



Mid-Columbia Unitarian
Universalist Fellowship
www.mcuuf.org

MCUUF Weekly eNews for September 9, 2020

Sunday Service

Online Service at 10:00 a.m. Sunday

The theme for September is “Worth and Dignity”

September 13: “Water Communion Sunday,” Rev. Judy Zimmerman, with Adam P, celebrant. *Please bring a glass of water with you to the service.*

We will meet for worship in the fellowship’s “Zoom Room.”

Click on <https://zoom.us/j/767376780> to enter the online worship service.

To join by telephone, please contact mcuuf1@gmail.com, as you will need a special code.

Ingathering/Water Communion Sunday

On Saturday, **September 12, from 9 to 11 a.m.** we will have a ***drive-up water collection*** to receive waters for our Water Communion service the following day. The waters are part of an annual ritual to begin the start of a new church year.

Bring a small sample of water from your tap at home or a place important to you. Come to the picnic shelter at Marina Park along the Columbia River, just north of the Hood River History Museum. Park your car, put on a mask, and pour your water into the bowl. Celebrant Adam P. and Rev. Judy will be there to collect your water. If you’re not able to walk to the water bowl station, wave and someone will bring a jar to you. We’ll be taking pictures for the service. See you soon!

What story is water telling of your life these days? Between now and **Water Communion Sunday, September 13**, please send a photo that captures this story. The photo could be a landscape, from your yard, or a piece of art you’ve made, or something else. Please include photos of the story of water in your children’s lives—perhaps a favorite water toy, a family outing, a drawing they’ve made—the list of possibilities is endless. Send your picture to jzimmerman@uuma.org.



The Minister's Message

September 9, 2020

The election season is in full swing. With less than two months until November 3, campaigns are ramping up for a final push. Campaign rhetoric is increasing in volume and vitriol. People from all parts of the political spectrum are taking to the streets—even where I live in Parkdale. On a recent Saturday afternoon, Black Lives Matter activists gathered on one corner. On the other corner, activists calling for the recall of Oregon Governor Kate Brown collected signatures.

As I drove past the two groups, I felt a tightening in my chest. The human tendency to rank and assign greater value to one group of people over another was in play. The ugly voices that encouraged demonizing those with whom I disagree began to speak.

Our first principle affirms the inherent worth and dignity of every person. All is well and good in theory until we encounter people whose positions on the issues are different than our own—or people who behave badly or utter words that sting, acting in ways that abdicate a sense of decency or compassion.

Practicing the first principle is a matter that tests our faith. Are we absolved from its practice because there are evil people? People beyond redemption? People who somehow lost the state of original blessedness into which we are born, a condition of being of which our Unitarian and Universalist ancestors spoke?

As we explore the theme of Worth and Dignity this month, may we turn the mirror towards ourselves. How are we practicing this first principle? With those we encounter in our daily lives? With those we encounter in the spheres of politics and civic engagement? Ours is an examined faith. May that self-reflection guide us towards richer understandings and growth in the practice of love.

Yours in faith,

Rev. Judy

BRING A FRIEND - BLESS THE ANIMALS SUNDAY SERVICE - OCTOBER 4

We Unitarian Universalists are generally uncomfortable with proselytizing; we deeply value our own religious freedom and respect that of others. But that does not mean that we have to hide our light under a bushel.

Most of us have found the MCUUF community—and the values for which it stands—to be central to our own lives. We want others to know about this wonderful place. but we question how to talk about our fellowship without sounding like we're proselytizing.

One answer is to invite someone to our "Bring a Friend to Church" Sunday, October 4, our Zoom-based Blessing of the Animals Sunday. The goal is not to try to convert anyone to Unitarian Universalism. Instead, we are simply offering our friends the opportunity to experience something that is important to us. And you will be able to share a breakout room with your friend and a few others.

Your Membership Engagement Team,

Debbie O, Pam Z-M, Kathy J, Steve C.

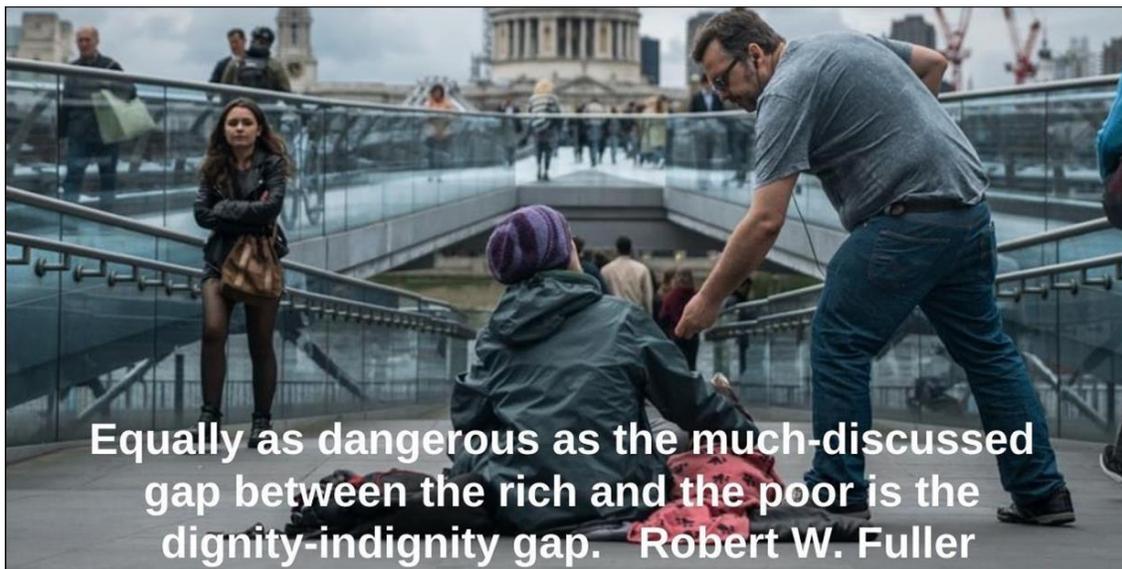
***The members of MCUUF's Membership Engagement Team introduce
the following new members to the congregation:***

P. Rhiannon G, moved from New Mexico to Oregon in 2010 to work in a hospital lab in The Dalles and to live closer to her daughter in Portland. She says, "I'm still working full-time there, but I'm

hoping to be able to cut back my hours in a couple of years to pursue other interests. I'd like to get back into doing bodywork (massage and myofascial release), which is something I really love. I'd also like to spend more time writing, something I've only been able to dabble in so far. I love pretty much anything to do with science, especially physics and cosmology. I don't have time for a lot more in the way of hobbies, although I do have one really important hobby these days: my four-year-old granddaughter—and a corollary hobby: listening to podcasts on the road between The Dalles and Portland.”

Martha D.-N. is a Unitarian Universalist young adult originally from White Salmon, currently living in the Boston area. She grew up attending MCUUF before leaving the Gorge to attend college on the East Coast. She currently serves as the director of religious education at First Parish Universalist in Malden, Massachusetts, and is a Master's of Divinity candidate at Harvard Divinity School, intending to pursue Unitarian Universalist ministry. She is also the campaigns and fundraising organizer with Mass Alliance, a progressive electoral coalition that works to train grassroots candidates in how to run for office. Martha is passionate about movement-building, reading good books, and playing with cats.

More bios of new members will appear in the eNews issues to come. Stay tuned!



Announcements

Website work volunteers needed!

Skills in website creation are needed to migrate the MCUUF website from Weebly to WordPress. This would be a great opportunity to use your skills to update, refresh and re-energize the MCUUF website. In this time of on-line church, the website is our best way to communicate about our fellowship and our ideas with the world and ask others to join with us. Our board estimates that it's about 40 hours of work that could be done by one person, or shared with others. If you have WordPress skills (no knowledge of HTML or other web development tools required) and time to share, please get in touch with Rev. Judy at jzimmerman@uuma.org or call her at 503-970-0564, or contact board member Pat E-B.

UU IN ACTION

A call for help—and we respond! Iowa UU congregations need relief from the “inland hurricanes” that swept through the state a few weeks ago. These storms brought 100+

mph winds and arrived so quickly that people did not have much warning. According to the UUA Disaster Relief Fund team, people lost their homes or cars to falling trees. Electricity is slowly being restored and food distribution efforts are under way, but it is clear recovery will take months. MCUUF's Board of Trustees voted to send \$300 to the UUA Disaster Relief Fund from the COVID fund to aid in the recovery efforts.

Your Zoom profile name is your name tag!

As we conduct our virtual meetings via Zoom, our Zoom profile names have become our name tags. Newbies and visitors appreciate knowing our names, and we want to be as welcoming as possible. One way to welcome others is for each of us to have our first and last names appear on our Zoom video, just as our physical name tags do when we meet at the Grange. If two persons are sharing the screen, it would be great to have both names. It's easy to insert your name into your Zoom video, such as when you are waiting for the service to start:

1. Click on the "Participants" icon at the bottom of the screen. A Participants window will appear on the right side of the screen. Move the mouse over your name in the window and click the "Rename" button that will appear.
2. Enter your new name in the "New Screen Name" field at the bottom of the window, and **be sure to have the "Remember my name for future meetings" checked**; otherwise, you will have to re-enter the changed name each time you use Zoom.

The hymnals are ready to visit your homes—and willing to work! Now you can check out MCUUF's hymnals for use during our Zoom services, which will continue until the end of this year. To check out both hymnals (we use two different books), text or call Pat E-B. Let her know the date and time you would like to pick up your hymnals-on-loan. She lives 1.3 miles from the Rockford Grange. She will text or call you to confirm your pickup and will give you directions to her house. You can come to her house, sign the checkout slip, and pick up the hymnals by the door.



***We still have 22 yard signs available for \$20 each.
Contact Brad at mcuuf1@gmail.com For pick up details.***

Let's fill the Gorge with this message!



**Stay woke.
Work together.
Demand change.**

A peaceful gathering, to remember, to learn and to build the Beloved Community: a society based on justice, equal opportunity, and love for all.

When: Every Tuesday, 5:00-6:00pm

Where: The Salmon Fountain at 2nd and State Street
Downtown Hood River

Including: Remembering – 9 minutes of silence kneeling, sitting or standing
Singing, Sharing and Standing in Solidarity

To show our love for our neighbors, we will wear masks and keep a distance of 6 feet between us

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

-Martin Luther King, Jr.



Hosted by Somos Uno/Building Community Connections
A committee of Gorge Ecumenical Ministries

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To unsubscribe, do the same with the word “unsubscribe” in the subject line.

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 announcements to Brad at mcuuf1@gmail.com

