

# Living Interfaith Church

## Monthly Newsletter

**To love our enemy is not to ignore evil actions. It is to resist evil firmly and steadfastly without raising our voice, striking out in anger, or demonizing those we may oppose.**

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### June Calendar

June 10th — Service: 10:30  
"Shavuot"

June 24th—Service 10:30  
"Seven Years of Living Interfaith"  
Annual Meeting After the Service

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

### July Calendar

Enjoy your July!!!

We'll have a retreat in August (see below) and then resume regular services in September.

### Sermon Podcasts

[LivingInterfaith.Podbean.com](http://LivingInterfaith.Podbean.com)

Vol. 6 #10 June 2017



### Interfaith Q & A

If you have an Interfaith question of general interest, e-mail us your question at [Livinginterfaith@frontier.com](mailto:Livinginterfaith@frontier.com).

"Considering Faith"

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

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## Know A Good Accompanist?

♪ We need your help! ♪

Contact [LivingInterfaith@Frontier.com](mailto:LivingInterfaith@Frontier.com)

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## Our August Retreat

Our retreat this year will be on Saturday, August 5th. Our retreats have two purposes. One is simply to have fun and catch up with what has happened in our lives since we last met.

The second reason is for each of us to share which sacred days from our spiritual traditions we would like Living Interfaith to honor/celebrate in our coming year (September—June). There are times when the dates of important holy days conflict with each other, making it impossible to accommodate every request, but we do our level best! We strive to include two holy days from each of our diverse spiritual traditions in our year. It can be a challenge!

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## June Services

**June 10th**, "Shavuot" - Steven will share a personal reflection on how an agricultural holy day evolved into a celebration of Scripture (specifically, the Torah) and what that might mean to us.

**June 24th** "Seven Years of Living Interfaith" - As we complete 7 years of embracing, celebrating, and respecting our diversity, we'll look ahead to the future of Interfaith as a faith. We will also welcome new members to our congregation. Our Annual Meeting will take place after the service.

# Living Interfaith At Work in the Community

## Interfaith Curriculum Part One Available

Our curriculum is available free of charge (when downloaded from our website) to any school, spiritual community or other interested group that is committed to teaching our children not only to respect our diversity but how to be able to talk about it. Word is spreading. Copies have been downloaded from as far away as India and Austria.

It might best be described as a teacher's handbook. It walks the reader through how to teach our children about both our common humanity and our diverse spiritual paths and traditions. It provides lesson plans and lists the materials a teacher needs to put together meaningful, respectful classes, including important content.

Such a curriculum has *never* been more needed.

Part One covers grades 1-3. Our beautiful hard copies are available either by hand delivery (if you live nearby) or for the cost of printing and postage (\$13.00) if you would prefer that the curriculum be mailed to you. Again, electronic copies are available for free from our website!

Renewed thanks to all who contributed to funding Part Two—grades 4-6! We are hoping to have it available in June of 2018. With your help, in a few years after that we will have an entire curriculum to offer: grades 1-12!

## Burrito Rolls Continue!

**Saturday, June 17th** We'll begin our fifth year of rolling burritos for the hungry. The roll will take place at first Baptist Church at 1:30 PM and 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 June 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

### Considering Faith

I was reminded not long ago that among the many things people of good will may disagree about is what we mean when we say the word “faith.” Many of us mean “religion.” “My religion is my faith.” We will share with someone, “My faith is Islam” or “My faith is Christianity” or Hinduism, or Judaism, or Paganism, or perhaps we will say, “I belong to no faith.”

I personally prefer to use “spiritual path” rather than religion so that I might include paths such as Buddhism. Many if not most Buddhists do not call their spiritual path a religion. And certainly Secular Humanists would actively rebel against any attempt to call their path a religion.

But whether we say “religion” or “spiritual path”, we are talking about an organized, often a systematized approach to how we view spiritual matters. Most of our spiritual paths have guidebooks—frequently but not solely Scripture. These guidebooks provide us important instruction for walking our chosen path, as well giving us context. They are invaluable.

So where does faith fit in? Faith is an unprovable spiritual belief. All of our spiritual paths contain faith. But they are not solely faith. Faith alone, without Scripture or ritual, will not tell us **how** to walk our spiritual path, let alone which path might be the most helpful for us to walk.

Thus when I say my faith is Interfaith, I am saying that my unshakeable but admittedly unprovable spiritual belief is that there are MANY good and righteous paths. When I say my faith is Interfaith and spiritual path is Judaism, I am saying that while I personally walk the path of Judaism, my larger faith is that my brothers and sisters who walk other paths, be they the path of Humanism, Christianity, Buddhism, Islam, Paganism, Baha'i or any other, are all walking equally righteous paths. I accept no hierarchy. Judaism is the path I walk. Islam may be the path you walk. Buddhism may be the path that person next to you walks. And the person next to them may walk the path of Unitarian Universalism. I have an abiding faith that these can **all** be righteous paths, if we will walk them with love and humility. That's the key: **how** we walk our chosen paths.

I have learned so much as I have embraced Interfaith as a faith. One of the things I have learned is that so many of us equate faith with religion that I'm going to have to keep on drawing my distinction between the two for as long as I live. And for those who would embrace Interfaith as a faith, being able to communicate (patiently!) the difference between faith and religion is a skill you will need to learn.

Yet even here there is distinction I believe we need to be aware of as well as be able to articulate. Faith can indeed come in many flavors. But the two I would deal with here is the difference between “blind faith” and “open-eyed faith”.

With all the diversity that is humanity, I believe that Interfaith, as a faith, demands “open-eyed faith.” For me, “blind faith” is when we believe in something, then put our head down and just plow forward. “Open-eyed faith” is when we believe in something, yet not allow what we believe to close our eyes to what can be wonderful differences between us and even to what we believe.

For me personally, it means embracing and respecting that many people of good will may see faith and religion differently from me. Some will see Interfaith as a “new religion” and reject it because of that. The honest truth of it is that while I may disagree, I will have no quarrel with them if they embrace the world with love and humility. There's room enough for all of us. That, for me, is the great gift and indeed blessing of Interfaith.

## **Your Ongoing Support is Appreciated!**

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## **Support Living Interfaith**

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

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](http://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.**

## **THANK YOU!!**

