

MCUUF NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2015

Installation Ceremony, Saturday, March 7, 3-5 p.m. In Unitarian Universalism, congregations choose their own minister. This special worship service celebrates and affirms the covenant between this congregation and the Rev. Judy Zimmerman. We will welcome UU clergy and religious leaders from across the Pacific Northwest District and leaders from gorge communities. A reception will follow. Bring your families, children, friends and neighbors for this historic event in which we install our first settled minister. For more information, contact the Installation Team: Cindy A, Aera A, Jay L and Mary P.

Help is needed in decorating the Grange Friday, March 6, for the installation. If you can help, please come to the Grange anytime from noon till 4 p.m. Any time you can give will be greatly appreciated. Together, we can make this happen!

LEADERSHIP LETTER

We're entering the time of year when our congregation's pledge team contacts members and friends to ask about their commitment to give in the coming year. This is an important opportunity for our congregation to make plans for the year, which are in part based on knowing what money we'll have to work with.

Our congregation's fiscal year starts July 1 of each year. This is good for our relationship with the UUA, which runs on the same calendar; and it means that our congregation's annual meeting comes at the end of one year and near the beginning of the next. This year our congregational meeting will be immediately after worship on Sunday May 17, likely starting around 11:15 a.m. An agenda will be approved and published by our Board of Trustees in early April.

I realize the fiscal-year arrangement can sometimes create confusion, for example when we send out letters at the end of the year to use for tax purposes, and your letter might have different numbers than you pledged. It's because the IRS's tax year and our congregation's fiscal year are not the same. Shall we consider that yet another example of mystery at work in our lives?

But that's not the whole story. At its core, I see the activity of pledging as about more than money. Being asked to make a pledge is a chance for your family to reflect on your resources and your ability to be generous and make commitments. Choosing to be generous can affirm in our own lives a sense of security, of "enoughness." Being asked to make a pledge is also an opportunity to consider what's important to you about our congregation and why. Several members have been asked to speak on this topic during Sunday worship, and I encourage you to reflect on this as well.

In faith,

Kristen Dillon
Board President

The March Board of Trustees meeting has been cancelled due to having no pressing agenda items. Our next meeting will be April 14 at 6 p.m.

FROM OUR MINISTER

Imagine a room filled with thousands of Unitarian Universalists. It will be happening this June when the UU General Assembly (GA) comes to Portland. This annual event brings Unitarian Universalists from across North America together to worship, learn, and govern our wonderful Unitarian Universalist Association. There are workshops of all kinds. There's inspiring worship, including the Service of the Living Tradition, where new ministers, newly credentialed religious educators and musicians, and retired and deceased professional religious leaders are recognized. There's a chance to see our democratic process in action as delegates from each UU congregation discuss and vote on resolutions that conduct the business of our association and bring our prophetic voice into the world through statements of witness. Attending GA brings the felt sense that we are part of a much larger UU movement.

If MCUFF is the only UU congregation you have been connected with, you owe it to yourself to see the many ways our Unitarian Universalist faith is expressed across the continent. If you have been a lifelong UU, you'll encounter how this dynamic faith is changing and preparing to meet the future, while holding onto the best from our cherished history. If you have children or teens, GA is a tremendous opportunity for them to see that Unitarian Universalism is much more than what happens on Sunday morning. If you haven't yet been to General Assembly, go! GA won't be on the West Coast again for several years.

There are many ways to experience GA. Go for one day. Go for more. Commute. Stay overnight. *Just go!* Registration opened on March 1. Early registration is essential if you wish to volunteer to reduce cost, apply for financial aid, or enroll your children in religious education programming. You'll find more information about GA inside this newsletter. I'll see you at GA.

March is here, and there's much happening at MCUFF. Our annual pledge drive begins this month, where you'll have the opportunity to support this beloved religious community through your generous giving. And MCUFF will hold the first Installation Service in its history this Saturday at 3 p.m. at the Grange. An installation offers a formal, public affirmation of the covenant between a minister and the congregation that calls them to serve. UU ministers and religious leaders from the Pacific Northwest, ministers from sister congregations in the Gorge, and community leaders will be present. Come and celebrate the treasure that is this congregation.

In love and service,

Rev. Judy Zimmerman

SUNDAY SERVICES

**Don't forget to daylight savings time!
Set your clocks forward one hour on Saturday Night.**

March 8: Rev. Emily A. Champagne will speak on "**The 1895 Woman's Bible: A Mighty River from Many UU Streams.**" Emily will look at the groundbreaking achievement possible when courageous women pool their skills and resources to

challenge traditional biblical interpretation. Because we usually celebrate our heroes individually, this service will offer a different model for looking at UU history.

March 15: Bridget McCondille, a gatherer from the Warm Springs tribes, will share with us her tradition of First Foods.

March 22: Rev. Judy Zimmerman, "My So-Called Digital Life." The Internet, Facebook, Twitter, email, and texting have changed the way human relationships are created and maintained. This morning we'll explore how face-to-face relationships have been affected by digital communication. What might this mean for how we understand ourselves, our place in the world, and our spiritual lives?

March 29: Paramahansa Yogananda: A Modern Age Spiritual Leader. Did you know that it was the American Unitarian Association-sponsored 'International Congress of Religious Liberals' that allowed a young Indian swami named Sri Yogananda to come to the US as a speaker delegate in 1920? He ended up staying in America for over 30 yrs., teaching his message of universal brotherhood, bringing real yoga-bliss to America through ancient meditation techniques, and founded a religious organization which is now in 49 states and over 75 countries. Learn more about this remarkable man, and his teachings with many similarities to our UU principles in this service. Led by Cindy Horton and Self-Realization Hood River meditation circle.

NEW MEMBER PROFILE



Annie and Mike M.

Mike M.

I started life in southern Illinois and joined the military (helicopter pilot) while in college to see for myself the reality of Vietnam. Boy was I surprised! After the military I migrated to Washington State to recover. It was only partially successful. So I migrated as far as was possible, to Hilo, Hawaii, and joined Homeland Security (friends close/enemies closer?) then transferred to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which worked well. Along this path I explored most of the "major" religions and many "minor" ones. After an on-the-job major car crash in 08' I retired and we moved to Lyle, WA, and joined UU. I now spend much of my time restoring a rare antique auto. Although I still haven't got this retirement thing and there are still repercussions from the accident, all in all life is good.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Save the Date: This year's congregational meeting will be immediately after worship on Sunday May 17, likely starting around 11:15 a.m. An agenda will be approved and published by our Board of Trustees in early April.

Registration for General Assembly Opens March 2nd

If you have been considering attending the 2015 GA in Portland June 24–28 (whether for the entire time or just one day), the registration website (<http://www.uua.org/ga/registration>) opened March 2. The earlier you register, the better chance you will have of getting the hotel room or UU home stay of your choice. If you can't attend the whole thing, you may want to consider attending on Saturday only (\$135). For that price, 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!

In addition to registering to attend, there are a few more things for you to consider during March:

- If you would like to be considered for one of the two MCUFF delegate positions, please contact Kristen D as soon as possible.
- We have had great response to our requests for people to help out with a hike for GA attendees and to offer pre- and post-GA homestays. However, we can always use more participants. If you would like to help with the hike, please get in touch with Kristen D. If you would like to offer your home for a home stay, please get in touch with Elaine C.
- We are really hoping to have a good contingent of our youth in attendance. In fact, we would love to have them carry our banner in the opening banner parade. So youth and parents, please start thinking about this now. This is an experience they will never forget.

More detailed information about GA is available on the poster board which is out every Sunday at the Grange.

Prospective-Member Potluck, March 14. The Membership Committee is holding a potluck at 6 p.m. Saturday, March 14, at the home of Stacey C and Todd D, for anyone interested in becoming a member of our fellowship. After dinner, Rev. Judy will give a brief history of Unitarian Universalism, provide information about becoming a member of the fellowship, and answer questions. Attending the potluck does not imply any commitment to become a member. So that we may know how many will attend, please RSVP to Steve C.

The next Women's Awareness Circle will meet in the home of Jodie H on Friday, March 20, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. The topic will be a continuation of the spirited February discussion, "How do we want to live the rest of our lives?" with a focus on 4-5 areas to bring more meaning, joy and balance to our lives. All UU women welcome. Please RSVP to Debbie O.

Languages of Love: Healing and Recovery—a conference put on by the Unitarian Universalist Association Pacific Northwest District (PNWD) Addictions Ministry Project. The conference takes place at the Olympia UU Congregation on March 14 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. We will explore how to use languages of love—from twelve-step and other recovery models—to meet the challenges of addiction and mental illness in our congregations while staying true to our UU values. Breakout groups will provide tools for using a language of love in challenging situations, including Companionship Training,

Having Difficult Conversations, and Ministry to Youth. Contact Rev. Barbara Stevens at barbaras@aracnet.com for more information. A registration form should be on the PNWD website soon at www.pnwd.org.

Want to Join a Great Group of UU's at the Beach This Spring?

The SOLVE Spring Beach Clean-up will be **Saturday, March 28**. The Mt. Hood Cluster of UU Congregations (eight UU congregations in NW Oregon and Vancouver, WA) for several years has participated in this clean-up as a group, cleaning a beach designated for us, then gathering for a potluck afterward. We are doing it again this year, at the same beautiful beach as the past few years—Boy Scout Camp Meriwether Beach, several miles south of Tillamook. From **10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.** that Saturday, we will gather to act on our Seventh Principle and help take care of one little part of our earth. The report from the park ranger who coordinates that section of the coast is that that beach is in particular need of cleaning due to this winter's storms and tides.

After the clean-up, those who wish can gather at a sheltered area at Cape Lookout State Park Beach, about five miles away, for a potluck lunch. Usually we bring a basic lunch for ourselves, with desserts, snacks, etc. to share with all. A great opportunity to meet UUs from other congregations in our area!

Please consider joining us for this, and save the date! If you would like more information or want to register, please contact Elaine C.

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 F, Anita J, Ray K, Shelley B, Tom P, or Tom K. The team will do its best to organize respectful and appropriate help for the situation.

MCUUF COMMUNITY ACTION

Looking for 1 or 2 volunteers to represent MCUUF at GEM (joining Rev. Judy and Tom P). The meetings are the first Tuesday of the month, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Contact: Bonnie N.

FISH food bank: M&F 3:15-5pm. Wed 3:15-5:30pm. Contact Jane F.

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

OTHER COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

National Alliance on Mental Illness: An effort to organize a Columbia River Gorge chapter is in its early stages. An organizational meeting on will take place on Saturday March 14 from 10 - 11:30 a.m. at Mid-Columbia Fire and Rescue 1400 W. 8th Street The Dalles. With a critical mass of folks from MCUUF attending, the fellowship could take a leadership role in this effort. Rev. Judy will be attending. Will you join?

MCUUF

Curious about what's happening, when, and where? Go to www.mcuuf.org

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