



UJCEConnections

Volume 21
Issue 11
November 017

UUUCE Minister

Minister's Message

November comes with gifts of the new season, as the waning light brings leaves to ground, and bare branches begin to silhouette against the sky. A time of turning.

This year the conversations around the country with family and friends, particularly at Thanksgiving tables, will be steeped with an import comparable to the ferment in every casual corner during the stormy times between the successful end of the Revolutionary War and the re-working of the Articles of Confederation into a national Constitution. Who are we? What are our values as Americans? How shall we be - among the many cultures and opinions not only in this land, but around the globe?

Black theologian Vincent Harding inspired me to let go of the comforts of my fears and familiar haunts when I studied with him at Harvard School of Education. He saw the question as: "What does it mean to be truly human? Democracy is simply another way of speaking about that question. Religion is another way of speaking about that question. What is our purpose in this world, and is that purpose related to our responsibilities to each other and to the world itself? All of that seems to me to be a variety of languages getting at the same reality." (1)

In our theme of "multiculturalism" this month, I am deeply grateful to Dr. Harding. His book "There Is A River," spoke in the words of the Negro Spiritual; his lectures sermonized and sang; he demanded we dig down deep. "Since the course of a river cannot be understood independent of the terrain through which it flows" (2) we find purpose in our Unitarian Universalist tradition of thinking beyond categories and borders and into new realities. I have hope-filled faith that our hearts broken open are wide enough to feel that river of determination, coursing living love, and immense flowing strength that will carry us through.

See you in church,

Rev. Sydney

(1) <https://onbeing.org/programs/vincent-harding-is-america-possible/> <<https://onbeing.org/programs/vincent-harding-is-america-possible/>>

(2) Eric Foner <http://www.nytimes.com/1981/11/01/books/the-long-black-movement-toward-justice.html> <<http://www.nytimes.com/1981/11/01/books/the-long-black-movement-toward-justice.html>>



UUCE Minister

Sunday Services

The theme for November is Multiculturalism, a word which, like diversity and intersectionality, can become meaningless in the repetition unless we continue to unearth deeper layers in ourselves and our world.

November 5th "The Larger Culture." In this world of multinationalization, how can we locate an ethical path? Rev. Sydney.

November 12th "Who We Are and Will Be." This service will focus on the theology of Beloved Community and the process of Waking Up. Kimberly Wootan

November 19th Intergenerational Thanksgiving Service. Living in gratitude emboldens and enriches us, encouraging us to step right up to the welcome table. People in all eras of their lives have gifts to share in the many ways to give thanks. Bring yours! Katy Siepert and Rev Sydney

November 26 Heritage. An important part of multiculturalism is understanding and celebrating our own identity as individuals. In fact, being proud of ourselves and our complicated histories can lead to greater respect and reverence for others. Student Minister Sarah Skochko will consider the idea of heritage and the inner strength it can inspire. The web is woven of many strands, and each is worthy of looking at closely.



Contents	
Quick Calendar	4
Worship	5
UUCEBoard	7
UUCE Connecting	8
UCE Outreach	10

UUUCE Quick Calendar



UUCE Worship



Introduction from the New Intern

Fall might be my favorite time of year. Although it's when we say goodbye to the warmth and sunshine of summer, fall is also a time of social renewal: the church year begins; we start making our homes cozy and snug for winter; the holiday season approaches. And this fall, I'm settling here at UUCE as I begin a two-year, half-time ministerial internship.

I'm originally from South Jersey (the only place with a higher density of pine trees than Oregon, as far as I know), and lived in nearby Philadelphia for six years. Last fall, I moved to Eugene to begin an MFA in poetry with the University of Oregon's Creative Writing Program, where I also teach. I am concurrently in my second year of seminary at Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago, and travel there a few times a year for classes.

When I'm not reading or writing, I enjoy hiking, quilting, and taking care of my pet snail, Chippy.

This internship is a crucial part of my ministerial formation. In addition to working closely with Rev. Sydney and preaching throughout the year, I hope to learn from all of you - my teaching congregation - what it means to be a good and effective minister. I'm looking forward to this new and special relationship with an enthusiastic heart.

Starting this week, I'll be holding office hours in the library on Fridays from 2-5 pm, and on Saturdays by appointment. Feel free to stop by for a chat, or just to introduce yourself!

In faith,
Sarah

<mailto:intern@uueugene.org> 541-686-2775x5

UUCE Worship

In 1993 a group of meditators got together to see if they could lower the crime rate in Washington DC. It works! The rate of crime was lowered by 23% over the course of the few months. After the meditation stopped the rate of crime continued to lower for a few months.

There have been multiple explanations for this phenomenon and countless shows and even a Freakonomics podcast <<http://freakonomics.com/2005/09/16/can-crime-be-meditated-away/>> which makes for great listening. But I think that we could come together for a spiritual purpose, a place for healing/transformation.

What if we opened a meditative space for transformation here at UU Eugene? For the next few months, Monday Meditation will be a space where we can come together and meditate for the healing. This healing could be for the earth, our political system. Or it could be for personal reasons. We could focus on healing our relationships or our bodies.

I believe like Pema Chodron that our work in meditation sets us well for the the work we do in the world. Let's take the time to focus our combined energy on healing and see what happens.

Kimberly Wootan
Chaplain Intern River Bend
Congregational Life Consultant UU Eugene



UUCE Board

Message from the Board President

Thanks again to everyone who has participated in our Ministerial Transition process so far. It has been a real pleasure to meet with so many of you on Sunday mornings. There is much positive energy, love and wisdom in this congregation and I feel blessed to be a part of it.

The poem below by Shari Woodbury could have been written about UUCE. I hope you enjoy it.

Janelle

IN OUR CIRCLE AGAIN

Here we are
in our circle again.
A circle of vision
and reflection,
A forum for deciding
and empowering.
Here we are
at the base of another bridge,
another space spanning
the shores of today and tomorrow.
Beckoning us to cross the chasm,
one day at a time.
Here we are
gathered again at the cusp
of the future,
at the boundary
that holds community together.
We are here,
in a circle of love and trust,
brought to this moment
by a series of choices and promises...
by hope and gratitude...
by our own shadows, faced
and befriended.
With a servant's heart,
with a leader's listening,
with a parent's love, truer
than all our inner trembling,
let us model the health we seek for all
and lean into community.
Somewhere out there,
all we dream is possible.
Somewhere in here,
we are sowing the seeds.

A Pledge Secretary

We now have a Pledge Secretary. This is an old position in our church which has not been filled for several years. The Pledge Secretary will be sending out statements four times per year to help each of us keep up with the commitments we make to UUCE. Pledging is the single largest source of monetary support for our church community. When you are uncertain of your pledge, your circumstances change and you need to add or subtract from your commitment, or you want to know that things are being handled correctly relating to your pledge, you can now contact our volunteer Pledge Secretary, David DeCou, at pledges@uueugene.org or call him at 541-513-5360.

Things the Pledge Secretary will be glad to help with:

- Updating a current pledge.
- Adding a new pledge.
- Misunderstandings about your pledge.
- Updating pledging information such as changed credit cards or bank accounts.
- Clarifications about your current balance.
- Anything else pledge-related.

By Shari Woodbury <<https://www.uua.org/directory/people/shari-woodbury>>

UUCE Connecting



Join us for **SpiritJam**: A program of worship
and exploration for people of **all ages**
November 2017 - Theme: Multiculturalism

11/5	Candy-wrapper Jam: Bring in your Halloween candy-wrappers and make something wonderful out of recycled materials!	World Games Jam: Games from around the world – examples include Who Has the Pebble from Burma, Marbles from Chile, El Reloj (the clock) from South America	
11/12	Spider Plant Jam: Join Teacher Laramie and learn how to re-pot cuttings from a spider plant. Bring your very own spider plant home! Decorate pots	Giving Thanks Jam: Try different foods and learn about the world of traditions for giving thanks from around the world.	Middle School Meet-Up: Middle school youth group will meet 2 nd and 4 th Sundays of each month – we are dedicated to acts of service and leadership development within SpiritJam.
11/19	Multigenerational Thanksgiving Service – No SpiritJam Today.		
11/26	Music Jam: Join Teacher Kris in learning and singing songs from all over the world.	Bottle Tree Jam: Create a beautiful display of our wishes and our thanks	Middle School Meet-Up: Middle school youth group will meet 2 nd and 4 th Sundays of each month – we are dedicated to acts of service and leadership within SpiritJam.

UUUCE Connecting

Halloween at UUUCE



UUCE Outreach

Art Gallery Welcomes Linda Stork



Hi,

I'm Linda Stork. My art work will be on display during the month of November. I have been painting, mostly with oils, but also acrylic and watercolor, most of my life. My inspirations comes from my spiritual practice which is grounded in Zen Buddhism. I try to convey my love for nature with our inter-connectedness to our world.

Thank you,
Linda



“Lights in Deepest Night”

UUCE Christmas Concert
Saturday, December 16, 7p
Unitarian Universalist
Church of Eugene
1685 West 13th Ave
Freewill offering
(Suggested Donation \$10)



UUCE Outreach

Interfaith Night Shelter

Empowered by love, we transform ourselves and serve our world. As UUCE we aspire to create sanctuary where all hands are held. Part of our vision in this wonderful facility is to serve the greater community of Eugene.

Families with children who are unhoused in the Eugene/Springfield area look to First Place. As they go to First Place they have children who need to be in school and parents who want to make the steps toward having their own sheltering home. At First Place and within this program they can be sure their children's educational needs are being met while the adults look for work and housing. The families are vetted during this process. Those who are truly on the road to a more secure life are able to participate during the school year in the Interfaith Night Shelter program.

Through the Interfaith Night Shelter Program, joining more than 30 participating faith communities in the Eugene/Springfield area, we will offer shelter for a week to these families. During our week we can expect anywhere from 20-40 individuals in this group. Our week will be January 8-15, 2018. Members of the Justice Network made a request of the UUCE Board which is in support of this work, and it was affirmed by the congregation during our Annual Meeting. We will provide a safe sleeping space as well as breakfast, dinner and hospitality to families who are dedicated to their paths as they become contributing members of the community.

This will be a wonderful opportunity for many volunteer efforts from our congregation. We will need donations of eggs, bread, milk, juice, cereal, casseroles, roasts, and vegetables; all the items for breakfasts and dinners for a week. Food remaining from dinners will be sent with the families to First Place during the days so they can have lunches. We will need volunteers to serve breakfasts and dinners, some who are willing to clean after each meal is finished, as well as those who will act as hosts and provide evening hospitality. Families will arrive around 5 p.m., have dinner about 6 each evening and return to First Place before 8 the next morning. We will need van drivers to help transport families to and from First Place each morning and evening. First Place does have a person who will spend the night at UUCE, but we hope we will also have two volunteers who will be up for this service each night. Bring a sleeping bag and a pillow! Let's work together to provide healthy, delicious meals and hospitality in our inviting and safe environment.

More specific information and opportunities to sign up will follow, electronically via Signup Genius beginning midNovember.

We will also offer the opportunity to sign up after services, starting in December.

Barb Prentice, Janell Heidenreich, Christina Wagner

Justice Network Meeting

Nov. 12, 11:30-12:30.

We will be discussing the First Place Family week. January 8-15. All are welcome.

Barb Prentice barbprentice1@gmail.com

Thanks, Barb

UUCE Outreach

Community Offering



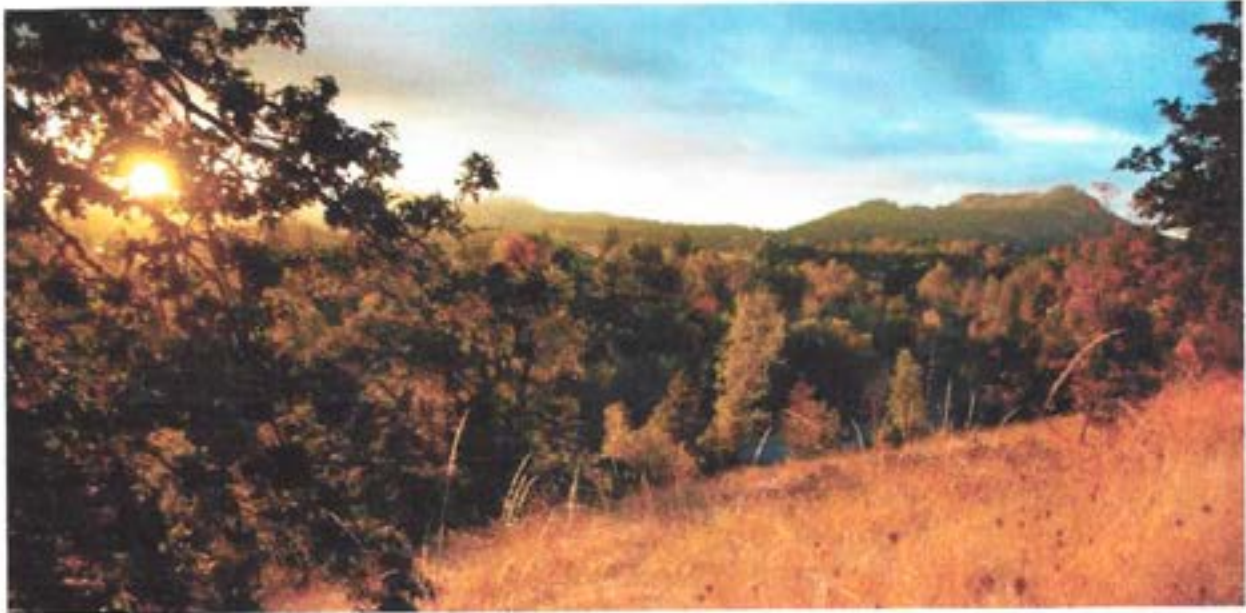
Occupy Medical, which provides medical services for the homeless, will receive our Nov. 19 community offering. Sue Sierralupe directs a crew of volunteers to provide our community with free weekly medical care. Occupy Medical has operated for more than six years. Information is available at occupy-medical.org <<http://occupy-medical.org/>>

Our church members already support Occupy Medical by donating supplies. The wish list includes socks, sleeping bags, jackets, eyeglasses, gloves, cold and hot packs, multi-vitamins, adhesive strips, crutches, canes and herbal medicine. If you have any of these items, please put them in the hallway bin by the kitchen.

Now we will extend our support by donating all of our Nov. 19 offering. Thanks!



UUUCE Outreach



FRIENDS
of Buford Park
& Mt. Pisgah

Fall Celebration ~ You're Invited!
Join Us for our Biggest Fundraiser of the Year!

Sunday, November 5th, 2017 5-7 pm
Unitarian Church, 1685 W. 13th Ave., Eugene

[Register/RSVP for the Fall Celebration Here](#)

Limited seating, please RSVP by November 1. You may bring one guest per RSVP.

Keynote Address: **Mary Christina Wood**, Philip H. Knight Professor of Law, University of Oregon School of Law, and author, **Nature's Trust**. Mary's talk is entitled "*Community Stewardship: The Interdependence of Land and People.*"

Food • Drink • Music • Friends • Stories • Inspiration • Fun!

Fresh seasonal meal, local beer, cider, wine. Jazz & blues piano provided by **Gus Russell**.



About our invited speaker: Mary Wood is an award-winning professor who has published extensively on public trust law, climate crisis, natural resources, and native law issues. Her most recent book, *Nature's Trust: Environmental Law for a New Ecological Age*, sets forth a new paradigm of ecological responsibility. She originated the legal theory called Atmospheric Trust Litigation, which seeks to hold governments accountable to reduce carbon pollution within their jurisdictions. Further, Professor Wood's research is being used in cases brought on behalf of youth throughout the world. Professor Wood is a frequent speaker on climate issues and has received national and international attention for her sovereign trust approach to global climate policy.



ClimateKeys

KEYBOARD CONVERSATIONS
ACROSS THE WORLD

ClimateKeys Eugene Presents:

**Alexander
Schwarzkopf**
Pianist Composer



**Greg
Retallack**
Geologist Author



www.climatekeys.com

ClimateKeys is an international project that brings together pianists and climate experts to foster dialogue on climate change. This Fall, over 30 pianists in 9 countries will present ClimateKeys concerts timed to launch around COP23, the 2017 UN Climate Change Conference held in Bonn, Germany.

First United Methodist Church

1376 Olive Street, Eugene

Wednesday, November 8 at 7:00 pm
(Doors open at 6:30)

Suggested Donation: \$10

<http://world.350.org/eugene/>

Proceeds to benefit 350 Eugene

350Eugene

UUUCE Outreach

Water Security

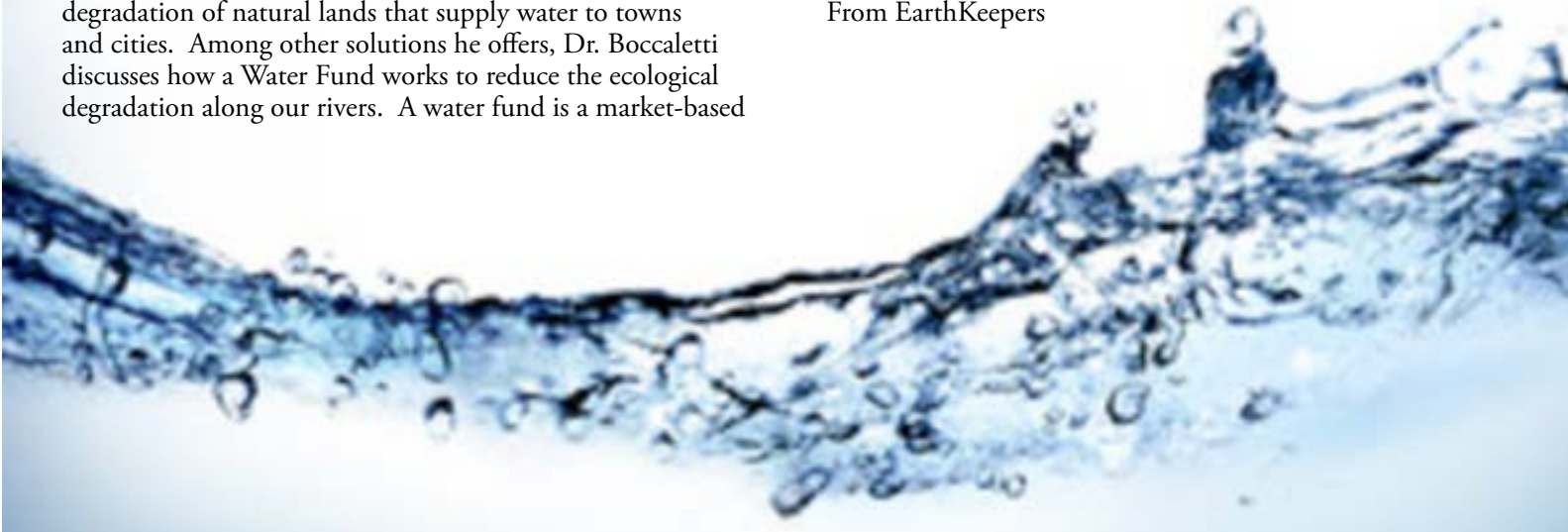
The Summer 2017 Nature Conservancy Magazine includes an article by Dr. Giulio Boccaletti, the Nature Conservancy's global managing director for water. He defines water security as "the infrastructure, institutions and practices needed to manage droughts and floods and to ensure a consistent water supply." Even though we here in the United States have a wealth of water sources, our water security is in jeopardy. Dr. Boccaletti states, "our inability to adequately value water, to invest in the systems that allow us to carefully manage water, to allocate water to the most important uses (and avoid wasting it), and to protect the health of the watersheds from which we draw our water--all these failures threaten human health, prosperity and even political stability."

Every nation faces three difficult, but solvable, problems: the enormous amount of water used by agriculture, poorly planned dams and other infrastructure on river, and the degradation of natural lands that supply water to towns and cities. Among other solutions he offers, Dr. Boccaletti discusses how a Water Fund works to reduce the ecological degradation along our rivers. A water fund is a market-based

tool through which cities, power plants and private companies can protect rivers by paying upstream landowners to improve their stewardship practices. "Approximately 80% of cities could meaningfully reduce sediment and fertilizer pollution through forest protection, landscape restoration, and better agricultural practices. Cleaner water would save municipal utilities \$890 million every year."

On October 9, 2017, NPR carried a story about the dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico where the Mississippi River empties; the zone is now the size of New Jersey, the largest it has ever been. We here in Oregon experience a similar dead zone where the Columbia River enters the Pacific Ocean. It is imperative that we clean up our rivers so that we quit polluting our oceans. We need to value clean water as much as clean air, and utilize creative, forward-thinking strategies to protect and preserve our future water supply.

From EarthKeepers



Fall Leaves . . . More Than a Good Show

Leaves are turning color and will soon be falling; shortly the city will begin picking up the leaves we have raked to the curb. But why waste those leaves? Pound for pound, leaves of most trees contain twice as many minerals as manure. They carry 50-80% of the nutrients the tree took from the soil and air, including carbon, potassium, and phosphorus. A two to three inch layer of leaf mulch spread over your garden soil will give many benefits:

1. Weed seeds will be suppressed and those that do sprout will be easier to pull,
2. Organic matter vital to the health of soil organisms will be added,
3. Soil will be protected from compaction caused by rainfall,
4. Soil temperature will be buffered, keeping soils cooler in summer and warmer in winter, protecting plants,
5. Soil moisture is retained, lessening need for irrigation,

6. Soil erosion will be reduced and, if saved until Spring, leaf dressing can add natural beauty to garden beds.

Using whole leaves as mulch does not work as well; the leaves form a compact mat which water has trouble penetrating. Successful leaf mulch needs two things:

1. Grinding or shredding. If you don't own a leaf shredder you can mow back and forth over the leaf pile until it is shredded.

2. Add extra nitrogen to shredded leaves to start them composting. Manure is the best nitrogen supplement, but nitrogen supplements such as cottonseed meal, bone meal, and dried blood will work well, too. Add 2 cups of natural nitrogen supplement to each wheel barrow load of leaves.

So don't throw away the garden gold your trees have given you. Mulching with leaves is inexpensive, renewable, and rewarding!