

Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



To the Beloved HUUF Community

October 2024

Please join us Sunday, **October 6th**, as part of our 11 a.m. service, for an All Congregation Meeting and Gathering to discuss the future of Ministry at HUUF. This event will take place *in person* only. We will have N95 masks available, and have our filtration system running. If you need a ride, please let us know ASAP so we can arrange that. Thank you for playing a part in this next pivotal step into our collective visioning together.

There's a marvelous passage from Kahlil Gibran, which was later turned into a rousing song by Sweet Honey in the Rock. It goes: "Your children are not your children. They are the sons and the daughters of Life's longing for Itself. They come through you, but they are not from you. ... You may give them your love but not your thoughts. They have their own thoughts." If you've ever parented or taught a child, perhaps this resonates. We come to this sacred journey with a fistful of hopes and dreams, fears and anxieties all wrapped in love. And yet, at best, all we can do is help to clear a road where their own true voice and calling can emerge. Our work, we come to see, is not about pointing them toward the path we wish them to walk, but rather to companion them, and help them build up their own capacity to decipher the truth and the next right steps for themselves.

When I (Amy) was still studying theater, another lifetime ago, I had a renowned teacher who would tell us to approach the piece we were building like a sculptor to a formless piece of clay. And our work, he said, was not to impose our own vision upon a soulless piece of granite, but rather to divine the form that was wanting to be expressed within the clay. "It has a will and a dream of becoming all its own," he said. And our work was to partner with it to bring that dream to life.

This month, as we enter once more into the liminal space of some deep decision making, we are invited, timely enough, into the territory of "Deep Listening." It is so easy to let our fear and anxiety take the lead, causing us to grasp for the reins of control. What will happen if we make the wrong decision? What if we don't get it right? What will become of this place we've poured so much of our hearts, lives and resources into? And yet, our consensus process asks that we come in, *not* with our own ideas and agendas fully formed, our stump speech memorized, and ready to sway others to our well-articulated side. Rather we are asked to enter from a place of curiosity, of not-yet-knowing. Full of more silence than our own thrumming opinions and fears. We trust, that like the mythic blind men and the elephant, that we hold just a piece of the larger Knowing, and not the Whole. That we need the input of each other to perceive the way. We are asked to merge into conversation with one another, to be held in Silence, and ask more questions than posit assertions. We are asked to listen, just below the level of conscious, task-driven thought, to what the deeper truth that is wanting to be collectively revealed.

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Beloved Community, continued

Perhaps it could even be said: “This Fellowship is not merely our Fellowship. It is the creation of many, and an expression of what is wanting to be born in and through us.” We can come to the conversation, chisel in hand, ready to carve into the next pathway forward. But we are asked to remember that this beloved community holds a dream and a will of its own. If we are working well, we will plant seeds for trees whose shade we will likely never know. And the best we can do in this space, is gently companion one another here, with humility and grace, and build up our capacity to listen for what is wanting to come next.

*Yours in grace & gratitude,
Your Shared Ministry Team,
Amy Day & Bridgette Garuti*

Community Grief Ritual with Vida Hofweber

Art and ceremony can serve as a medium to allow us to encounter potent topics giving rise to an emergence of collective strength and transformation. When we take pause, deeply honor our feelings and tears, new insights and possibilities can ignite.

Join somatic therapist Vida Hofweber, sound healer Alissa Pattison, and Amy Day on Saturday, **October 19**, from 2-5 p.m. for this community exploration and ritual for moving through individual and collective grief. Containing elements of Francis Weller’s work, writing, expressive arts practice, and time for sharing, together we will create a space for deep healing to occur. \$5-\$20 suggested donation.

Song Circle Nights Switch-Up

Normally held the first and third Friday of every month, our beloved community song circles, led by the effervescent Maggie McKnight, will be held at slightly different times this month. Join us **October 11** and **18** at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary, for a heart-filling experience of connection and song.



Bur-RE-to Night

Join us for this special RE (Families) night on Friday, **October 4** to make a tray of burritos to share with the Street Outreach program at the Church of the Joyful Healer, as they feed and minister to some of the unhoused members of our community. Preparation starts at 5, or show up for the yummy spread and All Ages fun at 5:30, where we’ll bust out the games, crafts and conversation and have a little nosh and festive fellowship together. Beans, rice and tortillas, we’ll have aplenty. Bring a favorite burrito fixin’ to share. Contact Amy for more information.

Open Soul Matters Group

Want to get involved with a small group but aren't sure where to start? Facilitator Margy Emerson hosts this once monthly drop-in space for those eager to try on this space for size. **Every second Wednesday of the month, at 7 p.m.**, in the CARE building. Email the office if you'd like to check out a packet ahead of time.

Got yarn?

Do you love to knit or crochet? Would you like to make a significant impact in someone's life?

You can, by putting your hat making skills to good use. Cold, wet Humboldt weather is just around the corner. For those living in an open air environment, a warm, dry head can make a big difference. Join *Soups On* volunteer, Debbie in the HUUF foyer each Wednesday from 2-4 for some comradery and hat making. She'll bring any hats made by the houseless community in the Giuntoli area of Arcata for distribution. If you are unable to join the knitting circle in person, you're welcome to simply drop hats off at HUUF in the "Hats for Houseless" collection bin.

Whodunit?

Solve My Money Mystery!

Recently I received a generous donation in the mail. An anonymous check arrived, drafted from Perpetual Group . The check had no donor name and the financial firm that it came from is unable to track it back to a donor. Although I am extremely grateful for any donations that come in, unless I know who is donating and what their intent is, I cannot apply the money appropriately or give proper credit to the donor. If yoUU-dunit, please speak up! Contact me today. With gratitude, Bridgette Garuiti, HUUF DCO.

Deadline Information

Deadline for the November newsletter issue is Sunday, **October 20**, at 5 p.m. Send committee reports, announcements and articles related to HUUF (email only) to newsletter@huuf.org.

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

Power of Presence

Join Karen Harris and other spiritual and mental health professionals on Sunday, **October 27**, from 1-3 p.m., to help us learn skills to better support one another upon life's journey inside this space of deep listening and care. Please contact Amy at comm@huuf.org for more information.



Staff news

Thank you Rebekah Paez / Welcome Tiffany Hess

After nearly two years of dedicated service, Rebekah Paez has stepped down as HUUF's Membership Coordinator. While Bek is seeking full time employment outside of the Fellowship, she will continue to be an engaged and vibrant member of our community. Bek continues to volunteer by bringing her gifts and passion to the membership committee, as well as engaging as one of HUUF's talented OWL facilitators.

Welcome [Tiffany Hess](#) as HUUF's new Communications Coordinator. You may know Tiffany already, as one of our joyful and caring RE Teachers. Now, Tiffany will be joining the weekday staff to tend to HUUF's communication needs, provide stewardship for HUUF events and general assistance as needed. Tiffany is a terrific addition to our team - Welcome!

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.

Samhain celebration and ritual

CUUPS & Grove of Hekate present: *Samhain Gathering of the Witches*

The veil between the worlds is thin. We will gather Saturday, **November 2**, at 6 p.m. in ritual to honor our beloved dead and celebrate the Witches New Year. Arrive ready for merry making as we honor the spirits among us. Please bring mementos of your beloved dead for the ancestor altar, as well as food &/or drink to share.

Blessed Be!



Resource materials for the Congregational Meeting on ministry

Help us chart the way forward for ministry at the Fellowship by being well informed for the congregational meeting on Sunday, **October 6** at 11:00. A wealth of background information is posted on the HUUF.org website. Click on the graphic on the carousel at the top of the Home Page to learn about the history of ministry at HUUF, how the Interim Ministry Team was formed, what it would be like to search for a UU minister, how we're doing financially, and more. See you On October 6.

Margaret Emerson

How the Fellowship's finances survived the pandemic

Our Finance Committee, working with Margy Emerson, Board Co-President, Bridgette Garuti, Director of Operations, and Katherine Almy, who donates her professional bookkeeping services, has been researching the last five year-end Budget vs. Actuals to get clear on the current state of HUUF's finances and to determine how we made it through the pandemic with its lost members and lost pledges.

We discovered that within the fiscal year 2019-2020, we transferred \$10,000 from the Moore Fund (a bequest from Suzanne Moore) to Operating Expenses.

Within the fiscal year 2020-21, we received \$28,800 from the Paycheck Protection Program and transferred \$30,000 from the Moore Fund—all of which went into Operating Expenses.

That's a total of \$69,000 worth of outside help beyond our pledge and fund-raising income. As we emerge from the pandemic, we will need to become self-sufficient again. As we look into a decision on ministry at HUUF, work is ongoing to get a firm handle on what we can or can't afford to expend on staffing.

With the leaving of our longtime finance guru and committee chair, Dave Harris, the Finance Committee is understaffed and could use some enthusiastic, budget-minded new members. Please volunteer! The Committee currently is composed of Cynthia Chason, Endowment Fund Chair; Hart Mendenhall, Board Treasurer; and Chip Sharpe.

Sunday Services

Sunday, October 6, 11:00 a.m. – All Membership Meeting – Josh Charles, Worship Leader and Wendy Rowan, Consensus Facilitator

In this special service, members of the Fellowship will make decisions together to chart our path forward with regards to our ministry. This will be a long service, running until 1 p.m., in order to give ourselves needed time. We will examine these three questions:

- 1) What are the collective needs of our congregation – which ones are we meeting well, and which ones are unmet?
- 2) What forms of ministry might we pursue to build on our strengths and meet our unmet needs?
- 3) How do we want to move forward?

We will seek consensus on the last question, and encourage our members to be aspirational regarding the future of HUUF ministry. Check HUUF.org for additional contextual items which are currently being prepared. Once ready, hard copies will be available at HUUF.

Sunday, October 13, 11:00 a.m. – Discussing Intention – Josh Charles, Worship Leader

In this small group discussion service, we will examine the role intentionality plays in our lives. We will practice deep listening skills as we participate in a sharing of this powerful concept. Questions for your consideration: How do you connect with intention? Are there things in your life that are more intentional than others? How do you sustain your intention? How does intention connect with agency?

Sunday, October 20, 11:00 a.m. – Finding Our Wonder – Pat Carr, Presenter – Ann Kilby, Worship Leader

Wonder is an often unrecognized emotion that can lead us to stretch beyond who we've been. But the stress of current times can challenge our ability to experience wonder, even in the amazing tapestry of our lives. We'll look at how we can find wonder and what that can mean for us.

Sunday, October 27, 11:00 a.m. – Stone Soup – Amy Day, Worship Leader

In the Stone Soup story, the empty-handed traveler who comes to town, and convinces people to bring their offerings to the collective feast, is often seen as a trickster - duping people out of their hard-earned sustenance. But what if the story is one of invitation, not trickery? A story of collectivism and the power we contain as a whole? Come share your gifts of service and song as we gather together to celebrate what we can craft when we work as one.



Climate Action Campaign News

The Future of Climate Policy at Stake in the November Election

Thank you to all Fellowship members who helped to write postcards to voters in the swing state of Ohio on Sunday, September 15. Stay tuned, as we are exploring the possibility of more postcard writing for Sunday October 20.

A Conversation about Local Wind Energy

CAC is pleased to co-sponsor 350 Humboldt's Zoom presentation entitled "Offshore Wind Development in Humboldt County: A Conversation with RWE and Vineyard Offshore" on Monday, **September 30**, at 7 p.m. Erik Pelkar (Vineyard) and Ciara Emery (RWE/Canopy Offshore Wind Farm) will describe how they got interested in offshore wind, their backgrounds in this community, some of the challenges and opportunities for our communities, their perspectives on the transmission and procurement of energy from the offshore turbines, and the role of offshore wind in the energy transition. Zoom registration: <https://actionnetwork.org/events/offshore-wind-development-in-humboldt-county-a-conversation-with-rwe-and-vineyard-offshore>

"Week Without Driving"

This year the "Week Without Driving" occurs from September 30 to October 6, and is co-sponsored by the Coalition for Responsible Transportation Priorities, the Humboldt County Association of Governments, the Humboldt Transit Authority, and Tri-County Independent Living. The co-sponsors are encouraging elected officials, committee members, public agency staff, and other transportation decision-makers to participate so they can learn first-hand what it's like to be a non-driver in this area and to reduce fossil fuel use. Everyone is encouraged to participate. You can sign up to pledge not to drive for a week at <https://transportationpriorities.org/weekwithoutdriving/>

Humboldt County's 2024 Draft Climate Action Plan

Humboldt County is coordinating with the 7 incorporated cities to develop a climate action plan to reduce GHG emissions. The 2024 Draft CAP can be found on the County's website at <https://humboldt.gov/2464/Humboldt-Regional-Climate-Action-Plan>. Interested community members are encouraged to share their input on the CAP by contacting County Planning directly at planningclerk@humboldt.ca.us. The county anticipates adopting the final version in June 2025.

Link for UU Vegetarian Cookbook

Thank you, Navarra Carr, for sharing this link. Navarra was an active participant in our RE program as a child and teen for many years. She is currently a city council member in Port Angeles, WA and will receive her law degree this fall. Way to go Navarra!

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1n_z6On2OHbkqRL3IZgV1Mmbu6CaGSa3d/view

We have a moral obligation to protect earth's climate, her life support systems, and the health of our children and future generations.

Sue Lee Mossman



October Teen Services

Hi teens and families! For October there will be two teen services, on October 18 and 27, at the same time as regular Sunday service. I will also be at the next Joyful Healer Food Prep/Burrito Night at fellowship on **October 4**. I'd love to see you there and answer any questions you may have!

October 18

We'll spend service time in the kitchen to make some fall-themed cupcakes from scratch! Hopefully, we'll also be making enough to share with family and friends.

October 27

We'll be taking a hike up Tsurai Trail (also known as Trinidad Head Trail) and celebrating the changing of the seasons.

More details and information can be found through e-mail and text! If you want to be added to the mailing list, email me at devine.bellamy@gmail.com or text at 619-337-5117

Bellamy Devine, Teen Coordinator



Sharing Favorite Books

This is a list of the recommended books from the service on Sunday, August 11.

The Fate of Rome by Kyle Harper (Steve Sottong)

The Well of Lost Plots by Jasper Fforde (part of a series) (Debby Harrison)

A Fever in the Heartland by Timothy Egan (Greg Blomstrom)

Horse by Geraldine Brooks (Pat McCutcheon)

Democracy Awakening by Heather Cox Richardson (Margy Emerson)

The Grieving Brain by Mary-Frances O'Connor (Bonnie MacGregor)

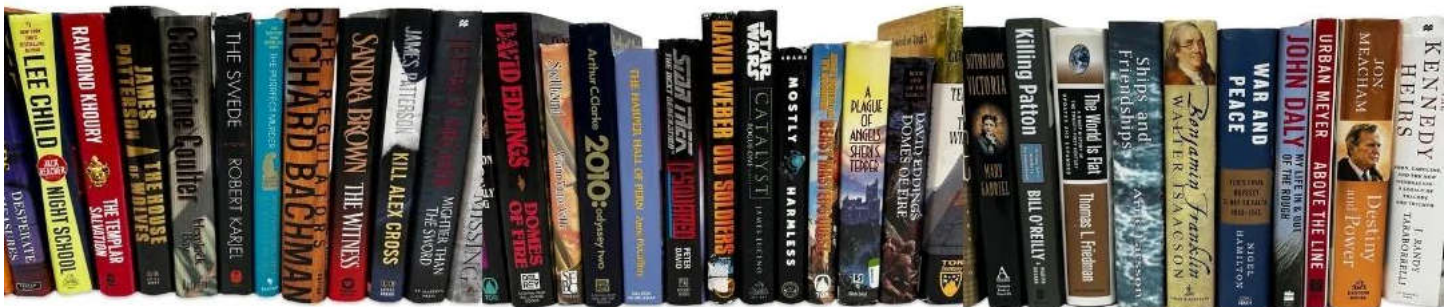
When things Fall Apart by Pema Chodron (Tom Lewis)

Outlawed by Anna North (Allie—new to the Fellowship)

The Gray Bird Sings: The Extraordinary Life of Betty Kwan Chinn by Karen Price (Mandy Bray)

Blue Highways by William Least Heat-Moon (Bonnie MacGregor)

Nonviolent Communication by Marshall Rosenberg (Joy—new to the Fellowship)





Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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Chalice dinners return

Didn't get a chance to participate in our last round of intergenerational dinners and discussions? Good news! You can join us now. Gather in the sanctuary with us Sunday, **October 20**, at 1 p.m. after the service, to hear from established groups about what this community-building project looks like, and see if you'd like to get involved. New groups will be forming, and established groups will have the opportunity to reconfigure, as we gather around the table(s) once more for nourishment and vital conversations. If you'd like to be a part of a monthly group, please fill out and return the form below. (Or look for the online version in the upcoming Weekly email. Or grab a paper copy on Sunday morning!)

Chalice Dinners

Fall 2024

Name:

Phone Number:

Age: Email address:

Known food allergies or dietary restrictions:

Town you live in:

How many people in your family/household (dinner participants)?

Do you prefer a daytime or evening meetup?

Would you like to serve as a.....

- host (open your home for a night?),
- facilitator (guide discussion - we provide training) or
- group coordinator (communication, scheduling, etc.)?

