



# UUNews



## December 2011 Sunday Services

<b>Sunday December 4 11:00 am</b>	<p><b>Guest Minister Rev. Judy Welles with Rev. Heather Starr: “Articulating the Rules of Life—Number One: Show Up”:</b> Have you ever noticed how people try to simplify life by creating sets of easy steps to follow? In this four-part (once-a-month) sermon series, Rev. Welles will discuss four “rules” that theologians and thinkers over the centuries have recommended for leading a wise and empowered life. They are: (1) Show Up; (2) Pay Attention; (3) Tell the Truth; and (4) Detach from the Outcome. In today’s sermon, we will consider “showing up,” choosing to be fully present in each moment. This practice calls for considerable <i>discipline</i>, a problematic word for many of us.</p> <p><i>Rev. Judy Welles recently retired from a 14-year settlement as the first minister of the Unitarian Universalists of the Cumberland Valley in Central Pennsylvania, where she served alongside her husband, the Rev. Duane Fickeisen. They now live in Portland, where they are enjoying life with their dog Maya and numerous grandchildren under the age of 3.</i></p>
<b>Sunday December 11 11:00 am</b>	<p><b>Rev. Heather Starr —“In What Do You Take Refuge?”:</b> In what do you take refuge? In what do you find comfort? In this annual Music and Worship service co-created by Music Director Virlene Arnold, the Choir, and Rev. Heather, we will savor songs, silence, poetry and reflection that help us to become centered. Let us experience together the spiritual tools that soulfully support us amidst the larger cacophony of our world.</p>
<b>Sunday December 18 11:00 am</b>	<p><b>Discussion Group with Tom Wykes:</b> This month we will be discussing <b>Courting Faith</b>, an interview with Steven Waldman, author of “Founding Faith” on the religious views of our founding fathers, the separation of church and state and the flourishing of religious belief in America.</p>
<b>Sunday December 25 11:00 am</b>	<p><b>UUFco Lay Leader Chela Sloper: "The Pure, Virgin Snow," a Contemplative Service:</b> What could the mythic language of the Christian tradition give us if we were freed from the snare of literalism? In this contemplative service-in-the-round, we will review the history of interpreting religious myths in the West, and reflect primarily on the story of the Virgin Birth from a psychological perspective.</p>

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 5:00PM: “STORIES OF HOPE, SONGS OF JOY”

You, your neighbors, your family and friends—everyone is welcome to enjoy our Annual Intergenerational Winter Holidays Service. There will be stories, plays, song, candlelight and community on this magical evening. *Please bring a plate of cookies to share if you can. The recipient of this month’s Greater Community Collection is the Bethlehem Inn.*



# December 2011

Admin Calendar - Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Central Oregon

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 10:00am-Stitching Group	2	3
4 11:00am-Worship Service 12:30pm-UU-FAQ 12:30pm-Volunteer Training 5:00pm-SJC Just-a-Meal 5:30pm-Youth Group	5 4:00pm-Red Tent Temple	6 1:00pm-Social Justice Com 5:45pm-Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm-Resistance & Trans	7 12:00pm-OOS Deadline	8	9	10 6:00pm-Circle Supper
11 11:00am-Worship Service 11:00am-Play Rehearsal	12 3:00pm-Book Group [II]	13 10:00am-Trail Hours w/ Rev 12:30pm-Mah Jongg 5:45pm-Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm-Resistance & Trans	14 12:00pm-OOS Deadline 6:00pm-Board Meeting	15 10:00am-Stitching Group 3:00pm-This I Believe 5:30pm-Bethlehem Inn Dinn	16	17 6:30pm-Card Night
18 11:00am-Discussion 12:30pm-Play Rehearsal	19 8:00am-NEWSLETTER DE	20 5:45pm-Choir Rehearsal	21 12:00pm-OOS Deadline	22	23	24 4:30pm-Children Arrive 5:00pm-Winter Holiday Serv
25 11:00am-Worship Service 5:30pm-Youth Group	26	27 5:45pm-NO CHOIR TONIG	28 12:00pm-OOS Deadline	29 2:00pm-Trail Hours w/ Rev.	30	31



## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Greetings,

Where did the Fall go?

By the time you have a chance to read this letter the congregation will have completed the November 19<sup>th</sup> New Home Visioning Workshop which triggers not only events for the New Home Steering Committee but also the Board of Trustees. As you know the New Home Project is a “WOW” project coordinated by the New Home Steering Committee under the leadership of Leslie Koc. Although perhaps not as exciting the Board nevertheless is retaining its focus on completing the Congregational year with the usual necessary supporting activities. We are calling this the “lesser wow” project. One of our immediate challenges is to come up with sufficient volunteers to manage normal congregational events. Many of our regular volunteers are already quite involved in the New Home Project and other expanding programs of the UUFCA and they just can't stretch far enough. We fully support the Fellowship Committees efforts to engage more of each of you in congregational life, e.g., staffing the Sunday Service at least three times during the year. Please help out where you can. There is a wide choice of possible ways to help – from quietly setting up the church to openly greeting people. We can choose the task that matches our personality and new helpers will be shown what to do. We will also need folks to staff some of our regular congregational committees. Please try to find the time if you are asked to help out. Other current activities of the Board include prioritizing the FY13 budget goals so the finance committee can layout next year's budget and establish the target for our annual pledge drive. In addition, the Board will be updating the Bylaws, Policies and Procedures, and Strategic Plan to prepare the church to receive the New Home Gift, as well as ensuring the WOW project runs smoothly.

Thanks,

*Bob Barber, UUFCA Board President*



## EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Save the Date! Mark your calendars!**

For those of you who plan ahead, make sure that you have the following dates in your calendar:

### **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!

[uufca@yahoo.com](mailto:uufca@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 UUFCAO contingent to Phoenix in June.

## **ANNOUNCEMENT: JOIN OUR UUFCAO 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 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!

## **UUFCAO WISH LIST**

§ There are many ways to support the good energy and programs of UUFCAO. 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](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com) to purchase a hymnal for all to enjoy.

§ The Circulating Library **needs another bookshelf** (ours is nearly full) and the Caring Committee is looking for a **room divider** or **folding screen** to put in front of the medical equipment in the Cottage office. Used, donated items are welcome. Please contact Chela at [uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com) if you have either of these items that you could share.

## **YOUR HELP NEEDED - BETHLEHEM INN DINNERS THURSDAYS, DECEMBER 15, 2011 & JANUARY 26, 2012**

With your help, December 15 (the third Thursday in December) will represent UUFCAO’s 44<sup>th</sup> night of preparing and serving monthly dinners at the Bethlehem Inn Shelter at 3705 N Hwy 97 in Bend. In January, we revert to the standard fourth Thursday schedule for the following 10 months. UUFCAO volunteers bring a full, healthful dinner and the taste, aroma, and spirit of home cooking to the Inn’s homeless residents. The preparation, delivery and serving of UUFCAO’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.

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.

Mixed-vegetable preparers are still needed for the Thursday December 15 meal. Also, all positions are still open for the Thursday, January 26 dinner.

The wintry months tend to be the busiest months often requiring additional food preparers. Volunteers are needed for 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 more of the Thursday evenings. We also need **5 food servers** for the January 26 dinner. Food preparers can 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 5:30pm and are finished by 6:35pm.

Please contact Leslie Koc or Tom O’Brien at [uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com) to volunteer, to get more detailed information, or to get recipes. Call us at 541-385-3908 with any questions.

## CONVERSATIONS WITH OUR MINISTER

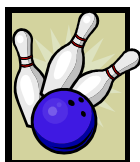
“Trail Hours” are times each month when I set out on a nearby trail hoping that you will join me in conversation out-of-doors in beautiful Central Oregon. Call me if you have questions or are planning to come so that I know to expect you. Dogs and children are more than welcome.

Trail Hours in December: 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 **Tuesday, December 13, at 10:00am**, or **Thursday, December 29, at 2:00pm**. 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](mailto:heathermstarr@yahoo.com))



## DOWN THE ADMINISTRATOR’S ALLEY

Hello Friends ~~

“Constant change is here to stay.” That’s one way of looking at life’s unpredictable unfolding, and looking at each moment, each circumstance with new eyes.

A few reminders for the Common Good:

1. Because the UUFCA office is now located in the “Belfry” – an upstairs, somewhat remote office area of the Trinity Episcopal facility – in order to keep our disturbance of the Trinity staff at a minimum, please do not drop by the office if either Bev or I are not expecting you. Due to a recent break-in, the electronic passcode was changed; UUFCA users have our own separate code now. We appreciate it if you would call us on our cell phones when you are approaching the building so that we can come downstairs and greet you ourselves.
2. There are new, recently added features to the Members Area of the website – including a discussion forum for the UUFCA New Home Project, and information about the various committees seeking members. If you have not yet logged into the Members Area and would like to have your log-in information sent to you, please email me. The passwords were assigned and can easily be unearthed to send to you.
3. New Members: If you haven’t yet turned in your personal profile and Emergency Contact information, please do so when you’ve got a moment. If you’re not able to find the papers that were included in your Path to Membership Folder, no worries! I can send replacements to you by email. Related to this, if you have not yet turned in your pledge information for this Fellowship Year (FY12), please send it to Bev Peterson, our Bookkeeper, P.O. Box 428, Bend, OR 97709.
4. The directories available for downloading to your computer and printing – posted in the Members Area of the website – will now only contain contact information of *Members*. If there is a “friend” or other visitor of the Fellowship with whom you’d like to get in contact, please contact me, and I will arrange their information gets to you (with their express permission).
5. As always, if you have impulses to increase your involvement with this active, energetic and energizing community, please step over your shyness and offer to volunteer! This **Sunday, December 4**, following the service there will be a **Volunteer Training** session for anyone who would like a refresher or would like to be

coached in the particulars of the Sunday Volunteer tasks. We are also looking for certain one-time-only volunteers: 1) oversee the foot-traffic safety in the parking lot on Christmas Eve (sanding over ice, etc.), and 2) be the Refreshment Wrangler for the Talent Show on January 28. If either of these very manageable assignments appeal to you, please let me know!

6. And, as always, if your contact information should change please email me your new address, telephone number, etc. so that we have your current information handy.
7. May your hearts be warmed with gatherings that nourish you, food that makes you feel cared for, and the beauties of our Central Oregon winter season! May you find opportunities of merry-making, quiet reflection, and the sense-thrilling experiences of all the contrasts during this season.

Yours administratively,

**Chela**

[uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com)

## QUICK AND EASY MOOLAH FOR THE FELLOWSHIP

The **ink cartridge** and **cell phone recycling program** is up and running after a quiet summer. Your empty ink cartridges and used cell phones can be turned into cash for the Fellowship. Please bring them to the Fellowship at any time and put them in the box in the foyer. If you don't see the box ask a Greeter or a Fellowship Friend. Sometimes the box gets put in strange places.



If you have ink cartridges or cell phones to bring in, put them in your car **right now**. Then when you get to Fellowship and see the box, you can say, "Oh. Yes. I'll get mine out of my car!" You will have helped both the Fellowship and the environment.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS



### CARING COMMITTEE

Co-chairs: Nancy Hodge, 541-385-3908, [uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com)

Marean Jordan, 541-385-3908, [uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com)

Nan Williamson, 541-385-3908, [uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com)

**New Caring Committee Co-Chairs:** Dale Clark has stepped down as Co-Chair of the Caring Committee so she can devote more time to the New Home project. *Thank you, Dale,* for your wonderful work! **Nancy Hodge** and **Nan Williamson** have generously agreed to join Marean as co-chairs. You can contact any of us with concerns or ideas about the work of the Caring Committee. The addition of a third co-chair will make it possible for us to move forward on some of the special projects that were suggested at our October 1 retreat.

**Caring Committee Resources:** The Caring Committee maintains a supply of medical equipment donated to UUFco (walkers, crutches, a wheelchair, bath bench, etc.) that can be borrowed on a temporary basis by those who need them. This service is now being managed by Care Team member **Max Beason**. Please contact Max (541-385-3908, [uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com)) 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 UUFco web site ([www.uufco.org](http://www.uufco.org)). The *Meals and Emergency Food Supplies for Hungry People* has been updated. Other resources include the *UUFco Nursing and Recovery Care Resource List*, the *UUFco 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](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com)) to request your password.

**Mid-October through mid-November 2011 Activities of the Care Team:** During this month, Care and Resource Team members and friends generously volunteered 16 times to place calls and send cards. In addition, they made 19 visits to people in our community. These involved making friendly visits, providing

transportation, and going to a court appearance in support of a UUFCCO member. Thanks to all the Care and Resource Team members and other members and friends of UUFCCO who provide generous support to our community.

**Care Team Services:** The UUFCCO Care Team helps members and friends in need by: making calls and visits, sending cards, providing transportation to UUFCCO events and medical appointments, providing meals on a short-term basis, doing errands, and helping with reading and correspondence. If you need any of these services or know of someone in our UUFCCO community who could benefit from the Care Team's help, please contact Nancy, Marean, or Nan. New Care Team members are always welcome! If you have an interest in being part of the Care Team and want to learn more about the work we do, please let us know.

Thanks to **Marean Jordan** and **Dale Clark** for co-chairing the Caring Committee this past year. **Dale Clark** has now transitioned off of the Caring Committee to work on the New Home project. **Nan Williamson** and **Nancy Hodge** have joined the Caring Committee as additional Co-Chairs—thanks so much, Nan and Nancy! 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](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com))

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

At our **New Member Ceremony on November 6**, we welcomed the following seven new members: Shera Hunn Felde, Chad & Debbie Leonard, Charles Scamahorn, Kjersten Starr, Deborah Vinson, and Joan Worrell. Please look them up on the New Member Photo Board in the entryway and get to know them personally after you check out their short biographical information by their photo!

Here are 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 UUFCCO 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 that make our Sunday morning service inspiring and enjoyable for all. 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. 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, [uufco.org](http://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 ([uufco\\_admn.asst@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco_admn.asst@yahoo.com) or 541-385-3908).

**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.

1. Become part of the **Sunday Morning Group** – The folks in this group have a choice of three areas. 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 UUFCCO and Unitarian Universalism. As a part of the Sunday Morning Group you can do one, two or all three of the activities!
2. 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 UUFECO events are the kinds of actions we have in mind.

3. 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 UUFECO 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**

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 Helen Seidler at [uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com). All are welcome to enjoy this class regardless of where you are in your consideration of membership.

Becoming a member of UUFECO involves:

- Attending a Path to Membership class series, a Newcomer Orientation, or scheduling an individual conversion with our minister, Rev. Heather Starr ([heathermstarr@yahoo.com](mailto: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 DECEMBER**

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

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

**Stitching Group:** This group is for all stitching arts: knit, crochet, sew, quilt, etc. The next meetings will be on Thursdays, **December 1** and **15**, at Barnes & Noble Bookstore at the Forum Shopping Center. We'll meet 10:00am - 12:00 noon **every first** and **third Thursday**. Contact Nan Williamson to be added to the group list or for further information (541-385-3908/ [uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com)).

**Mah Jongg:** Toni Morris will teach and lead Mah Jongg on Tuesday, **December 13**. The new time is 12:30 - 3:30pm. Meet at Toni's home and call the day before to confirm: 541-385-3908. **NO MEETING** on December 27. Toni will email directions to the house when she hears from you.

**Card Players:** We will have cards at our house on **Saturday December 17** at 6:30pm. Contact Jim Dobrowski (541-385-3908 / [uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com)).

**Book Club (II):** The group will meet at Jackson's Corner on **Monday, December 12**, from 3:00-4:30 pm. The December book is *Big Rock Candy Mountain* by Wallace Stegner. If interested in joining this group, or for further information, please contact Shera Hunn Felde (541-385-3908/ [uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com)).

**This I Believe Writing Group** resumes **Thursday, December 15** at 3:00pm, **January 11** and **25** at 3:00pm. Dates and times for future meetings will be chosen as a group. Please email Shera Hunn Felde at [uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com) if you have questions. More information about *This I Believe* can be found at the website <http://thisibelieve.org/>.

**Circle Suppers:** Come & 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 or friends of UUFÇO. 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 **Friday, January 13**. Sign-up sheets will be on the entry table through January 1st. Plan ahead for the next Circle Supper dates: **Saturday, February 11** and **Friday, March 16**. If you have questions or would like to sign up to be a host please contact Jerrie Jones (541-385-3908/[uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com)).

**Snow Shoe Outings:** If you would like to be included in email notices about snowshoe outings, led by Jerrie Jones, please contact her at (541-385-3908 / [uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com)). If you are new to snow shoeing, it is similar to hiking with the added benefit of the beautiful snowy landscape to enjoy! Outings will start at various snow parks such as Virginia Meissner, Swampy Lakes, Dutchman Flat, and Edison Butte. Car-pooling arrangements and additional details will be emailed in advance of each outing.



## SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

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

Bill Morris (541-385-3908/ [uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com))

**Bethlehem Inn GCC at our Christmas Eve Service:** At our **December 11** service Gwynn Wysling, Executive Director, will explain Bethlehem Inn's amazing services to local homeless persons and ambitious plans for a new location. The Greater Community Collection itself will be during our **December 24** special service (see calendar for time). Those of us who have served meals at Bethlehem Inn or prepared meatloaf, potatoes, cupcakes know how much this homeless shelter means to its needy residents. (See <[bethleheminn.org](http://bethleheminn.org)>)

**Tom O'Brien & Leslie Koc** have inspiringly offered a **funding match for the first \$3500 collected**. So, at this season of giving, please come to the service with a sizable check to keep Bethlehem Inn serving the needy in Bend! Many thanks in advance.

**New: SJC Bulletin Board and Table: "Current Community Concerns":** Please stop by our new and ever-changing display in the foyer before or after each service. The tri-fold board allows us a place to share needs, resources, and information as we put our principles into action by helping others. We welcome:

For the board:

- \* Announcements of local & UU service events
- \* Requests for or offers of help and employment

For the table:

- \* Books, magazine issues, newsletter dealing with social justice
- \* Fliers and handouts relating to community (and broader) social issues

If possible, keep notices on half-sheet or smaller paper. Please note your name, phone or email, and a removal date. Outdated or inappropriate notices will be discarded. Bill Morris has volunteered to update the board weekly through December, so get your ideas and printed items to him to include ([uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com)). **We need a volunteer** to handle the **board for January and February**.

Let's use this medium to become more aware, caring, and active! Let Bill know of issues and suggestions. Thanks.

**New! Sign Up for Easy Social Action with "Quick Clicks!":** Look for the QUICK CLICKS sign-up on the Social Justice table if you would like to receive emails on social justice issues that need immediate response. Petitions and pre-worded letters allow you to respond to legislators and agencies with a quick click of your mouse.

Your SJC will screen prompts from many liberal organizations and forward just the most urgent and important ones that relate to our UU principles. Improve the world, one click at a time! Please sign up and give this a try; you can unsubscribe at any time. Let's be mouthpieces for the 99%!

If you are more ambitious, ask for a selective list of links of approved social justice groups which inform and then guide people to influence legislators and corporations. Or, ask to be notified about needed phone calls and mailed letters ... even more effective than "quick clicks."

**New! Just-a-Meal at Common Table:** Common Table is a café (150 NW Oregon Ave., 541-639-5546) that serves food to all people, both those with the ability to pay, and those who under typical circumstances would not be able to eat at a café. Its key concepts are: "Eat. Drink. Meet. Think. Everything's fresh at our table. Feed all people, regardless of social status. Cherish the earth. Love our neighbor. Pursue awareness."

Its website (commontable.org) states it "will train workers in the food service industry; offer education about healthy eating, sustainable agriculture, local sources of food, and ethical sourcing; gather a diversity of people in the same space for many kinds of public discourse, music, and learning opportunities. We will use the proceeds from our breakfast and lunch business to pay for the expenses of the facility, evening events, speakers, films, music, discussions, classes, etc. – all pieces of the full Common Table vision. Common Table aspires to be the best of what a Public House can be." What a worthwhile vision!

But economic hard times have hit Common Table. In an attempt to bring it more business, your SJC is planning a series of meals open to all UUFCO members, attenders, and their friends. Our plan is to try out several days and times to see which schedule would best fit most people's schedules and then calendar a monthly meal. We would invite anyone from the general public who is in the restaurant to join us in the Common Table tradition. This would be a Good Times/Circle Supper/Support Your Community-combination-sort-of-effort!

Our first meal is slated for this **Sunday, December 4 at 5:00pm**; our second for **Wednesday, January 11, a noon (12:00pm) luncheon**. Meals are under \$10. Please RSVP to Bill two days prior to each date. Come! Let's start a new and fun tradition in support of a worthwhile endeavor!



## 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 UUFCO 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 UUFCO 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](mailto: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, January 6, at 1:00pm** in the Cottage. All are welcome.

In dwelling, live close to the ground. In thinking, keep to the simple.  
In conflict, be fair and generous. In governing, don't try to control.  
In work, do what you enjoy. In family life, be completely present.

~ Lao Tsu



## DISCUSSION GROUP

On Sunday, **December 18**, UUFCA will have its monthly Discussion at 11:00 am in the Old Stone sanctuary. Articles will be distributed by email about 1 week in advance of the December 18 date via Tom Wykes' "Discussion" list and UUFCA's weekly reminder. If you are not already on Tom's Discussion Group email list, please contact him at [wykes@bendcable.com](mailto:wykes@bendcable.com).

**Discussion Group with Tom Wykes:** This month we will be discussing **Courting Faith**, an interview with Steven Waldman, author of "Founding Faith" on the religious views of our founding fathers, the separation of church and state and the flourishing of religious belief in America.

*"The United States of America governments have exhibited, perhaps, the first example of governments erected on the simple principles of nature. It will never be pretended that any persons employed in that service had interviews with the gods, or were in any degree under the influence of Heaven, more than those at work upon ships or houses, or laboring in merchandise or agriculture; it will forever be acknowledged that these governments were contrived merely by the use of reason and the senses."*

*John Adams (1735-1826), Second President of the United States.*



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

Rebecca Fender, Director ([uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com) / 541-385-3908)

Dear Members and Friends of UUFCA ~

Happy Holidays!

I can't think of a better way to have rung in this holiday season than knowing six members of our Youth Group served 68 hot meals to the residents at Bethlehem Inn. What a wonderful sight when I walked into the Bethlehem Inn kitchen to see those bright, proud faces! Thank you to Leslie Koc, Tom O'Brien, Rev. Heather Starr and Ayla Halberstadt for making the night a possibility for our youth.

Our annual **Holiday Service and children's holiday play** will be held on **Saturday, December 24** at **5:00pm**. All children age five and up are welcome to join in the fun. Here is the schedule for rehearsals and the performance:

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

Please plan to have your children attend both rehearsals and arrive on time for the performance. The Holiday Service is always hectic, and arriving early settles everyone's nerves and ensures fewer complications. The play will be integrated with the Holiday Service, and the children will help pass out electric candles following the play. If you have any questions, as always, please contact me.

The UUFCA Religious Education program for children and youth will be on **Winter Recess** for Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup>. RE classes will not be held on these dates. Childcare will be available. **RE classes will resume on Sunday, January 8.**

Please let me know if you are interested in participating in our **Secret Friends Intergenerational Program** as a friend to one of our youth or children. Adult participants will leave a small note or gift for their "friend" each Sunday beginning **January 8** culminating on **February 12** with a **Friends Luncheon** where adult and youth will discover the identity of his/her Secret Friend and spend some time getting to know one another. This is sure to be a very meaningful experience for all!

With gratitude,

*Rebecca Fender, Director of Religious Education*

## ADULT EDUCATION – DECEMBER UPDATE

Program Coordinators: Ellen Mercer ([uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com) / 541-385-3908)

Annis Henson ([uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com) / 541-385-3908)

**Tuesdays through December 6      7:00 - 8:30 pm      Old Stone Sanctuary**

**Resistance and Transformation: Unitarian Universalist History of Social Justice**

Facilitators: Rev. Heather Starr, Ellen Mercer, Alice Elshof, 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.

December workshop topic is:

December 6: The Women's Movement

**The final workshop in this series will be Tuesday, January 3, 2012.** 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>

Our Adult Education program takes a break during the holiday season between Thanksgiving and the New Year. Activity will resume in January.

**. . . and looking ahead. . . We are gearing up for . . .  
Justice General Assembly / June 20-24, 2012 / Phoenix, Arizona**

We are taking UUFCA to this first ever UUA Justice General Assembly as active participants. We hope a number of us will plan to attend to be a part of this UUFCA presence in Phoenix and to bring the excitement and energy of the experience back home. To begin this process, join us for a Justice GA Planning Session following the service on **Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>**. Information will be shared, ideas gathered, logistics considered, discussion about the various ways we can support making this happen and more. Come join in planning this endeavor.

*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 ([uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com) / 541-385-3908) or Annis Henson ([uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com) / 541-385-3908).*

---

Rejoice with your family in the beautiful land of life!

~Albert Einstein





## LETTER FROM OUR MINISTER

Dear Friends,

Our theme for December is “Family.” It is very important to me that, whenever we talk about family, we recognize the significance of non-biological family members in so many of our lives. My very, *very* first sermon for you (June 18, 2006) was on this topic, written with that year’s Father’s Day in mind. Many of you will not have heard or seen these thoughts, and I wanted to share this excerpt with you as we move together into this holiday season which tends to be so very family-oriented. May your December be lovely, filled with those traditions and connections that are most meaningful for you.

“My mother and stepfather married when I was 10 years old. I was completely skeptical of him at first—defiant and also entirely doubtful that he could *possibly* love me, and that he would really stick around. It took years of him paying close attention, being firm in the boundaries and expectations that he set for me, and regularly making time to sit and talk with me at the dinner table, years of accumulated evenings at home, for us to develop a relationship that I now cherish. This man who I have no biological connection with came into my life at a time when I was already quite a well-developed personality, and he had more impact on me than anyone else in my family, simply by his continual determined efforts, his careful listening, his asking questions, his getting to know me.

“We are living in an era and a culture in which our notion of family is being reevaluated, and has been for some time. ...I know that at the Catholic hospital where I’ve been working as a Chaplain, we often say “is there family involved?” when discussing a patient’s situation, but the answer to that question ranges widely and is different in almost every case. Partners, significant others, spouses, former spouses, friends, caregivers, children, stepchildren, half-children, neighbors, guardians, nieces & nephews: each person likely has a different constellation of people close to them, and at this hospital if the patient defines someone as family, that’s just about all we concern ourselves with. Our hope is that *someone* is there, that the patient isn’t going through this experience of illness alone.

“That is my hope for our congregants and the members of our wider communities, too. I worry about the individualism of Unitarian Universalists that can, at one extreme, cause us to have a sense that we don’t need one another. We have a reputation of being the denomination where someone can go and “think whatever I want.” In our legacy of supporting the individual search, the individual spiritual quest, we tend to minimize the individual’s responsibility to *and reliance on* the communities we are a part of. ...There’s nothing like being a patient in the hospital to bring our awareness to the ways in which we are each more interdependent, more a part of a community than we are separate and autonomous. Study after study has shown that people who have community support while they’re in the hospital and as they age live longer, healthier, happier lives. We thrive *together*.

“I see growing Unitarian Universalist congregations trying to match people of similar interests, ages, and concerns as a way of building community, and I think that’s important to do. Many of us come to church hoping to make friends and find people like us to hang out with and get to know. But the real unspoken strength, the heart, the gift of our congregations is that we are *not* a group of people who are all alike. We are an intergenerational, diverse group of people who have arrived here from all over the country and the world, with all different stories and experiences, beliefs and passions. By celebrating this wealth, this abundance amongst us, we can learn and grow through our relationships with one another. And by accepting each other as we are, and being present in every way that we can be in each other’s lives, we begin to move from being acquaintances who sit beside each other for one hour a week, and become a meaningful, reliable, ongoing part of each other’s lives. We begin to become more like family, more like people who are there for each other through all the turbulence of life. It is not blood that makes a family, it is love—our commitment to care for each other. May it always be so.”

Warmly,

Rev. Heather Starr ([heathermstarr@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com).

<b>Minister</b>	Rev. Heather Starr	390-6052	<a href="mailto:heathermstarr@yahoo.com">heathermstarr@yahoo.com</a>
<b>President</b>	Bob Barber	389-7861	<a href="mailto:bbarber@cocc.edu">bbarber@cocc.edu</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	Melissa Hochschild	388-3926	<a href="mailto:melissa@hochschild.org">melissa@hochschild.org</a>
<b>Past President</b>	Leslie Koc	306-6083	<a href="mailto:lesliek@bendbroadband.com">lesliek@bendbroadband.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	John Coltman	678-5949	<a href="mailto:coltman1432@gmail.com">coltman1432@gmail.com</a>
<b>Recording Secty</b>	Russ Hopper	647-4626	<a href="mailto:russelhopper@hotmail.com">russelhopper@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Corresponding Secty</b>	Valerie Warren	593-1534	<a href="mailto:valeriehwarren@gmail.com">valeriehwarren@gmail.com</a>
<b>Member-at-large</b>	Rachel Baker	382-0382	<a href="mailto:rachbak@bendcable.com">rachbak@bendcable.com</a>
<b>Member-at-large</b>	Dave MacGurn	388-3007	<a href="mailto:dmac3@bendbroadband.com">dmac3@bendbroadband.com</a>
<b>Music Director</b>	Virlene Arnold	408-0019	<a href="mailto:virlenearnold@q.com">virlenearnold@q.com</a>
<b>Administrator</b>	Chela Sloper	306-0203	<a href="mailto:uufco@yahoo.com">uufco@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Administrative Asst.</b>	Gretchen Grivel	408-1017	<a href="mailto:uufco_admn.asst@yahoo.com">uufco_admn.asst@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Bookkeeper</b>	Bev Peterson	977-3508	<a href="mailto:uufco.acct@yahoo.com">uufco.acct@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Religious Ed. Dir.</b>	Rebecca Fender	480-8043	<a href="mailto:becksfender@gmail.com">becksfender@gmail.com</a>
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Rebecca Boyer	504-0033	<a href="mailto:rboyer@cbbmail.com">rboyer@cbbmail.com</a>

8619 NW 89<sup>th</sup> Place; Terrebonne, OR  
97760

**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.*



P.O. Box 428  
Bend, OR 97709