

Living Interfaith Church

Monthly Newsletter

**Hate cannot overcome hate.
Fighting fire with fire only burns the house down
that much more quickly.**

September Calendar

Vol. 7 #1 September 2017

September 9th — Service: 10:30
"Ingathering—Welcome Back to
Living Interfaith"

September 23rd — Service 10:30
"Experiencing the Equinox"

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



October Calendar

October 14th — Service: 10:30
"Celebrating Baha'u'llah's Birth"

October 28th — Service: 10:30
"Celebrating Samhain"

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.

"Love Your Enemy, Why We Need to Remember That"

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

Hurricane/Tropical Storm Harvey If You'd Like to Help Out

Just copy and paste the https: onto your browser:

Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund
<https://ghcf.org/hurricane-relief/>

or

Texas Workers Relief Fund
<https://www.texasaflcio.org/donate>

or

A List of Approved Charities from Charity Navigator (Click on Hurricane Harvey)

[https://www.charitynavigator.org/index.cfm?
bay=content.view&cpid=489](https://www.charitynavigator.org/index.cfm?bay=content.view&cpid=489)

Also please see page 2! Crisis flooding is **not** just in the U.S.!! GlobalGiving.org is a highly regarding giving site.

September Services

September 9th “Ingathering: Welcome Back to Living Interfaith” - We will explore the implications of setting course by the star of justice and how it’s the star we steer by, not the ship we sail, that is so important.

September 23rd “Experiencing the Equinox” - Joanne Burtch will lead us in exploring the equinox theme of “Letting go and embracing what we hide.”

Living Interfaith At Work in the Community

PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING OUR FLOOD- RAVAGED BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN INDIA, BANGLADESH AND NEPAL

<https://www.globalgiving.org/nepal-india-bangladesh-flood-relief/>

Remember: We Collect Food for the Food Bank Every Service

As we begin our new year, a friendly reminder that we have boxes at the bank of the sanctuary at every service. We hope to fill them with food for our local Food Bank. We seek non-perishable food. After every service the food we have collected is taken to the Lynnwood Food Bank for distribution to those who need our help.

Let us please remember that many too many of our brothers and sisters simply don’t have enough money for food.

We also collect pet food as well, as families that find themselves without enough food for their own tables probably don’t have enough for their pets. Let us please remember that none of us can know when we might suddenly be out of a job ... or a family emergency may arise.

When the winter comes, we will also collect clothing and blankets for our local cold weather shelter.

Burrito Rolls Continue!

Saturday, September 16th! 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 **Thursday, September 16th and Friday September 17th**. 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

Love Your Enemy: Why We Need to Remember That

I digested the would-be storm troopers marching in Charlotte with a deep sense of déjà vu, perhaps even PTSD. I suddenly felt myself reliving “Kristallnacht” and every death camp as if they were yesterday. As the KKK joined in, no longer bothering to hide their faces, I wondered if my brothers and sisters of color experienced similar emotional convulsions.

I will admit that as a kid the teaching of “Love your enemy” seemed like a singularly stupid idea. But that was then. Hopefully I’ve learned a thing or two over the years.

One important lesson I learned is that love does not mean paralysis!

If someone’s fist is flying at our face, love does not require we just stand there and take it. Move out of the way. Or block the punch. What love does require of us is that we do so without venom.

Another lesson is that love does not mean acquiescence. Some people do despicable things. Sometimes people seem to do them because they have no moral compass. But mostly I believe they do them because they are misguided—perhaps acting out of fear, or panic, or plain ignorance. But whatever the reason, despicable acts must not only be condemned but actively resisted. What love **does** require of us is that we both condemn and resist without hate and without violence. Yeah. That’s hard.

I would urge anyone not familiar with the book to find or buy a copy and read “Faces of the Enemy” by Sam Keen. The book chronicles how we as combative human beings make a habit of turning “enemies” into inhuman monsters. It is, after all, much easier to hate and even to kill an inhuman monster than a fellow human being. The book’s appropriate subtitle is “The Psychology of Enmity.” I own a copy and have just ordered two more that I will gladly gift to anyone who asks.

As we observe and react to the White Supremacists and neo-Nazis who marched so malevolently, I believe it is important that we both remember and hold resolutely in our minds and our hearts our belief in unshakeable resistance without hate. We cannot let hate pass unanswered. We dare not shrug it off. But I remind myself as well as us all that **we are called to react with both spines of steel and loving hearts.**

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. wrote, “Returning violence for violence multiplies violence, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness. Only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate. Only love can that.”

To put it a bit more starkly: fighting fire with fire will only burn our house down that much more quickly. For me, this is why we are called to love our enemies. If you will, we must love our enemy lest we become him.

This has been a particularly troubling time. As Hurricane Harvey struck, the president of the United States targeted our transgendered brethren, then undermined the rule of law by pardoning a racist sheriff who ignored the courts and decided he had the right to make and enforce his own laws.

We must protect ourselves as well as our brothers and sisters of whatever race, whatever spiritual path, whatever sexual orientation. But **how** we protect ourselves will determine whether we simply participate in burning down our house or if we succeed in preserving it for our children.

Let us act with bold determination. Let us speak out firmly and with strength. And let us act, speak and when necessary march with love.

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.

THANK YOU!!

