful, connective, transformative force in the world. We must--we WILL--meet the challenges of this moment by showing up together. Join us for the launch of the Side With Love Action Center to find out how you can join in mobilizing UU across the country to show up for these impending battles and build beloved communities for the long haul. <https://secure.everyaction.com/vLTcCVc2uEaxYanS7jSPmA2?emci=a77d023a-e20b-ec11-981f-501ac57ba3ed&emdi=57d11a86-310c-ec11-981f-501ac57ba3ed&ceid=19286704>

What can you do now?

Before joining us for the Action Center launch, we invite you to take action to support communities that have been impacted by these issues.

Give to support communities impacted by Hurricane Ida (resource from Black Live of Unitarian Universalism)

Sign on to the Red, Black, and Green New Deal Climate Pledge with the Movement for Black Lives. Donate to Texas Abortion Funds

Organize to tell the Senate to Finish the Job and pass the For the People Act

See you at the launch!

In faith and solidarity,
Nicole Pressley
Field and Programs Director



Unitarian Universalist
Church in Idaho Falls
PO Box 50376
Idaho Falls, ID 83405