

ABOUT UNITARIAN- UNIVERSALISM

Unitarians and Universalists came out of the Reformation with the rest of Protestantism in the 16th century. While Unitarians and Universalists were of Christian heritage, they were beginning to move further and further away from orthodoxy. Unitarians believed that it was unnecessary to believe that Jesus was God, not simply because they didn't think it was Biblically supported, but because people were being martyred for not believing that doctrine.

Universalists believed that the doctrine of eternal punishment was inconsistent with a belief in a good God. In America, Unitarians and Universalists clashed with Fundamentalism and the Great Awakening of the 18th century which dictated that salvation could only come through orthodox beliefs and a conversion experience. Neither Unitarians nor Universalists had patience for theologies that marginalized or damned people for not "believing properly". They subscribed to the principle that people should be free to find truth unencumbered by religious authority. They also denied the doctrine of original sin and embraced a positive view of human nature.

The Unitarians and Universalists merged in 1961 because they discovered that their principles and values were essentially the same. Today, Unitarian Universalism might best be described as *post-Christian*. Over the last several decades, people of all walks of faith have joined the Unitarian Universalist congregations. We have Buddhist, Jewish, Agnostic, Atheistic, Earth-Centered, liberal Christian, and many more religious expressions. Because we are a creedless faith, which means that we don't have beliefs that are necessary for membership, we experience a great diversity of people who seek truth and meaning authentically, responsibly and with great passion. Unitarian Universalists seek to provide a religious home for the liberal spirit.



Will I be "pressured" to join PUUF?

No! If what you have read so far sounds like something you are looking for, we invite you to join us in our weekly services and activities. As a "friend" of PUUF, you are welcome to attend all of our meetings – and some choose to remain in that status for as long as they are a part of PUUF. Others grow to desire a more connected role – to serve as trustees or officers and to help guide the future of the Fellowship. One becomes a member of PUUF by signing our membership book and committing to help support the Fellowship, as one is motivated and capable, financially and by participation in our activities.



ALL ABOUT "PUUF"



PRESCOTT UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

945 Rancho Vista Road
Prescott, Arizona

West on Copper Basin to the four-way stop at
Rancho Vista. Right on Rancho Vista to the
fellowship house on the right.

www.puuf.net 778-6672

WHAT IS "PUUF"?

The Prescott Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, affectionately known as PUUF (pronounced "puff"), is a lay-led congregation without a full-time minister or paid employees. Our



activities are directed by an elected Board of Trustees and by committees such as our program committee.

PUUF's Vision Statement:

We will seek growth in our Fellowship to include members and friends. We will build a better community through social justice. We will strive to be progressive leaders of the community.

PUUF's Mission Statement:

As a Fellowship we will: Work with outreach organizations in the community to achieve social justice; Develop programs which will appeal to progressively inclined people; Serve as an extended family to each other.

Our first principle is to value "the worth and dignity of every person." The

members and friends of PUUF come from many backgrounds and have included individuals who identify themselves as agnostics, atheists, non-theists, Buddhists, Christians, humanists, free thinkers and more. Inter-faith couples will find PUUF to be a comfortable home.

Our programs are not "religious" except in the very broadest sense. We feature a variety of speakers drawn from the Prescott community and from our own Fellowship, including college faculty, authors, ministers and performers. Programs usually include a period for discussion and reflection.

Unitarian Universalism does not expect people to adhere to a specific set of beliefs. Rather we gather around shared moral values and mutual support for one another in each individual's personal search for truth and meaning in life. PUUF members and friends tend to be politically progressive, but include those with conservative views as well. We generally are concerned with issues such as ecology and social justice.

For many people, PUUF's best feature is its warm caring atmosphere, and its sense of community. Our small size allows for a connectedness among our members and friends that fosters a strong sense of belonging and family. We also have a casual atmosphere that many find to be a comfortable alternative to a more formal congregational organization.

We treasure the fellowship we share with one another in our services, in our pot luck dinners and at our movie nights, and the intellectual stimulation we receive from one another in book discussions, special educational classes and lectures.



PUUF has earned recognition as a "Welcoming Congregation" which welcomes everyone — regardless of circumstances, ethnicity, color, sexual orientation, or gender identity. Unitarian Universalism is very supportive of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and their families and has been especially welcoming to this community.