



MCUUF NEWSLETTER—September 2019

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

In my garden this weekend I was putting in a final few flowering perennials. There's a good chance they will become established in the weeks that remain before the cold of late October comes. As I was working the soil, some daffodil bulbs rose to the surface. Memories bubbled up of this planter filled with happy daffodils from last spring. I pushed the bulbs in deeper and put compost and more soil over them. They would endure until next spring.

When I look at daffodil flowers, I see bright yellow sun-cups telling me that spring will indeed come. I don't tend to notice the brown withered spot at the bottom of the flower. That dried-up spot is what remains from the green skin that covered the daffodil blossom before it burst through that protective layer in those first warm days of early spring. Some part of that daffodil had to give way and die so that something new and beautiful could emerge. That brown spot didn't disappear, though. It stayed on as part of the flower.

We are in a season in congregational life where it seems like withered blossoms surround us. Long-time members move out of the area. Staff resign their positions to pursue career advancement. Members from early in this fellowship's history are seriously ill. These changes weather our hearts.

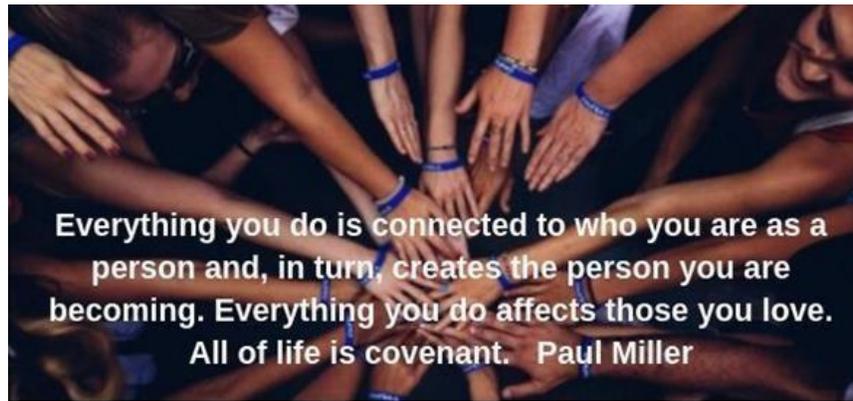
Though death surrounds us as grasses start to turn brown and leaves begin to fall from the trees, the cycle of life persists. Rhododendrons clutch tightly closed buds that will be next year's flowers. Bulbs have stored food to nourish future growth. Ripe fruits have cast their seeds into the warm late summer soil, making way for seedlings in the spring. Our skin sloughs off dead cells and new cells take their place.

Daffodils don't let the shriveled brown spot fall off. It becomes part of the new flower. May we cherish the precious memories of yesterday as we lay ground so that the dreams of tomorrow may come true. As we begin a new congregational program year, may the same grace that guides the seasons move us to living more fully in each moment, with gratitude for the preciousness of the gift of life and our chosen faith.

In love and faith,

Rev. Judy

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



Everything you do is connected to who you are as a person and, in turn, creates the person you are becoming. Everything you do affects those you love. All of life is covenant. Paul Miller

Photo by Perry Grone on Unsplash

NEWS FROM YOUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

We are very pleased to announce that Ray K. has graciously accepted the position of president of the Board of Trustees. Many thanks to Ray for his ongoing dedication and commitment to MCUUF.

In place of our regular September board meeting, we are planning a day-long retreat to assist us in preparing for the coming church year. Among other topics, we will focus on the areas identified as congregational priorities in the Dream Team process of last spring. High on the list is financial sustainability, ensuring that our resources are sufficient to support our ongoing programs over the coming years.

The newly-formed Generosity Team is already working to identify creative ideas for pledging and fundraising. We are also interested in providing increased opportunities for small-group activities—be they spiritual, educational, social, or justice-oriented.

Stay tuned for more news on these initiatives. And as always, we welcome your input and suggestions. Please feel free to contact any board member—Ray K, Kathy J, Cindy A, Peggy N, and Elaine C. Our regular monthly board meetings (which will resume in October) are also open to all.

SUNDAY SERVICES

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

September 8: Annual Water Ceremony and Homecoming Sunday. The Water Ceremony is a part of a traditional ingathering service in UU congregations. We celebrate the start of the program year. Whether you were near or far this summer, bring to this Sunday service a small amount of water from a place that is special to you.

September 15: "Come, Let Us Worship Together," Elaine C. On Sunday mornings, many of us forsake our comfortable beds, Sunday papers, third cups of coffee, or the lure of the river to come to services at the Grange. It's not likely we are responding to any divine commandments or trying to placate a vengeful deity. So why do we do it? Let's explore together why so many Unitarian Universalists find the experience of worship to be so nurturing and so meaningful.

September 22: "Love is the Answer," Rev. Connie Yost, with Bonnie W, celebrant. If love is the answer, what are the questions we have about it? How can we practice radical love in the face of endless threats to our values, ourselves, our neighbors and our planet? What does this kind of love look like, and what does it require of me, and you, and our church community? Let us come together for some inspiration and hope in these trying times. The Rev. Connie Yost is an affiliated community minister of First Unitarian Church, Portland. She is the President of Farm Worker Ministry Northwest and serves on the board of Oregon UU Voices for Justice. For the past 19 years, she has served in

community ministry focused on social justice and deep presence for the underserved and often forgotten—the poor, the disabled, the very young and the elderly.

September 29: “Blessing of All Creatures,” Rev. Judy Zimmerman.

Covenant is a gift given and received. Covenant is a gift that sustains life. This morning we sing praises and gratitudes in honor of our kinship and covenant with creatures from all ends of the earth: creatures who make our human lives possible and ever more loving and joyful. Pets feathered, furry, slithery, scaled or otherwise are welcome to join us for worship and blessing. You may also bring a stuffed animal, photo or symbol of a creature under your care. All ages will worship together for the whole service.



A contract is a
matter of law.
A covenant is
a matter of love.
Preston Moore

Photo by Bill Oxford on Unsplash

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Dear Friends in Fellowship,

As we say farewell to summer, and Dr. Seuss, it is time to welcome Autumn and our Autumn/Winter Religious Education program. Our final Seuss classes “The Lorax,” “Oh The Places You Will Go”, and “What was I Scared Of” will take us through the end of September. Beginning in October we will mirror the monthly themes of Sunday Service in both preschool-5th grade class and middle school/youth group and explore them along with you.

October brings the theme of Democracy. Our tweens and teens will be meeting during the week to settle on a plan for their expression of democracy. Children will play and learn more about how we express ourselves as a caring community. *Details on the tween/teen program and meeting time will follow in the next newsletter.*

November explores our shared UU vision and mission. Tweens and teens will continue meeting during the week. Children will compose their mission and begin to identify their values.

December begins our exploration of compassion with tweens and teens again meeting during the week. Children will begin to identify compassion and how they can better express and accept compassion.

On the first Sunday of the month an MCUUF member will share their personal expression of faith and covenants with preschool-5th grade class. This will be an opportunity to share your social activism, earth husbandry, or community outreach; please email, call or text me if you’d like to participate.

I appreciate your hands-on support more than I can say. Working or volunteering helps deepen your UU faith and is fun. Thank you for your continued support of the RE program and me.

Peace and love,

Rheva
Acting Coordinator of Religious Education

Volunteers are needed as listed below to help for autumn/winter RE sessions during Sunday Service for children preschool age through 5th grade. Please contact Rheva to volunteer.

Theme - Democracy

October 6: *Volunteer Expression of Faith* Rheva + One volunteer needed
October 13: *Hear Our Voice* Two volunteers needed
October 15: *Peaceful and Fair* Rheva + One volunteer needed
October 22: *Our Words Matter* Two volunteers needed
October 29: *Acceptance* Rheva + One volunteer needed

Theme - Vision and Mission

November 3: *Volunteer Expression of Faith* Rheva + One volunteer needed
November 10: *Our UU Principles* Two volunteers needed
November 17: *Love Surrounds Us in Our History* Rheva + One volunteer needed
November 24: *Love Surrounds Us in Ritual* Two volunteers needed

Theme - Compassion

December 1: *Volunteer Expression of Faith* Rheva + One volunteer needed
December 8: *Love Surrounds Us in Sharing* Two volunteers needed
December 15: *New Friends* Rheva + One volunteer needed
December 22: *Forgiveness* Two volunteers needed
December 29: *Peaceful Choices* - Two volunteers needed

PNWD Fall Youth Con October 25-27, 2019 Camp Cispus, Randle, WA

A youth conference or “con”, is a weekend long retreat planned and run as a collaboration between high school youth and supporting adults. The theme of each con informs worship, small group ministry and workshops. Youth covenant to uphold their standards; a chance for them to live within UU community as they design it. They may be held at a camp or a church and range from 60-200 people, with a youth to adult ratio no higher than 7:1. Radically Inclusive, Spiritually Deep, and Religiously Contagious. Contact Rheva, Acting Coordinator of Religious Education at for more information or to register.

MOMENTS IN UU HISTORY

By Bonnie W.

Our September UU history honoree is 27th U.S. President William Howard Taft, born September 15, 1857. Many remember him as the fat man who got stuck in a bathtub in the White House. Indeed, the stress of the presidency did cause Taft to top the scales at 355, but he later took charge of his diet, and for his last 20 years returned to his college weight of 244. As for the bathtub incident, it never happened.

From a long career of public service, a few highlights: Taft, a graduate of Yale law school, worked his way through numerous posts to eventually become the only person to serve both as U.S. president (1908-1913) and as chief justice of the Supreme Court (1921-1930). Of these two posts, the first was held reluctantly and the second was a life-long ambition. Of special note is his work as commissioner of the Philippines from 1900 to 1903, where he worked to give the Filipinos a voice in their government, believing, unlike many Americans at the time, that the natives were not inferior and were to be treated as social equals.

Most biographical sites omit the fact that Taft was a lifelong and influential Unitarian. His family was active in the Cincinnati Church (called First Congregational) and Taft enthusiastically embraced the religion all his life. Once he went to Washington as Solicitor General in 1890, he joined All Souls Unitarian. Although he was viciously attacked for his religion (infidel!) during his presidential campaign against William Jennings Bryan, Taft continued to attend All Souls, where he found solace from the stress and ridicule of public life. By 1915, he was president of the National Conference of Unitarian and Other Liberal Christian Churches. He was vice-president of the American Unitarian Association and presided as speaker at biennial conferences.

In a widely distributed speech Taft gave in 1917, he said, "Unitarianism offers a broad Christian faith that can be reconciled with scientific freedom of thought and inquiry into the truth."

Taft served as successfully as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court until shortly before his death in 1930. All Souls Unitarian Church was the site of his funeral.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



In-gathering Potluck Picnic: Saturday, September 14, 4 to 7 p.m.

Our fabulous, fun, family potluck picnic! Games for all ages!

Don't miss it – Put the date on your calendar!

We had so much fun last year, we're doing it again!

Sturdy shoes recommended.

Directions: The address is 8700 Clear Creek Road in Parkdale.

From Hood River, head south on Hwy. 35. At the Mt. Hood Country Store, bear right onto Cooper Spur Road and drive 1.8 miles toward Parkdale. Turn right onto Baseline Drive (0.5 miles), then immediately left at McIssac's Store onto Clear Creek Road. Follow for 2.7 miles. Driveway is on the right, before Laurance Lake Road. Of course, one could also take the Dee Highway and follow the instructions from McIsaac's store.

CONNECTION

The UU Men's Group will meet on Wednesday, September 11, at the Grange. The topic will be: "Remembering decades of our life—the first ten years." To be added to the Men's Group mailing list, contact Brad at mcuuf1@gmail.com. All UU men are welcome.

The Meditation Group returns **Sunday, September 15**, 9 to 9:45 a.m. at the Grange, before Sunday worship. Bring a cushion or mat if you wish. We will meet downstairs. Childcare upon request. Contact Rev. Judy at jzimmerman@uuma.org with your questions.

PASTORAL CARE

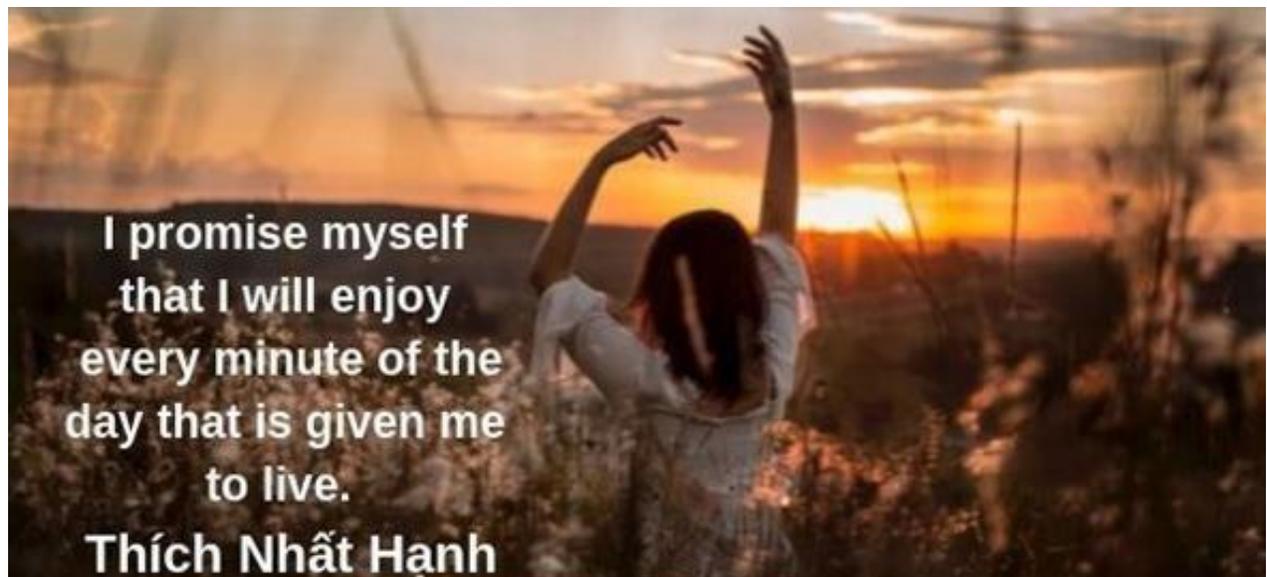
When to Contact the Care Team: Our Care Team stands ready to help anyone in our UU community. They may be in a tight squeeze and wondering if they can make rent this month. Their moving help may have fallen through. They may need a ride to MCUUF events or Sunday Service. They may be laid up for a while 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.

VOLUNTEER HELP NEEDED

The Social Action Committee needs a point-person/leader. This person will help coordinate and promote the fellowship's social action work. If you are interested, please send an email to Peggy N.

Website: Our fellowship needs a volunteer to work as part of a team to move our current website into a UUA developed WordPress template. Another volunteer is needed to make occasional updates and posts to the website. Training available. Please contact Rev. Judy at jzimmerman@uuma.org.

THANK YOU to those who have been volunteering in Religious Education and helping with dishes and clean up after Sunday morning coffee hour !



I promise myself
that I will enjoy
every minute of the
day that is given me
to live.

Thích Nhất Hạnh

Photo by Andressa Voltolini on Unsplash

Mid-Columbia Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Curious about what's happening, when, and where? Go to www.mcuuf.org

Would you like to subscribe to this newsletter and the weekly eNews?

Just send an email to mcuuf1@gmail.com with the word "subscribe" in the subject line.

To unsubscribe from MCUUF emails, please send an email to mcuuf1@gmail.com with "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 submissions to Brad at mcuuf1@gmail.com

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