

# Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



August 2020

## To the Beloved Community

I sit here, tucked inside the warm and welcoming nook of Kinara's Corner, in the empty vessel of the Fellowship building. It continues to feel odd, lonesome, one might even say "haunted" to sit inside this beautiful building - for now, bereft of it's beautiful people.

I am writing to you on the heels of Rev. Michael Dowd's powerful address on our adapting role as humans of heart and conscience living in these disintegrating times. I've been thinking on his words about how we are to find new ways to support and be with one another at this time.

As you know, we have currently moved all of our meetings and worship to the Zoom platform. This particular adaptation is our way of recognizing that your safety is our first concern, while at the same time providing a way for meaningful connection and spiritual upliftment to continue.

In an effort to let these offerings reach as many of you as possible, I want to articulate a few things:

For those who would like a way to share the services later on in the week, you can now go directly to our YouTube site: <https://tinyurl.com/HUUFTube>.

Or simply type "Humboldt UU Fellowship" into the YouTube search bar. In addition to housing our previously recorded services, we also Live Stream each Sunday at 11. We invite you to share this with your friends and loved ones.

As the Zoom platform tightens its security measures, we want to make sure you are still able to access the live Sunday calls, if you so choose. Each week, Bridgette diligently sends two separate emails with info on how to join. Either click the blue link, which should take you directly to the call, or enter the Meeting ID in the Zoom "Join a Meeting" tab, with the password "Fellowship."

Send any questions or issues to either myself - Amy at [comm@huuf.org](mailto:comm@huuf.org) or to Bridgette at [office@huuf.org](mailto:office@huuf.org).

It isn't easy to learn new ways, rhythms and rituals when the ones we formerly had were so beloved and familiar. Yet we are now called on to willingly adapt, to shift and bend and open ourselves to new ways of gathering, organizing and living in the Beloved Community. And so, we continue to give thanks that there are ways for this powerful call to continue. The methods and means may look different, but the spirit of offering remains as pure as ever.

*Amy Day, Fellowship Engagement Coordinator*

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## The Seven Principles

We AFFIRM and PROMOTE:

-  1 the inherent worth and dignity of every person. . . .
-  2 justice, equity, and compassion . . .
-  3 acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth . . .
-  4 a free and responsible search for truth and meaning in our lives . . .
-  5 the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process . . .
-  6 the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all . . .
-  7 respect for the inter-dependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

## Voter Registration Campaign

We are locally writing postcards to voters of color in voter suppression states. Volunteering for organizations such as the NAACP and Reclaim Our Vote who are familiar with the chosen states, we follow their prescribed script and hand-write cards to individuals, pointing them to local support for appropriate voter activities.

This postcard campaign is part of a multi-pronged movement involving several organizations devoted to registering disenfranchised minorities. The names and addresses are chosen by the activist organizations, which also have follow-up programs to ensure that registered voters get to the polls. This program was tested in 2019 in Virginia, and helped to turn that state blue. North Carolina is reporting a dramatic response to recent post cards.

Locally we are writing to thousands of people under the direction of these organizations. If you would like to participate, contact Rebecca Stauffer at ras7001@gmail.com. Materials are provided at cost or no cost if that is a barrier.

*Rebecca Stauffer*



## Transformational Team update

As stated at the June 14 HUUF Congregational meeting, the board:

- Decided not to try and hire an interim minister through UUA – due to the cost, that it would be virtual only, and that the person would not live here.
- Decided not to search for  $\frac{3}{4}$  time minister during Covid, due to sapped energy and expenses.
- Decided that we have resources within our staff, with possible consultants and additions, to serve the needs of Fellowship during this transition.
- Plan to return to at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  time ministry when feasible.
- A Transformational Team was formed with the two co-presidents, David Marshak and Berti Welty (Berti leading), and 2 board volunteers (Debi Cooper and Kate McClain), our three primary staff (Bridgette Garuti, Amy Day, and Suzanne Kimmel), plus Pat McCutcheon from Worship Leaders and Bonnie MacGregor from the Committee on Ministry, and Rev. Anthony (at the first meeting). The idea is to form a collegial team that honors each person's unique abilities and passions.

After beautiful bonding exercises, Anthony shared his normal tasks, liaisons with outside groups, and other duties he performed while our minister. In the ensuing weeks Amy, Suzanne, Bridgette and the group fleshed out most the operational tasks and presences which need to be empowered either by staff or volunteers to keep HUUF functioning. Last week, each staff (Amy, Suzanne and Bridgette) plus Jamal Tharp and Scarlett Trippsmith presented what assets they each brought to the table, their backgrounds and how they see themselves in this evolving team approach.

Next week the team will start clarifying who does what and explore what gaps are left. Additional staff or consultants may need to be hired. Examples are Scarlett Trippsmith as a tech person, specialists to teach adult RE classes or ministers and/or presenters for Sunday services.

All this needs to be accomplished within a tight budget. Stay tuned for the progress we are making.

*Berti Welty, Co-President HUUF*

## Religious Education

Life does not call us merely to do over and over again  
what we have already done;  
nor does it call us to act out, as puppets,  
parts already assigned to us.

No.

In the midst of a situation which is itself ever changing,  
we are free to bring into realization new relationships of understanding and good-will,  
and new acts of courage.

Frank O. Holmes

In the midst of a situation that is ever changing, I am thinking of all of you. We are in the heart of summer. The warmth of the days creates space for outdoor play, while we juggle the restrictions needed to keep everyone safe. I feel blessed to live in such a beautiful place where redwood trees, rivers and beaches provide opportunities for physically distancing (and masked) activities. The RE Committee has been meeting over the summer to discuss the next church year. We, as parents, grandparents and lovers of RE, are aware of the looming uncertainty of school. I hear concerns for safety, plans to homeschool, and of financial struggles. I am still calling families to hear your stories. I thank those of you who have taken the time to share your story with me. I am grateful to get to know you. The RE Committee will be in touch, soon, with information about a parent meeting at the end of summer as well as other possible activities. In the meantime, please reach out to me at [re@huuf.org](mailto:re@huuf.org), with concerns, questions or ideas. Community as we used to know it can feel tenuous these days. My sense of community has shifted to include neighbors out walking, the birds in my yard, and phone conversations with friends from afar. My hope is that each of you are able to find some joy in every day through new relationships of understanding and good-will, and new acts of courage. May it be so.

*Suzanne Kimmel*



## Zooming with Thursday Night Reflections

Thursday Night Reflections provides a place for authentic, heartfelt sharing among people of good will. We choose our topics by consensus. Recently we have focused on race and white supremacy. Past topics have included Resilience, Boundaries, Joy, Grief and Loss, and Moments of Grace. Everything we say is confidential; we practice deep listening; we recognize that we don't always see things the same way; and we speak only if we want to. Reflections is an open group and newcomers are very welcome. We currently meet every Thursday from 7 to 9 p.m. on Zoom.

Having met consistently as a lay-led group since July 2014, the regulars have developed a strong commitment to the group. There are others who attend intermittently, and newcomers are welcome. An e-mail including the topic and any related material is sent out early in the week so people can have an opportunity to consider the topic ahead of time.

We keep honing our deep listening skills. To paraphrase Thich Nhat Hanh on the subject:

- The ideal is to hold the speaker in compassion and respect so the speaker knows and feels that they have been truly heard.
- The listener sets thoughts and judgments aside, does not interrupt, correct, or give advice.
- Questions may be asked for clarification or responses may be offered to confirm that the speaker is being understood. Otherwise we simply listen until the speaker signals that they are finished.
- Everyone is conscientious about sharing airtime.

If you would like to attend Thursday Night Reflections, please contact the current facilitator, Diane Dickson, for a brief intro to our meeting on Zoom. That number is (678) 612-2596. We hope to see you soon.



# Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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## CLASSIFIED ADS

Classified ads are 10¢ per word. Send your check to the HUUF office and email the text of your ad to [newsletter@huuf.org](mailto:newsletter@huuf.org).

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Organic Blueberry, Strawberry, and Strawberry/Blueberry low sugar jam from fruit grown on my own property. \$6 each or four for \$20. Joanna's Jam [jfwelch22@gmail.com](mailto:jfwelch22@gmail.com)



## Deadline info

Deadline for the **September** issue of the newsletter is Thursday, **August 20** at 5 p.m. Send committee reports, announcements and articles related to HUUF (email only) to [newsletter@huuf.org](mailto:newsletter@huuf.org).

Many file formats are acceptable, but .doc, .docx, .rtf and text are preferred, and .pdf and .pages cannot be used. Late submissions are not accepted without prior approval. Full guidelines at: <https://tinyurl.com/HUUFnews>

*Stephen Sottong, editor*

# Sunday Services

**Sunday, August 2 – 11 a.m.**

**Lughnasad: A Celtic Celebration of Harvest, Renewal and Reconnection with Nature – Lucera Love**

Lughnasad (pronounced loo-nah-sah) is one of the Celtic festivals of harvest, traditionally celebrated on or around August 1, and lasting one week. This is the time when the grains and the first fruits are harvested, a time for rituals of offering, giving thanks, death, rebirth and renewal. This service will celebrate this time and emphasize reconnection with nature. What seeds that were sown in the spring (literal or figurative) are now ready for harvest?

**Sunday, August 9 – 11 a.m.**

**Retreat to Camp HUUF – Michael Caouette**

Are you looking for a “retreat” from the ongoing chaos of 2020, but don’t have the time or energy for an entire weekend in the woods? Join Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship for an hour of camp skits, sing-alongs and activities, while we reminisce about the annual retreat on the Mattole River. Virtual “campers” will join fellow congregants in group breakout rooms during the service to compete in scavenger hunts, face mask decorating, and funniest camp limericks as we chase those nasty Covid-19 blues away. It’s a come-as-you-are, stress-free adventure celebrating everything UU at Camp HUUF.

**Sunday, August 16 – 11 a.m.**

**Prayer Service – Amy Day**

The Beautiful Dance: Humanity finds itself in crisis. Unraveling is happening on so many levels. We are at a time when we need all the healing tools and practices we can muster to come to our aid. What would it look like to reclaim prayer as a healing practice, to wrest it from its Puritan clutches and center it as part of our work for social justice, restoration and collective liberation? Together we’ll look at how prayer activates important regions of the brain, lights up our innate capacity to move through difficulty, and supports us in doing the work that is so needed right now.

**Sunday, August 23 – 11 a.m.**

**Staying the Course: Finding Resource to Remain Present and Responsive in Our Unprecedented World – Lama Choyang (Allison Rader)**

We are being called to deepen our stamina, to both live in the ongoing uncertainties and engage in the transformative conversations necessary in these times. As we live in relationship with this moment, and commit to making the world a better place, we can find the resource and capacity to stay present, connected and engaged. This exploration is a practice. As we engage the practice, we become part of an organic emergence, a living responsiveness to the world as it touches and transforms us all.

Lama Choyang is a Tibetan Buddhist teacher. She was a hospice chaplain for many years and currently teaches dharma; in Arcata she offers grief counseling, spiritual mentoring and end-of-life support, currently via Zoom. She also offers guidance in finding the resource to stay present and open – both in meditation practice and in difficult conversation. She is currently bringing her practice to the work of dissolving white supremacy culture.

**Sunday, August 30 – 11 a.m.**

**For the love of books – Deb Cooper**

Books feed and nourish us. Books enrich our lives. Steven King said: “Books are a uniquely portable magic.” Is there a book that has touched your life? A passage of text that keeps popping up in your mind? A treasured memory involving a certain book? Join us for a casual sharing of books that have touched our lives.



# Climate Action Campaign News

A shout out to Pat Carr for his activism with 350 Humboldt and Northcoast Environmental Center and other local climate activists for monitoring the kinds of energy usage proposed in the Kramer development plans for housing and shops on the McKay Tract. I encourage you to read Pat Carr's July Newsflash for 350 Humboldt at <https://world.350.org/humboldt/july-news-flash-2/>. In June, the California Air Resources Board unanimously passed the Advanced Clean Trucks rule. His Newsflash, also urges us to write or phone Senator Mike McGuire to vote YES on AB 345. This bill will establish a Natural Resources Agency (NRA) for the state of California and authorizes creation of an environmental justice program to identify and address gaps in existing programs. Senator McGuire is on the fence about AB 345. See <https://sd02.senate.ca.gov/contact> for Senator McGuire's contact information.

At 7 p.m., Monday, August 3, CAC is co-sponsoring with 350 Humboldt a free presentation by Dr. Connie Roser Renouf entitled, "Building Citizen Engagement with Climate Change." Dr. Roser Renouf will discuss and take questions on how we can best talk with members of the public and community leaders, drawing on data from climate change attitudes among Humboldt County residents. Advanced registration for this free presentation is required, and can be done on 350 Humboldt's Facebook page. See <https://www.facebook.com/350humboldt>.

CAC and 350 Humboldt are also co-sponsoring the Telecommuting Campaign, spearheaded by Nancy Ihara, Martha Walden, and Dr. Wendy Ring. They are petitioning Humboldt County and the cities of Trinidad, Blue Lake, Arcata, Eureka, Fortuna, Ferndale and Rio Dell to adopt telecommuting policies for their employees.

Even though Plastic Free July is over, let's continue to be plastic free. See <https://www.plasticfreejuly.org> for information about this movement.

Sign the pledge to be a faith climate justice voter with Interfaith Power and Light (IPL). CAC is a member of IPL which is a nonprofit mobilizing "people of faith and conscience to take bold and just action on climate change." Its website is: <https://www.interfaithpowerandlight.org>.

If you missed Jared Huffman's virtual town hall meeting, it will be archived at [https://archive.org/details/access\\_humboldt](https://archive.org/details/access_humboldt) and will also be re-broadcast on Access Humboldt CIVIC 10 (Suddenlink Cable Channel 10) as well as on radio at KZZH-LP 96.7.

Many of us are writing nonpartisan, handwritten letters and postcards to voters in swing states to encourage citizens to register and to vote. Organizations seeking volunteers for letter and postcard writing include: [votefwd.org](http://votefwd.org), 350 Humboldt, the Sierra Club and Reclaim our Vote. For further information, see <https://world.350.org/humboldt/upcoming-events/>.

Some of us have registered for the two-part webinar "Banking on Climate Change: How Big Banks Fuel the Climate Crisis" offered by Stop the Pipeline Coalition. See <https://stopthemoneypipeline.com> for more information about this group.

If you are interested in learning how banks are directly funding climate change, and are harming the people who live and work, or are in hospitals and care facilities located near fossil fuel projects, you can register for Part II of this webinar at <https://tinyurl.com/y5olv3df>.

The UU Office at the United Nations (UU@UN) is already planning the next annual Intergenerational Spring Seminar scheduled on April 9-11, 2021. As in April, 2020, this will be an all-virtual Seminar in which participants will learn strategies for the "practical spirituality" that the Rev. Michael Dowd spoke of during his presentation on "Ecology as Theology" at our Sunday service on July 19. The 2021 Seminar will build off of this year's Seminar theme of "All In for Climate Justice," and show how we can take our vision of climate justice to the next step by working on food security for all and to create just and equitable food and agricultural systems. The success of the 2021 Seminar depends upon the talent of volunteers who contribute their time, energy, and skills. The UU@UN office is now accepting applications for the 2021 Intergenerational Spring Seminar Planning Committee. Positions include Youth and Adult Deans (applications are still being accepted), Youth and Adult Chaplains (applications due August 20, 2020), and Planning Committee members on the Trajectory of Learning Team, the Logistics & Accessibility Team, the Spiritual Grounding Team, and the Communications & Publicity Team. For more information, see <https://www.uua.org/international-justice/un/spring-seminar>. CAC invites young adults in the Fellowship's youth program who are interested in participating in the 2021 Intergenerational Seminar to contact us for scholarship information to cover registration fees and information for arranging possible academic credit for attendance at the International Seminar.

*Sue Lee Mossman*