



MID-COLUMBIA UNITARIAN  
UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

## **Leadership Letter**

### **November 2012**

*“Fair Hope, with light and buoyant form,  
Came smiling through the clouds of Care,  
Glanced bright defiance on the storm,  
And hung her bow of promise there!”*

*--Frances Sargent Osgood*

Perhaps the month that includes giving thanks for all we have is a great time to talk about all that we, as a congregation, have to celebrate and look forward to—especially since it hasn't been that long since we were worrying about fundamental things, like where to congregate! Autumn has been very good to us. We are back in the Grange, which is safer and spiffier than ever. And we've begun to look at our options for a new minister. We held a Town Hall meeting to begin talking about those options, and it was great to see so many of you there, and asking questions. Let me give you a little update about our progress since then.

Your Board of Trustees is moving forward with contracting the Rev. Ken Jones as an interim minister. He will be visiting us for a service next month, and he will meet with a team to talk about contract specifics. I think the Rev. Jones will be a great help to us as we move toward finding a longer-term minister. I understand many of you have expressed the hope we could secure the Rev. Susan Maginn as an interim, and I agree that she is a wonderful presence. However, she is currently working only as a pulpit supply minister. I also believe she has not had the training in interim ministry that the Rev. Jones has had, and that is essential for us right now. I hope, though, that we will continue to have Susan come occasionally for a sermon.

Our next move is to decide what we want so our Search Team can move forward in the right direction. That team has hit the ground running and has already organized a workshop with a district representative to help us decide exactly what kind of minister we want to search for. For those of you who

could not attend the Town Hall meeting, Janine Larsen, our Pacific Northwest district executive, outlined for us possible options for the kind of minister we want. One would be a contracted minister, as both the Rev. Craig and the Rev. Cathy were. This is what Janine called a “steady dating” relationship with the congregation. Another is Settled/Called Ministry, which is more of a “marriage” between the minister and the congregation. It is meant to be a long-term relationship and as such would require more time to search and be sure she/he would be a good match for us. We discussed these options but did not choose one. That will be the goal of the upcoming workshop. Look for more information about the workshop below.

We have a GREAT Search Team working on our behalf. Join me in celebrating Steve Castles, Paul Blackburn, Debbie Olson, Don Hardin and Alicia Bhatta for their dedication to the fellowship during this huge endeavor. You five have my gratitude.

I wish everyone a joyful Thanksgiving!  
Holly

## SUNDAY MORNINGS

**Nov. 4: David Adams, “The Death Penalty: Living our Convictions”**

This is a soup Sunday —Plan to stay for a savory lunch after the service.

**Don't forget – Daylight Savings Time end this Sunday at 2 a.m. Remember to set your clocks back one hour!**

**Nov. 11: Taize**, a service of singing and chanting.

**Nov. 18: The Rev. Susan Maginn** visits us for a third time.

**Nov. 25:** Our annual giving of thanks service, plus a child naming for Pam Morneault's granddaughter Teagan.

## CALENDAR

**Ministerial Search Workshop, Dec. 1, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

As we prepare to seek a new minister for the 2013/2014 church year and beyond, the congregation needs to provide the Search Committee with direction. What do we want our church to look like in 5 years? How do we want our minister to help us achieve that vision? What is *your* vision for our future? To help us answer these questions, on December 1 Janine Larsen, our Pacific Northwest district executive, will lead a

“visioning” workshop from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Riverside Church. Childcare and lunch will be provided. At the conclusion of the workshop you will be asked to fill out a questionnaire about our future minister. Come help us make these and other important decisions about our future.

### **Coming of Age Program Schedule and Youth Sundays**

Nov. 4, 10 a.m., Session 6, The Ten Commandments (Grange).

Nov. 18, 10 a.m., Session 7, Meet Your Mentor (Grange).

Dec. 2, 10 a.m., Session 9, Bad Things (Part 1) (Grange).

Dec 9, 10 a.m., Session 10, Bad Things (Part 2) (Grange).

Jan. 6, 10 a.m., Session 13, After Death (Part 1) (Grange).

Jan. 13, 10 a.m., Session 14, After Death (Part 2)(Grange).

Mentors are still needed!

For more information, contact Peggy N.

### **November Children’s Program**

4<sup>th</sup> Dia de los Muertos with Denver Monaghan (artist).

11<sup>th</sup> Is war ever right?

18<sup>th</sup> Is there room for science in religion?

25<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving - global hunger.

### **Gorge Ecumenical Ministries**

On the first Saturday after the election, Gorge Ecumenical Ministries is sponsoring a Bi-State Policy Forum to increase our faith community response in matters relating to state public policy. We will gather to discuss issues important to our faith communities, to receive a briefing about the state policy agendas in 2013, and to formulate our individual and communal advocacy responses. All are welcome to attend. **Saturday, Nov. 10**, at Riverside Church, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., please contribute \$20 to cover snacks and lunch. RSVP in October to Paul Blackburn for planning purposes.

### **Interfaith Thanksgiving Service**

MCUUF members and friends have been invited to gather with our liberal religious colleagues for the annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 19, at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church in White Salmon. Our worship team will be presenting part of the service. The main speaker will be Kozen Sampson. Come!

## **SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Join Our UU Warming Shelter Team**

The homeless warming shelter is starting up again on December 1, and our fellowship is forming a team of 8-10 folks to staff the shelter one night a month. So far we have 5-6 folks interested, both men and women, but we need a few more. Shifts are 5-10 pm, 10 pm-3 am, and 3-8 am, so you can pick a time that works for you. You'll be helping good people have a dry, warm place to sleep, plus we'll have fun as a group. Training is starting soon, so if you're interested, please contact Mike H.

### **FISH Foodbank**

Our next days at FISH Foodbank to help distribute food to those in need will be November 5, 7, and 9 from about 3 to 5 p.m. Volunteers are needed for each day of that week. To help or get more information please contact Jane F. or Dennis C.

### **Greeters Needed**

Pamela Z.M. needs greeters for the remainder of October and future months. She is happy to train new greeters. Please contact her.

### **Mentors Needed for Coming of Age Program**

Would you be willing to serve as a mentor for one of the youth in MCUUF's Coming of Age program? Mentors will need to attend an orientation in early November and participate in approximately 6-7 sessions with their mentee. These sessions are mostly on Sundays from mid-November until early June. Mentors will be downstairs with their mentees on these Sundays and thus will miss regular Sunday services. This is a great opportunity to be a positive influence on the youth in our fellowship. If you would like to find out more about being a mentor, or volunteer for this important job, please contact Peggy N.

## **THANK YOU AND CONGRATULATIONS!**

Props to our very own Dr. Tina Castanares for her Lifetime Excellence Award from the Oregon Public Health Institute! Way to go, Tina!

Thank you to Jonathan E., who shepherded several of our youth to the Fall Youth Conference this past weekend.

## **MCUUF NEWS**

### **Gorge Grown fundraising notice**

Gorge Grown has bought a new refrigerated van to deliver food to outlying farmers markets, and there are sponsorship opportunities. For \$1,000, we can get the fellowship's name on the side in large letters. We've now raised \$700; we need just \$300 more. It seems like a great way to publicize MCUUF and our enthusiasm about local food. Please contact Paul B. if you'd like to be one of the donors to this publicity action.

### **Care Team**

MCUUF strives to be a community that supports each other. If you or someone you know in the fellowship has a need because of a loss, illness, or other difficulty, please notify our Minister or any member of our Care Team: Jane Fetisoff, Mike Hendricks, Anita Johnston, Ray Klebba, Jay Larsen, or Tom Penchoen. The Care Team will do its best to organize respectful and appropriate help for this situation.

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#### OTHER IMPORTANT STUFF

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

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