



MCUUF NEWSLETTER—July 2019

MINISTER’S MESSAGE

July marks an important point of transition where the torch of leadership is passed from one Board of Trustees to the next. One aspect of the free-church tradition of which this congregation is part is that we are self-governed. There is no authority outside of this congregation that dictates who will serve on the board or as minister. We are free to decide how to run and organize our congregation.

Our spiritual lineage can be traced to the 1630s, when our earliest ancestors came to New England to found free churches. One of their great gifts was this pattern of institutional organization. We call those who help lead this congregation a board of *trustees*—not a board of directors. We entrust them with our love. In turn they govern out of love for this congregation and its people and for our Unitarian Universalist faith. Love is born out of trust.

For a long-term relationship to survive and prosper, love must constantly be renewed. What we love and how we express that love changes over time. This rebirth comes from the ground of our memories of congregational life and exploration of what we hold to be our highest values today. Our Board of Trustees is charged with gauging those changing loyalties and using them to guide leadership. This is no easy task. Our current loyalties and values aren’t always readily visible or written down.

David Gerrold says that “freedom is not about being comfortable. It’s about seizing and using opportunities, and using them responsibly. Freedom is not comfort. It’s commitment. Commitment is the willingness to be uncomfortable.” Exploring our personal and congregational values and priorities, and how they move us to manifest them in love can feel awkward. Gerrold wrote several Star Trek—Original Series episodes, whose opening spoke of “going boldly where no one has gone before.” With all that is before us in the life of this dear fellowship, an intrepid spirit can help steer us wisely. We stand on the shoulders of spiritual ancestors who opened themselves to the unknown in a new land, endured discomfort, and gave us the gift of a liberal, free church.

May the love we have for one another in this religious community lead us to show that love by encouraging one another in this venture into a new church year, and the delights, challenges, freedoms, and responsibilities that will come. May our new Board of Trustees—Peggy N, Ray K, Kathy J. and Cindy A.—feel our love and support. May our outgoing board—Lori G, Mike M, Heidi V. and Stacey C.—know the depth of our gratitude for the foundation they have built.

In love,
Rev. Judy

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



Photo by Stephanie McCabe on Unsplash

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Cherish your Board!

As I retire from my second MCUUF board term, and my presidency, I thank those of you who have made my board experience worthwhile. The board members I served with were dedicated people who volunteered and filled in when needed (ah, the best of volunteers!), and applied their intelligence, skills, and energy to improving and strengthening our fellowship. I'm happy to have served with them and participated in this necessary work for MCUUF. What great resources we have in our friends and members!

I also appreciate the MCUUF members who thanked me for my service and gave me kudos for the work I was doing. Warm fuzzy feedback is energizing and gratefully received.

Please continue to spread the warmth to our new board, who started July 1; the new members are Kathy J. and Ray K. Continuing their terms are Peggy N. and Cindy A, and Judy Zimmerman as ex officio member.

Welcome new Board of Trustees. You know that I realize and appreciate all that you do!

Lori G.

President, MCUUF Board of Trustees

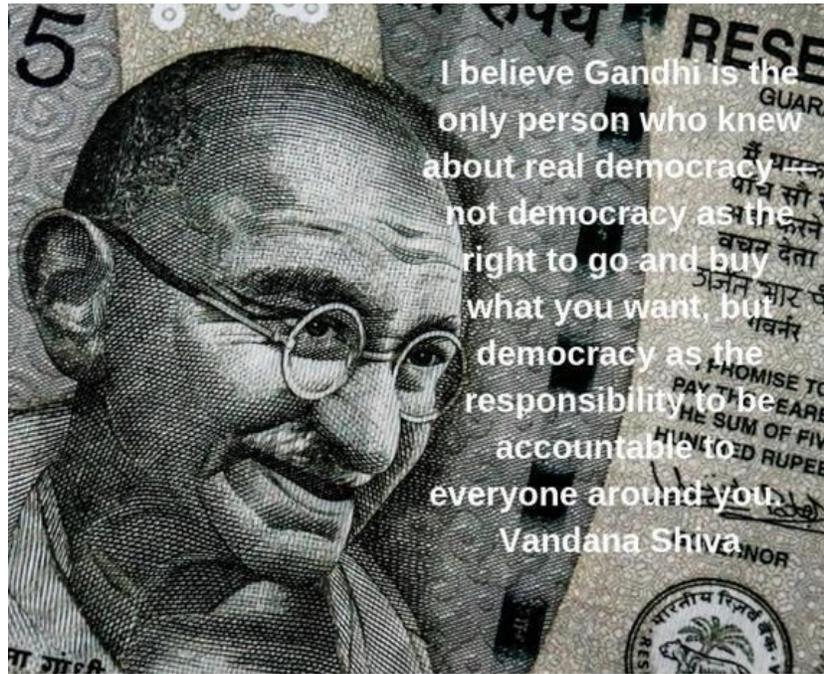


Photo by Ishant Mishra on Unsplash

SUNDAY SERVICES

10 a.m. at the Rockford Grange

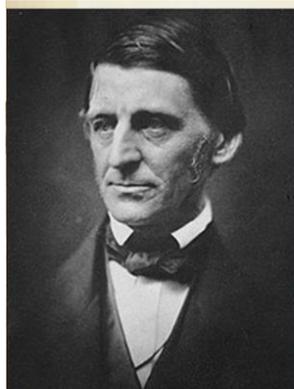
This Month's Theme: "Freedom and Responsibility"

This Month's Share the Plate will be donated to the Columbia Gorge Peace Village.

This is based on our Sixth Principle: The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.

July 7: "Huckleberry-hunting and Putting Gloves on Chickens?" Welcome to Act II of ***"The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail."*** We revisit the picture painted for us by playwrights Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee. The playwrights depict two giants of American Transcendentalism - Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau. Together they explore the deeply tragic themes of racism, slavery, war, economic and social injustice that continue to haunt our American experiment in democracy.

We are left with their hopeful legacy in the form of social revolutionaries such as Tolstoy, Gandhi, and Martin Luther King, Jr., and navigate the difficult social and ethical waters of civil disobedience. Our theme for the month of July is "Freedom & Responsibility." Come join this lively discussion!



Ralph Waldo Emerson
(1803-1882)



Henry David Thoreau
(1817-1862)

July 14: "In This Delicate Turning." If you couldn't go to the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly last month in Spokane, its Sunday worship service will come to us at the Grange. Join Emma's Revolution, the GA Choir, Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, Julica Hermann de la Fuente, Rev. Lindasusan Ulrich, Rev. Marta Valentin, Rev. Sunshine Jeremiah Wolfe for this streamed service.

July 21: "Question Box." Rev. Judy Zimmerman. "To question truly is an answer," says one of our hymns. This annual tradition will consist of Reverend Judy's extemporaneous responses to your questions.

July 28: "Impermanence," Mike Gyoshi Kaplan, Dharma Rain Zen Teacher.

Anicca, or Impermanence, looms large among the basic Buddhist teachings. It's considered to be one of the three characteristics of existence and is intimately related to the Four Noble Truths—probably the earliest and most fundamental of the Buddha's teachings. Impermanence seems pretty straightforward: everything changes. It's pretty easy to accept that intellectually but not so easy to live in congruence with it. Why do we struggle so hard to avoid impermanence? What are our often unconscious strategies for avoiding it? How can we avoid avoiding it? Who are we when we don't avoid it? We'll explore these questions together.

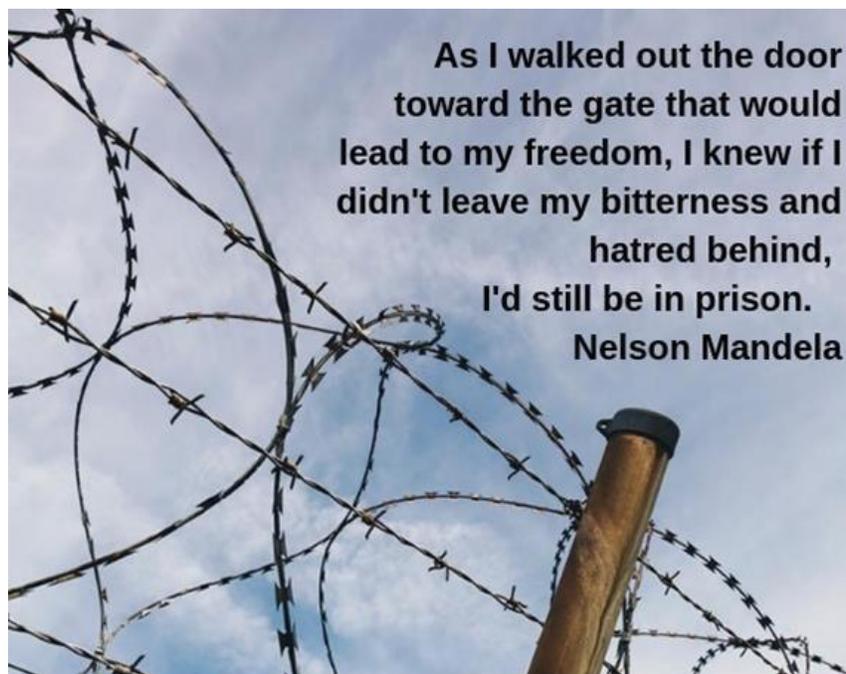


Photo by Markus Spiske on Unsplash

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Summer Lessons for MCUUF Religious Education

Welcome to Summer with Dr. Suess!! I've chosen a few of the lessons that I think will be great fun for our youth (and for us!). Please feel free to take a look at the following website and see if you might be interested in celebrating summer with us! --Rheva W.

Dr. Suess and UU's <http://www.hzmre.com/seuss> ≠

July 14: Horton Hears a Who (Everyone is important!) - Volunteer Led

July 21: How Lucky You Are (comparison) - Rheva

July 28: Sleep Book (healthy sleep) - Volunteer Led

August 4: Green Eggs and Ham (baking included! Trying new things) - Rheva

August 11: Yertle the Turtle (everything/everyone is important) - Volunteer Led

August 18: The Things You Can Think (sense of wonder) - Rheva

August 25: The Sneetches (we are fair and kind) - Volunteer Led

September 1: The Lorax (taking care of our world) - Rheva

September 8: Oh, The Places You Will Go (adventures, good and bad) - Volunteer Led

September 15: What Was I Scared Of (overcoming fear with knowledge) - Rheva

Religious Education teachers and helpers are needed for our faith and fun-filled summer program for children and youth. Choose one Sunday between June 16 and Labor Day to volunteer. You will get a ready-to-go lesson and coaching. Please contact RE assistant Rheva W.

MOMENTS IN UU HISTORY

By Bonnie W.

With our production of Act II of “The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail” coming up this Sunday, it is a delight to learn about yet another member of the Emerson household. Elizabeth Sherman Hoar was born on July 14, 1814, to a prominent Concord family. She went to school with Henry Thoreau and his siblings. As a young woman, she was engaged to Emerson’s brother, Charles, with plans for the couple to live with Emerson, his second wife, Lidian, and her family. Sadly, Charles died before the wedding, yet Elizabeth remained a beloved family member for the rest of her life. She took over the household several times when Lidian was ill; the children called her Aunt Lizzie. Emerson loved her as a sister, inviting her to join the Transcendental circle, where she came to know Margaret Fuller, the Alcotts, William Ellery Channing, and the Peabody sisters. On a trip to England, she met Emerson's idol, Carlyle. She was considered a woman of great intellect by this august circle.

As emissaries from the Massachusetts legislature, Elizabeth and her father traveled to Charleston, South Carolina, in 1844, to protest the treatment of free black sailors. South Carolina legislators took offense to this “meddling” and a mob formed to force them out of town. With the assistance of Unitarian minister Rev. Samuel Gilman and others, they secretly fled the city. Once back in Massachusetts, the story of their rude treatment was widely spread. As a result of these reports, many who had been reluctant to embrace the abolitionist cause changed their minds.

A sweet note: when Nathaniel Hawthorne moved to Concord with his bride, Sophia Peabody, Elizabeth and Thoreau planted a vegetable garden for them.

Elizabeth Hoar died in 1878 and is buried in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery in Concord, Massachusetts. Emerson, Thoreau, National Hawthorne, and many other well-known authors and thinkers are buried there as well.



WORSHIP TEAM NOTES

Have you noticed our Fellowship's electronic equipment?

There are occasional Sunday services when our MCUUF presenter may desire to show to the fellowship pictures or videos, sometimes accompanied by projected poetry words, lyrics, or music. At other times, we don't have the pleasure of live accompaniment or other special, live music and will sing to recorded music. These capabilities are made possible by using a video projector connected to a laptop computer, connected to an amplifier and speakers at the Grange.

In 2017 the fellowship purchased a new video projector that can be hooked up to a laptop computer to present videos. The Worship Team had been using MCUUF members' personal computers until longtime MCUUF member Ken M. made a generous donation so we could buy a high-quality laptop computer and carrying case. This donation allows our minister, the Worship Team, and guest speakers to project and share videos, song lyrics, and special photographs during our services. The computer and video projector can then be connected to an amplifier system put together by our long-time friend and member, David K. The MCUUF Worship Team and all of us at MCUUF are thankful for this generous gift from Ken M. and the sound system expertise of David K.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONNECTION

Our annual Mt. Hood Cluster summer picnic will be held on SUNDAY, JULY 21, starting at 3 p.m. at the Marina Park on the Hood River waterfront. Details will be provided later. Meanwhile, save that date. We hope to see you and members of your congregation for a lovely day of fun, sun, and fellowship.

BREEZE, our online directory and church management system, is up and running on the Internet. It contains contact information and photos of members and friends as well as a calendar of events and email and text functions. **Would you like to take a look at BREEZE before you sign up? Now you can** by going to mcuuf.breezechms.com and entering username "generic" and password "mcuuf." If you like what you see, you can contact our administrator Brad at mcuuf1@gmail.com and he will send you an invitation to join. Brad can also add your name, photo, and contact information if you are not already included. Please give it a look!

The UU Men's Group will not be meeting during July and August. We will resume meeting on the second Wednesday in September. To be added to the Men's Group mailing list, contact Brad at mcuuf1@gmail.com. All UU men are welcome!



MCUUF members marching in the Columbia Gorge Pride Parade

PASTORAL CARE

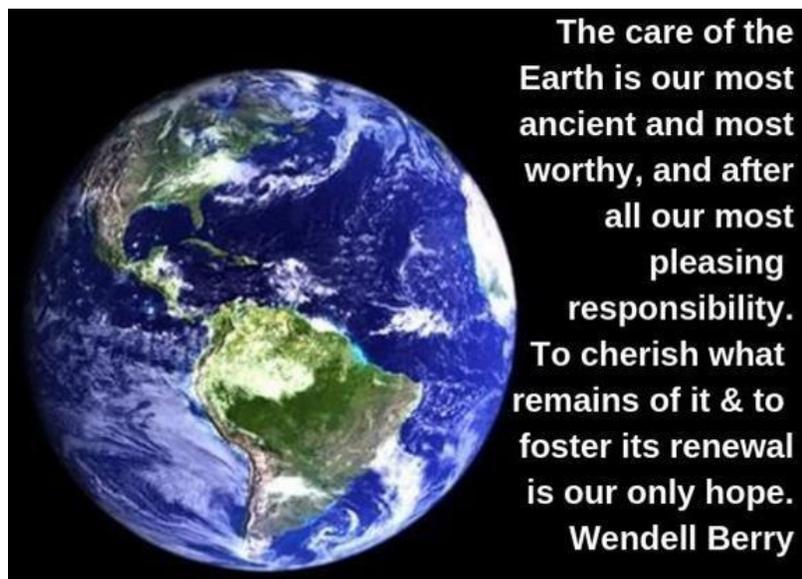
When to Contact the Care Team: Our Care Team stands ready to help anyone in our UU community. They may be in a tight squeeze and wondering if they can make rent this month. Their moving help may have fallen through. They may need a ride to MCUUF events or Sunday Service. They may be laid up for a while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

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Join Somos Uno in marching July 4 for our immigrant neighbors. MCUUF is a member of Gorge Ecumenical Ministries' Building Community Connection committee (Somos Uno), which marches for immigrant rights and justice in Hood River's Fourth of July parade each year. Can you join us in this year's parade to demonstrate our unwavering support for our immigrant neighbors? Signs (non-partisan, please) and U.S. flags welcome. We will gather at 9 a.m. at Pacific Avenue and Woods Court (by the Pacific NW Credit Union). Park on a nearby street. The parade begins at 10 a.m. We march to Jackson Park, then walk back to our cars. Any questions, contact Tom K.

Thanks to all those that have been helping with the dishes after church. Keep up the good work!



Earth, by Kevin Gill, March 4, 2015, (CC BY 2.0), <https://www.flickr.com/photos/kevinmgill/16530938850>

Mid-Columbia Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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

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Just send an email to mcuuf1@gmail.com with the word "subscribe" in the subject line.

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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