



# High Plains News

“Building a liberal spiritual community that welcomes all to lives of wholeness”

March 2016

High Plains Church - Unitarian-Universalist

Vol 23, No 3

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## Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

The presence of your company is requested at one of two upcoming **Town Hall Meetings** hosted by the Strategic Planning Committee!

### Dates

### Times

### Locations

Sunday, March 13  
Tuesday, March 15

11:45 a.m.  
6:30 p.m.

HPCUU Sanctuary  
Connect from the comfort & convenience of home! Watch your e-mail for webinar instructions.

### Background:

The HPCUU Board of Trustees has asked the Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) to develop a Strategic Plan that will answer “What should our ministry look like in five years?” The Strategic Plans will address how HPCUU will transform lives and what major choices we need to make about how we will fulfill our mission. An important part of the strategic planning process is deciding what to do with our current facility. Specifically we need to answer the following questions:

1. Will our facility continue to meet our present and future needs?
2. If our facility will continue to meet our present and future needs, what key steps are needed to maintain and support our facility?
3. If our facility will not meet our present and/or future needs, what key steps are needed?

As part of developing answers to these questions, the committee will hold two **Town Hall Meetings** to elicit feedback from the congregation. These meetings are an opportunity for you to share **your vision** and **your ideas**!

If you have not already participated in a team or individual interview with the SPC, please be sure to attend one of these two meetings. Your input to this process is vital!

If you have any questions, please contact Kelley Ghorashi or Ann Harris, SPC Co-Chairs

## Events Calendar - March 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 Stitchers 9:30 am - 11:00 am Membership Team 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm	4 Parent/Child U&I 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm	5 Popcorn Theology 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
6 YRUU Youth Group 11:30 am - 1:30 pm	7 Navigators USA 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	8 Faith Formation Team 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	9 SGE Facilitators 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm	10	11	12
13 Foster Family Support 11:30 am - 1:00 pm YRUU Youth Group 11:30 am - 1:30 pm	14	15	16 Board Meeting 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm	17 Stitchers 9:30 am - 11:00 am Dignity Memorial 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm	18 Hip Parents Group 06:00 pm - 09:00 pm Pagan Ritual: Ostara 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	19 Issues on Aging 10:30 am - 12:00 pm
20 YRUU Youth Group 11:30 am - 1:30 pm	21 Navigators USA 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	22	23 Church Council Meeting 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	24	25	26
27 YRUU Youth Group 11:30 am - 1:30 pm	28	29	30	31		

Be sure to check the Events Tag on the website at [www.hpcuu.org](http://www.hpcuu.org) for additions and corrections to the calendar.

### March Services - Liberation

**March 6:** *"Building a New Way"*, Stewardship kickoff with Rev. Dana Lightsey. Our theme for the month of March is Liberation. How are we a people of Liberation? High Plains Church is a beautiful faith community that has been a beacon of light in this community for over 20 years. Now, with the help of each other, we are building a new way, guided by past successes and by our hopes and dreams for the future. Come share in these hopes and dreams as we look to our bright and exciting future together.

**March 13:** *"Growing Friends, Building Peace"* with Imam Kamel Elwazeir and Dana Lightsey. Come welcome Imam Kamel Elwazeir from the Islamic Society of Colorado Springs. Mr. Elwazeir will join Rev. Lightsey in discussing misconceptions of Islam and how we can work together to build peace in our broken and hurting world.

**March 20:** *"Ostara"* with Dianne McRae. A multi-generational celebration of Spring and rebirth from our Pagan heritage. Please join us for this interactive Pagan service in honor of this ancient holiday.

**March 27:** *"Draw the Circle Wide"*, Easter Sunday with Rev. Dana Lightsey. During this Easter-time of redemption, this service will celebrate the power of liberation through letting go. The power of letting go liberates us to experience life differently and try new things. Through letting go of old hurts, beliefs and old ways, we begin to draw the circle of our lives much wider enriching our lives with a greater experience of living. And, our own liberation brings new freedom to the world. Come, let us celebrate this new and amazing life within ourselves, together!



## Minister's Musings

by Rev Dana Lightsey

Growing up in the U.S., I always thought of myself as being free. I lived in the land of the free! But now I realize that freedom has many different meanings, and life has a way of wrapping us in invisible jail cells, whether or not we realize it.

What does it mean to be free, anyhow? What do we need to be free from? What do we want to be free to do? Allowing oneself to indulge in whatever one wants can easily lead to bad habits and maybe even addictions. The invisible bars begin to be constructed and before you know it, we are no longer free.

Our theme for the month of March is Liberation. How are we a people of Liberation? Liberation can only be known once you get there. It is a matter of emptying out, letting go, getting rid of. Instead, we can only look at all the ways we are not free and work to liberate ourselves. What is it for you? Bad habits? Addictions? Thoughts in your head that you just can't let go of? Financial difficulties? Illness?

In Buddhism, there is the notion of the second arrow. When we are wounded by the first arrow, (perhaps it is an insult or injury) we humans often send a second arrow into ourselves causing a second wound. This arrow is the story we tell ourselves that the first arrow shouldn't have happened in the first place.

It is full of the poisons of anger and blame. This is the wound that takes the longest to heal. This is the wound that keeps us a prisoner of our own oppression. What healing can you give yourself from a lifetime of second arrows? Are you ready to let go of those old injuries and allow the wounds to heal?

This makes me think of a great quote from our Soul Matters packet this month:

"True wisdom comes in understanding that sometimes, you are both the prison and the key." - Johnathan Jena

What key do you seek for your own liberation? Do you already have it in your possession? This month of liberation, we are invited to reassess our lives and reconsider the choices we make everyday that hold us back and keep us from living our most fulfilling lives. Christian author, Israelmore Ayivor, writes, "You have the right to suppress yourself, oppress yourself and depress yourself. You also have the right to impress yourself. And let yourself feel happy too!"

The key to your happiness is right there, hidden in your thoughts. Are you ready to turn the key?

In faith,  
Rev. Dana Lightsey

### *Have You begun the Conversation?*

Please Join Us For  
An Informational Workshop  
Your Life - Your Legacy: a Conversation About Memorial  
Arrangements  
Presented by Dignity Memorial  
Thursday, March 17, 2016 @ 6:30 pm



## Faith Formation

by Jessica Laike

Earlier this past month I was reminded of an anniversary of sorts. On February 6th Facebook reminded me that it had been 5 years to the day since I was in a car accident that completely altered the course of my life. I didn't know it at the time, but being hit by a drunk driver on the way home from watching the Super bowl at a friend's house in 2011 would turn out to be the catalyst for a complete change in my life.

The worst of my injuries showed up about 10 days later. I spent time in the hospital and then months recovering, but what came out of it all was the decision to take control of my life, move to Colorado, and finally pursue my calling to youth and family ministry through religious education.

While this accident set up the dominoes, it took a dear friend of mine to give me that first push. I am forever and eternally grateful to her for having the courage to tell me the hard truth I didn't want to hear – but so desperately needed. From that push came the first domino of moving to Colorado, then all the others fell into place, my lupus went into remission, I found a new community of love and support here and within 15 months of moving I found myself in a career in which I thrive and feel blessed every day. And best of all it was through my work at High Plains which I met my husband and the love of my life.

So now, 5 years later, as we move into our March theme of Liberation, I could not think of anything I could share that would be more fitting than this story of the liberation of my life, my body, and even my soul. Before this accident I was fully and completely stuck. Stuck in an unhealthy routine, waking up in a city I disliked, going to a job I hated, every day losing a bit more of myself in the process, but unable to see a way out. Sometimes when we get stuck, the only way to get out of the rut is to be pushed out, and I fully believe that when we really need it, the Universe will give us that push, though it may be difficult to see.

Looking back I have nothing but gratitude for this seemingly horrible accident, which totaled my car and left my body in agony (for a time); for rebirth, like liberation, is never easy, it is painful and frightening but also necessary. May we all be on the lookout for the places where liberation is needed. Whether it means telling a friend something they don't want to hear, or stopping to listen to what the Universe is trying to tell you...this month I hope we are all able to create a little more freedom, a little more liberation, for ourselves and the people in our lives.

In faith,  
*Jessica*

### What's Happening in Faith Formation?

Please note that this is not meant to be a comprehensive list of everything that has happened in the church in regard to Faith Formation, but instead to serve as a highlight reel of what is coming up in the next month.

<b>Feb 23 - March 3:</b>	Jessica on Vacation
<b>March 4 - 5:</b>	MDD Middle School Retreat in Boulder, CO
<b>March 5, 6:00 pm:</b>	Popcorn Theology for Young Adults - Monty Python and the Holy Grail
<b>March 8 - 11:</b>	Jessica at the MDD Liberal Religious Educators Association (LREDA) Retreat
<b>March 11 - 13:</b>	MDD Chaplain Training at Foothills UU in Ft. Collins, CO
<b>March 20:</b>	Ostara Multi-Generational Service
<b>March 26, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm:</b>	Easter Egg Dying Party
<b>March 27:</b>	Youth General Assembly Trip & 4th Sunday collection
<b>March 27, 11:15 am:</b>	Easter Egg Hunt for all children 3 - 12 years old (up to 5th grade)
<b>April 1 - 3:</b>	MDD Youth Advisor Training - hosted at High Plains

If you have a group which you believe works toward the goals of Faith Formation please contact Jessica at [dff@hpcuu.org](mailto:dff@hpcuu.org) about including your meetings on the monthly list of Faith Formation Programming events.

# All Ages Easter Egg Dying Party!

Join us on Saturday  
March 26, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm



Dying supplies provided –  
just bring your eggs!!



**Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 11:15 am!**

Join us on Sunday for fun and plenty of prizes for all –

Hunt for kids in 5<sup>th</sup> grade and below.

Please bring a basket if you have one.

A few extras will be available if needed.



## The President's Post

by Julie Feuerbach

When the congregation voted to enter into developmental ministry, it was with the understanding that this would be at least a 3-5 year process. Rev. Dana and the board initially agreed to a 3-year contract, with the understanding that this would be assessed periodically and could be modified. Now that we are at the half way mark of our original 3-year contract, Rev. Dana and the board have assessed our progress and have determined that we should extend our Developmental Ministry 2 additional years, for a total of 5 years. Thank you to all who were able to attend the February 21 board town hall meeting to discuss this decision. We appreciate the feedback and questions we received. We are very excited about the progress that has been made thus far, and we look forward to continuing our Developmental Ministry with Rev. Dana.

It's stewardship time! In the very near future, you will receive a mailing with information about this year's campaign. Please take the time to carefully read the stewardship materials. As you think about all the positive ways that High Plains Church impacts your lives and our community, I hope you will strongly consider increasing your pledge for the 2016-2017 church year.

At this month's board meeting, we did a brief self-evaluation to assess the board's progress with the goals we set for ourselves at the beginning of this church year. I am pleased to report that we are on track and have made nice progress toward achieving our goals. If you are interested in learning more about our specific goals and progress thus far, please feel free to contact me at [president@hpcuu.org](mailto:president@hpcuu.org). I would be happy to discuss this with you!

Faithfully,  
Julie

## March 6th is 2016-2017 Stewardship Sunday!

by Tom Ward, Stewardship Chair

Just a few days away is Stewardship Sunday, March 6th, when we will kick off our 2016-2017 stewardship campaign! Rev. Dana will offer an inspirational message from the pulpit, and following the service, we will enjoy a favorite-soup luncheon. At this time, we will have stewardship packets ready for all our members and active friends containing important information about the church's vision for the future and its financial picture plus a pledge form to be filled out and brought back or mailed back to the church. We will be asking everyone to return their forms by March 27th, which just happens to be Easter!

We've selected "Building a New Way" as our stewardship theme, a title that almost suggested itself, in view of the considerable work over recent months that has gone into church governance and strategic planning coupled with our decision to elevate Rev. Dana to the position of High Plains' full-time Developmental Minister. We are indeed building a new way -- laying the groundwork for a clearer, more efficient way of managing the church's affairs and collecting comprehensive information that will enable us to map out plans for future staffing, programs, and capital investments. Sadly, we have lost some long-time stalwart members of the church, mainly to moves out of the area, and we will have to fill the financial void their departure has left us, a development that materialized rather suddenly. We can meet this challenge, however, by digging just a little deeper in our pockets and redirecting just a modest fraction of that money we used to spend on gas, on the order of \$4 to \$8 per week, to the church. We hope you will see this as a reasonably painless way to surmount this "bump in the road."



## Fourth Sunday Donation

By Jessica Laike



Support our youth! This month the 4th Sunday Collection will be going to support our high school youth trip to the annual national gathering of Unitarian Universalists known as General Assembly (GA). This year GA is taking place in Columbus, OH and is centered around the theme “Heartland: Where Faiths Connect”. This General Assembly will be unlike any other in that it will be a gathering not only of UUs from around the world, but also of many different faith leaders seeking to explore how we can work together for social change in the world. It will be an incredible opportunity for our youth to hear from many different faith leaders as we explore our common values and collaborate on a common goal of peace and justice.

This will be our fourth consecutive year to bring youth to this event, and each year our single largest fundraiser is this 4th Sunday collection. The true cost of this trip comes out to between \$1000 and \$1200 per youth, which covers transportation, registration, accommodation and food. Needless to say the majority of our families would not be able to participate in this trip at this cost. It is our goal each year to keep the out of pocket cost for this trip to \$350 per youth or less, with additional scholarships and funds available for those youth with serious financial need. We are committed that **finances never be the reason a youth cannot participate in a church-sponsored trip or activity**, but in order to make this a reality, we need your help.

All funds raised in the month of March will be eligible for **matching by our national association** (the UUA), **up to \$500 per youth**. For the past 3 years we have been fortunate enough to receive some grants and scholarships from the UUA, and we are hopeful this year will be no exception. However, those grants and scholarships are dependent upon the level of congregational financial support we are able to show.

On **March 27th** you will have the opportunity to support our youth and this life-changing trip by giving during the 4th Sunday collection. Additional donations will also be accepted throughout the month, simply include “Youth GA Trip” on the memo line of your check and drop it off, or mail it, any time this month.

I want to leave you now with a few quotes from youth who have attended previous trips:

*“Attending GA made me realize I might want to be a military chaplain. I feel more connected to my faith than ever before.” - Kendra Burdick, after GA trip 2013*

*“Not only was this trip a part of my growth in historical learning, but I grew spiritually as well. It allowed me alone time, time with my fellow youth, time with the adults and time for self-reflection in between it all. I believe that this and other trips I have been on with my UU community have led me to my calling.” - Morgan Day, after GA trip 2014*

*“I think I might want to be a minister!” - shared by Dezerai Maul during GA 2015*

*“I think everyone will agree any expectations we might've had were far beyond met. Not only was the trip a great learning experience, it was fun, exciting, and created memories that will last a lifetime.” - Logan Bliss, after GA trip 2015*

## Appeal for New Ushers

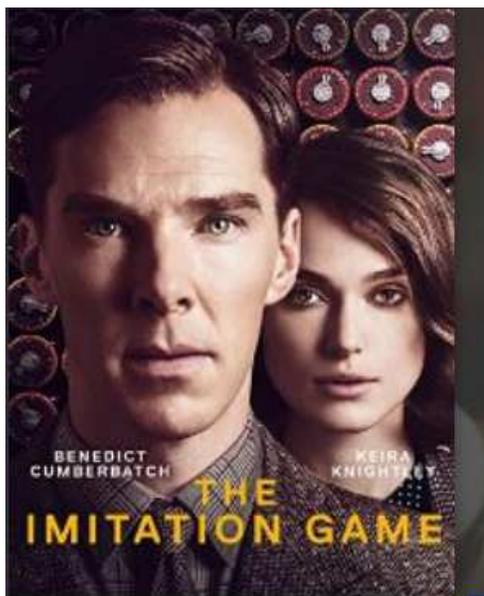
By Larry Sargent

The usher team for High Plains Church needs new people. We lost three ushers due to life circumstances, such as, moving closer to grand children, taking care of elderly parents, and others engaging in many additional activities. Ushers are needed for the 1st, 3rd, and 4th Sundays. There are no meetings to attend and when your schedule means you cannot be at church for your designated duty, alternates are available. If you are new to the church, this is a small step to become involved. Teens who attend the adult services are also encouraged to volunteer. If you are interested in helping with the usher duties, please contact Larry Sargent at [ushers@hpcuu.org](mailto:ushers@hpcuu.org) or 719-598-5949.

## Issues on Aging

By Betty Davis

Research indicates that being 69 and older is the happiest time of life because people in their 70s have more life experience and a better understanding of what makes them happy. So that's what we're going to talk about this month: How to discover what will make you happy; how to know if you're happy; and how to increase your happiness. Although, be warned, research has also shown that people who focus on trying to be happy are actually less happy than those who just go about their lives. Please join us on Saturday morning, March 19, from 10:30 am – noon in the middle school classroom for a light-hearted look at ourselves. Everyone, of any age, is welcome to attend.



## Movie Night, Friday, April 15, 2016 at 7:00 pm

By Beth Blakney Ingham

The Welcoming Congregation Team is hosting a movie night. The feature film is *The Imitation Game*. This movie was an 87th Oscar and 72nd Golden Globe Awards winner; and was the highest-grossing independent film of 2014.

The Imitation Game describes the real-life accomplishment of a British mathematician, Alan Turing, who with others tries to crack the enigma code, decrypting Germany's intelligence codes, during World War II. This historically based biography raises a moral dilemma regarding advance access to information and the "greater good," as well as documents the impact of being a gay man during that time. Rated PG-13.

Join us on Friday, April 15 at 7:00 pm at High Plains Church. Popcorn will be provided. If you would like, bring an appetizer or a dessert to share, and bring whatever you would like to drink. Childcare will be provided if you RSVP for it to [Welcoming@hpcuu.org](mailto:Welcoming@hpcuu.org).

## High Plains Stitchers

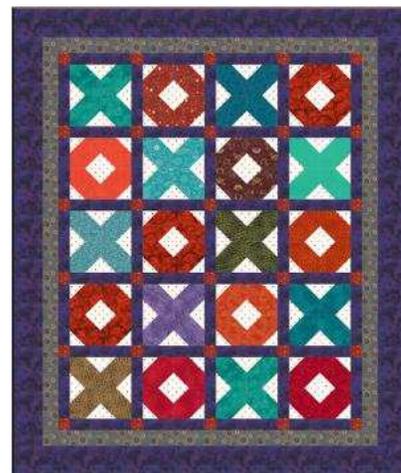
Bring your stitching project (knit, crochet, quilting, or any easily transportable craft) and join us at **Peak Place Coffeehouse!** The coffeehouse is located in a small shopping center on the NW corner of Academy and Montebello.

Our group mainly works on their own projects - but we also create blankets for members/friends suffering severe illness, undergoing surgery or experiencing a loss, and to welcome new babies :)

**Note - New Day and Time:** 1st and 3rd Thursdays from 9:30 am 'til 11:00 am.

Don't stitch? Why not come anyway and just "hang out" with us?

Questions: Contact Rosie Carpenter at [stitchers@hpcuu.org](mailto:stitchers@hpcuu.org).





## C's & D's – It's your turn to "HiP Snack" this month! ~ *March* ~

If your last name begins with **C** or **D**, please pick a Sunday this month and bring a snack for after the service:

Fresh fruit, crackers, cheese, fresh veggies w/ dip or hummus, chips, donuts, muffins, cupcakes, cookies, pre-popped popcorn, etc.

**NOTE:** No snacks will be needed on Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup> due to the **Stewardship Lunch!**

For questions, contact Ann Harris: [HiPSnacks@hpcuu.org](mailto:HiPSnacks@hpcuu.org)



The Fellowship Team is looking for **HiP Helpers!**

**HiP Helpers** will work with the Fellowship Team to put out snacks and then stick around after the service to make sure the Fellowship area is tidied up for the week.

You can be a **HiP Helper** once a year, once a quarter, once a month - whatever works for your schedule.

Adults, teens, families, couples, singles – all are welcome!

Look for the **HiP Helper** sign-up sheet on the Fellowship counter.



**HPCUU**  
1825 Dominion Way  
Colorado Springs CO 80918

High Plains Church 719-260-1080  
Unitarian Universalist

Member of Unitarian Universalist Association

Sunday Services at 10:00 AM

Come Join Us!

**Inside:**

**President's Post**  
**Stewardship Sunday**

**Send Comments to:** editor@hpcuu.org  
**Send Articles to:** newsletter@hpcuu.org

**Social Justice Movie Night**

**Please submit your articles for the April newsletter  
by March 26, 2016**

**Rev Dana's Hours:**  
Tue, Wed, Thu: 11:00 am - 3:00 pm  
Please don't hesitate to call her at 970-590-6978  
if there is a serious or emergency situation.

**Office Hours:**  
Mon, Thu: 8:30 am - 12:30 pm  
Tue, Wed, Fri: 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Contact the Publicity team at publicity@hpcuu.org if you would like to place an add in the HPCUU Newsletter.



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