

Living Interfaith Church

Monthly Newsletter

Integrity is not an item of clothing. It is not a cloak to be worn or not as fashion may require. Integrity courses through who we are, like blood bringing oxygen to every corner of our spiritual self, or it does not exist.

December Calendar

December 10th—Service: 10:30 AM
“Honoring Advent”

December 17th—Service: 10:30 AM
“Honoring Chanukah”
(remember, it’s the 17th!!)

[More Details...See page 2 below](#)

January Calendar

January 7th —Service: 10:30
“Your Money or Your Life?”

January 21st—Service: 10:30
“Honoring Chinese New Year”

Sermon Podcasts

LivingInterfaith.Podbean.com

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Interfaith Q & A

If you have an Interfaith question of general interest, e-mail us your question at Livinginterfaith@frontier.com.

“Avoiding Turtle-ism”

[More Details ...See page 3 below](#)

End of Year Help for Interfaith!

We need your help and, to be blunt, your financial support!

Part One of our Interfaith Education Project is completed. It covers grades 1-3. It’s an introduction to the search for love, compassion and community that forms the foundation for all our spiritual paths. It is a WONDERFUL introduction for our children.

Part Two will cover grades 4-7 and deal with an introduction to the diverse spiritual paths of the students’ families (including the path of ... we don’t know!). We anticipate it will cost about \$15,000 to complete.

The very good news is that we started out with \$7000 in our education fund! This means we only need to raise \$8000. And we have been given a matching grant through December that will double all contributions! That means we only need to raise \$4,000 by December 31st and we can fully fund Part Two. Thus far we have raised \$1760 in donations and pledges. **THANK YOU** to all who have already donated! We still have \$2240 to raise in December. If you are considering an end-the-year charitable donation, **please consider us!!** Details about donating are on p. 4 below. Please help!

December Services

December 10th, “Honoring Advent” ~ Rev. Christopher Boyer will lead us in a celebration of preparation and hope: waiting for Christmas and what it can mean. Why is Advent important, and what might it mean to us today?

December 17th “Honoring Chanukah” ~ Chanukah is much more than candles, songs and great food. It is a celebration of religious freedom and the right of all to worship as they are called. Today, it has never been more important. Rev. Greenebaum will lead a call for the Universal Chanukah.

Living Interfaith At Work in the Community Cold Weather Shelter

If you've been to our services, you know that we have boxes at the back of the sanctuary labelled “Food Bank.” After every service we are able to deliver somewhere between 30 and 50 pounds of food to the Lynnwood Food Bank. It is such a source of warmth and pleasure to me that since we opened our doors we have donated to the Food Bank between 700 and 1000 pounds of food every year. Our small church! It's one reason out of many that I so love our congregation. We remain committed to serving the hungry.

This time of year, though, we add a new box. It's for the Cold Weather Shelter. This time of year, so many need more than food. They need shelter from the cold. We aren't big enough to provide shelter. But we can help alleviate some of the effects of the cold. If you come to a Living Interfaith service during December, January and February, please consider bringing gloves, or sox, knit caps. And if you have blankets or coats around the house that you no longer need, please wash and then bring them as well.

This list will be updated as the winter progresses and I get feedback from the shelter as to their needs.

Burrito Rolls Continue

Saturday, December 17th Come, help roll burritos for the hungry. The roll will take place at first Baptist Church at 1:30 PM. That leaves **plenty** of time to drive down after the service! The roll generally lasts 1 1/2 hours.

Not into rolling, or have something to do on Saturday? The fixings for the burritos will be prepared on Friday December 16th. And help is also needed in distributing the burritos after the roll.

For further information, or to sign up and get on the e-mail list, please contact our own Rebecca Alder at:

burritoroll1@gmail.com

Interfaith Q & A/Musings

Avoiding Turtle-ism

Like so many of us, I am still trying to come to terms with the recent election results and what they may mean for our community. And by “our community” I mean humanity.

The election was about a lot of things, and to lose sight of that is to lose all perspective. Many of those election issues were highly political, and not something I want to discuss here.

But beyond the political has been the unleashing of ugly, hate-filled language and truly harmful actions. That is something I definitely want to discuss here. The question is, what shall we do?

One answer is the turtle’s answer—pull into our shell and hope we survive. I would submit this is not a healthy answer. I believe “hunkering down and waiting things out” is a version of turtle-ism. I believe we need to do much more than “hunker down.” Even if we think that might protect us (and it won’t), our brothers and sisters remain in peril. We need to act. We are called to act. Yet *how* we act is also important.

I’ve noticed some very unfortunate divisions beginning to emerge. Faced with terror and faced with bigotry, many of us appear to be retreating to a mode of protecting “us” or picking what seems the most vulnerable group and circling the wagons there.

But our brothers and sisters at Standing Rock need and deserve our help and support. Our Muslim brothers and sisters need and deserve our help and support. I will not “choose” between them.

I do not feel we do our community any favors by picking which group seems “more deserving” of our help and support and then channeling our efforts solely towards them. And this ought to remind us that people of color are *also* being singled out as targets of bigotry, as are our LGBTQ brothers and sisters.

In this moment of great stress and anxiety, I would urge us to remember that we are one. WE ARE ONE. By now, the quote of Martin Niemöller has become so over used as to seem trite (“First they came for ...”). So I will paraphrase John Donne. “Ask not for whom the bell tolls. It tolls for us.”

Divided We Fail

Black Lives Matter

Native Lives Matter

Muslim Lives Matter

Hispanic Lives Matter

Gay Lives Matter

Either we have each other’s backs, or the forces of bigotry will triumph.

Your Ongoing Support is Appreciated!

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If you don't, no worries. But if you do shop at amazon.com, please consider shopping at smile.amazon.com. Why? If you do, Amazon will contribute a small amount from most purchases to the charity of your choice. You can designate the Living Interfaith Church as your choice. It's only .5% that's donated, but still, every little bit helps. For more info on Amazon Smile visit: smile.amazon.com for FAQ's and more info.

Support Living Interfaith

Our church expenses are not huge, but we do have them. We have begun another ambitious year, but thanks to your help we remain in an excellent position to accomplish our goals.

Any and all contributions are welcome and very much appreciated. For those who might want to use a credit card to help support us, by going to our web page www.livinginterfaith.org and clicking the donate button, a safe contribution may be made through PayPal.

If you prefer not to use the web, checks are also welcome. They should be made out to "Living Interfaith Church" and sent to PO Box 2352, Lynnwood, Washington 98036. And yes, Living Interfaith is a 501 (c)(3) organization. Your donations are tax deductible.

If you are contributing to the Education Project, please put "Education" in the memo section of your check, or on PayPal.

As with Part One, any contributions made to the Education Project that aren't needed for Part Two will be used as our floor when we begin to raise funds for Part Three.

THANK YOU!!

