



Prescott Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
945 Rancho Vista Dr., Prescott, AZ 86303
928-778-6672

<p align="center">Dec 1 Sunday 11 am</p>	<p>“My Need for Religious Community” Rev. Roger Fritts will speak about his history with the Phoenix Church and PUUF, and other UU Churches. Music: Jonathan Best.</p>
<p align="center">Dec 8 Sunday 11 am</p>	<p>“Who or What is Prescott Unitarian Universalist Fellowship?” The General Assembly passed the new Article II of the UUA’s bylaws. How do we view our fellowship and its role as part of the UUA and of our own Quad-City Community. Glenna Hudson will lead us in a couple of interactive activities to share our feelings and beliefs about who or what our fellowship means to us. Music: Tess and Mychael Barnes.</p>
<p align="center">Dec 15 Sunday 11 am</p>	<p>“People Who Care” is a local non-profit organization of volunteers who assist their neighbors to live independently in their own homes. Now in its 32nd year, Executive Director Jane Harrison will update us on their existing and some new programs planned for this coming year. Music: Sue Daniel and Bev Worthman</p>
<p align="center">Dec 22 Sunday 11 am</p>	<p>“Chanukah—Beyond Hallmark” Chanukah was always a minor Jewish festival. In America, it’s become major. This year the 8-day holiday begins December 25. Rabbi Nina Perlmutter will look at its history, significance and ways to celebrate.</p>
<p align="center">Dec 29 Sunday 11 am</p>	<p>“Auld Lang Syne” Auld Lang Syne is a Scottish song. The words were written in 1788 and is traditionally sung to bid farewell to the old year on New Year’s Eve. Translated as “old long since” or, less literally, “old times past,” today, the song has been widely used in many countries to symbolize endings and new beginnings; and remembering and saying farewell to old friends no longer with us. Let us join together to continue this tradition on our last Sunday of 2024. Music: Holiday music by Mark Mathewson.</p>

Programs are held at the Fellowship, except as noted.

Caring Network

If you have any needs, such as shopping, running errands, transportation needs, or other help, or if you just need to talk with someone, please call someone from the Caring Network.

Eunice Ricklefs at 928-771-9559

Marion Pack at 928-642-6788

PUUF Facilities Available

PUUF facilities are available for use for small gatherings.

Refer to the [PUUF web site](https://puuf.net/facility-rentals), <https://puuf.net/facility-rentals> for rental information.

Board of Trustees meeting will be on December 8, after the service.

PUUF (go to) POINT PERSONS

Archives/Library: *Vacant*

Membership: Glenna Hudson

Building Maintenance: Dale Hudson

Music: Glenna Hudson

Grounds Maintenance: Al Schober

Caring Committee: *Vacant*

Programs: Eunice Ricklefs

Social Action: *Vacant*

Facilities Schedule: Mark Mathewson

UUSC: Eunice Ricklefs

Website: Mark Mathewson

PAWS/PASS: Eunice Ricklefs

Coming Up @ PUUF/Newsletter:
Mark Mathewson, Sue Tone

Hospitality: Debra Mathewson

We have openings for “Point Person” positions if you are interested please contact a board member, thank you.

PUUF NEWS

December 2024



Board of Trustees

President

Al Schober
928-925-1938

Vice President

Sue Tone
928-642-7867

Treasurer

Mark Mathewson
509-429-8635

Secretary

Debra Mathewson
509-429-6421

Trustee

Jerry Matiatos
928-237-8033



PUUF Office

928-778-6672

Administration

Mark Mathewson
509-429-8635

Coming Up at PUUF

Mark Mathewson
509-429-8635

Newsletter

Sue Tone
928-445-3162

Facilities Scheduling

Mark Mathewson
509-429-8635

Lay Ministers

Glenna Hudson
928-636-4877

Jerry Matiatos
928-237-8033

An Unwanted Guest Visits PUUF

PUUF was packed for the Dec. 17 Sunday service. While this was great news for all who attended and enjoyed the program, it also had an unexpected, unseen, unwelcomed and unwanted guest – COVID-19.



The number of PUUF members, musicians, and visitors who tested positive in the week that followed was about one-third of the day's attendees. Symptoms can appear 2-14 days after having been exposed, so the number could be even greater and you can be contagious before you show symptoms. Thankfully, all those we know of have – or are on their way to being - fully recovered.

But the outbreak convinced the PUUF Board of Directors to cancel the Nov. 24 Sunday service.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention tracks viral infections through testing of wastewater in all but two states. The map below shows Arizona's viral activity (COVID-19 as well as influenza and RSV – respiratory syncytial virus) as of Nov. 24, 2024, in the high range (4th highest of 5 levels).

The state and county no longer track COVID cases through personal
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UUSC Guest at Your Table

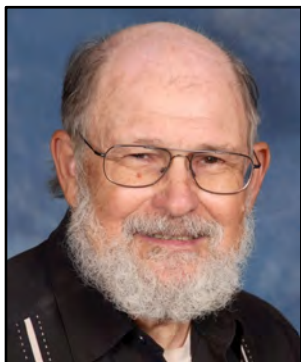
UUSC was founded in 1939 to help refugees secretly evacuate from Europe and the oncoming Nazi regimes. They have been working for justice and human rights ever since. Guest at Your Table has been an important part of UUSC and the UU culture since 1975, when it first began.



Since the end of October, PUUF has been passing the “box” during offertory to collect coins to donate to the UUSC. At the end of November we had collected \$206 to support this vital program. Thank you for your generosity. Collections will continue for another week before sending the proceeds to UUSC

PUUF ACTIVITIES

President's Letter



Hello everybody. Well, it's supposed to be heading into winter, but today, Nov. 23, was 63 degrees! The cold will hit sooner or later, so please stay warm and safe.

It's December so that means PUUF holds its annual Congregational Meeting – this year on Dec. 15 at 1 p.m. This is where all members and friends are updated on PUUF's building and grounds, financial status, and plans for 2025.

Friends of PUUF are invited to the meeting (you just can't vote on issues and board member elections).

Lunch will be served after the service and before the meeting. It is usually a nice spread of food for our enjoyment. In addition, the 2024 Ron Ricklefs Service Award will be announced – an occasion not to be missed! So please come and enjoy the outstanding PUUF hospitality provided by the Board.



Annual Congregational Meeting



The PUUF Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, **December 15 at approximately 1:00 p.m.** following the Sunday Service and lunch provided for you by the PUUF Board of Trustees.

The 2024 Ron Ricklefs Award for outstanding service to PUUF will be announced at the meeting and the lunch is a celebration (including cake!) for the recipient. This award was started in 2021 to commemorate the

significant and substantial service to PUUF over the years, with Ron Ricklefs being the first recipient, and is named in his honor. Marriner Cardon received the award in 2022 and Glenna and Dale Hudson in 2023. Who will get the award this year?

The congregational meeting provides the opportunity for members and friends to learn what is going on around PUUF with the various committees as well as to understand our finances. As required by the bylaws, members will be voting on three Board of Trustee positions, one Nomination position, and one Audit position. The members vote on the presented budget and any monies required from the Endowment Fund to support operations for 2025.

If you are unable to attend this meeting and want to be represented, you may fill out a proxy form available by on this web page: <https://puuf.net/contact-us/forms/>. You should ask the person who you want to be your proxy before completing the form, as a member may only serve as proxy for one other member.

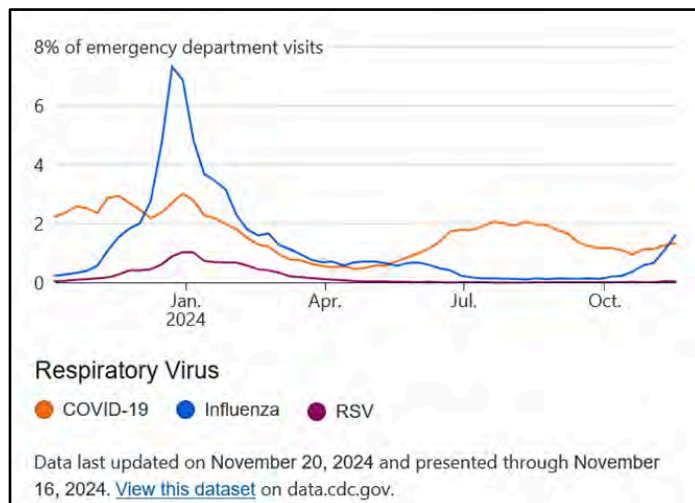
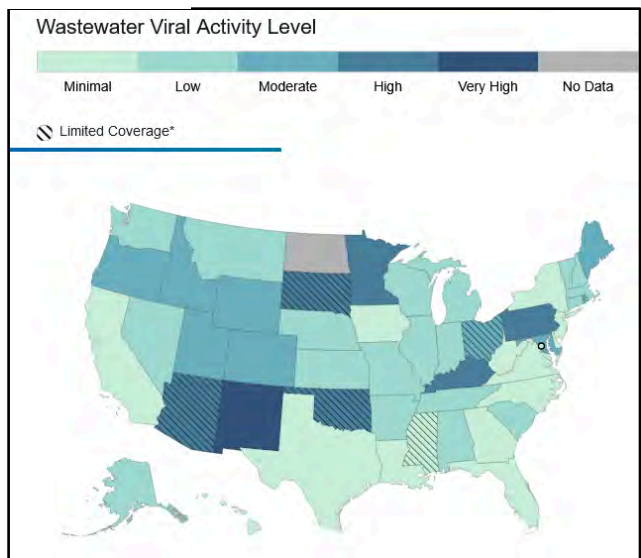
—PUUF Board of Trustees

PUUF ACTIVITIES

PUUF's Unwanted Guest continued from page 3

reporting of positive test results. In looking at the percentage of people entering hospital emergency rooms near the end of November in Arizona with a virus, however, about 1.5% had COVID. The chart below indicates an upsurge of COVID cases that begin in the winter months with a lesser surge in the peak of the summer months.

Signs of COVID can be mistaken for similar symptoms of the common cold or flu, and have a wide range in severity. The following list does not include all possible symptoms, which may change with new COVID-19 variants and can vary depending on vaccination status. Possible symptoms include: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, new loss of taste or smell, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea.



Weekly percent of total emergency department visits associated with COVID-19, influenza, and RSV.

The CDC states that you can go back to your normal activities when, after at least 24 hours, both are true:

- Your symptoms are getting better overall, and
- You have not had a fever (and are not using fever-reducing medication).

When resuming normal activities, take added precaution over the next five days, such as taking additional steps for cleaner air, hygiene (wash those hands often!), masks, physical distancing, and/or testing when you know you will be around other people indoors. This is especially important to protect people with factors that increase their risk of severe illness from respiratory viruses.

Keep in mind that you may still be able to spread the virus that made you sick, even if you are feeling better.

If you recently had COVID-19, you may delay getting a COVID-19 vaccine for three months after symptoms started OR after receiving a positive test with no symptoms. The risk of getting COVID-19 is less likely in the weeks to months following a SARS-CoV-2 infection.

Every U.S. household is eligible to order four free at-home COVID-19 tests. Go online to <https://covidtests.gov/> to order yours.

Information courtesy of the U.S. Centers for Disease and Prevention.

Please — if you have a cough or fever or are sick or have any of the above symptoms, please stay home. Protect our community; we are at higher risk due to our age. Wear a mask. Remember that COVID is not the flu or a cold, which doesn't damage internal organs. Each time you get COVID it can cause further damage to internal organs and the damage is cumulative and permanent.

PUUF ACTIVITIES

Sufi Dances Dec 31 and Jan 1 at PUUF



The screenshot shows the website for DUP-NAZ (Dances of Universal Peace - Northern Arizona). The header features the text "DUP-NAZ Sedona - Cottonwood - Prescott" and "Dances of Universal Peace - Northern Arizona". Below the header is a navigation menu with links for Home, Local Events, DUP Links, Galleries, Who We Are, Contact Us, Prayer, Related Things, and Log In. A banner for the "Prescott Peace Dances and Sufi Circle" is displayed. The main content area is titled "New Year's Eve!" and lists the event details: "Tues. Dec. 31st 6:30-10:30 PM" at the "Prescott Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 945 Rancho Vista Dr, Prescott, AZ 86303". It includes the quote "Peace to what we may find, Peace to all we leave behind" and the instruction "Celebrate!". It also mentions a gathering for "Universal Worship Service and more dancing" from 1PM-5PM. A disclaimer states: "As this is an indoors in-person dance, please do not come if you are feeling ill or have been exposed to illness." Contact information for Yaquin (928-533-8846) is provided. At the bottom, there is a row of icons representing various world religions and spiritual practices.

Dances of Universal Peace hosts a New Year's Eve celebration in dance from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 31, at PUUF. Another gathering to celebrate New Year's Day takes place from 1 to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 1, at PUUF, for Universal Worship Service and more dancing. For more information, contact Yaquin at 928-533-8846.

See more information at <https://www.dup-naz.org/prescott.html>.

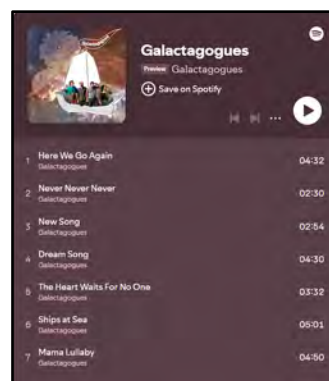
Galactogogues Album Release

Galactogogues announce their album release celebration and Solstice Sing on Saturday, Dec. 21, at 7 p.m. in the Elks Theatre and Performing Arts Center. Tickets are available now and range from \$7 for children under 12, \$27 for main floor and balcony, and \$37 for opera box seats (fee included).

Their brand-new album, **OK Apocalypse**, explores themes of Rebirth,



reminding us that the End is always the Beginning. Join them on this darkest night of the year to celebrate Creativity, Community, and the Light Within Dark Times.



PUUF ACTIVITIES

Letter from UUA regarding the Election



To our beloved Unitarian Universalist community:

Yesterday morning, we awoke to the undeniable reality that the religious and political right's decades-long strategy to sow fear and division and pit our communities against one another prevailed on the electoral landscape. While there were victories on important issues in state measures and local races, we cannot deny that the politicians who will hold control of the presidency and the senate have told us clearly their intent to target our communities and further destabilize our democracy.

Beloveds, we are with you in all of it today. We acknowledge that among us are a wide range of emotions, experiences, reactions and needs. We make space for all of us, and we join you in your tears, your terror, your anger.

Dear ones, please know that your Unitarian Universalist Association has been planning for multiple scenarios, including this one, for a long time. We know well that these election results will mean even more threats against beloveds among and beyond our congregations – especially BIPOC folks, migrants, trans/nonbinary/queer people, the disabled community, people with uteruses, and more. In the coming days and weeks, we will be in close communication with our leaders and our congregations about both spiritual and practical considerations as we provide extra support and solidarity to these groups and strategize our next moves to show up in our power as a religious community. If you have immediate questions and needs, please reach out to your congregation's Primary Contact on your regional staff team.

There is profound rage in the nation right now – among both the staggering number of those who chose to vote for this deadly agenda of domination and division, and those who feel betrayed and dehumanized by it. Fear is also rampant across the country, although how we respond to that fear has clearly led us to respond in wildly different ways. Many of us – particularly those who have never found full hope and safety in the protections of the state – are not surprised at this outcome, even as we are shattered by it.

At the same time, Unitarian Universalists know that democracy and justice are central to, but not defined by, electoral cycles. We honor and celebrate the incredible work thousands of UUs have done through UU the Vote this year, and we remind ourselves that the long-term struggles for democracy, for bodily autonomy, for climate justice and decriminalization are the ongoing imperatives of our faith. We will continue to Side With Love because that is who we are, regardless of the results of any one election. We will center ourselves in Love, and ground our work going forward in our shared values of justice, equity, transformation, pluralism, interdependence, and generosity.

Friends, now is the time to trust your leadership; to be in close communication with your local partners and trusted co-conspirators; to prepare for the influx of people who will walk through your doors seeking comfort, community, connection.

It is a moment for deliberateness, care, thoughtfulness, and coordination. To give space for the magnitude of today, recognizing we will discern together the actions needed in the weeks and months ahead. And it will be imperative for us all, individually and collectively, to regroup in the spiritual practices and organizing skills that we have been cultivating for so long.

So we pause, we breathe, we hold one another close. And we ask:

How will Unitarian Universalism meet this moment? Who are we called to be, and what are our deepest

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PUUF ACTIVITIES

Letter from UUA *continued from page 7*

values and commitments compelling us to do as the map of the terrain that lies ahead snaps into focus?

Perhaps the greatest gift of belonging to the rooted, dynamic living tradition of Unitarian Universalism is knowing in our bones that we are both the inheritors of a complex and powerful historical legacy and the stewards of a future yet to be imagined.

Today, as it has always been, the unwavering Love at the center of our faith is our greatest balm, our strongest shield, and our fiercest power. That animating core of Love will both demand our rigorous action and offer us the wellspring of hope and courage that will equip us for that work in the times ahead

Beloveds, we will hold our fear together

We will honor our rage and devastation and grief.

We will hold one another ferociously, tenderly, faithfully.

And then:

- We will move deliberately.
- We will invest in trust.
- We will claim joy, rest, and sustenance.
- We will resist en masse.
- We will fight fascism and continue the struggle for democracy.
- We will continue to build our movements for justice.
- We will focus our efforts and abandon distractions.
- We will create safe harbor for those in danger.
- We will leverage our resources.
- We will sharpen our skills and our analysis.
- We will act as if no person is disposable.
- We will refuse the politics of division and despair.
- We will seek the wisdom of elders and of history.
- We will weave deeper connections with our neighbors.
- We will fight for our survival.
- And we will create the conditions of possibility for our thriving and liberation.

With deep love, faith, and solidarity,

Your Unitarian Universalist Association



PUUF ACTIVITIES

Faith and Kolton Baby Shower

Faith Banes and Kolton Hudson (Glenna and Dale Hudson's grandson) enjoyed a Dinosaur Baby Shower with family and friends on Nov. 2, 2024, at PUUF. The sanctuary was fully decorated Dino-style with lots of good food, gifts, games and laughter.



PUUF PROGRAM RECAP

Nov. 3: Climate Anxiety

Glenna Hudson presented an interactive program on **Spiritual Care for Climate Anxiety and Grief** with videos, after which we contemplated and answered questions, and shared our concerns. Some concerns expressed by attendees included the decrease in people willing to sacrifice personal gain for the good of society, migration of people affected by climate change - especially lack of water - and people participating in small actions without making much of a difference. Kathleen Hess provided her guitar and singing skills.



PUUF PROGRAM RECAP

Nov. 10: Music and Stories by the Flurries



Henry and Maria Flurry presented some of the songs they have written about their life and history together and the stories behind them. For example, Maria said Anna's song was written when Anna was born and she has added to it as Anna has grown up and become her own person. The Flurrys also displayed their musical talents on various instruments with Henry on vocals, piano, and guitar, and with Maria on vocals and vibraphone.



Nov. 17: Detention Poetry and Stories

Sue Tone brought in poetry and stories from her work with juveniles in the Durango Detention Facility in Phoenix. She showed examples of poems by the detainees inspired by poet Esther Kamkar and writer Sandra Cisneros. Those who wanted to wrote and shared their own poems about labels and stereotypes, and stories about where their names came from. Womansong provided music from Africa, a partner song, and invited attendees to sing along with the final piece, Love is Love.

