



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

November

November 2017

Worship

Sunday Services 10:30am

November 5

"Balance, Boundaries, and Generosity"

We may desire to be gracious and hospitable, generous and caring in our families and in our communities, but what happens when we feel our compassion "wearing thin?" "Generosity includes the idea of open-handedness, along with a connection to our internal experience and spirituality. ... We cannot as individuals solve all of the world's problems, and our resources have limits. We must make choices about what to do, the kind of change we want to make in the world." [The Generosity Path](#) by Mark Ewert. How might we balance a need for healthy boundaries with our spirit of our spiritual maturity?

November 12

"Veterans Making Meaning"

Ever since 9/11 our nation has been at war in the Middle East. So many of our young men and women have served in those and other war zones where their religious convictions were tested. They come back to a society that seems somehow disconnected. How might we learn from some of the ways that our Veterans make meaning from their experiences when they return home?

November 19

"The One Constant is Change"

Sam Cook said "a change is gonna come." Join Worship Associates Annette Lovell and Mara Pennell as they explore change as the one constant we all experience and why that's a good thing.

November 26

"Human, Kind?"

In this era of extreme divisiveness many despair that Americans have become so divided as to make our nation no longer "E Pluribus Unum." But, what if we really are all more alike than different? A new publicity campaign aimed at Long Island rail commuters displays photos celebrating Long Island's diversity. The four-color ads state that "at heart, we are all the same: Human."



Our Home

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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

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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
Laura Warner
Lorenzo Vega
Steve Wike

Rev-flections

The other day I caught “Dialogue” on Idaho Public Television. The discussion was about Reinhold Niebuhr the influential mid-twentieth century Protestant *public* theologian whose writing and ideas about religion and ethics spread into the national conversation, and in his case, led to his being made a target of the FBI! The program discussed is entitled “The Making of the American Conscience.” As I listened, I was fascinated again by this minister best known today as the author of the Serenity Prayer:

*God grant me the serenity
To accept the things I cannot change;
Courage to change the things I can;
And wisdom to know the difference.*

But the things that struck me as most applicable for today were his description of himself as a “*political liberal and a theological conservative*,” and that he was profoundly aware that there is rarely anything that is *entirely good* or *entirely evil*. Niebuhr was willing to grapple with complexity and therefore accused of presenting different faces, almost different personae to the world. The program beckoned me to consider one of the perennial topics that UU ministers and congregations struggle with. Who are we? And how can we, should we, worship and play and pray together when we acknowledge that we don’t always, or maybe ever, agree? How can we stay in relationship to do the work of our faith as we “grow our souls?”

During a board meeting, someone, raised concern that our Sunday worship too often explores social justice issues that some consider “political.” They asked the question “What is the purpose of the church?” It seems that some people with more “conservative” perspectives have complained that they do not feel welcome here. Some come to our church to escape from social justice or other “issues” and simply want to feel inspired, refreshed and renewed.

Ever the academic, I turned to the words of the “mission” statement we adopted in 2012: *The Unitarian Universalist Church in Idaho Falls, where religion and reason meet, takes as its mission to:*

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.

Those words are pretty clear; as members of a supportive and caring “beloved community” we are called to be open and supportive of each individual’s “search for truth and meaning,” and we are also called to “live our values” together, by working for

Continued on page 7

Church Mouse



What a difference! Not yet, but soon, we mice anticipate that this old mortuary will be much more cozy than ever before! Thanks to contributions to the capital campaign that so many of you made this summer, the last weeks have seen a flurry of activity by workmen replacing windows and removing and replacing old wiring. The leaky and cracked old windows upstairs where the children meet and the rattily old basement windows have all been replaced with new, more energy efficient ones. And that dangerous old knob and tube wiring is in the process of being stripped out and replaced to finally permit you all to insulate the attic!

What a change those updates will mean for our mouse family! (As we mice are the only full-time residents here, we're sure to appreciate these changes the very most! (Thank you Arthur Kull and UUCIF Leadership Board!)

Maybe Rev. Lyn just wanted to get in step with the building changes too, but when she moved the pews in the sanctuary she sure surprised a lot of *us* - and a lot of you folks too! She's told everyone that her original plan was to see if she could switch things so that the congregation could see one another and not just look at the pulpit. She felt that would be particularly helpful for the Second White Supremacy Teach-In that you held on October 22nd. And, she said she thought the new arrangement worked great for that event. Some people seem to really like this new lay out, other, not so much. Bonnie Anderson says you are all singing better because of it!

One thing we mice think is really funny is that when the pews were arranged in this more "arena style" they no longer wobbled! Rev. Lyn was shocked when she went back to put the shims under the legs to level the benches, because she discovered that they weren't needed!

We mice never know what she is up to though. Over the years we surely have learned that Rev. Lyn has one goal and motivation; to do whatever she can do to help you all feel welcome and loved in this UU community. And we know she appreciates hearing from folks. Whenever someone shares their heartfelt opinions she makes every effort to carefully consider how she might learn from that. We know she cares what you think -- and we expect she will continue to bring and try new ideas and to bring back beloved old one too.

Many people have so often said how much they prefer having coffee hour upstairs. Of course everyone knows those steps downstairs make Fellowship Hall hard for members to get to on Sundays, and those step also are a real hazard for carrying coffee hour dishes and foods up from the kitchen. So lately we have overheard board members like Katharine Giovanna and Molly Brinkerhoff and your wonderful hospitality team of Sadie and Larry Vannderplass and Bea Moyer, discussing possible ways you might improve the situation.

Long ago folks explored and rejected putting in a "dumb waiter." But back in about 2008 Tom Brinkerhoff, Tom Eddy and Richard Wilde had a plan to turn the small west side bathroom into another kitchen. Now people are rethinking other creative ways you all might better use the space you have. We are wondering if this might be the time that something actually gets done. We mice sure did notice how much more people seemed to enjoy coffee hour last Sunday! (Of course there was also that terrific Halloween Party that Laura Warner and Elizabeth Cogliati created.) But we hear that so many people prefer using the Jefferson and Willard Rooms so we know that Rev. Lyn is listening.

We also know that while an occasional expanded social time is nice that the hospitality people request that foods donated for coffee hour should be "finger foods" only. Cookies and other things that can be eaten with only a napkin mean so much less work for the hospitality team. Those terrific volunteers should not be expected every week to haul and wash plates and silverware! So we have heard that they are requesting that those wonderful breads and cakes be saved for bringing to Second Sunday Shared meals; and of course everyone loves them at the special events that call for an expanded social hour offerings.

Watching as a congregation like this one evolves and changes and grows and matures is such fun. We mice have been watching you all for such along time and one of the things we love best is to see the incredible care and affection you all show toward one another. Many people these days have not had the experience of growing up embraced by a loving, stumbling but caring, sometimes mistake making but always returning to love congregation like yours.

So when things happen, we mice just watch, knowing that with humility and commitment most obstacles can become steppingstones to a different, more interesting, and possibly more rewarding place. Blessings and hang on to your hats - it looks like things are happening here -- again. Your favorite church mouse.



Around UUCIF

As We Begin “Navigating our Future” It’s Time for This Year’s Canvass

From President Arthur Kull

Every year around this time, there is a lot of talk about the “Canvass”. Although long time UUs know what that means, many of you may wonder about what that is.

What is a Canvass? If you google canvass, the following definition pops up: “An act or process of attempting to secure votes or ascertain opinions.” In UU parlance, however, the meaning of the word canvass is “The act of soliciting pledges of financial contributions and comments/feedback about the church.” In historical times, members of a canvass team would be assigned a number of households to visit to secure a pledge and to get feedback about their likes and dislikes about the church operation. That has changed, as in the last twenty or so years people’s lives have become very busy and many of these activities have moved online. At the UU Church in Idaho Falls, when we mention the “Canvass” we mean a period of time when the leadership team solicit pledges for financial contributions to support the congregation. Starting with the Canvass Sunday, which will take place on Sunday, November 5, our Canvass will last for two more Sundays.

Why a Canvass? Any organization needs money to function. We need to pay our minister, our staff, utilities (power, water, garbage, etc.) cleaning and maintenance and so on. That requires about \$100,000 per year.

How much should you pledge? The most important decision you need to make is “how much is this community worth to me?” Many of the nation’s churches expect a minimum of 10% (tithing). It has been reported that members of Evangelical churches contribute 14-16% of their income, and Mormons 11%. Knowing that Unitarian Universalists support many causes, our guideline is 2 – 6% of income.

We thank you in advance for your generous support of our beloved church community!”

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

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?

The climate is changing now!

Find out how
you can help
solve climate
change.

About Citizens' Climate Lobby

Citizens' Climate Lobby is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization empowering people from all walks of life to become effective advocates for a livable world.

Learn proven ways to speak effectively and powerfully about climate solutions to friends, neighbors, business leaders, and elected officials.

What: CCL Community Potluck Informational Event

When: November 4, 2017
5:30 to 8:30 PM

Where: Unitarian Universalist Church
555 E Street
Idaho Falls, Idaho

For More Information and to RSVP go to:

<http://CCLPotluck11-17.rsvpify.com/>

For Additional Questions or to Help Call:

208-600-7150



Citizens' Climate Lobby

Political Will for a Livable World

CitizensClimateLobby.org



UUCIF News From “Upstairs”

“Cakes for the Queen of Heaven resumes October 1st after the service.”

Contact DREE

Phone

(208) 403-1306

Email

dree.uucif@gmail.com

DREE Office

Hours

Thursdays
8:30 - 11am

REE is so excited about our new windows, and the updates to our electrical system! This should make our lives better and easier, especially when we can use our new (to us) donated air conditioners next summer and keep using our space even when it gets hot!

This month, our Science Kids (ages 8-13) are learning about the science of food, starting with eggs on November 5 and milk on November 12. We hope to cover sugar (crystals) and chocolate or fruit later in the month. The Love Surrounds Us Kids (ages 3-7) are learning about the 7 principles using the rainbow.

Halloween Coffee Hour was a great success! Thank you to Laura Warner for the fantastic idea and decorating, and thanks to everyone who had fun and enjoyed themselves -- it was wonderful!

Thank you to our October REE Volunteers

Jatuporn Burns

Josh Cogliati

Katrin Lepler

Daniel Schwen

Judee Stanley

Marie Wallaker

Laura Warner

Rhonda Wike

Cakes for the Queen of Heaven will meet on the 2nd Sunday of November, Nov. 12 after the service. We will share in the 2nd Sunday Shared Meal before our class. All class attendees are asked to bring a reading to help create a worship service. Cakes for the Queen of Heaven is an adult theology class for women about the history of women in religion.

Men’s and Women’s Groups Meet for Food, Perspective, and Conversation

Each month the women and the men of this congregation simply get together at someone’s home for a Friday evening potluck supper and wide-ranging conversation.

On the first Friday, November 3 at 5:30, our UU women will meet at the home of Robie Cartmell. Call (208-523-5350) for location and details. Please bring food to share

On the second Friday, November 10, UU men are invited to bring food to share for a 5:30 meal at a place not yet determined. For directions and details call Jim Sathe at (303) 638-9151. All UUCIF members and friends are most welcome!

“Rev-flections” cont. from page 2

local and universal justice.

I return to thinking about Niebuhr and his realization that things are complicated. Our ideals and experiences are not always consistent. We may sometimes fail to live up to our values. We may feel liberal about some things and still try conservatively to hold on to the past.

That opening passage from the serenity prayer, “God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change” recognizes that we sometimes face situations that we simply must accept. And so the question becomes deciding when it *is* our responsibility to join together, to initiate, and work for, and celebrate, change.

I believe this expresses a profound theological perspective for a congregation like ours. Wisdom may lie in joining *together* to discern the difference; when we cannot change things and when we must courageously work together to make change happen. Sometimes, when an entire community faces a change that they may not desire but must accept, there can be growth and transformation that would never have happened otherwise.

This year’s canvass theme “Navigating our Future” feels appropriate because this congregation is at the beginning of a transformative time; not necessarily one we would have chosen, and not one that presents clear channels or choices. Figuring out who we are and how we will go about listening to one another as we choose a path forward and navigate the obstacles that are likely to arise, will make all the difference. Making decisions together will be challenging. We will be called to nurture our individual spiritual selves and we will be called to join together to work for justice; to think, and plan, and strategize. Doing this will surely call for reflection, wisdom, compassion, and deep listening. May we remember Niebuhr’s serenity prayer and his caution that rarely is anything *entirely good* or *entirely evil*. Blessings, Rev. Lyn

Idaho Climate Summit 2017 (Attention Green Sanctuary People!)

Plan on attending the Idaho Climate Summit on November 16 and 17.

The 2017 Summit is a two-day conversation about Idaho’s changing climate designed to explore market-based solutions for safeguarding Idaho’s economy, health, landscape and lifestyle.

Participants: Businesses, Resource and land managers, Idaho tribes and tribal organizations, Researchers and topical experts, Public interest organizations, Community members, and Government officials. *Venues:* Boise State University (rooms to be determined), Thursday Evening Reception at Stuekle Center; Idaho State University, Pocatello; University of Idaho (rooms to be determined) Moscow; Or stream from our website! For more information: <http://www.idahoclimatesummit.com/>

Evening Vigil to Honor Veterans

On Saturday, November 11, at 6:30pm Veteran’s Day evening we host our annual Candlelight Vigil at the Veterans Plaza on Memorial Drive. This is our opportunity to gather for a few minutes to honor those women and men have served our nation and who continue to offer their energies and devotion to protect our liberties. All are welcome. Be sure to dress warmly - the wind whips cold across the river !

Transgender Day of Remembrance

Please join us for a candlelight vigil as we honor the transgender members of our community who have been killed in the last year. We will say the names of all of those who have been murdered and light a candle for each person we have lost. It matters that we remember and honor the lives of those taken too soon, murdered for being themselves. Our community and the larger community must see this hate for what it is in order to stamp it out.

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

Touchstones

An opportunity to explore spiritual and theological themes in a small group setting

Many UU's discover depth and connection by joining others for regular reflective theological and spiritual conversations, conversations where persons held in covenant know they can share deeply. We here at UUCIF subscribe to a wonderfully rich publication called "Touchstones." Each month the "Touchstones" Journal explores a theological theme and provides a month's worth of writings which may be used to guide personal meditation.

"Faith" is the theological theme for November 2017. The Touchstones Journal author Kirk Loadman-Copeland begins his introduction to that theme with these words, "Faith is a topic worthy of our consideration as Unitarian Universalists. Most of the time people use the word faith as if it were a synonym for belief. It is not. Wilfred Cabtwell Smith, a historian of religion wrote, "Faith and Belief." His book draws a vital distinction between belief and faith. For Smith, belief was "the holding of certain ideas." He wrote, "*Faith is deeper, richer, more personal. It is engendered by a religious tradition in some cases and in some degree by doctrines, but it is a quality of the person and not the system. It is an orientation of the person to oneself, to one's neighbor, to the universe, a total response, a way of seeing whatever one sees, and of handling whatever one handles a capacity to live at more than a mundane level; to see, to feel, to act in terms of a transcendent dimension.*"

All are welcome to join the First Monday group. Or if you or others would prefer a different more convenient meeting time, you are invited to speak with Rev. Lyn about beginning another group.