

Living Interfaith Church

Monthly Newsletter

If hate is our philosophy and fear is our religion, no sacred name can save us, no perfume can disguise the stench.

September Calendar

Vol. 6 #1 September 2016

September 10th—Service: 10:30 AM
“Welcome Back to Living Interfaith”

September 24th—Service: 10:30 AM
“Giving Thanks at Mabon”

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



October Calendar

October 8th —Service: 10:30
“The Hegira”

October 22nd —Service: 10:30
“Celebrating Diwali”

**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.

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

Sermon Podcasts

LivingInterfaith.Podbean.com

“The State of Interfaith in 2016”

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! More detailed information to follow in next month’s newsletter.

If you don’t live in the area and would like to help, please consider sending Living Interfaith a donation with “Interfaith Shelter” in the memo line. Know that 100% of what you send us with that intent will be contributed to the Interfaith shelter. Go to our website and use PayPal, or send your contribution to: Living Interfaith, PO BOX 2352, Lynnwood, WA 98036. Be sure to say “Interfaith Shelter” in the memo.

September Services

September 10th, “Welcome Back to Living Interfaith” ~ This fall ingathering will be a “welcome back” as well as reminder of how needed Interfaith is when so many are so strident condemning the faiths of others. Rev. Steven Greenebaum will lead the service.

September 24th “Giving Thanks at Mabon” ~ Mabon, a Pagan celebration of the autumn equinox, is the time we give thanks for the bounty of the second harvest. Patrick McKenna will share why thankfulness is a gift to ourselves as well to that we hold sacred.

Living Interfaith At Work in the Community

BURRITO ROLLS CONTINUE!!

Saturday, September 17th 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

Possible Reading/Discussion Group

Living Interfaith would like to form a group to ponder in more depth the anger and division that is plaguing our country and what positive actions we might take. The backstory that has led to the creation of the Black Lives Matter movement, the upswing in Western Islamophobia and aggression towards immigrant communities, and the disenfranchisement and subsequent anger of the rural working class are among the many complicated and frequently misunderstood issues that we might wish to study and discuss ... all in the spirit of Interfaith, which means sharing and exploring with open minds and hearts.

The tentative idea would be for us to get together once a month after a service for an hour or two, perhaps from 1-2 or 1-3, either to discuss a book on one of these topics (there are some really good ones out there!) or just to hold a discussion about one of these topics in general.

Right now we're in the “explorer” phase. If this idea interests you, please e-mail or speak to Cathy or Steven after a service. If there is interest, we're shooting for an October “start-up” date.

LivingInterfaith@frontier.com

Interfaith Q & A/Musings

The State of Interfaith in 2016

One of my favorite satirists, Tom Lehrer, made a comment just over fifty years ago in his introduction to his song “National Brotherhood Week.” It is still lamentably so very spot on for the world we live in today. He says, “I know there are people in the world who do not love their fellow human beings and *I hate* people like that!”

If you’ll forgive an observation, it seems that in our massively polarized and politicized world, more and more of us are proclaiming just how much we “**hate** people like that” and not as a joke.

Of course, what “like that” means will vary. It can be “too liberal” or “not liberal enough.” It can be “too conservative” or “not conservative enough.” It can be “too loving” (aka a “bleeding heart”), or “not loving enough;” “too religious” or “not religious enough.” It depends completely on what pond we’re swimming in. But it’s not simply that we disagree with those “others” who swim in different ponds. We hate them. They are horrible, despicable, unethical people—trying to undermine us in our pond.

So what has this to do with Interfaith? I believe it has everything to do with it. I deeply believe that hate is contagious, as is intolerance. And even if it begins there, it never stays confined to our politics. We can see it perhaps most plainly in the fear-filled as well as hateful demonizing of Muslims so rampant in our country. But if history has taught us anything (and sometimes I fear it hasn’t) it is that intolerance and hate are insatiable and are never satisfied by devouring just one group. If you doubt it, web-search Martin Niemöller’s famous lament.

As Interfaithers, our commitment is not simply to respect people of differing spiritual paths, but also people of a differing cultural heritage, and people of different ethnicities, differing shades of skin color, differing social backgrounds, and differing sexual orientations. We are about respecting our common humanity—even on those occasions when we see things differently.

What is the State of Interfaith in 2016? It is what we make it.

So if you will, a brief mantra to remember when the shouting and hate seem to be overwhelming.

At this time of political insanity:

May we be determined, but not angry.

May we explain our beliefs without shouting.

May we respect the humanity of those with whom we disagree.

May we listen, rather than consider another person speaking

simply time for us to collect our thoughts.

We can counter the insanity or become a part of it. It is our choice.

Let us choose compassion.

A Little Health News

Surgery in May was successful. Fully recovered, I very much look forward to our upcoming year.

Your Ongoing Support is Appreciated!

Do You Shop at Amazon.com?

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.

Education Project Update Part One Completed !

Part One is done!!! Yes, we are WAY behind schedule. But the good news is that not only is the project now receiving it's final edits but it is truly first-rate work—something we may all be very, very pleased with. It took much longer than we'd hoped, but it is being done right! We plan to have it available by the end of the year.

So we plan to begin fundraising in October to finance Part Two: for grades 4-7. A reminder that this will be an expensive project. If you'd like to get ahead of the game, **please do** consider making an early contribution.

Our church expenses are not huge, but we do have them. We are beginning an ambitious year, but 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.

THANK YOU!!

