



# UUNews



## July 2011 Sunday Services

<b>Sunday July 3 11:00 am</b>	<b>UUFco Lay Leader Sue Clarke &amp; others—“Stories of Service”:</b> Kicking off our “Sources of Wisdom Summer Service Series,” this service will connect with the source of “Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love,” and will focus on your volunteer and service activities out in the larger community and how they have influenced your life.
<b>Sunday July 10 11:00 am</b>	<b>UUFco Lay Leader Alice Elshoff—“Learnings from the Night Sky”:</b> This service will connect with the source of “Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life,” and will draw upon Alice’s knowledge of the natural world and, in particular, the night sky, so beautiful, dazzling, and full of mystery in the Central Oregon summer.
<b>Sunday July 17 11:00 am</b>	<b>Discussion Group with Tom Wykes: “Abuse, Betrayal, and Repentance: A Zen Case Study”:</b> The North American Zen Buddhist community has recently been rocked by allegations of long term sexual misconduct by two prominent American Zen teachers. These incidents have created a lot of soul searching among American Buddhist communities. For more information on this topic, see <b>pages 10-11</b> of this newsletter.
<b>Sunday July 24 11:00 am</b>	<b>UUFco Lay Leader Denise Torres—“Prayers of the Cosmos”:</b> This service will connect with the sources of “Wisdom from the world’s religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life” and “Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God’s love by loving our neighbors as ourselves,” as Denise shares with us her knowledge and experience with diverse and evocative translations of familiar prayers. One translation for “Our Father,” for example, is “You who create all that moves in light.” Translations have been made directly from the Aramaic and deeply reflect the Middle Eastern experience of unity.  <i>This service will be followed by a workshop in which you will be invited to author your own prayers.</i>
<b>Sunday July 31 11:00 am</b>	<b>UUFco Lay Leader Chela Sloper—“A Celebration of Sufism”:</b> This service will also connect with the source of “Wisdom from the world’s religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life,” as we honor the beginning of the Muslim practice of Ramadan on August 1. Incorporating the poetry of Rumi as we appreciate the Sufi’s mystical path of Islam, we will be informed and inspired by the beauty of this tradition.  <i>This month’s <u>Greater Community Collection</u> recipient is Central Oregon’s Habitat for Humanity Chapter.</i>

# UUFCCO v July 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Walking Grp 9a	2
3 Service 11:00a	4	5 Walking Grp 9a	6 OOS Deadline Social Justice Committee 1:00p	7	8 Walking Grp 9a	9
10 Service 11:00a ANNUAL PICNIC 1:00p	11	12 Walking Grp 9a Mah Jongg 12:30p	13 Board Mtg 6:00p	14	15 Walking 9a Hiking – TBD Film Night	16 Card Night 6:30p
17 Discussion 11:00a	18 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Red Tent Gathering 4:00p	19 Walking Grp 9a Book Group 3p	20 OOS Deadline	21	22 Walking Grp 9a Family & Friends Picnic 5:30p	23
24 Service 11:00a Circle Supper	25	26 Walking Grp 9a Mah Jongg 12:30p	27 OOS Deadline	28 Bethlehem Inn Dinner 5:15p	29 Walking Grp 9a Hiking - TBD	30
31 Service 11:00a						



## **PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

Greetings,

July greets another new and exciting year for UUFCO. We start the summer with a great worship series, new congregational social activities and a new Board of Trustees. The Board will be meeting throughout the summer and will conduct a planning retreat in July. I will report back in August on the results of the retreat and our work list for the upcoming year.

Historically, the monthly UUFCO Newsletter reserved a spot for a letter from the President of the Board – normally a full page. Those of you who know me know that I am a person of few words and a full-page monthly letter may be more than is needed. I will be asking some members of the Board and the Fellowship to review our congregational communication to ensure we are being as effective, efficient and concise as possible to meet our communication challenges responsibly.

As the UUFCO Board we are all looking forward to working with the congregation...so let us know your wishes and recommendations.

Thanks,

**Bob Barber, Board President**



## **DOWN THE ADMINISTRATOR'S ALLEY**

*Friends!*

If you are looking for a way to get involved in the Fellowship, please do consider **volunteering for a Sunday morning** service. Congregations are *always* fueled by the myriad contributions of time, extra effort, TLC of their members, friends, and seekers. If you can come to a Sunday morning service just a half hour early – *10:30am isn't that early!* – and stay a little bit to ensure everything is put back away when service is over, it would be GREAT. If you could help with distributing hymnals or arranging the items on the altar, or spreading out table cloths for our information tables, please sign up for SET UP. If you like to be a welcoming presence to all who enter, and can also help with counting attendance and other preparations before service begins, sign up as a GREETER. If you love flowers and can either cut a bouquet from your garden, or would purchase a bouquet to beautify the sanctuary, set up for FLOWERS. Check the Volunteer Schedule on the home page of our website, [www.uufco.org](http://www.uufco.org), to see what opportunities are open for you.

Also, please note that beginning this summer, **Gretchen Grivel**, our Administrative Assistant, is taking on the task of recruiting and organizing the Sunday volunteers. Please **send Gretchen an email** at [uufco\\_admn.asst@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco_admn.asst@yahoo.com) if you would like to volunteer. Training is available!

**UUF**CO Survey: Have you taken the UUFCO Skills & Interests Survey yet? It's really easy, as most of the questions are multiple choice. We'd like to gather information on what we all like to do, where our volunteer involvements have been in the community, what skills we have to share and types of business we do in the community so that connections of like minds and shared interests can be made throughout the Fellowship. Once the information is collated, we will be preparing a revised photo directory which includes all of this information; it will be updated periodically, and available on the Member's Area of the website.

Please take a few minutes to go to the website, sign in, and take the fun survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/uufco2011survey>

### ANNUAL ALL-CONGREGATIONAL PICNIC – Sunday, July 10

This year we have reserved *Aspen Meadows* at **Shevlin Park** for our Annual All-Congregational Picnic. *Everyone is invited* – you may also invite family and friends!

The area is on the left side of the park, just after you enter Shevlin Park, and has covered tables.

Please bring: **your own table service** and **beverages** (alcohol OK), **folding chairs** to sit when you're not sitting at the picnic tables, **a table cloth** or other cover for the picnic tables and benches, and **a dish to share**. (Please don't forget serving utensils.) UUFCO will bring ice.

Weather permitting, we will have some group games and sing-alongs; there also is a creek to wade in and trails to walk. Dogs are permitted and welcome as long as they are leashed. Also, remember to use sunblock and insect repellent (in the event of sun or mosquitoes). If you have any questions, or need transportation, please contact Chela at [uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com).

*See you there!*

~ Chela Sloper, Administrator



## EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BETHLEHEM INN DINNERS: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THURSDAYS, JULY 28 & AUGUST 25, 2011

July 28, 2011 represents UUFCO's 39<sup>th</sup> night of preparing and serving monthly dinners at the Bethlehem Inn. We serve this dinner on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month January through October, and on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of November and December. We bring a full healthful dinner and the ambience, taste, and aroma of home cooking to the Inn's homeless residents. The preparation, delivery and serving of UUFCO's meals require the volunteer efforts of 15 to 19 volunteers per month.

In the summer months, many of the UUFCO members take camping trips and travel out of town. The Bethlehem Inn dinners need the help of many 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 and Tom) are ready to prepare you and support you at each step of this process from providing recipes to subsidizing food purchases.

There are **July 28** and **August 25** openings for the following positions:

- Off-site preparation/procurement of the meatloaf, mashed potatoes, vegetables, and milk and the subsequent delivery of each entrée to the Inn at 5:00 to 5:45pm

- We also need 5-6 food servers as well 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 at about 5:20 pm and are finished by 6:35 pm.

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

## THE RED TENT TEMPLE OF CENTRAL OREGON

For the month of July, the Red Tent Temple gathering will be moved to **Monday, July 18** since the first



Monday falls on July 4 – Independence Day: a day to spend with family and friends. July 18 is near the **full moon** so it will be a wonderful evening to meet and share the ripening of our intentions, nurture intentions yet to come and spend a little time to feed our inner Being. All women are encouraged to join us for Open House 4:30 to 6:00 pm and Women's Wisdom Circle from 6:00 to 7:00 pm. There will be vegetarian soup and tea. Snacks to share are welcome. **Location is yet to be determined.** RSVP to Beki: [uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com)

## ANNOUNCEMENT: JOIN OUR UUFACO 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!

## UUFACO WISH LIST

There are many ways to support the good energy and programs of UUFACO. It was particularly apparent during our Christmas Eve 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.

## BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF CENTRAL OREGON

*Our next New Member Ceremony* will take place during the Sunday service on **November 6, 2011**.

The next Path to Membership series of classes will be on Thursday evenings in the fall: **September 29, October 6, and October 13** from 6:00-7:30pm in the Cottage. Please **RSVP to Rev. Heather** at [heathermstarr@yahoo.com](mailto:heathermstarr@yahoo.com). All are welcome to enjoy this class regardless of where you are in your consideration of membership.

Becoming a member of UUFCCO 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](mailto:heathermstarr@yahoo.com) / 541-390-6052),
- Investigating in what ways you will engage 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.

Please join me in welcoming **new Membership Committee Co-Chairs, Helen Seidler and Jerrie Jones!** You will be noticing the thoughtful involvement of Helen and Jerrie in the months to come—please thank them for taking on the leadership of Membership Committee and let them know of what thoughts, questions, and ideas regarding membership at UUFCCO.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS



### CARING COMMITTEE

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

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

**Caring Committee Resources:** The Caring Committee maintains a supply of medical equipment donated to UUFCCO (walkers, crutches, a wheelchair, etc.) that can be borrowed by those who could use these items on a temporary basis. This service is managed by Care Team member **Jane Mitchell**. Our thanks to Jane for her expertise and care of our community members who need these resources.

**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 UUFCCO web site ([www.uufco.org](http://www.uufco.org)). The *Meals and Emergency Food Supplies for Hungry People* has recently been updated. Other resources include the *UUFCCO Nursing and Recovery Care Resource List*, the *UUFCCO 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-May through mid-June 2011 Activities of the Care Team:** During this month, Care Team Members generously volunteered 14 times to place calls and send cards. In addition, Care Team members and friends made 12 visits to people in our community. These involved friendly visits, doing errands, delivering meals and flowers, and dropping off exercise equipment. Thanks to all the Care Team members and other members and friends of UUFCCO who reach out to those in need in our community.

We welcome new members. If you are interested in learning more about the Care Team's work and how to get involved, you can fill out a Caring Committee Outreach form (goldenrod in color) that is available every Sunday on the information table at the entrance to the sanctuary, or you can contact Marean or Dale.

## GOOD TIMES ACTIVITIES FOR JULY

If you are interested in joining any of the groups, it is important that you contact the leader listed. A schedule of activities can be found on the UUFCA website calendar. It is requested that you RSVP to the leader for an event with a specific date.

**Walking Group:** Shera Hunn Felde will lead casual walks **every Tuesday and Friday mornings** at 9:00am. The timing can be changed to suit the group. Since the location of the walks will change most days, you will need to get on the email list so that you can be notified of location. If interested in joining the group, please contact Shera: (541-385-3908/ [uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com)). It is requested that you RSVP by the day before the scheduled walk.

**Book Group:** A book group has been formed, organized by Shera Hunn Felde. This month, the group will meet at Jackson's Corner on **July 19**, 3:00-4:30pm. The selected book is *Last Night in Twisted River* by John Irving. If interested in joining this group, or for further information, please contact Shera (541-385-3908/ [uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com)).

**Hiking:** Toni Morris will lead hikes on **July 15 and 29**, place to be determined. Contact Toni for more details 541-385-3908 and to be placed on the email list. Please call for confirmation the day before each hike.

**Mah Jongg:** Toni Morris will teach and lead the Mah Jongg group on Tuesdays, **July 12 and 26** from 12:30 to 3:30pm, meeting at Toni's house. It is requested that you RSVP one day ahead to Toni's cell phone: 541-385-3908.

**Circle Suppers:** **The next Circle Supper** will be on Sunday, **July 24**. Sign up sheets will be on the entry table through July 10, and then signup sheets for the August supper will be available. There is one host already signed up for the July 24 supper. If you would like to host in August, please contact Jerrie Jones at 541-385-3908 or email [uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com).

**Card Players:** Jim & Becky Dobrowski are hosting July's card playing event on Saturday, **July 16**, 6:30pm at their home. All skill levels are welcome and a variety of games are offered. Please e-mail or call Jim or Becky for address and directions, or if you have questions ([uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com) / 541-385-3908).

**Movie Group:** UUFCA Film Fans go to the cinema! We'll meet at a local theater the evening of Friday, **July 15** – film and venue TBD. To participate, contact Valerie Warren: ([uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com) or 541-385-3908) **by Wednesday, July 13**.

**August RV/Camping Trip Canceled:** Rachel and Larry Baker have informed us that the camping trip to Paulina Lake on **August 20-21 has been canceled**. There were no available campsites for those dates. Be sure to contact the Bakers if you have ideas about group camping this summer: (541-385-3908 or [uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com)).

**A Fellowship Volunteer Opportunity: GOOD TIMES ACTIVITY COORDINATOR** is being sought to continue to provide information to the fellowship about various activities. If interested, please contact Larry Baker (541-385-3908/ [uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com)). We also need volunteers to step forward to lead interest groups: hiking, canoe/kayaking, bird watching, and RV/camping outings. Please consider these wonderful opportunities and contact Nan Williamson if you are willing to help out ([uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com) or 541-385-3908).

§ And a BIG **THANK YOU!** to Nan Williamson for her three years of coordination and organizing the Good Times Activities of the Fellowship! Having so much to share in the Fellowship makes it such a fun and vibrant place to be! §



## 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))

**Greater Community Collection.** The Greater Community Collection, to be received on the last Sunday of the month (July 31) will benefit **Bend Area Habitat for Humanity Faith Build**. This year the Faith Build is the rehabilitation of the third Habitat home that was built in Bend. The family that will be moving into this home has already enjoyed an affordable home through Habitat for Humanity, and because of a growing family, will have the opportunity to move into a slightly larger home through Habitat for Humanity's "Step Up Program." Once that move takes place, another family in the Habitat queue will move into the wonderfully kept up, but smaller home on Daggett Lane.

Habitat International has added a new program. In addition to building new homes they have diversified with a new program known as the **Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative (NRI)**. NRI consists of four separate, but related, services:

- **Home Rehabs:** Rehabilitate vacant and foreclosed properties for the homeownership program.
- **Weatherization:** A services that improve energy efficiency for qualifying homeowners.
- **A Brush with Kindness:** This aspect of NRI is to serve seniors, veterans, and others who are unable to maintain the exterior of their home.
- **Deconstruction:** A service to homeowners who want useable and non-structural materials removed prior to major remodeling projects. This effort reduces waste going into the landfill, as the items are used in home building or are sold at our ReStore.

NRI project recipients are screened through the same process Habitat uses to select families for home ownership; the income bracket to qualify is the same. Habitat provides interest-free loans to cover the costs of repairs. An affordable schedule is established for recipients to repay the loan.

This new program offers more diverse opportunities for volunteers. Supervised NRI work is performed on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, whereas new construction work is done on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays. Volunteer training is offered at the Habitat office Thursdays at noon. To sign up to help on any of these projects, go to Volunteer UP at [www.bendhabitat.org](http://www.bendhabitat.org) or contact Robin Cooper at 541-385-5387, ext. 229.

**The next SJC meeting** will be Wednesday, **July 6** at 1:00 pm in the Old Stone Cottage. *New people are always welcome at our meetings.*

## WORSHIP COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES "SOURCES OF WISDOM SUMMER"

The Worship Committee has been hard at work imagining and scheduling an exciting summer series of services. We are calling this our "**Sources of Wisdom Summer**," and each service is directly connected to one of our 6 sources of wisdom, as outlined in our UU Association of Congregations' Bylaws, at the beginning of our hymnals, on your UU wallet cards, and on the UUA website at [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org) (under "Beliefs and Principles"). Here's the outline for this summer—plan ahead so that you can be here! It's going to be marvelous, thought-provoking, and an opportunity for all of us to engage more intentionally with these Sources of Wisdom that undergird our Unitarian Universalist religious tradition.

**Sunday, July 3—Sue Clarke & others—“Stories of Service”:** This service will connect with the source of “Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love,” and will focus on your volunteer and service activities out in the larger community and how they have influenced your life.

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**Sunday, August 7—Virlene Arnold, Chris Herrick, and Bill Morris—“The Desert Fathers”:** This service will also connect with the source of “Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God’s love by loving our neighbors as ourselves,” as members of one of UUFCO’s book groups share their reflections and thoughts on their readings of *The Desert Fathers*.

**Sunday, August 14—Virlene Arnold, Sophie, Oscar, and your furry, feathered, and finny friends—“A Blessing of the Animals”:** This service connects with a source of wisdom many of us experience but that isn’t outlined in our UU Sources (yet)—the teachings and blessings of the animals in our lives, large and small. Come join with Virlene in blessing and being blessed by the animals who inhabit our day-to-day lives. Rules for good behavior and a smooth service are forthcoming—talk with Virlene for more details.

**Sunday, August 28—Rev. Heather Starr—“Human Lives and Learnings”:** This service connects to the source of “Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit.” Drawing upon the contemporary conversation about humanism, we will ponder together what it means to engage in a faith journey “without God.”

**Sunday, September 4—Chandra Smith—“Native Beliefs & Teachings”:** This service connects to the source of “Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.” Chandra will share with us from her wealth of life experience with Native Beliefs and sacred practices.

Our next Worship Committee meeting is Friday, August 26 at 1pm in the Cottage. *All are welcome.*

## ADULT EDUCATION – JULY UPDATE

Our Adult Education programming is “going on vacation” for the summer months. We’ll be back on the ground in full operation by the first of September. **Thank you** to all whom so actively engaged as participants in classes this year. **Thank you** to those who submitted ideas for classes and activities; they have enriched the growth of our Adult Education program. Please keep those requests coming in this summer as we select and calendar activities for our next church year.

*Happy trails and waterways and lazy days to all. Have a wonderful summer!*  
**Ellen Mercer, Coordinator** ([uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com) / 541-385-3908)



## DISCUSSION GROUP

*On the third Sunday in July, in lieu of service, UUFCA will hold a discussion meeting. Everyone is welcome at 11:00 am in the Old Stone. Articles will be distributed by email about 2 weeks in advance of the July 17 date via Tom Wykes' list. If you are not already on the Discussion Group email list, please contact Tom Wykes at [wykes@bendcable.com](mailto:wykes@bendcable.com).*

**Discussion Sunday with Tom Wykes: Abuse, Betrayal and Repentance: A Zen Case Study**: The North American Zen Buddhist community has recently been rocked by allegations of long term sexual misconduct by two prominent American Zen teachers. These incidents have created a lot of soul searching among American Buddhist communities. One interesting, unintended consequence of these events is a series of very public letters that reference events that occurred at the Zen Center of Los Angeles (ZCLA) over 25 years ago. The events concern alcoholism and the sexual misconduct of the late Zen master Maezumi Roshi with female students including Jan Chozen Bays, a dharma heir of Maezumi Roshi and the co-abbot of Great Vow Zen Monastery in Oregon. The three letters are from Maezumi Roshi's daughter and Jan Chozen Bays. We will complete our reading with an essay from Scott Edelman entitled, "Spiritual Teachers' Transgressions — and What We Can Do about Them." Our discussion will be wide ranging and include issues relating to sexual misconduct of clergy but also issues of repentance, forgiveness and compassion that are key elements of these remarkable letters.



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

Dear Families, Members & Friends,

It's finally summer in Central Oregon! I hope each of you makes time for walks along the river, barbecues with friends and family, refreshing dips in our rivers and lakes, biking or hiking along our amazing trails, quiet moments watching the sunsets, and star gazing. For information on ways to stay safe this summer while playing, check out the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department's tips at [http://www.oregon.gov/OPRD/PARKS/GoPlay/play\\_safe\\_tips.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/OPRD/PARKS/GoPlay/play_safe_tips.shtml)

Summer time means picnic time! UUFCA invites you to a **Family & Friends Potluck Picnic at Farewell Bend Park** on Friday, **July 22** from 5:30-7:30pm. Bring a dish to share, beverages for yourself, camp chairs, blankets, and utensils. We'll provide the plates and napkins. There's a great playground and plenty of lawn for yard games, so bring your toys. Call me if you have any questions.

On **August 14**, our Religious Education program is offering its first ever UUFCA Summer Day Camp. We'll start at The Cottage following the service and walk to Drake Park for a picnic and games, then to McKay Park to dip our feet in the water, and then hike the Deschutes River Trail. **Pre-registration is required.** Look for more information and registration forms at Sunday services and/or in an email. Parent and/or member volunteers are also needed. Please contact me if you are able to volunteer your time for this day of summer fun!

Our RE program for children and youth can only succeed if we have volunteers willing to share in "free and responsible search for truth and meaning" as teachers for our children. **Won't you consider becoming a religious education teacher for children and youth for the 2011-2012 church year?** As part of a teaching team, you'd commit to one Sunday per month as well as time for planning and preparation. You will be provided with training and excellent support throughout the year. Please contact me ASAP to sign up for this rewarding and enriching experience.

Remember way back to October when we had our Annual Service Auction? Well, our RE kids offered a service item that auction winners can finally redeem. If you were a winning bidder of the RE Spring Car Wash (which has now become the RE Late Summer Car Wash) we are arranging the car wash for Sunday, **September 11**. Plan to bring your rig around the Old Stone between 1:00 – 3:00pm. We'll have our sponges ready!

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



## LETTER FROM OUR MINISTER

Dear Friends,

For years now I have been quietly attending our national annual denominational conference, General Assembly (GA), each year at a different location around the country, attending many workshops and meetings while there, gathering learnings, inspiration, and ideas to bring back to you in the following Fellowship year. Mindful that attending General Assembly is expensive, often far away from Central Oregon, and typically involves a lot of sitting in windowless convention center and hotel rooms at the end of June, I haven't strongly pushed UUFCO'rs to prioritize attending.

General Assembly 2012 is going to be different, and I would like very much for you to carefully consider whether or not you can join me. GA2012, long scheduled to take place in Phoenix, Arizona, has been named "Justice GA" with a particular emphasis on engaging with the current Congregational Study-Action Issue of "Immigration as a Moral Issue" leading up to and while in Arizona. In response to Arizona Senate Bill 1070, GA delegates in 2010 were presented with the decision of whether or not to boycott General Assembly in Phoenix (and lose potentially millions of dollars due to long-scheduled conference contracts), or, as requested by our social justice grassroots partners in Arizona, join them in 2012 in the work of immigration-related social justice. Delegates chose the latter option, naming GA 2012 "Justice GA." This will be the first General Assembly of this kind in the history of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

After our first year of Study-Action together, your Adult Religious Education Coordinator, Ellen Mercer, and I would like to invite you to spend the next year preparing to join us in going to Justice GA in Phoenix. The dates are **June 20-24, 2012**—mark your calendars now. You can find out more information at: <http://www.uua.org/ga/2012/> If you don't have easy online access, let me know and I will gladly print out this material for you and mail it to you. These many months ahead of GA 2012, what I want to know from you is: 1) Are you interested in participating? and 2) What kind of support do you need in order to be able to accompany Ellen and me? We are going to Justice GA in 2012, and we would like you to join us.

At General Assembly in Charlotte, North Carolina this June, there was talk of going to Phoenix some or part of the way by bus—creating a caravan of busses converging on Phoenix. We could increase our visibility with a "Standing on the Side of Love" banner on our bus. There will be a need for some Spanish-language speakers. We will need to raise funds so that our youth and others who could not otherwise afford to go to Phoenix can go. Perhaps we could coordinate our bus and/or our efforts with other UU congregations throughout Oregon. Right now is our opportunity to plan ahead creatively, inclusively, and thoughtfully. Will you please consider joining Ellen and me in going to Justice GA in Phoenix in 2012? Together, we can engage in the social justice work of faith tradition. Together, we can. Si se puede!

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