



UUNews December 2015

December 2015 Services



Theme: *wonder*

Sunday December 6 10:30 am	"Who Are We? Who Might We Be?" <i>or Rev. Antonia Won, Minister</i> As Hanukkah begins today, we begin this month's theme of <i>wonder</i> . So many of us are new to the congregation, I wonder what it's like to be new to UUFCO, who we all are, and what passions can we harness as a community? Where do our passions and the world's needs collide?	
Sunday December 13 10:30 am	"Sacred Curiosity" <i>or Rev. Antonia Won, Minister</i> They say curiosity killed the cat but I'd say conformism is a lot more deadly. Creativity is one of Unitarian Universalism's unsung traditions and central to Unitarian Universalism's approach to children's religious exploration. Is it still important today? Is there a prophetic role for creativity and curiosity?	
Sunday December 20 10:30 am	"Winter Celebration" Come join us in an interactive intergenerational worship service celebrating the season. Using the "No Rehearse Christmas Pageant", this service will put a Unitarian Universalist spin on the traditional manger story.	
Christmas Eve	Thursday December 24 5:00 pm	Children and Family Service Lifting up the magic of love from our families during this holiday time, we will read a story for all ages, <i>Too Many Tamales</i> , by Gary Soto. We'll sing carols, too, and enjoy the beauty of the season. There will be an offering dedicated to Bethlehem Inn.
	6:30 pm	Christmas Eve Carol Service Gathering to sing familiar songs in a spirit of peace is a gift, and this will be our first carol service in the new home. Let us celebrate the blessings of being together on this most wondrous night of the year. The collection will be taken for Bethlehem Inn, Bend's shelter for the homeless.
Sunday December 27 10:30 am	"Best Gifts" <i>or Rev. Mary Katherine Morn, Guest Speaker</i> It's not unusual to hear talk about taking up a "spiritual practice"— a focused way to bring meaning, depth, integrity into our lives. Even practicing generosity can open up pathways to compassion, connection and joy. From the Hindu scriptures: "Do you sense the vast creative power of the universe? The power that creates all things, sustains all things, and claims them all in the end? Well, you don't have to bow down or feel insignificant, because you are part of that power. You are part of the infinite and the eternal, just as you are."	

December 2015

	November		December 02, 2015					January	
	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
<u>49</u>	November	November	<u>1</u> 09:30am Chinese Essence ... 01:00pm UU Knitters 04:30pm Working Group-P ...	<u>2</u> 12:00pm Writing Group 06:00pm Choir Rehearsal ...	<u>3</u>		<u>4</u> 10:00am Facility Cluste ...	<u>5</u>	
<u>50</u>	<u>6</u> 09:00am Mindfulness Med ... 10:30am Sunday Service 12:00pm Project GRACE B ...	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u> 09:30am Chinese Essence ...	<u>9</u> 06:00pm Choir Rehearsal ...	<u>10</u> 05:45pm Endowment Commi ... 06:00pm Board Mtg 06:30pm SJ - Move to Am ...	<u>11</u>		<u>12</u> 06:30pm Card Night	
<u>51</u>	<u>13</u> 09:00am Mindfulness Med ... 10:30am Sunday Service 11:30am Trim the Gather ... 12:00pm Soul Matters - ... 12:00pm Soul Matters - ...	<u>14</u> 01:00pm Art Group 07:00pm Soul Matters - ...	<u>15</u> 09:30am Chinese Essence ... 12:00pm Women's Spirit ... 01:00pm Soul Matters - ... 01:00pm UU Knitters	<u>16</u> 12:00pm Writing Group 06:00pm Choir Rehearsal ...	<u>17</u> 03:00pm Council of Comm ... 04:30pm Soul Matters - ... 05:30pm Bethlehem Inn D ...	<u>18</u> 06:00pm Circle Supper 06:00pm Movie Night		<u>19</u>	
<u>52</u>	<u>20</u> 09:00am Mindfulness Med ... 10:30am Sunday Service	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u> 06:00pm Choir Rehearsal ...	<u>24</u> 05:00pm Family Christma ... 05:30pm Holiday Treats 06:30pm Carol Service 07:30pm Holiday Cheer	<u>25</u>		<u>26</u>	
<u>53</u>	<u>27</u> 09:00am Mindfulness Med ... 10:30am Sunday Service	<u>28</u> 01:00pm Art Group	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u> 12:00pm Writing Group 06:00pm Choir Rehearsal ...	<u>31</u>		January	January	

[Adult Class](#) [Board-Committee](#) [Deadline](#) [DRE Office Hours](#) [Good Times](#) [Religious Exploration](#) [Social Justice](#) [Special Event](#) [UUFCO Program](#) [All Categories ...](#)



The Reverend's Reflections

We're looking forward to the holiday season and Christmas celebrations around here! A group has formed to organize a decorating party on Sunday, December 13 at 12 noon, the Sunday before Christmas we'll have a pageant, and we'll be holding two services on Christmas Eve – a family service and a carol service, each followed by 'holiday cheer.'

Life around the church has reached a new level of hum and buzz that feels wonderful as I work away in my corner of the building. Every day, I hear issues being discussed, new ideas and possibilities being explored, people relishing what they are doing as part of UUFCO. I savor the trust, creativity, and dedication of the people around me, especially as I write yet another message to the congregation in the wake of violence or I reflect on the challenges we face as a society for my sermon-writing.

Tucked up amongst the trees on the edge of the prettiest neighborhoods in Central Oregon, UUFCO has a lovely spot where we could easily turn away from the hard realities of life, of the world. But this is self-serving and meaningless – and not enough of a challenge, besides! Being a vital community requires a commitment to face and address hard realities, if it isn't forced into these realities by circumstances beyond its control. The congregation is blessed to have a lot of control over its circumstances: to have many choices about who you want to be, what you want to do, and how you want to do it. It is also blessed that many of you demand a lot of yourselves, wanting to live as fully and

compassionately as you can, because the result is you wish the same kind of excellence in your faith community and are willing to contribute to that.

As I reflect on this, I see so much creative energy and so many possibilities that it's almost overwhelming! It's certainly humbling and gratifying, and I circle back around to my own joy and wonder at being part of UUFCO's journey. I remind myself that few people are fortunate to experience such hope, and I come back around to all who are suffering both in our midst and beyond.

As this December arrives, my heart aches for the dangerous places we have reached as a human community. At the same time, I believe we are realizing how critically important it is we take risks in reaching out to others, that we push ourselves as far as we can to do so. In that spirit, I encourage you to reach out and support one of the organizations in Central Oregon that care for vulnerable people this Christmas. Below are a few, recommended by Jazlyn Halberstadt who is working locally with AmeriCorps. We will also take our traditional offering for Bethlehem Inn on Christmas Eve.

Family Resource Center <http://frconline.org/>
NeighborImpact <http://www.neighborimpact.org/>
Youthbuild <https://www.youthbuild.org/about-youthbuild>

My wishes of hope and joy of the season to you and yours,
Rev. Antonia Won



The President's Perspective

Blessings Everyone,

I am beginning my salutation with the greeting of “blessing” because I would hope that this holiday season, which has already begun, can be a time that contributes to your wellbeing and happiness. Generally the December festivities often add to our stresses by encouraging us to spend more, eat more, entertain and attend more special events. The addition of extra things and activities compounds an already busy life for most of us. How might we engage with the December activities both personal and at UUFCO in a different and more fulfilling way? I invite you to consider bringing the value of simplicity into this winter time. What if we called this time a season of simplicity?

For me some of the qualities of simplicity are being content with the things as they are: living with less complexity and complications; finding ease in the rhythm of our lives. Holding up the value of simplicity calls us to concentrate on what is important and necessary in life. This can allow us to appreciate the little things and people that make a big difference in our lives. To see the season as simple is counter-intuitive to a holiday that is abundant with extras and additions.

I would like to suggest three guidelines for living a life with more simplicity. Allow yourself **to do or have less**. Identify those activities that give you the most value. Be mindful of overcrowding each day. Be selective and then savor your choices. This is what Richard Rohr, a well-known Catholic Priest, would call the **spirituality of subtraction**. Elimination of some purchases, activities or meals can help us appreciate those

that we decide keep. What might you let go of this December?

Subtracting elements rather than adding them to life will also help us to embrace a second guideline — **slowing down**. In many ways our cultural addiction to speed robs us of spiritual health. My mother would say “the more hurried I go the behinder I get.” I used to laugh, until I found some truth in her words. Slowing down can mean enjoying a cup of tea, going to a store at off hours, getting an extra hour of sleep, eating a smaller meal slowly, enjoying the holidays lights on a casual drive, etc. If you are feeling anxious and rushed allow yourself to stop, pause and connect with your breath. How might you slow down during this season?

A third guideline for is to enjoy **simple laughter**. Preparing for our Board meeting is serious business for me. I spend time organizing all the elements that we need to review or address. I want our meetings to be effective and efficient. Our Board meetings are opened by lighting a chalice and having a reading. This practice helps us to get centered and present. This is followed by a check in. In our November meeting our check in was spontaneously filled with laughter. The laughter gave me a feeling of liberating lightness. Our Board meeting was engaging work and we accomplished a long agenda in a timely way. I believe we departed a little tired, but still smiling.

Perhaps some subtracting and slowing down along with some surprising humor will bring more ease to your life in December. My wish for you is that you find simplicity this season and in the year ahead.



What's Happening Here? Updates from our Event Manager

November was a busy month for rental inquiries! UUFCO received interest from 15 different potential renters including weddings, conferences, two-day workshops and private dinners. We have our first two "official" signed contracts in hand already. While the interest has been strong, this does not necessarily mean that all the recent inquiries will turn into actual rentals. For instance, we have had a couple requests to rent space for an indefinite amount of time. This is something we can't commit to until we have a better idea of what the need for space will be — first, from the congregation and then from the community.

Early this month, we will hold our first working group meeting to discuss questions that have been raised regarding events. This group will have representation from UUFCO Committees that plan programmatic and non-programmatic events. The goal of this working group is

to gain alignment on how we engage the community and the use of our building.

Latino Community Association

UUFCO welcomes the Latino Community Association for their annual benefit luncheon Thursday, December 3. They anticipate a fantastic turnout with 175 registered attendees. The luncheon will be catered by Hola! with regional food stations set up for a buffet style lunch. Thanks to the many UUFCO volunteers who will be on hand to help the LCA make this a memorable event.

As always, please feel free to contact me on Sunday mornings or via email with any questions or concerns..

Jenn Egan
Event Manager
541-385-3908
eventmanager@uufco.org

Events & Announcements



Merry & Bright ~ Our Holiday Celebrations

✿ **Sunday, December 13:** Trim the Gathering Tree (after Sunday service)

Cookies and hot cider to enjoy! Cookie decorating for children, too!

✿ **Christmas Eve ~ Thursday, December 24**

5:00 pm: Children and Family Service
5:30 pm: Festive Feast of Holiday Treats
6:30 pm: Christmas Eve Carol Service
7:30 pm: Holiday Cheer

Are you available to help? Each of these gatherings welcomes your help with set up, refreshments, or clean up. Please contact [Kathy Day](#) if you can help!



Women's Spirit Circle

All women are invited to our monthly Women's Spirit Circle, meeting on **Tuesday, December 15 at 12:00 noon**. The theme, "Our Holy Infinite Center":

"Life is meant to be lived from a center....There is a divine Abyss within us all, a Holy Infinite Center, a Heart, a Life who speaks in us and through us to the world. We have all heard this holy Whisper at times. At times we have followed the Whisper, an amazing equilibrium of life, amazing effectiveness of living set in.

But too many of us have heeded the Voice only at times....We have not counted this Holy Thing within us to be the most precious thing in the world."

~ Thomas R. Kelly

What is the most precious thing in the world to you? Let it guide you.

We begin with a potluck lunch and enjoy a meaningful discussion with one another. A great way to meet more women in the Fellowship!

Contact **Noreen** with any questions and to RSVP: [Noreen Halberstadt](#).



December 17, 2015 Serving Your Community: Bethlehem Inn Dinners

Bethlehem Inn Dinner

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Choose a volunteer opportunity!

Turkey meatloaf, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables,
cupcakes or 1% milk ... or be a server ... or both!

No previous experience is needed.

Sign up using [this link](#), at the Sunday sign-up table, or by emailing [Leslie Koc](#).

For information about the future of UUFCO's monthly dinner at Bethlehem Inn, go to page 13.



Deck the Halls... with Poinsettias and honor a loved one

Bring a live poinsettia plant to the church at any time and place it on the floor near the edge of the sanctuary stage. Leave the name of the person to whom you would like to dedicate your plant on a dedication slip found in the kiosk; it will be included in the Christmas Eve program.

You may take your poinsettia home after the Christmas Eve service or the following Sunday. (You may identify your plant using one of the popsicle sticks also found at the kiosk: write your name on it and stick it into the plant.)

And don't forget:

all are invited to a **festive tree trimming** on **Sunday, December 13** after Sunday worship!



Poetry Reading: Save the Date!

Wednesday, January 6

UUFCO Book Club 1 hosts poetry reading and reflection with Caryl Casbon

From her new book ***The Everywhere Oracle***

Wednesday, January 6 from 2:00 -4:00 pm in Linus Pauling Hall

The Everywhere Oracle, by Caryl Ann Casbon, is a unique offering that combines poetry with exploratory questions intended as a guide to personal understandings of the pieces within. Also included are suggestions for how to conduct a group session or circle that employs Casbon's poetry as a means of supporting others on their spiritual paths. Caryl will be our guest on this special event to read the poems which are "easily relatable, with little that is too complex or difficult to comprehend. And that's the intent: for poems about change, about aging, about the nature of being, about soul and spirit to lead others to their own deeply held feelings about these same things." (Foreward Reviews).

Book Club 1 will host this event. If you are planning on attending please send an [RSVP](#) by January 4th so we can plan for the some light snacks. Make this a gift to yourself for the New Year.

Looking ahead: January 2016



In January we will be starting the Our Whole Lives (OWL) curriculum for 7th to 9th graders on Sunday mornings. OWL is a comprehensive lifespan sexuality education curriculum that was developed by the Unitarian Universalist Association and the United Church of Christ.

This program is secular but promotes and supports strong values such as self worth, sexual health, responsibility, justice, and inclusivity. OWL has been used in both religious and non-religious settings: public, charter, and private schools; youth groups; homeschool groups; colleges and other group settings.

As a middle school youth I participated in my UU congregation's OWL class and in addition to learning critical life skills, I also bonded deeply

with the other youth that took the class with me, creating meaningful friendships. The program allows you to talk safely about sexuality, but also explore what healthy relationships look like in a platonic way as well. During my class all topics were discussed without judgment: that is how I facilitate this class now. Human sexuality is a healthy part of our lives and this class begins discussions and conversations that will continue throughout our whole lives.

If you have a youth in that age group and are interested in your child taking part in this class please contact me by email or phone by December 15th so I can have a count of how many youth will be attending this class. If you want to learn more about the Our Whole Lives curriculum visit the [UUA website](#).



Committee Reports

Adult Religious Exploration

CHINESE ESSENCE QIGONG

Tuesday mornings: **December 1, 8 and 15**
from 9:30 – 11:00 am

Join **Steven Foster-Wexler** in this series of gentle exercises that increase one's vital energy while simultaneously harmonizing this energy within the body and between the organs. *New participants are welcome to begin a new instruction cycle starting January 12, 2016.* To register. (541-385-3908).

SUNDAY MORNING MEDITATION

Chandra Smith invites you to a weekly Sunday morning meditation before worship in the Founders Fireside at 9:00am. Bring in an extra chair, if required, and sit with us. A brief reading begins the time together, followed by a



The Care Committee is looking for volunteers for the **Care Team**: these are the helpers who respond to specific needs on a short-term basis only. Examples: providing transportation, bringing a meal to a shut-in, etc.

short discussion after our 30 minute silent meditation. For questions, call Chandra (909-538-6905).

Looking Ahead to January 2016

- *Mindfulness of Body, Mind and Spirit*
Every Tuesday in January, 6:30-8:00 pm
Jan Lindeman, PhD, psychologist and mindfulness educator, will be teaching the first 30 minutes and then facilitating a sharing circle. Check the kiosk for more information. Come to one or more of the sessions. All are welcome.
- *Dances of Universal Peace*: Second Sunday of the month (beginning January 10) from 4:30 – 6:00 pm in Linus Pauling Hall. **Chela Sloper**, leading. All are welcome!

The Care Committee

If you'd like to sign up to be available to help out, please contact the Care Committee at carecommittee@uufco.org. The more people who are on the Care Team, the more needs we can fill within the congregation.



Jim Henson, a member of the Care Committee, shares the following reflection.

Human Creativity and Risk Analysis

- Jim Henson

On the cover of Time Magazine is a photo of Steve Jobs with the caption, "the man who changed the world." For your health I would like to point out that with creativity comes risk and that not all invention comes with wisdom.

Do you remember Lawn Darts? A great game it was unless you happened to get stuck with the pointy end. The manufacturer had to put them off the market. Last week in Big Bend National Park, I was introduced to a Frisbee that lights up in the night when you toss it. What a fantastic idea.

Some college guys let me join in on the fun. The problem is that though the Frisbee is lighted, nothing else is...so when the disc went flying off the campground path, I errantly followed it right into the cactus patch! Suffice it to say that most of my wounds have healed nicely, but I feel pretty stupid. The risk, in the dark of night in a cactus patch is immense.

One of the last times I had the privilege to take my mom out to Sunday dinner we choose the Phoenix. Sitting across from us was a beautiful young family fresh out of a church service somewhere. They were not from the UUFCO. They were all dressed in spectacular outfits. But what my mom and I both noticed was that each one of the four children and two parents was operating one of Steve Jobs' personal communication devices. And not one of them spoke a word to another during the course of their entire meal. The risk of virtual communication is that we can lose personal contact with each other and I predict that Steve Jobs has guaranteed a livelihood for marriage and family therapist to years to come.

Human creativity is a wonderful thing, but do your best to measure the risks and try to stay out of the cactus patch.



Warmest Wishes for Happy December Birthdays to:

*Paul Bennett
Mayme Trumble
Bridget McGinn
Larry Baker
Jan Lindeman
Nancy Stevens
Pam Wilson*

*Tom O'Brien
Debbie Leonard
Judy Hurlburt
James Lawton
Natalie Lawton
Kris Jennings
Dennis Lynn*

*Stephen Day
Ed Funk
Skylar Mercer
Zoe Stallcop
Cole Greenfield
Karen Maier*



Many happy returns!



Joys and Sorrows

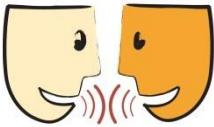
These bits of news from our members and friends – reflecting light and heavy hearts – were first shared at a Sunday morning service, with permission to be shared more broadly here.

- ❖ **Carol Storm:** Early in November Carol lifted up thoughts for recovery and strength to those in Texas who are now experiencing massive floods and hurricanes. Eleven hurricanes hit Houston [October 31]. Recovery will be difficult.
- ❖ **Lyn Mattei:** “I am extremely grateful that our small family house in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico (built in 1962) didn’t blow away in the recent hurricane.”
- ❖ **Joan Landsberg** (shared October 25): “Huge thanks to Becky & Jim Dobrowski for putting me up (and putting up with me) while I was house-hunting and now waiting for my house to be finished. Becky & Jim have been very generous in providing me a place to stay.”

❖ **Jennifer Seitz:** “My best friend of over 30 years is having surgery to remove a suspicious growth which may or may not be cancer. If you all could send some good and positive energy her way, I think she would appreciate that.”

❖ **Tom Machala** reported that Maggi arrived in Zambia yesterday (November 14) safely, after a two-month delay by the health care system.

❖ **Kathy Day** (an Enthusiastic “Team Captain” for Sunday Volunteers): “Please say ‘thank you’ to today’s volunteers who gave up their extra hour of sleep to get here early to make the church ready for us!” (November 1) And again, on November 15: “It is a joy to see all the happy volunteers greeting and working in the kitchen. Please give them your thanks when you see them.”



Communications

Thanks to the hard work of our webmaster, Jerrie Jones, check out what's **New on the UUFCO Website:**

- Rev. Antonia's November 15 "Prayer for a Broken World" is posted from a [link on the Home page](#)
- Text versions of sermons presented by Rev. Sarah Schurr (October 25) and Rev. Rick Davis (November 1) are [posted and available](#).

- Lovely building photos from Hacker Architecture (formerly *THA Architecture*) are in [two photo slideshows](#).
- There's a Good Times slideshow of [fun activities](#).
- **For Members:** The new members who were celebrated at the October 25 New Member Ceremony have photos and bios posted in the Members area New Member photo gallery area.



Membership Committee

~ Nancy Stevens and Marty Rudolph

Happy Holidays to all! This is a busy season for everyone. Here are a few reminders for our old and new members to the Fellowship:

- Please remember to introduce yourself to someone you haven't met before during Coffee & Conversation.
- If you are new and have questions, please feel free to approach anyone wearing an “Ask me!” tag, and start a conversation.
- Car-pooling is a great way to get to know others in the Fellowship. Our webmaster Jerrie Jones has done a marvelous job of grouping members by neighborhood. Check out the Members area of the website to find out who lives near you.

Are you interested in becoming a member of UUFCO? Our next series of orientation classes will be held in March:

New 2 UU: March 6

UUFCO 101: March 13

In the meantime, look in future newsletters for bios and photos of recent new members who have signed the Membership Book.

Questions about joining?

Contact:

admin@uufco.org

(541-385-3908)

Membership Orientation Classes



From the Desk of the Music Director

Virlene Arnold, Music Director

My enormous thanks to **Mark Hickman** who took over the Choir Director's duties for most of October while I was traveling in Europe. And also to **Amy Falkenrath** for helping with the Sunday morning song-leading. And to **Susie Hickman** who was busy recruiting new choir members! I should go away more often.

A BIG welcome to **Doug Mercer, Michael Novak, Joe Maier, and Carolyn Stoops**. We are so glad you are joining us!

As we begin this busiest time of the year, I am mindful of the many demands made on our time, and I am so appreciative of the commitment and priority that the members of the choir bring to UUFCO. We all love it when you in the congregation let us know you

appreciate our efforts. If you have thoughts and suggestions about music programming, please bring those to my attention or to any member of the newly-formed **Music Advisory Committee**. Those members are: **Mark & Susie Hickman, Aaron Coe, Amy Falkenrath, Nancy Stevens, and Debbie Leonard**.

On November 19 UUFCO hosted the annual INCO Thanksgiving service and pie fest. A community choir was formed to provide the choral music for the service which I directed. It was a fine celebration of music and community.

If you are interested in joining the UUFCO choir, please talk to me or anyone else in the group. There's still room for more!



Religious Exploration for Children & Youth

As this calendar year comes to an end, I have found myself very excited about what is in store for 2016 for the Religious Exploration program at UUFCO. I want to lift up two exciting things happening in the winter of 2016.

- ♦ In January we are starting the Our Whole Lives (OWL) curriculum for 7th - 9th graders on Sunday mornings. OWL is a comprehensive lifespan sexuality education curriculum that was developed by the Unitarian Universalist Association and United Church of Christ. If you have a youth in that age group and are interested in your child taking part in this class **please contact me by email or phone by December 15** so I can have a count of how many youth will be attending this class.
- ♦ I have also been pondering how we as a faith community can support and nourish families in

our congregation. I am inviting families to join me in reading the book *Chaos, Wonder, and the Spiritual Adventure of Parenting: An Anthology* by Sarah Conover and Tracy Springberry. You will find the book at the [UUA bookstore](#) or [Amazon](#). Join me in a book discussion on **Sunday, January 10 at 12:00 pm in the Sophia Fahs Commons**.

On November 15 I led a discussion with the middle school class about Paris, Beirut, Iraq, Syria, Mizzou, and other places dealing with unrest in the world. We lifted up how scary it can be and how small we can all feel during times of unrest. After being able to express how we were feeling we talked about what we can do during times of unrest. All of the youth that participated in this discussion mentioned that spreading kindness and love to the world

can help, and you can use social media to spread this message. We then decided to turn the RE commons cabinets into a wall of wishes we have for the world. Two wishes that really stood out to me: "It's not just world peace, it's peace within people." And "Show bravery, show justice, show love, and the world will open up to you."

As the holiday season is upon us and we all become filled with holiday cheer and the chaos and stressors that come with the holiday season, may we all find the time to enjoy the

little things that make this time of the year so magical. May the love that surrounds you and yours warm the coldest of nights this winter, and I look forward to celebrating the holiday season with you this year!

In faith and love,
Ayla Halberstadt,
Director of Religious Exploration
541-385-3908



Shared Ministries Committee

~Marean Jordan

Shared Ministries Committee

The Shared Ministries Committee is continuing to work closely with the Board to support and facilitate UUFCO's mission renewal process. At the Council of Committees meeting on November 19, notes from the visioning process at the October 18 "Building Our Future Together" workshop were shared with committees. These ideas, which are the work of 10 different topic groups, are not meant to be directions or implementation suggestions to any committee but are participants' creative brainstorming about future possibilities. Committees and staff will use these data both to inform the mission renewal process and assist in the congregation's development.

The Shared Ministries Committee is planning a **third all-congregation gathering** in the

"Building Our Future Together" mission renewal series. It is scheduled **for Sunday, January 31, noon to 4:00 pm. Please save the date!** This session, building on the outcomes of Workshops 1 and 2, will deepen the conversation about our future direction as a congregation. Rev. Antonia will facilitate an inclusive and creative process using the *Open Space Technology* model to explore what we want to do in spirit and action as a congregation. Our guiding question is: "What would inspire your commitment and involvement as a part of UUFCO?" We need your voice, your ideas, and your passion in this important conversation. Please plan to be there. A light lunch and childcare will be provided. The ideas from this session, combined with the mission statement drafts from Workshop 2, will provide the raw material and direction for the refinement of our new UUFCO mission statement.



Social Justice Working Group

Greater Community Collections (GCC)

November's Offering for UUSC (UU Service Committee): \$614.00! Thank you for your support of the UUSC's work for justice around the world.

December's GCC will be received for the **Bethlehem Inn** at both Christmas Eve services:

The Bethlehem Inn's mission is to transform lives with shelter, help and hope. The Inn is a community-based facility, providing comprehensive services and resources needed to create a dignified and positive respite for those experiencing homelessness.

The Bethlehem Inn provides shelter and services to over 1,000 adults and children in crisis and serves over 66,000 meals every year. The Inn offers job skills training, case management services and access to transportation for residents. A Work Experience Program offers residents job training in various parts of the organization.

At a basic level a person experiencing homelessness is a mother, father, sister, brother, son daughter, uncle or aunt. There are as many ways to become homeless as there are people experiencing homelessness. The homeless include singles and families with children of all ages. Substance abuse, mental health issues and physical disabilities may be contributors but an economic system that encourages a boom and a bust cycle plays a role as well. There is also a great need to increase the affordable housing stock in all the communities of Central Oregon.

Read more about the [Bethlehem Inn here](#).

The Future of UUFCO's Monthly Dinner at the Bethlehem Inn (from Leslie Koc):

"Many hands make light work."

John Heywood

Thank you to the participants in the Bethlehem Inn Brainstorm Session on November 1. There were many ideas that came out of the time we explored ways of continuing the UUFCO monthly Bethlehem Inn dinners and at the same time transitioning to sharing more of the organizing and administrative side of this community outreach project.

We've split out three major responsibilities: 1) online sign-up, 2) volunteer recruitment and 3) onsite Food Coordinator role the evening of the dinner. For the coming year Leslie Koc will continue the online sign-up, Tom O'Brien and Leslie Koc will continue the volunteer recruitment and the Food Coordinator role will be shared by two volunteers each month throughout the year. The server and meal component volunteers will remain as they are today.

Does the Food Coordinator role interest you?

The main responsibilities are checking in the food delivered by the volunteers, setting up the serving stations with the servers and replenishing the servers' food stations. You'll join other volunteers who have already volunteered or who are shadowing a Food Coordinator to feel comfortable in this easy and important role. With enough trained Food Coordinators to have two Food Coordinators signed up each month we'll ensure the continuation of our monthly meals. Email admin@uufco.org to answer any questions you have and to sign up to shadow at a future dinner. That's all it takes.

More Tutors To Help Eager Students!

There are more children eager to learn at Juniper Elementary! Thanks to the organization of Christine Walsh and Sue Clarke, UUFCO began a tutoring program at Juniper Elementary this fall, and now more tutors (or subs for back-up) are needed. You'd begin in January and meet with the child **every Tuesday for only one hour** for the remainder of this school year. The children are 3rd and 4th graders. If interested, please contact [Christine Walsh](#).



Sunday Volunteers

Kathy Day, Team Captain

It's official. The "team" concept for organizing our Sunday volunteer help is the way to go.

We have done this for the last six months as a pilot project, and would like to make this a part of our regular practices starting in January. This is our way of sharing the responsibility – and even fun! – with things like coffee-making, greeting, ushering, setup and cleanup. This helps spread the wealth of service to more and more people each month.

Here's how it works: the congregation (members, spouses, friends, and **newcomers who want to be included**) has been divided into six teams each with about 50 congregants—each team covers the Sundays in a month, and this happens twice a year. Current team leaders are Bob Barber, Kathy Day, Jenn Egan, Mark Hickman, and Judy Hurlburt.

December will be special month this year, where each team takes one of the 6 services.

Project GRACE Book Discussion: December 6

Become part of the "class conversations" about Escalating Inequality. We will be discussing [CLASS MATTERS](#) (NY Times, 2005). Come share your thoughts, solutions, and concerns with others at UUFCO. Based on a NY Times series, the book explores the many ways social class in America affects the lives we live. Bag lunch provided; noon in the Linus Pauling Room. Hosted by Pam Horwich and Ayla Halberstadt.

In January, the team headed by Judy Hurlburt will be back on deck, followed by Kathy Day's team and then Mark Hickman's team. We will make sure that you all know which team you are on, and which months your team is "on point" for, in the near future. If you want to know right away, just ask Kathy Day or Mark Hickman, and we will be glad to share.

Please look at [Volunteer Spot](#) for the month your team will cover and sign up. Planning ahead keeps the system running smoothly. And if your plans change, you can contact someone else on your list to help you out.

Of course, we welcome anyone to go to [Volunteer Spot](#) to check which volunteer positions are open for any upcoming Sunday and just jump right in!

Thanks for your help! We appreciate your dedication and commitment to UUFCO! *Special thanks to Rev. Antonia for leading us in this direction and encouraging and guiding us along the way.*



Good Times Activities for December

*The information for these activities can be found on the UUFCO website calendar. If you have an event you'd like to plan, or have information about something already in the works, please contact **Karen Maier** at admin@uufco.org or 971-241-5532.*

Redmond Area Potluck: Saturday, December 5

All are invited — but especially those who are new to UUFCO who live in the Redmond, Madras, Terrebonne, Prineville, Sisters area. 5:00 pm at the home of Mayme and Bill Trumble .Please RSVP to [Mayme](#)

Bi-Weekly Writing group meets every other **Wednesday** from **12-2:00 pm (December 2, 16 and 30)** upstairs at Dudley's Book Store and Café. Join us! Contact **Shera Hunn Felde** if you have any questions: 541-385-3908.

Drawing & Painting: Meet alternate Mondays with others to draw and/or paint together. Next scheduled dates are **December 14 & 28**. Contact **Steve Day** 541-385-3908. Beginners welcome!

UU Knitter's group meets on alternate **Tuesdays** from 1-3:00 pm in the Buckminster Fuller Room **beginning December 1**. Anyone who knows how to knit and enjoys stimulating conversation is welcome to join in on the fun. We are making hand-knit items (hats, mittens, etc.) to hang on the Christmas tree at the Deschutes County Library, which will be distributed to needy families. Questions? Call or email Judy Paulsmeyer:

Card Night meets on **Saturday December 12** at the home of [Becky Dobrowski](#). Gather at **6:30 pm** for an evening of card games and fun. No experience necessary. Please RSVP for directions.

Movie Night: Friday, December 18 at 6:00 pm (Linus Pauling Hall). Movie begins at 6:30. Please bring some small snacks to share (not dinner items) and a beverage of your choice. December's movie: [The Cats of Mirikitani](#) (2006). "A gentle and inspirational documentary"; "surprising and unshakeable". It will carry you into the holiday season. Please join us. Questions: Email [John or Pam Horwich](#).

Circle Supper will be **Friday, December 18** at **6:00 pm**. A friendly, delicious way to enjoy healthy food and shared conversation. Please sign up at the Kiosk on Sundays and you will be contacted by the host. If you are able to host please let us know. Contact **Pam Wilson** for more information: 541-385-3908

Encore! Join **Chela Sloper** and sister **Karen Holdstock** for a rousing game of Encore! – a song association game – on **Friday, January 1** at their home in NE Bend. Evening to begin with a potluck at 5:30pm. Please RSVP to [Chela](#).

Ink Cartridge Recycling



Please leave your printer ink and toner cartridges in the donation box located in the coat closet. (Each recycled item brings in a \$2 reward which can later be spent on office supplies.) This past month Chela was able to purchase name tags and packing tape "Cartridge Cash". Please contact **Diana Pond** at 541-385-3908 if you have questions about the cartridge recycling project.



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