

UUCECConnections

Volume 20
Issue 4
April 2016



Community Brunch Launches Financial Campaign [\(page 22\)](#)

An illustration featuring a brown and white bird in flight, positioned above two hands reaching towards each other. The hands are rendered in a light green color against a white background. The entire graphic is set against a dark green background at the bottom.

*Free our Future,
Embrace our Dreams*

On April 10,
we'll gather in celebration of all that is our
congregational life and home. Following a
shortened 10:00 worship service, we'll share
bunch, fellowship and fun together.

April Worship

As a people of faith, grounded in our principles: we cultivate lives of meaning, reverence and depth; we create sanctuary where all hands are held; together we act toward justice, healing and sustainability.

These aspirations have framed the themes of our worship year: in April our focus is “where all hands are held.”

April 3 We will explore the meaning of belonging through the lens of our UU youth. We will look at the way Unitarian Universalist endeavor to be a place where all hands are held across the generations.

April 10 Holding Hands and Letting Go will celebrate generativity and generosity in our midst. The service will be held at table, as it was last year, and will be followed immediately by

CELEBRATION SUNDAY brunch. (Don't forget to RSVP at brunch@uueugene.org)

April 17 Music Sunday

April 24 Hands Across the World will celebrate strengthening the web of connections among Unitarians and Universalists.

Ministries Meeting

April 24 at 4pm we will again meet to investigate the work of the church by delving into the UUCE Covenant as a whole group, and gathering at table as Ministries of Worship, Connecting, Stewardship, Administration and Outreach. We will begin with an update from the Board and end with a ritual of affirmation in the Chapel.



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Minister
REV. SYDNEY A. MORRIS
minister@uueugene.org
Church Office Tues. – Fri., 9 am – 1:30 pm

Board President
SARAH FRANCE
president@uueugene.org
office@uueugene.org 541-686-2775

Dir. of Religious Education
KATY SIEPERT
uucedre@uueugene.org

Music Director
TOM SEARS
music@uueugene.org
Mon-Wed, 9am-3pm
Th, 9am-Noon

UUCE Message from the Minister

For Easter, I quoted from the UU website, *bethelove*:

The term “Beloved Community” was originally coined by [philosopher] Josiah Royce to describe a way of being in the world grounded not in disappointment but in possibility. For Royce, Beloved Community is a spiritual practice of loyalty – the radical idea that love is a more powerful force for change than fear....This is not a sentimentalized notion [but]...relatedness requiring courage, empathetic presence, and perseverance.

When we rise together as one community to support the precious memories of the past, the vibrant present and our vision for the future, we make the Beloved Community more real. The UUs writing *bethelove* recall to us that Dr. Martin Luther

King, Jr. invoked the concept by speaking of “a willingness to go to any length to restore community”. He urged “a type of love that can transform opponents into friends.”

We may feel that we are sorely tested to find contact with those creating ferment around us. However, we are called to transform ourselves by the power of love – “working intentionally and willfully for someone else’s well-being.”

Each of us is needed. Come on Sundays, come to potlucks, come to the Journey to Belonging to begin or deepen your exploration. I will look for you.

Rev. Sydney



*Eileen Adee seriously celebrates
Easter in her blooming bonnet!*

UUCE Message from the Board President



Now that spring has sprung, we only have a short time before budget season begins! As a church community, we endeavor to support the valuable work we do in support of our mission. We as your Board feel the need to get to know our church groups again. We aspire to elevate their work by creating more refinement and definition around how each group operates, and how each speaks to the value they bring to our church and to the community as a whole.

It seemed natural to start at the Board level with this initiative. As a Board, we put forward considerable effort through the winter to identify the types of tasks we have at hand, and to determine what it would take to complete.

The concept of *sunsetting* has helped us take strides. In short, sunsetting is a process whereby a group is originally set up to no longer be in effect after a certain date or a particular objective has transpired. Once their specific tasks are achieved, our task forces dissolve back into the Board, and our trustees will be free to participate in new, increasingly relevant and engaging work. Sunsetting helps us to recognize opportunities to celebrate our achievements. It is a moment to enjoy that our covenant with our congregation is actively being fulfilled.

We have identified three task forces with clear objectives and sunset events, all of which will be completed before our annual Congregational Meeting. First, we plan to take a careful look at our budget by line item and through history: where have we fully lived into our budget, and where have we left some moneys unspent? We are carefully re-examining our Bylaws and Endowment. We want to be sure that our Bylaws reflect the best possible structure for our congregation moving forward, and I look forward to delivering to you, as the congregation, two or three ideas for streamlining our Bylaws at our Annual Meeting.

Finally, we have set ourselves to the task of creating more linkage. We endeavor to host, as a church, quarterly Ministries Gatherings, and we encourage friends, congregants and UUCE groups to participate. During the upcoming Ministry Gathering, we invite leaders and participants in UUCE groups to establish group charters, thereby participating with the Board in this process of refinement, definition and covenant.

We are invigorated by work toward leadership and communication together with you. I feel confident in our growing leadership toolbox, and I hope you are as excited as I am about the potential these tools have to transform us into the organization we dream to become.

In Faith,
Sarah France
UUCE Board President

Music Sunday
Sunday, April 17
p. 6

Ministeries Meeting
April 24 at 4pm

Meditation in Chapel
Mondays, 5-5:45pm

Passover Seder
Friday, April 22, 5:30-7:00pm
Passover multigenerational
feast for people of all ages
p.10

Health Care For
All Oregon Meeting
Tuesday, April 5 7-8:30pm
First United
Methodist Church
p.18

*Lay Pastoral
Care Orientation*
Sunday, April 17
after service
p. 8

Food Rescue Night
Thursday April 28th
6:30-8:30
770 Bailey Hill Rd.
p. 18

Journey to Belonging
Saturday April 23rd, 9:00-12:00
and Sunday the 24th 11:30-2:00 in
the Chapel.
For newcomers and those
returning to UU
p. 23

**Food for Lane County
Youth Farm**
Saturday, April 30, 10-1.
Invitation to work together
p.18

Music Matters



On Sunday, April 17th the UUCE Sanctuary Choir will present Music Sunday featuring the *Missa Brevis Pro Serveto – A Mass for Unitarian Universalists*. This 30-minute work was written by UU Minister Rev. Frances Dearman with music by Canadian composer Tobin Stokes. The title of the work was chosen by Rev. Dearman to honor Michael Servetus, one of the founders of our Unitarian tradition. Servetus was a Spanish theologian, scientist, and critic of the doctrine of the trinity; he was executed for heresy in Geneva in 1553.

While the text is still in Latin, the words are written explicitly to celebrate the values and theology of Unitarian Universalism. Four of the five traditional Mass movements are included - Kyrie, Gloria, Credo, and Sanctus (divided into Sanctus and Benedictus), with the Agnus Dei omitted. Two additional movements are added: the Kerygma (Proclamation), and Sermo (Sermon). It is scored for choir, piano, violin, cello, flute, clarinet, horn, and percussion, and was premiered in May of 2010 at the Annual Conference and Meeting of the Canadian Unitarian Council in Victoria, BC.

The text honors Unitarian Universalism's Christian roots and heritage, while the new text expresses a contemporary theology for the Unitarian Universalists of today. The Kerygma invokes the "still, small voice" of God from the story of Elijah. In the silence, we hear a voice proclaiming "reverence for life, freedom,

reason, and tolerance... that the world is one, that God is one, that all shall be saved, and that all are worthy." In the Sermo, we hear that "God has no hands but ours," and that "Peace walks on no feet but our own," and the Credo, or Belief Statement, begins not with an affirmation, but with a question: "What do I know of the world?" and ends with the surety that "I believe in lovingkindness... I belief in life."

These are words not just for Unitarian Universalists, but for the wider world.

Please join us in this celebration of the spirit.

Tom Sears



Notes from Your Intern Minister

April showers bring May flowers they say and there are so many flowers in Eugene. Every time I go for a walk I find new varieties blooming and I send pictures back east to show my friends the wonderful diversity of color, size and density in the blossoms.

The price of the flowers is the abundance of rain. My inability to determine when it will actually rain is a nuisance. Life is like this too. We can focus on the rain and the things that annoy us or we can see things for what they truly are- a mixture of the good and the bad and the heartbreaking. We can focus on how the rain is annoying when we want to walk or deadly when it causes flooding or soothing when we stay indoors and curl up with a good book.

Heartbreaking can be from joy and from pain but only things that we care about have the ability to get close enough to cause challenges. Seeing a rare flower for me is as touching as sitting by the bedside of a dying person.

In my Buddhist practice this is called open-heartedness. It is the willingness to stay open and be with the person experiencing pain. When we are experiencing difficulty we can breathe into it and know that we are not alone, there are millions of others feeling the same way we are at that moment and if we can stay open to ourselves we can allow others to be open too.

For me, staying open to what is before me is how I can benefit others. Instead of shutting down, running away, or holding on too tight, I lean in. Flowers once opened can never unbloom...



Contemplative Practices

Mondays, 5:00 - 5:45 in the Chapel

As spring starts to settle in and we finish cleaning our winter cobwebs we take pause and do a spring cleanup with our Contemplative Practices program. During the month of April we are simplifying the program and will open our chapel doors each Monday at 5:00pm to hold space and sit together with open hearts and minds. Our spring program will consist of sharing readings and/or songs and sitting to reflect. As we revitalize ourselves and the Contemplative Practices program we invite each of you to bring a reading or song or art work to share and reflect on why your piece holds meaning and significance. If you would like to share music please simply send the link to me at MarcieDee@comcast.net and I will have it ready on the computer to play for the group.

Contemplative Studies

First Thursdays 5:15pm - 6:45pm in Chapel

April 7 Zen Mind Beginner's Mind

Introductions, Presentation, Discussion and brief Practice (one hour.)

Tea (half hour social.)

Workshop focus:

Joko Beck CD set excerpts from Living Everyday Zen

Suzuki Roshi's book excerpt from Zen Mind Beginner's Mind

May 5 Global Awakening (Eckhart Tolle)

June 2 Non-Dualism (Mooji and Jean Klein)

July 7 Taoism and Medical Qigong (Lao Tsu and Dr. Yang, Jwing-Ming)

August 4th Mindfulness (Thich Nhat Hanh)

UUCEWorship

Tibetan Monks Come to UUCE

The monks from Gelug Monastery will be stopping here on their tour **April 28, 29th and 30th**. On **April 28, 7pm** they will present a talk on Care of the Sick, Dying and Stages of Death. The Stages of Death will describe the Outer and Inner Gross signs from the Dying Individuals View and the Outer Observers View. If time permits, the Subtle Stages and the final Clear Light of Death.

On **April 29 at 7pm** they will offer a Long Life White Tara Empowerment. The Lama will take the Luminous Form of White Tara, as White Tara, the Lama will recollect the dissipated life force of the body, speech and mind and to restore their potentials in the participants.

On **April 30 at 11am** Butter Sculpture, children and will make ritual cakes and adorn them with wheels and petals made of butter. Materials provided.

And at **7pm the same day** there will be a Lecture on World Peace and the Unity of All Religions. All Religions teach nonviolence and harmony, all have Compassion and Love, these are the unifying factors for World Peace.

All events and Lectures are 1 1/2 hrs with 1/2 for questions and answers. Suggested donation \$10-to \$15.

You can find out more about the monks at their web-site <http://www.sravastiabbey.org> or write the Khacholing Center 2622 Taylor St. N. E. Minn. Mi. 55418



Lay Pastoral Care Program: We are looking for Kindness Team Members

Looking for an opportunity to help your fellow congregants in a special way? Come to our **Orientation April 17 after the service** and meet the leaders of the Kindness Team.

We will be needing Kindness Team volunteers who would be willing to assist members who are experiencing time-limited illnesses, surgery or sudden, incapacitating events. Some of the activities would include: maintaining and delivering medical loan equipment, giving rides to medical appointments, performing simple housekeeping chores (short term), grocery shopping, babysitting, meal preparation or setting up meal delivery program, daily welfare phone check.

This program augments and, in some instances, is in place of the assistance that family members and friends might give. It is not intended to replace the services or activities of in-home nursing care.

It is desirable but not required that persons applying for the care team have some past nursing or caretaking experience. All members must have recent security clearance. Anyone providing rides must be licensed and insured.

If you need more information please contact Charlotte Writer cd_writer@msn.com or Kimberly Wootan at kwministries5@gmail.com

Religious Education

Dear Families,

Spring brings lots of change, growth, and a burst of energy. With the sunlight stretching later and later each day, we are gearing up for a wonderful Spring Term. Read on to find out more about what's happening here this term at UUCE.

Children

This term, children are learning about the Five Jagged Rocks of Unitarian Universalism. Haven't heard of those? Well, let me tell you about them! Here they are, in the words of my colleague and our Regional Youth Ministry Specialist, Mr. Eric Bliss:

- All SOULS are sacred and worthy. (Comes from our first principle and our Universalist heritage) = inherent worth of all people.
- There is a UNITY that makes us one. (Arises from our Unitarian roots) = everything is connected. Some might call this connection "God."
- Revelation continues to unfold...TRUTH is not sealed. = Science (one of our 6 sources) teaches us that we always have more to learn about life, the universe, and ourselves.
- Courageous LOVE transforms the world. When the question of justice arises, we will stand on the side of love.
- SALVATION in this life (also from our Universalist background) No one knows what happens after we die. What we do know is that we can make it as inclusive, safe, and just for all right now in our present world.

1) These Jagged Rocks have been refined by PWR ministers (specifically Rev. Mike Morran and Rev. Nancy Bowen) from an essay by one of our forebears, James Luther Adams, who wrote about the 5 smooth stones of liberal religion (5 stones were chosen by David to defeat Goliath--it's a metaphor asserting that liberal religion (David) will one day overcome conservative, dogmatic tenets (Goliath)). It was written in Chicago in the mid 20th century.

2) The 7 principles are great, but come across as a little "Old Testament" (when the merger occurred we were VERY humanist in our structure) in that they don't efficiently sum up what we believe as a faith movement, nor are they easy to remember. Indeed they come across more as ethical statements rather than statements of belief.

3) The rocks are "jagged" because they are still being refined (Truth isn't sealed!).

4) As UU's, this is what we believe. Yes, we do in fact have beliefs in common that come from our identity and religious heritage, but are NOT prescribed by a specific holy text or particular theological figure.

And so, this term, our youngest congregants will explore

Unitarian Universalism through the lens of the five jagged rocks, using curriculum developed by the RE Committee and me. I am so looking forward to exploring these ideas with the children of our church!



Youth

Some of our youth continue to attend Coming of Age sessions. Some will be experiencing their Bridging Con and are well on their way to becoming Young Adults. Our Bridging Ceremony will be held here at the church on Sunday, June 5th. Your youth are now working on that service, determining what of themselves they would like to share with you. The Coming of Age youth will be hosting a Credo Dinner on June 4th, and you are all cordially invited to attend that event. Come hear the youth describe what it is they put their hearts to. Bring hankies – it's bound to make you tear up!

Young Adults

Folks from 18 to 30-ish get together as UUs in a bunch of different ways. Let's make some happen! Join Rev. Sydney Morris at one of these events:

- Café Conversations – discuss Big Ideas Fueled by Caffeine – at Café Vero **Saturday April 9 at 10:30am 205 East 14th St. Eugene**
- Pub Theology – talk about The Big Questions Including Beer – on **Friday April 15 from 4:30pm on at the Bier Stein 1591 Willamette in Eugene.**

Other Young Adult UUs are planning evening Soulfull Sundown services (LOTS of music, inspirational readings), and there are great resources available.



Adult

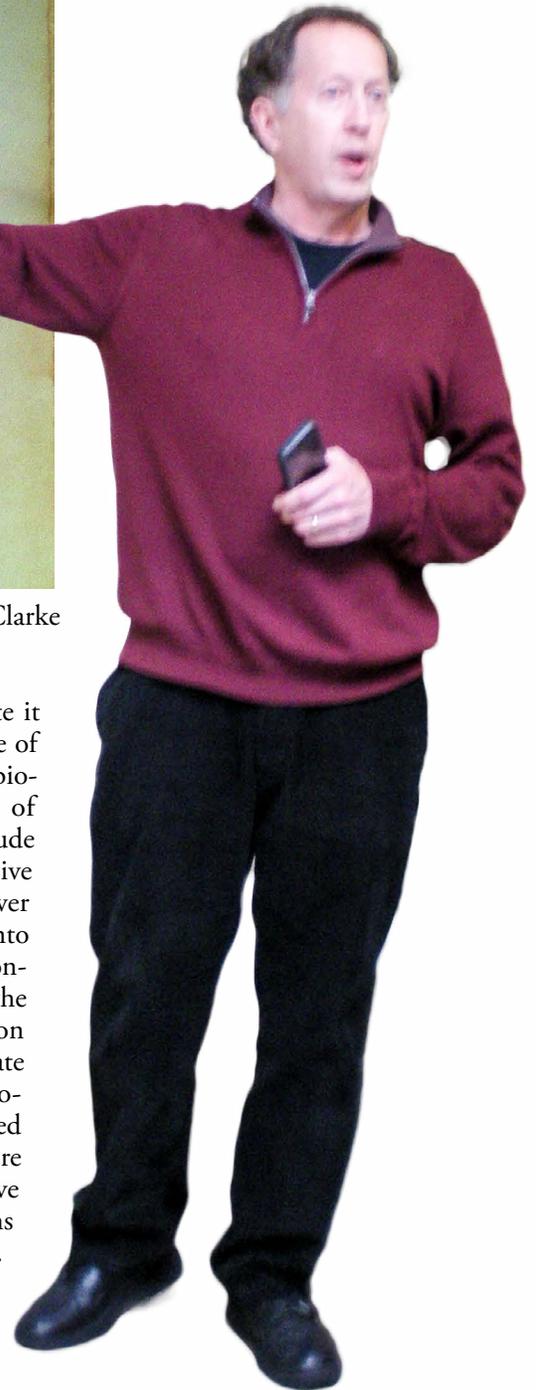
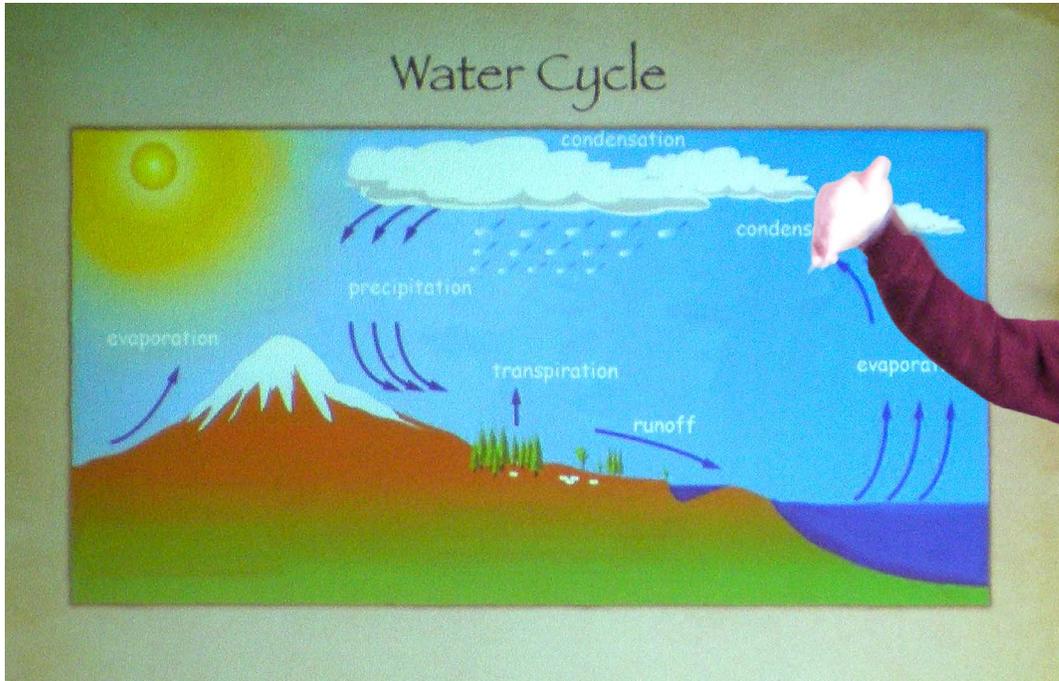
Look for the Adult RE Pamphlet, coming to your pamphlet rack in early April. Upcoming and ongoing classes include:

- Meditative Creative Practices, led by Melody Carr
- Building the World We Dream About, led by DRE Katy Siepert and Christine Santoro
- Leadership Development Series, led by Rev. Dr. Sydney Morris (first class Thursday is April 14th, 6-8:30 – co-led by Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis senior minister, Rev. Jill McAllister)
- UU History, led by Rev. Dr. Sydney Morris, Intern Minister Kimberly Wootan, and DRE Katy Siepert
- Ongoing: Discussion Group - The 10 Commandments in Modern Terms, led by Dan Robinson
- Ongoing: Death and Dying Small Group Ministry, led by Intern Minister Kimberly Wootan and Dick Loescher

Multigenerational

Friday, April 22, 5:30-7:00pm

Join us for our second annual Passover Seder! Together, we will celebrate a Passover multigenerational feast. People of all ages are encouraged to attend. We will recite from the Haggadah, eat the traditional foods from the Seder plate, and celebrate together with the beauty and ritual of this ancient Jewish tradition. Kosher potluck dishes are encouraged! Deep thanks to Tanja and Steve Petal for organizing and hosting this event – questions and anyone looking to volunteer as a helper (volunteers needed for set up and clean up duties) can be directed to tandz@efn.org.



How inappropriate to call this planet 'Earth' when it is quite clearly 'Ocean.' Arthur C. Clarke

Our Water Odyssey

In the beginning, there was water – about 73% of our planet's composition. This and other significant stories about water were presented by Wayne Parker, UUCE's part-time business manager, in "Our Water Odyssey."

A testament to human fascination with water and reliance upon it, the presentation began by noting Eugene's own "Flint" moment: in 1907, a typhoid epidemic swept the region when the private entity managing Eugene's water and sewage systems failed to separate them adequately. At the behest of irate citizens, the city bought out the private ownership and created the Eugene Water and Electric Board. The last crisis resulted in public control of a crucial public resource, but not the end of our challenges. Like the citizens of Flint, Eugene will eventually reach the expensive day when pipelines must be replaced to maintain the safety of the water supply.

Given the absolute necessity of water for life as we know it, it was surprising to learn that pure water – that is, the substance made up solely of two hydrogen atoms and one oxygen atom – is in fact toxic. The water that sustains life and that appeals to our taste buds must include salts and minerals.

Home water use in the US is, not surprisingly, extravagant by comparison with other countries. What is truly shocking is the difference in the cost of water, depending on how it is sourced: what costs \$.48 from the tap can cost as much as \$346 if bottled. With 102 different kinds of bottled water available in a single store, the incentives to access water in convenient but expensive and potentially wasteful ways are strong. And in locations like Flint, bottled water is for now a necessity.

Water power is clean. It prevents the burning of 22 billion gallons of oil or 120 million tons of coal each year. But

the dams used to generate it also threaten the life cycle of salmon and undermine biodiversity and the health of entire ecosystems. Gratitude for the safe and inexpensive production of water power has increasingly evolved into an awareness of our responsibility to steward all of the life that has depended upon water. As a result, in the late 20th century, many proposed dams were prevented from going forward. More recently, where dams have been removed, ecosystems have swiftly rebounded. Most dams still provide vital functions and will not be removed.

Our relationship with water is deep, complex and absolutely essential. It is inherent in the wisdom of our seventh principle, which calls us to respect the interdependent web of all existence, of which we are a part. How shall we answer the challenge?

Art Gallery - Silvia Trujillo

Personal Statement

I live, breathe, and sleep art. Creating art is a way of life for me. My goal is to consistently produce paintings that are original and express my love of nature. You will find me out painting on location (plein air), since this is how I paint 99% of my work. I adore color and varied value patterns. Landscape painting is a natural extension of this love and attracts me to the dramatic light that occurs during a storm or at dawn and dusk.

In order to convey my vision accurately I employ the use of lost and found edges, knowledge of color temperature, a variety of brush stroke, design of space, and contrasting values.

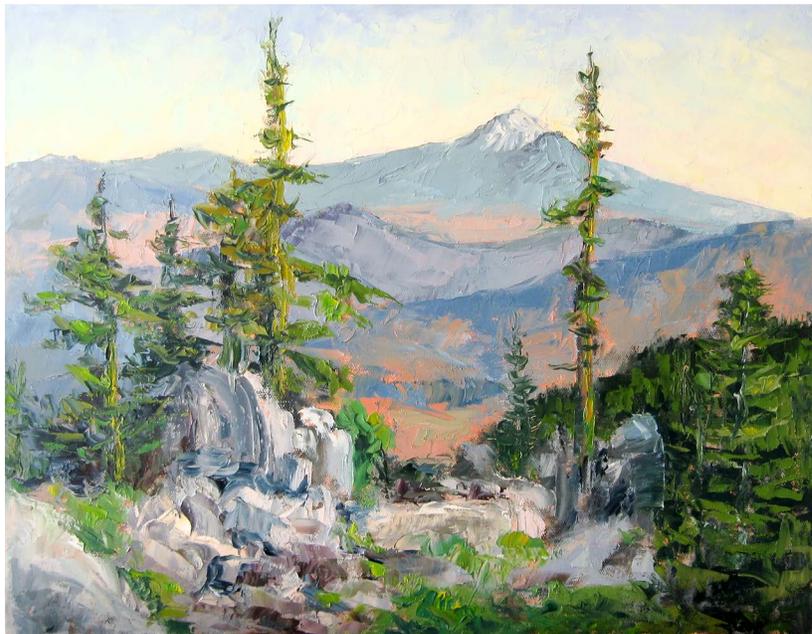
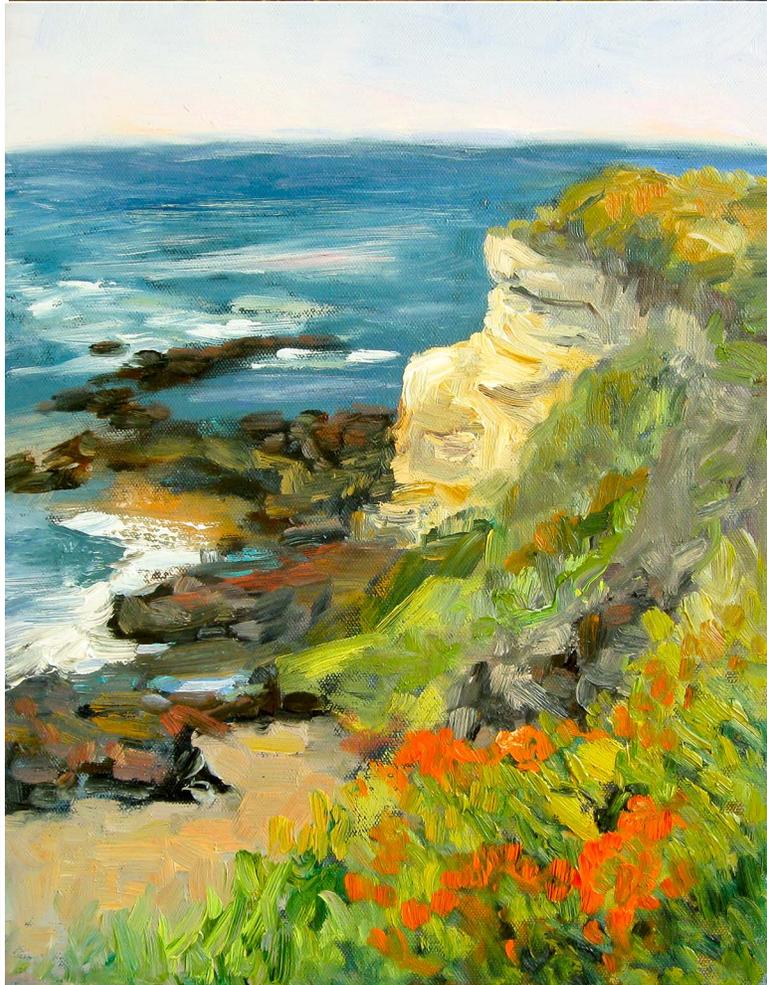
I feel deeply the effects of the vanishing natural environment, and it is my hope to pass on a respectful, caring, and thoughtful approach to preserving this area's beauty by honoring the landscape in my paintings.

Brief Bio

With a history in fashion design, Silvia Trujillo has over 20 years of experience in fine art study, painting, and teaching. She is a master colorist, emphasizing color relationships and works in both impressionistic and realistic styles. Being influenced by post-impressionists and modernist landscape painters like Tom Thomson and Wayne Theibaud her work is bold, lively, and visually stimulating. Silvia's love of the natural world takes her into the realms of landscape, portraiture, animals, and botanicals.

Trujillo is an accomplished artist and art instructor from the Sacramento, California region. She has won numerous awards for her paintings, including "Best of Show"; and many other top awards in juried national shows. Her work has been exhibited in The Crocker Art Museum, California State Capitol Office of the Governor, and The Haggin Art Museum. Silvia has performed guest lectures and demonstrations for several artists' associations, California State Art Educators, and at Barnes &

Noble bookstores. Her paintings have appeared in a variety of regional newspapers and magazines. Trujillo paintings are part of corporate and private collections throughout North America, South America, Asia, and Europe.



UUCE Outreach

Into The Future...As People of Faith



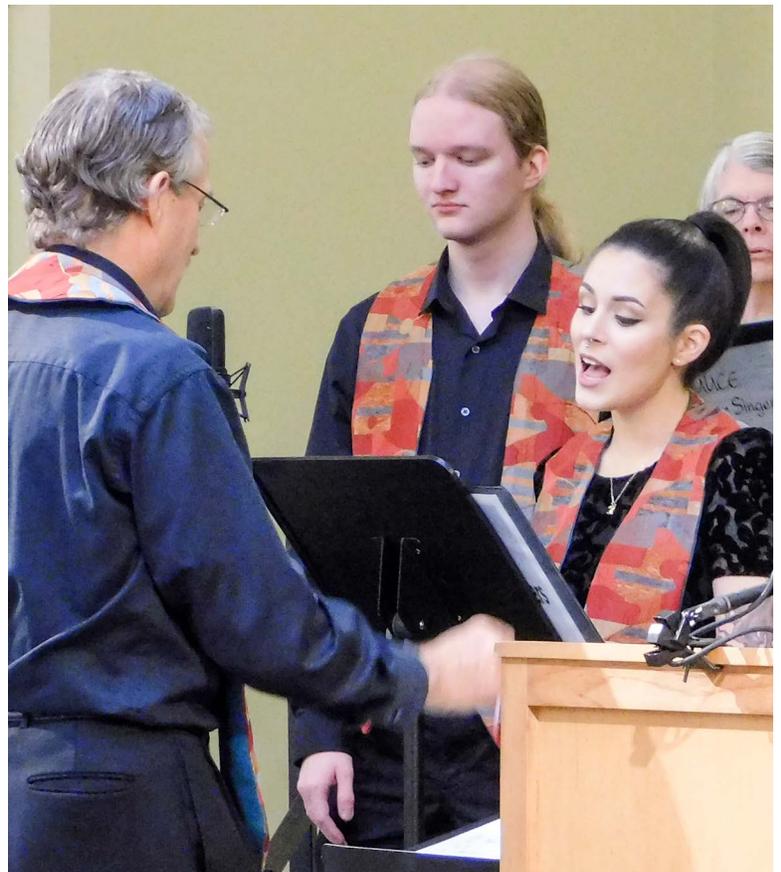
On March 20, UUCE enjoyed the presentation of Rev. Katie Larsell. Her guidance on bringing us, and our community together was inspirational. It is so important to feel that there is a place of belonging here, both at UUCE, and as we move into our roles in the community.

Rev. Larsell also spoke at our Service in Action (SIA) meeting concerning Oregon UUVoices for Justice, for which she is Executive Director. Health Care for All Oregon, Corporations are NOT People/ Money is NOT Speech, and our OUUVfj work this year on environmental issues, were explored. This UU state-wide Advocacy Network, is into a lot of exciting territory, both contacting our local and state governmental agencies/Representatives, and joining together to live our 7 principles.

To find our more about either or both organizations or to become a member of our SIA listserv, contact Sue Craig at reachoutuueugene.org or call 541-607-0204.

Our **April Community Offering** will be dedicated to Tom Sears and his service to the music program with our church. We have been fortunate to have his talent with us all these years and as a gift to him, the Community Offering Committee asked Tom where he would like to donate the 3rd Sunday offering. Tom responded with a request that we donate the funds to putting paneling on the choir wall which will improve both aesthetics and acoustics in our church. This request will leave a lasting improvement on our church's music program and be a wonderful memory of his years of service. The 3rd Sunday offering for April will take place on April 17th, as a part of Music Sunday.

Thank you,
Katy Colburn



UUCE Outreach

Earth EqUUity Food: Ethical Eating and Local Food Resources

First and foremost, UUCE is a church, a beloved faith community. Our mission statement states that “Empowered by love, we transform ourselves and serve the world.” The Earth EqUUity food planning group has kept this front and center as we worked together to develop this church-wide project. We invite you on a learning journey with us—raising awareness, changing personal habits, making improvements in the operation of our church building, deepening our spiritual practice, increasing our connections, and making a difference in our community.

Over the course of this project, there will be multiple opportunities to explore relationships between food, the environment, and social justice. In February and March, we explored Water and Waste. We now introduce Ethical Eating and Local Food Resources as the topic for the months of April and May. In June, we will introduce Community and Celebration. Each topic builds on the previous one and it is never too late to join in. At the beginning of each topic

you will receive a wide-ranging list of invitations. Choose to accept as many as you would like. At the end of each designated topic, we request that you record your activities in a “passport”. These passports will be kept at the Earth EqUUity Food table located in the south entry. Come personalize yours and keep track of your activities. This will help the organizing group, both in order to assist in the planning of future projects and for celebration. Research has shown that it takes approximately a month to successfully change a habit. Our hope is that we will all have an impact that extends well beyond June.

“Eaters must understand that eating takes place inescapably in the world, that it is inescapably an agricultural act, and that how we eat determines to a considerable extent how the world is used.” --Wendell Berry

Learn more at <http://uueugene.org/earth-equity> or e-mail EEFood@uueugene.org



UUCE Outreach

Invitation to Work Together at Food for Lane County Youth Farm Saturday, April 30, 2016, 10-1

Serve the wider community in a fun, informative, all-ages, all-abilities activity! Join the Earth EqUuity Food Project for 3 hours of learning and working together at the Food for Lane County Youth Farm. Carpool or meet at the farm, 705 Flamingo Ave. in Springfield. Gloves, tools and guidance provided. Please sign up at the Earth EqUuity Food table in the South Entry.

For more information, contact EEFood@uueugene.org



Invitation to Share Ideas, Tips, and Stories about Growing Food Sunday May 1 from 11:30-12:15 in the Chapel

From herbs on a window sill to potted plants on a patio to raised beds in the yard...Earth EqUuity Food Group is inviting you to kick off May by having a sit down with friends or soon-to-be friends and sharing ideas, tips and stories about growing food. Would you like to grow something but don't know how? This event is the time to ask questions in a relaxed setting. There are plenty of answers within the UUCE community. Share ideas now and perhaps food later in the summer.

For more information, contact EEFood@uueugene.org



Portapotty Funding, An On-going Need

Sanitation facilities — portapotties — are critically needed by our community members who are unhoused, especially those who don't fit in the rest-stops and are surviving together in unsanctioned camps with few resources. While opinions differ about unsanctioned camps, we can all agree it's better for campers to "go to the bathroom" in a portapotty rather than elsewhere (e.g. in the wetlands, by the river, or ending up with trash).

Fortunately, nearly everyone can help out, with a monetary donation of any size. A Community Sanitation Fund has been set up by the nonprofit A Community Together (ACT) for raising and administering these donations. Contributions are tax-deductible. Checks made out to A Community Together (memo line: Community Sanitation Fund, or CSF) can be mailed to ACT, P.O. Box 1214, Eugene, OR 97440.

Ongoing monthly donations, even if small, will make a big difference when many community members participate. To set up monthly payments, contact Anne O'Brien (aobdob@gmail.com) or Majeska Seese-Green (majeska@efn.org).

Donations for the fund (one-time or monthly) can also be made online at respectexistence.org, website of the nonprofit NPAC, which assists with portapotty support for unsanctioned camps. While portapotties are the greatest expense, donations may also be designated for other sanitation-related needs for the homeless community (e.g. garbage pickup or feminine hygiene products).



The committee, **TOUCH JUSTICE**, is looking for your help to continue its work to over-turn 'rights-as-people' granted to corporations and money. We are now focused on contacting other UU congregations throughout the US and unite in their justice efforts to over-turn Citizens United. Please contact Diane Conrad touchjustice@uueugene.org, 541-942-6113 with any questions and possible willingness to work in the efforts of **TOUCH JUSTICE** for equity in economic, political and human rights arenas. Lets do this!

17th Annual Celebration

That's My Farmer

Community Supported Agriculture from 15 farms!

Thursday, April 14 • 6-8pm

*1st United
Methodist
(13th & Olive)*

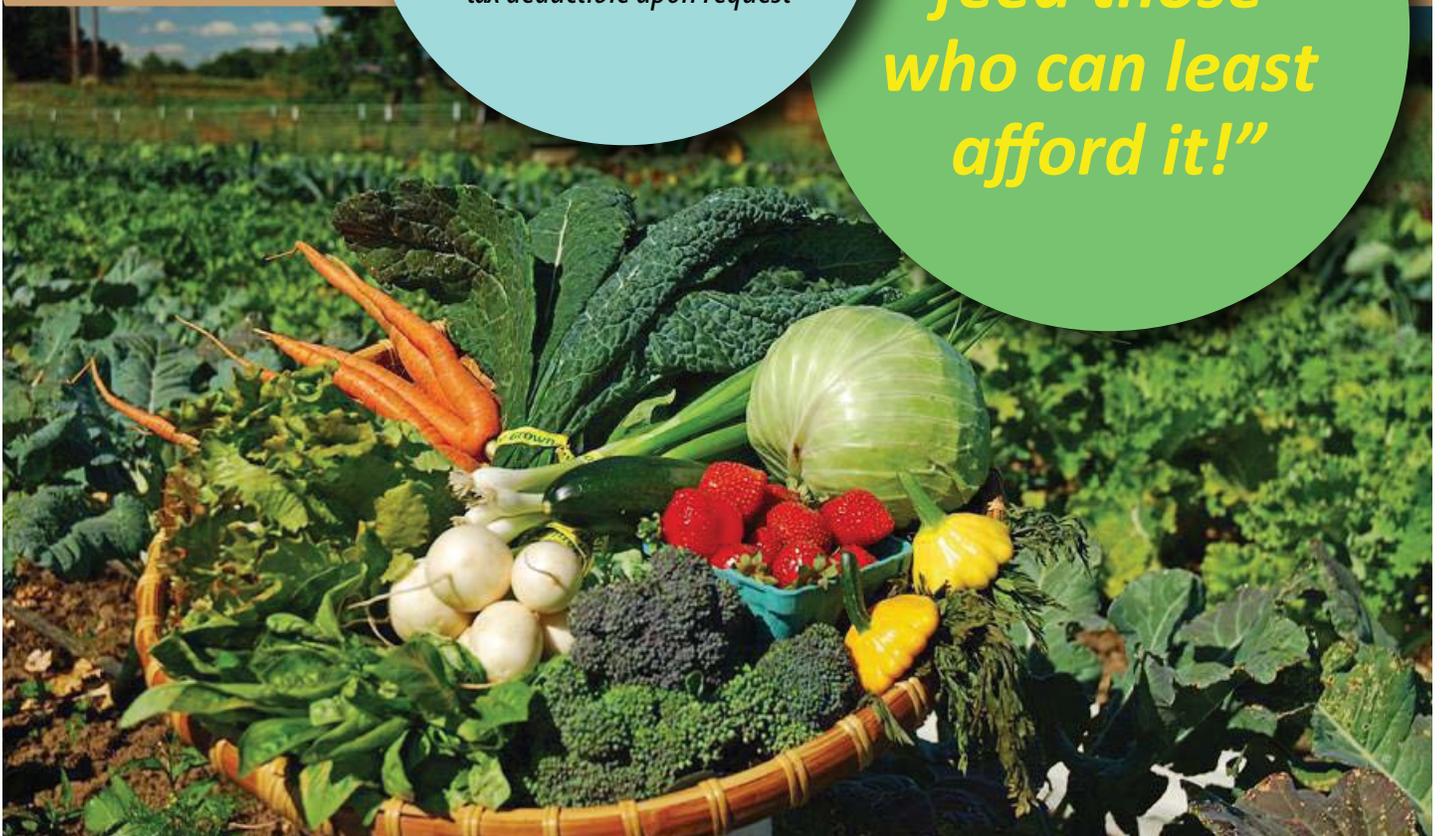


\$5 - \$500

*donation @ the door
towards the Low Income Fund*

**tax deductible upon request*

*"Helping
feed those
who can least
afford it!"*





Health Care For All Oregon Meeting

Tuesday, April 5 7-8:30pm

First United Methodist Church

13th & Olive, Eugene Ample parking for drop-ins

We will clarify issues to be discussed on May 5 and at the annual meeting (May 21 in Portland). Sign up to attend and become more involved in our work to pass state legislation providing universal publicly supported health care for

Oregonians. Learn about our campaign to pass resolutions by the Eugene and Springfield city councils formally supporting universal health care - Everybody In, Nobody Out! Service in Action (SIA)

UUCE Yard Sale Coming!

One day only, Saturday July 16, 2016. Write it on your calendar and plan to come join the fun of making space and cleaning out unneeded or unwanted items. This is an opportunity to clear out some of the left over building supplies and tools from our renovation project.

Need more space in your home? You can join the fun and make more space there too by saving your items and donating them to the UUCE yard sale. All proceeds from this event go to the church.

Volunteers will be needed to help price items, set up and staff the day of the sale. Contact Nita White or Phyllis O'Neill – and stay tuned, more information in the next newsletter.



Food Rescue Night Thursday April 28th 6:30-8:30 770 Bailey Hill Rd.

UUCE has made a commitment for at least 6 volunteers for our monthly evening at FFLC. We meet to repackage food donated for those in our community who are experiencing food insecurity. Wear a hat or ponytail and closed-toe shoes. Volunteers must be 14 or older or 12-years-old accompanied by an adult. Contact person is Berry Broadbent, Service in Action, 541-344-9037 or berrybroadbent@gmail.com.

The "requested food" for the FFLC barrel is ethnic foods, spices, and sauces. All food donations are welcome as long as the food items are conventionally packaged and no expired or opened food containers. The FFLC barrel at UUCE is located at the north entrance. Be sure to check out our FFLC bulletin board also located at the north entrance.

Thank you,
Berry



UUCEO Outreach

In Honor of Earth Day Friday, April 22

Think about what you have done, and can do, to protect God's creation.

"We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children." — Native American Proverb

"In every walk with nature one receives more than he seeks." — John Muir

"Here is your country. Cherish these natural wonders, cherish the natural resources, cherish the history and romance as a sacred heritage, for your children and your children's children. Do not let selfish men or greedy interests skin your country of its beauty, its riches or its romance." — Theodore Roosevelt

"A nation that destroys its soils destroys itself. Forests are the lungs of our land, purifying the air and giving fresh strength to our people" — Franklin D. Roosevelt

"I only feel angry when I see waste. When I see people throwing away things we could use." — Mother Teresa

"You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make." — Jane Goodall

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtfully committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." — Margaret Mead

From the Earth Keepers News Team



Educating Ourselves to Counter Islamaphobia

Fascinating! Powerful! So informative! These are just a few of the responses overheard after Dr. Lisa Balabanlilar's presentation.

At the invitation of UUCE's Sanctuary Project, this expert on Islam spoke to us about the origins of Islam, its central beliefs and tenets, the reasons and impetus for Islamic expansion, and contestations of belief within the Muslim community—all to better understand the issues and concerns of present day Muslims.

Dr. Balabanlilar clarified key terms. So, when someone asks us why people who claim Islam as their religion are called Muslims we have the answer. In Arabic, "muslim" means one who submits to God and, as such, is a follower of Islam.

Also, if we hear someone refer to Islam as though everyone believed and thought the same things, we can explain that Islam is not a singular religion. People who consider themselves Muslim follow widely divergent religious and cultural practices and beliefs. They share only a core belief: There is only one God, Allah, and Muhammad was his prophet. As followers of Islam Muslims submit themselves to Allah. How they submit themselves differs widely.

The political history of Islam offers plenty of ways to respond to people who see Muslims as eager to conquer us, so as to convert us to their religious practices. While it may be so for a tiny minority of sects and radicals—who far and away get an unrepresentative share of the attention paid to Muslims—it is not true for the greater majority of Muslims. Those few aggressive sects and radicals have their own agendas.

Over the generations, dozens of versions of Islam emerged due to evolving political and economic conditions. The history of what counts as Islam throughout the world has more to do with who conquered which territory and has the most economic and political power, and much less to do with religious fervor, consistency or the urge to proselytize.

When someone makes the "us vs them" distinction, as in "those Muslims in the Middle East are threatening the rest of us," we can explain how that's not accurate.

"They" are "us" in a number of senses. Islam is a wide spread, global religion with a significant number of followers. Of the earth's nearly 7+ billion people, a quarter are Muslim: 23% of the world's population—1.6 billion people. Islam is second only to the world's largest religion—Christianity, which has 2.2 billion adherents.

If they think that Muslims are mostly in the Middle East, here's what's true. Muslims live all over the world, and mostly outside of the Middle East. The largest number, 63%, live in the Asia/Pacific region. Only 20% live in the Middle East and North Africa.

More than 300 million Muslims – one-fifth of the total – live in countries where Islam is not the majority religion. Few Muslims live in Germany or the United Kingdom than in Lebanon and more in China than in Syria.



The "they vs us" dichotomy breaks down even further when we understand the presence of Islam in the USA. They are us. 1% of Americans are Muslim—three and a half million people. And American Muslims are the most racially diverse religious group in the country, certainly more than American UUs, who they significantly outnumber.

We also share religious roots with Islam as originated in the Quran, which is its central text. A collection of verses, The Quran, in Arabic, means "the recitation." The verses are believed to have been recited by God to Muhammad through the angel Gabriel over 23 years. If the name Gabriel sounds familiar it may be because he is named as the messenger of God in the Christian Bible and plays a number of significant messenger roles there as well, not the least of which was announcing Jesus's birth to Mary. That's not surprising as Islam is of the Abrahamic tradition and celebrates the prophets of Christianity and Judaism. A number of major Jewish and Christian prophets and narratives recounted in the Bible (common in the culture of the time) appear in the Quran. Some as only summaries, others consistent with Biblical versions, and others reinterpreted.

UUCEO Outreach

Non-Muslims who think that they know what it means if someone self-identifies as Muslim without asking them are way off base. As UUs we would take umbrage with someone who lumped all of us together according to the beliefs of a few. Some of us adhere to Christian beliefs; some of us believe in God; and, some of us don't hold to either. Some Muslims believe a messiah is coming. Others do not. Many more Muslim women are bareheaded than wear head scarves. Muslims who profess to speak for all Muslims have an agenda that bears close watching.

We who had the good fortune to learn from Dr. Balabanlilar pass along these facts with the hope they will come in handy whenever you overhear Islamophobic fears, assertions and slurs. No. All "Muslims" are not trying to convert everyone and take over the world. No. "They" don't want to enforce Sharia law everywhere. [Actually, no one can really say what "sharia" law is. Different groups have invented and embroidered interpretations of the Quran to argue for a particular understanding of justice, but as with most things, there is no universal agreement.]

Yes. We could learn a great deal from our Muslim friends and colleagues about a globally influential 1400-year-old religious, political and cultural history that we know so little about and is meaningful to so many people.

Written by Lesley Rex. For information about the Sanctuary Project contact Connie Newman at connemw@gmail.com.



UUCEStewardship

This year, our combined campaign will include a visiting steward program where we meet with as many members of the congregation as possible. Please welcome the opportunity to connect when you get a call from a visiting steward. Meetings offer an opportunity to ask questions about church life and to share hopes, dreams and experiences. The volunteer stewards will provide you with a pledge card for the combined campaign during the visit. Before the visit, we encourage you to study the pledge materials that you received in the mail, ask questions if you have them of campaign leaders, board members and visiting stewards, and give as generously as you can to the combined campaign to support our community.

As part of the purchase of our building, UUCE took out a mortgage that currently requires about 20% of our annual budget. Through our combined campaign, our goal is to reduce the mortgage by half. This plan is timely because in 2017 we also expect to receive the final payment from the sale of our former

building. By reducing our mortgage payments and fully funding our annual programs, we can free our future and embrace our dreams.

When we gather on April 10, we'll embrace the dreams of generations of UU's in Eugene, those who first organized this congregation and acquired our first church building at 11th & Ferry, those who envisioned and built the sanctuary at 40th & Donald, and those who took the leap of faith, backed up by thousands of volunteer hours, tons of recycling and \$2.25 million in donations, that resulted in the beautiful church home we now enjoy.

We are the beneficiaries of the dreams and gifts of hundreds of people who came before us; we are also the stewards of our church's health now and into the future. By making our most generous gifts of time, talent and treasure, we also can create a legacy for the UU's of our time and for the future.

Your campaign co-cronies,
Kay & Judy

On April 10, we'll gather in celebration of all that is our congregational life and home. Following a shortened worship service, we'll share brunch, fellowship and fun together with a UU version of NPR's "Wait, Wait! ... Don't Tell Me," written by our very own Nancy West. And we'll launch our Combined Campaign to support our mission, aspirations, programs and home of our beloved community at UUCE. Please join us!

You can RSVP to brunch@uueugene.org or call Judy Shaw @ 541/359-6074 or Kay Crider @ 541/968-9988. Please let us know the number in your party and whether you have a preference for vegan, vegetarian or gluten-free, so we can plan well.



Many thanks to our many helpers (and more to come)!

John White, Nita White, Nancy West, Duana Welch, John Wagner, Jane Wagner, David Wagner, Susan Verner, Erin Troberg, Kathy Thomas, Martha Snyder, August Sabini, Morgan Rosemarin, Misty Rivers, Lesley Rex, Bonnie Phipps, Martha Osgood, Gil Osgood, Phyllis O'Neill, Ron Milton, Jon Miller, Michael Mattick, Tiana Marrone-Creech, Dick Loescher, Brian Lewis, Al Landy, Wanda Kuenzli, Jason Kimball, Carisa Hettich, Sarah France, Kathleen Dillon, Sally DeCou, Dave DeCou, Rachel Cummings, Jean Cattel, Katie Colburn, Dean Celaya, George Carroll, Daniel Blades, Emmet Band, Connie Newman, Bonnie Koenig, Dorothy Clark, Morgan Songi, Ruth Alexander, Suzie Brown, Trish Ryder, Kathy Filip, Dianne Watson, Marcie Dorfman

Treasurer Tibits

OUR MONEY: What are the utility costs for our building? Our budget for EWEB costs are \$14,500 per year and for Northwest Natural Gas we expect to pay about \$1,750 per year. That surely sounds like a lot but we have a building of over 17,000 square feet, so our utilities cost less than one dollar for each square foot per year.

Dave DeCou

UUCEAdMinistry

Journey to Belonging

Saturday April 23, 9:00-12:00 and Sunday the 24, after the service.

We invite you to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and to explore where you are called to get involved. In this series you'll learn about Unitarian Universalist history and principles. We'll talk about UUCE's mission and programs, and what it means to be a Member. There will be opportunities to connect with others and sign the Membership book. We invite anyone returning to UU, brand new to UU, and those coming to UUCE from other UU congregations to join us for one or

both of the upcoming sessions. We will meet Saturday April 23, 9:00-12:00 and Sunday the 24th after the service. Visit the Welcome table or contact the Membership Chair Erin Troberg erin@troberg.net 541-344-8259 to sign up. (childcare available by request) We look forward to getting to know you!

