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**PRESCOTT
UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
FELLOWSHIP**



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Staying Connected

Even without Direct Contact, It's Easier Than You Think

On the morning of March 15, the first COVID-19 cancellation date of PUUF Sunday service, Jerry Matiatos and Glenna Hudson placed surprise phone calls to PUUF members. These welcome greetings helped fill the gap brought about by the need to stay home. Perhaps by June Sunday services can resume. Then we can all meet again and salute our good health and good fortune in surviving its effects, and join in the friendly and warm community that makes up PUUF.



In the meantime, please continue opening the PUUF directory book and giving members a call from time to time. Those who can grocery shop or provide transportation to appointments for others “of a certain age” and perhaps with compromised health issues, please consider doing so. If “snail mail” is your thing, it’s probably safe to send letters.

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THE PRESCOTT UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP IS A LAY LED CONGREGATION. AS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS, WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO EMBRACING AND CELEBRATING THE DIVERSITY THAT MAKES UP ALL HUMANITY. WHATEVER YOUR THEOLOGY, THE COLOR OF YOUR SKIN, YOUR SEXUAL ORIENTATION, YOUR ETHNIC BACKGROUND, OR YOUR PHYSICAL ABILITIES, YOU ARE WELCOME AT OUR FELLOWSHIP.

President's Message



Hello members and friends of PUUF. Spring is here, but it has not been the springtime we were looking forward to. It is April 26 as I write this from home, and the outside temperature is 86 degrees. I wonder if we missed spring. Of course, with the pandemic and the restrictions on

gatherings and movements, we have missed out on a lot of springtime events. What? No March Madness? No opening day of baseball? Who would have thought our world would be turned upside down like this.

Here at PUUF we have conducted our Sunday meetings on Zoom and have had great attendance. We check in with each other to see how we are faring and pass around news about our changed lives.

The PUUF garden project is moving along, as is the preparation of the aquaponics system for the growing

season. Also, while you have been isolating at home, the irrigation system has been upgraded for better efficiency. And then there's the new heating and air conditioning system that has been installed. This is a modern system which will use less energy and reduce costs. A huge thanks to Mark Mathewson and Dale Hudson for their tireless work on arranging the implementation of this new system.

On a social note, the local food banks are struggling with serving residents of Yavapai County. Board members have initiated a member challenge to raise money for the three agencies: Chino Valley Food Bank, Prescott Community Cupboard, and Yavapai Food Bank in Prescott Valley. (See article.)

I hope everybody stays healthy and safe in the months ahead and let's enjoy the Prescott summertime in whatever way we can.

Al Schober

(...*Connected* Continued from page 1)

PUUF members have been following the COVID-19 Stay at Home recommendation throughout March, April, and into May. Nevertheless, we have managed to check in and hold "services" by way of Zoom online with our computers, laptops and telephones. At times, 20 people have shared a Zoom screen! The PUUF Board of Trustees also is conducting its meetings via Zoom.

The first trial for hosting a Sunday service was April 5 when members signed in and were able to visit with each other. A big thank you goes to Meg Bohrman who contributed her musical talents.

The April 5th initial Zoom meeting was deemed a success, and Easter Sunday service proceeded as planned on April 12 with 20 members in "attendance." Rev. Kellie Walker Hart, speaking on "Stories of Re-Birth" during which she led us through a slide show of her 2.5-hour pilgrimage-walk at Croagh Patrick in Ireland, where she received two lessons: "Don't be so attached to objects," such as scarves that blow away in the wind, and "Loosen up and fly."

At the April 19 community Zoom gathering, Ed Hamilton provided a 12-minute TED Talk by Devita Davison on urban

gardening in Detroit. Jerry Matiatos created a slide show set to dramatic music updating members on work at PUUF's community garden and hydroponics programs. A lively discussion followed with 16 members sharing thoughts on community gardens, local farms, farmers markets, and the food need manifest by those whose employment has been impacted by COVID-19.

On April 26, Sandra Zerner spoke on "Peace in Politics and Pandemics," with 18 members listening and singing along with Marlee Terry's beautiful voice. Sandra talked about how to examine our beliefs and core values, and how to change those if we so desire. As for dealing with COVID-19, we can focus on the disaster or we can notice the kindness that also is occurring around the world. She suggests, as we watch events unfold, not to get drawn into the drama. Discussion included a reading list of books on the subject of choice and change.

Program coordinator Eunice Ricklefs plans the following programs for May via Zoom. May 3: Victory over Virus with music video by Meg Bohrman. May 10: Rev. Kellie Hart-Walker with music. May 17: Chat Discussion on "Lessons Learned by Self-Isolating." May 24: Rumi with Yakin Lance Sandleben, and music by Adrienne Bridgewater. May 31: TED Talk "Why we Laugh" and discussion with Marlee Terry. ☪

Tid Bits

Food Banks Matching Challenge

Edward Hamilton has issued two challenges to PUUF members to benefit four food banks in Prescott, Prescott Valley, Chino Valley and Paulden. In the first, he will match members' personal donations up to \$250 through the end of April. Thank you all for your part in raising \$1,780.00. A second \$250 match will come from the Wini Hamilton Future Fund running until May 15. We hope to have some garden produce to help stock the food banks beginning in June and throughout the summer growing season.

People can make donations through the PUUF website (puff.net), or send a check to: PUUF, P.O. Box 11685, Prescott, AZ 86304. Please make a note on the memo line when donating by website or by check that the funds are slated for Food

Spring Clean Up set for May 16

The Spring Clean Up for the property and facility remains on the calendar for Saturday, May 16, with three sessions. Al Schober is heading up the schedule. Volunteers at each time slot—9-11 a.m., 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and the 1-3 p.m.—will practice physical distancing and are asked to wear a face mask. Thanks to all who can contribute their labor.

Weekly Offering for PUUF

Mark Mathewson, PUUF treasurer, has added a "Donate" button for members wishing to make contributions through credit card or PayPal account. Without the Sunday passing of the basket, weekly offerings are nil.

Checks may also be mailed to:
 PUUF
 P.O. Box 11685
 Prescott, AZ 86304

Missing Earring

Sue Tone lost an earring. It may be buried in the garden soil. Please keep an eye out for it – it was a favorite pair she brought back from Ireland this past year.



Addition to the PUUF Directory

Debbie Cook became a PUUF member after the directory was published. Please add her to your directories, along with her contact information.

Debbie Cook
 Dameron Drive, Apt. 5
 Prescott, AZ 86301
 debcookmusic@gmail.com
 928-830-8767



Coping (and hoping) with COVID-19

PUUF members have reported they are maintaining social distancing, using up ingredients in pantries, and enjoying the outdoors.

Al Schober said sheltering at home means starting on the chores he's been putting off for years. "A good time to sort the pantry, bookcases and closets for the things I never use, and dispose of them," he said. He also plans to stay connected with family and friends through Facebook, email and texting.

Debbie Cook continues her work with Meg Bohrman producing music videos. Debbie also is sewing face masks from t-shirts for people who are homeless, with a goal of producing 100. She and her daughter hope to develop no-sew kits for people "to give them some ownership and pride in the project." Debbie sits outside within her "neighborhood community" at her apartment complex of eight units, and says she has help from her granddaughter with grocery shopping.

Sue Tone is busy digging out elm tree roots and bagging yard waste. She was meeting once a week with friends who gather to work on art projects. Cancellation of that, and her weekly ukulele practice sessions, has been the hardest part of staying home. As for cleaning the garage and attic, she offered no excuse for being a slacker.

Eunice Ricklefs said she and husband Ron are both doing well and only going out when needed. Ron worked outside

cleaning up broken branches from a late snow. "I'm finding all sorts of forgotten things now I have time to clean out the closets, cupboards and drawers," she said. They enjoy meeting weekly online with their children. "As our oldest son says, 'Stay Smart and Stay Safe.'"



Debbie Cook and her daughter are making these colorful face masks, left, for a local doctor's office, and t-shirt masks for people who are homeless.



Al Schober shoots a few photos on a recent walk around Lynx Lake. Getting out of the house into nature is one of the recommendations for getting through 2020.

Garden Prep, Planning and Planting



Garden Prep, Planning and Planting

The PUUF Community Garden has been fallow since last fall, but Al Schober, Sue Tone, Debra Mathewson and Debbie Cook are well on their way preparing the soil and planting for a new growing season. A new irrigation system is in, the soil is turned with steer manure, and seeds and seedlings have filled the two raised beds.

Debra has been looking through gardening books and sketched out a graph for the garden. She started two varieties of tomatoes from seed at home, followed by melon and squash seeds. "I tried to get plants resistant to powdery mildew, a fungus in the soil," she said, referring to one of last year's issues.

Vegetables with a quick turnaround growing time, such as radish and carrots, are in, interspersed with vegetables that will produce later in the season. "[Radishes and Carrots] are easy to grow from seed," Debbie said. Debbie would like to see continual planting and continual harvesting throughout the growing season.

Edward has been working on the aquaponics. He has taken time to clean and sterilize the tank after last years mishap with the fish. The water and tank are in great shape for growing and the fish will be introduced soon.

Summer Events with GPUUC

Summer plans for share time with friends from Granite Peak UU Congregation remain tentative. UU Linkage Team member Anne Geoffrion said she hopes to dine and toast to an improved situation at least once or twice this summer.

The first potluck is scheduled for Saturday, June 27, on the outside deck at PUUF. Appetizers and beverages begin at 5:30 p.m. with PUUF providing coffee and non-alcoholic drinks; others may bring their own wine to share. Potluck dishes should serve 8 to 12 people; please bring serving utensils. Appetizers (surname M-S), entrees (T-Z), vegetable or salad (A-F), desserts (G-L). Plates, eating utensils, cups and napkins will be provided.

Everyone will be notified if we must cancel these plans. In the meantime, put on your calendars the rest of the summer sharing events:

July 18: picnic at Goldwater Lake

Aug. 15: second potluck at PUUF

Third potluck at GPUUC: date to be determined

WEBPAGE LINKS

Puuf's Webpage

www.puuf.net

UUA Website

www.uua.org

**ANY PERSON MAY BECOME A MEMBER OF THIS FELLOWSHIP, WHO IS IN SYMPATHY WITH ITS PURPOSE AND PROGRAM, BY SIGNING THE MEMBERSHIP BOOK, AND THEREBY ACCEPTING THE OBLIGATION TO PARTICIPATE AND TO HELP SUPPORT THE FELLOWSHIP BY FINANCIAL OR OTHER MEANS.
PLEASE SEE AL SCHOBER FOR INFORMATION.**