



June 2021
Vol. 30 No. 3

HIGH PLAINS CHURCH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

NURTURE | INSPIRE | ACT

HIP HAPPENINGS



Rick Carpenter
HiPChurchUU
President

Dear beloved community,

We should all take a moment to relax, breathe, play and reflect on our progress as a congregation over the last couple of years. This congregation has made enormous progress in the implementation of our mission and our vision. We have improved the comm-

unication and financial aspects of our community.

This progress was driven by the view of this HPCUU congregation, interpreted by the board and implemented by our wonderful minister, staff, teams, committees, and task forces. We should all take a moment and applaud each other for these accomplishments.

The objectives for our next year will be to continue the progress that we have produced over the last several years in the financial and communication aspects of our community, while continuing our progress living into our vision and mission. We will also need to create a new relationship with our Unity collaborators, as they will be engaging a new minister and board of trustees.

Additionally, to ensure the continuity of this congregation, we must create a pool of leaders to drive the congregation into the future. The reinvigoration of the Shared Ministry Team is the first step toward building a robust beloved community.

Together we will move closer to our goal of fully living into our mission and vision. Have a wonderful summer!

Rick Carpenter
President, HPCUU Board of Trustees

**LEADERS SAVE THE DATE:
August 21 from 9am-3pm**

All leaders including Board of Trustees, Council, Shared Ministry Team, Core Team, and Staff are requested to attend the 2021-22 Leadership Retreat, Location TBD. Please mark your calendars and get ready to plan for the grand year ahead!

A note from Rev Julia:

I am currently on Study Leave, 3/4 time, and Vacation from June 21-Aug 3, 2021. During this time, I am relieved of standard ministry duties and will not be responding to email. In fact, there may be stretches of time when I am out of cell phone range and internet reception altogether.



Dawn, our wonderful Office Administrator will be responding to regular congregational needs at office@hpcuu.org. Or, you may contact our new Board President, Rick Carpenter, president@hpcuu.org. Gretchen Hein should be contacted for any use of Unity campus, pastpresident@hpcuu.org.

If there is a death or life-threatening emergency in your family, please contact 911 and then please leave me a message on my cell phone or send me a text. You may also contact Sonya Bergeron at candidate@hpcuu.org or careteam@hpcuu.org for pastoral care support and helpful resources in my absence.

I hope that each of you can find time to play and rest during this summer! I'm looking forward to coming back together in-person this fall. It will be so good to be together again. ❤️

WELCOME BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Rick Carpenter, President

My family found the UU faith when we were searching for a non-dogmatic church to help us provide a moral compass for our children. I found that the UU church provided a supporting, welcoming environment for me to explore my personal spiritual path. I am retired. I spent 35 years in engineering management in the communication and medical fields. I have served on boards for credit unions, churches and other non-profit organizations. The work of High Plains and our other liberal religious partners is key to confronting the tribal racism, hatred and intolerance that is tearing our country apart.

I am honored to be elected board president for HPCUU. The board is focused on implementing the will of our congregation to fight for a world of acceptance, tolerance, forgiveness and love.



Gretchen Hein, Past-President

My husband and I began our journey with Unitarian Universalism at All Soul's Church in Colorado Springs in the 1992 after Amendment 2 was passed. This was a ballot initiative passed by Colorado voters in 1992 that prohibited the state from enacting antidiscrimination protections for gays, lesbians, and bisexuals. I volunteered as the co-chair for the RE team for 2 years at All Soul's and we attended the first High Plains service in 1994.

We came back to High Plains in the late 1998 and signed the book in 2001. I have volunteered for Membership Team, chaired the Hospitality Team and chaired the Auction Team for 7 years. In 2018, the year we moved to the Unity campus, I volunteered to be an At-Large Member of the Board. As a Board member I headed up the Minister Search Team, I was our DRE's supervisor until Reverend Julia was hired and I was the Board Liaison for the Safety review done by some of our members. I became President Elect in July of 2019, and President in July of 2020. I've had the dubious honor of serving the congregation only on-line, because of the Pandemic. This year I will be Past President as I serve a 4th and final year on the Board of Trustees.

My career in education spanned 42 years, as an educator and administrator at the Middle School level until my retirement in June of 2018.



Danielle Jernigan, Secretary

I began attending HPCUU in 2015 after moving from Pennsylvania to Colorado. The seven UU Principles attracted me to High Plains, and my desire to promote them inspired me to serve on the Board. In March 2021 I will be completing my MS in health informatics and hope to become a nurse informaticist, using information technology to improve the lives of patients. When not busy, I love birdwatching, reading nonfiction, and walking with friends in the beautiful Colorado outdoors.



Sam Waller, Church Financial Officer

I am Sam Waller, a father, volunteer, and a defense professional who has lived in Colorado Springs for the last eight years. My wife is Marianne Sheldon, my children are Abel (23), Rowan (20) and Milo (13), and my dogs are River, Barley and Cody. My family has been a part of High Plains Church since we moved here and immediately decided that we wanted to be a part of this honorable group of caring, smart, flawed and loving human beings. The connections and lessons of our church have been so valuable to my family, and I am compelled to continue to help strengthen and grow this community that is so important today. I feel our outreach, education, and interfaith efforts are critical during this dynamic time in our nation's progress toward liberty and justice for all. I want to continue to be a part of this progress. I have learned a great deal about the complexities of church finances, and I want to continue working as your Church Financial Officer (CFO). With the advice and help of our tremendous Finance Committee, I know we can continue to strengthen and grow our financial capacity for a brighter future. I also know that beyond our talented Finance Committee, there are numerous vested members who are eager to ensure our precious church resources are protected and have been willing to help and support the fiscal and program goals of this wonderful church.



Vacant, President-Elect

If you would like to be a part of the exciting ministries rebuilding process High Plains has been working on these last 3 years, then the Board position of President-Elect is for you.

We are looking for someone who can join together with others in expanding the vision of High Plains, someone who can see the larger view... get to the heart of the matter... and do what you can in the current moment to build our dream. You must have been a member of High Plains for at least 2 years to apply.

The position of President-Elect is a 3 year commitment, the first year as President-Elect, second year as President, and the third as Past President. The first year is a mentoring and learning year as President-Elect.

Contact [Gretchen Hein](#) 2020-2021 Board President if you are interested, 719-291-3522.

Welcome to 2021-2022 Shared Ministry Team



Karen Clemmensen

I have been a member at HPCUU since moving to Colorado Springs in 2002. Before that I was a member of Eno River UU Fellowship in North Carolina. Ever since President Amy Plapp asked me to help out by addressing church newsletters, I have served as a member of the facilities task force, as President of the Board, as a member of our membership, fellowship, aesthetics, finance, stewardship and lay pastoral care teams and as at large member of the Board.

I have served on the Shared Ministry Team for two years now and have one more year on my term. I am a grandmother with 8 grandchildren. Four of them live with their parents about a mile from me. Two grand boys live with their parents in Maine. My only granddaughter is studying architecture in Utah and my oldest grandson and his wife also live in Utah.



Jill Forney

I have been a member of High Plains Church since moving to Colorado Springs in 2009 with my husband and two kids. I am a bit of a nomad who came to Colorado via Tennessee, Arizona, California, and seven other states and numerous cities before that.

I have a Master's degree in education and alternate between being self-employed and a stay-at-home mom. I attend High Plains Church for the community and friendships I have made there and to have a welcoming place where I am free to develop my own spirituality and sense of meaning. I serve the church because I believe that liberal religion and Unitarian Universalism is a force for good in our community and the world.



Deb Donley

Hi, all! I retired to the mountains west of Colorado Springs in 2014 and began coming to HPCUU with my brother Brent, a long-time member. I had spent years bouncing from one denomination to another, but felt as though I'd found my tribe as a UU.

My bachelor's degree is in music, and I worked as a certified veterinary technician, but my first and last love was training horses and helping their people, which I did for forty-two years. I have made lasting friendships at Hi Plains over the years—some of them even helped me write a book! Now I'd like to pay it forward. I look forward to learning from the talented folks already on the Shared Ministry Team.

HiPChurchUU Election Results:

Vote to Approve Bylaws: 50 yes 0 no 0 abstain

Vote to Approve Slate: 52 yes 0 no 0 abstain

Vote to Approve Budget: 50 yes 0 no 0 abstain

JULY 4 - NO SERVICE

Happy Independence Day! (literally!) No Zoom or in-person Worship today because we anticipate that you will be having a wonderful afternoon and evening with your friends and family on this independence holiday. Enjoy being independent! See you next week for our regular Zoom Service for the first of two explorations this month on the new 8th Principle!

JULY 11 – What is the 8th Principle?

Come and continue our anti-racism journey by exploring the UUA's proposed 8th principle. The principle reads, "We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: Journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions." Where did this 8th principle come from? What does it mean? What would it mean to adopt this principle? This service is coordinated and presented by our wonderful Multicultural Action Team (MCAT)!!

Please Note: Reflection Space will be suspended for June and July.

All services be on Zoom at 3:30 pm unless otherwise noted. [HPCUU Zoom Link](#)

JULY 18 – Pride Day!

This Sunday is traditionally reserved for LGBTQ+ Pride Festival in Colorado Springs. And, we had planned to "worship with our feet" this day by joining the parade downtown. Unfortunately it turns out that our city is not having a Pride festival due to extended COVID measures. SO, we are asking each of you to find some very specific way to celebrate and honor the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, and Queer people in your lives today. When you think about why we must still have a Pride Day, you might contemplate all the ways that denigration, exclusion, and killing of Queer folk continues to happen every day. Showing your love today is a great way to worship (...remember the word "worship" actually means "shaping worth"). May we take part in shaping the worth of ALL our LGBTQ+ family at HiPChurchUU and beyond! Please post to our FB and/or Instagram page a photo (if you have permission) of loving your Queer friends and family on this day.

JULY 25 – Digging Deeper Into the 8th Principle

Continue to deepen your understanding of the proposed 8th principle by exploring some of its key components: What is beloved community? What is spiritual wholeness? What does it mean to be accountable to anti-racism? This service is coordinated by the Multicultural Action Team (MCAT) and is a continuing conversation on the new 8th Principle.

Downloading the Zoom Update

[Zoom regularly provides new versions](#) of the Zoom desktop client and mobile app to release new features and fix bugs. We recommend upgrading to the latest version once it is available. You can also [check which version you're currently running](#). Go here to read more details. [Zoom Update](#)

The General Assembly affirmed these Actions of Immediate Witness

- [Defend and Advocate with Transgender, Nonbinary, and Intersex Communities \(PDF\)](#)
- [The COVID-19 Pandemic: Justice. Healing. Courage \(PDF\)](#)
- [Stop Voter Suppression and Partner for Voting Rights and a Multiracial Democracy \(PDF\)](#)

[The Statement of Conscience \(SOC\): Undoing Intersectional White Supremacy \(PDF\)](#)



Heather Southard
Faith Formation
Coordinator

Last year at this time, Faith Formation youth were busy making magic wands, wondering which Hogwarts House was theirs, and brewing up some special potions. Our youth had a great time at the High Plains School for MUUg-gles, even though they had to listen to torturous Harry Potter puns. We finished summer session in August with a Harry

Potter themed worship.

Since we were in the midst of a pandemic, and secular school was a great unknown, we decided to take a break for the month of September. The move out of the Fillmore Center was finalized and we needed time to rethink the program. My team and I decided it would be best to focus on community, fun, and self-care. This called for our program to turn towards once a month fun activities, with as much in-person gatherings as the impeding circumstances around us would allow. During this time we went to a pumpkin patch, hiked Helen Hunt Falls, had 2 movie nights, played mini-golf, tackled indoor climbing walls, and played video games.

Our two main events were a successful Holiday Bazaar with lots of shopping, gift wrapping, and holiday card making for the whole community. The hand crafted holiday cards were then passed out during the drive through for holiday worship. We also learned about the services offered by The Place, our local homeless youth shelter. Faith Formation collected the February offering, and with the \$740 raised, we were able to purchase blankets, bed sheets, gift cards, and candy for use across multiple programs at the shelter. I am so honored with the amount of blessings we were able to share with those of our community in need.

We also started a community connection activity to bring companionship around to our community members in a time of solitude. We sent The Bee and Beads of Kindness around on a journey, and then later added some Gnome friends on a journey as well.

These Kindness tours have helped people feel closer in community with some warm smiles and laughter.

It has been a year of changes and learning to adapt to these constant demands of flexibility. I have gone through a few different trainings to educate myself on how best to support the youth and this community through pandemic times. We tried YRUU youth group and RE classes online, but both were communities that needed in-person human interaction. My trainings helped me learn how to support our kids in both environments while helping them feel cared for.

We are coming together in the Fall with a new Faith Formation program I hope everyone will love. It will be a year of movement, dirty hands, and loving hearts. We are not yet through with this pandemic, but it has been a year of learning and coming together stronger as community. Moving forward, no matter what it looks like, I know that I have the strength and support of a village to see us through.

In love and support,
Heather Southard

Save the Date!

Faith Formation Social:

Saturday, July 10th, 2021 from 1-4 pm
Let's Celebrate Summer! Swimming and
splashing in the sun!

Location TBD.

Open to Parents and Youth in K-12!

Adult Faith Formation

Bereaved Parents USA

July 28, 6:30 pm

Together we celebrate the lives of our children, siblings, and grandchildren, sharing the joys and the heartbreaks as well as the love that will never fade. Together, strengthened by the bonds we create, we offer what we have learned from one another to every bereaved family, no matter how recent or long ago the death. Register here: [Sonya Bergeron](#).



Summer Time Fun at Lost Island **NEW DATE!**

Saturday, July 24th, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Summer is around the corner and the Fellowship Team is planning an all-church event to play mini-golf at Lost Island. A night out that you won't want to miss!

Enjoy a round of golf or meet your friends to have a beverage and a snack. The Tiki Bar serves a variety of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks as well as snacks and ice cream. You might remember a winter get-together there in the evening. What a great time we all had. Warmer temps and daylight hours will be even better!

Prices for 18 holes of golf: Ages 13-54: \$6.00, Ages 12 and under or 55 and over: \$5.00

Lost Island Adventure Park, 1825 Dominion Way 80918. Questions:

Fellowshipfun@hpcuu.org. **(Virtual Ice Cream Social and Game Night - CANCELLED)**

ALL-CHURCH SUMMER FUUNday & PICNIC

August 22nd, 11:00 am

BLACK FOREST REGIONAL PARK

It's time to celebrate the start of our new church year with some post-pandemic outdoor fun!

On Sunday, August 22nd, High Plains Church UU is throwing an all-church FUUNday & Picnic at Black Forest Regional Park and we hope everyone can come!

We will gather in Pavillion#1 at Black Forest Regional Park from 11 am – 4:30 pm – stay as long as you wish! Your Fellowship Team has rented a shaded pavilion and will provide grilled hot dogs along with all the condiments and paper goods needed for our group. We are asking you to bring:

- a side dish, snack item, or dessert to share,
- non-alcoholic beverage(s) for yourself (alcoholic beverages not permitted),
- lawn chair(s),
- sunscreen,
- musical instrument/games/outdoor toys (eg frisby, tennis/pickleball raquets, volleyball net, horseshoes, a favorite board game, etc) ... or whatever you need to enjoy a fun day in the park!

Black Forest Regional Park has ample parking with handicapped access, restroom facilities with running water, grassy playing fields, 3 horseshoe pits, a basketball court, two tennis/pickleball courts, a

large children's play structure, and over 3 miles of groomed hiking trails. You'll also enjoy pretty front range views and plenty of natural shaded areas near the pavilion where you can sit and visit.

Black Forest Regional Park is located at 4800 Shoup Road, Colorado Springs 80909. From I-25, take exit 153. Go north on Hwy 83 to Shoup Road; turn east on Shoup and continue 2.5 miles to Miram Road. Turn north into the park. The second parking area (just past the lot for horse trailers) will be closest to Pavillion #1.

Note that this FUUNday & Picnic will be held rain or shine and will replace the church service on Sunday, August 22nd.

For more information, or if you will require transportation, please contact

Fellowshipfun@hpcuu.org

SEE YOU AUG 22nd FOR A FUUNday IN THE PARK!!



When I visited Mark and Margie, I was so impressed by Mark's rehabilitation I asked him to share an update with us. ~ Rev. Julia

“On June 3, 2020 I rode my bicycle off trail and hit a boulder. To this day I do not know why I went off trail but I did. I was fortunately saved by a Captain who happened to command a medical detachment at Fort Carson. The next thing I remember was waking up at Memorial Hospital Main after nine hours of surgery. I had broken my neck and severed my spinal column. I spent about a month at the hospital before returning home. While I was at the hospital, I did get both physical and occupational therapy.

For several weeks, I could only eat ice chips as I was not able to take normal food and I had to regain my ability to swallow food.

My daughter looking for outpatient assistance contacted the VA hospital in Aurora Colorado. The doctor recommended that I become an inpatient and within three days I became a patient the VA hospital. The hospital spinal column center is relatively new. During three months, I was given unbelievable care and assistance. Although I left the hospital in December the assistance continues to this day. I go to the hospital on a weekly basis where the therapy continues. I recently was able to stand from a sitting position and took a few steps. It was a great feeling. I hope my recovery will continue.

Some random observations and thoughts:

Bicycle riding can be dangerous.

Wear a bicycle helmet. Despite being paralyzed the bicycle helmet saved my head from serious injury. Many of the patients at the spinal column clinic resulted from bicycle accidents.

It is ironic that after many miles on a bike and being safety conscious, I still could not avoid a serious injury.



Although my life has changed radically, I consider myself to be extremely fortunate. It could have happened at a younger age, I was not breathing when rescued but the hospital was very close to the accident site. I received excellent care in the hospitals, it could have been much worse.

Although my legs and arms are paralyzed, I have avoided serious injury to my head, my caregivers are empathetic and I couldn't ask for better. My family has provided unbelievable ongoing support. And finally my room is a sunroom affording beautiful views of our property.

Thank you, Reverend Julia, Julie and Greg Dufford, Barbara Mitchell, and Ann Harris for your visits, kindness and help.”

Mark has been an inspiration and welcomes your calls and visits.

Coffee Morning

July 9th, 10:00 am

Second Friday of the month, July 9th from 10-11 am
Pikes Perk Coffee & Tea House, 5965 N Academy Blvd.

Join us for coffee and a visit. This is a time to catch up and be in community for a bit over a cup of coffee and a yummy treat – ALL WELCOME! Pikes Perk is a BI-POC-owned business. Hope to see you there!



In-Person Happy Hour

July 30th, 5:00 pm

On the last Friday of July, we will be meeting in the private party room at 1350 DISTILLING, 520 E Pikes Peak Ave, Colorado Springs, CO 80903. This will be a hybrid Happy Hour so if you aren't able to meet up in person you can still join the Friday night fun in the church Zoom room. There will be a food truck on site and the distillery is kid-friendly (no dogs please). We hope you will join us!



Friday Night Happy Hours - Virtual

Fridays, 5:00 pm

Grab your favorite adult beverage and join us for Happy Hour EVERY Friday evening from 5-6 pm. This is a lively, fun, and purely social time to get together over Zoom. See you then! Join us in the [HPCUU Zoom Room](#). ID: 719 260 1080, Password: 25Years!

Save the Date for the 2021 HPCUU Auction!
Harvest Hoedown
Online Silent Auction: Oct. 17 to Oct. 23
Party & Live Auction: Sat. Oct. 23 at 5:30 pm
Black Forest Community Center

NEW TO YOU!
Click here to Shop Now!

Join Us On Zoom

Sundays at 3:30pm join our live Online Service!

[HPCUU Zoom Room](#)

<https://zoom.us/j/7192601080>,
Meeting ID: 719 260 1080, Pass-
word: 25Years!
(Password is case sensitive)

Or by phone: +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
Meeting ID: 719 260 1080

Once you are in our Zoom personal meeting room, there will be a message about waiting to enter. Our admin will let you out of the waiting room when the service starts. We will record services for later play on YOUTUBE with the link sent by email distribution.



Join the Conversation!



[Facebook.com/HighPlainsCUU](https://www.facebook.com/HighPlainsCUU)



[Instagram.com/hpchurchuu/](https://www.instagram.com/hpchurchuu/)



[Soul Matters](#)



HPCUU GROUP

[Facebook.com/HipDiscussionGroup](https://www.facebook.com/HipDiscussionGroup)

Rev. Julia's Summer Schedule

June 21-27: Study Leave to Attend Ministry Days and General Assembly
June 27th: Denver Pride
June 28th – July 4: 1/4 time off week
July 5 – Aug 2: Vacation

Office Hours

Dawn is taking most of July off, but she will still be responding to voicemail and emails to the church. She prefers to be contacted by email or voicemail left on the church phone (719-260-1080). If you need to speak to her directly please use this [calendar](#) to make an appointment for a phone, Zoom, or face-to-face meeting.



HPCUU
 1945 Mesa Road
 Colorado Springs, CO 80904

Member of Unitarian Universalist Association
 Sunday Services at 3:30 pm

Come Join us!

HiP Board

Rick Carpenter, President

President@hpcuu.org

Gretchen Hein, Past President

PastPresident@hpcuu.org

Vacant, President-Elect

PresidentElect@hpcuu.org

Danielle Jernigan, Secretary

Secretary@hpcuu.org

Sam Waller,

Church Financial Officer

CFO@hpcuu.org

Office: 719.260.1080

www.hpcuu.org



[Facebook.com/highplainscuu](https://www.facebook.com/highplainscuu)



[Instagram.com/hpchurchuu](https://www.instagram.com/hpchurchuu)

All submissions for the newsletter must be received by the 23rd of each month. Please send to communications@hpcuu.org.

Office Hours:

Sunday: 3pm–5pm
 Phone calls and emails
 answered during week day hours.

Bookkeeper's Hours

Mondays, 10 am – 2 pm

Rev. Julia's Hours

Tuesdays – Thursdays, Noon – 9pm

In an effort to live more deeply into the reality of beloved community, we will be offering a small space in the newsletter each month for members and friends to share important milestones in their lives. If you have something important happening personally that you would like the congregation to know about, please submit a small 2– 3 sentence note about it by the 23th of each month to communications@hpcuu.org.

Interested in placing an ad in next month's newsletter? Email: communications@hpcuu.org

ReVISIONS by Jonathan

Specializing in Creative Home Improvements – Where ideas Become Reality

Do you need something in your world — fixed, added, or removed?

Projects include: Carpentry, Electrical, Plumbing, Painting, Plastering, Dry walling, Tiling, and many more... Decks, Kitchens, Basements, Bathrooms, Windows, etc.

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