



August 2021
Vol. 28 No. 8

HIP HAPPENINGS

MINISTER'S MUSINGS...



Rev. Julia McKay
HiPChurchUU
Minister

If you are on Facebook and have seen any of my photos, you know that I have been spending as much of this last month out in our Colorado wilderness as possible.

I especially hope you were able to catch my “Morning Moose Meditation.” This magical experience was the result of sitting patiently and quietly

in my kayak for about 30 minutes on the water’s edge in the early morning. Nestled in the marsh close to the shore, I had been told that a moose can swim faster than you can paddle. So, the moment when that strong, glorious creature came out of the brush, saw me, and froze – directly staring into my eyes – was a moment of communion in which I reassured him that I was no threat (*my breath running short and my heart pumping all the more wildly*). He seemed to get the message, because soon he went back to munching comfortably on the tender grasses growing out of the mountain lake.

For me, this kind of intimate relationship with the more-than-human-others in our eco-region is a sacred experience. It is true that if one is still long enough, slowly the wild shows up in all of its glory. This is true for our own souls as well. If we sit still long enough, the truth of our wild nature rises to the surface for us to witness in all of our glory. (*And, sometimes this can also cause our breath to catch and our heart to pump fiercely*).

Experiencing a connection to the soul of the world by listening and responding to the creatures and



places around us is what the 7th Principal is all about. I consider it a mystical experience.

Victoria Loorz, co-founder of what is named “the Wild Church Network,” says this:

“Once upon a time, our ancestors knew they were intimately connected to the land. Some of our contemporaries still know this. And some of us have forgotten... that the hawks and soil and thunder and oak trees are kindred spirits with whom we live together in sacred relationship.”

“Earth groans for our full re-engagement as participants in what Thich Nhat Hanh called the web of interbeing. As the systems of our culture and planet are unraveling, this moment in time is a call to remember that we belong to an inter-connect[ed] web of life, a love story of relationship with an animate and alive world.”

She asks: *“What if we really knew that we belong to a beloved community that exists beyond our species?”*

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It is true that we are at a turning point on our planet (have been for many years, really). What **do** we imagine we can do to restore our relationship with the earth and all her beings?

I think the first thing is to get outside and get into nature -- however you can, as often as you can. Begin to sit quietly. Wait patiently. Be willing to be surprised. Imagine the earth as our church. And then, imagine we are in covenant with this place – making promises that we can keep into the future, renewing the promises we have broken in the past.

This is a kind of covenant of being – of becoming fully human in a time when our humanity has been so compromised. When we are in relationship with ourselves and all that is around us this way, we cannot destroy. We can only imagine uplift, offer hope, and persevere.

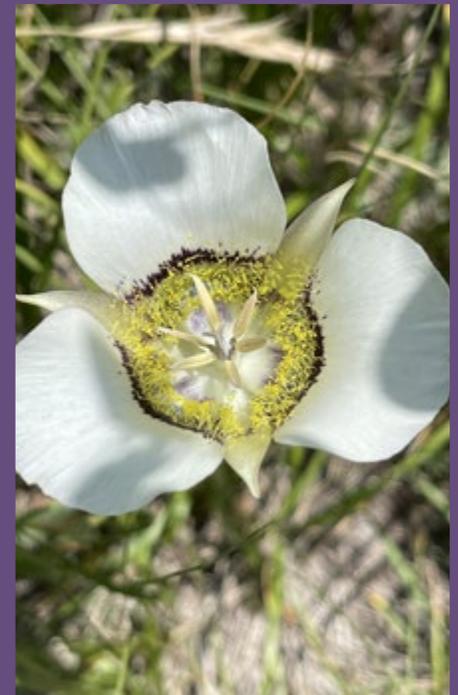
We have been so cloistered and separated from one another this past year. So, let us each get out and do something – anything -- to feel more human again. Being in nature this way brings renewal, rest, and rejuvenation. Nature's vast beauty dwarfs our difficulties and can bring us back into a state of well-being.

So, please do not let this 2021 summer end without getting out somehow -- even if it is to listen to the crickets in your own backyard while you gaze at the night moon! I look forward to seeing you each at the outdoor picnic on August 22nd. Please invite a friend or two to join us.

And let each of us, in turn, help one another to serve with faithfulness the well-being of this world.

WELCOME BACK!!

REV J



Worship Services

AUGUST 1 – The Buddha’s teaching of the Divine Abidings - loving-kindness, compassion, sympathetic joy, and equanimity.

According to Buddhist philosophy, our basic nature is good and pure. Though sometimes our basic nature of goodness is overshadowed by one or more of the three poisons, which are ill-will, greed, and ignorance. The Buddha taught that cultivation of the divine abidings is a way to uncover our basic goodness that is already present - creating a friendliness with others and most importantly, a friendliness with ourselves. Join us to explore how the intentions of loving-kindness, compassion, sympathetic joy, and equanimity can be transformative. Sonya Bergeron, Ministerial Candidate speaks.

AUGUST 8 – The Pressure of Perfection

Culture is powerful precisely because it is ever-present while at the same time appearing somewhat innocuous. Cultural characteristics can be damaging when they are used as norms and standards without being proactively named or chosen by a person or a group. As we return from summer fun and games, we have been witness to a powerful demonstration of exiting cultural expectation by a U.S. Olympian to care for herself. What grand messages are in this rare experience for all of us – especially at this juncture in our nation’s history? Rev J speaks

AUGUST 15 – Serving With Grace -- Leadership as a Spiritual Practice

People come to church for many reasons: for a sense of belonging, to connect with others, to make a difference and find a way to serve. But just as often, people come to religious/ethical/spiritual community to have their lives transformed. Imagine if the practical work of the church was understood as not a “necessary evil” but an integral part of the mission of the church to spiritually nurture us? As people at HiPChurchUU have embraced this idea, the deep joy and profound aspects of leadership have come to light for many of our lay volunteers. Sometimes people who have not thought themselves to be “leaders” have grown their personhood in ways they never knew were possible. As it turns out, church is a great place to practice being someone or something new! Come explore as Rev J and HiP leaders reflect.

AUGUST 22 – SUNDAY FUUN-DAY in the Park!

Please note that this event will take the place of formal worship this afternoon.

It’s time to celebrate the start of our new church year with some outdoor fun! Join us for this all-church picnic at BLACK FOREST REGIONAL PARK. Your Fellowship Team has rented the large shaded Pavilion #1 from 11 am – 4:30 pm – but you can stay as long as you wish! This is a safe way for us to gather, see each other after 15 months apart, and share some good food. (Please mask if you feel more comfortable that way and remember to ask before you hug!) There will also be plenty of games to play. Please see the full blurb on page ? of this newsletter, and plan to bring something to contribute to the meal. For more information, or if you need help finding transportation, please contact fellowshipfun@hpcuu.org.

AUGUST 29 – Unlocking the Power of Covenant

It has been said that human beings become human by making commitments. A covenant is a mutual promise between individuals or groups -- to stay in relationship, care about each other, and work together in good faith. It is a way to seek the good of the whole right along with your personal good. As one of the flagship ministries of our church, our Covenant Groups are spaces in which we practice loving each other and willingly staying at the table again and again (even in difficulty). Our small group ministry is most probably one of the reasons HiPChurchUU faired so well through this time of pandemic and cultural strife. Rev J and Covenant Group leaders reflect. Additionally, fall is the best season to join a covenant group for the first time or shift to a new group to deepen friendships with other folx if you so choose.

2021-2022 Worship Themes

September: Embracing Possibility

October: Cultivating Relationship

November: Holding History

December: Opening to Joy

January: Living with Intention

February: Widening the Circle

March: Renewing Faith

April: Awakening

May: Nurturing Beauty

June: Celebrating Blessings

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



Rick Carpenter
HiPChurchUU
President

Dear beloved community,

I hope your summer has been filled with family, friends and of course, food.

The July Sunday services have been reduced to allow some well-earned respite for our Worship Team and minister. Many thanks to the MCAT for producing the two Sunday explorations of the

creation, reason, and explanation of the potential 8th UU Principle in July.

In-Person Sunday Service Update

Resuming safe in-person Sunday services requires a significant amount of time, money, and effort. In order to allow time to complete the reopening tasks, September 12, 2021, was selected as a target to resume in-person Sunday worship several months ago. The board and minister are evaluating that date weekly and will promptly inform all members of any change to that date.

We are using all of the information we have available to inform our in-person Sunday service decision.

Our first source of information is input from the congregation. The results from the surveys you have completed (Thank you to all who filled those out!) inform us that almost all of our congregation is vaccinated. From the surveys we also learn that, although most of us would like to return to in-person services, many would like the online option to continue. Our worship team and technical team are researching techniques to allow HiPChurchUU to offer dual-platform Sunday services. Those teams are also faced with learning Unity's new AV system at the same time! Thank you to both teams for all that they do for us.

The second source of information used is the CDC recommendations on gatherings for different group sizes. At the moment, the recommendation is to allow

in-person meetings of vaccinated members with masks. We are tracking this information to see how the Delta COVID variant might change those recommendations. We are also wrestling with our ability to provide Sunday services to our unvaccinated members.

The third information source that we are tracking is the COVID status in El Paso County. At the moment, more than 55% of county residents are fully vaccinated, but the infection and positivity rates are increasing. Ouch! If those trends do not reverse, the date for reopening may have to move.

Looking forward to seeing all of you at the congregation picnic on August 22nd at Black Forest Regional Park.

Rick Carpenter
President, HiPChurchUU 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!



Heather Southard
Faith Formation
Coordinator

Today I share with you, my beloved community, the important lesson I am living right now. This may sound cliché and it has been said in many different ways, but I will share with you this lesson that is on my heart. LOVE is the most important thing in life and it is what feeds my soul. On July 4th, my mom passed away suddenly, and I

miss her dearly. My love for her now flows forth as grief. Grief is a deep expression of love for something that is no longer physically tangible. My Mom raised me to care for and help those around me. She taught me the importance of love. At the end of life, the only things that matter are all centered around love – Did I love deeply enough? Did others love me? Will the true worth of my soul, when my body is gone, be how much love I received and how much love I shared? Love is all there is in the end. Love brings in hope that not all whom we lose are ever truly gone from our hearts. May all who mourn for the loss of someone or something they loved deeply, know that love will always be there for them.

As we think ahead to the next cycle of Faith Formation classes, we will also be talking about love. For our program, we will be looking at ways to say yes to loving life, ourselves, and the world around us. I want us to explore and learn together what it is that feeds our souls. In Faith Formation our youth will be exploring their passions, playing with various techniques of self-care, honoring different paths to spiritual practice, and enjoying some nature bathing in the great outdoors of Colorado Springs.

This summer we have been focusing on the theme of Play. July's Social get-together had our kids all splashing in the pool and celebrating friendships. On August 7th, from 1-3 pm we will also be splashing around in the water at the John Venezia Community Park splash pad. All youth in grades K-12th and



their parents are invited to join us. I hope all of our youth are having a carefree summer before getting back to school later on this month. Keep watching the weekly eblasts for more information about our ongoing activities and upcoming Fall program. We are planning some wonderful times ahead.

[Please start by registering your youth for the upcoming Fall program.](#)

Building Love and Community,
Heather Southard

Adult Faith Formation

Bereaved Parents USA

August 25th, 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](#).

ALL-CHURCH SUNDAY FUUNDAY & PICNIC

Black Forest Regional Park Sunday, August 22nd 11 am – 4:30pm



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

On Sunday, August 22nd, HiP Church 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. Please bring:

- A side dish, snack item, or dessert to share
- Lawn chair(s)
- Sunscreen
- Musical instrument/games/outdoor toys whatever you need to enjoy a fun day in the park with your church friends!

Black Forest Regional Park has ample parking with handicapped access, restrooms, 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 lovely mountain views and plenty of natural shaded areas near the pavilion where you can just relax and visit.

DIRECTIONS: 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 equestrian lot) 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 need help finding transportation, please contact fellowshipfun@hpcuu.org.

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



Coffee Morning

Friday, August 13th, 10:00 am

Pikes Perk Coffee & Tea House, 5965 A Academy Blvd.

Join your HiP friends for coffee and a visit every second Friday of the month. 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 BIPOC-owned business. Hope to see you there! Questions? Contact fellowshipfun@hpcuu.org.



New to YUU Shoppe – CLOSEOUT SALE!!

HPCUU's New to YUU Shoppe (NTY) will be shutting down on September 1st and for the month of August most items are being sold at drastically reduced prices! Don't miss out on some great treasures at new bargain basement prices! To see everything available and to shop, [CLICK HERE](#).

All proceeds from sales in the NTY Shoppe support High Plains Church UU and its mission to: **NURTURE a loving community, INSPIRE spiritual growth, and ACT for social justice!**



Harvest Hoedown

Online Silent Auction: Oct. 17 to Oct. 23

Party & Live Auction: Sat. Oct. 23 at 5:30 pm

Black Forest Community Center



Harvest Hoedown - Help Wanted!

Your 2021 Auction Team is looking for volunteers to help plan an in-person Harvest Hoedown celebration! We'll need a few creative party planners as well as worker bees to set-up/tear-down, organize carpools, coordinate a potluck dinner, decorate the party room, provide technical assistance, and tend the bar.

Please reach out to fundraisers@hpcuu.org and let us know if you would like to be part of the Planning Committee or if you can lend a hand on party night. The Harvest Hoedown Party will be the biggest all-church event of the year, held at Black Forest Community Center on the evening of October 23rd. You won't want to miss it! Yeehaw!



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 Schedule

August 3rd – Back from vacation
Aug. 30th – Sept 7th - Quarter time week off
(Includes Labor Day - Natl. Holiday)

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

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[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

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