



Mid-Columbia Unitarian
Universalist Fellowship
www.mcuuf.org

MCUUF Weekly eNews for January 6, 2021

Sunday Service is online at 10:00
(see the link below)

January 10: “Eighty-six Last Year: 2021 Turns the Tide,” Rev. Judy Zimmerman, with Elaine C, celebrant. The past year was one of tremendous change. We will meet the New Year by casting out the old and ringing in the new. In a special ceremony, we will set the stage for a fresh start. To participate in the ceremony ***please reflect on these questions and submit your responses by 1/9 using the form found at this link: [New Year Release Ritual](#)***

Click on: <https://zoom.us/j/767376780> to enter the online worship service.
To join by telephone, dial (253) 215-8782 and enter the meeting code
767376780 followed by the pound sign.



Minister's Message

We called them “fish.” Members of the El Modena High School water polo team seemed like they lived in the swimming pool, training in the early morning hours before classes began, and then again after school. As I made my way from the parking lot to my first class, I’d see them in the pool, upright, staying in the same place in the water, their feet never touching the bottom of the pool. How did they do that? I’m told that water polo players use a special swimming stroke called an eggbeater kick. Unlike a flutter kick, which propels a swimmer forward, an eggbeater kick allows a water polo player to remain in place.

Since last March, it seems like we've been stuck in place, biding our time until the pandemic is over. Perhaps we're reluctant to make plans because we feel these changes in church life are just temporary. We surmise that they'll all be undone after the vaccines are administered and the fellowship goes back to what it was before the pandemic. Perhaps we're reticent to make plans because we're not sure what the future holds. No bones about it, these times have been trying and have gone on far longer than anticipated. Despite these challenges, we have stayed together, deepened connections and made new friendships. We've discovered stores of ingenuity and resilience during these months we've been gathering online.

It's time to change our stroke and engage a flutter kick. The Board of Trustees is moving forward and looking to the future. A post-pandemic future begins now. This month the board will lead the fellowship in a process of engaging with "Open Questions": opportunities for reflection on what MCUUF sees as its future. Now is the time to discern what MCUUF can offer to our community, ourselves, and our wider world. Now is the time for fresh thinking, deep listening, and openness to new ideas. Now is the time to seize the opportunities before us. What will MCUUF's next chapter be? Stay tuned.

In love and faith,

Judy

Want to meet? We can talk on the phone, do a Zoom call, have a socially distanced front-porch chat, or walk. Let's set a time: jzimmerman@uuma.org 503.970.0564

MCUUF Welcomes New Religious Exploration Coordinator

Sullivan M. begins leading our faith development program for children and youth this week.. We are filled with joy. Sullivan came of age in this congregation and served as a celebrant. She brings several years' experience teaching children's theatre and at the Columbia Gorge Peace Village. You'll be hearing more from her in the weeks to come. Welcome, Sullivan!



Sullivan M.

Discussion Course Offered: *Seeing Systems: Peace, Justice, and Sustainability*

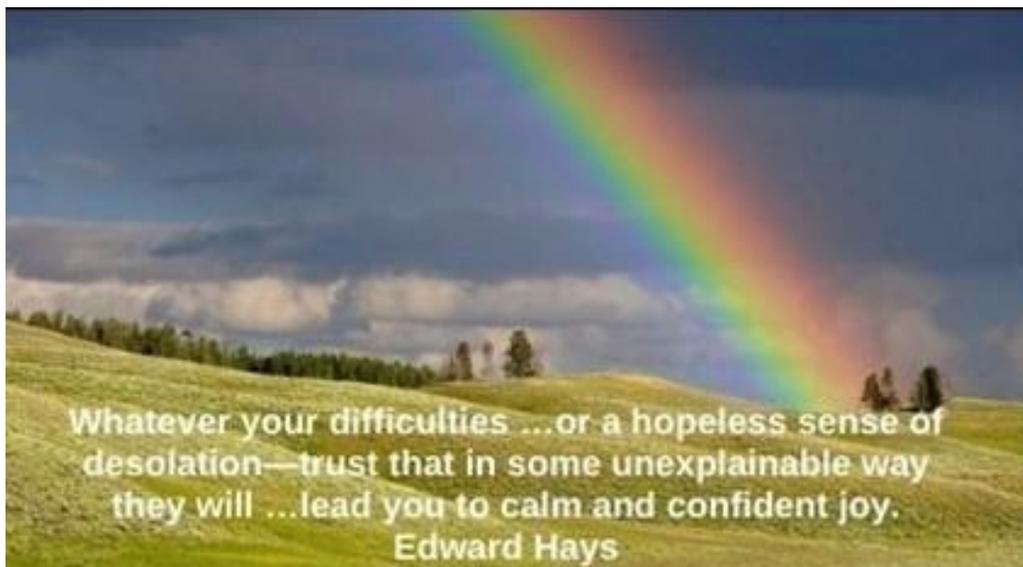
Starting on Tuesday, January 19, at noon, and lasting for 6 weeks, participants will explore themes of peace, justice, and sustainability and how they are mutually linked. The course is one of EcoChallenge.org's (formerly Northwest Earth Institute) offerings and will require their course book, available through their website for \$30, or \$28 for a digital copy. Each week the group will tackle a topic from one of the chapters in the book. Each chapter contains 8 or 9 curated articles by professors and thought leaders.

This is a non-religious course. EcoChallenge.org has been leading the curious and motivated to take responsibility for Earth through their proven process of connection, reflection, and action since 1993. When you break big issues into bite-size pieces, and talk them through with people you trust, you discover insights and inspiration that's hard to find alone.

This course is open to all adults, even if they are not part of our congregation. Feel free to invite a friend or relative from near or far. Please contact Kathy J. for more information.

MCUUF Men's Discussion Group

The Men's Group will meet January 13 via Zoom from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. The topic has not yet been determined. All men are welcome! If you are not a current member of the Men's Group and would like to join us for an informal, supportive discussion, email Brad at [**mcuuf1@gmail.com**](mailto:mcuuf1@gmail.com). The Zoom link is: [**https://us02web.zoom.us/j/576668782**](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/576668782)



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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 announcements to Brad at mcuuf1@gmail.com