

MCUUF NEWSLETTER – MAY 2015

LEADERSHIP LETTER

*“...We are the chalice. They are the flame.
We hold the boundaries. They fill the circle.”*

--Sponsor covenant for youth conferences

I've just returned from what's become a favorite milepost in my years. Every fall and every spring, the Pacific Northwest District hosts a conference for youth from Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Alaska and British Columbia. (Even when Canada split off from the UUA in 2000, the youth stayed as participants in our region's activities.)

The conferences are planned and led by a team of youth, many of them graduates of the district's summer Goldmine leadership school. They're great at it—not perfect, but so very good at setting intention, doing their best, course-correcting when necessary, and being authentically themselves all along the way.

There are some great adult facilitators behind the scenes and several dozen adult sponsors, who attend with the youth from their congregation. We do our best to manage ourselves with discretion, being involved where needed, but mostly we stay out of the way and let the youth navigate mishaps and lapses in community. They have a youth covenant as well, which they spent hours recreating this weekend, leading to consensus adoption by the end of Saturday's session.

The weekends are a storm of energy, emotion, and religious life with a fervor that you've likely never seen in our Protestant-descended faith.

Thank you for being part of this congregation and this faith that's continuing to, in the words of Rev. Galen Guengrich, “create a better world for our children, and better children for this world.”

In faith,

Kristen Dillon
Board President

FROM OUR MINISTER

I'm the kind of cook who likes to follow a recipe closely the first few times I make a new dish. I figure if I follow the directions exactly as written, the recipe will turn out okay, even if it's a complicated one—like hollandaise sauce. The first time I made it, I avoided the problem of having the sauce turn into something resembling scrambled eggs because I did just what Julia Child directed: I added a few bits of cold butter to the whipped eggs and lemon juice before I began adding drops of melted butter. That first hollandaise was excellent. It was thick, creamy, and velvety-smooth. Granted, I thought Julia Child's recommendation was snooty and over-the-top. But it worked.

I'm grateful for the recipes in my collection. With a recipe to follow, I feel like I can cook just about anything. Which makes me marvel at my Mum. She's an outstanding baker. And she has baked for all these years without written recipes. How does she do it? My best guess is experience. She's been baking for so many years that she knows our treasured family recipes by heart and can make subtle adjustments that go unnoticed by the likes of me.

I've tried to bake yeast breads like Mum's poppyseed kuchen. Over and over again. But the kuchen is just not the same. I keep asking myself, "What's wrong? Was it the temperature of the milk? Was it too hot? Too cold? Did I knead the dough too much? Too little?"

I've given up making kuchen. Not because I feel upset and defeated. I gave up because I realized that my culinary talents lie elsewhere. I've received accolades for my vegan pestos. And Indian and Persian cooking. My frustrations ended when I asked, "What's possible?" instead of "What's wrong?"

We have a choice about which questions to ask when we meet later this month for our annual congregational meeting. At this meeting we'll elect new members for our Board of Trustees and Nominating Committee. We'll vote on next year's budget and changes in our by-laws. These decisions mean a change in what's been happening in the fellowship this past year. These changes mean that people will be finding new expressions for their talents. These changes mean engaging with the fellowship in new ways, as this newly elected board chooses its way to lead congregational life.

As we look ahead to this meeting and what it portends for the next church year, may we treasure curiosity more than certainty. Creativity and ingenuity come from new connections. May we listen to one another with open minds and hearts. And from this may new connections be born.

In love and service,

Rev. Judy

SUNDAY SERVICES

May 10: *Our annual Flower Communion* at the glorious gardens of Tom and Marie Louise P. in Pine Grove. We will have an outdoor service followed by a potluck lunch. Please bring an edible, and a flower, to share.



May 17: *Columbia Riverkeeper Director Brett Van den Heuvel* will share with us about the health of our giant river.

May 24: *"Encountering Grace" by guest minister Rev. Amy Moses-Lagos*-The early Universalist theologians taught that grace was the unconditional love of God

bestowed on all humans. How do we understand this idea of grace today? How can we be open to moments of grace in our everyday lives?

May 30: “Religious Education Sunday” This morning we gather in celebration and appreciation of all those who have made our religious education program possible. We’ll mark the transition of our graduating high school youth into young adulthood with a special bridging ceremony and welcome new children into our youth program.

NEW MEMBER PROFILE



Annie and Mike M.

Annie M, who lives three miles north of Lyle with her husband Mike, is a retired registered nurse and naturopathic physician. The M’s came to the gorge in the spring of 2011 after living on the island of Hawaii for 14 years, where they had an anthurium farm and bed & breakfast, and Annie worked as a nurse. She spent 35 years (some of it part-time) working as an RN in critical care while she put herself through naturopathic medical school for five years. She then had a private practice as a naturopathic physician for 11 years. Annie was raised as a Lutheran but left that faith as a teen; in her 20s she was drawn to friends of a pagan/druid bent. In December 2013 she attended an MCUUF service explaining wiccan/druid values and led by her MCUUF friend Priya K. “UU really resonated with me—the seven principles especially,” she recalls. “I find UUs to be really supportive, compassionate, nonjudgmental, and easy to be with.” In her retirement, she volunteers for a senior lunch program, raises chickens, and does gardening—“my most favorite thing of all.”



“Chalice Chat”
Kevin S. interviews “Darwin” (Eliza D.)

Youth Service Message from Alicia B:

I had the great joy of working with our teens this year and was elated to help them celebrate their “Chalice Chat” creation recently. While many of you were able to experience and enjoy the great punchlines and gentle history lessons, there was quite possibly one important detail you may have missed. Watching the service, you could assume that it was quite an undertaking. The amount of time and effort these young adults put into the show was staggering! Each student took on the task of writing his or her own part, meeting much more than our regular Sunday mornings. They created their own character and turned their vision from an idea into a reality. These teens have a lot to be proud of, and I sure hope you seek one or all out to tell them that. As a “CongreNATION” (as they called us), let's praise these teens through the roof! They deserve it.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Save the Dates:

This year's ***Congregational Meeting*** will be immediately after worship on **Sunday, May 17**, likely starting around 11:15 a.m.

Family Game Night: Join us for game night Saturday, **May 16**, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the Grange for an evening of new and classic games. Feel free to bring your favorite game to share. Pizza will be provided. Sides and desserts will be potluck style. If you are young or young at heart and want to share some laughs, come, let us game together!

Women's Awareness Circle:

The next Women's Awareness Circle will meet on Friday, May 22, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at the home of Jodie H. We'll begin a discussion series covering each decade of our lives. The first in the series will cover our teens through age 29. We'll choose 2-3 turning points that shaped our lives during that decade and discuss which ones taught us something about ourselves. All UU women are welcome. Please RSVP to Debbie O.

Call for marchers: 2015 Portland Pride Parade:

Each year, we and other UUs celebrate equality and social justice by marching in the Portland Pride Parade, and this year's parade will be Sunday, June 14. This event is a kick—and easy to do: free parking across from the First Unitarian Church in Portland; some of us attend the service at First Church; then we walk with other UUs to our assigned starting point. From the parade's end at Waterfront Park, we walk back to First Church. Tom K. is again coordinating MCUUF's participation. Let him know if you'd like to participate. (And if you want to make a weekend of it, the incredibly talented Portland Gay Men's Chorus is having its final concert of the season the night before at The Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. Tickets at www.pdxgmc.org.)

Upcoming NAMI/National Alliance for Mental Illness Meetings: Thursday May 7, 6-7:30 p.m. at One Community Health 1040 Webber Street, The Dalles. Please enter from the east door. Also, Saturday, May 23, 10-11:30 a.m. at the Hood River Public Library, 502 State Street. For more information contact our own Rev. Judy.

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, 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



Join MCUUF's FISH produce gardening team! The new FISH food bank facility on Tucker Road will be surrounded by large gardens providing fresh produce for FISH clients. FISH has hired our own **Susan R** to supervise the project, and teams of volunteers from churches and other organizations will do the gardening. MCUUF's team will be led by **Dennis C, Kathy M, and Bonnie N.**

What will you do as a garden volunteer? You can work in an ongoing role, helping with an assigned part of the garden, or you can come for one-time work days scattered throughout the season. There will be plenty of dirt and sunshine and camaraderie. If interested, contact Bonnie N.

FISH food bank: The next volunteer days are coming in May.

MCUUF

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

Would you like to subscribe to this newsletter and the weekly eNews? Just send an email to mcuuf1@gmail.com with the word "subscribe" in the subject line.

To unsubscribe from MCUUF emails, please send an email to mcuuf1@gmail.com with "unsubscribe" in the subject line. Thank you.

The deadline for inclusion in the weekly eNews is midnight Monday. The deadline for inclusion in the monthly newsletter is midnight the 28th of the previous month. Please send your announcements to Brad A at mcuuf1@gmail.com

