UUCP Connections
2015-2016
Your Invitation to Connect and Grow at UUCP

phoenixuu.org  •  602.840.8400
**Sunday Worship**

Welcome to UUCP! This is a religious community

Welcoming all as we
Share our Journeys
Grow in Spirit
Together work to Advance Justice

The best way to see, feel and get to know this community is through Sunday morning services. Each month we explore a theme in depth. Our themes challenge us to grow in meaning, build connections across diversities and make our world a better place.

Service times:
May – September 13: 10:30 AM
September 20 – April 17: 9:30 AM and 11:15 AM

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**Monthly Worship Themes**

*What does it mean to be a people of...*

September  
Covenant
October  
Freedom
November  
Gratitude
December  
Tradition
January  
Truth
February  
Love
March  
Hope
April  
Service
May  
Peace
June  
Strength
July/August  
Spirituality

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**Community Nights**

Break Bread and Make Friends at UUCP. Community Nights are a time of fellowship and community building for all ages. We provide the main dish with a vegetarian option and one side. Just bring your appetite, enthusiasm, and a side dish or dessert to share if able. You are also welcome to bring a sack supper if you prefer.

Chalice Kids is a program for children that begins right after the meal at 6:30 PM. Please let us know in advance if you have a child two years of age or younger so we have appropriate staffing for the nursery. Email Katie Resendiz at katieresendiz@phoenixuu.org.

When: Thursday evenings 6:00 PM
October and November 2015
February, March & April 2016

Where: Johnson Room and Patio

Suggested Donation: $5/adults, $2/children under 10, $10 family

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**Starting Point**

Are you new to UUCP? Do you have questions about UUCP and Unitarian Universalism? Starting Point is an informal program especially for you! Meet a representative from the Membership Committee by the Starting Point sign in the front lobby any second Sunday of the month. You don’t have to sign up. Just show up!

In twenty to thirty minutes, we will answer questions and take you on a brief tour of our campus. We will also give you some tips on the best ways to start making connections at UUCP.

All newcomers are invited to enjoy a Starting Point conversation and tour. If you are thinking about becoming a member of our congregation, we strongly encourage you to attend Starting Point prior to enrollment in a Pathway to Membership program.

Starting Point Times (Second Sunday of every month):
10:45 AM October through April
9:45 AM May through September

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*Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray*
Small Group Ministries

Connect – Share – Grow – Serve

Participating in a Small Group Ministry is a gratifying way to connect with others and to renew your heart and spirit.

Day-to-day life is sometimes a busy struggle in a hectic world. It may leave us feeling out of touch with ourselves and without the energy and inner resources to reach out to others in service and love. Small group connections have been found to be a source of renewal.

Small Groups allow participants to more fully explore the congregation’s monthly worship themes and to share the theme’s influence on one’s own life. Each group is led by a trained facilitator. In addition, at least once during the groups’ duration, it is asked that a project be undertaken to benefit the congregation or the larger community.

Registration begins in September. You are also invited to "sample" a group to see what it is like by coming to the "Thursday Evening Open Drop-In" group. Informational packets about Small Groups may be found on the congregation website or by emailing sgm@phoenixuu.org.

Additional groups may be added to the list that follows. Check the website or contact Ruth Braunstein at sgm@phoenixuu.org for more information.

Open Drop-In Group

No need to register

See what Small Groups are all about.

3rd Thursdays
7:00 PM with Mike Sheffer in annex B

Groups Open to All

Please register first.

All are welcome at all locations.

2nd Mondays
7:00 PM with Bonnie White
Location TBD

3rd Tuesdays at Beatitudes
9:30 AM with Ellie Anderla and Ellie Murphy
Beatitudes Campus - 17th Ave & Glendale

1st and 3rd Sundays, Sunday Evening Potluck & Small Group Ministry
5:30 PM with Lydia Yanak in south Scottsdale near 86th street and McDonald

Friendship Village (TBA)
October-May with Libby Walker
Near state route 60 and the 101 Price freeway

Identity-based Groups

please register first

Young Adult Group -
2nd Tuesdays and 4th Thursdays
6:45 PM with Caitlin Tuffin Gaspar and Sarah Moore in Annex C

Couples Group -
2nd Tuesdays
7:00 PM with Jim Sorgatz and Joshua Aaron Tures in Annex B

Parent’s of Young(er) Children -
4th Sundays
10:45 AM with Jonny Lifshitz in Annex D

Senior Women’s Group -
2nd and 4th Tuesdays
12:00 PM with Peggy Paden in Annex C

Men’s Group -
2nd Wednesdays
7:00 PM with Michel Gareau in Annex C
Adult Classes

There is a registration fee of $10 per course. Register online at Phoenixuu.org or by calling the office at 602-840-8400

Living By Heart
Facilitators: Susan Goldsmith, Donna Featherston
Thursdays, October 1 - December 31, 7:00 PM
Living By Heart focuses on daily contemplation/meditation/devotional practice that includes learning words “by heart.” The words are chosen by individual participants -- poetry, prose, scripture, songs or whatever you choose -- according to themes. The curriculum includes themes throughout the year such as attentiveness, welcoming, discernment, kinship, action and praise. During our times together, we will share our experiences of daily practice and the words we have taken to heart.

Thoughtful Leadership Forum
Facilitator: Kim St. Clair
2nd Thursdays, October & November and January through May, 7:00 PM
Thoughtful and compassionate leadership brings many spiritual gifts to both leaders and those they serve. This forum provides a regular space for exploring:
- Members’ leadership strengths and styles.
- Topics regarding the gifts (both given and received) and challenges of servant leadership.
- How leadership in our congregation can change the world.

Faithiest
Facilitators: Janet McCall Bickley, Michael Hipps
Thursdays, October 15 – 29, 7:00 PM
Deeply held values are communicated through the language of a religious culture or community. Share author Chris Stedman’s journey of learning interfaith dialogue and respect through a reading and discussion of his book, "Faitheist," in which he describes how humanists and members of other faith traditions learn to listen to hear commonalities and then work toward common goals.

Faith Like a River: Part One
Facilitator: Randy Miller
Tuesdays, September 29- November 3, 7:00 PM
Who was Jesus of Nazareth? What do we know about him and the early church founded in his name? The answer is complex. It is complicated even further by the fact the Roman Empire and its medieval successors made every effort to suppress religious diversity and to refashion popular movements towards their own ends. Order, it was assumed, required a strong emperor bolstered by a uniform faith. Yet dissenting views persisted even in the face of persecution, often becoming submerged only to resurface full-blown centuries later as in the Protestant Reformation, bringing UU reformers to the fore.

Cakes for the Queen of Heaven, Part 1
Facilitators: Pat Reed & Caroline Adams
Saturdays, October 17 - November 14, 9:30 AM -12:30 PM
We begin with an introductory section featuring author Shirley’s Ranck’s "Statement of Feminist Thealogy," Elinor Artman’s "Brief Herstory of Cakes," and Nancy Vedder-Shults, "Baking Cakes for the Queen of Heaven." The themes discussed are: The Sacred Female, In the Name of the Mother and the Daughter, Womanpower, The First Turning-From Goddess to God, and Reclaiming Women’s Heritage of Peace.”

Cakes for the Queen of Heaven, Part Two
Tuesdays, March 8 - April 26, 7:00 PM
The course will focus on the emergence and diffusion of UU principles and faith from the Protestant Reformation on up to the current era and on the participation of UUs in a broad range of social movements.

Faith Like a River: Part Two
Tuesdays, March 8 - April 26, 7:00 PM
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Cakes for the Queen of Heaven, Part Two
Saturdays, March 5 - April 9, 9:30 AM -12:30 PM
In Part Two, we will continue our journey into the past to reclaim the stories of powerful women to be found in ancient Judaism and in early Christianity. We will also look at the global silencing and brutalization of women that accompanied the rise of patriarchal religion and society. Finally we will celebrate the exciting new worldview and theology that has emerged in our time and explore the resulting personal and social changes.

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Children’s Ministry

UUCP supports robust ministry programs for the children and youth of our congregation. Intended to create community, experience wonder, and support each child’s search for meaning, our Sunday religious education offerings are tailored to the needs of each age group. Families are asked to register their children in September of each year at the cost of $40 for the first child and $20 for each additional sibling.

Babies and Toddlers
Quality care is provided for babies (newborn to 18 months) in our nursery and toddlers (18 months – 3 years) in our preschool room, during both worship services and through the summer.

Three to 14 Year Olds
Weekly classes are held during the first service for age-based groups (Preschool – Pre-Kindergarten, K–1, 2–3, 4–6, 7–8 grades). Led by volunteer teachers, the classes explore our monthly worship themes and utilize curriculum from the Unitarian Universalist Association and other sources to explore our Seven Principles, UU history and historical figures, justice and love. The classes include rituals, stories and activities that engage the whole child.

During the summer and the second worship service, multi-age classes are offered, frequently with special themes and focus. In the summer 2015 our youth explored various scientific principles each week, courtesy of congregational and teacher volunteers who ran experiments, shared information, and had snacks and crafts from different scientific disciplines.

Middle School Youth – Our Whole Lives (OWL)
Young people in 7th and 8th grades are eligible to participate in OWL, a nine month comprehensive health education curriculum. Our Whole Lives helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behavior. With a holistic approach, Our Whole Lives provides accurate, developmentally appropriate information about a range of topics, including relationships, gender identity, sexual orientation, sexual health, and cultural influences on sexuality. Guided by volunteer teachers and adult mentors from the congregation, this OWL program prepares our youth for a healthy personal relationship and understanding of sexuality. For more information, please feel free to read more on the UUA website: http://www.uua.org/re/owl

High School Youth - YRUU
Our Young Religious Unitarian Universalist (YRUU) group provides a welcoming and safe environment for high school age youth to share, seek meaning, challenge and grow together. YRUU meets weekly during worship services, led by engaged youth advisors. Youth from YRUU lead an annual worship service and participate in state and regional “cons,” conventions of youth from Arizona, California and Nevada.

Volunteers Ministering to Our Young People
Our religious education programs are all staffed by dedicated volunteers who pour their passions, skills, beliefs and time into facilitating outstanding classes and groups for youth. Training is provided and teachers serve as the congregation’s Children’s and Youth Ministry Committee. There are numerous opportunities to volunteer; from class teacher to individual mentor. If you are interested, please contact Katie Resendiz, Acting Director of Children’s Ministries at KatieResendiz@phoenixuu.org

Worship Service Together Time
Most Sundays, elementary-age youth start services with their parents in the sanctuary. After the opening hymn, lighting the chalice, and opening words, young people come to the front of the sanctuary for Together Time, which is the weekly message or activity for children. Once Together Time is complete, the congregation sings the children out to their religious education classes.
Learn and Grow

Multigenerational Services and Children’s Chapel

Throughout the year the congregation holds multigenerational services, with children and adults worshipping together for the whole service. The first all-ages service will kick off the congregation year with the annual In-gathering Water Communion, where congregants share water from summer travels. In November, we will celebrate All Souls Day/Dia de los Muertos with a service honoring the Day of the Dead traditions from Mexico. Also in November, we have our annual bread service near Thanksgiving, where we share homemade bread from our cultural and family traditions. On Christmas Eve, we have a special family service where we perform our traditional “No-Rehearsal” Nativity Pageant.

Chalice Kids and Child Care Offerings

UUCP’s Community Nights include Chalice Kids, a fun and playful romp for children to enjoy while parents attend classes or other activities.

Child care is provided during weekly choir practice and each Sunday for an hour before worship services to facilitate parent engagement in extra activities. Child care is also provided during congregation meetings and other special meetings or events. Childcare practices and providers follow safe congregational guidelines.

Music Ministries

Want to get involved in making music at UUCP? For more information about our music program or any of the following activities, contact our Music Director, Benjie Messer, at benjemesser@phoenixuu.org.

Congregation Choir

Experience the intimacy and beauty of singing in a choir! UUCP’s Congregation Choir rehearses every Wednesday from September through May from 7:00 to 9:00 PM, and performs at two Sunday services each month. This group is open to adults or high school youth. The ability to read music at an elementary level is helpful.

Instrumentalists and Small Groups

If you play an instrument or if you used to play and would like to pick it up again, let Benjie know! Some instrumentalists meet up semi-regularly. Currently we have a ukulele circle, a brass group, a string ensemble, a rock band and a small vocal ensemble.

Sound Volunteers

Want to use your ears and get familiar with audio equipment? Our sound volunteers provide audio support and make recordings of our worship services and special events. Previous experience with audio equipment is wonderful but not required.

Music for Private Services

Members who want music for private services at UUCP, such as weddings and memorial services, are welcome to contact our Music Director Benjie Messer. He is happy to consult with members about music at their events, to provide professional musicians on any instrument (piano, organ, strings, flute, guitar, brass, harp, vocal soloists, choir, etc.) and in any style and to fulfill even the most unusual musical requests.
Exploring Membership

Membership at UUCP is a significant decision. None of what we do – our programs, worship, classes, fellowship – would be possible without the support and leadership of members. Members are the foundation and health of our community and mission. And it is our hope that by joining the congregation members experience an even greater connection to the community, a deeper engagement with their own growth and greater opportunities for leadership and service within and beyond UUCP.

What does it mean to be a Member?
There are 5 Pillars to membership at UUCP.
1. Active participation and engagement at UUCP
2. Generous financial giving to help UUCP thrive
3. Generous giving of time and service to help UUCP innovate
4. A Commitment to your own spiritual growth
5. A Commitment to the larger UU community
6. A Recognition of how you are called to service beyond the Congregation

What if I am considering membership?
Before becoming a member, we encourage everyone to:
- Attend a Starting Point Tour (page 2)
- Take time to get to know the community
- Enjoy Sunday worship, enroll your children in Children’s Ministries (page 5)
- Join a small group (page 3) or take an Adult Faith Development class (page 4)

How do I become a Member?
Our Pathway to Membership program is a 2-part class that invites you to meet with other people considering membership, hear more from ministers and leaders about what it means to be a member, ask questions, learn about the history of Unitarian Universalism and UUCP and ends with an invitation to join by signing the membership book and pledging your support. There is no pressure to join. We recognize membership is a commitment and we hope people will take their time before joining.

There is an optional third session for PTM, a “class reunion” of sorts. A month or two after the class, all participants will receive a special invitation to meet together during a Sunday coffee hour to reconnect with fellow Pathway participants, staff and Membership Committee members to find out how things are going for everyone. At this time, facilitators will answer questions that have come up since the group was last together and can assist people in getting better connected if needed.

Pathway to Membership Dates:
Thursdays, November 5 & 12; 6:45 - 8:30 PM
Sundays, February 7 & 14; 8:45 -10:15 AM
Thursdays, April 7 & 14; 6:45 – 8:30 PM

To register for one of the Pathway to Membership programs, contact the UUCP office at 602-840-8400 X 200 or sign up at the Welcome Table in the front lobby on any Sunday morning. You will get a phone call or email a week or two before the PTM series begins to confirm your plans to attend. There is no fee to participate in the Pathway to Membership program.
Justice Ministry Teams

Refugee Assistance Project
To broaden our outreach to refugees in the greater Phoenix area, UUCP has entered into partnership with the International Rescue Committee. The IRC provides many services both financial and educational designed to help newly resettled refugees find jobs and adjust to their new surroundings in the US. UUCP’s Refugee Assistance Partnership will give our members a chance to use their skills as IRC volunteers in programs such as teaching English, job readiness and career coaching, citizenship study, and financial literacy to name just a few. We have also established an emergency fund for refugees in crisis and will participate in the IRC Holiday Giving Campaign. We can make a positive difference in refugees’ lives by sharing our time, talent and treasure with our new neighbors. A presentation by the IRC will be held in October at the congregation to explain volunteer opportunities.

Immigration Small Group Justice Ministry Team
The Immigration Small Group Justice Ministry Team seeks to live out ‘beloved community’ at UUCP and in the Phoenix area by accompanying grassroots immigrant groups, acting with others in service and advocacy and appreciating the gifts of a multicultural community. Our initial partner is the Puente Human Rights Movement of Phoenix. Open meetings are held at UUCP on the fourth Thursday of the month, and we accompany our partner at different times throughout the month through events at and outside of Puente. Contact Bill Lace for more information at immigration@phoenixuu.org.

Bring your values to the Arizona Legislature with UUJAZ
Monday, February 15, 2016
Join UU’s from across the state in this annual gathering at the State Capitol on President’s Day. This is a day to amplify your voice by meeting in groups with your State Representatives and State Senator to share your values and concerns for the state. UU Justice Arizona (UUJAZ) is a statewide organization that empowers UUs to give voice to their values through justice and advocacy work. UUJAZ nurtures congregational social justice ministries, connects congregations across the state and energizes UUs to identify and act on justice opportunities at the state legislature www.uuaz.org.

Sewing and Craft Circle
The Sewing and Craft Circle meets monthly to make simple items to help others. Most recently the group sent children’s dresses to Haiti and has started making knapsacks for children being removed from their home by Child Protective Services. Usually the group works together in the Johnson Room one Saturday each month on a drop-in basis between 11:00 AM and 4:00 PM. Call Paula Adkins at 602-999-5004 or email Lori at sewing@phoenixuu.org.

Nominate a Non-Profit
Every month UUCP “shares the plate” by donating one week’s Sunday offering to a non-profit 501(c)(3), tax exempt charitable organization that benefits our community. To nominate an organization to receive the collection, complete the online application form found on our UUCP website www.phoenixuu.org > Social Justice Ministries > Share the Plate. Email Lillian Habeich at sharetheplate@phoenixuu.org.

Addictions Discussion Group
2nd and 4th Saturdays, year-round, at 4:30 PM
This addictions support group meets to discuss various compulsive and addictive behaviors. We provide a safe haven to discuss how our week has been and to talk openly about our spiritual beliefs. It is designed for those with stable recovery (we ask for 6 months of sobriety). For more information, call Gene at 480-361-9067.

Lead a Social Justice Ministry Team
Are you interested in organizing a team to work on a particular area of justice and social action? Are there others in the congregation also interested in the issue? Is there a partner organization you can work with in the community? If so, you are ready to form a Justice Ministry Team.

Justice Ministry Teams go through an application process and are approved by the Lead Minister. Download the Justice Ministry Team Application from the Social Justice Ministry page of our website.
Make a Difference

Service Opportunities

Support Others Through Unicare
We encourage you to join the Unicare email list as a volunteer. You will have opportunities to send cards or emails, make calls or visits, or assist with other needs as you are able. To share news, request support, or volunteer, contact Lynne MacVean at unicare@phoenixuu.org.

Design Great Graphics
Join our new graphic design team and help UUCP create a beautiful print and web presence. Email Mat Montgomery at publicity@phoenixuu.org.

Help Spread the Word
We are looking for people with marketing experience to help us increase our visibility in the community. Email Mat Montgomery at publicity@phoenixuu.org.

Greet or Usher
Ushers and Greeters help welcome everyone to Sunday services. Greeting and Ushering is a simple and easy way for new members to serve the congregation, or for anyone to make new connections. Contact Membership/Volunteer Coordinator Kristina Benner at kristinabenner@phoenixuu.org or call 602-840-8400 ext. 204.

Serve a Meal to Homeless Families
Serve a Meal on the first Sunday of the month at 5:00 PM at UMOM New Day Center. Email Janet Williams, the New Day coordinator, at newday@phoenixuu.org.

Teach our Children
Sunday School Lead Teachers/Co-Teachers have fun while inspiring the next generation of UUs. Contact Katie Resendiz at katieresendiz@phoenixuu.org or 602-840-8400 x233.

Volunteer as a Youth Advisor
Help our Young Religious Unitarian Universalist (YRUU) group provide a welcoming and safe environment for high school age youth. Contact Katie Resendiz at katieresendiz@phoenixuu.org or 602-840-8400 x233.

Be a Welcoming Presence
Enjoy talking to people? Have good computer skills? Become an Office Volunteer! Contact: Geoff Anderla at geoffanderla@phoenixuu.org or 602-840-8400 x201

Be a Friendship Partner
Friendship Partners is a very important way to extend the ties of community to those who are temporarily unable or no longer able to participate fully in UUCP activities. Friendship Partners make monthly visits or phone calls to their friends. You may be friends with a new parent, a caregiver, or someone with mobility issues that prevent them from participating fully in UUCP activities. Email the Friendship Partners coordinator at friendship@phoenixuu.org.
Activity Groups

Circle Dinners
Circle Dinners are monthly small dinners held in members’ homes from October through May. They are designed to provide an avenue for newer and long-standing members to gather in a casual environment to share good food and conversation. For more information, call Mary Wilber at 480-473-1150 or email her at circledinners@phoenixuu.org.

Outdoor Group
The Outdoor Group is a recreational and social group that meets the second and fourth Saturday of most months, plus New Year’s Day, to share an outdoor experience, primarily hiking. We welcome and encourage new members to participate. Email George Karas and Julie Smart at outdoor-group@phoenixuu.org.

Poetry Coffeehouse
Poetry Coffeehouse’s purpose is to read, encourage and appreciate poets and other writers. Once a year we publish a journal, Poikilos, which means many colors in Greek, and celebrates the wonderful variety of writing by members and friends of the congregation. Call Tish Gauntt at 602-992-1563, or email Ann Bixel at poetry@phoenixuu.org.

Traveling 2nd Fridays
Traveling 2nd Fridays meets on the second Friday of each month from January to June at 7:00 to 8:00 PM at UUCP. We share travel experiences with slides, pictures, stories, souvenirs, etc. Each month a different presenter invites members to join an armchair visit to a new locale. Call Barbara Cawthorne at 480-994-1452 or email her at travel@phoenixuu.org.

Book Group
The Book Group engages in informal discussions of a variety of books. We typically discuss recent nonfiction books on topics such as science, religion, sociology, history, current events, environmental issues and justice but we don’t exclude fiction. Books we read are proposed by the members and voted on by the group. We typically spend 4 to 8 weeks on a book, discussing portions as we read. For more information, contact Mike Peterson at 602-943-9543 or come to one of our Sunday meetings. Book Group meets 9:00 AM to 10:15 AM in Annex B.

Retiree's Early Morning Scenic Walk and Talk Group
Meets most Fridays, Contact Jay before attending. This is a two mile walk in 1.25 hours with four stops to enjoy views and poetry. The walk is at medium pace on paved streets in the hillside developments at the Phoenix Mountain Preserve, northwest of 16th street and Northern avenue. Meets most Friday mornings as early as 6:00 AM in summer, and as late as 7:30 AM in winter. Bad weather cancels the meet. Please contact Jay Alagia for details at 602-952-8889. Leave a message or e-mail at jayalagia@gmail.com.

Arts and Crafts Studio
Almost every week the Johnson room is open for your artistic endeavor. Currently Jay Alagia, a watercolorist with 20-years experience, is available there to teach watercolor painting on an individual basis, if requested, free of charge. For time and day, please contact Jay at 602-952-8889, jayalagia@gmail.com.
Lead Minister
**Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray**  
susanfrederickgray@phoenixuu.org  
602-840-8400 x203

Director of Children’s Ministries
**Katie Resendiz**  
katieresendiz@phoenixuu.org  
602-840-8400 x233

Business Administrator
**Heidi Parmenter**  
heidiparmenter@phoenixuu.org  
602-840-8400 x202

Office Assistant
**Geoff Anderla**  
geoffanderla@phoenixuu.org  
602-840-8400 x201

Sexton
**Belinda Clark**

President
**Glen Lockwood**  
president@phoenixuu.org

Treasurer
**Jim Allen**  
board@phoenixuu.org

Trustee
**Rajeev Arora**  
board@phoenixuu.org

Trustee
**Karin Quinn**  
board@phoenixuu.org

Youth Representative
**Chloe Dubisch**  
board@phoenixuu.org

Ministerial Intern
**Emrys Staton**  
emrysstaton@phoenixuu.org  
602-840-8400 x205

Music Director
**Benjie Messer**  
benjiemesser@phoenixuu.org  
602-840-8400 x234

Membership/Volunteer Coordinator  
Rev. Frederick-Gray’s Admin Assistant
**Kristina Benner**  
kristinabenner@phoenixuu.org  
602-840-8400 x234

Custodian
**Manuel Gomez**

Vice-President
**Sarah Montgomery**  
board@phoenixuu.org

Secretary
**Sarah Carlson**  
board@phoenixuu.org

Trustee
**Caitlin Tuffin Gaspar**  
board@phoenixuu.org

Trustee
**Vince Waldron**  
board@phoenixuu.org

Youth Representative
**Katie Gibson**  
board@phoenixuu.org