



UUNews



November 2011 Sunday Services

Sunday November 6 11:00 am	<p>Rev. Heather Starr: “Ever-changing, Ever-evolving.” Life is an organism. Community of any kind is always in flux. What can we learn about staying flexible and pliable that can help us all to live more fully, with more gratitude and resilience?</p> <p><i>Join us in welcoming our newest members during the New Member Ceremony today.</i></p> <p><i>Note that today – November 6 – is the end of Daylight Savings Time. Make sure you turn your clocks back an hour on Saturday evening!</i></p>
Sunday November 13 11:00 am	<p>Rev. Heather Starr: “Staying Open-hearted In Hard Times.” The economic recession has painfully impacted many people in our congregation and in our larger community. How do we stay open-hearted in these times of stress, anxiety, and fear?</p>
Sunday November 20 11:00 am	<p>Discussion Group with Tom Wykes: “What I Learned about Justice from Dorothy Day” by Jim Forest. During the heights of the Depression, Dorothy Day and fellow social activist Peter Maurin established the <i>Catholic Worker</i> movement. A nonviolent, pacifist movement that continues to combine direct aid for the poor and homeless, with nonviolent direct action on their behalf. Day, a devout Catholic convert and journalist was also considered an anarchist, a term she freely used. Perhaps there is some wisdom from that movement that can shed some light on the economic and political turmoil of these times.</p>
Sunday November 27 11:00 am	<p>Rev. Heather Starr: “Transformative Thanks.” All are welcome to join us for our annual Inter-generational Gratitude Service—story, song, and sharing in celebration of how essential feeling and expressing thanks is to our interconnectedness with all life. If you can, bring a harvest item—an apple, a potato, an onion, a squash—to place on the center table before the service begins. We will then each share a gratitude as we take home an item we did not bring, from the abundance that no one of us could create on our own.</p> <p><i>This month’s <u>Greater Community Collection</u> recipient is the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee’s Guest At Your Table program.</i></p>

Remember to set your clocks back 1 hour before you go to bed on Saturday, November 5 – Standard Time begins, Sunday, November 6.



EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

JANUARY 28, 2012: ANNUAL UUFCA TALENT SHOW!

If you were at this event last year, you know that it is absolutely not-to-be-missed. What hidden talents do you want to prepare and share for our community in the midst of Central Oregon's long winter? **Virlene Arnold** will once again be our **Ring Leader**: please submit your skits, numbers, pieces, etc. to Virlene to get on the program. Whether you plan to share your talent or simply be present to enjoy the kaleidoscope of talents within the Fellowship, we also are looking for a **Refreshments Wrangler!** Would you be interested in wrangling all those incoming refreshments – desserts and beverages of all types – and preparing the table to be particularly inviting? Please contact Chela Sloper, Administrator, if this *one-time volunteer opportunity* speaks to you! (uufco@yahoo.com)

JUNE 19 - 24, 2012: JUSTICE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA

All year our Social Justice and Adult Religious Education Committees will be looking ahead and planning for a first-ever national "Justice GA" in Phoenix. Are you able to join us for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to Stand on the Side of Love with thousands of other UU's? Please let Ellen Mercer or Rev. Heather Starr know if you would like to be a part of the UUFCA contingent to Phoenix in June.



THE RED TENT TEMPLE OF CENTRAL OREGON

Dear Women of the Red Tent,

The next gathering will be **November 7**. I am reaching out to you for support in keeping this sacred women's space alive. My intuition tells me a Drumming Circle is needed. Are there any among you who can help facilitate this? I am personally struggling with some health issues right now and I know there are others among us coping with stresses of health, economics, relationships, grief, etc. Please come; together we can work a great healing. Those who would like to help facilitate please contact me via email or by phone: 541-385-3908 / theredtenttemplebend@yahoo.com.

Blessings All Ways,
Beki Meyer-Allen

YOUR HELP NEEDED ~ BETHLEHEM INN DINNERS THURSDAYS, NOVEMBER 17 & DECEMBER 15, 2011

With your help, November 17th will represent UUFCA's 43rd night of preparing and serving monthly dinners at the Bethlehem Inn Shelter at 3705 N Hwy 97 in Bend. We serve this dinner on the **3rd Thursday of November and December**. Our UUFCA volunteers bring a full, healthful dinner along with the taste, aroma, and spirit of home cooking to the Inn's homeless residents. The preparation, delivery and serving of UUFCA's meals require the volunteer efforts of at least **15 volunteers per month** taking on specific meal items and/or serving roles on those days.

In addition to our many "regulars," the Bethlehem Inn dinners need the help of new volunteers to be **food preparers** and **servers** to make each of these special "home-cooked" meals possible for The Inn's residents. We (Leslie Koc and Tom O'Brien) are ready to support you at each step of this process from providing you with recipes to subsidizing food purchases.

November and December tend to be two of the busiest months often requiring additional food preparers.

There are openings on Thursday **November 17** or **December 15** for the following positions:

- **Off-site preparation** and procurement of the meatloaf, mashed potatoes, vegetables, cupcakes and milk, and the **subsequent delivery** of each entrée to the Inn at 5:10 to 5:30pm on one or both of the Thursday evenings.
- We also need **food servers** for each dinner. Food preparers can also stay on as food servers if they apply in advance. Experiencing the joy and gratitude of The Inn's homeless residents makes the meal-server role particularly rewarding. Servers report for duty by 5:30 pm and are finished by 6:35pm.

Please contact Leslie Koc or Tom O'Brien at uufco@yahoo.com to get more detailed information, to volunteer, or get recipes. Please call us at 541-385-3908 if you have any questions.

ANNOUNCEMENT: JOIN OUR UUCO 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). 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 encouragement, 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!

UUF CO WISH LIST

There are many ways to support the good energy and programs of UUF CO. It was particularly apparent during our Easter service this year that we are short on the gray *Singing the Living Tradition* hymnals. Please consider purchasing a hymnal in appreciation of or in memory of someone in your life. Contact Chela Sloper at uufco@yahoo.com to purchase a hymnal for all to enjoy.

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 November: Farewell Bend Trail at Reed Market

This is the loop trail along the Deschutes River that starts at Reed Market Road, crosses the river on a small pedestrian bridge, and returns to Reed Market on the other side of the river below Mt. Bachelor Village. I'll look for you under or near the overhang/shelter on Reed Market.

Join me on **Thursday, November 3, at 2:00pm**, or **Tuesday, November 15, at 10:00am**. Rain, sleet, snow or wind: come and get outside with me! Please let me know if you're thinking about coming and also if you'd like further directions.

As always, if there is another time 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 (541-390-6052 / heathermstarr@yahoo.com)

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service – November 23rd

The Interfaith Network of Central Oregon is hosting an Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at the First United Methodist Church. The Gospel Choir will perform.

There will be short presentations from a number of faith groups in our community; UUFCA will be represented in the service. Come and give thanks for all the blessings we share on this earth, in this community.

November 23rd, 7:00 pm / First United Methodist Church / 680 Bond, Bend



COMMITTEE REPORTS



CARING COMMITTEE

Co-chairs: Dale Clark (541-385-3908 / uufco@yahoo.com)

Marean Jordan (541-385-3908 / uufco@yahoo.com)

Caring Committee Resources: The Caring Committee maintains a supply of medical equipment donated to UUFCA (walkers, crutches, a wheelchair, bath bench, etc.) that can be borrowed on a temporary basis by those who need them. Please contact Marean if you would like to borrow one of these items.

Web Link to Caring Committee Resources: You can access some of our key resources on-line by going to the Member's Section of the UUFCA web site (www.uufco.org). The *Meals and Emergency Food Supplies for Hungry People* has recently been updated. Other resources include the *UUFCA Nursing and Recovery Care Resource List*, the *UUFCA Member Emergency Contact Form*, and the *Caring Committee Outreach Form*. If you can't get into the Member's Section, contact Chela (uufco@yahoo.com) to request your user name and password.

Mid-September through mid-October 2011 Activities of the Care Team: During this month, Care and Resource Team members and friends generously volunteered 13 times to place calls and send cards. In addition, they made 12 visits to people in our community. These involved making friendly visits, providing transportation, and delivering meals. Thanks to all the Care and Resource Team members and other members and friends of UUFCA who provide generous support to our community.

Caring Committee Retreat on October 1: Twenty-four members and friends of the Caring Committee gathered for a retreat and workshop at Dale Clark's home on October 1. The theme of the retreat was **Connection**. Through meditative walking, opportunities for prayer, dance and song, and discussion and sharing of stories, resources, and food, we connected with ourselves and one another, and generated ideas for extending and improving the Caring Committee's work. Special thanks to Don Hartsough, Jerrie Jones, Chela Sloper, Rev. Heather, and Cathy Rion for facilitating parts of the day's activities. In the December newsletter we will share some of the ideas that came out of the retreat.

New Care Team Members are welcome! If you have an interest in being part of the CareTeam and want to learn more about the work we do, please contact Marean.

Thanks to **Marean Jordan** and **Dale Clark** for co-chairing the Caring Committee. Thanks to each of you for sharing what's going on in your life and the lives of those you love, and to all of you for reaching out to care for and connect with one another. You can contact your Caring Committee Co-Chairs 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."



FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Co-chairs: **Jerrie Jones** (541-385-3908 / uufco@yahoo.com)

Helen Seidler (541-385-3908 / uufco@yahoo.com)

We are happy to share some of the new ideas and activities that the Fellowship Committee has been working on. Our goal with these activities is to strengthen our intergenerational community to better serve UUFCO and its members and friends.

Sunday Service Commitment: We are asking that each member, friend and teen **volunteer just three (3) times a year** to carry out one of the tasks necessary to our Sunday morning service. With everyone pitching in, this work will not be a burden for anyone. And it is a wonderful opportunity to contribute to the smooth functioning of UUFCO and learn what goes on behind the scenes! The tasks include: Setup, Greeting, Hosting, Sound, Flowers, and Refreshments. The "Sunday Service Commitment" form lets us know which tasks you would like to do. Look for it in an ACE (All-Congregational Email), print it out and return half of it in the Collection Basket on Sunday. To volunteer, you can sign up on the clipboard on the Information Table at The Old Stone on Sundays, or go to the home page of the web site, www.uufco.org, and look at the Volunteer Schedule to see what openings are available. Then call or e-mail Gretchen, our Administrative Assistant, with the dates and tasks that work for you. One suggestion is that groups of friends or those involved with a committee or some other activity get together and pick three Sundays when they could handle all the tasks together. Now that sounds like fun!

Fellowship Friends: no longer just those wearing yellow ribbons on Sundays! There are so many ways to be a friend of the Fellowship. We have outlined some of the possibilities for you below.

Become part of the **Sunday Morning Group** – The folks in this group have a choice of three areas they can help with. They could staff the Welcome Table, or look after the visitors walking through the door and help them get oriented to our service, or facilitate the monthly UU-FAQ sessions offered for visitors or anyone who has questions about UUFCO and Unitarian Universalism. As a part of the Sunday Morning Group you can do one, two or all three of the activities!

Become part of the **New Member Group** – Sign up to be a buddy to someone in the Path to Membership class (or someone contemplating the Path to Membership class) and help them get to know people and the various activities that make up congregational life. Stay with your person as he or she becomes a member and help them integrate with our community over the next six months or so. Phone calls, e-mails, and invitations to UUFCO events are the kinds of actions we have in mind.

Become a part of the **Congregational Outreach Group** – Help us know what is going on with our long-term members by liaising with a group such as young adults, singles, families with children, couples, teens, children, and retirees. Through informal conversation and a little structured interviewing, find out what is working for these groups and what else they would like to see from their UUFCO community.

Does any of this intrigue you? Would you like to be part of one of these Fellowship Friends groups? Do you have any questions about the expanded Fellowship Friends? Please contact Jerrie or Helen. We would love to hear from you.

Becoming a Member of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Central Oregon

*Following this month's New Member Ceremony, our next New Member Ceremony will take place during the Sunday service on **March 4, 2012**. The next Path to Membership series of classes will be on Thursday evenings starting in January: January 26, February 2, and February 9 from 6:00-7:30pm in the Cottage. Please RSVP to Fellowship Committee Co-Chair Jerrie Jones at uufco@yahoo.com. All are welcome to enjoy this class regardless of where you are in your consideration of membership.*

Becoming a member of UUFCO involves:

- Attending a Path to Membership class series, a Newcomer Orientation, or scheduling an individual conversation with our minister, Rev. Heather Starr (heathermstarr@yahoo.com / 541-390-6052),
- Investigating in what ways you are engaging in an ongoing spiritual practice,

- Making an annual monetary contribution (and/or pledge) of any amount to the Fellowship with your name clearly attributed,
- 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.

GOOD TIMES ACTIVITIES FOR NOVEMBER

Coordinator: Shera Hunn Felde (541-385-3908 / uufco@yahoo.com)



We are delighted that **Shera Hunn Felde** has stepped forward to serve the Fellowship as Coordinator of the Good Times Activities! *Thank you, Shera,* for filling this role, and for helping us find fun ways to strengthen our community ties within the Fellowship!

A schedule of these activities can be found on the UUFCAO website calendar. It is requested that you RSVP to the leader for an event with a specific date:

Circle Suppers: Come and join in the fun at a Circle Supper! Circle Suppers are small dinners hosted in a member's home so that folks have a chance to visit and connect with members and friends of UUFCAO. Invite your friends or a recent visitor to attend a supper with you – there's great food and fun times for all who attend!

It's easy to be a guest and bring a potluck dish to share, and equally fun and easy to host since the guests bring the food!! The next Circle Supper will be on **Saturday, December 10th**. Sign up sheets will be on the entry table through November 27th. **Plan ahead for the next Circle Supper dates: Friday, January 13, 2012 and Saturday, February 11, 2012.** If you have questions or would like to sign up to be a host please contact Jerrie Jones (541-385-3908 / uufco@yahoo.com).

Movie Group: The UUFCAO Film Fans will meet on **Friday, November 11** at 6:00pm at Bill and Toni Morris' home to watch the film *The Visitor*. Please bring a snack to share and be ready to celebrate Bill's birthday! (No gifts, please). Contact Valerie Warren at uufco@yahoo.com or 541-385-3908 by Wednesday, November 9 to RSVP and for directions.

Knitting/Sewing Group: If you are interested in joining a group to spend time together doing your knitting – or other handwork projects (this can include quilting, crocheting, hand-sewing, etc.) – please contact Nan Williamson at uufco@yahoo.com or 541-385-3908. The group met last season in various homes, but those interested can decide the venue and frequency. It's a great way to get to meet other crafty UU members!

Mah Jongg: Toni Morris will teach and lead the Mah Jongg class on **Tuesdays, November 1, 15, and 29** at her house, from 12:00 noon to 4:00pm. Call Toni by the day before to confirm (541-385-3908). She will email directions to the house when she hears from you.

Card Players: Based on our vacation schedule we will have cards at our house on Friday, November 18 at 6:30pm. **This is a change from the typical third Saturday to the third Friday of the month.** Contact Jim Dobrowski (541-385-3908 / uufco@yahoo.com) if you would like to attend.

Book Club (II): The group will meet at Jackson's Corner on **Monday, November 14**, from 3:00-4:30pm. The November book is *Frontier Doctor* by Urling Coe. If interested in joining this group, or for further information, please contact Shera Hunn Felde (541-385-3908 / uufco@yahoo.com).

This I Believe Writing Group resumes November 9 at 4:00pm. Dates and times for future meetings will be chosen at this meeting. Please email Shera Hunn Felde at uufco@yahoo.com if you have questions. More information about *This I Believe* can be found at the website <http://thisibelieve.org/>.

SEEKING GOOD TIMES ACTIVITIES: As we hunker down into Autumn and Winter weather, the Fellowship looks forward to a wide variety of Good Times opportunities. We are always seeking volunteer activity leaders for hiking, skiing, snow-shoeing, bird watching, ice skating, table games, crafts, etc. If you are already an activity group leader, or if you are interested in becoming one, **please contact Shera** to get your information published in the newsletter. (541-385-3908 / uufco@yahoo.com) *Thank you again, Shera!*



SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Co-chairs: Alice Elshoff (541-385-3908 / uufco@yahoo.com)

Bill Morris (541-385-3908 / uufco@yahoo.com)

The Occupy Bend Rally was held at Brandis Square (Wall Street & Greenwood) at noon on Saturday, October 29, 2011. The slogan: “We are the 99%. We will no longer remain silent.” UUFCA hopes to support the need for many social changes and to support the NYC Wall St. demonstrations. See occupybend.org and contact Bill Morris to be part of our group. “A better world is possible; a new world is emerging!”

Greater Community Collection: Dick Pond has reported that our fellowship collected a **total of \$770** for September’s recipient, **CROP WALK** (Community Responding to Poverty). Hoorah for UUFCA!

The Greater Community Collection for **November** will benefit the UU Social Committee’s **Guest at Your Table** Campaign. The campaign will begin October 30 and run through November 27.

Each year friends and families in our congregation are invited to participate by taking home a Stories of Hope booklet and a collection box to represent a Guest at Your Table. By reading and donating we can learn about how the UU Service Committee puts our shared values into action through a potent combination of advocacy, education, and partnerships with grassroots human-rights leaders.

Through the Stories of Hope booklet, we connect with people throughout the world who have shared their personal struggles and are working hard for human rights in partnership with UUSC. In each household, the Guest at Your Table box is placed in a prominent spot, often at the family dinner table. During November, when family and friends gather to enjoy their blessings, they can think of the box as a guest in at least two ways: as a needy person who will appreciate your donation, or as symbolic of all the people in the world who help the needy. Having a “Guest Box” into which we place our bills and coins is an easy and effective way to support the movement for universal human rights. Each week, you can choose a different story to read, bringing our guests to life and helping celebrate our own rights.

The **Guest at Your Table** program will culminate on Sunday, November 27 when you bring back your donation boxes. Before bringing back your **Guest at Your Table** box please complete the information for UUSC and convert your cash to a check made out to UUFCA or UUSC. On November 27 you can also donate to our Greater Community Collection to support the Guest at Your Table Program. If you miss bringing back your box on November 27 you can bring it to the following service on Sunday, December 4.

On behalf of UUSC, we thank and commend every person who has chosen to share his or her blessings through joining our **Guest at Your Table** campaign. <http://www.uusc.org/guest/history>.

The Non-profit “Common Table Café” is having financial difficulties. The poor economy, a restructuring, and staff turnover in recent months have made it very difficult to keep the café open. Individuals could help a lot by coming by for meals, purchasing gift meals for the needy, and volunteering to help.

Common Table Café opened in August 2010, and from the beginning they have supported the economy of Central Oregon by purchasing the majority of their food and supplies from local sources. Volunteers do the cooking and wait tables. Staff members provide training for local students, the unemployed, and the homeless in the food service industry. You can listen to local musicians perform and gather with friends to discuss local, state,

national, and international issues there. Low-income individuals can get a healthy meal and only need to pay what they can afford; other patrons pay a set, but very reasonable, price for meals. The food is fresh and nutritious; there are several vegetarian and vegan menu items.

Common Table Café is located at 150 NW Oregon Ave. in Bend. For hours and other information about the café you can visit their website, <http://www.commontable.net>, or email info@commontable.net.

The next SJC meeting will be Tuesday, November 8 at 1:00 pm at the Cottage. *New people are always welcome at our meetings. Come see how we can put our UU principles into action!*



WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Attention! 2012 worship services are now being planned and scheduled.

- ◇ *Do you know someone in Central Oregon who you think would make a great guest speaker?*
- ◇ *Do you have an idea for a worship service you think others would enjoy?*
- ◇ *Would you like to Host or help with worship in the future?*
- ◇ *Is there a particular topic you'd like to speak about from your own experience?*
- ◇ *Is there a particular theme or issue that you'd like see UUFCA address or explore?*
- ◇ *Would you like to be involved in scheduling, hosting, or creating worship services?*

If you answered "yes!" to any of these questions, or if you want to support and strengthen our UUFCA Sunday services, please let Rev. Heather know. We want to hear from you to make sure that services are relevant to your spiritual needs, your inquisitive minds, and your open hearts. In particular if there is a service topic that you would like to lead, please let Rev. Heather know (heathermstarr@yahoo.com). Worship Committee Members include Virlene Arnold, Grace Kennedy, Nancy Stevens, Marean Jordan, and Bob Barber.

Our next Worship Committee meeting is Friday, November 18 at 1:00 pm in the Cottage. All are welcome.



DISCUSSION GROUP

On Sunday, November 20, UUFCA will have its monthly Discussion at 11:00 am in the Old Stone sanctuary. Articles will be distributed by email about 2 weeks in advance of the November 20 date via Tom Wykes' list. If you are not already on the Discussion Group email list, please contact Tom Wykes uufca@yahoo.com.

Discussion Group with Tom Wykes: "What I Learned about Justice from Dorothy Day" by Jim Forest: During the heights of the Depression, Dorothy Day and fellow social activist Peter Maurin established the *Catholic Worker* movement. A nonviolent, pacifist movement that continues to combine direct aid for the poor and homeless with nonviolent direct action on their behalf. Day, a devout Catholic convert and journalist was also considered an anarchist – a term she freely used. Perhaps there is some wisdom from that movement that can shed some light on the economic and political turmoil of these times.

"I cannot worry much about your sins and miseries when I have so many of my own. I can only love you all, poor fellow travelers, fellow sufferers. I do not want to add one least straw to the burden you already carry. My prayer from day to day is that God will so enlarge my heart that I will see you all, and live with you all, in His love." - Dorothy Day



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

Rebecca Fender, Director | uufco@yahoo.com | 541-385-3908

Dear Families, Members & Friends,

Can we really be rolling into November already? It seems I was just writing about the new growth springing up from the ground, and now, I find myself admiring the amazing colors of the leaves as nature recycles that growth. Time does indeed fly by too quickly. As your family enters this busy holiday season, find ways to gather and celebrate that speak to your hearts and nurture your ties with loved ones. Step away from the commercialization and hype, and discover ways your family can embrace the holiday spirit of sharing with others.

Exciting news! Our youth have an opportunity to share with others and participate in our important social justice work at the November Bethlehem Inn dinner. All youth in grades 6 – 12 have been invited by Tom O'Brien and Leslie Koc to help serve the monthly dinner that UUFCA provides for Bethlehem Inn on Thursday, **November 17th**. If your youth is able to participate, please let me know through email or a phone call.

Don't forget Youth Group meets every 1st and 4th Sunday of each month from 5:30pm – 6:30pm in The Cottage. All youth in grades 6 – 12 are welcome to attend.

Although we're not yet to December, I want to give families plenty of time to plan for involvement in the holiday service and children's play to be held on Saturday, December 24th at 5:00pm. Here is the schedule:

Sunday, December 11:	11:00am – 12:30pm	Rehearsal in the Cottage
Sunday, December 18:	12:30pm – 2:00pm	Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
Saturday, December 24:	4:30pm	Arrival time for performance

Please plan to have your children attend both rehearsals. The play will be integrated with the Winter Holiday Service, and the children will help pass out electric candles following the play. If you have any questions, as always, please contact me.

With gratitude and joy,
Rebecca Fender, Director of Religious Education

ADULT EDUCATION – NOVEMBER UPDATE

Tuesdays, through December 13 **7:00-8:30 pm** **Old Stone Sanctuary**
Resistance and Transformation: Unitarian Universalist History of Social Justice
 Facilitators: Rev. Heather Starr, Ellen Mercer, Alice Elshoff, Annis Henson, Bill Morris

This program presents the on-going struggle of our UU tradition to live up to our ever-evolving ideals of social transformation. The program leads us to ask the justice questions that pertain to our lives, congregation and society today, and provides models of action that inspire us to take on the social justice challenges of our era.

November Workshop Topics:

November 1: *Free Speech* November 22: *Responding to Calls for Black Empowerment*
 November 8: *Taking Politics Public* November 19: *The Women's Movement*
 November 15: *Civil Rights*

Please join us in these critical conversations.

To learn more about the curriculum, browse the link below.

<http://www.uua.org/religiouseducation/curricula/tapestryfaith/resistancetransformation/index.shtml>

Immigration As A Moral Issue Monthly Event:**Sunday, November 13****12:30-1:30 pm****Old Stone Sanctuary****Immigration – Up Front and Personal**

Following the Sunday Service, three guests from our community will share their personal experience with immigration. This is an opportunity for open conversation and dialogue – an opportunity to get to know some who are experiencing the impact of immigration policy on their lives. You will also have the opportunity to browse the “Borderless Stories” art project which will be on display in the sanctuary.

Information on Adult Education programs will be continuously updated in the Sunday Order of Service and in this newsletter. For additional information on any Adult Education offering or to sign up for a class, contact Program Coordinators Ellen Mercer (541-385-3908 / uufco@yahoo.com) or Annis Henson (541-385-3908 / uufco@yahoo.com).

**LETTER FROM OUR MINISTER**

Dear Friends,

Our theme for November is *Gratitude*. Gratitude can come in many forms and be expressed in many ways—from a simple, personal thank-you note to a heartfelt, public sharing of appreciation. With that in mind, I’d like to share with you an excerpt from my October 23rd sermon.

“Two-and-a-half years ago, when property prices dramatically dropped around the region, we suddenly began dreaming of being able to own our own home. We began looking at a dilapidated property or collection of buildings, otherwise known as Studio Road. Then, we got a little more excited, hopeful and optimistic, and started looking at another property on Greenwood Avenue, Highway 20, otherwise known as The Bend Events Center. Ultimately the first option came to seem like a sinkhole we’d never be able to make beautiful, the second so old and large we weren’t sure how we’d ever manage to maintain and operate it. After many meetings and discussions and phone calls and calculations and...then some more meetings and discussions and phone calls and calculations, for this or that reason that we could rehash today and are *not* going to, for whatever reason that is important to you, we did not go forward.

“We stayed put, stayed in what has become, even in just six short years, to feel like home—the Old Stone Church. ...So at the very end of August, when I first heard from a member of this congregation about the possibility of a major gift that would enable us to buy land and build our own building, well—I looked outside to see if it was snowing. I listened for reindeer and jingle bells. Santa Claus, apparently, *is* real. I’m still not so sure about God, Allah, Krishna or Moses, but the generosity of ordinary human beings astounds me. As the donor does wish to remain anonymous, perhaps we should start calling this person Santa Claus, and see how *that* flies with the non-believers amongst us.

“Santa wrote a letter to the Board, in which this very vision is articulated: ‘The building we create together would reflect our congregation’s values,’ wrote Santa, ‘our reason for being, and our place in the greater community. We would work together to develop a shared vision, with the entire congregation exploring our needs, wishes, and dreams. Most important,’ Santa continues, ‘is building a home that allows us to provide fully for the programs that *are* our reason for being. It would include space for religious education programs for children and adults that inspire curiosity and lifelong learning. [It would] be a welcoming space that would invite connections within the greater community, and enable us to be more responsive to [the *needs* of that greater community].’

“Let us take a moment, please, to just marvel together. Can you join me, no matter what your other wonderings or concerns might very wisely be, and just take a moment to say ‘Wow!’ with me? Someone amongst us picked up on a dream and longing of this congregation and wants to help us make it real. How *awesome* is that? The practical, pragmatic folk amongst us, myself included some days, need to also find it in our hearts to just pause and say ‘Wow!’ now-and-then. This is an incredible gift, and an incredible possibility.”

When and how, this month, can you give thanks and appreciation, can you say “Wow!” and engage with the practice of finding gratitude, in your heart and in your life?

Warmly,

Rev. Heather Starr (heathermstarr@yahoo.com / 541-390-6052)



Our services are held at 11:00am the 1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays (3rd is Group Discussion) at the Old Stone, 157 NW Franklin Avenue, Bend. Visitors are always welcome and childcare is provided every Sunday. Religious Education is provided to school-aged children on Sundays during the school year when there is a service. Contact us at 541-385-3908 or uufco@yahoo.com.

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Newsletter deadline is the second to last Monday monthly. Please email, mail, or phone submissions to Rebecca Boyer by that date. To be added or removed from our mailing list, please contact Chela Sloper.



UUFco is a Welcoming Congregation. This is a voluntary program for UU congregations who have gone through deliberate steps to be intentionally inclusive of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people. All people and families are welcome here.