

Services are held at 11:00 am at the Old Stone Church, 157 W Franklin Ave., Bend.  
 UUFCO: (541) 385-3908 • [www.uufco.org](http://www.uufco.org) • P.O. Box 428; Bend, OR 97709-0428



# UUNews



## September 2010 Sunday Services

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|--|--|
| <p><b>Sunday<br/>September 5<br/>11:00 am</b></p>  | <p><b>Helen Seidler, Alice Elshoff, &amp; Jeremiah Fender: “Facing the Future: Environmental Peril, UU Values, and What To Do.”</b> This service explores the ethical tangle we are in with our natural world, how to find a path out of it, and reasons for hope. What is needed is a deeper understanding of our place in nature and how we can take the critical actions necessary to preserve and restore the environment for its own sake as well as for future generations.</p> <p><i>Helen Seidler is one who cares about, thinks about, and plays in nature as much as possible.</i></p> <p><i>Jeremiah Fender is a lover of, and advocate for, the natural world with a passion for discovering new ways humans can live in harmony with nature.</i></p> <p><i>Alice Elshoff is a long-time environmental activist.</i></p> |
| <p><b>Sunday<br/>September 12<br/>11:00 am</b></p> | <p><b>Rev. Heather Starr: “Sacred, Global, Liquid of Life: Annual Ingathering Water Communion Service.”</b> As we celebrate gathering together once again, bring a small vial of water representing your summer activities to combine into our shared bowl. Our fall religious education programs for children start up today; contact our Director of Religious Education, Rebecca Fender, for more information and to register your child. All are welcome!</p>  |
| <p><b>Sunday<br/>September 19<br/>11:00 am</b></p> | <p><b>Discussion Sunday with Tom Wykes: “In Celebration of Doubt.”</b> (See inside newsletter for details.)</p>  |
| <p><b>Sunday<br/>September 26<br/>11:00 am</b></p> | <p><b>Rev. Heather Starr &amp; Rebecca Fender, DRE: “Lifespan Religious Education as Food for Transformation.”</b> What is the purpose of Religious Education in the context of Unitarian Universalism? How are we, and our communities, transformed when each of us, young and old, are recognized as teachers and learners throughout the process of faith development? These questions and more will be explored as Rev. Heather and Rebecca share stories of transformation through Religious Education. Join us in celebrating the beginning of our RE year following the service during our Coffee &amp; Conversation.</p> <p><i>The recipient of this month’s Greater Community Collection is CROP (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty).</i></p>  |

| Sun  | Mon                              | Tue                                    | Wed  | Thu  | Fri | Sat                        |
|--|----------------------------------|--|--|--|-----|----------------------------|
| 29<br>11 am - Service @<br>1 pm - Picnic @ Park  | 30                               | 31<br>5:45pm - Choir                   | 1<br>5 pm - OOS Deadline                       | 2  | 3   | 4                          |
| 5<br>11 am - Service @   | 6                                | 7<br>5:45pm - Choir                    | 8<br>5 pm - OOS Deadline<br>6 pm - Board Meets | 9  | 10  | 11                         |
| 12<br>11 am - Service: RE<br>2 pm - YUUIqans   | 13                               | 14<br>NO CHOIR<br>2 pm - Social Action | 15<br>5 pm - OOS Deadline                      | 16   | 17  | 18                         |
| 19<br>11 am - Discussion @   | 20<br>DEADLINE<br>for NEWSLETTER | 21<br>NO CHOIR                         | 22<br>5 pm - OOS Deadline                      | 23<br>5 pm - Bethlehem @<br>5 pm - Inn Dinner<br>6 pm - Principled | 24  | 25<br>4 pm - Circle Supper |
| 26<br>11 am - Service @<br>12 pm - RE Open<br>1:30 pm - CROP Walk<br>5 pm - Youth Group: | 27                               | 28<br>NO CHOIR                         | 29<br>5 pm - OOS Deadline                      | 30<br>6 pm - Principled  | 1   | 2                          |



## ***PRESIDENT'S LETTER***

Hello Members and Friends,

Once summer weather finally engaged, it truly has been a wonderful time to be in Bend. Each day has felt like a gift to be opened and thoroughly enjoyed. One look at my hiking shoes would be evidence enough to say that I have experienced many of the trails in Central Oregon. And what delights me most is that there are so many more.

Last month I had the pleasure of hosting my first UUFCO Home Stay. In August, when so many UUFCO members and friends were either away or hosting other visitors, Reverend Tara Wilkins and the Drama Queens were seeking welcoming UUFCO homes where all five of them could spend Saturday night and eat breakfast before our Sunday August 8<sup>th</sup> service. We found a creative way for everyone to fit comfortably and to feel at home. It was a delightful experience to get to know our guest speakers and learn about their congregations. For the cost of opening up your guest room and sharing a breakfast, the rewards are many. Hosting UUFCO guest speakers greatly reduces our speaker expense.

The board has served itself a full plate of priorities this fiscal year. None of them will be a surprise, and I hope it will be reassuring that we are committed to serve our fellowship as best we can within the restraints of a reduced budget. What will guide our energies and decisions are: continuing a balanced budget, expanding our children and youth programs, working towards the expansion of our minister to full time, engaging a broader interest in fellowship leadership opportunities, supporting the re-launch of a membership committee, expanding the utilization of our rental space and maintaining our identity as a spiritual community.

We signed the renewal of our lease of Old Stone Church and the Cottage recently. I hope you've been as pleased as I've been with the enhancements that have taken place over the summer. In the sanctuary, the new paint, new carpeting and chair coverings are all welcome improvements that were undertaken by the owners of Old Stone Church, Peter Geiser and Maureen Sweeney. And in the Cottage, John Willaimson, Chela Sloper and Rebecca Fender have given it a good facelift with a few more improvements in store. All of these efforts make our time in either of these buildings more special.

There's a quote that's been revisiting me several times lately: "Yesterday's the past, tomorrow's the future, but today is a gift. That's why it's called the present."—B. Keane. We all deserve this gift of the present. The challenge is to keep it separate from the call of the past and the promise of the future. Being in the moment is to truly enjoy what is happening, right here, right now. Sometimes that is easier said than done, but well worth the effort. Whether it's washing your face, smelling the fresh air or waiting your turn, be present there and nowhere else.

All the best,

***Leslie Koc, Board President***



## **EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **ANNUAL UUFECO FALL FUN(D) RAISER AND SERVICE AUCTION: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2010**

Here's hoping you all have the date saved on your calendar, and are busy thinking about all the fun you've had with last year's items and events, and what you are going to offer for this year. Amy Falkenrath has graciously agreed to join the planning and production team as Dick Falxa is retiring after three great years of doing the event. *Thank you, Dick.* We've secured the Bend Senior Center once again for the site of this fabulous evening's fun. Amy and I will be making announcements at Sunday Services, and will soon have the auction item slips ready for you to fill out offering your wonderful service, event or item.

**“Just what is a Service Auction?” you might be asking. The UUFECO Service Auction is more than just a fund raiser...it is a relationship builder. By that I mean, it is an opportunity to build relationships with fellow congregants in a way that you may not normally.** For example: This summer I participated in an overnight stay at Martha Lussenhop's 'Bed & Breakfast' the night before the Sister's Quilt Show tour and luncheon at Marean Jordan's. Max and I traveled to the Ochoco's and stayed at the Ochoco Ranger Station, hosted by Dick and Diana Pond; we went to Malheur Bird Refuge, French Glen, toured The Steens, and had a full moon hike hosted by Alice and Cal Elshof. I photographed children at Gretchen Grivel's ranch for a pony party; a group of UUFECO's met at Larry and Rachel Baker's cabin on the shores of Crescent Creek; Max and I hosted a 'sunset-full moon' picnic on August 23, and the list goes on.

Honestly, my summer has been full to overflowing with fun and good times, all from last year's Service Auction. **In short, it is a way to offer a service, an event, an opportunity to 'be' with friends and fellow congregants outside of the normal 'church' and circle suppers, to get to know others in a deeper, richer and often a unique way.** You won't want to miss this year's event, for sure! Start thinking about what you can offer.

*--Grace Kennedy*

### **A CALL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TEACHERS**

Religious Education (RE), at its core, reflects one of our faith's most basic principles... a **“free and responsible search for truth and meaning.”** However, our RE program can only succeed if there are volunteers willing to share that search as teachers for our children, keeping in mind, though, that we are not talking about indoctrination. As Unitarian minister William Ellery Channing said, “The great end of religious instruction is not to stamp our minds irresistibly upon the young, but to stir up their own.”

#### **So, as an RE Teacher, what can you expect, and exactly will be expected of you?**

... You can expect to attend a **two-hour, teacher orientation** where you will be given guidance and instructions on lesson plans, classroom preparation, classroom management strategies, the structure of a RE class, and safe church policy. As well, the philosophy of teaching RE will be lightly touched upon.

... You can expect to have **all lesson plans and materials provided** to you with clear instructions for each activity.

... You can expect to make a commitment to teach **one Sunday per month** for one (1) school year, or **10 months**. On the Sunday you teach, you can expect to spend at least one (1) hour on preparation and one (1) hour actually teaching. (You may wish to spend more time doing additional preparation. The teaching hour may vary slightly depending on what time our children are sung out to their classes from the sanctuary.

...You can expect to always **have a teaching partner**, most likely the same person each time, and the two of you will coordinate that week's lesson plan.

...You can expect to spend **15 minutes reviewing** what worked and what didn't work for your class following your teaching hour with your teaching partner and the DRE.

...You can expect to **hear the sermon** you'll miss **by downloading the podcast** from our UUFCO website.

...You can expect to **be surprised, have fun, be appreciated**, and, most importantly, **grow in your faith**.

In considering the call for RE teachers, keep in mind the following words of Dr. Barry Andrews, Master of Religious Education, "If we feel grateful for the fact that this congregation was here for us when we needed it, we must take responsibility for making it a sanctuary for others."

If you have the time, the space and the ability in your life to **be a sanctuary maker**, I urge you to become a teacher for our children. Please contact **Rebecca Fender, DRE for Children & Youth**, at [uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com) or (541) 385-3908.

## Save the Date! Mark your Calendar!

Sunday, September 26, 2010 at 1:30 pm.

--The Annual Interdenominational CROP WALK --

CROP stands for "Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty." The motto for CROP is "We walk because they walk," referring to people all over the world who spend much of their day walking for water or for cooking fuels.

On September 26th you can enjoy an afternoon walk through Dry Canyon in Redmond, joining walkers of all ages from UUFCO and from other congregations. At the same time you can help feed the hungry by getting pledges for your walk. The walk starts at the Community Presbyterian Church in Redmond, extends through the Dry Canyon and ends back at the church, less than 3 miles. Make this a hunger project overseas including the Unitarian-Universalist Service Committee. Twenty-five percent (25%) of the funds received support six local projects in Redmond and Bend, including Bethlehem Inn.

Look for the CROP Walk table at the services on September 5, 12, & 26. You can view literature, ask questions (Martha Lussenhop or Bill Morris) and sign up. If you cannot walk that day, you can donate any amount by signing a walker's pledge list. You can also make a contribution to the Greater Community Collection, designated for CROP, at the service on September 26.

## **RENEWING OUR COMMITMENT TO BEING CENTRAL OREGON'S MOST VISIBLE & ACTIVE WELCOMING CONGREGATION**

This Unitarian Universalist Fellowship is Central Oregon's most active and visible Welcoming Congregation—one of only 2 congregations in Central Oregon that are explicitly welcoming of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people. It is time for us to become more "out, loud, and proud" about this role, and also more prepared to support, stand with, and advocate on behalf of our gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender members and families. If you are interesting in revitalizing and deepening our commitment to being a Welcoming Congregation, please speak with Rev. Heather soon. A small group of us are looking into the Unitarian Universalist Association's curriculum for deepening this welcoming work, called "Living the Welcoming Congregation."

## BETHLEHEM INN DINNERS: A GREAT CHANCE TO SHOW YOUR COMMITMENT TO SERVICE

Our next dinners are Thursday evening, September 23 and October 28. The pace picks up at the Bethlehem Inn as summer ends and autumn begins. Preparing and serving meals at The Inn is an inspiring experience. For those who have thought about it or have not volunteered in a while, your participation would be greatly appreciated. We also need a good representation from our “regular” and experienced preparers and servers.

Each month we need food preparers for meatloaf, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, gravy, juice, and cupcakes. Because of Bethlehem Inn’s kitchen limitations, our food preparers make their meal component at home and deliver it between 5:00pm and 5:30pm. In addition, 5-6 servers are needed to set up the serving area and then serve the dinner. Servers report for duty by 5:30pm and are finished by 6:35pm. Depending on the time of year, we serve between 55 and 90 meals per month to the Bethlehem Inn’s single and family residents.

You can sign up at Sunday service or contact Leslie Koc or Tom O’Brien at [uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com) . Call 541-385-3908 if you have any questions.

### ANNOUNCEMENT: JOIN OUR UUFCA FACEBOOK GROUP!

Beautiful people, we want to see your faces! If you go online even just every-now-and-then, consider joining Facebook—it’s a great and easy way to share photos, updates, news and links ([www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)). If you’re already on Facebook, look up our “Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Central Oregon” Facebook page, and click “Join Group.” If you need help getting started, just say the word. And if you’re wary of Facebook but open to suggestion, let any of the following people know and they’ll share with you why they enjoy it—Rev. Heather, Amy Falkenrath, Cameron Clark, Tina Bandy-Rogers, Debby Lynn, Aleta Nissen, Claire Spampinato, Rebecca Fender, Savita Krausse...to name a few of your potential Facebook Friends!

### BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE UUFCA

*Our next New Member Ceremony* will take place during the Sunday morning service on **November 7, 2010**. We welcome you into membership when you feel the timing is right for you. Membership with UUFCA involves:

- Attending a Path to Membership class series, a Newcomer Orientation, or scheduling an individual conversation with our minister, Rev. Heather Starr ([uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com) / 541-385-3908),
- Investigating in what ways you will engage in an ongoing spiritual practice,
- Making a monetary contribution (and/or pledge) of any amount to the Fellowship
- Signing our membership book, and
- Considering the ways that you can be involved in the ongoing energetic creation of our congregational community.

We welcome you into membership and into more meaningful engagement with this community at the point when you feel ready to join. Please contact Rev. Heather if membership is something you’d like to explore.

### Calling All Empty Ink Cartridges and Used Cell Phones -



*Are your empty ink cartridges and used cell phones hiding? Are they in your sofa? Did you put them under your mattress? Please bring them to the Fellowship. We get MOOLAH for them, and the MOOLAH buys office supplies! Bring them in any Sunday and put them in the box in the foyer. How about putting them in your vehicle right now? The Fellowship will thank you!*

## CONVERSATIONS WITH OUR MINISTER

“Trail Hours” are times each month when I set out on a nearby trail hoping that you will join me in conversation out-of-doors in beautiful Central Oregon. Call me if you have questions or are planning to come so that I know to expect you. Dogs and children are more than welcome.

**Trail Hours in September: Shevlin Commons.** Come check out the sweet Shevlin Commons trail with me! Take Greenwood west and stay on it as it becomes Newport and then Shevlin Park Road. Before the dip down to Shevlin Park, turn left at the junction with Park Commons Road. Tuesday, September 28, at 10am. Please call or e-mail me if you’re planning to come so that I know to look for you! Also let me know if you’d like further directions.

As always, if there is another time or place that you’d like to go for a walk, have a cup of tea, or that’d be good for me to come by and visit with you in your home, I’d be delighted to do that. Please be in touch! I look forward to talking with you and getting to know you better.

—Rev. Heather ([uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com) / 541-385-3908)

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### CARING COMMITTEE

Co-chairs: **Jerrie Jones**, 541-385-3908, [uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com)

**Helen Seidler**, 541-385-3908, [uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com)



**Resources on Dealing with Death, Dying and Grieving:** We have a collection of short, beautifully written booklets on this topic that we would like the congregation to know about. One of them is entitled “Final Business,” and it is a family guide to organizing and taking care of personal and business affairs before and after death. It includes practical information on Powers of Attorney, Advanced Directives, funeral planning, Social Security, VA benefits, and more. You can find it on the entry table in the foyer along with display copies of the other booklets in the series. Speak to Jerrie or Helen if you are interested in purchasing any of these booklets.

And also take note of our resource rack with the the UUFCA Nursing & Recovery Care Resource List; Feeding the Hungry resources; the UUFCA Emergency contact form, and the Caring Committee Outreach form that can be used to request assistance or sign up to become a member of the Care Team.

**Mid-July through mid-August 2010 Activities of Care Team:** In the past month the Care Team sent cards, made calls and delivered flowers seven times.

You can contact your Caring Committee Chair if you need the support of either our Care or Resource Teams—we are here, as our weekly Covenant states, in order to love and “to help one another.”

### GOOD TIMES ACTIVITIES FOR SEPTEMBER

Please check out all the sign-up sheets Sunday mornings so that you can be notified by email of upcoming events for your activity interests. Look for the 3-ring binders on the entry tables for all the sign-up sheets.

**Circle Suppers:** Jerrie Jones has taken on the organization of the circle suppers. Please join members & friends at the September 25 Circle Supper, our final outdoor event for 2010. It will start at 4:00pm at the home of Jerrie & Allan Jones. *Families with children are welcome at this event.* Sign up sheets will be on the entry table through Sept. 12th. Future Circle Supper dates to mark on your calendars are November 13 and December 11. Please contact Jerrie Jones at 541-385-3908 or [uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com) if you have any questions.

**Kayak/Canoe Paddles:** Dave MacGurn will be leading some paddles in September. No dates are available at present, but watch the weekly order of service or contact Dave ([uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com) / 541-385-3908) for updates. Meanwhile, if you are going out on the water and want some company, please let us know and we can notify the interested group. Nan Williamson at 541-385-3908 or [uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com)

**Hiking:** Contact Duncan Brown or Lyn Mattei for information about future hikes. ([uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com) / 541-385-3908).

**Biking Group:** Toni Morris will lead a road bike ride September 18 from 10am to 2pm - easy with a few small hills, up to 15 miles. Area TBD. Bring water and sun screen and tire repair kit or spare inner tube in case of flat. Call Toni by September 16 to confirm you will ride, and to find out what area and where we'll meet. Toni can be reached on her cell phone at 541-385-3908.

**RV/Camping:** September 17 and 18: "Camp Out on the Oregon Coast" at South Beach Camp Ground, one mile south of the Yaquina Bay bridge (south of Newport). We will do some birding, beach walks, kayaking and canoeing on the bay, and eating seafood at local restaurants. There will be charges for campsites that each individual must accept. I have not made any reservations so we may have to accept sites which are not together. We did have good luck in this respect last year. This was a popular event last year and I anticipate equal pleasure this year. It would be helpful if I knew who was coming so let me know as soon as you can. Please contact Larry Baker to sign up or for more information: [uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com) / 541-385-3908

**Drum Circle Group:** Led by Chandra Smith, this group will resume meetings in the fall. No details are available at present. Please let Chandra know of your interest for future meetings at [uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com) or 541-385-3908, or by signing up at the entry tables.

**Card Players:** Jim & Becky Dobrowski are hosting card playing evenings monthly. This month, the event will be held on Sunday, Sept. 26 at 6:30pm. Please note the change of date, as the gatherings are typically set for the Saturday before Discussion Sunday. All skill levels are welcome and a variety of games are offered. No need to sign up, but e-mail or call Jim or Becky if you have questions. [uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com) / 541-385-3908.

**Stitching Group:** For those interested in stitching crafts (quilting, sewing, knitting, crocheting, etc.), Gretchen Grivel has graciously agreed to lead the group. Please use the sign-up sheets to indicate your interest, and contact Gretchen for details ([uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com) / 541-385-3908) about upcoming meetings.

**Family Fun:** Get to know other families (kids ages 0-18ish) in the UUFco by joining in some Family Fun! Potluck dinners (Family Feasts), outings, and more. What are you interested in? Picnics at the park? Outdoor concerts? Nature walks? Camping? To give your opinion and to volunteer to help with this group, contact Claire Spampinato ([uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com) / 541-385-3908).

**YUuligans:** A group for young adults, ages 18-35, is being re-organized under the leadership of Amy Falkenrath and Aaron Coe. Contact Amy or Aaron for more information ([uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com) / 541-385-3908).

WATCH!! For announcements, new sign-up sheets, emails, etc. so you don't miss the start-up dates for fall activities. It promises to be another season of really Good Times!



## SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Charles & Wilma Campbell, Co-chairs (541-385-3908/ [uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com))

The Greater Community Collection (GCC) for the month of September is **Crop Walk**. This annual walk raises funds to feed the homeless in Central Oregon. The walk this year is on Sunday, September 26 starting at 1:30pm, starting from the Redmond Presbyterian Church. You are encouraged to sign up sponsors and participate in the walk, if possible. Contributions to the GCC on that same Sunday will also be of great help in this worthy cause. There will be more information available at the fellowship and from Bill Morris, our UUFCO contact person.

The Social Action Committee is coordinating with the Adult Education program to provide pertinent issues for study and action this year. Stay tuned for further announcements.



## DISCUSSION GROUP

*On the third Sunday in September in lieu of service, UUFCO will hold a discussion meeting. Everyone is welcome at 11:00am in the Old Stone Church. Articles will be distributed by email about 2 weeks in advance of the September 19th date via Tom Wykes' list. If you are not already on the Discussion Group email list, please contact Tom Wykes at [uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com)*

**September topic: "In Celebration of Doubt:"** Doubt isn't a negative concept defined by a lack of certainty. Doubt can be affirmative, a concept that can lead us to new possibilities and knowledge. We will explore the possibilities of doubt using concepts from Jennifer Hecht's book, Doubt: a History.

*"Where there is great doubt, there will be great awakening; small doubt, small awakening. No doubt, no awakening" – Zen saying.*



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Rebecca Fender, Director of Religious Education for Children & Youth ([uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com)  
541-385-3908)

**There comes a time when autumn asks, "What have you been doing all summer?" ~ Author Unknown**

Dear Families & Friends ~

It's hard to believe summer is drawing to a close, and, yet, I always feel a sense of delicious anticipation as we return to fall and the steady rhythm of school schedules, cooler nights, and gardens ready for harvest. It is my sincere hope that each of our families was able to find respite during summer and is returning to our congregational home feeling renewed and ready for a full, rich RE church year.

Our first RE class will be held on **September 12** in conjunction with our Annual Water Communion Ingathering Service. Please plan to allow time to fill out the necessary registration forms for your child, which will be available on our Members' Table, in the childcare room and in The Cottage. For liability and safety purposes, all children must be registered.

Our first Youth Group meeting will be **September 26** at 5:00pm in The Cottage behind the Old Stone Church. All youth ages 13-20 are welcome to attend and will find a space of genuine acceptance, deep questioning, personal reflection and FUN. If you have any questions about our Youth Group, or would like more information, please contact Rebecca Fender, DRE for Children & Youth, using the contact information above.

Exciting news!! Our congregation is hosting its first event sponsored by the Pacific Northwest District of the Unitarian Universalist Association from **October 8-10, 2010**. This is a Renaissance Module training for Religious Education Leaders on the topic of **Administration** and will be held at The Environmental Center. We are looking for members and friends able to provide home hospitality to 12-15 attendees of the training for Friday and Saturday night. We are also looking for two people, or more, that can help cater meals, which will be provided at The Environmental Center. If you are able to offer your help, please contact Rebecca Fender, DRE for Children & Youth, using the contact information above.

I now have regular office hours, which are Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays from 8:30am – 11:30am. Feel free to drop by The Cottage at any time during those hours to visit and/or discuss our RE programs.

With gratitude and joy,  
*Rebecca Fender, Director of Religious Education for Children & Youth*

## **ADULT EDUCATION – SEPTEMBER UPDATE**

Ellen Mercer, Chair, Adult Religious Education ([uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com) or 541-385-3908)

It seems impossible that the summer is drawing to a close and fall is upon us. I love summer with both its unstructured days packed with playtime or those of lazy, laid-back leisure. Having taught for thirty years, fall is for me a new beginning each year, filled with the promise of growth usually associated with spring. So, after the wonderful summer hiatus, here we are – ready to begin a new year of adult education experiences.

This year Adult Education and Social Action are working jointly to broaden and strengthen our efforts to be effective as a UUFCAO community and as a voice in the Central Oregon community. This will entail continually educating ourselves on the pressing issues of our times and undertaking action where we can make a difference.

Last year, we focused on the UUA Study/Action Issue of **Ethical Eating: Food and Environmental Justice**. This was the first year UUFCAO has joined in the UUA focus. This summer, the UUA General Assembly chose **Immigration Reform** as the Study/Action issue for the next five years. These two issues share fundamental root causes as does any issue of a global nature whether it is the environment, peace, violence, hunger, or any other. The impact of inequality can be traced as the core problem within each issue and each issue has a direct correlation on the others. Many of us have experienced the hesitation to speak out or act on something we feel strongly about because we question the depth of our knowledge and understanding. The intent of this year's program is to build our knowledge base, participate in the discourse and actively contribute towards peaceful resolution of these issues. Adult Education offerings will reflect this focus but will also include other intellectual and spiritual explorations.

### **Program Offerings Scheduled:**

#### **“Gatherings” Program – A UU Small Group Ministry for Men**

**Mondays, September 20 through November 8**

**6:30 – 8:30 Cottage**

This is an eight-week men’s group. It would be best if those men interested can commit to attending all eight (8) weeks. The program follows a suggested UU outline. The eight sessions are: Getting to Know One Another; What It Means to Be Male; Friendship, Partnership and Competition; Getting Centered and Balanced; Making Amends; Family and Work; Passion and Loving Relationships. The group will be no more than 10 men plus the facilitator, with a minimum of eight. The first “Gatherings” will be facilitated by Bob Barber. Please respond to Bob at [uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com) or 541-385-3908.

#### **Principled Economics**

**Thursdays, Sept. 23, Sept. 30, & Oct 7**

**6:00-7:30 Cottage**

**Facilitator: Charles Campbell**

Social action is more than attending social action meetings; it is a way of doing life.

Most social problems are symptoms of deeper problems. While it is necessary to alleviate the symptoms it is also desirable to address the root problems. The way we as a people do economics creates gross inequalities. So, is there a way to do economics which is more consistent with our UU principles? There are many authors who say yes, we can do better.

From available information it may be possible to formulate the basis of Principled Economics, an economics that meets our needs and is consistent with UU principles. The goals of this study is to explore how the several authors see the problems caused by economics, to consider the actions recommended by the authors and consider what can be done both by individuals and local organizations. Please reply to Ellen Mercer ([uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com) / 541-385-3908) or Charles Campbell ([uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com) / 541-385-3908).

#### **Embracing Non-violent Living**

**Sundays Oct. 3, 10, 17 & 24**

**2:00-4:30**

**First Presbyterian Church**

This is an opportunity to connect with members of multiple interfaith groups in Bend.

This four session series focuses on Living Soulforce: Peace in Daily Life. The theme: compassionate communication and conflict transformation as keys to interpersonal nonviolence. Another series of four sessions will be offered in the spring focusing on Putting Soulforce into Action: Nonviolence as a Tool for Transforming Society. Each series is designed to be complete in itself. Members of the Peace Center of Central Oregon will facilitate the fall series. UUFco is one of many co-sponsors. Early pre-registration is recommended. Participation of high school and college students is encouraged. For registration info, contact Ellen Mercer [uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com) 541-385-3908.

Plans are underway for many other studies and activities and as always we are constantly looking for input to build our program. Speak up – together we have so many ideas. In the meantime, enjoy the last lingering days of summer!



## LETTER FROM OUR MINISTER

*(written from Portland toward the middle of August)*

Dear Friends,

As you may have heard, my father Gary became suddenly very ill at the end of July. (Just a month ago, while camping on a Good Times outing with a few UUFCO members at Horsethief Lake State Park, he called to let me know he wasn't feeling well.) I came up to Portland and joined my brother Jeff and sister Jenna in caring for him, and it has been quite a rollercoaster. While we waited for the results of a biopsy, Dad was admitted to the Intensive Care Unit and his vital signs were stabilized. Eventually Dad was diagnosed with a rare, aggressive cancer called angioimmunoblastic T-cell lymphoma. Dad is presently at home with hospice care and at least one of us is at his bedside around the clock. We are also dealing with closing up his business, cleaning up his house, following up with his correspondence, and planning the memorial service.

I want to thank each of you who has reached out to me and offered to help in any way – this has been such a wild experience for me in terms of being on the “other side” of the medical and hospice experience. I now have a much greater sense of what families go through in the hospital and at home during this kind of ordeal. And as we continue to care for my father here in Portland as the end of August approaches, I have learned a lot about what families struggle with while trying to care for their loved one and also juggle the stresses and demands of our/their individual lives.

Huge thanks to those of you who have helped to check on my cats, water my garden, reschedule meetings, pick up my mail, follow up with UUFCO-related matters, and who have cared for one another even more attentively than usual in my absence. I miss you all, and I am looking forward to being back with you in September.

In the meantime, know that I am doing okay and that my siblings and I are enjoying being together, even under these circumstances. It has been good to be in Portland and connect with other family, friends, and colleagues here. My cell phone doesn't get great service at Dad's house but we are getting wireless installed here tomorrow, so I will be able to be online more consistently. And by the time you read this, I am hoping to be back home in Bend for the most part. This would not have been the “vacation” I would have chosen for myself, but it has certainly been an intense and memorable experience I will be pondering and processing for some time to come. Thank you again for your kindness, understanding, patience, support, and love.

So grateful to serve as your minister,  
**Rev. Heather** ([uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com)) / 541-385-3908

*Note: As many of you now know, Gary Starr passed away on the afternoon of August 26, 2010. Rev. Heather was at his side, as were her brother and sister.*