



## ***MCUUF NEWSLETTER—May 2017***

### ***THE MINISTER'S MESSAGE***

Michael Jackson made the “moonwalk” his signature dance move. In a moonwalk, the dancer looks like he or she is gliding backward, while trying to walk forward. Jackson makes it look so easy.

The moonwalk has something important to tell us if we want to lead lives that are more than a succession of days filled with quotidian details. We feel empty, bored, used up, and tired when such days dominate our lives. The fire that drives us seems to have gone out.

Igniting this fire and keeping it burning is one of the core concerns of nearly every religious tradition. Finding meaning and purpose in life can lift us beyond the daily grind. For so many of us, the daily grind is filled with competing goals and directions that pull us in many directions at once. How can we get out of the fray? Work backwards.

Think about what you'd like people to say about you at your memorial service. Think about the epitaph on your tombstone. Your epitaph is the one purpose that all other goals and activities serve. Then slide into a moonwalk—and work backwards.

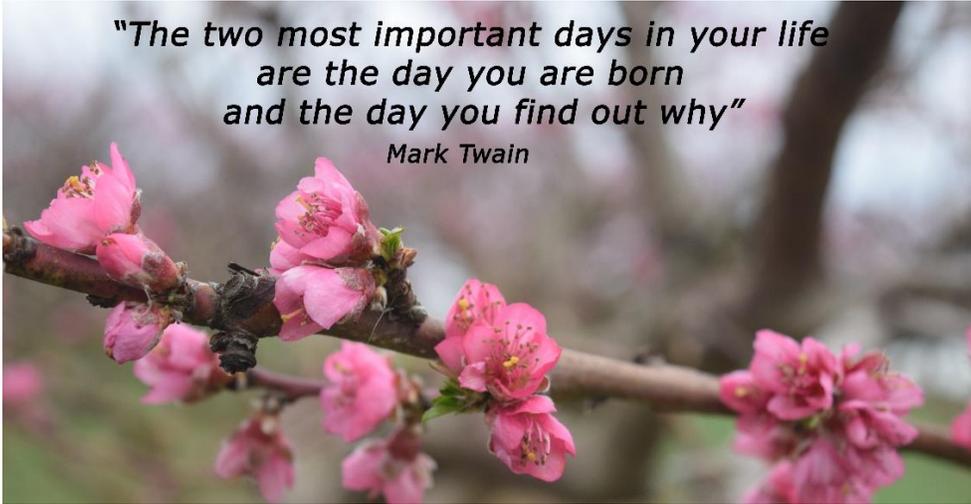
What could you be doing in the weeks leading up to your funeral that would make that epitaph come true? What needs to be done now so that what's happening in those final weeks might come to be? Thinking about the end-of-life isn't easy. Yet we can take small moonwalk steps to remind us of our core purpose or personal mission statement.

Our mission statement should be short—something we can readily remember. I've got mine narrowed down to one sentence. Say that the first thing in the morning when you wake up, before you get out of bed. If you're not much of a morning person, put your epitaph on a notecard and tape it near where you get tea or coffee. Put it on post-it notes in the car. Put it into your email signature. How else might you keep your mission statement in front of you?

Consider sharing your core purpose with those close to you. Maybe even ask them to create an epitaph. How do your missions interfere with each other? How might you change things so you all support one another to live into your missions?

We need not be fancy dancers to do a moonwalk that would change our lives—and the lives of those we love—for the better.

With love,  
Rev. Judy



**"The two most important days in your life  
are the day you are born  
and the day you find out why"**

**Mark Twain**

### ***BOARD PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE***

It's that time of year again for our annual Congregational Meeting. Yay! It is scheduled for this **Sunday, May 7**, immediately following service. This meeting is a very important part of our fellowship. Together we review and vote on essential business that ensures the ongoing operations of our congregation. Please review the annual reports, budget and other financial documents, the proposed bylaw changes and our new Covenant of Right Relations, all of which were sent out in a separate email. For those of you who are not (yet) members I encourage you to come and check it out.

One of the items we are voting on will be which non-profits to support with our Share the Plate/Pass It On money collected at Sunday services. We are already committed to supporting both food banks, the Warming Shelter and Peace Village. In addition, the following organizations were nominated during our last round of voting: *The Next Door, Adopt-a-Dog, Youth Experiment Shelter, Affordable Housing, Mentor for Success, Rebuild It Center, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Helping Hands Against Violence, and Give Them Wings.*

If your favorite non-profit organization is not listed and you would like it to be considered for support, please send that information to Bonnie N. Remember that the organization nominated must be in the Gorge and must be a 501c3.

See you this Sunday at the annual Congregational Meeting!

In faith,  
Stacey C.  
President, Board of Trustees

***The next meeting of the MCUUF Board will be 6 p.m. Thursday, May 11, at the Rockford Grange. All are welcome to attend.***



## ***RELIGIOUS EDUCATION***

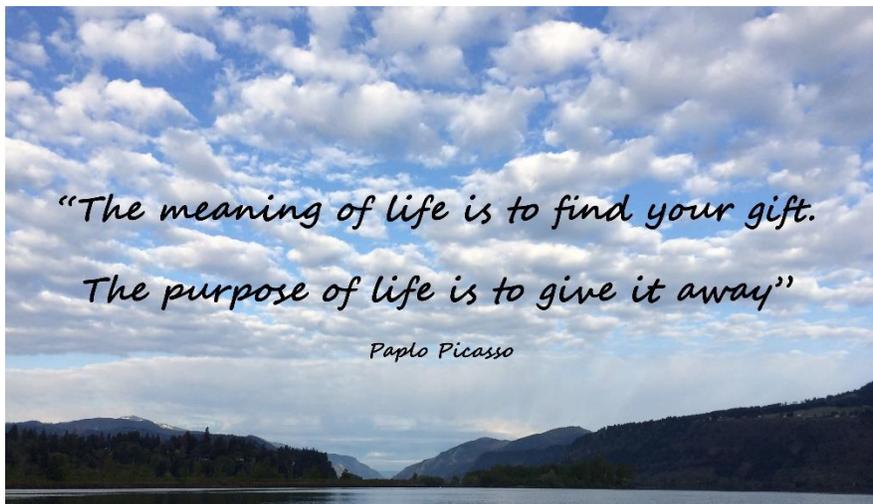
**Summer OWL:** MCUUF is offering a summer Our Whole Lives comprehensive sexual education course for 7th-9th graders. It is for both member students and community youth. We still have a few spots open, so if you know a 7th-9th grader who would benefit from this course, please have him or her contact Alicia B.

### ***OWL dates to remember:***

May 21st - Parents' night  
June 3rd - OWL overnight  
June 4th - First class

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** Our RE program needs volunteers for our youngest class this summer. We need volunteers to co-teach along with Alicia; you will be asked to assist in the preplanned lesson. There are 12 spots to fill, so whether you are willing to take one Sunday or a Sunday per month, you would be instrumental in our being able to provide childcare during the summer. Contact Alicia B. if you are willing to lend a hand.

**Thank you:** Rheva W., Tom H., and Bonnie N. have dedicated their time and skill to the MCUUF RE program this past year. This group of OWL students has been fun and vibrant, and our staff and volunteers have matched them at every turn. These folks truly lived their UU values for us and broadened these young minds in their search for truth. Please, if you see Rheva, Hons, or Bonnie, give them a big thank you, for they are amazing teachers.



## ***SUNDAY SERVICES*** ***10 a.m. at the Rockford Grange*** ***This month's worship theme is "Purpose"***

**May 7: "To Be of Use" –Elaine C.** Usefulness to the larger society is a high value for many of us UUs. But what if age or disability prevents us from making the contributions we would like? Let's explore how our Seven Principles might give us some insight into this issue that most of us will face sooner or later.

**RE: Little ones: Clean up. OWL. UUth: Self-directed.**

**May 14, 2017 “Gifts Mama Can UUse”—Rev. Judy Zimmerman.** Flowers, cards, candy or breakfast in bed come readily to mind when we contemplate how to remember those who mother. On this Mother’s Day let’s reflect on unusual gifts for mothers and other nurturers and the box that might hold them.

**RE: Little ones: Mother’s Day. UTh: Self-directed.**

**May 21, 2017 “Drought at the Fountain of Time”—Rev. Judy Zimmerman.** Human worth is equated with work and productivity in our dominant culture. Even leisure can be turned into work, eluding us from finding true rest. How does our need to feel useful stop us from observing Sabbath? And how might we rise to this challenge when it seems like there isn’t enough time to do what must?

**RE: Little ones: Sign making. Last OWL. UTh: Self-directed.**

**May 28: Sullivan M.** will be our worship leader. Details to follow.



**Cindy A, Aera A, Diana C, Tom H, David K,  
Tom K, Peggy N and Susan T were among the MCUUFers  
at the People's Climate Justice March in Hood River on April 29, 2017.  
Photo by Rev. Judy**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Immigration 101 with MariRuth Petzing**, attorney on **May 9** at 6:30 pm at Riverside Church, 4<sup>th</sup> and State, Hood River. Free. Become an informed ally! Anglos can make a difference. See how our immigration system really works. Sponsored by the Somos Uno project of Gorge Ecumenical Ministries.

**The Women's Awareness Circle** will meet in the home of Irene K from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Friday, May 12. All UU women are welcome. We will continue our discussion about the three stages of family life. Please RSVP to Debbie O.

**UU101 - History and Polity.** Why do we UUs worship as we do? Who’s in charge in a UU congregation? And how did Unitarian Universalism and MCUUF evolve to become like this? These questions and more explored in this three-session course for newcomers and long-time members. The course meets from 10-12 noon on May 23, June 6 and 20 at Beth El Shalom Community Room in White Salmon. Co-facilitated by Trish H and Rev. Judy Zimmerman. To sign up contact Trish H. or Rev. Judy at [jjzimmerman@uuma.org](mailto:jjzimmerman@uuma.org)

**IN THIS CONGREGATION, WE BELIEVE:**

**LOVE IS LOVE**

**BLACK LIVES MATTER**

**CLIMATE CHANGE IS REAL**

**NO HUMAN BEING IS ILLEGAL**

**ALL GENDERS ARE WHOLE, HOLY, & GOOD**

**WOMEN HAVE AGENCY OVER THEIR BODIES**



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## **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)**