



## **MCUUF NEWSLETTER—OCTOBER 2015**

### **LEADERSHIP LETTER**

Your current Board of Trustees has been settling in these past months, and now that the busy summer days have faded into fall we are starting to get down to work. Just for fun, I thought I'd share a little of what we have been up to lately.

This past month board leadership has been working hard on tidying up some management loose ends. For example, our fellowship has several paid positions, and we are in process of having supervisors write job descriptions and contracts or letters of agreement for all employees. This is in keeping with best practices and maintains right relations between MCUUF and its employees.

We are also working on an annual evaluation of our minister. This is a requirement of the UUA for all ministers in preliminary fellowship. Individuals from the board are contacting different committees, talking to members, interviewing, and gathering feedback to complete an honest assessment.

We would like to look at the upcoming church year strategically and task ourselves with work that will make our organization function more efficiently and grow toward our goals. This is not an easy thing, as our small fellowship is growing into a more complex organization.

A few weeks ago the board spent a wonderful day in retreat at the Trout Lake Abbey. We took this time to better understand our roles on the board, our responsibility to the congregation, and our place in the greater UU. We also spent time exploring our ideas of leadership in a religious organization.

One of the most important things that came out of that gathering was a hope to make the happenings on the board more transparent. We want the fellowship to know the work we are doing and feel empowered to participate at any time. We are now posting our board minutes in the Grange for review, and we are listing the dates of our monthly board meetings, which are open to everyone. Board meetings have always been open, but I think few are aware of this. Our hope is to create a more open dialogue between the board, the committees, groups, and the fellowship as a whole. We very much value input and discussion from you. Please feel free to reach out to us.

I hope you enjoyed this board update and learned a little about how we have been spending our time and energy.

In Faith,  
Stacey Campbell  
President, Board of Trustees

***The next meeting of the MCUUF Board will be Tuesday, Oct. 13, at 6 p.m., downstairs at the Grange. All are welcome to attend.***



#### **FROM OUR MINISTER**

On Sunday, September 27, I made sure I got home from running errands so I'd be able to watch the lunar eclipse. Not only was this a full-moon eclipse, it was a harvest moon. The moon came especially close to the earth, taking on a larger size and orange-ish hue. This celestial event also happened at Sukkot, the Jewish fall harvest festival, which began at sundown. What an auspicious day.

The cycle of seasons can draw us toward the wisdom found in the rhythms of nature and awareness that we are part of the larger circle of life. The bounty of the harvest comes because farmers, orchardists, and gardeners have been working for many months planning, getting the needed materials and workers, sowing seeds, and tending their crops. The harvest represents a culmination of a long period of work, much of which isn't readily visible to passers-by on the road.

Buddhist teachings provide a lens with which we might understand the harvest. Core teachings speak of a "ripening" of karma, of how our thoughts, words, and deeds water seeds that will germinate and grow. Karma also works by inhibiting growth because seeds have not been cared for. Have unwholesome seeds (or weeds) stayed dormant? Have seeds grown into healthy crops? At harvest, we reap what we have sown and tended.

In our first year of shared ministry, we have done much of the labor that makes for a healthy harvest. Our Care Team has steadfastly worked often behind the scenes to support members experiencing life's challenges and has coordinated two workshops, November 15 and 22, that focus on end-of-life-care. The Community Action Task Force has planned a gala service auction, "Warm the Night," November 7 to help fund Gorge Ecumenical Ministries' Warming Shelter, in which MCUUF participates. Our involvement in the FISH food bank has grown to include our stewardship of a community garden at the new FISH site. The

Membership Engagement Team has planned a folk dance and all-ages party for February 6. Alicia B, our director of religious education, is with us each Sunday now and has several “Parents’ Night Out” events scheduled for the coming church year. Our Sunday setup and hospitality teams continue to work smoothly to make it all go on Sunday mornings. And our Board of Trustees has added rich compost to our soil by going on retreat to prepare for the coming year. These are but a few things that are growing in our MCUUF garden. These things happen because of the love and dedication you show.

Successful gardeners save seeds from plants that thrive to plant in the coming spring. As we continue into autumn, may we save seeds to sow again in spring to make for an even more bountiful harvest next year. May we grow ever more steadily and strongly into our Unitarian Universalist faith and the mission that unites us.

In love, fellowship and service,  
Rev. Judy

***Minister's Office Hours: Tuesday 10-11 a.m. and Wednesday 4-5 p.m., upstairs in the blue "cry" room at the Rockford Grange. These are times to just drop-in. You may also contact Rev. Judy to make an appointment: [jzimmerman@uuma.org](mailto:jzimmerman@uuma.org)***



## SUNDAY SERVICES

**October 4:** *Dr. Tina Castanares* will speak to us about “moral/ethical issues around global migration.”

**October 11:** “*Finding Our Inner Light.*” *Shannon Perry* of the Mountain View Worship Group in The Dalles will join us to speak about Quaker beliefs and practices.

**October 18:** “*Get Out the Map.*” *Rev. Judy Zimmerman* will speak on the nature of the spiritual journey. Our annual animal blessing occurs after the service.

**October 25: “Haunted Heretic” Rev. Judy Zimmerman** on Michael Servetus, a 16th century religious ancestor who was martyred for his criticism of the doctrine of the trinity and opposition to infant baptism.



**UU Gathering at Kristen and Paul’s house**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Immigration Task Force—Love Knows No Borders.** Join with others who want to widen the circle of love and justice so that all of our neighbors are included. On **Thursday, October 8, from 5:30-7 p.m.** we will gather at the Rockford Grange over pizza and drinks as we share our hopes and dreams around immigration justice— and begin to lay the groundwork to bring them to life. Contact Tom K. or Rev. Judy [jzimmerman@uuma.org](mailto:jzimmerman@uuma.org) for more information.

**“For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” —Galatians 5:14**

**Animal Blessing, October 18.** After Sunday service concludes at 11:15 a.m. we will move outdoors for our annual blessing of animals. Let us gather to thank our companion pets for their love and friendship. Let us share our gratitude and care for the livestock that make our lives possible. If you'd like to remember a deceased animal, please bring a photo or other remembrance. Parents, children, families, friends and community members are all welcome.

**MCUUF Workshop on End of Life Issues—Nov. 15 and Nov. 22.** The MCUUF Care Team will be sponsoring a presentation and workshop on End of Life issues including Advanced Directives, Do Not Resuscitate (DNR), Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST) documents and associated issues. Dr. Kristen D. will be the presenter. The second meeting attendees will also be invited to bring their own documents to review.

**Both meetings will be at 1:30 following Sunday Service.**

### ***Care Team***

MCUUF strives to be a community that supports each other. If you or someone you know in the fellowship has a need because of a loss, illness, or other difficulty, please notify Rev. Judy or any other member of our Care Team: Jane F, Shelley B, or Tom P. The team will do its best to organize respectful and appropriate help for our members and friends who need it.

### ***Parent Night Out:***

MCUUF is taking a look at how it honors families and how best it can serve them. We know sometimes having time for yourself and/or your partner seems limited, and we want to make sure you are taking that time for *self-care*. Our RE program will be offering childcare on three Saturdays this fellowship year. This care is offered for children 0-14 years and will be staffed by our current RE staff and volunteers. We will have a sign-in sheet for when you arrive, and staff will be there to check in with you for any special instructions regarding your children (bottle feeding, homework help, potty training instructions, etc.). Dinner will be provided.

### **Parent night out:**

October 24, 5 p.m.-8 p.m. Games and Dinner

December 19, 5 p.m.-8 p.m. Movie and Dinner

February 13, TBA Dance and Dinner

### ***Our New Food Bank donation wagon***

We have "christened" our new MCUUF "food wagon." Our Red Flyer, generously loaned to us by Pat and Dick S, makes its way to the front during the service, reminding us to bring food each week of the year. The food will be taken on alternate weeks to FISH and Washington Gorge Action Programs food banks.



## **MCUUF COMMUNITY ACTION**

**HOLD THE DATE: Sat, Nov. 7: "Warm the Night," MCUUF's fundraising party for the Warming Shelter.** MCUUF is organizing a

fundraiser for the WS, featuring a silent auction of donated services (pet sitting, sports lessons, wine tasting, etc.). There will be desserts, wine, and live music (also babysitting for kids). How you can help:

- volunteer to provide a service
- tell us of a service you would like to buy
- attend the party, and bring some friends

To donate a service, or to tell us of a service you'd like to buy, contact Bonnie N.

**Join MCUUF's Warming Shelter team!** UUs will again help staff the Hood River Warming Shelter, located this year at the old Fruit Tree/Mongolian BBQ building (next to Charburger). Volunteers are needed on the UU team so we can staff the center one weekday night every other week through the season (mid-November to mid-March). Training is required (see below). For more info, and to sign up, contact coordinator Fran F.

**Warming Shelter volunteer training/orientation** takes place at the shelter (4140 Westcliff, next to Charburger) on these dates:

- **Sat, Oct. 17**, 9-11:30 a.m.
- **Wed, Oct. 28**, 6:30-9 p.m.

Each volunteer must attend a training (including previous volunteers, due to new insurance requirements).

**Join:** Want to help on the Community Action committee? Have a project you want to lead? Contact Bonnie N .



## MCUUF

Curious about what's happening, when, and where? Go to [www.mcuuf.org](http://www.mcuuf.org)

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**The deadline for inclusion in the weekly eNews is midnight Monday.  
The deadline for inclusion in the monthly newsletter (which comes out on the first Wednesday of the month) is midnight on the last Monday of the month. Please send your announcements to Brad Amer at [mcuuf1@gmail.com](mailto:mcuuf1@gmail.com)**