

Living Interfaith Church

Monthly Newsletter

Embrace joy. Face fear. Live justly.

October Calendar

Vol. 6 #2 October 2016

October 8th—Service: 10:30 AM
“The Hijrah”

October 22nd—Service: 10:30 AM
“To Be Announced”

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



November Calendar

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

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

**Our Service Schedule for the year 2016-2017 may be found on our website:
www.LivingInterfaith.org**

Interfaith Q & A

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

Sermon Podcasts

LivingInterfaith.Podbean.com
(we're a little behind, but will catch up!)

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

“When So Much Seems to Be Going So Wrong”

The Interfaith Shelter Needs Our Help

The Interfaith Association of Northwest Washington operates a truly wonderful and much needed Interfaith Shelter. But funding continues to be difficult. On Tuesday October 25th, the Association is having its annual “A Time to Bloom” fundraising dinner and silent auction. Living Interfaith has paid for a table for eight, so the first eight interested folks won't need to pay for dinner, but there are always ways to contribute, including the silent auction, a dessert dash and just writing a check!

The event will be at Floral Hall, Forrest Park in Everett. That's 802 Mukilteo Blvd. (I-5, exit at 41st in Everett, go West until 41st turns into Mukilteo Blvd.)

Six of the eight places at the Living Interfaith table are spoken for. We've room for two more. Otherwise, it's \$50 per person. Let's support this important chance to help make our community a better place to live!

October Services

October 8th, “The Hijrah” marks Prophet Muhammad's (Peace Be Upon Him) journey from Mecca to Medina and the establishment of a unified Muslim brotherhood. Varisha Khan will share with us the history of this pivotal journey and how it impacts Muslims throughout the world today.

October 22nd “Celebrating Diwali” or “Speaking of Interfaith” ~ We are hoping for a Hindu guest to lead us in a celebration of Diwali, a festival of lights and celebration of the autumn. But we haven't confirmed our speaker so ... the topic may change!

Living Interfaith At Work in the Community

Donations Needed Please Help!

Part One of our Interfaith Education Project is completed. It should be available by December! We are more than just pleased with the results. **It is truly beautiful.** 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 is now beginning. Part Two will cover grades 4-7 and deal with an introduction to the 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! On top of this, Part One came in under budget. So we only need to raise another \$8,000. Given the matching grant, it means that we only need to raise \$4,000 by December 31st and we can fund Part Two. **So please consider making a donation!** See page 4 for specifics on how to contribute. THANK YOU!!

Burrito Rolls Continue!!

Saturday, October 15th 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 September 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

When So Much Seems to Be Going So Wrong

Sometimes ... sometimes it all just seems overwhelming. The Right is screaming at the Left. The Left is screaming at the Right. The Center is screaming at everybody. And basic courtesy seems to have been tossed out with the day's trash.

Meanwhile pictures of dead or starving children have become a part of the daily news, as war against civilians has become an accepted tactic—as if war itself weren't enough of an abomination. We feel helpless. I feel helpless.

Many may know that this hasn't been a stellar health year for me—surgery for kidney cancer early in the year, and now an injured right leg that does, at last, appear to be healing. Not only has this made me more susceptible to feeling discouraged, but it has also placed the television in front of me more than I've watched it in years. One old TV western (from the late 1950's!) was on today and I watched a fascinating episode about intolerance. In this case, an Amish-like group wanted to settle near Tombstone and many of the local citizens were afraid of “them.” After all, “They don't dress like we do.” And, “They don't believe the same as we do.” “They threaten our way of life.” Would bigotry and fear win out? Would there be violence? Being a 50's TV show, it all got (happily) worked out in half an hour. But in truth we **STILL** haven't worked it out.

There's always a “them” to be afraid of. The truth of it is we humans are a fragile species and are inclined hugely to fear. I believe if we are not intentional in facing our fears they will rule us. Those who would control us, whether they be religious leaders, political leaders or leaders of corporations, know that fear is by far their most potent tools. Be it fear of how other's see or worship God, or fear of another ethnicity or race, or fear of not being accepted (“Is your smile ugly and holding you back?”).

So this month I'd like to offer with humility an aphorism (with thanks to the Prophet Micah) that has been helpful to me in dealing with the daily bombardment of things going wrong and the feeling of helplessness that can accompany it. May we repeat it perhaps as we rise in the morning. It is definitely not the “one answer fits all,” but it has helped me focus.

Embrace joy.

Face fear.

Live justly.

If we can resolve to do that, we will have done our part. No longer will we be helpless. I'm not pretending that this is easy. But it is doable. In what are for me the immortal words of Rabbi Tarfon, “Ours is not to complete the work, but neither are we free to abstain from it.”

Let us resolve to embrace joy, regardless of circumstances. Let us resolve to face our fears head-on, and neither run from nor give in to them. Let us resolve to live lives of justice, for we are not alone in this world.

Your Ongoing Support is Appreciated!

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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!!

