



MCUUF NEWSLETTER—DECEMBER, 2015

The next meeting of the MCUUF Board will be Tuesday December 8th, at 6 p.m., downstairs at the Grange. All are welcome to attend.

LEADERSHIP LETTER

Happy Holidays! 'Tis the season for some board happenings! Things have been moving and shaking lately, and now we have some changes to announce!

First, Tom K. has resigned from his role as board vice president. He will continue to wear many helpful hats at MCUUF but felt he did not have the time to devote to a board position. We owe him a big thank-you for his years of service on the board and his invaluable contributions.

Denise E. has also resigned her position as treasurer. A big work promotion over the summer has left her far busier than she could have imagined and unfortunately with little time to devote to the treasurer position. We owe Denise immense gratitude for her many years of hard work as treasurer. It is really hard to overstate how important this work is to the fellowship.

Per our bylaws, the board is empowered to fill these board positions until the next congregational meeting when it can be voted on by the fellowship. We are excited about the solution we have come up with.

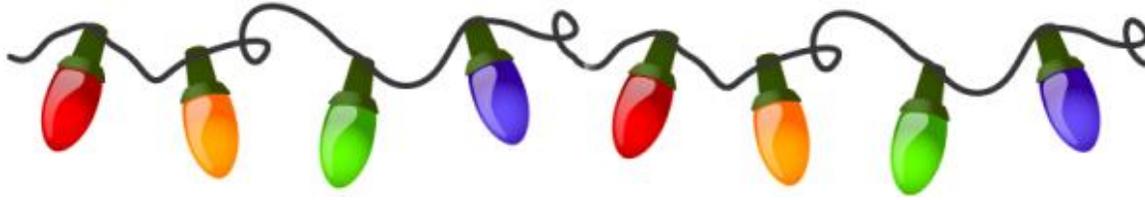
Lori G., who is currently in the trustee-at-large board position, has agreed to move into the vice president position. Her wonderful communication skills, organization and thoughtfulness will be a real asset.

Denise has agreed to stay on the board but will move into Lori's now-vacated trustee-at-large position. We are so lucky to continue to reap the benefits of her contributions to the board.

Last, but certainly not least, we welcome a new board member in Peggy N. as treasurer! We could not be more excited to have Peg on the board and are so thankful for her willingness to serve MCUUF in this key board position. She will work closely with Denise and Brad (our bookkeeper) to transition the finances over the next month or so.

It's a little bit of musical chairs, but ultimately we have a board of motivated and capable individuals to serve MCUUF. As always, we welcome questions and participation. Our next board meeting is 6 p.m. Tuesday, December 8, downstairs at the Grange.

In faith,
Stacey Campbell
President, Board of Trustees



FROM OUR MINISTER

Winter holidays of Yule, Solstice, Saint Lucia, Chanukah, Las Posadas and Christmas herald the return of light and hope during the darkest time of the year, when days grow short. Given the recent shooting at a Planned Parenthood Clinic in Colorado Springs, massacres at Umpqua Community College and in Paris, the plight of Syrian refugees and the struggles of our Native American neighbors living in poverty along the Columbia River, and the difficulties in our day-to-day lives, hope can be hard to find.

Unitarian Universalism brightens a path toward hope. Ours is a living history of counterculture. We spring from a tradition of innovators and free-thinkers who channeled righteous indignation into imagination. Dorothea Dix imagined better treatment for those with mental illness; Joseph Jordan envisioned educated black children and established schools at his Universalist congregations in the post-Civil War South; Rod Serling's "Twilight Zone" television series offered prescient social criticism. For decades UU has had a vision of a world where love, not gender, is the basis for marriage. UUs have dared to draw from the creativity that is our human birthright. Unitarian Universalism has been an incubator of imagination, cultivating communities of resistance that support us as we resist capitulation to a world that wants us to be alienated from ourselves, each other, and the planet.

The holiday season is an opportunity to reconnect with hopeful aspirations. These come closer to fruition through the seemingly small things we do each day. The air we exhale has been changed from contact with our bodies, leaving an imprint on the future. The foods we eat, fuels we use to heat our homes, the acts of love and care towards our family, friends, and our animal brethren shape the world that is yet to be. Everything we do sends ripples forward into the river of time. With each day come chances to touch the future.

The life of imagination is sacred. We are the people our ancestors were dreaming of long ago. We are the future they envisioned. Now it is our turn to send currents onward. As we do so, we make connections with those who will live beyond us and the world they will inhabit. We have a precious and holy accountability to that future.

In this holiday season may we nurture imagination and creativity—keys to a better way. May we dare to dream and live those possibilities within the mystery and miracle of our daily lives. Where there is imagination, hope abides.

Wishing you all the blessings of the season,
Rev. Judy



SUNDAY SERVICES

December 6: Rabbi Rob Abramovitz. Chanukah is not just for Jews. It is a celebration of freedom from oppression of all kinds. Chanukah is a time to remember our loving heart's desires, of letting our heart-light create the world of our future.

December 13: "Owning Your Religious Past," Rev. Judy Zimmerman. The majority of Unitarian Universalists come into our denomination from other religions, often with several stops along the way. Some of us have happy memories. Others have difficult feelings or estrangements to resolve before we can fully claim Unitarian Universalism as our chosen faith. Longtime UUs may have experienced shifts in religious identity. This morning we'll explore how coming to terms with our religious past can be among the greatest gifts we can give ourselves and loved ones this holiday season.

December 20: Rev. Catharine Clarenbach. "December 22 is the Northern Hemisphere winter solstice. We are deep in the dark of the year now, and will be for some time after the solstice. What are the blessings of the dark? How is darkness understood and misunderstood? What can we learn from our experiences of the dark this year?"

December 24 at 7 p.m.: "Christmas Eve Service." The light and hope of the season come alive as we celebrate with carols and candlelight. This is a family-friendly service where all ages will worship together.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Memorial Service for Fred K.

At 2 p.m. Saturday, February 13, we will gather at the Rockford Grange to celebrate the life of Fred K. Fred passed away November 15, 2015, after a long illness. We send our love and condolences to his surviving wife, MCUUF member Irene K.

Hood River County Christmas Project. This Christmas MCUUF is again sponsoring four families in need for the Hood River County Christmas Project. Mary P. is heading the committee and seeking monetary donations, non-perishable food, and gift cards for local businesses. Monetary donations need to be given by Sunday, December 13. Please designate on your check to MCUUF that the donation is for the Christmas Project. Gifts and gift cards can be dropped off at MCUUF services at the Grange by December 13) or at Mary's house anytime up to Tuesday, December 15.

Here are our family assignments:

- 1) 2 adults, 3-yr old girl, 8-yr old boy
 - 2) 2 adults, 5-yr old girl, 11-yr old boy
 - 3) 2 adults, 13-yr old girl, 14-yr old boy
 - 4) 2 adults, 4-yr old boy and a newborn (due in December!)
- (Please add a note or gift tag to any gifts so that the gift makes it to the correct person)

Save the Date: First Annual All Fellowship Dinner—February 6

The first Annual Fellowship Dinner, sponsored by your Membership Engagement Team, will be held at the Grange Saturday evening, February 6. This will be a family potluck. We will have a “called” dance with live music after dinner; it will be simple enough for children to participate. We hope this evening will be so much fun that people will want it to become an annual event!

Our Women's Awareness Circle will meet at noon for lunch and conversation in the home of Irene K. on Monday, December 7. Please bring a sandwich. All MCUUF women are welcome. Please RSVP to Gail A.

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: Shelley B, Aera A, or Tom P. The team will do its best to organize respectful and appropriate help for our members and friends who need it.

Give the gift of a hymnal? Need a gift for that person who is hard to buy for? Or for someone you'd like to remember? MCUUF needs more teal hymnals. We don't have enough even for every other chair. Perhaps you'd like to sponsor a hymnal at \$30? We'll put a book plate on the inside cover proudly announcing your gift or honored recipient.

Remember MCUUF in your end of year giving! As the end of the tax year approaches, please take a moment to consider the special work that this fellowship does for our community and the world, and how MCUUF nurtures our spiritual growth. If you think MCUUF is important, perhaps you'd like to make an additional gift to support this beacon of hope and its good works? Donations are fully tax deductible.

Come Sing a Song With Me. Carolyn McDade, composer of “Spirit of Life” and other UU favorites, offers her 4th Annual Women's Singing Circle retreat on January 2, 2016, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Portland. Registration forms are available on the MCUUF bulletin board in the Grange. Please register by December 19. Contact Rev. Judy for more information or to carpool.



MCUUF COMMUNITY ACTION

Volunteers needed for Laundry Love. The Warming Shelter needs 3-4 UU volunteers who can spend up to two weekday hours a month overseeing Warming Shelter guests doing their laundry at a local laundromat. Contact Fran F.

Coats for Kids Drive, November-January. Please bring coats for ALL ages for collection beginning this Sunday. Coats need to be CLEAN and in GOOD CONDITION. Your donations will be greatly appreciated by the entire community.

Columbia River Indian Center Christmas Party. On December 18 at 5 p.m. at the Mid-Columbia Senior Center in The Dalles, the Columbia River Indian Center (CRIC) is hosting a Christmas party. As a member of Gorge Ecumenical Ministries, *we are invited!*

The CRIC is an emerging non-profit that serves Indians on both sides of the Columbia, regardless of tribal membership and whether they are officially enrolled. CRIC offers food assistance, winter clothing, tents and sleeping bags to needy adults and children. Elk, salmon, ham and turkey are being provided. Desserts and side dishes are needed, as are volunteers to set up, decorate, serve, and clean up. Gifts for children are welcome. Let's show our generosity and gift the CRIC with donations of sleeping bags, blankets, winter weather clothing and non-perishable foods. Bring this bridge-building effort with our Native American Gorge neighbors to life by serving as a volunteer to coordinate this effort among MCUUF members/friends. Contact Rev. Judy ASAP.

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

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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 A. at mcuuf1@gmail.com