

MCUUF NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2015

LEADERSHIP LETTER

Get out your calendars. We've got a couple major events coming up this Spring.

On Saturday, March 7, at 2 p.m. our congregation will host the **Installation Ceremony** for our first settled minister, the Rev. Judy Zimmerman. This is the most significant institutional event in our history and will draw community members and religious leaders from the region as well as Unitarian Universalists from the Northwest and beyond. Our planning committee is hard at work, and invitations will be out soon. Consider yourself forewarned!

Second, the annual national meeting of UUs, our **Unitarian Universalist General Assembly**, comes to the Portland Convention Center June 24-28. This is the second time the General Assembly has been held in Portland. The previous one, in 2007, drew the largest attendance ever for a GA outside of Boston.

Your opportunities to participate are multiple; Elaine Castles' announcement later in this newsletter goes into more detail about:

- Youth Caucus for teens age 14-18
- Naming delegates from our congregation to the plenary sessions, where the business of the organizations is debated and conducted
- Attending full-time, registering for the amazing schedule on Saturday only, or attending one of the free events
- Congregational carpools to worship Sunday, June 28. This is your chance to experience Unitarian Universalism worship with thousands present.
- Volunteering at GA or here in the gorge to help with pre- and post-GA home hosting and a day-hiking trip for UUs from across the country.

I'll close with words from Rachel Naomi Remen: "Life is like a raffle; you must be present to win."

Sincerely,
Kristen Dillon
Board President

This month's board meeting is Tuesday, February 10 at 6 p.m., 1750 12th Street, Hood River. Tentative agenda: Appoint Kathy Jubitz to fill vacancy on nominating committee; budget planning for the 2015-16 church year; approve budget request from installation committee

FROM OUR MINISTER

A friend who is a fan of the 1970's Swedish pop group ABBA recently sent me one of those goofy Facebook quizzes. The quiz was, "Which ABBA song is about you?" Impossible, I thought. I was never a fan of the group, despite my friend's efforts over the years to persuade me otherwise. Nonetheless, the quiz touched on an important point. Don't defining periods or moments in our lives have a song?

Let's think about that. This fellowship is in the midst of one of the most important periods in its history. I've been serving as your first settled minister for six months now. Songs have that special gift of being able to capture the richness of our experience in a way that words alone cannot. Songs come closer to what we feel deep in our hearts. What might be this fellowship's

song?

Could it be “A Little Help From My Friends,” by the Beatles? Or “One More Step,” #168 from the grey hymnal? Something else? This idea of a theme song tells us about who we are as a congregation and how we feel about our spiritual home. As we approach the milestone of this fellowship’s first Installation Ceremony March 7, what song are you singing in your heart and mind? What song do you hope we’ll all sing as we move on into the future?

In love and service,
Rev. Judy Zimmerman

SUNDAY SERVICES

February 8: “Darkness and Light: A Taize Service” On this cold winter day, join with Elaine Castles and Bob Schwarz in a contemplative service of music, meditation, readings, and poetry as we consider the intertwined roles of darkness and light in our lives.

February 15: "The Other Side of the Mountain," Rev. Judy Zimmerman. The freedom to marry is a reality in Oregon, Washington, and 70% of the United States. Unitarian Universalists have been in the front of the vanguard that has made this a reality. Now that the crest of the mountaintop is in view, what might lie on the other side of the mountain? What is our role as UUs in a post-marriage equality world?

February 22: Warming Shelter. Members of our warming shelter team will share stories of their volunteering.

NEW MEMBER PROFILE - JONATHAN STELZER

I am an individual who feels that complete healing of anything, and optimal health, are available for everyone through proper inter-cellular communication, nutritive support & body to mind connection. I also feel that our families, communities and world have available to us here and now a state of heaven, through authentic communication & mutual empathic support in purposeful community creation.

My greater family and I have been involved in the production, distribution and promotion of organic foods & healthy lifestyle for much of my life. With this background, I have recently moved to Hood River and have become part of the team at "Farm Stand in the Gorge," a small organic and natural store & deli here in town.

It is my dream to participate in the transformation that is occurring, in our communities at large and in our small business, to a place of sustainability, health & authentic connectedness.

I have, a few days since, joined the Mid-Columbia UU Fellowship, as I feel we have many shared values. It also provides me a venue for greater connectedness to this community. Thank you for having extended such a warm welcome.

COUNTDOWN TO PORTLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY JUNE 24-28, 2015

February:

- Contact Elaine Castles (eecastles@embarqmail.com) to volunteer to host GA attendees in your home either before or after the conference.
- Contact Kristen Dillon to volunteer to help organize a local outing for GA attendees.

- Let Kristen Dillon know if you would like to be considered for one of our two delegate positions. The congregation will pay travel and registration expenses for delegates.
- Ask your boss for time off from work.

March

- The GA registration website opens March 1. Register early to get your best choice of hotel accommodations. Consider signing up to stay with a host family in Portland—cheaper and more fun!
- Talk to Peggy Newman about registering your youth to attend special programming for that age group.
- Register children age 10-14 for the Young Fun urban, five-day overnight program.
- Sign up on website to get free GA attendance (worth \$350) by volunteering to help out at the convention for at least 24 hours (look under Financial Aid).

April

- Regular registration closes on April 30, so sign up by the end of the month. If you can't attend the whole thing, you may want to consider attending on Saturday only (\$135). For that you will get to observe a plenary session, attend two workshops, participate in the climate change social witness event, and attend the evening lecture by Cornel West. Quite a bargain, all things considered.

June

- Help with hike for out-of-town attendees.
- Welcome attendees to your home before or after GA if you have signed up to host.
- Attend GA—whether for just one day or for the whole thing. And if you want a taste of GA without spending any money, you can attend the Service of the Living Tradition on Thursday night or the Sunday morning worship service.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pledge Season Approaches! This spring, each of us will be asked how much we are able to donate to our fellowship in the coming fiscal year, which begins in July. We need a team of about six people to work on this effort; if you might consider helping with this, please contact Paul at paul@speedfish.com. Thanks for considering it.

Women's Awareness Circle

The next Women's Awareness Circle will meet in the home of Jodie Holmberg on Friday, February 20, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. The topic: How do we want to live the rest of our lives? All UU women welcome. Please RSVP to Debbie Olson at [509-493-3493](tel:509-493-3493).

Installation Ceremony, Saturday, March 7, 2015, 3-5 p.m. Please join in our congregation's formal recognition that it has called a settled minister. This worship service and reception invites the larger gorge community and our Unitarian Universalist world to celebrate with us. Mark your calendars for this historic event.

MCUUF Book Group

The MCUUF Book Group has an opening for an individual or a couple. Please contact Dennis Carlson, carlson@gorge.net

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 member of our Care Team: Jane Fetisoff, Anita Johnston, Ray Klebba, Shelley Baxter, Tom

Penchoen, or Tom Kaser. The team will do its best to organize respectful and appropriate help for the situation.

MCUUF COMMUNITY ACTION

Need a floor lamp, please, for Dan Rowe's longtime Mentor For Success mentee, Joe. Joe is 21, and is leaving long-term foster care to move into his first apartment, here in Hood River. Contact Bonnie New: bnew1@live.com, [541-490-9919](tel:541-490-9919).

FISH food bank: Next volunteer days are coming in March.

Join: Want to help on the Community Action committee? Have a CA project you want to lead? Contact Bonnie – bnew1@live.com .

OTHER COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

Can you **volunteer to staff the Gorge Ecumenical Ministries' (GEM) Emergency Voucher Program** for 2 hour shifts, Mon-Fri, 12-2pm, at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Hood River? The EVP provides food, gas and lodging vouchers to clients who are in a crisis situation. The volunteer listens to the client's story, writes appropriate vouchers, and refers to other services as needed. Contact Rev. Judy or Rev. Anna Carmichael - [541-386-2077](tel:541-386-2077), revannacarmichael@gmail.com.

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MCUUF

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