

Glacier Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Summer Newsletter 2017

We are a welcoming, supportive fellowship that nurtures the spiritual, intellectual and social needs of our members of all ages through the open inquiry into inspirational experiences, diverse beliefs, and religious traditions. We work together towards a more compassionate, more just world for all.



Schedule of Worship Services:

First Sundays ~ 10:00 a.m.: **“Spiritual Practice Sunday”**

First Sundays are our casual Sundays. We will break into two groups: Discussion and Meditation. Choose the group/topic that inspires you on the First Sunday of each month!

Led by Sandra Alessi.

July 9, - August 27th ~ 10:00 a.m.: **“Summer Evensong Series”**

These summer services are a different format than a traditional service. They are smaller, more intimate services where some discussion and participation is encouraged, but not required. They are a thought provoking and wonderful way to go a little deeper with your fellow congregants and we hope that if you haven't been to one in the past you will come this summer.

Theme for July

— *Warming* —

“When you acknowledge the integrity of your solitude, and settle into its mystery, your relationships with others take on a new warmth, adventure and wonder.”

~ John O'Donohue



Schedule of July and Evensong Services:

- **July 2, 2017 ~ 10:00 a.m.:**
“Spiritual Practice Sunday”
Led by Sandra Alessi.
- **July 9, 2017 ~ 10:00 a.m.:**
“Evensong Series” #1
Service Leader TBD
- **July 16, 2017 ~ 10:00 a.m.:**
Evensong Series #2
“Visioning”
Led by Walter Weisenburger
- **July 23, 2017 ~ 10:00 a.m.:**
“Evensong Series” #3
Led by Mary Wellemeyer
- **July 30, 2017 ~ 10:00 a.m.:**
Evensong Series #4
“Sustainable Agriculture”
Led by Dennis Brosten

GUUF Summer Community Gatherings!

August 5, 2017 ~ time TBA:

Bitterroot Lake GUUF gathering!

We will grill chicken and have drinks provided by our hosts, Jerry & Julie Doyle. Please bring side dishes. There is plenty of parking. There are 2 kayaks, and Jerry has a ski boat for boat rides. Children are very welcome; they should bring a life jacket if they are going swimming.

More events to come... Watch your eBlast for details!





Presidents' Column:

Hi everyone. I'll be finishing my two year term as GUUF president at the end of June, and will be going off the Board. I have so enjoyed the past two years of serving in this capacity largely due to the friendly, cheerful and productive Board we have had. I welcome in Dan Kohnstamm, Sandy Alessi and Joe Page who will join the Board in July. At the same time, I look forward to continuing on in Fellowship Council, along with the other two outgoing Board members, Betsy Kohnstamm and Meg Gordon. I always feel like Fellowship Council is where I have the most fun planning, brainstorming and being creative.

What does all of this mean to those not so familiar? GUUF has a 7 to 9 member Board that meets monthly to cover the financial, building, and larger issues of being a Unitarian Universalist congregation. This past two years I'd say our big successes have been in transitioning smoothly back to a lay led Fellowship, affording high quality visiting ministerial professionals, revamping our insurance arrangements, and clarifying duties.

This year there has also been big recent effort in a remodel of our foyer area, new flooring, and the resulting sorting and organizing in many areas of the building.

Board meetings have been on the first Tuesdays of the month from 6 to 8 PM, and the new Board will have their first meeting in August.

Fellowship Council comprises of heads of several of our committees and sees to the "life" of the Fellowship. This can include what we do Sunday mornings for the older and the younger, social activities at other times, work in the community and looking out for one another. Again, this group welcomes involvement from anyone who is interested.

I have been very proud of all that has happened this Spring in our Building interior remodel. I think the changes are obvious, and commented on every Sunday. We are so appreciative to have had a large donation from the estate of Don Egner which made this possible.

As always, I continue to find my Sundays at GUUF to be a time of unexpected surprise, whether I'm attending the service, teaching the class, or just meeting new and interesting people who show up to check GUUF out.

Happy Summer, and looking forward to seeing you all soon!

Kathy Neff,
outgoing Board President

Meet Dan Kohnstamm, our incoming Board President

To Fellow GUUFers:
Sandy Alessi and I will be joining the GUUF Board this year as vice-president and president respectively. We attended the most recent Board meeting and listened carefully to out-going Board members' recommendations. We discussed long range planning and a survey of members in the future.

Our next scheduled meeting will be on Tuesday evening, August 1st at 6 pm. Everyone is invited to attend.

At our most recent Fellowship Council meeting on June 11th we discussed programming ideas and commitments for this summer. Betsy Kohnstamm is the new chair of this committee. It was a lively session and many members stepped forward to contribute their talents. I plan to attend Fellowship Council meetings in the future so that the Board and Council can communicate as much as possible.

As your president-elect, I want to encourage you to contribute your efforts to our lay-led Fellowship. Only if we contribute will our group thrive. Sandy and I are looking forward to a good upcoming year. Thanks go to Kathy Neff and Cathy Cooney for their leadership this past year on the Board.

A word about myself: I have served as president, treasurer, planning chair and social justice chair during my 25+ years with our group. Sandy has experience as president and planning committee among other duties. We are familiar with the Fellowship's joys and challenges and are committed to doing our best to serve you.

A little about our incoming VP, Sandra Alessi: "In the 10 years I have been a member of GUUF, I have served on the Board of Trustees as Secretary and President, and on the membership and Sunday service program committee."

**Sincerely,
Dan Kohnstamm,
Board President-Elect**



Religious Education News:

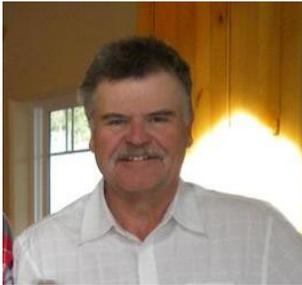
Thanks to all families and youth who participated in our Memorial Day camp out on the shores of the North Fork River at Big Creek campground. We had 7 adults, 9 youth and 3 dogs. It was not clear who had the best time, the people or the dogs. It was beautiful, delicious, and fun. I hope we can do more of the same in the future.

There are big ideas this summer for hikes and peak climbs in Glacier Park, lake picnics and paddle boarding, and maybe even another camping trip. It would be great to have opportunities available for all ages. We are still sorting dates, but will get announcements out by eBlast as to youth opportunities. If you would like to be involved, or would like to help plan a summer event, please send an email or make phone call. We hope to make these events accessible to all!

Kathy Neff and Kara Basko, RE co-Chairs

nathykeff@yahoo.com

862-6882



From Your Treasurer:

Hello all, at the annual meeting I presented the budget for the next year for your consideration. As you may recall, this is the first budget that I have presented that was a deficit budget. While that could be disturbing to some, understand that I will always represent to the fellowship the financial health as “it is” and not “what we would like it to be.” Having said that, I wanted to take this opportunity to report that we have finished the year in great shape. So much so that I pre-paid our UUA obligations for next year and several heard my appeal for additional pledges and during our meeting our pledge totals increased. The result is that our budget is no longer a deficit budget and as soon as the final tally of the pledge drive is recorded and verified I would be happy to share an updated budget with anyone that is interested. Additionally, the increased support of our members will allow the board to consider opportunities to enhance our fellowship experience for all.

Thank you for your support over these past two years, and for your vote of confidence on my next term. If at any time, you have questions about our fellowship’s financial health, please do not hesitate to contact me and I will be glad to give you the current facts at any time. Pledging does make a difference in helping us to plan for the future. *Bob*





Toni's Teas occur on 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, every month.

This is a social discussion group that is open to anyone who enjoys lively conversation & good company. Please call Sandy Alessi at 406- 730-2425 if you have any questions.

On **July 18th** they meet at Sandy Alessi's home (812 Greenwood) in Whitefish, from 1-4p.m. (Please watch the weekly eBlasts for location updates).

The 1st Tuesday Tea, scheduled for July 4th, has been canceled this month due to the Independence Day Holiday.

GUUF Calendar of Events:

- July 2, 2017 ~ 10:00 a.m.:** Sunday Service ~ *First Sunday*
- July 9, 2017 ~ 10:00 a.m.:** Sunday Service
- July 10, 2017 ~ 5:30 p.m.:** Pride Foundation Kalispell
Open to All Initiative Kick-off
- July 16, 2017 ~ 10:00 a.m.:** Sunday Service
- July 18, 2017 ~ 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.:** Toni's Tea
- July 20, 2017 ~ 5:30 p.m.:** GUUF Samaritan House Volunteer Night
- July 23, 2017 ~ 10:00 a.m.:** Sunday Service
- July 27, 2017 ~ 6:00 p.m.:** Love Lives Here Whitefish Monthly Mtg
- July 30, 2017 ~ 10:00 a.m.:** Sunday Service



**Support
Montana Public Radio
and GUUF**

Have you heard GUUF on Montana Public Radio?

We pay for the advertising (sponsorship spots) through our annual collection designated to MTPR. When the MTPR pledge drive kicks off— consider supporting MTPR through a donation to GUUF. All of the money we collect goes to MTPR for our sponsorship spots. Your donation is still tax deductible and you are supporting two organizations! As the donation is to GUUF your name **will not** be read on-air. If you like hearing your name on air consider splitting your usual MTPR pledge amount into two donations – one to MTPR and one to GUUF. MTPR **can** add you to their mailing list. (We will facilitate this.)

Please make a check to GUUF, PO Box 2778, Kalispell, MT, 59903 or include a check in the Sunday collection. *Write "MTPR" on the check memo line* and also write "mail list" on the memo line if you would like to be added to MTPR's mail list. We will be collecting MTPR donations through Mid-April. Thank you for helping out and letting our Flathead Valley Community hear about GUUF! **Questions – please email or call Paige at 253-7941 or guufadm@yahoo**

There are seven principles which Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote:

The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Unitarian Universalism (UU) draws from many sources:

Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

These principles and sources of faith are the backbone of our religious community.



Glacier Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
A Beacon of Liberal Faith in the Flathead since 1964

is located at
1515 Trumble Creek Rd
Kalispell, MT 59901

Mailing Address:
PO Box 2778
Kalispell, MT 59903
(406)755-9255
website: www.GUUF.org

twitter: @glacieruu
facebook: www.facebook.com/glacieruuf
Services begin at 10:00 a.m. Sunday mornings unless otherwise specified.



*Important
GUUF
Administrator and
Board of Trustees
Contact
Information*

Administrator's contact information: Paige checks her email regularly and will get back to you, guufadm@yahoo.com.

In addition, Monday-Friday, during the hours of 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. you may call or text her cell phone 406-253-7941; she tries to take Wednesdays off, but will respond when needed.

She is usually in the office **Monday, Thursday and Friday mornings**. If you need access to the building, please call and schedule a day and time in advance.

Please note that Paige will be on vacation from July 21st-31st. Please plan accordingly.

2017-2018 DEADLINES:

eBLAST = Monday morning;

ORDER of SERVICE = 12 p.m. Monday;

SUNDAY (oral) ANNOUNCEMENTS = Friday afternoon;

NEWSLETTER = the 15th of the month

As always, the sooner that you can get Paige your information the easier it is for her. If you do not get her information BY the above deadline it WILL NOT be included in said publication. Thank you for your understanding.

Glacier Unitarian Universalist Fellowship 2017-18 Board of Trustees

Dear GUUF members and visitors,

We are honored to serve as your board representatives. Please let us know what we can do to make our GUUF community even better.

Our GUUF Board of Trustees meets at 6:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month. Everyone is welcome. We also welcome your questions or comments anytime.

Officers:

Dan Kohnstamm, President

Guufprez2017@gmail.com

406-862-5528 (home)

Preference: *Email or call*

Sandra Alessi, Vice-President

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