

Living Interfaith Church

Monthly Newsletter

**What we believe will guide us or it will not.
We are how we act.**

November Calendar

November 12th—Service: 10:30 AM
“Women in Buddhism”

November 26th—Service: 10:30 AM
“Honoring Abdul’ Baha”

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

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December Calendar

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

December 17th—Service: 10:30
“On Classism and Intolerance”

Sermon Podcasts

LivingInterfaith.Podbean.com

Interfaith Q & A

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

“Let the Dance Begin”

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

Interfaith Education Project Needs YOU!

Part One of our Interfaith Education Project is completed. As a reminder, ... Part one covered 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.

Fundraising for Part Two has begun. 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!).

Children from a Christian home will study Christianity, from a Muslim home, Islam, a Secular Humanist home, non-theistic spirituality and so on. Covering four years and so many differing spiritual paths this will be the most complex part of our project. Which means, you guessed it, we need your help to fund it!

Happily, we have been given a matching grant through December that will double all contributions! That means that with what we have already raised we only need to raise \$4,000 by December 31st and we can fully fund Part Two. Details about donating are on p. 4 below. Please help!

November Services

November 12th, “Women in Buddhism” ~ The Tibetan Buddhist festival Lhabab Duchen marks an auspicious day that honors the Buddha's ascent into the higher realms in order to offer teachings to his deceased mother. Cathy Merchant will share the cultural importance of this festival, as well as the history of women in Buddhism as told through sacred texts.

November 26th “Honoring Abdul’ Baha” ~ For many Baha'is around the world Abdul’ Baha is an inspirational figure providing an example of a life of service to humankind. He spent most of his life in exile and at the age of 64 when he was released in 1908 he chose to travel to the west to offer love and encourage co-operation and fellowship among all peoples.

Living Interfaith At Work in the Community Standing with Standing Rock

With the approval of our wonderful Board, I had the privilege of travelling to Standing Rock, North Dakota to answer a “call to clergy” from an Episcopal minister who serves there: Rev. John Floberg. The call was to “Come and stand witness with the Standing Rock Nation in protest.” It was an honor to stand with my Sioux brothers and sisters against a threat to their water as well as their sacred land.

The gathering, which was peaceful and without incident, began at the Oceti Sakowin Camp with a symbolic renunciation and burning in the sacred tribal fire of the “Doctrine of Discovery.”

Many of us may not be aware of the “Doctrine of Discovery.” It is a doctrine that proved to be, in my belief, not only sad and terribly arrogant, but also exceedingly deadly. The Christian Church had begun to establish the doctrine in the mid-15th century and then refined it with a vengeance after Columbus’ voyage to America. The doctrine encouraged Christian nations to claim possession of and conquer the indigenous lands they “discovered” and actually divided the non-Christian world into spheres of encounter and conquest so competing nations might not stumble over one another in their rush to empire. Indigenous peoples had no acknowledged rights. None.

Renouncing and symbolically burning the doctrine in the tribal fire felt both powerful and important. It was a deeply sacred moment.

Burrito Rolls Continue

Saturday, November 19th folks from all over the Seattle area will be coming to roll burritos for the hungry. The roll will take place at first Baptist Church at 1:30 PM. 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 November 18th. 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

Let the Dance Begin

I recall vividly and with great fondness the classes I was able to take in seminary that were taught by Sister Alexandra Kovats. It was she who taught me to look at theology and so much more of life as a dance. A dance? Yes! And how wonderfully counter-cultural.

A quick digression. One of my favorite television series is Babylon 5 (second only to The West Wing). In one episode Londo, a main character, tells the story, “Something my father said. He was very old at the time. I went into his room and he was sitting alone in the dark: crying. I asked him what was wrong and he said, ‘My shoes are too tight. But it doesn’t matter because I have forgotten how to dance.’”

I will confess that I will be celebrating on Tuesday night after the election results come in. I will not be celebrating that someone won or that someone lost. I will be celebrating the end of the campaign. I will be celebrating its end because the campaign has been a most vivid example of a culture forgetting how to dance.

There is no way for two people (or more than two if it is a square dance) to dance without cooperating. To dance with another means to break out of the boundary of “me!” and embrace the idea of give and take. If we are not committed to give and take, the dance fails.

These days, it seems to me that the furthest thing from our minds is give and take. When we listen to the supporters of any candidate—the supporters of the opposing candidate are characterized as at best foolish and wrong and at worst malevolent imbeciles and totally evil. The idea that, even and especially when we disagree, as a democracy we still need to dance with one another seems totally foreign, and to me that is so very sad.

There is a song in the Unitarian hymnal that I very much enjoy. It opens with the words, “Let it be a dance we do. May I have this dance with you? In the good times and the bad times too, let it be a dance.”

In that spirit, I would like to offer up a meditation for us all.

Life is a dance. Sometimes we lead and sometimes we follow. Sometimes everyone is watching and sometimes no one is watching. Sometimes we glide and sometimes we trip over our own feet. But may we never be so involved in our own dance that we cannot appreciate that the person next to us has a dance of his or her own. A waltz is neither better nor worse than the twist. But it is different! May we all enjoy our dance. And may we respect the dances of others, even when we don’t know the steps.

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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!!

