



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

April 2017

April Worship

Sunday Services 10:30am

April 2 "You Gotta Laugh"

Or do we? We have hosted "Laughter Yoga: and enjoyed learning that "laughter" exercises our bodies and releases those important endorphins that help our brains. But what should we do with all the other issues that motivate laughter?

April 9 "Heros and Humility"

Are we living up to our own expectations? What is this tendency we have to try to turn real people into the heroes of our dreams?

This week is also our Second Sunday Shared Meal following the service. Bring along a dish to share and join us!

April 16 - Easter "Could We Start Again, Please?"

What can Easter say that might be important for heathens and agnostics and atheists to hear? Let's examine the story of the resurrection from a different perspective and see what's looming in the landscape of Golgotha.

April 23

"What's Up for UU This Earth Day?"

I think Earth Day ought to be the most holy of holidays for our nation and for our UU faith. What might be an ideal and appropriate way to celebrate Earth Day 2017?

April 30

"Circles and Spirals and Pendulums"

We humans are pattern seekers and pattern replicators. Yesterday people around the globe demonstrated to support the science of climate change. Might ancient understandings and patterns provide cause for celebration?

May 7

"Beyond Black Lives Matter, A Worship Workshop"

Our beloved Unitarian Universalist congregations are reeling after yet another crisis of leadership. UUA leaders have been accused of perpetuating hiring practices that further white privilege, and other missteps made on the path to true equality. It is obvious that we have work to do to meet our anti-racist expectations. "It had become clear that . . . we must also identify ways in which systems of supremacy and inequality live within our faith and our lives . . . as we work toward a more just society in difficult political times."

Let's devote this Sunday to an exploration of the subtle ways we may, without even realizing it, participate in and perpetuate the "white supremacy" we despise in others.



Ref- lections

This is our country—and this is our faith—and we must find some way to live within the all of it, writes former UUA president, The Reverend William

Sinkford in the Winter 2016 issue of our UU World Magazine. Rev Sinkford shared his perspective on why Americans in general and we UU's in particular continue to have such a hard time with diversity of all kinds, but most particularly why we still struggle with "race." He wondered, why, after the civil rights era, "*Unitarian Universalists were ready to redeem the American dream, to take our place in the revolution. What happened?*"

If you have not read the article, or have forgotten his point of view, here is a link, (<http://www.uuworld.org/issues/winter-2016>) I return to the wisdom and solace of the words of Rev. Sinkford because, frankly I am feeling a lot of sadness and confusion right now. A few days ago I learned that when a white male minister was awarded the job of "Regional Lead," for our Southern Region that a highly qualified African American woman was told that she was *not* chosen for that position simply because "he was seen as the better *fit*," a term that too often means that an applicant looks like the people already in positions of leadership and power. And as this choice repeats an all too familiar pattern in our denomination where the upper level of management are largely white, male, straight and cis-gender, many ministers and others began to speak out and to ask questions.

Racial issues, you see, are not new to our beloved faith community. Just like the rest of our society, we UU's reveal that we have hidden prejudices and that we too often act from positions of "white privilege," even when do not realize that we have done so. And in response to the growing concerns about how this choice reflects on our UU commitment to justice-seeking, and the

"...we UU's in Idaho Falls are far from the center of activity related to our UUA, but this "faith crisis" affects us as well."

subsequent attempts to justify that choice, our UUA President, the Rev. Peter Morales has resigned from his position with only three months to go before the election scheduled for our June General Assembly. Of course this has led to still more concern about the ways we UU's accept responsibility and act in accord with our covenant and principles.

In the wake of this a

great many UU ministers and laypersons have written from a variety of personal perspectives.

Most share their heartfelt insights beautifully and brilliantly, one is that of the Rev. Gretchen Haley minister at Foothills UU in Fort Collins, CO.

<https://foothillssuuleaders.wordpress.com/2017/03/31/The-uua-president-institutional-racism-broken-covenants-and-living-with-uncertainty/>

Another is this brief response by my colleague the Rev. Krista Taves from Missouri, "*This is where I have come to regarding the abrupt resignation of Rev. Peter Morales, President of the UUA, following sustained criticism regarding racial bias in hiring*

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Our Home
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Our Mailing Address
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Idaho Falls, ID
83405

Our Web Site
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Facebook
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Church in Idaho Falls

Our Phone
(208) 522-8269

Our e-mails
uucifoffice@gmail.com
minister@idahofallsuu.org
dree.uucif@gmail.com

Minister
Rev. Lyn Stangland
Cameron

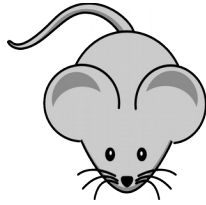
Office Administrator
Vic Allen

**Director of Religious
Education and
Exploration**
Elizabeth Cogliati

Executive Board
Arthur Kull
Katherine Giovanna
Daniel Schwen
Molly Brinkerhoff
Rhiannon Fox
Lorenzo Vega
Steve Wike

Church Mouse

What do you know, it seems as if the weather is finally promising to return to livable and snow is predicted! There were a few weeks in February when our entire clan was convinced that the snow around the old mortuary would never melt. Now even the most pessimistic of our mouse-kin are feeling hopeful. This winter was bad, Rev. Lyn even had to warn people about the ice on the steps “*inside*” the garage! But it would appear that things have finally turned a corner and that spring won’t be far off now! We are really glad too. It is our mouse family opinion that the walkway and garden and the parking lots are looking pretty ill kept (I know mice are not supposed to notice things like this - but after all these years we feel a sense of ownership.)



So we hope that some of you humans will decide to get busy some fine afternoon and make a difference! **We hear that Rev. Lyn is thinking that April 8 at 10:30 would be a great time to begin the UU Spring Clean UP! - she’ll bring donuts and some garden tools - just bring yourself and gloves!**

Steve Wike sure has made a difference on several occasions. We were busy the day he stopped by the kitchen but the Sunday after he installed the new “On Demand” under-sink water heater, Sadie and Bea were so happy, you’d have thought he deserved a medal!

And then there are those who have been learning the kitchen techniques from our “Hospitality Team” so they can take charge in the kitchen on Sundays and during Shared Meals. We recognized Dennis Jorgenson from long ago and are getting to know Joe Averil, Kent Salisbury, and Alex Zimmerman. (what a terrific crew they make).

In retrospect things have been pretty quiet here at 555 E. We appreciated the chance to see the film “Selma” that the old “Leftover Occupy/Move to Amend” group showed last week. It is incredibly painful to remember how recently it was that some people thought it was OK to keep black people from voting or exercising their rights as Americans. And we hear those rights for people of color are under attack again. Guess older people need to be reminded now and again. We mice are happy to report that we feel a tiny bit of pride and a whole lot of support when we see your “Standing on the the Side of Love, Black Lives Matter” sign fine, still doing its job; letting folks know that equality for everyone is something we still need to work for. Here’s hoping your early spring is going well. Mac, your favorite Church Mouse.

“Rev-flections” Continued from pg 2

decisions and his problematic response. I wish he had not resigned but rather offered an apology and committed to the institutional work and his own personal growth as a model of leadership. But he didn't. I am going to take him at his word that stepping aside was the right thing to do and would help clear the way for the work to be done. Our spiritual task is to accept his choice and to use the vacuum remaining to continue the work of dismantling the white supremacy culture that is alive in our beloved faith. We have three presidential candidates, one of whom will take office in less than three months. How we engage with them and the UUA will set the tone for how we move forward. And move forward we must. Peter's resignation should not be an excuse to stop. It should not become a distraction.”

And Gini Courter, a former and much loved UUA moderator broker her public silence about the administration of our UUA in a posting on Face book this week. She says, “*In this moment, I am ridiculously hopeful. Anything is possible. UUs, especially white UUs, might realize what is at stake and choose a President who will lead well and collaboratively. If we do, our new President will need resources to do the work we elect them to undertake.*

I also believe we must send a clear signal of our resolve, not just for others, but to remind ourselves. The UUA has disappointed me deeply, and yet I’m willing to pay it forward for two years – not forever... I also fully support my colleagues of color and others who are making different choices about their relationships with the UUA.”

What would change if many congregations or every congregation clearly communicated that they would send UUA dues until 2019 not from obligation but as an act of faithful risk, trusting the President to be a servant leader? ...

What would change if many religious professionals partnered with their lay leaders to discuss the work of the UUA at least twice a year after Sunday services or before a congregational board meeting? What if we talked about how we were being served other than in moments of crisis?

... please talk, listen, and preach about these things in your congregation: white supremacy in the UUA; racist hiring; choosing our next president wisely; demanding more of our leaders; providing the resources for our faith to do better; staying #woke make sure that we are on the right road. Find out who your GA delegates are and how your votes are cast. Be a leader.”

Friends, we UU’s in Idaho Falls are far from the center of activity related to our UUA, but this “faith crisis” affects us as well. We are not immune to the very real ways that many of

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Around UUCIF

A Message From the President

By Arthur Kull

For those of you interested in supporting KISU through a yearly donation, you can also help support our church at the same time. The UUCIF Board has committed to support KISU with a total amount of \$780 per year by asking our members and friends for contributions, and KISU in turn has agreed to air a minimum of four ads per week in support UUCIF.

To keep track of contributions made, KISU prefers having our members and friends make their donations to UUCIF, and UUCIF would in turn send a payment to KISU with the list of donors. KISU will send each donor an acknowledgment of their donation (Note: UUCIF will not count this donation as a tax-deductible donation).

If you plan to contribute to KISU, please make your payments to UUCIF with a note saying “for KISU”. Payments made directly to KISU since January 1, 2017 have been identified and have been counted towards the total of \$780.

SAVE THE DATE!

If you are “new” here, or simply want to learn more about us, you’re sure to enjoy!

“The New to UUCIF “Ice Breaker Brunch” Sat. May 6, 9:30am

You are invited to our “New to UUCIF Brunch” will be, Sat. May 6, 9:30 AM until 12:00 PM Coffee, tea, juice, fruit and light “brunch” foods provided!

The “New to UU” is an introduction to Unitarian Universalism. It’s an opportunity to learn about the ways things work in our congregation, and a chance to spend time with other new folks. Rev. Lyn and some of our congregational leaders share a bit about the history of our congregation here in Idaho Falls. The New to UU is also a great way to find out more about the rich story of our Unitarian and Universalist heritage. As congregation leaders share what it means to be a UU we also learn what is expected of members of this church community.

Please “sign-up” on the clip board during coffee hour. Let us know if you will need child care! If you want to know more about this program, please contact Rev. Lyn at 522-8269, or, minister@idahofallsuu.org, or chat with our Director of Religious Education and Exploration REE Elizabeth Cogliati.

Rev. Lyn’s Office Hours

Monday 10a -2p
Wednesdays 2-5pm
Thursday 10am to Noon at Café Villa on Park Avenue, downtown I.F.
And by appointment

Office Administrator Hours

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

DREE Office Hours

Thursday: 8:30am—11am

April's Calendar

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

						<u>1.</u>
<u>2.</u> 10:30a Services	<u>3.</u> 12:30p Touchstones 5p Hatha Yoga	<u>4.</u>	<u>5.</u> 11:30a Hatha Yoga	<u>6.</u>	<u>7.</u> 8:30a Hatha Yoga 5:30 Men's Group	<u>8.</u>
<u>9.</u> 10:30a Services Followed by 2 nd Sunday Shared Meal	<u>10.</u> 5p Hatha Yoga	<u>11.</u> 6:30p Occupy/Move to Amend	<u>12.</u> 11:30a Hatha Yoga	<u>13.</u>	<u>14.</u> 8:30a Hatha Yoga	<u>15.</u>
<u>16.</u> 10:30a Services	<u>17.</u> 5p Hatha Yoga	<u>18.</u>	<u>19.</u> 11:30a Hatha Yoga	<u>20.</u>	<u>21.</u> 8:30a Hatha Yoga	<u>22</u> EARTH DAY! 11a "March for Science" Followed by events at Tautphaus Park
<u>23.</u> 10:30a Services <u>31.</u> 10:30a Services	<u>24.</u> 5p Hatha Yoga	<u>25.</u> 6:30p Occupy/Move to Amend	<u>26.</u> 11:30a Hatha Yoga	<u>27.</u>	<u>28.</u> 8:30a Hatha Yoga	<u>29.</u>

“It’s
strange
how often a
heart must
be broken
before the
years can
make it
wise.”

Contact DREE

Phone

(208) 403-1306

Email

dree.uucif@gmail
.com

DREE Office

Hours

Thursdays
8:30 - 11am

A Special Pastoral Note

Dear Friends,

It is with a deeply saddened heart that, in addition to the leadership crisis at the UUA, I feel I must also share this with you all. You may not yet have heard but I am sure that the arrest of The Rev. Ron Robinson, a UU minister in Turley, Oklahoma, on charges related to the possession of child pornography will soon be plastered all over the news.

There are no words to adequately describe the sadness and outrage with which I write this. The Rev. Robinson has for many years been a respected presence in the Christian UU community. He was beloved in particular for his dedication and care for those who suffer from addiction and homelessness with a successful program called “The Welcome Table.” This situation is a deeply troubling reminder that though we certainly try to hold ourselves to the highest moral and ethical standards, that we UU’s are far from immune from the tragedy and pain of abuse and betrayal. Certainly our concerns are for those who have suffered abuse and for those who feel this betrayal most directly, but we all struggle to accept and understand. The issue of child pornography is one that we find most egregious, most painful and hardest to accept.

Our congregations are places where we would hope people might feel safe and it is incredibly difficult to recognize that we cannot ever guarantee that will be the case. Please know that I will make myself available if you find that you would like to connect regarding your own feelings about this or about the issues regarding our UUA and our desire to grow in true love and acceptance of one another. Rev Lyn,

minister@idahofallsuu.org, office, 208-522-8269, cell 208-403-6582

“Facing Desolation; Finding Consolation”

**UUCIF “Touchstones Small
Group” Meets Monday,
April 3, 12:30 PM**

*“There’s just this for consolation:
an hour here or there when our lives seem,
against all odds and expectations, to burst
open and give us everything we’ve ever
imagined.”*

As we mature we realize that disappointment, discouragement, loss, sorrow even despair are emotions we all may have an opportunity to experience. How and where do we find and share consolation? What mystery motivates us to rise above the sometimes exhausting and seemingly relentless difficulties that appear to be simply the underbelly necessity of daily life?

Using the monthly “Touchstones Journal ” publication our Small Group of UUCIF members and friends explore a theological theme. This April the group, meeting on first Mon days at 12:30pm, will address that of “Desolation and Consolation.”



CCEI Informational Forum Sunday, April 2 at noon!

Learn more about the Proposed Community College of Eastern Idaho! Attorney Sean Coletti will present an Informational Forum on the benefits of making "CCEI" a reality! Join us at 12:00 noon on Sunday, April 2, for a light luncheon as we learn more, ask questions and discover how we can help to get out the vote on May 16 and make this Community College a reality for Idaho Falls! For more information, please call 208-522-8269.

Men's & Women's Groups

UUCIF's Women's group will gather Friday, April 7, 5:30pm, at Laura Warner's home. You can contact Robie Cartmell at 523-5250 for details.

The Men's group will meet Friday, April 14, 5:30pm. A location is still to be determined.

Both groups include a potluck meal as part of their evening. Please plan to bring a dish to share. You can contact Robie Cartmell to coordinate dishes for the Women's Group and Jim Sathe for the Men's.

These gatherings are informal and open to all UUCIF members and friends and their guests. They provide an excellent opportunity to get to know the folks you see on Sundays plus enjoy a delicious meal and an evening fellowship and fun.



For UU's Earth Day Is a Holy Day!

Our Green Sanctuary Team Urges Us; "This Year More than Ever, "Participate in Earth Day 2017!"

This year we at UUCIF have a number of ways we can celebrate Earth Day! This year our Social Justice and Green Sanctuary Team are planning to sponsor a booth at the annual Earth Day celebration at Tautphus Park on April 22. See Elizabeth Cogliati or call Vic Allen at the UU office to find out how you can help.

And we all can plan to march in the Idaho Falls' Saturday, April 22. "March for Science and Climate Change" (the IF Committee have combined national marches scheduled for 4/22 and 4/29) which will begin at Snake River Landing at 11:00 am and end at Tautphus Park.

Final Fridays Brunch

The "Final Fridays Out for Brunch" group of UU's and friends meets again on Friday April 28. We love to chat and share and it's hard to get to know one another in our brief "coffeehour conversations" so join us for a "community brunch" on the last Friday of the month. We'll meet at Perkins at 10:30. See you there.

"There are plenty of recommendations on how to get out of trouble cheaply and fast. Most of them come down to this:
Deny your responsibility."

- Lyndon Johnson -

“Rev-flections”Continued from pg 3

us benefit from “white privilege.” Undoubtedly we unwittingly build walls that make it difficult for people of color, or LGBT people or people with disabilities to feel comfortable here. And so it is with hope that I propose that we do as Gini suggests that we try to “stay woke” and to evaluate how we can “make sure that we are on the right road.”

Join me for our first “Worship Workshop” as, we come together on May 7, because, *“this is our faith—and we must find some way to live within the all of it.”*



**“There's always a story. It's all stories,
really.**

**The sun coming up every day is a story.
Everything's got a story in it. Change the
story,
change the world.”**

- Terry Prachett -

**Unitarian Universalist
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Dear Friends of Faith and Conscience,