

Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



To the Beloved HUUF Community

Toward a Fellowship of our dreams

On a Saturday in late August, twenty-some souls gathered in our Fellowship's Sanctuary. Equipped with folding tables, crayons, and brightly colored sticky notes, we came to grapple with some key questions. Like:

What are we, as a community, doing well?

Where are we stuck?

When you think about the health and future of HUUF, what keeps you up at night?

And...

What would it take to build the Fellowship of our dreams?

Together, with cups of strong coffee and long-form notes, we sketched out our plans, our hopes. We talked about community meals in our kitchen, permaculture on our grounds, a large(r) sign planted where our aging, smaller one now stands, announcing to the larger world who we are and who we are here to serve.

That is to say, we exist to uplift and uphold the inherent holiness and spirit of humanity, more than we adhere to any creed. That is to say, we would rather be known as a community gathering space, a refuge, a sanctuary, an island of JOY inside a larger sea of overwhelm, rather than for any lofty theological views we espouse. "*Oh, the Fellowship?*" we want to hear people say, "*That place? I feel deeply welcome there. I feel seen. I feel a sense of home.*"

We had grand plans that afternoon. We brought our aging bodies, our disabled bodies, our grieving bodies, our overtired and overworked bodies, our sleep-deprived bodies, our electric hearts, and our bright hopes for what's to come; and we laid it all on the proverbial altar. Hoping to emerge with clearly outlined ten-point plans, contact lists and staid next steps. In that regard, we faltered slightly. But perhaps it could be said that in other, more significant ways, we soared. We dove collectively into a rich, imaginal field, plumbing the rich, ancestral soil, excavating lost gems, and clearing space for new seeds to take root. Not all of them will.

We gathered inside that space that Sufi poet Rumi invites us to, wherein we encounter the Beloved: "*Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing and rightdoing... I'll meet you there.*" And we emerged with our hands holding steadfastly to one another, a spontaneous and off-key song guiding us forward. And perhaps, more important than anything else, a wish and a promise to return to this place—again and again. To meet one another there. To keep showing up—however

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How do you like your Sunday morning coffee at HUUF?

Do you want it in a ceramic cup? Or do you prefer to drink it in a cup made of paper or styrofoam? We affirm at every service that we "help one another in Fellowship," yet very few of us are willing to make coffee and clean up afterward. The few who do are often among our waning group of elders.

The UU Seventh Principle speaks to respecting the interdependent web of all existence. Many UUs interpret this principle as encouragement to be responsible in caring for the environment, including the solid waste we produce. That is why our kitchen has used washable dishes and cloth napkins. Yet recently I hear that people no longer want to wash dishes, so now paper, styrofoam, and plastic occupy the kitchen shelves.

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New youth program comes to HUUF

We're delighted to welcome Suzy Miller and her program, *Blossom and Root*, to our Fellowship! What began as a chance conversation between Suzy and Tiffany about needing space for her home-based learning group turned into exactly the kind of serendipitous connection that reminds us how our community takes shape.

Suzy brings eight years of experience running the Village Playschool, an in-home early childhood program, and Blossom and Root will now call our CARE building home as she moves into this dedicated new space.

Blossom and Root is a kindergarten enrichment and homeschool support program for a small cohort of children, meeting Monday through Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., following the Arcata School District calendar. Days are warm and unhurried, built around child-led learning, hands-on projects, art, weekly bread-baking, and outdoor time, all grounded in a nature-based curriculum enriched by Reggio-inspired project work. Rooted in an attachment-based, relational approach and drawing on Montessori, Reggio Emilia, and Waldorf training, the program holds each child as capable and whole. It's a natural extension of our shared commitment to the worth of every child and to a community rooted in love and mutual care. We're so glad to welcome Suzy and the children of Blossom and Root among us.

September RE schedule

Sunday, September 6, 12:30 pm:

Join us after service for a paint party at the Playscape, working to complete our mural project. Let's beat the raindrops and get some color on our tiny house.

Sunday, September 13, 10:15 am:

Great news: HUUF Choir Director Kay Raplenovich is creating a Youth Singers group with practice beginning today at 10:15 a.m. (prior to service). For more information contact Kay at kaysraplenovich@gmail.com.

Saturday, September 19, 1:00 p.m.:

For the second year, we will be participating with the Raging Grannies, the HUUF Climate Action Campaign, and others in the All Species Parade held during the North Country Fair. If you are interested in helping create wearable flair or know a child who would like to participate, we hope you can join us.

Sunday, September 20, 12:30 p.m.:

Join us after the service for the Religious Exploration Committee Launch Lunch! Come see what we do, share ideas and help create the RE program we wish to see. Lunch will be provided and children are welcome to eat with us and play on the playscape while we envision the magic we want to create together. All who are interested are welcome.

For more information, contact Tiffany at connect@huuf.org

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we can—to tend the seeds we scattered that day. And to call forth that which is now ready to grow.

Yours in the Journey,
Amy Day, Lay Minister

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I am looking for enlightenment: should HUUF stop serving beverages and having potlucks? Should we get more garbage bins and pay higher fees, fees which cover the County's cost to ship the solid waste to Oregon? Should HUUF charge an entrance fee so we can pay for the hired help needed to manage our food and beverages? Should elders like me just accept that times have changed, and change our attitude to accept these things?

I would love to hear from you,
Sylvia Shaw, She who frequents the kitchen

Sunday Services

Sunday, September 6, 11:00 a.m.

Labor Day

With Kay Raplenovich

What has the power to transform our lives, bring social change, and create revolution in human relationships? A service for reflection on empathy and the common good, with song and centered silence.



Sunday, September 13, 11:00 a.m.

And God is the Water

With Amy Day

For our annual Gathering of the Waters service, please bring a vessel of water from a source dear to you—whether a mountain spring or simply your kitchen sink—as we symbolically unite the tributaries of our individual lives. We will pour these contributions into a larger basin, celebrating our distinct journeys merging to feed the larger whole we are privileged to share. Drawing inspiration from movement, music, and poetry (like the one by Indigenous poet Lyla June, referenced in the service title), we will commune with the energy of water and affirm our connection to one another and the flowing source of life.

Sunday, September 20, 11:00 a.m.

How We Care

With Holli Sinn and Tiffany Hess

Worship Leader Holli Sinn and Religious Exploration Leader Tiffany Hess will support the children of the HUUF community in exploring what it means to care for one another, follow through on our commitments, repair harm, and grow in connection to each other. Guided by the childrens' own questions, reflections, activities, and contributions, this service invites all ages to consider how we respond to the people we love—and how we respond to our own needs—with care, honesty, and responsibility.

Sunday, September 27, 11:00 a.m.

We Begin Again in Love

With Amy Day and Maggie McKnight

Join us for a service of new beginnings and interconnection, co-led by our Community Song Leader, Maggie McKnight. Drawing on the sacred design principles of belonging, becoming, and collective liberation, we will explore how knowing and being known transforms isolation into community, and how tending our inner gifts contributes to a world of justice and wholeness. Together we will celebrate the courage it takes to grow into who we are called to be, recognizing that our individual journeys are inextricably linked to the flourishing of all. Come as you are, ready to listen, sing, and witness the beauty of our shared humanity.

Climate Action Campaign

Join us at the All Species Parade—and new rebates for EVs and E-bikes

All are welcome to join RE families, CAC members, 350 Humboldt, the Raging Grannies, and musician Gregg Moore and his band in the All Species Parade on the Arcata Plaza. Join us on summer's last Saturday afternoon, September 19, at 1:00 p.m.. The more the merrier as we carry the message of protecting Earth's climate and its creatures. While many will be in costume as the Earth's critters, it's no problem if you just come as you are. Watch for more information in an upcoming *Friday Weekly* as to when and where we will meet before the parade begins.

California's new \$3,500 rebate for EVs

Under California's new initiative, called "[My First EV](#)," first-time EV buyers who purchase a new electric vehicle for under \$50,000 will be eligible for a \$3,500 rebate. First-time EV buyers who buy a used electric vehicle for less than \$25,000 through manufacturers' pre-owned vehicle programs will receive a \$1,750 rebate. The state program will pay half of each rebate, and 13 automakers have agreed to match it.

E-bike voucher program from Redwood Coast Energy Authority

Eligible RCEA residential customers can receive vouchers worth at least \$400 toward the purchase of a new e-bike from participating local bike shops in Humboldt County. Higher-value vouchers up to \$1,000 are also available for cargo and adaptive e-bikes.

Learn more and apply today at:

<https://redwoodenergy.org/programs-rebates/residential/e-bike-voucher/>

In July, the Solidarity Gathering hosted by Friends of the Eel River at HumBrews in Arcata was well attended by supporters of Friends of the Eel River, HUUF's Climate Action Campaign, 350 Humboldt, and other groups. After each group talked about their goals and projects, ranging from the proposed Amazon project at the airport to an Eel River clean up, several people talked about the importance of informal community meetings where different organizations come together for information and support.



At the Solidarity Gathering, CAC joined 350 Humboldt to ask attendees to write to the city councils of Trinidad, Blue Lake, and Ferndale asking their approval of the Regional Climate Action Plan (RCAP) and to share in funding the coordinator position for the RCAP.

Thanks to those who attended the Solidarity Gathering and others who visited CAC's climate action table in July at HUUF, we sent 94 postcards to the three city councils. At this point all three communities have approved the RCAP, and we expect approval of funding for the coordinator position.

Also, a big thank you to HUUF members and friends who wrote another 28 postcards in August to State Senator Mike McGuire and Senate President Monique Limón to urge a no vote on two bills that, if passed, would favor oil companies.

Update on climate books to local elementary schools

This joint project between CAC and 350 Humboldt will continue this fall as we donate a set of climate related books to five local elementary schools (Kneeland, Redway, Cuddeback, Hydesville, and Pine Hill). The donation of these books is made possible thanks to the support of HUUF members and friends, as well as funding from Humboldt Sponsors, the local Friends Meeting, and the statewide Friends Earthcare Witness program. Also, we received a donation of six copies of *The Miracle Forest* by local author Ellen Dee Davidson, which enables HUUF's library to share a copy with the RE program. The remaining five copies will be donated to the schools listed above.

Given the current anti-science and climate change denying attitude in Washington, we will face ever more challenging climate related issues. As UUs who accept the principle, "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are part," we have a moral obligation to protect earth's climate and life support systems. Climate

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Practicing Community Care returns Wednesday, September 2

Our twice-monthly practice of gentle, communal care is back after a summer break, and we invite you to join us every first and third Wednesday at 12:00 p.m. on Zoom. These hour-long, small group sessions focus on restorative practices like writing, meditation, breath work, and somatics, with lots of time to share your thoughts. We show up to hold space for one another and build connection because we know that building communities of care is one way to practice quiet but impactful resistance.

Want in? Email Amy at minister@huuf.org and we'll send you the registration form and Zoom link.

Open Soul Matters group resumes Thursday, September 3

Soul Matters meetings are small group gatherings (typically 8 to 10 people) centered on deep listening, shared reflection, and a single monthly spiritual theme. Participants use an at-home thematic packet to guide their personal spiritual practice before meeting and later share their experiences together. For the month of September, the theme is "Beginnings."

HUUF's open Soul Matters group is lovingly facilitated by Gigi Collins and meets the first Thursday of each month (starting September 3rd) at 7:00 p.m. in the CARE building. For more information or to gain access to this month's packet, please contact Rebekah at office@huuf.org

Volunteer for a free health clinic

California Care Force returns

California Care Force (CCF, or The Force), with the support of an active local host committee, is preparing for another free Dental/Vision Clinic in Eureka. The clinic will be open for two and a half days, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, November 6, 7 and 8. The clinic will be held at the Eureka Municipal Auditorium at 1120 F Street and will be open to anyone. Services will include dental fillings and extractions, teeth cleanings, eye examinations and dispensing of new glasses. We'll need financial donations to fund the clinic, as well as many general and professional volunteers who will be needed for set up, registering and escorting patients, and of course providing treatment. For more information and to volunteer, go to: californiacareforce.org or contact Tom Lewis at (530) 774-3550, or email him at tomaslewis70@gmail.org.

Friday, September 25, 6:00 p.m.

Mabon: A Fall Equinox ritual

All are invited to join Redwood Coast CUUPS as we usher in Autumn and give thanks for the harvest. Please bring a dish for the potluck feast following the ritual. For more information, contact Yemaya at CUUPS@HUUF.org. Blessed be!

You oughta be in pictures!

Friends, we invite you to join us on Sunday, September 13, after our annual "Gathering of the Waters" service, for Picture Day with HUUF Congregational Administrator Rebekah Paez. On this day, and again on Sunday, September 27, she'll be on hand to take photographs of members and friends who wish to have their picture included in the upcoming edition of the HUUF Directory.



Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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Generations in Covenant

Mentorship Program begins

On Sunday, September 13, beginning at 1:00 p.m., HUUF will host a potluck lunch and initial gathering for participants in our upcoming Mentorship program. Generations in Covenant pairs newer HUUF members with longstanding members for a year-long journey of monthly one-on-one conversations, creating a dedicated space to deepen relationship and receive hard-won wisdom. Whether you seek guidance and deeper community roots or a meaningful way to pass on your life (and institutional) experience, this program bridges the gap between generations through authentic personal connection. By investing just one hour a month from September 2026 to June 2027, you'll have the opportunity to build a lasting relationship that enriches your spiritual growth while strengthening the heart of our community.

To learn more, please reach out to Amy at minister@huuf.org.

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scientist and author Peter Kalmus says “If we find it difficult or irrelevant to use less fossil fuel ourselves, how effective can we be in pushing for broader systems-level change? If we want cultural shift, we need individuals to lead the way. We need many individuals showing what’s possible, shifting the normal, telling a new story with their actions. Those of us situated to do this with relative ease have a moral responsibility to do so. Sooner or later, our social norms will reflect this.”

So join us and be the change that helps spark the shift from dependence on fossil fuel to renewable energy that is good for Earth’s climate.

Sue Lee Mossman, Co-chair