

# Living Interfaith Church

## Monthly Newsletter

**Better to stand alone than to stand falsely.  
Better to stand up for the weak than to stand  
weakly by.**

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### November Calendar

Vol. 7 #3 November 2017

November 11th — Service: 10:30  
"Reclaiming 'Us'"

November 25th — Service 10:30  
"The Need to Belong"

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



### December Calendar

December 9th — Service: 10:30  
"Advent—Anticipation and  
Expectation"

December 16th — Service: 10:30  
"What Purpose Our Prisons?"

### Sermon Podcasts

[LivingInterfaith.Podbean.com](http://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](mailto:Livinginterfaith@frontier.com).

"Honoring Our Vets But Questioning War"

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

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## A Bit of Flexibility

The careful reader might note that none of this month's service themes are what had been scheduled. Life has interfered. Our country has become so divided and not just divided but, it seems to me, blindly divided that I really want to spend this month wrestling with it. My hope is to come up with some spiritual approaches that might be helpful—NOT answers, answers are beyond my pay grade, but some approaches that might allow us to be more positive. We'll start, I hope, by reclaiming "us."

On November 11th I had planned on a Veteran's Day themed service. So, with your permission, I'll telescope the essence of what I hoped to share on the 11th into the "Interfaith Q & A" on page 3 of this newsletter. Thanks for understanding.

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## November Services

**November 11th** “Reclaiming ‘Us’” - We seem to have become a nation trying to isolate “those people.” How might we regain the understanding that **we** are “those people”?

**November 25th** “The Need to Belong” - We’ll explore how the siren song of tribalism can become intertwined with our search for self-worth.

## Living Interfaith At Work in the Community

### Come November, We Collect Not Only for the Food Bank But Also the Cold Weather Shelter 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.

**Now that the weather is turning**, we also collect for our local cold weather shelter. Gloves, sox, knit caps are all needed. And if you have a blanket you don’t need, please wash it and then donate. Anything you can donate to help keep our brothers and sisters warm will be deeply appreciated.

## Burrito Rolls Continue!

**Saturday, November 18th!** The roll will take place at first Baptist Church at 1:45 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, November 16th and Friday November 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**

### **Honoring Our Vets But Questioning War**

So how should we observe Veterans Day?

If past years are any indication, some will be observing it by glorifying our military and our weapons. There will even, I'm fairly certain, be some folks unable to pass up the opportunity to slam as "Un-American" and "disrespecting our vets" anyone who kneels during the national anthem instead of standing.

There will likely be "counter-demonstrations" - decrying the perceived "glorification" of war stemming from the marches supporting our vets. Our vets have become for many symbols of the near-constant state of war for the past 100 years. In truth, some of us have never known a time when the United States was not at war somewhere in the world.

I suppose I should be used to it, but yet again I find myself in the middle. I strongly believe we should not only honor our vets and thank them for their service, but also be sure that they receive the best possible care when they return home. For I also strongly believe that our country has used our vets as disposable fodder in the never-ending wars that frequently are fought either for an economic foothold on behalf of huge corporations or because our politicians are too lazy to "resort" to diplomacy.

I think our vets deserve better than the "Don't let the door hit you on the way out" frame of mind that has left a huge backlog at our VA Hospitals. More than that, they need our help in re-integrating back into our society after their frequently multiple tours of duty.

But that doesn't mean we should turn a blind eye to the leaders of our country who have so carelessly placed out vets in harm's way, and frankly have much too often carelessly placed innocent civilians in harm's way.

I want to hold our government accountable for making war a prime instrument of American diplomacy. As a minister and as a member of the human family, I believe war should be the very last option, when all else fails. I believe that war is the first option of the depraved, not the strong.

I support and appreciate the men and women who are willing to put their lives at risk for our country. But I deplore and deeply oppose the men and women who so blithely send them into battle after battle after battle.

Diplomacy can be hard. But it's far better than bombing, strafing, and otherwise obliterating the so-called enemy. As Einstein wrote, "Peace cannot be achieved through violence; it can only be attained through understanding."

So on this Veteran's Day, might we honor our veterans by pledging never again to abuse their sacrifice? Let us honor our veterans by committing ourselves and our country to being first and foremost an instrument of peace. Let us pledge to them that when and if the time comes that we must call upon them to give their last full measure of devotion it will only be when all other remedies are exhausted and there is no other option.

And may we honor the sacrifice of our vets by honoring the freedoms they fought for, including the freedom to protest oppression by kneeling during the national anthem.

Bless our veterans. Let us hold them in our prayers and our thoughts.

## **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.

## **Support Living Interfaith**

Our church expenses are not huge, but we do have them. We are in the midst of an ambitious year, but with your help we will 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](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!!**

