



MCUUF NEWSLETTER—March 2019

MINISTER’S MESSAGE

When a new Unitarian Universalist congregation or community forms, it agrees to affirm and promote seven principles that express our core values and serve as moral guides. Our fourth principle is particularly relevant this month, when worship and congregational life focus upon the theme of Truth. This fourth principle calls us to engage in “a free and responsible search for truth and meaning.”

A key concept of quantum mechanics in physics is that light and matter exhibit properties of *both* particles and waves. Furthermore, the point of view of the observer and the conditions under which the observations are made make a difference in understanding matter and light. Both views are correct, a seeming paradox. Cognitive and forensic psychologists have discovered something similar. Research participants viewed the same film of a car accident. Depending on how they were questioned about the film, they gave different answers about what they saw, even though they saw the same film.

This is humbling. At best we have partial glimmers of truth. We look at the world and strive to understand it from different windows. Pagan spiritual traditions will lead to understanding and cultivating compassion in ways that are different than Judaism, Hinduism, Humanism, or Christianity. As Unitarian Universalists, we are participants in a faith movement that explicitly recognizes that truth is not absolute. It comes in many ways, through many windows. An essential part of spiritual growth is learning about this multiplicity of perspectives and discerning what holds true, checking reason against intuition and experience. Freedom and responsibility are brought into action.

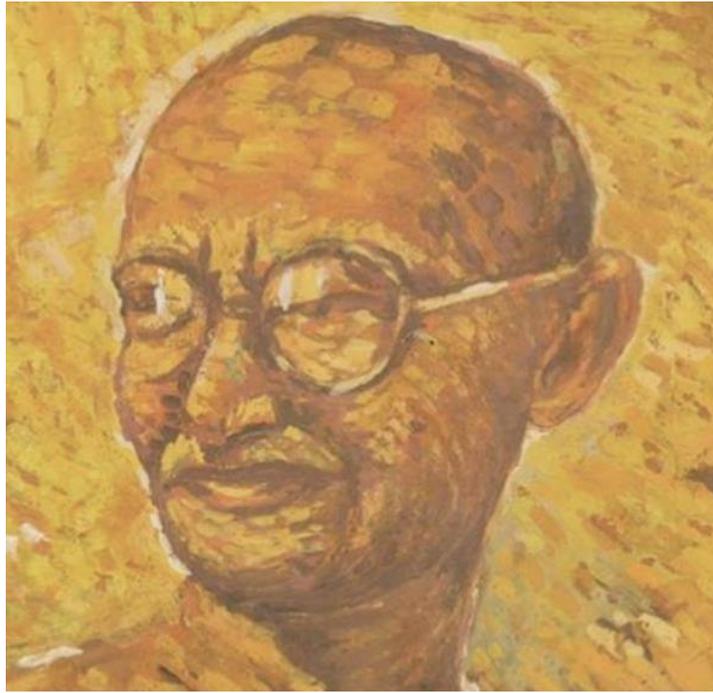
This quest for meaning and truth is not a solitary pursuit. We bring these explorations into the light of community for feedback, further investigation, continued discernment, and greater spiritual growth. We are an intentional, covenanted religious community. We share the truth, in love. This is precious. The participants in this community co-create an environment where our differences can be shared and appreciated. We have much to learn from each other, even those with whom we disagree. As UU historian and minister Conrad Wright has said, “We walk together, though we may disagree.”

In a cultural climate of increasing polarization and divisiveness, Unitarian Universalist congregations can serve as laboratories that make for vibrant, healthy religious communities where multiple truths are not viewed as threatening. To the contrary, they are enriching and held in great love.

Yours in faith,

Rev. Judy

***Want to meet? Please call (503-970-0564) or email jzimmerman@uuma.org
and let's find a time that works.***



“When I despair, I remember that all through history
The way of truth and love have always won...
think of it – always,”
--Mahatma Gandhi

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Help Shape the Future: Include a Gift in Your Will for our Fellowship

Everyone wants to have a meaningful life. And this question looms larger as we get older. How can your influence live on?

One way you can make a long-lasting impact on the future of this Fellowship, is with a gift in your will.

Leaving a gift in your will to the Mid-Columbia Unitarian Universalist Fellowship is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Because of your generosity, the principles that drew you to MCUUF will live on:

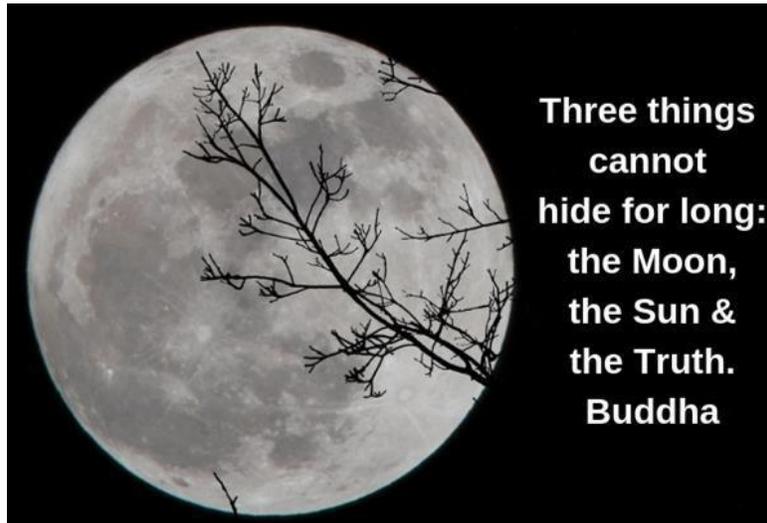
Because of you, vulnerable people will have a voice.

Because of you, our communities will know that religious expression includes upholding the inherent worth and dignity of each individual.

Because of you, MCUUF will stand for justice, compassion, and equity.

As you consider your legacy, please think about what you can continue to do through MCUUF. A gift in your will could be the most thrilling charitable gift you'll ever make.

Heidi V, Board Secretary



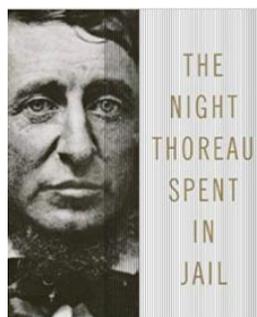
SUNDAY SERVICES
10 a.m. at the Rockford Grange
This Month's Theme: "Truth"

March 3: ***"The Truth About Boredom"*** Rev. Judy Zimmerman, with Steve H, celebrant. Boredom is a familiar state of being, one with which we are probably uncomfortable. What might boredom be telling us about our spiritual and relational lives and culture? And how might we lessen boredom's presence in our lives?

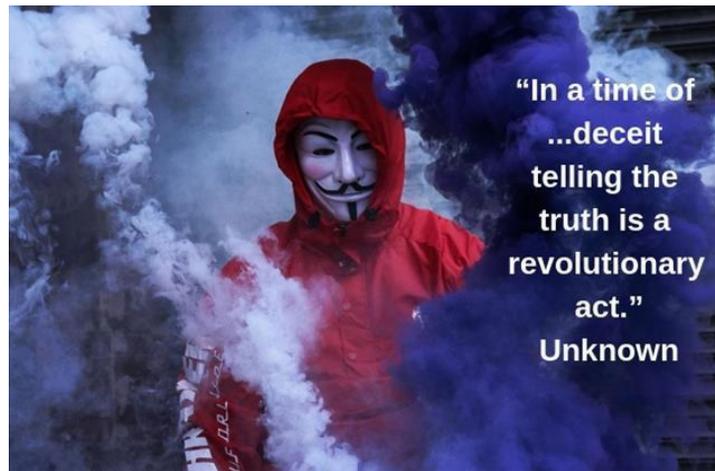
March 10: ***"The Journey,"*** Rev. Rick Davis, with Tom P, celebrant. Everyone's Life is a journey. Is it a journey of learning and growth? A journey with meaning and purpose? A journey toward deeper understanding? It's good to pause sometimes and consider where you are and what might be the next step. Our guest Rick Davis is minister of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Salem.

March 17: ***"Celtic Spirituality,"*** Rev. Judy Zimmerman, with Dan B, celebrant and Alicia B, Director of Religious Education. On this Saint Patrick's Day, we'll explore the spiritual traditions that were alive in ancient Ireland and their resurgence today. We'll do so in an interactive, family-friendly service where the whole congregation will worship together.

March 24: ***"The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail"***—a dramatic reading, with Dick W, celebrant. Our Unitarian Universalist heritage comes alive as we meet the two great luminaries of Unitarian transcendentalism, Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau. Their deep and abiding friendship is tested in the crucible of 19th Century American society and politics. Issues of war and peace, nonviolence, civil disobedience, slavery, justice, ecology and education challenge the practice of our faith and principles today in much the same way as they challenged our forebears in 1846. Please join us for a different kind of Sunday morning service.



March 31: “Just Being Here” Elizur Bello, with Paul B. celebrant. Eli is the director of programs at The Next Door, and he will tell his story of growing up in Hood River.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Attention, date change:

UU Parenting Group. Let's move into the new season with some UUnplugged! We are offering a 5-week workshop focused on parenting as a Unitarian Universalist that offers guided conversation with other parents who are wanting to work on parenting positivity and bringing spirituality into your busy lives. No matter where you are at in your journey as a parent (adult children to newborn) you have a space in the workshop. It will be held at 5 p.m. every Sunday in April. Dinner will be provided, and childcare will be based on necessity. Location to be announced. Please RSVP. If you have any questions please contact Alicia, Director of Religious Education.

MOMENTS IN UU HISTORY

By Bonnie W.

What can you do when you live too far from an established UU congregation to attend services? One resource available to those “out of reach” is the Church of the Larger Fellowship, where you can receive all manner of material and can connect with other like-minded searchers. For this critical arm of outreach, we can thank Sallie Ellis, who was born March 24, 1835, in Cincinnati and was introduced to Unitarianism at an early age. At age 20, after she had left school to nurse her mother through her last illness, she joined the church and became an avid student of the minister, Abiel Abbott Livermore.

After a time in Chicago, Sallie's family returned to Cincinnati, where she became seriously ill with a set of symptoms, including deafness, that would keep her severely disabled for the rest of her life. Despite her weakened state, she went to the minister, George Wendt, asking to be of service. After a period of simple clerical work, Sallie asked to become a Unitarian circuit-riding missionary, but her health did not permit travel, so she was put in charge of the book table where she began to distribute sermons and pamphlets. Soon she was carrying on correspondence with folks seeking clarification of Unitarian beliefs. Her reputation as an astute and learned source of theological information led an out-of-town minister to call her project the “Post Office Mission.” Across the nation, other denominations adopted the idea, which among Unitarians eventually grew to be called, first, the Unitarian Church of All Souls, and finally, in 1944, the Church of the Larger Fellowship.

In the four and a half years preceding her death in 1885, Sallie Ellis “received 1,672 letters and wrote 2,541 in return. She distributed more than twenty thousand tracts, sold books and subscriptions, and loaned by mail hundreds of books from the church's circulating library” (UUDB.org). Let us remember Sallie Ellis for her intrepid will to battle through debilitating illness to share knowledge of her deeply held faith.



Sallie Ellis

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY in SPOKANE

General Assembly is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association. Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the UUA through a democratic process. Anyone may attend; congregations must certify annually to send voting delegates. The 2019 General Assembly will be June 19-23 in **Spokane**.

The Power of We

What do we want Unitarian Universalism to be? This is a time when we are asking big questions about our faith, and GA 2019 will encourage us to dig into those questions together. It is a critical chance for congregational leaders and passionate UUs to set new goals and aspirations for our religious community. Help begin to reshape our association and our congregations in new and powerful ways. This year's theme is about collective power, “The Power of We,” and the possibility, the purpose, the struggle, and the joy of what it means to be together in a faithful community. In the past two years, Unitarian Universalism has recommitted to the work of liberation inside and outside our faith community. The antidote to a time of dangerous dehumanization is a love that connects us to our deeper humanity. Go to Spokane and experience what our shared faith can become when we embrace The Power of We.

Registration and Housing is Open

GA Registration and the GA Housing Reservation System are open at 9 a.m. PST at www.uua.org/ga

Excellent Programming

This year GA will feature Role-Based Track Programming where those having similar volunteer and leadership roles will be grouped into cohorts, meeting regularly for discussion, sharing inspiring

models and stories, and making concrete suggestions for how to "take it home." Wonderful worship services occur several times each day. More programming details are available at www.uua.org/ga.

Financial Aid Available

The UUA is committed to the goal of making GA accessible to as many attendees as possible. Go to uua.org/ga to learn about scholarships to support delegates and volunteer opportunities (work in exchange for registration). ***If you have questions or are considering attending, please contact any member of the Board of Trustees or Rev. Judy.***

CONNECTION

Interfaith Meditation Workshop meets Friday nights from 7 – 8:30 p.m. The workshop explores a variety of meditation techniques based on the world's wisdom traditions. Methods involve movement, singing/chanting, and sitting. Instruction and practice will be followed by discussion. Beginners and experienced meditators are welcome. Wear loose, comfortable clothing. Chairs, cushions, mats and benches will be available, or bring your own if you prefer. Sessions are free in this ongoing, open, drop-in class. Donations to the FISH food bank accepted. Facilitated by Rev. Judy Zimmerman, MCUUF minister & UU Buddhist Fellowship President and Kyri Kengan Treiman, senior teacher, Dharma Rain Zen Center/Hood River Zen. **New location:** FISH Food Bank meeting room, 1130 Tucker Road, Hood River.

The MCUUF Directory is now ONLINE! Breeze is the online church-management system MCUUF is now using. Members and friends can easily access the website and the mobile app to see contact information for others, make changes to their contact information, check their annual pledge and giving history (only theirs, not others'), and email or text others in the system. It's easy to sign up and VERY user friendly. If you've not already signed up, please contact Brad at mcuuf1@gmail.com and he will email you an invitation to join and instructions.

The MCUUF Men's Group will meet on Wednesday, March, 13 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Rockford Grange. The topic for discussion will be "FUN: What have you done that is fun or what are you doing now that is fun?" All UU men are welcome to attend. If you have questions, contact Brad at mcuuf1@gmail.com.

PASTORAL CARE

When to Contact the Care Team: Our Care Team stands ready to contact anyone in our UU community who may need help. They may be in a tight squeeze and wondering if they can make rent this month. Their moving help may have fallen through. They may need a ride to MCUUF events or Sunday Service. They may be laid up for a while from surgery or illness. They may be having difficulty caring for a loved one.

These are but a few of the circumstances where our Care Team coordinates assistance with fellowship members, a private conversation with our minister or a care team member, or a referral to community or social services. We walk through the challenges of life together. You are not alone.

Note from Care Team: If anyone is having difficulty getting up and down stairs at the Grange, please be aware that we have a wheelchair and assistance to use the ramp when necessary, including during snowy or icy weather. Please have someone alert the greeters, and assistance will be found.

Family Caregiver Support Group. Get mutual support. Learn about community resources. Find solutions to caregiving challenges. Understand and manage the complicated feelings related to caregiving. Transportation and respite care can be provided by trained volunteers. Please contact 541-

386-2060 for this service or for more information. Meets at Hood River Valley Adult Center, 2010 Sterling Place (next to Down Manor), on the second Tuesday of the month.

SOCIAL ACTION

Share the Plate. This month, our Share the Plate collection will go to ***The NORCOR Detainee Phone Fund***. Our regional jail in The Dalles—NORCOR—is the only jail in the state of Oregon that has a contract with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to hold immigration detainees. Most NORCOR detainees come from Washington state. While at NORCOR, they are not allowed to have face-to-face visits with their families. Phone calls and video visits are their chief way to stay in touch. These calls cost significantly more at NORCOR than at the other area detention center in Tacoma. Families are thrown into economic hardship when their primary wage earner goes into detention and that income is lost. Your donations help these families stay connected while going through the immigration process. This fund is managed by Gorge Ecumenical Ministries, of which MCUUF is a member.

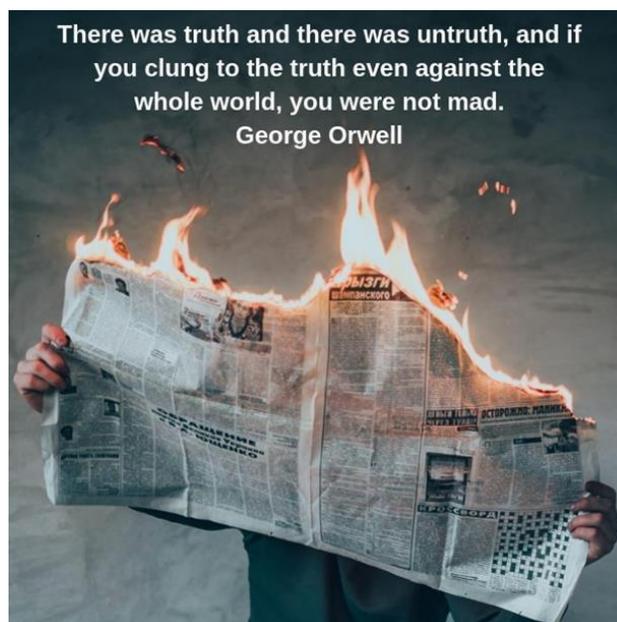
VOLUNTEER HELP NEEDED

We can still use two more volunteer readers to participate in a dramatic reading of *The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail* (a play by Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee) on Sunday, March 24. In this play, the history of Unitarian Transcendentalism comes alive. Our 19th Century heroes - Emerson and Thoreau - face many of the same social and political dilemmas that continue to challenge us in the 21st Century.

If you are interested (sure you are!), please contact Dick W. before Saturday, March 9. We will schedule one or two read-through rehearsals before the performance on the 24th.

The Financial Committee is looking for a volunteer that is interested and experienced in finances and financial management to help us evaluate financial options. Contact Lori G. for more info.

MCUUF Homestay Program—our fellowship hopes to start a homestay program for short term UU visitors to our area. The program will be modeled on similar successful programs around the country. The program will be organized through the fellowship, with guests contributing to the fellowship in exchange for a homestay. If you are interested in helping organize the program, or if you might consider occasionally hosting guests, please contact Peggy N.



Mid-Columbia Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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 (11:59 p.m.) Monday. The MCUUF Newsletter comes out on the first Wednesday of each month (unless otherwise announced).

The deadline for inclusion is midnight of the prior Monday.

Please send your submissions to Brad at mcuuf1@gmail.com