

Living Interfaith Church

Monthly Newsletter

Proclaiming our love of justice is meaningless if we will not act with justice. Justice is a star by which to steer our lives, not a poster to revere.

October Calendar

Vol. 7 #2 October 2017

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

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

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



November Calendar

November 11th — Service: 10:30
"Veteran's Day—Honoring Vets, Not War"

November 25th — Service: 10:30
"Yom Kippur—Never Too Late"

Sermon Podcasts

LivingInterfaith.Podbean.com

I'm behind. I know it.

Interfaith Q & A

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

"Coping with stark tragedy and cold hearts"

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

Hurricane Maria Relief Fund and More ~ If You'd Like to Help Out

One storm after another. Now Puerto Rico and much of the Caribbean need your help. If you are so disposed, one way to help is to go to Global Giving, a highly regarded site.

Just copy and paste the https: onto your browser:

<https://www.GlobalGiving.org>

You will not only find a Puerto Rico & Caribbean relief fund but also a Rohingya Refugee Relief Fund and Mexican Earthquake Relief Fund.

So much need. Let us do what we can for our brothers and sisters in need.

September Services

October 14th “Celebrating Baha’u’llah’s Birth” - This month marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Baha’u’llah, the founder of the Baha’i Faith. Bill Griffith will explore his understanding of what it means to have faith as an individual and a Baha’i and some of what has influenced him.

October 28th “Celebrating Samhain” - What is there to celebrate at the beginning of the dark half of the year? Patrick McKenna will explore why the “season of death” holds within it an honoring of life.

Living Interfaith At Work in the Community

Remember: We Collect Food for the Food Bank Every Service

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.

Beginning in November we will also collect clothing and blankets for our local cold weather shelter. Be prepared!

Burrito Rolls Continue!

Saturday, October 21st! 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, October 19th and Friday October 20th**. 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

Coping With Stark Tragedy and Cold Hearts

I first planned to write about the plight of the Rohingya in Myanmar, then thought about Puerto Rico, then Vegas. We seem adrift in a sea of anger, anguish and pure agony. How do we cope? How on earth do we cope?

At a very difficult time nearly twenty years ago now, some important words of comfort were shared with me. “Grieve, but do not despair.” At moments like these, as the tragedy and heartache seem to overwhelm us, may we remember to grieve, but not despair. Let us acknowledge the hurt. It is real. But let that hurt move us to spiritual renewal and action. Spiritually hiding comes at far too high a cost, as does denial.

But move us to action? ... What sort of action? What do we do when we can't do everything? For me, what's important is that we do what we can - and that's a bit more complex than may first appear. “Do what we can.”

Do we have some dollars we can wring from our savings or our income? If so, “what we can” might include taking the time to do some thinking and some research and donating to causes that work to address some of our most pressing concerns.

Do we have some time that we can wring from our over-busy schedules? If so, “what we can” might include taking the time to do some thinking and some research and donating our time to causes that work to address some of our largest concerns?

“What we can” might also include taking the time to do some thinking and some research, and writing letters or sending e-mails or making phone calls. This outreach might include politicians who represent us. This outreach might include organizations that are doing work that truly inspires us (far too many of us are moved only to write letters of criticism — but people doing good work really do like to hear words of praise and frankly they don't hear these words of encouragement often enough!!)

These are some of the positive/constructive things “we can do.” We can, of course, also sit, and worry, and weep. That's “something we can do” as well, and for a day or two we may need to. But from a spiritual point of view, if we spend much longer than that it can turn into despair, which can be hugely destructive. And whether our information comes from TV or radio or newspapers or the internet, constantly immersing ourselves only in all that is wrong and tragic can also be spiritually destructive.

“What can we do?” We can't do everything, but we can do something. I am most assuredly NOT the first person to say that. But given our human reaction to tragedy and outrage this ancient adage bears repeating.

You may have noticed that one of the things that's been repeated above is the phrase “taking the time to do some thinking and some research.” That phrase is repeated because as humans we tend to have the very human response: react and move on.

If you will, let's call this **“Squirrel! outrage,”** and “Squirrel! outrage” is spiritually debilitating in so many ways. Particularly these days, it keeps us moving from outrage to outrage with no time to think or even to take a breath, let alone enjoy a moment of calm. That's not only unhealthy, but it also means that we never actually deal with anything.

Let us remember to breathe, to think, and to do what we can. If we will do that, we can truly work together to change the world and ourselves to be more loving, more compassionate and more spiritually alive. That's a world worth staying engaged for. Let us breathe, let us stay engaged, let us remember the good in life as well as to do what we can about the trials.

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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!!

