Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



To the Beloved HUUF Community

We little birds are all in this together

Sometimes stories find their way to us. They circle around us in unexpected places. They find their way to us, rolling onto the shores of our consciousness and our lives—waves that keep lapping, gradually reshaping the topography of our beings and distilling their nectar-like wisdom in steady drops until it lands inside our minds, hearts, and bones.

The story that's been coming to me these past few weeks is one many of us have heard in our congregation. This story from Professor Wangari Maathai, an environmental and political activist from Kenya, where she tells us the parable of the hummingbird, which goes like this:



There's a huge forest being consumed by a fire. All the animals are transfixed as they watch the forest burning and they feel overwhelmed, completely powerless, except one tiny hummingbird. The hummingbird says, "I'm going to do something about the fire!"

It flies to the nearest stream and takes a drop of water. It puts it on the fire, and goes up and down, up and down, back and forth, as fast as it can. In the meantime, all the other animals, much bigger animals—like the elephant with a big trunk that could bring much more .water—they continue to stand there helplessly.

They say to the hummingbird, "What do you think you can do? You are too small. This fire is too big. Your wings are too little and your beak is so tiny that you can only bring one small drop of water at a time."

But as they continue to discourage it, the hummingbird turns to them without wasting any time and tells them "I am doing what I can—what is mine to do."

Last week, for the second blessed year in a row, I found myself at a conference, "*Nevertheless She Preached."* Two-plus days of powerful preaching, conversations and distillations from femme, queer, and non-binary clergy, faith leaders and musicians, all come together to talk about the work of "Joy as Resistance." Asking the powerful, compelling

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HUUF welcomes A Mother's Village

We're delighted to welcome A Mother's Village as a new community partner at HUUF. A Mother's Village is an independent nonprofit, rooted in Humboldt County since 2020. Their mission is to reawaken village culture by creating welcoming spaces where mothers, children, and families can gather, find support, and build community.

Their work includes support circles, childcare, childbirth education and parenting classes, doula and postpartum connections, resource navigation, and cultural arts. They serve more than 800 community members a year, with no- and low-cost programs for the families with the greatest need. So you're not surprised when you see them in the building, here is when they'll be using our space:

See "Mother's Village," next page

New HUUF office hours

Beginning in November, the HUUF office will be open Tuesday through Thursday, noon to 4:00 p.m. We know that doesn't fit everyone's schedule, so please don't let it stop you from reaching us. Staff will be available on Mondays and Fridays by appointment. If you need to come by, drop something off, or talk something through, plan for those afternoon open hours or make an appointment and we'll find a time that works.

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questions that accompany so many of us at this moment: *How do we sustain ourselves within the overwhelm and tumult of this time? In a time where I feel so depleted, how do I adequately offer support to those who are suffering more than I am under the weight of oppressive forces? What is* my *sacred work to do*? Questions asked and answered in all manner of passionate, eloquent, deeply resonant theological discourse from a plethora of powerful voices. And yet, somehow we circle back to this story. Channeling the image of a tiny, mythic bird as a way to propel us into the next iteration of our own unique calling. *I am doing what I can—what is mine to do.'*Sometimes it takes a room full of PhDs and authors of multiple books to help us find the words and narratives that will carry us to our "next right thing." And sometimes all we need is a folktale—one that is gradually weaving its way into our neural highways, into our bones and blood—to help us access our innate, divine, internal guidance.

My hope—my prayer—for us all this coming season, beloved—is that we all find ourselves guided back to the place where that holy reorienting takes place. May we seek out the people, pathways, practices and parables that bear the weight of truth and help us reclaim the work that is blessedly, distinctly, and collectively ours to do. Find your story. Find your stream. Keep filling up. Keep offering forth. We are in this together.

Yours in the Journey,
Amy Day, Lay Minister, HUUF

Mother's Village, continued from page one

Mondays (second and fourth of the month), 11:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
Wednesdays, 9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
Thursdays, 9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
Fridays (1st of the month), 6:00–-9:00 p.m.

We hope you'll help us honor their time in the space by utilizing our office doors located on the right side of the building. We'd love for our community to learn more about the work they do. Please take a look at their website, **amothersvillage.us**, share their programs with the families and friends in your life, and consider supporting their work. Their programs are for pregnant and postpartum families, children, and caregivers across Humboldt County.

Turkey included

You're invited to join a Thanksgiving Potluck at the Fellowship!



All are invited to a holiday meal on Thanksgiving Day, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. We will gather for appetizers by 2:00 and serve dinner about 2:15. This is a potluck. Why cook many dishes at home when you can cook just one and share it with your Fellowship family? Berti Welty and Jo Weisberger will procure and cook the turkey and gravy. Donations will be solicited to cover the cost of the organic turkey.

We will need a few people to start setting up at 1:00, and we will also need a clean-up crew afterwards. Please let Berti know if you are able to help. Anyone bringing decorations should come by 1:30, and those bringing appetizers or drinks should come by 1:45 so they can be set up.

Berti would appreciate knowing what you will be bringing so when people ask "What is needed?" she has a clue. If you know you are coming, or think you might, email Berti so we will have a tentative head count and we'll know how many turkeys to order.

All are invited, even if they do not normally attend Fellowship services.
Berti Welty

Sunday Services



Sunday, November 1, **11:00 a.m.**
In This House: A Community Singing Service
with Maggie McKnight

As Bobby McFerrin put it, “One of the simplest and most direct ways of praying and meditating is through singing.” Singing together in community provides a vital sense of belonging, wellbeing, and release, in a world that many of us find increasingly hard to face. This service will be modeled after Maggie’s song circles, interspersing singing with poetry, sharing, and ritual. Together we will lift our voices and our spirits as we sing our way to wholeness.

Sunday, November 8, 11:00 a.m.
Healing Through Service: Betty Kwan Chinn
with Montana Caouette

Join us as we continue our Soul Matters theme of “healing” with champion-for-the-homeless Betty Kwan Chinn. Discover how she has transformed negative childhood trauma into positive healing within the local underprivileged community. Learn ways we can ensure the inherent worth and dignity of every person. May service be our prayer, welcoming the founder of the Betty Chinn Homeless Foundation Day Center.

Sunday, November 15, 11:00 a.m.
How to Resist End Times Fascism
with Amy Day

Inspired by the powerful book by Naomi Klein and Astra Taylor, we gather together to explore the key forces driving the apocalyptic narrative(s) of our time, and also find concrete and hopeful ways we can push back. We'll look at specific and inspiring examples of broad-based coalition building and resistance movements that are happening in real time. We’ll examine how we might apply these ideas to our current context. Join us for this spirited and timely deep-dive into the landscape of change making and advocating for the cause of life.

Sunday, November 22, 11:00 a.m.
In Praise of Sabbath
with Amy Day

The origin of our English word "sabbath" comes to us, as we know, from the Hebrew: "shābbat", meaning "to cease,” and ”to rest.” In a world which demands ever more from us—our time, attention, labor, our energy—what role does the practice of rest play in the healing of our world? Come examine the surprising ways that rest can anchor and support our active forms of resistance, and the multitude of forms this sacred practice may take.

Sunday, November 29, 11:00 a.m.
The Sacred Pause, **with Liesbet Bickett** ***—service details are continued on page six***

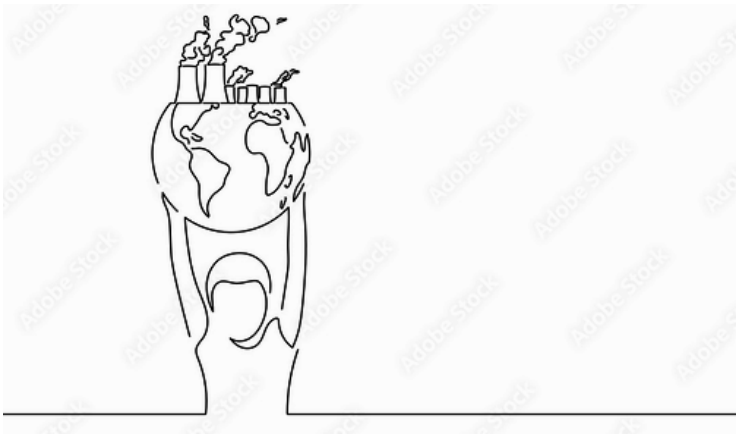
Climate Action Campaign

Climate action on the ballot and elsewhere

Important California climate propositions are on the ballot

If you haven't voted yet, there are two statewide ballot propositions that are bad for the climate, according to reliable activist groups. Please do your own research, but many environmental organization are urging a "no" vote on Propositions 43 and 45.

Proposition 43, sponsored by Howard Jarvis devotees, would require a 2/3 vote for certain local taxes. Our local Coalition for Responsible Transportation Priorities (CRTP) says that "had this existed the recent Humboldt sales tax for road upkeep and transit would clearly have failed. This measure would make it virtually impossible for local voters to raise money for things like transit service or bike and pedestrian infrastructure. Public transit is of course a climate priority because it reduces the need for cars." Many other groups also oppose Prop 43 such as the Sierra Club and California chapters of the League of Women Voters (LWV) and Friends Committee (FCCA).



Proposition 45 proposes to fast track key legal requirements designed to protect the environment from projects ranging from highway expansion to sprawling subdivisions, data centers, dams, gas pipelines, clearcut logging, and more. Our local Environmental Protection Information Center, Climate Action California, and Planning and Conservation League, as well as the Sierra Club, LWV of CA, and FCCA recommend we vote no on Prop. 45.

Insurance Commissioner: Climate Action California supports Ben Allen. According to the group, Allen has a record of successful advocacy for California's consumers and also for our environment. They say he addresses the "connection between climate change and insurance cost and availability, by both reforming the market and working across sectors to reduce the risk that ultimately drives up premiums." Again, do your own research, but you may want to consider this in making your decision.

Climate News at the International Level: COP31, the 31st UN Climate Conference, will be held from November 9-20 in Türkey and will bring together government leaders, business executives, academics, and advocates to accelerate climate action. It will build on the foundations of previous COPs, in particular COP30 in Brazil.

COP31 aims to advance dialogue, strengthen consensus and accelerate implementation. As a host country with growing commitments to renewable energy and the circular economy, Türkey pledges to use its climate-diplomacy links across Europe, Asia, and the Middle East to work with nations and stakeholders around the world to contribute to the global climate agenda.

The three main priorities that COP31 has identified to advance and turn the commitments made at previous sessions into concrete implementation are:

- **Emission targets and implementation:** Countries delivering on their strengthened nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement;
- **Climate finance:** Delivering the new collective quantified finance goal set at COP29 to developing countries;
- **Adaptation and resilience:** Strengthening the resilience of vulnerable countries and communities against climate risks.

Despite the Trump Administration's withdrawal of the US from the Paris Agreement and other international climate actions, "America is All In" will send a delegation to COP31 from key non-federal American institutions, communities, and economic sectors. Led by former Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy, Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb, California Governor Gavin Newsom, Illinois Governor JB Pritzker, and other climate champions, AIAI is committed to reducing emissions as part of a nationwide, collaborative effort by numerous U.S. cities, states, tribal nations, businesses, schools, and institutions of faith, health, and culture. For more information, go to

See "Climate action," on page five

HUUF Board seeks a volunteer to attend Bayside Corners meetings

The HUUF Board of Trustees is seeking a volunteer from the congregation to attend two meetings at the Bayside Corners Temperance Hall to represent HUUF in the local community. These meetings, one each in November and December, are part of the Bayside Community's four-part series of meetings to engage the community around the theme of "Help Before the Help Arrives: Planning for Bayside Emergencies and Disasters."

Two of the meetings have already taken place. The upcoming November 8 meeting is titled "Herbal Remedies, Kitchen and Garden Remedies When Medical Help is Delayed." The final meeting, scheduled on December 13, covers "Caring for Animals During a Disaster." Dot Campbell, HUUF Co President, attended the October 13 meeting on "Neighborhood Preparedness Pods." Both of the upcoming meetings are from 3:00–4:30 p.m. on Sundays. Contact Rebekah Paez in the HUUF office to coordinate, and thank you in advance for volunteering.

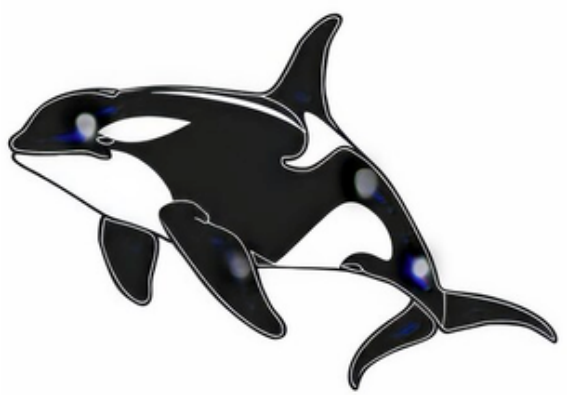
Greg Blomstrom, Co-President.

Drop-in for a Soul Matters group

Friends, we are delighted to let you know that we now have two drop-in Soul Matters groups to offer you. If you're interested in a daytime offering, Lay Minister Amy Day will host a 90-minute circle, open to all, on **Wednesday, November 11, from 1:00–2:30 p.m.** in HUUF's Multipurpose Room.

If evening meetings work better for you, join us on the third Thursday of the month, with Doug Carroll and Gigi Collins rotating facilitation each month. You can find them at the far end of the CARE building, in the RE Lounge, on **Thursday, November 19, 7:00–8:30 p.m.** Contact Amy at minister@huuf.org for more information.

WhaleCoast Alaska - A more authentic travel experience



A unique, exciting fundraising tour organized by Alaskan UU congregations is being offered again next summer by WhaleCoast Alaska. Experience majestic scenery, wildlife, Denali National Park, Alaska Native culture, glaciers, and UU homestays. For 33 years, WhaleCoast Alaska tours have been the BEST way to visit Alaska. Register now for this amazing experience!
Details: **www.WhaleCoastAK.org.**
Questions: **info@whalecoastak.org**

Climate action, continued from page four

https://www.americaisallin.com/about and the website for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change **https://unfccc.int/**.

Climate wisdom from a local Yurok/Howonquet leader

"I know we must be in harmony with the land, the animals, plants and the climate. We must not overpower the land or environment but be in harmony with them." Dale Ann Frye Sherman (Yurok/Howonquet), September 26, 1949 – October 2, 2026.

Frye Sherman was a deeply respected elder and leader who served Indigenous peoples locally, statewide, and nationally. She was a retired lecturer in Native American Studies at Cal Poly Humboldt, NAGPRA Consultant for the Yurok tribe, assisted University of Colorado School of Law professor Charles Wilkinson in drafting the first Yurok Constitution, and worked with architects to design the Potawot Health Village. She was knowledgeable and skilled with mediation, negotiation and cross-cultural communication; heritage tourism; collaborations for tribal museums; managing small museums; and the Native American Graves and Repatriation Act.

We honor Dale Ann Frye Sherman's memory by striving to live in harmony with Earth.

Sue Ying Lee Mossman, Climate Action Campaign Co-Chair

Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
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Sunday, November 29, 11:00 a.m.

The Sacred Pause

with Liesbet Bickett

As we move from Thanksgiving toward the December holidays, life can become full of activity, expectations, memories, and emotions. Amid all this season brings, what might become possible if we simply pause? Join us for a gentle, contemplative service offering space to slow down, listen, and reconnect—with ourselves, one another, and the mystery of life. Through music, reflection, silence, and simple shared practices, we will explore the gifts of presence and the possibilities that emerge when we make room for what is. Together we will create space to breathe, to be present with all that we carry, and to welcome the beauty, connection, and wonder that can emerge in moments of stillness.

December *HUUF Newsletter* deadline November 20

Send your HUUF-related news items, letters to the editor, or classified ads for next month's issue to **newsletter@huuf.org** by 5:00 p.m., Friday, November 20. All copy should be sent as simple text entered directly into an email, not in attached files. Classified ad space is available at $.10/per word, an incredible deal. Any questions? Email the editor in advance.