

The Voice of Our Fellowship

a progressive religious tradition in southeastern Idaho

*"Search for truth and meaning. Connect in beloved community.
Stand together on the side of love."*

Pocatello Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

strives to be Southeast Idaho's welcoming, open-minded religious voice for all who value spiritual inquiry and reason, and all who act for compassion and social justice.

**Diverse beliefs; one dynamic faith.
Everyone is Welcome**

309 N. Garfield Avenue, Pocatello
(UCC church, corner N. Garfield and Lander)
208-233-2602

Worship Services are on the first, third & fifth Sunday of each month at 4 p.m.

Traditional potluck dinner follows the third Sunday service.

Appetizer hour [linger longer] follows the first and fifth Sunday service.

Lay-led service takes place on fifth Sundays at 4 p.m.

Linger longer appetizer hour follows service.

Children's Religious Exploration (CRE)

Children's RE activities for ages 4 to 12.

Child care for toddlers and infants offered during service with pre-arrangement.

President: Jeff Shelton

Vice President: Jennifer Attebery

Secretary: Mark Neiwirth

Treasurer: Richard Feuerborn

Director at Large: Mark Roberts

Director at Large: Becky Hardy

Past President: Ann Swanson

Pastor: Jennifer Peek

Minister: minister@pocatellouu.org

President: president@pocatellouu.org

Newsletter: newsletter@pocatellouu.org

PUUF Office: office@pocatellouu.org

Website: www.pocatellouu.org

Facebook: [Pocatello Unitarian
Universalist Fellowship](https://www.facebook.com/PocatelloUnitarianUniversalistFellowship)

**December's Theme:
Hope**

December Service Announcements

December 3, "Sustainable Hope in an Era of Cynicism with Pastor Jenny Peek"

December's Fellowship Theme is Hope. When we embrace hope as an action verb, what may we accomplish? Pastor Jenny will share on the meaning, purpose and sources of hope.

December 17, "Festival of Lights"

Join us for our annual celebration of world religions during the holiday season. The festivities begin with the service at 4pm, with presentations and candle lighting saluting traditions of Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. A potluck holiday



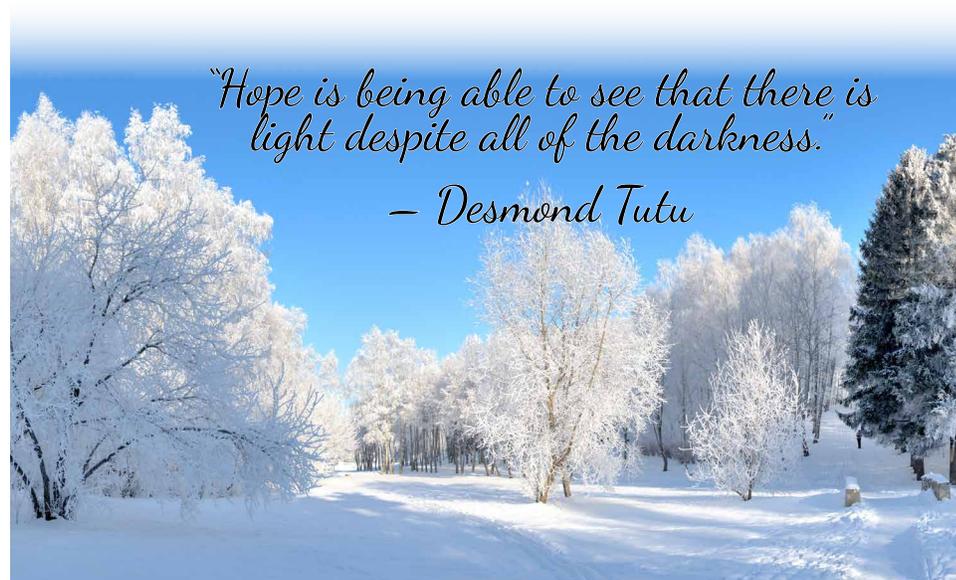
feast with more music and festivities will start at 5:15 in Pilgrim Hall.

PUUF Aspirational Covenant

"May we be a compassionate religious community built on love and justice, exploring and celebrating the mysteries of life with reason, reverence, and courageous doubt. With conscious action, we can be the change we wish to see in the world."

"Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness."

– Desmond Tutu



PUUF has been officially recognized by the UUA as a Welcoming Congregation since 2011. PUUF membership is open to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning (LGBTQ) people, and to anyone else, regardless of religious background or ethnicity. Visit www.pocatellouu.org and see the 'About Us' page for more details.

**PUUF is a Welcoming
Congregation**

Pastor's Corner

What does December mean for you, dear members and friends of this Fellowship? For me, this December especially is carrying a message of hope—powerful and transformational. I find here at PUUF a congregation of people who hold the heart of this progressive, liberal faith in Pocatello and who understand what it takes to put flesh on their dream and be that beacon of hope for all who need it. We are getting to know each other, and we have rolled up our sleeves and done some great work in our shared ministry. I have enjoyed participating in PUUF's Adult Religious Exploration. The stand-alone classes reflect the diverse interests and knowledge of its participants, who share the work of facilitating discussions. For our youth and children's religious education, and by availing ourselves of the webinars offered by the Pacific Western Region of the Unitarian Universalist Association, we learned that all across the country congregations are finding new ways to meet the changing needs of our families. For this reason, our Board approved intergenerational services and a Full Week of Faith curriculum. This new approach to living our faith beyond the walls of Sunday services is in development, so watch for details in the coming weekly email updates, Facebook, and our website. This concept of finding ways to be in fellowship

beyond Sunday afternoons has guided other new ideas. For one, 'Get-Together Thursdays' at Elmer's Restaurant has become a fun way to meet and talk over beverages or a meal. Your Membership Committee also has launched a meetup group for Pocatello UUs and Friends, with spontaneous and very fun activities to do together. And always, I am learning, members and friends of the Fellowship are in community every day, bringing their Unitarian Universalist values and principles to life in their workplaces and in their volunteer activities. At the time of this writing, I am looking forward to the first for me but longstanding tradition for PUUF of the Alternate Gift Market. In a few short weeks I will get to experience firsthand your Festival of Lights! Also I'm anticipating the Portneuf Valley Interfaith Fellowship's Community Thanksgiving Service. And also! There is the Encampment on December 2nd-3rd, where volunteers spend a night outside to raise awareness—and funds—for ending homelessness in Pocatello. The coming weeks hold so much opportunity, that the question is not so much "what is there to do" as it is "how to pace oneself"! Yes, for me this December especially carries a message of hope, and how appropriate it is that Hope is our ministry theme for the month. I look forward to exploring its depth and meaning and power for all of us, together.

In peace,

Pastor Jenny

Call for Supper Hosts

Diane Michel will host a small potluck Friday, December 8th at 6pm. There is room for 3-5 more people. Please let Diane know if you would like to come. dj.michelswc@gmail.com (402)619-6651 Please consider hosting a small potluck supper as part of a series of Meet the Minister Suppers, to be held throughout the fall and winter at intervals that fit with hosts' and Pastor Jenny Peek's schedules. Jenny looks forward to meeting over a potluck evening meal with groups of 5-7 members and friends each to hear their stories, joys, and concerns. Suppers can be set on any evening (not necessarily week-ends). To volunteer, please contact Jenny Peek (jpeek64@gmail.com) or Mark Neiwirth (neiwmark@isu.edu) providing a couple of possible days/times.

PUUF Religious Exploration

The Religious exploration session for December will be Sunday, December 10 with Jennifer Attebery facilitating the first of two sessions on relationships to the place we call home and the people in that place. She will be drawing material from the book by Catherine Reid, *Falling into Place: An Intimate Geography of Home*, Beacon Press, 2014. With the holidays upon us Jennifer's second session of this topic will be January 8, 2018. We will not meet December 24. The beauty of Religious Exploration is it is a great opportunity to enter into discussion, or just listen, to others in an informal, homey environment on subjects of Religion, Spirituality or Social Justice. Our group is friendly and respectful of the views of each attendee. In addition to our congregation the public is welcome and encouraged to attend any of our sessions. Except for December we meet on the second and fourth Sundays of each month at the church at 4:00 pm till 5:30 pm with light refreshments available. This is a group where your thoughts, and beliefs can be freely expressed. You are among good friends. Additional information can be obtained by calling Bob Gehrke at (208)680-4766).

Holiday Housewarming at Pastor Jenny's Home

Pastor Jenny invites PUUF members and friends for a Holiday Housewarming at her home, 1239 N. Garfield Ave., on December 15th, from 6:00 - 8:00 pm. Come for conversation and hot chocolate, other festive and tasty non-alcoholic beverages, and some tasty snacks. Feel free to bring a favorite treat to share, or just bring yourselves!



*"Tomorrow hopes we have learned something
from yesterday."*

— John Wayne

Portneuf Valley Interfaith Fellowship Update

Please contact Bob Gehrke (robert-jmary_7@q.com) or Pastor Jenny (minister@pocatellouu.org) for more information or questions:

·The blanket drive to provide blankets for the homeless continues till December 17. Blankets can be brought to PUUF or to the Central collection point at Central Christian Church on Center and 7th St. Donations are also accepted

·"Sub For Santa & Provide Dinner": Congregations and individuals are needed! Acorn Fund organizes Christmas donations for Aid for Friends Homeless Shelter residents as well as schedules volunteers to bring dinner for 45-55 people. Call Alecia Bailey or Tera Martin for more information: 208-557-4237, or visit the website at <https://www.facebook.com/acornfundpocatello/>

·11th Annual Encampment: Homeless Awareness and Fundraising: "A Time for Change". Volunteer, or sponsor someone, to be 'homeless' for a night at Caldwell Park, December 2nd-3rd. We can also help by visiting the Encampment, donating money to the shelter and donating canned foods (esp. meats and stews) from 10a.m.-4pm on December 2nd. Call 208-232-0178, or visit aidforfriendspocatello.com to learn more about the work being done and the help needed.

·The MLK prayer service will be January 15, 2018 hosted by The Seventh-day Adventist. The Joy Morrison Award will be awarded that night. Nominations are due by January 1, 2018.

The Meaning of Stewardship

"Steward" comes to us from Old English and is connected with the noble position of a steward for a kingdom. Stewards didn't own estates; they were responsible for managing them. In The Lord of the Rings we meet a bad steward in the character Denethor, who mismanages the kingdom of Gondor in the absence of the king (until happily the king returns in the last part of the trilogy to set things to rights). The idea of being a good steward is emphasized today by environmental groups who urge us to look after the limited resources of Mother Earth. In our UUA Seven Principles we can see the idea of stewardship reflected in principles 6 and 7: "The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all," and "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part." We tend to think of stewardship as a campaign for money held in the spring, but if we are true stewards we are nurturing an institution we care about throughout the entire year. We nurture PUUF through our contributions of treasure, time, and talent. With this newsletter the PUUF Board begins a Stewardship Moment spot featuring acts of recent generosity.

Stewardship Moment

The PUUF Board gratefully thanks Ann Swanson for the gift of a set of teal UUA hymnals, a donation honoring her mother Barbara Swanson. The hymnals will provide the congregation with many more great UUA songs in contemporary styles and drawing on many cultures.

Festival of Lights December 17

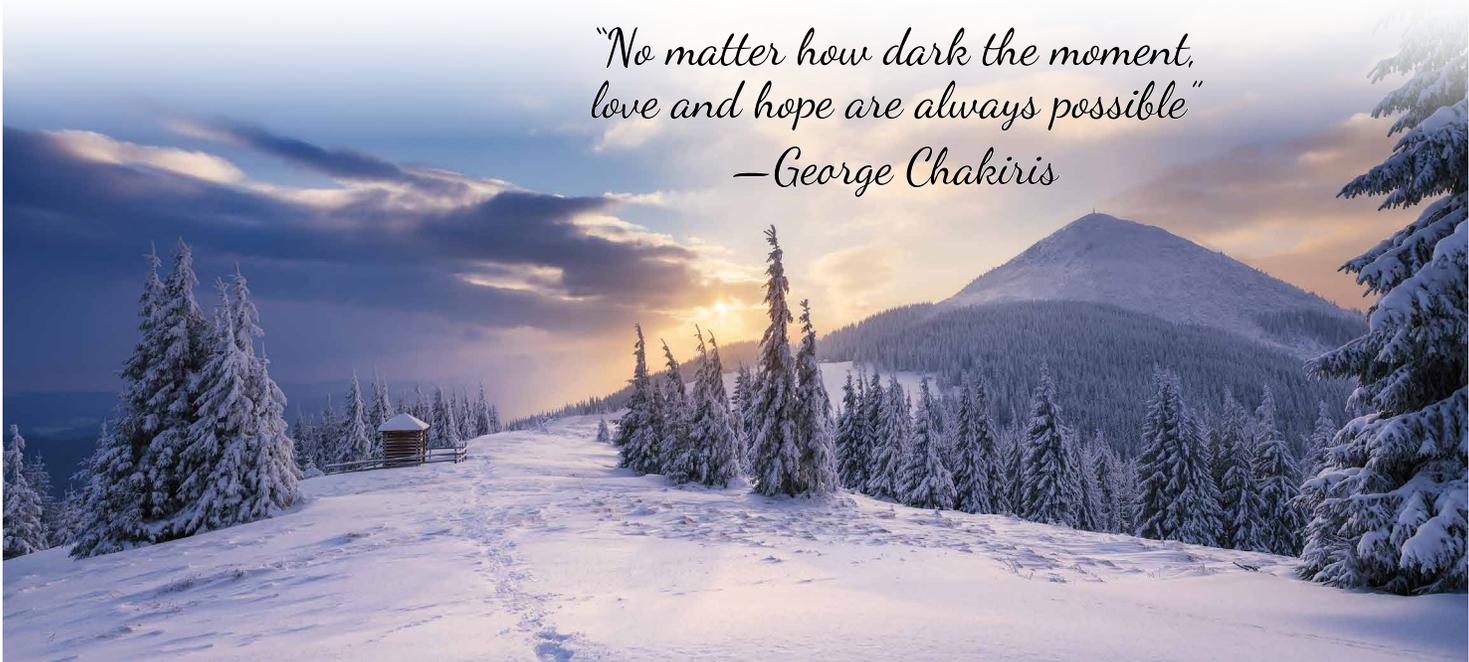
A planning meeting will be December 2 at 10:00 a.m. at the church. It is that time of year again, when PUUF members and friends pull out all the stops to celebrate the holiday season honoring many world religions. We hope that many people from the congregation will be involved again this year. Please offer to help out, because this is a fun, unifying time for us to be together. We always want new ideas to keep the FOL fresh and creative. There will be a sign-up sheet in the lobby before and after the December 3 service. We always need lots of readers, musicians and people working behind the scenes to make the event run smoothly. For more information, contact Mark at neiwmark@isu.edu, and let him know how you would like to be involved.

Barbara Swanson Legacy Art Exhibition

A representative collection of Barbara Swanson's watercolor paintings from early 1990s until 2017 The exhibit will be on display at the Art Center until December 31. Questions call Ann at 208-244-8521.

Weekly Get-Together at Elmer's!

Stop by Elmer's Restaurant every Thursday evening at 6:30-8:30 pm. Join us for dinner or dessert and casual conversation. This is a wonderful opportunity for PUUF members and friends to socialize regularly, outside of church.



*"No matter how dark the moment,
love and hope are always possible"*
—George Chakiris

Upcoming Pocatello Film Society Movies



Sunday, December 3

"Wind River" plays at 4:30 & 7pm. A chilling thriller that follows a rookie FBI agent (Elizabeth Olsen) who teams up with a local game tracker (Jeremy Renner) with deep community ties and a haunted past to investigate the murder of a local girl on a remote Native American Reservation in the hopes of solving her mysterious death. (Rated R)

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Sunday, December 10

"Dark Horse" plays at 4:30 & 7pm. inspirational true story of Dream Alliance as a group of friends who owned and frequented a Welsh pub decided to take on the elite 'sport of kings' and breed themselves a racehorse. (Rated PG)

All shows are at the ISU Bengal Theater. Admission is \$2 for the public or free for ISU students with Bengal ID unless otherwise stated. Trailers and more information on these and other upcoming Pocatello Film Society movies are online at www.pocatellofilmsociety.com.

Portneuf Sangha

Portneuf Sangha is located at 424 W Lewis. They offer meditation practice and programs about Buddhism, meditation, and applying the teachings of the Buddha in everyday life. Please visit their website for days, times, or questions: www.portneufsangha.org or call or email Tony & Paula Seikel: 208-775-3183 (home number), seikel@ida.net

South Indian dinner

You are invited to the 23rd semiannual South Indian dinner on Saturday December 2, 2017 at 6:00 pm, at the First Congregational United Church of Christ, 309 North Garfield Avenue, Pocatello. Your \$9 buys a delicious and authentic multi-course meal and helps support an orphanage in India. To go boxes will be available if you're unable to stay for dinner. This traditional menu is both vegetarian and gluten-free.

PUUF Meetup

Join our new, fun group, "Pocatello UU Meetup" through meetup.com and enjoy fellowship among friends throughout the month. Meetups are spontaneous, fun and varied ways to spend time together beyond our Sunday meetings at the church. To join the site and receive meet-up notices, go to Meetup.com and search for Pocatello UU Meetup. For more information or if you have an idea for a meet-up, talk to Jennifer Attebery, Jim Mariani, or Pastor Jenny.

Pocatello's Second Saturday Contra Dance

The Contra dance will be held in Pocatello at 7:30 pm in the UCC church, 309 N. Garfield (behind Pocatello High School). Dancing will be the 2nd Saturday of each month and continue through May.

The beginners' session at 7:30 pm is highly recommended for those unfamiliar with this simple, fun, social dance form. The dance is sponsored in part by the Pocatello Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Admission is \$6.00 per person (suggested donation). New dancers are always welcome!

Contact Kristi at (208) 523-3847 or austkris@isu.edu for more information. See our "News & Events" page on the www.pocatellouu.org website for updates.

Interested in Joining PUUF?

If you are on a life-long spiritual journey; if the UU worship style suits your needs; if you enjoy UU programs such as worship services, Children's RE, and workshops; and if you care about a liberal religious voice in Southeastern Idaho, you may be interested in becoming a PUUF member. For more information: membership@pocatellouu.org or 208-851-0842.

Pastor Jenny's Office Hours

Office: Tuesdays 8 am to 11:30 am; Wednesdays 1 pm to 4:30 pm For casual visiting, drop in during these office hours. If sure time is needed for something on your mind, calling ahead is recommended. Pastor Jenny is also available by appointment outside these hours. Please call or text her at 219-743-8707. All messages are confidential. Remember, visiting with our minister does not require an urgent reason. Members, friends and the curious are welcome and encouraged to stop by.

Pastor Jenny's Personal Sabbath

Pastor Jenny will take a Personal Sabbath each week, beginning at 9 pm Sundays and ending at 8 am Tuesdays. Pastoral emergencies know no schedule, so will always be the understood exception. Occasional scheduled events will also inevitably happen, and Pastor Jenny will adjust her schedule as needed in such instances. All other calls or emails will be addressed in order of receipt on Tuesdays.

Heartland Wellness Center & Wholehealth Cooperative Coming Events

WholeHealth Cooperative hosts an Open Community Healing Circle the 1st and 3rd Monday of every month from 6-8:30 PM and a Community Drum Circle on the 4th Friday @ 6:30 PM. The Buddhist Society meets @ 10am Sundays at Main St Coffee, 234 N Main. Kundalini Yoga is on Mondays @ 7pm, \$11, 2704 Via Valdarno, 479-2255. Trauma Sensitive Yoga is offered on Tuesdays at Family Services Alliance @ 5:30pm. For details contact Crete Brown at 251-2400. The Wholehealth Cooperative is located at 303 N 12th Ave, in Pocatello.

