



## ***MCUUF NEWSLETTER—March 2020***

### ***MINISTER’S MESSAGE***

This month we explore in Sunday worship the theme of forgiveness. The world’s religious traditions all emphasize the value of forgiveness. Practicing forgiveness seems more aspirational. It remains an ideal that seems nearly impossible to achieve.

At its core, forgiveness asks us to reckon with harm we have experienced. We can feel we’re empty inside after being hurt. We’ve been wounded so badly that we’re scoured out. Our suffering acts like a scaffolding in that hollow space. Each time we relive the incident that has hurt us, we fill in that framework and shore up some sense of who we are. We know that hurt has changed us, so we attempt to rebuild, defining who we are in terms of who and what hurt us.

The practice of forgiveness asks us to explore what our pain is for. Why are we suffering? Do we deserve this? How must the perpetrator pay for the harm that has been caused? Surely the pain cannot be a gateway to freedom or a catalyst in a form of spiritual alchemy, turning straw into gold.

During this month of focus on forgiveness, may we carry these questions and those that lie deeper within us in the tenderness and care of community.

We are a community of multiple generations where all ages worship together. Over the last few weeks we’ve created a kidspace or “pray-ground” with activities for our young ones so they can see and hear the service. Simply being present and feeling included helps our children learn about our faith. We in turn learn about the young people in our midst when they are with us for the entirety of worship. We’ll continue to add to the kidspace in the weeks to come. Donations of quiet toys, crafts and furniture for kidspace are gratefully accepted.

----

In love and faith,

Rev. Judy

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

We welcome **Liz**, our new Coordinator of Religious Exploration!  
**Sunday, March 8**, will be her first day with us. Please join us during coffee hour  
for a special welcome, including cake and ice cream.



Let us forgive each other—  
only then will we live in peace.  
Leo Tolstoy

Photo by Sunyu on Unsplash

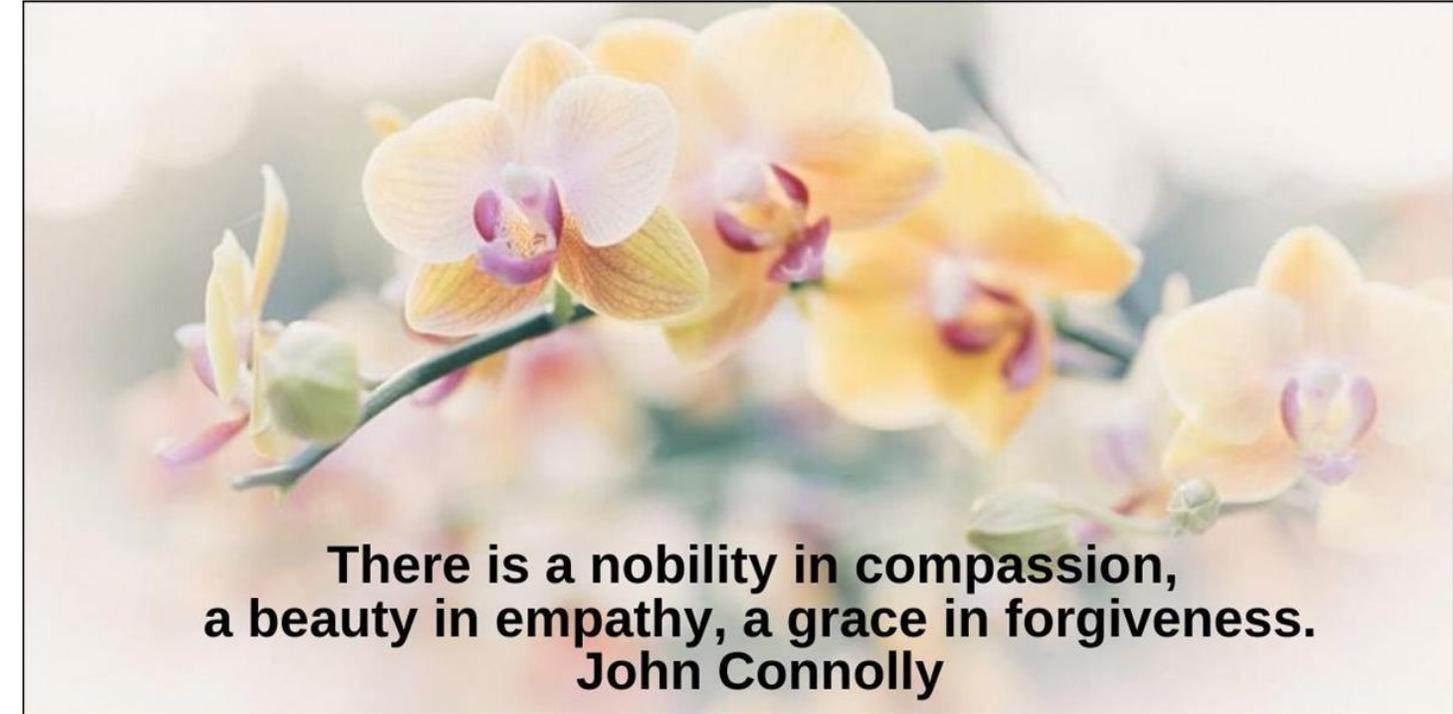
## ***NEWS FROM YOUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES***

As we're sure you are all aware, MCUUF is nearing the end of its Fellowship Drive. It has been a rich and exciting month, with wonderful worship services and opportunities for gathering. Many thanks to Lori Golze for her hard work in arranging the Cottage Meetings. We had **seven** dinners (and lunches), with a total attendance of over 50 adults, plus a number of children.

The main purpose of these gatherings was fun and fellowship, but we also asked attendees to suggest ways they might feel more involved in MCUUF. Hosts collected all of these suggestions and are passing them on to the board.

One of the board's main priorities at its March meeting will be to review and respond to these suggestions. If you have feedback about these or any other issues, please feel free to contact any of your board members: Ray K. (president), Cindy A. (treasurer), Elaine C. (secretary), and Peggy N. and Kathy J. (trustees at large).

We also now have a system through which you can email feedback or suggestions. Just click on <https://goo.gl/forms/U7e4IW11jBnqfugX2> to leave your comment; the link is also included on our website at [mcuuf.org](http://mcuuf.org). As always, you are welcome to attend our board meetings. The next one is scheduled for **Thursday, March 12, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Grange.**



**There is a nobility in compassion,  
a beauty in empathy, a grace in forgiveness.  
John Connolly**

Photo by Dominik Vanyi on Unsplash

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

***March 1: "The Heart of Forgiveness,"*** Rev. Judy Zimmerman, with Elaine C, celebrant. "He who is devoid of the power to forgive is devoid of the power to love," said the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Forgiving can bring healing. How do we begin this process when our feet feel like they are trapped in concrete and our heart is heavy with bitterness? This Sunday we look at ways to get unstuck and return to love.

***Newcomer Social, Sunday, March 1st***

Our first Newcomer Social will be held following the Sunday service on March 1st. We will meet downstairs in the Teen Room. This is soup Sunday, so pick up a bowl of delicious soup and other goodies and come to the Teen Room if you would like to get to know some of the other newer members, as well as a few of us long timers.

***March 8: "Forgiveness: for Oneself, for Others and for Social Injustice"*** Lani Roberts, with Dan B, celebrant. Forgiveness extends from forgiving oneself, to friends and family and other personal relationships, all the way to social injustices, e.g. South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation. What is "forgiveness"? Why ought we forgive? Is there a role for apologies in forgiveness? What is a true apology? We will think about these questions, relying in large part of the work of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and look with truth and reconciliation at a local issue.

***March 15: "Restorative Justice and Universalism,"*** Rev. Judy Zimmerman, with Adam P, celebrant. We are more than the worst thing we have ever done. Our Universalist forebears held to this so strongly that they believed no one is beyond forgiveness. Sadly, our criminal justice system is founded on a different and punitive principle. What would a modern Universalist do to remedy our

broken criminal justice system? We'll explore how principles of restorative justice are aligned with our Universalist heritage.

**March 22: "Naw-Ruz - New Year."** Soroush and Ursala Kermani, Baha'i Local Assembly, with Judy Zimmerman. Spring equinox is celebrated as a secular holiday in Iran. For people of the Baha'i faith, whose origins are in Iran, Naw-Ruz is a religious holiday that marks the end of a period of fasting and a day of joyous festivities. We'll learn how Naw-Ruz is celebrated in Iran and what makes this a Holy Day for Bahais. We're invited to join the Baha'i Local Assembly for their Naw-Ruz celebration on the evening of March 19. More details about that will be forthcoming.

**March 29: TBA**

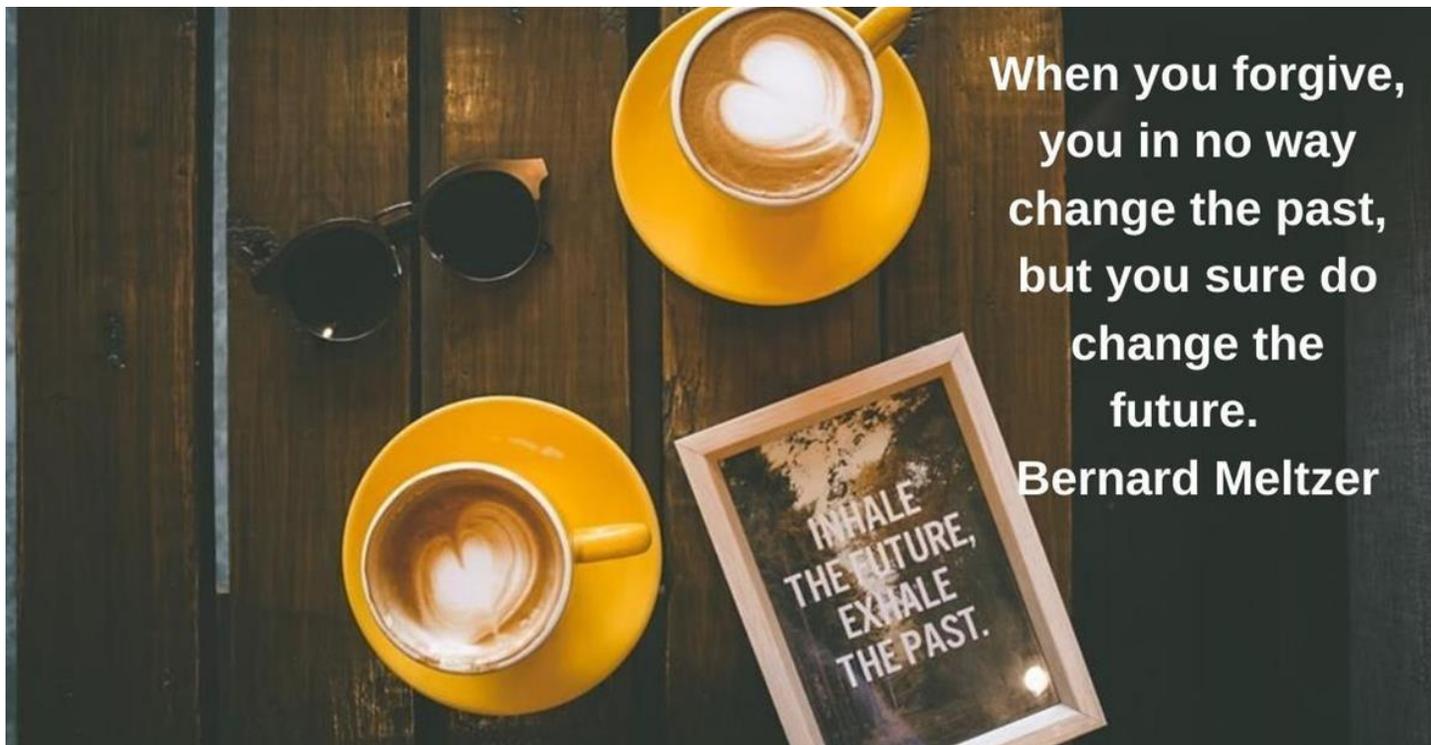


Photo by Toa Heftiba on Unsplash

## ***RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION***

**Pacific Northwest UU Spring Youth Conference 2020**

Friday, April 3, 5 p.m.; Sunday, April 5, noon.

Cispus Learning Center, Randle WA

Join this two night retreat for UU youth ages 14 to 18 and their adult sponsors; the focus will be on "Stories Within." Interested? Questions? Contact Rheva W, acting coordinator of religious education. Registration closes March 22.

## ***MOMENTS IN UU HISTORY***

By Bonnie W.

After the first Selma march ended in bloodshed on the Edmund Pettis Bridge March 7, 1965, Dr. Martin Luther King called for ministers to join him in Selma. One hundred and twenty-five

Unitarian-Universalist ministers responded to the call to join the second march for voting rights for black Americans. One of them was 38 year-old James Reeb, who was working in Boston for the American Friends Service Committee. He was married and had four children.

On March 9, after dining with fellow UU ministers Orloff Miller and Clark Olson, the three were attacked by segregationists, and Reeb was clubbed on the head. Treatment was delayed when the black hospital in Selma did not have facilities to treat him and the white hospital refused. (Reeb was white.) He was finally taken to Birmingham for brain surgery, but he died two days later. Outrage over the brutality of his death was widespread, and vigils of mourning were held throughout the country.

On the same day that the Voting Rights Act was signed, March 15, Dr. King spoke these words at a ceremony eulogizing Reeb:

“James Reeb symbolizes the forces of good will in our nation. He demonstrated the conscience of the nation. He was an attorney for the defense of the innocent in the court of world opinion. He was a witness to the truth that men of different races and classes might live, eat, and work together as brothers.”

Although three men were tried for the murder, they were acquitted. There were no further arrests or prosecution.



## **CONNECTION**

### ***Women's Awareness Circle:***

All women in our local UU community are invited to join in a revival of MCUUF's monthly women's gatherings. The group will meet the first Wednesday of the month, starting March 4, from 4:00 to 5:30 at the home of Jan K, in the Heights (the neighborhood behind Rosauers). We will be reading from Chapter One of Mary Pipher's book, ***Women Rowing North, Navigating Life's Currents and Flourishing as We Age***. Chapter One is entitled "A New Stretch of the River—There are many lifetimes in one life." To facilitate rich sharing at the gatherings, it has been decided that initially meetings will be grounded in shared readings. Please add your voice to the conversation. For questions, please call Debbie O.

***MCUUF Facebook Group.*** We have a group for adult members and friends. This is a place to informally connect with one another. Click on the link to go to [MCUUF Members/Friends Facebook Group](#) and request to join.

**Visit our public Facebook page, too.** Here you will find announcements about Sunday services, fellowship events and Unitarian Universalism. Go to: <https://www.facebook.com/mcuuf/> .



## *New Feature: Community Corner*

Do you have a milestone in your life that you'd like to share ? Need to find housing, a pet sitter or hire help with yardwork? Get the word out and send your submissions to Brad, newsletter editor at [mcuuf1@gmail.com](mailto:mcuuf1@gmail.com)

## **SOCIAL ACTION**



**UU the Vote–March 9, 6-8 p.m.** at the Rockford Grange. UU the Vote is a denomination-wide nonpartisan initiative to engage our neighbors, educate our communities, and mobilize voters. As UUs, our deepest beliefs offer life-giving, life-saving, life-sustaining alternatives to dominant public narratives. We will gather to write letters to people in swing states, encouraging them to vote. You'll work with a starter letter template and add your special message. We'll have soup, pizza and beverages on hand. Potluck desserts are welcome. Let's fight for our values, counter voter suppression, and expand democracy to shape a world in which all people are free and flourishing. Join us for fun and fellowship! Questions? Contact Cindy or Aera. Already decided? RSVP [mcuuf.uuthevote@gmail.com](mailto:mcuuf.uuthevote@gmail.com)

**Did UU know?** MCUUF is the proud fiscal sponsor of Friends Stay Warm.

Two questions present themselves: What is a fiscal sponsor? What is Friends Stay Warm?

A fiscal sponsor is a non-profit organization (like MCUUF) that provides legal and tax-exempt status to groups that engage in activities related to the sponsoring organization's mission. The duty of a fiscal sponsor is to be the "keeper of the money." Friends Stay Warm donations are kept in a separate MCUUF bank account, and money is withdrawn only when requested by its founder.

Friends Stay Warm was founded by UU minister, Rev. Connie Yost, who was our guest speaker a few months ago. The mission of Friends Stay Warm is "supporting our farm and service and seasonal

workers and their families with needed utility assistance and advocacy.” Check out its website, [friendsstaywarm.org](http://friendsstaywarm.org).

## ***CARING CONGREGATION***

***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.

### ***UU Meetup:***

A group will be attending dinner and a program at the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center in The Dalles this Friday, February 28. The program will be “Assembling the Northwest: A Roadside View of Oregon and Washington” with geologist Dr. Marli Miller. For more information go to: <https://www.gorgediscovery.org/event/assembling-the-northwest/>  
Tickets are available on this website.

The dinner is at 6:00. The attendance at the dinner should be small enough for the group to find each other easily. For those who want to attend the talk but not the dinner, we will meet up in the foyer near the front door at 6:50. The talk starts at 7:00.

If you would like to attend this meetup with other UU’s, contact Rhiannon G.

### ***What is a Home Funeral?***

You can find out at a presentation Thursday, March 12, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Rockford Grange. This public event will be led by Holly P. of [OregonFunerals.org](http://OregonFunerals.org) and by Tamara T, Gorge End-of-Life doula and home funeral guide. Learn about home funerals as a timeless tradition that invites family, friends, and community into an authentic and healing after-death care experience in a safe and familiar place with care performed by familiar, loving hands and presented with dignity. This event is by sponsored by MCUUF and the Rockford Grange; \$10 donation suggested and appreciated.

## **SAVE THE DATE: WE ARE HAVING A PARTY!**

**SATURDAY, May 2, 2020, 6 to 8 p.m.**

**Location: Mt Hood Winery with live music**

It’s a service auction fundraiser for MCUUF, and it’s a party! There will be wine, desserts, finger foods, socializing, and laughter. Jamba Marimba will provide the musical entertainment with happy, upbeat African sounds. We will have event sign ups, a silent auction, and a live auction!

But before we party, we need donated auction items and services from you! Here are some ideas to get you thinking:

Do you like to cook, have gatherings or theme parties?

Do you have a talent, passion or skill you could share? Could you teach pickle ball, lead a hike or a mushroom hunt?

How about offering yard work, babysitting, or access to your secret getaway?

Do you have a cherished item you no longer need? (No garage sale items, please)

Do you have a service you’d like to request? Are you willing to donate a dessert or finger food?

For event ideas, please check out last year’s listings from the UU Church of the Palouse:

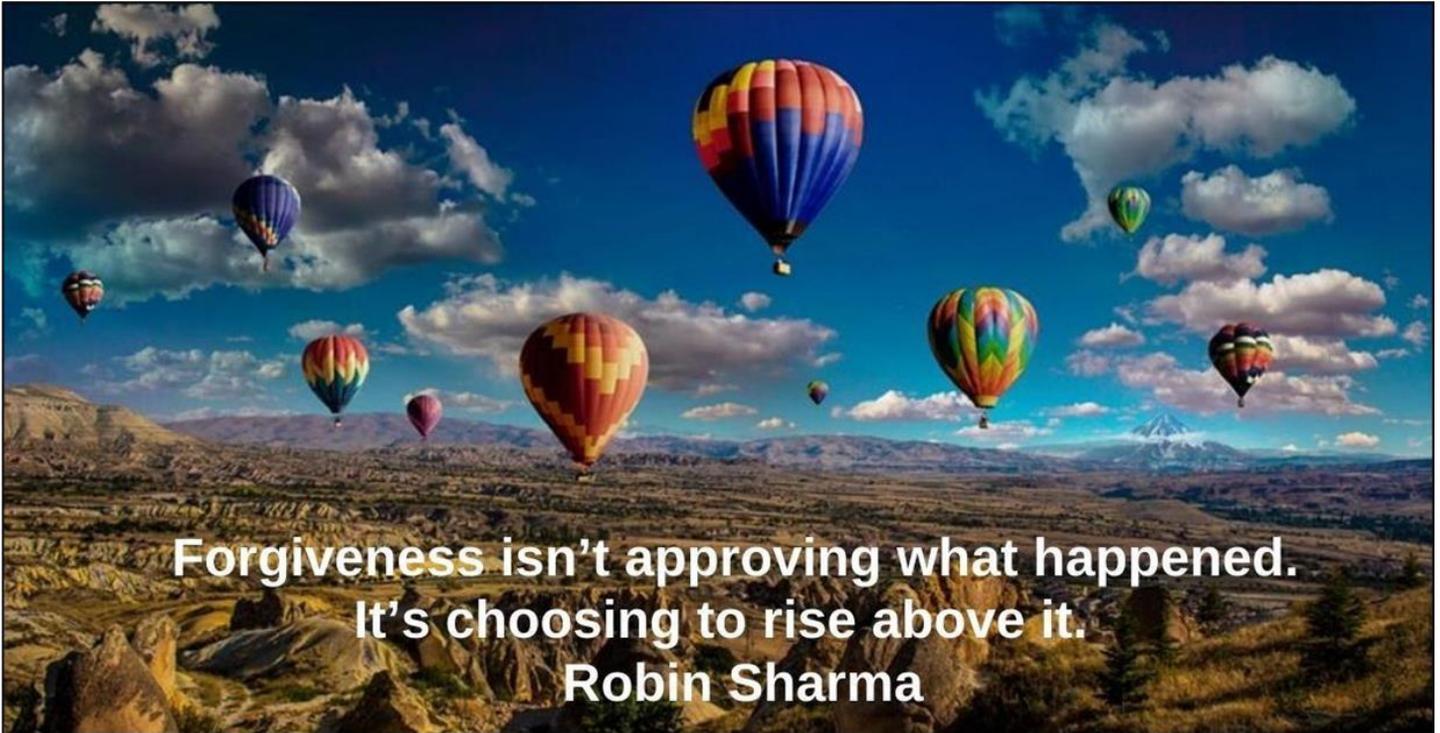
<https://palouseuu.org/connection/donate/service-auction/service-auction-events/>

For service ideas, check out:

<https://palouseuu.org/connection/donate/service-auction/services-offered/>

We have a fellowship full of talented and generous people. Please donate and/or volunteer to help on the day of the party!

Contact Martha K or Keri B.



**Forgiveness isn't approving what happened.  
It's choosing to rise above it.  
Robin Sharma**

Photo by Farshad Rezvanian on Unsplash