



# UUNews



## February 2012 Sunday Services

<b>Sunday February 5 11:00 am</b>	<b>Rev. Heather Starr—“Desperately Seeking Sanctuary”:</b> What makes a space sacred? Is it important to have sacred space in our lives? Though it is said that sacred space is “wherever two or more are gathered,” what actually creates the qualities of sanctuary, safety, refuge, and collective, caring community?
<b>Sunday February 12 11:00 am</b>	<b>Rev. Heather Starr—“Love Changes Everything”:</b> The Valentine’s Day season usually focuses on The One we’re closest to. But can we broaden our love to make a larger impact on the world? How can we best welcome into our lives, communities, families, and workplaces, those who are different from us? How do we find points of connection with people with whom we have a great deal <i>not</i> in common?
<b>Sunday February 19 11:00 am</b>	<b>Discussion Group with Tom Wykes: “Religion and Anti-Intellectualism”:</b> According to the results of an October 2006 <i>Time</i> magazine poll, when asked what they would do if scientists were to disprove a particular religious belief, nearly two-thirds (64%) of people say they would continue to hold to what their religion teaches rather than accept the contrary scientific finding. Is religious anti-intellectualism threatening America’s ability to address the environmental and technological challenges of the future? We will explore this theme in more depth at our February 2012 Discussion.
<b>Sunday February 26 11:00 am</b>	<b>Rev. Heather Starr—“The Practice of Forgiveness”:</b> Marianne Williamson writes: “The practice of forgiveness is our most important contribution to the healing of the world.” All of us are in need of healing around ways that we feel or have at times felt “outcast,” different from everyone around us. And we all also have the need “to forgive ourselves and each other, to begin again in love.”  <i>The recipient of this month’s Greater Community Collection is <b>Central Oregon’s Common Table.</b></i>



## February 24, 2012: Pasta & Possibilities!

*See within this newsletter for further details about this Annual Congregational Potluck Dinner to gather together, celebrate and imagine what is possible for our congregation in the year to come. All are welcome—we hope you’ll be there to look ahead to the future with us!*

# February 2012

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Central Oregon

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 12:00pm-OOS Deadline 1:00pm-Snowshoe Tour	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 11:00am-Worship Service 11:00am-'Secret Friends' 5:30pm-Youth Group	<b>6</b> 1:00pm-Snowshoe Tour	<b>7</b> 12:00pm-Mah Jongg 1:30pm-Social Justice 5:45pm-Choir Rehearsal	<b>8</b> 12:00pm-OOS Deadline 6:00pm-Board Meeting	<b>9</b> 10:00am-Stitching Group 1:00pm-Trail Hours	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 6:00pm-Circle Supper
<b>12</b> 11:00am-Worship Service 11:00am-'Secret Friends' 12:30pm-UU-FAQ 12:35pm-UUFCO New Hom	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 12:00pm-Just-a-Meal 3:00pm-This I Believe 5:45pm-Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm-Valentine's Day Co	<b>15</b> 12:00pm-OOS Deadline	<b>16</b> 6:30pm-Film and Discussion	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 6:30pm-Card Night
<b>19</b> 11:00am-Discussion 11:00am-'Secret Friends'	<b>20</b> 8:00am-NEWSLETTER DE	<b>21</b> 12:00pm-Mah Jongg 3:00pm-This I Believe 5:45pm-Choir Rehearsal	<b>22</b> 12:00pm-OOS Deadline	<b>23</b> 10:00am-Stitching Group 1:00pm-Trail Hours 5:30pm-Bethlehem Inn Dinn	<b>24</b> 1:30pm-Worship Committee 6:00pm-PASTA & POSSIBI	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 11:00am-Worship Service 11:00am-'Secret Friends' 12:30pm-Friends Luncheon 5:30pm-Youth Group	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 3:00pm-Book Club II 5:45pm-Choir Rehearsal	<b>29</b> 12:00pm-OOS Deadline			

## **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:



### **ALL CONGREGATION ANNUAL SPRING POTLUCK: PASTA & POSSIBILITIES!**

Come join us in kicking off our FY13 Budget Drive at the “Pasta & Possibilities” annual potluck! This event will be held at **6:00pm** on **Friday, February 24, 2012** at the **Bend Senior Center** located at **1600 SE Reed Market Road**. All are welcome – members, friends, newcomers and families.

There will be childcare and activities available. Stewards and Board members will be available to answer questions about the FY12 budget, and you can pick up/drop off your FY13 Pledge Card. *Please don't miss this important evening.*

As usual, we will play our very own UU Jeopardy!! We have many free, fabulous prizes to be given away at our raffle – all you need to do is show up!! The fun is guaranteed!

And now for the potluck details; please bring the following if your last name begins with:

- ✓ A – B      Vegetarian Main Dish / Hot Veggie Dish
- ✓ C – E      Dessert
- ✓ F – I      Fruit/Cheese/Bread Plate
- ✓ J – R      Meat-based Main Dish
- ✓ S – Z      Salad

As a courtesy to those with allergies, please prepare a note if your dish contains wheat, nuts, or dairy. Bring your own beverages (wine & beer OK). Please don't forget a serving utensil for your dish. UUFCO will provide dishes, cups, and table service. *Thank you* in advance.

Contact Annual Budget Drive chair, Amy Falkenrath at [uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com) for more information.

### **THE RED TENT TEMPLE OF CENTRAL OREGON**

The Red Tent Temple gatherings will be changing. Rather than meeting every month, The Red Tent will **meet quarterly** to maximize the transitions in our lives as we take the needed time to pause and reflect on our personal journeys. We will be bringing greater consciousness to what it means to support and nurture one another. Please join us **Monday evening, March 19** as we welcome the **Spring Equinox** and its deeper symbolism as we manifest our individual seeds of inspiration.



*Open House* will be from 4:30 to 6:00pm. *Wisdom Circle* 6:00 to 7:00pm.

Feel free to bring a snack to share. For more information, join our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/184835714891251/> or contact Beki Meyer-Allen at [uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com)

*Love's greatest gift is its ability to make everything it touches sacred.*

*Barbara de Angelis*

## **MAY 20, 2012: UUFCA ANNUAL MEETING**

It is never too early to mark your calendars for our Annual Meeting, which will take place following a shorter service on Sunday, May 20. With everything going on in our congregation's life, this meeting will likely be an especially important one. Please make sure to be there.

## **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.

## **ANNOUNCEMENT: JOIN OUR UUFCA FACEBOOK GROUP!**

Beautiful people, we want to see your faces! If you go online even just every-now-and-then, consider joining Facebook—it's a great and easy way to share photos, updates, news and links ([www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)). If you're already on Facebook, look up our "Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Central Oregon" Facebook page, and click "Join Group." If you need help getting started, just say the word. And if you're wary of Facebook but open to 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, Rebecca Fender, Savita Krause...to name a few of your potential Facebook Friends!

## **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 February: 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. If it's icy we can always stay on the flatter side.

Join me on **Thursday, February 9, at 1:00 pm**, or **Thursday, February 23, at 1:00 pm**. 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))

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*Let us always meet each other with smile, for the smile is the beginning of love.*

~

*I have found the paradox, that if you love until it hurts,  
there can be no more hurt, only more love.*

*Mother Teresa*

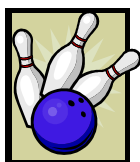
## **NEXT BETHLEHEM INN DINNERS: THURSDAY FEBRUARY 23, MARCH 22, & APRIL 26, 2012**

Once a month, UUFSCO volunteers bring a full, healthy dinner and the taste, aroma, and spirit of home cooking to the residents at Bethlehem Inn, Central Oregon's largest homeless shelter. UUFSCO's night has typically been on the last Thursday of every month. Preparing, delivering, and serving these special monthly "home-cooked" meals requires the effort of many volunteers.

Winter tends to be a very busy time at the shelter, and we often need more volunteers to prepare food. Volunteers prepare (or purchase) meatloaf, mashed potatoes, vegetables, cupcakes, and milk and then deliver their entrées to the Inn from 5:15 to 5:30 pm. The Inn has limited cooking facilities, so cooked foods need to be prepared off-site and delivered ready to heat and serve.

Food preparers can stay on as meal-servers if they ask in advance (there's space for only five adults to serve the hot food and one child to serve cupcakes). Throughout the years, the Inn's homeless residents have expressed great pleasure and gratitude for their meals, so this makes the meal-server role particularly rewarding. Volunteers who apply and are confirmed to act as servers are asked to arrive by 5:30 pm on the night of the meal and need to stay for an hour or so.

If this is a volunteer opportunity you think you would enjoy, Leslie Koc and Tom O'Brien, are ready to support you at each step of this process, from providing recipes to possible compensation for the cost of ingredients. To volunteer, to get recipes, or for more information you can email us at [uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com) or call 541-385-3908.



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

Firstly, I'd like to acknowledge some of the generous contributions made to our various designated funds recently:

Over the holidays, the following individuals made contributions to the Minister's Discretionary Fund:

- Jennifer Seitz
- Max Beason
- Chris Herrick
- Judy Solomon
- Owen Mitz and Helen Seidler

A collection was taken among the performers –including the UUFSCO choir – of this year's Talent Show to acknowledge Virlene Arnold and Dick Falxa for all their amazing efforts to make the show such a resounding success. The remainder was contributed to the Music Fund – from which, by the way, came the funds to hire a professional sound technician for the evening. ~ Be thinking about what you'd like to share in next year's "UUFSCO's Got Talent!"

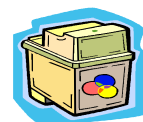
And speaking of the Talent Show: this year's round-up had 17 different "acts," spanning a variety of forms of expression. There were instrumental pieces, choral selections, vocal music, spoken word, comic relief. Debby and Dennis Lynn provided a light-hearted segues between the acts in a tag-team emcee performance. It was a great night, and in some folks' estimation "The best we've had so far." The headcount was hard to do, since various configurations of people kept occurring; there were *at least* 111 people present!

I'm looking for a few volunteers on whom I could call from time to time when there are large-scale mailings or similar projects. It's hard to plan these times in advance, but if you'd like me to call you to check your availability, please either email me at [uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com) or give me a call on my cell phone: 541-306-0203

As always, please remember to provide your updated contact information to ensure we stay in touch.

Yours administratively,

**Chela**



## 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)

**Caring Committee Resources:** The Caring Committee maintains a supply of medical equipment donated to UUFÇO (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 or if you have medical equipment item you would be willing to donate or loan.

**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 UUFÇO 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 *UUFÇO Nursing and Recovery Care Resource List*, the *UUFÇO 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-December 2011 through mid-January 2012 Activities of the Care Team:** During this month, Care and Resource Team members and friends generously volunteered 12 times to place calls and send cards. In addition, they made 10 visits to people in our community. These involved making home and hospital visits, providing transportation, providing shopping assistance, and delivering medical equipment. Care Team members and friends also delivered meals twice during the month. Thanks to all the Care and Resource Team members and friends who provide this generous support to our community.

**Shopping and Transportation Networks:** One of the ideas that came out of our October Caring Committee retreat was setting up a shopping network to assist people who would like transportation or help with shopping. If you would be willing to provide transportation for shopping occasionally, or if you need shopping help, please contact **Nancy Stevens**, who is coordinating this project. You can reach Nancy at 541-385-3908, [uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com). We are also hoping to identify people who would be willing to provide rides occasionally or share driving to Sunday services or other UUFÇO events with others in their neighborhood. If you would be willing to occasionally offer a ride to church to someone who needs it, please contact **Nan Williamson** at 541-385-3908, [uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com).

**Caring News & Notes from Rev. Heather:** We are taking a hiatus from listing the past month's Joys and Sorrows here, and hopeful that if there's something you'd like to be announced in print to the congregation, you will let us know. Anniversaries, graduations, special awards—if there's something important to you to share in our congregational news, please speak up! If you have special news, announcements, or an update that you would like us to include in this section, please let our Caring Committee Co-Chairs **Marean Jordan** ([uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com)/ 541-385-3908), **Nancy Hodge** (541-385-3908/ [uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com)), or **Nan Williamson**

(541-385-3908/ [uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com)) know. We want to know what's going on in your & your family's lives—so be in touch!

**February Birthday wishes** go out to **Amy Foster-Wexler, Diana Pond, Sue Clark, Henry Hochschild, Amy Falkenrath, Michaela Fender, Jodie Walberg, Kathy Day, Dalyte Hartsough, Sydney Dedrick, John Coltman, Matt Shinderman, Ayla Halberstadt, Shirley Furst, and Zoe Johnson.** *Many happy returns to all!*

Thanks to **Marean Jordan, Nancy Hodge, and Nan Williamson** 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](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com))

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

**Some excerpts from the November New Home Project notes** highlight how important our UUFCCO community is to all and speak directly to the work the Fellowship Committee is engaged in. Here are just a few to ponder from the “Feel and Image of our New Home” segment:

- Welcoming people at door, Greeters are very important – provide training
- Guidance for those with children—inform about children's programs, inform about all programs
- Special group for newcomers
- A place that newcomers would like to come back to because: ... welcoming attitude, thought provoking, a place where I am remembered, liked and appreciated
- Kids greet kids, invite them to the playground, to class, etc.
- Feel recognized as a person
- Happy people, respect for all comers

**To help make the above ideas reality?** Contact Jerrie or Helen to learn how you can **become a Fellowship Friend.**

**Become a Friend of the Fellowship** by helping a new member or someone on the “path to membership” get to know people and the various activities that make up congregational life. Through occasional phone calls, e-mails and invitations to UUFCCO events over several months, you can help a new member find his or her place in this busy congregation. Becoming a “New Member Friend” is a much needed and very rewarding service. Consider it! – and let Helen or Jerrie know if you are interested.

**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.** Please contact Rev. Heather ([heathermstarr@yahoo.com](mailto:heathermstarr@yahoo.com)) if you would like to meet with her individually to discuss whether this is the right time for you to join the Fellowship.

I believe in the compelling power of love. I do not understand it. I believe it to be the most fragrant blossom of all this thorny existence.

*Theodore Dreiser*

## GOOD TIMES ACTIVITIES FOR FEBRUARY

A schedule of these 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.



### **Interpretative Snowshoe Tours with US Forest Service Volunteer Naturalist David Paulsmeyer:**

**Wednesday, February 1 and Monday, February 6, 1:00 pm** at US Forest Service Snowshoe Hut at Mt. Bachelor. (The US Forest Service Snowshoe Hut is small, brown, and wooden, and located between the General Services Building and snow tubing area.) If you have your own gear and want to use it do so but, if not, we have snowshoes to outfit you. No charge for snowshoe rental. The tour is 1.5 miles long, with moderate climbs, and, with stops, takes nearly two hours to complete.

Call David to reserve your place, leave your name, number in your party and best phone number for David to contact you. David's phone numbers are: 541-385-3908 (H) and 541-385-3908 (C) and his email address is [uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com).

**Stitching Group:** This group is for all stitching arts: knit, crochet, sew, quilt, etc. We gather on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month (NOTE new schedule) 10:00am-12:00pm. Our new meeting place is Vive Le Décor, located just west of 15<sup>th</sup> on Reed Market Road. We will meet on **February 9 and 23**. Contact Nan Williamson to be added to the group list or for further information (541-385-3908/ [uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com)). Come join us....it's lots of fun!

**Mah Jongg:** Toni Morris will teach and lead the Mah Jongg **Tuesdays February 7 and 21**, 12:00pm-3:00pm. Meet at Toni's house; please call the day before to confirm. 541-385-3908. Toni will email directions to the house when she hears from you.

**Card Players:** Monthly card night will be at the Dobrowskis' home on **Saturday February 18** 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 **Tuesday, February 28**, from 3:00-4:30 pm. The February book is *The Anatomy of Hope* by Jerome Groopman. 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** begins anew **Tuesday, February 14 and 21**, 3:00pm - 4:30pm at the Cottage. This series of listening, discussion, and writing our own personal essays of belief continues for six weeks. 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:** Would you like more time to get to know folks at UUFCA? Circle Suppers are small dinners hosted in a member's home. You can visit and really get to know members or friends of UUFCA. Invite your friends or a recent visitor to attend a supper with you - there's great food and fun times for all who attend!

Sign up to be a host, even for a small group - the guests bring food! As a guest you bring a potluck dish to share and enjoy the variety. The next Circle Supper will be on Friday, **March 16**. Sign-up sheets will be on the entry table through March 3. Plan ahead for the next Circle Supper dates: **Saturday, April 14** and **Friday, May 11**. If you have questions or would like to sign up to be a host please contact Jerrie Jones (503-432-5317 / [uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com)).

**Cross Country Ski Outings-** If you would like to be included in email notices about cross country ski outings, led by Duncan Brown (and hopefully Dave MacGurn), please contact Duncan (and Lyn) by email at [uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com). Please include some days and times that would work for you and please copy Dave at [uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com).

**Common Table Noon "Just-a-Meal":** Have a fun lunch on **Thursday, February 9** and support the Common Table café (150 NW Oregon Avenue). Meals are under \$10. Good food, good conversation, good cause! Please RSVP to Bill Morris (541-385-3908) before Monday, February 6 if you can...or, just come! Co-sponsored by Good Times and our Social Justice Committee.



## **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 – Sunday, February 26: Common Table**

Our Fellowship’s Greater Community Collection this month will benefit Common Table, an unusual café ambitiously dedicated to “feed all people, cherish the Earth, and pursue awareness.”

As explained on their website [www.commonatable.org](http://www.commonatable.org), “Common Table is a non-profit Social Entrepreneurship project for the betterment of our community and world. At the core of Common Table is a café from which we endeavor to serve extraordinary 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.

“In addition to providing meals for all people, we 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.

“Common Table exists for the good of the overall Bend community. An investment in Common Table is an investment in people who need jobs, people who need wholesome good food, people who need community, people who need education and experience in the best life has to offer.”

On this last Sunday of February, please bring a generous check made out to “Common Table” to support this worthy organization. And, experience it for yourself – see below.

#### **Tuesday, February 14: “Just-a-Meal” at Common Table**

Have a fun lunch on Valentine’s Day while supporting the Common Table café (150 NW Oregon Avenue), our GCC recipient for February (see above). Meals are under \$10; see the website ([www.commonatable.org](http://www.commonatable.org)) for menu and prices. Good food, good conversation, good cause! *Join us.* Exercise LOVE on LOVE DAY!

Please RSVP to Bill Morris (541-385-3908) before Sunday, February 12 if you can ... or, just come! These monthly meals are co-sponsored by Good Times and our Social Justice Committee.

#### **Tuesday, February 7: Next Social Justice Committee Meeting** (Please note date change.)

Come at 1:30pm to the Cottage to see how your SJC helps put our UU principles into action! For an agenda & past minutes, contact Bill Morris (541-385-3908). *New people are always welcome at our meetings.*



## WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Attention! 2012-2013 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](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, February 24, at 1:00 pm in the Cottage. *All are welcome.*

Have you noticed our engagement with new, monthly, congregational Themes? These are themes that the Worship Committee chose together that create connections between our worship life and our community life, that invite us into greater reflection together throughout the month. Our monthly themes this year are:

September: Return	December: Family	March: Transformations
October: Acceptance	January: Letting Go	April: Patience
November: Gratitude	February: Love	May: Vision
		June: Justice

If you'd like to find out more about how Theme-Based Ministry is being used in Unitarian Universalist congregations nationwide, take a look at the websites below. And if you have thoughts about how UUFCA in particular could incorporate the themes more fully into our congregational life, please speak up!

Tulsa, Oklahoma Theme-based Ministry website: <http://www.themebasedministry.org/index.php>  
 San Jose—<http://www.sanjoseuu.org/OurWorshipLife/SpecialThemes.html>



## DISCUSSION GROUP

*On Sunday, February 19, UUFCA will have its monthly Discussion at 11:00am in the Old Stone sanctuary. Articles will be distributed by email about one week in advance of the February 19 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 [uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com).*

**Discussion Group with Tom Wykes: "Religion and Anti-Intellectualism":** According to the results of an October 2006 *Time* magazine poll, when asked what they would do if scientists were to disprove a particular religious belief, nearly two-thirds (64%) of people say they would continue to hold to what their religion teaches rather than accept the contrary scientific finding. Is religious anti-intellectualism threatening America's ability to address the environmental and technological challenges of the future? We will explore this theme in more depth at our February 2012 Discussion.



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

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

*"Keep your faith in beautiful things;  
in the sun when it is hidden,  
in the Spring when it is gone."  
- Roy R. Gibson*

Dear Members and Friends of UUFÇO ~

The quote above reminds me of our Secret Friends program, which got underway on January 22 and will run for six weeks. There are 14 pairs participating each composed of one adult and one child. I don't know if you've noticed, but the past couple of Sundays have been full of the energy and excitement of unknown wonders and mysterious good deeds. The month of February has always been a challenging one for me, with the holiday season a month past and spring still a couple of months (maybe more) in the distance, but I am comforted and delighted by the connections being made between our Secret Friends pairs. Winter seems a bit brighter and more colorful. It's a beautiful thing!

The concluding luncheon for the Secret Friends program is on Sunday, February 26 from 12:45pm – 2:00pm in the sanctuary during which the Secret Friends will be revealed and each child/youth and adult pair will have a chance to connect and get to know one another better. **I could use a few volunteers to help** prepare and host lunch for this group of 30 people. If you have some time to give, please contact me as soon as possible so we can make plans in order to provide a wonderful lunch for this special, intergenerational event.

We are hoping to hold a UUFÇO Family Feast in February. Family Feasts are casual, potluck style gatherings offering an opportunity for our families to gather to enjoy good food and each other's company. We're currently looking for a space large enough to host the Family Feast. If you care to share your home or know of a community space we could use, please let us know. Aleta Nissen has been the coordinator of our Family Feasts. She can be reached at [uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com).

May your days grow ever brighter with sweet sunshine and radiant love!

With gratitude,

*Rebecca Fender*  
Director of Religious Education

## ADULT EDUCATION – FEBRUARY UPDATE

**Women's Spiritual Circle 12:00 - 2:00 pm**

*February date and time to be established at the January 31 gathering. Watch for announcements in the Order of Service and the All Congregational Email (ACE).*

Monthly gatherings will take place through May in the homes of participants to share a bowl of soup and bread while engaging in conversation centered on our UUFÇO Worship Committee's designated theme of that month. How does that theme resonate with our UU faith principles and values within ourselves, our families, our communities and the larger world? The only agenda will be the theme of the month with the content of the get-together generated from what the group brings in – a story, a concern, a thought, a question that centers on that month's theme. The February theme is "Love". Please RSVP to Ellen (541-385-3908/ [uufco@yahoo.com](mailto:uufco@yahoo.com)).

**Immigration As A Moral Issue – Upcoming Events:**

**Gearing Up for Justice General Assembly-Informational Meeting  
June 20-24, 2012 / Phoenix, Arizona**

*Originally scheduled for Sunday, February 12 at 1:00-1:45, this meeting has been postponed due to a scheduling conflict. Watch for the new date.*

We are taking our UUFCO voice to this first ever UUA Justice General Assembly as an active participant. We hope a number of us will plan to attend to be a part of this UUFCO presence in Phoenix and to bring the excitement and energy of the experience back home. To begin this process, join the Justice GA Planning Session, led by Cathy Rion after Sunday Service (*new date to be announced*). Cathy has been actively involved in preparations for this GA and will be able to give us some direction and guidance. Information will be shared, ideas gathered, logistics considered, and discussion about the various ways we can support making this happen.

Check out the UUA website at [www.uua.org/ga](http://www.uua.org/ga). Excerpts from the introductory overview: “GA 2012 will be a gathering with multiple ways of engaging in social justice work for people of all ages. Joining with people of Arizona, we will worship, witness, learn and work together. We will leave GA grounded in our faith, energized for justice and with resources to bring this work home to our congregation.” and “GA programming will be focused on justice issues, including topics such as the spiritual foundations of justice work, the theology of social justice, as well as a more tactical focus on organizing.” The website is loaded with information – Explore!

**Thursday, February 16**                      **6:30 - 8:30pm**                      **Home of Rachel & Larry Baker**

**Film and Discussion: *A Better Life***

A gardener in East L.A. struggles to keep his son away from gangs and immigration agents while trying to give his son the opportunities he never had.

**Sunday, March 25**                      **1:00 - 2:00pm**                      **Sanctuary**

**All Congregational Common Book Read: *The Death of Josseline: Immigrant Stories from the Arizona Borderlands***

*The Death of Josseline* by veteran news reporter, Margaret Regan, presents an interconnected mosaic of those intimately involved: immigrants, activists, human rights workers, and border patrol people. The book evokes a human and religious response, rather than a political debate, as it draws the reader into the physical, economic, and above all, personal terrain of immigration in the borderlands. Its heartbreaking yet hopeful pages invite witness and engage readers in the ethical, moral, and spiritual challenges presented by the complex issues on the Arizona-Sonoma border.

*The Death of Josseline* begs for “processing” in a trusted community, as these stories are not easily held alone. Touching the soul and the heart as well as the mind, they call us to the religious act of bearing witness to brutality and despair, and extraordinary courage and commitment. We need a faith community to experience these stories together and to discern how we will respond and act. (*Excerpt from the introductory discussion guide*) Order a paperback copy from [www.uuabookstore.com](http://www.uuabookstore.com)

*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).*



## LETTER FROM OUR MINISTER

Dear Friends,

I write this column from my uncle's dining room table in Covington, Louisiana, just a short drive's north of New Orleans. I came to New Orleans for the Commission on Social Witness' meeting with the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA)'s Board of Trustees. I serve on the 5-person Commission on Social Witness and we were tasked with the question of how to strengthen and improve Unitarian Universalists' collective social justice efforts. Prior to this meeting, I attended a Staff Supervision Training in Boston, at our UUA headquarters on 25 Beacon Street.

Place has always been very significant to me, and I enjoy pondering the ways any given community is influenced by its surroundings and historical context. So I can't help but find myself contemplating these three places: New Orleans, Boston, and our own journey for a suitable home and long-term congregational *place* in Central Oregon. What seems most important to me is to take the long view. As we consider a particular, beautiful piece of land in Bend, let us think about what this piece of land, this area, and our home on this property could be like in ten, twenty, thirty, fifty years.

I was saddened to learn that there is much discussion right now at the denominational level of selling the long-held Unitarian Universalist properties on Beacon Hill, largely because of their high maintenance costs and the financial challenge of bringing them up to speed technologically and in other ways (electrical, etc.). It's hard for me to separate out my attachment to these properties because of their historical significance and my many visits and personal memories there. What *is* the right thing for the long-term future and health of our denomination?

Then, to come to New Orleans...parts of which are under sea-level, yet a city of such cultural, commercial, and culinary history that it's impossible for most people here to even consider for a moment not putting millions of dollars into rebuilding the city. Does it make sense in such a context to even suggest a conversation about not rebuilding?

These are difficult questions, and luckily I'm not aware of anything nearly as complex connected to the property that UUFCO is currently considering (though there will be certainly be *some* complications—there always are!). I merely find myself wondering how we, as human beings with limited life spans, can do our best to try to “take the long view,” to see into the future beyond our own lives.

One of the qualities of the property we're currently considering that most thrills me is the proximity to a public, popular trail that I and many others have many times walked and biked. What a lovely natural resource that it could be our responsibility and privilege to protect, celebrate, share, and enjoy. It is an incredible, incredible opportunity, any time any one of us ever has the possibility of owning and tending a piece of this earth. Our faith community has the chance to choose this particular piece of property to care for and build our new spiritual home. What a moment this is, a moment that decades from now the UU Fellowship of Central Oregon could look back on and hopefully say: they took the long view. They thought ahead to imagine and include those of us not yet born, those of us who haven't yet discovered beautiful Central Oregon. They became stewards for the future.

May it be so!

Warmly,

Rev. Heather Starr ([heathermstarr@yahoo.com](mailto:heathermstarr@yahoo.com) / 541-390-6052)

Someday, after mastering the winds, the waves, the tides and gravity,  
we shall harness for God the energies of love,  
and then, for a second time in the history of the world,  
[humanity] will have discovered fire.

[Pierre Teilhard de Chardin](#)



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).

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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.*



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