



Mid-Columbia Unitarian  
Universalist Fellowship  
www.mcuuf.org

### *Pastoral Message—A Tragic Week*

As I drove home this weekend, I turned on the radio to begin re-entry after a week of silent retreat. I was utterly heartsick to hear news of the events in Baton Rouge, Minneapolis, and Dallas that had occurred. “Not again?” my heart cried out in anguish. Hard and ugly truths have been uncovered once more.

The week’s events offer testament to wounds that continue to fester: an enduring history of violence and its legacy; a history of racism; dissimilar experiences with being American, with the police and our justice system.

We cannot gaze into this tragedy and turn away, saying it doesn’t affect us. The hand must care for the foot, even though the hand doesn’t feel the pain of the foot. They are part of the same body. We are not responsible for fixing all of these ills. Nor can this work be finished in our lifetimes, though we may want that dearly. We are responsible for taking steps towards healing the whole body—using all the skills, privilege, and resources we have.

That journey begins with lament: with acknowledging our feelings of grief, discomfort, anxiety and helplessness. Tender and open hearts will guide us towards compassionate actions that will transform suffering in ourselves, our neighbors, and our nation.

A town hall meeting will be held for the members and friends of the fellowship so we may hear one another’s concerns, tend to our spirits, and discern how we can put our Unitarian Universalist faith and values into action and engage with this crisis. Until that meeting on July 26 at 6 p.m. at the Rockford Grange and my return from vacation, please know I hold you in mind, heart, and prayer.

With love, in sorrow,

Rev. Judy

### **SUNDAY SERVICES** (10 a.m. at the Rockford Grange)

**July 17: 18-year-old Charley Boonstra**, local activist, tells us: “How I became a climate-change warrior.”

**July 24: Big Ron and Medium Ben** perform and discuss “Music and the Creative Process.”

**July 31: The Theravada Monks** from Pacific Hermitage come to talk and eat with us.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **MCUUF “Our Whole Lives” Starting Fall 2016 for 7th-9th grade youth.**

Honest, accurate information about sexuality changes lives. It dismantles stereotypes and assumptions, builds self-acceptance and self-esteem, fosters healthy relationships, improves decision-making, and has the potential to save lives and nurture spiritual growth. For these reasons and more, we at MCUUF will offer Our Whole Lives, a comprehensive, lifespan sexuality education curriculum, for our 7th-9th grade youth this fall. The class will be held nearly every other Sunday during worship in the youth room. This course offers one overnight for the youth to work on team-building and have

some fun. Also, a parents' night will be offered so parents can meet the teachers and get a better look at what the students will be learning. The course will be \$60, due by our first season. Scholarships are available. Please pre-register your student with Alicia B. Openings are filling quickly.

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

The Women's Awareness Circle will meet Friday August 12, from 4-5:30 p.m. at the home of Jodie H. The word "solitude" will be discussed. All UU women are welcome. Please RSVP to Debbie O.

### ***New MCUUF Volunteer Opportunity***

Heads up about the new **Cooling Shelter and Laundry Love** starting in August. Laundry Love and Cooling Shelter is a good opportunity for MCUUF volunteers. Faith groups will serve several Sundays in August at the Cooling Shelter before the Warming Shelter begins. This a great way for new folks to get involved. We can take shifts 1-3:30 p.m. and 3:30-6:00 p.m. or individuals could cover the 5 hours. Please contact Fran F. to volunteer.

***Feed the wagon—and feed our neighbors.*** Food donations for Washington Gorge Action Programs and FISH Food Bank are received every Sunday Service. Don't forget your donation.

### **MCUUF**

Curious about what's happening, when, and where? Go to [www.mcuuf.org](http://www.mcuuf.org)

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