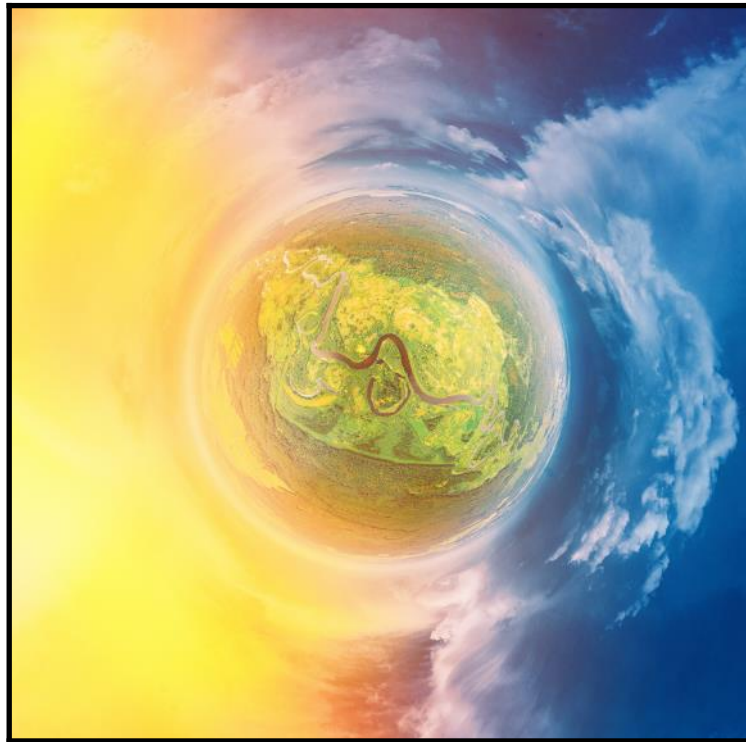


*For Sunday, May 19th, 2024*

## **‘What Connects Us?’** *Jake Tranter*



An experience delivered through immersive video that explores humanity's interconnectedness with Mother Earth, weaving together themes of spirituality and physicality. It delves into the symbiotic relationship between humans and the planet, highlighting how our actions impact the environment and, in turn, affect us spiritually.

***"Discover our profound connection with Mother Earth, blending spirituality and physicality to evoke reflection and unity."***

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

- ◇ The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- ◇ Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- ◇ Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- ◇ A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- ◇ The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- ◇ The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- ◇ Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

The mission of the Umpqua Unitarian Universalist Congregation is to create and maintain a diverse, caring community that encourages ethical, intellectual and spiritual growth.

To accomplish this mission, we covenant:

to welcome individuals and families; to share the joys and sorrows of life's passages; to educate children and adults in our UU principles, values and heritage; and to act personally and collectively on our UU principles and values in the larger world.



Umpqua Unitarian Universalist Congregation

**UUUC Order of Service**  
For Sunday, May 19th, 2024

**'What Connects Us?'**  
**Jake Tranter**

Service Leader: Lillene Fifield  
Service Assistant: Kimberly Pryce  
Music: Sean Shea  
Media Director: Jake Tranter

- Opening Gong: Thrice in Honor of Past, Present, & Future**
- Opening Song** Sean
- Welcome & Announcements** Lillene
- FISH Collection** Lillene & Kimberly
- Chalice Lighting** 'As We Light This Chalice'  
Jake & Kimberly
- Opening Words** 'We Come Together'  
Jake
- Children's Recessional** #413 *Go Now In Peace*  
Go now in peace, go now in peace  
May the love of God surround you  
Everywhere, everywhere, you may go.
- Musical Selection** 'Olive Tree'  
Jake
- Circle of Life** Joys and Concerns  
Candle Lighting
- Sung Response** #123 *Spirit of Life*

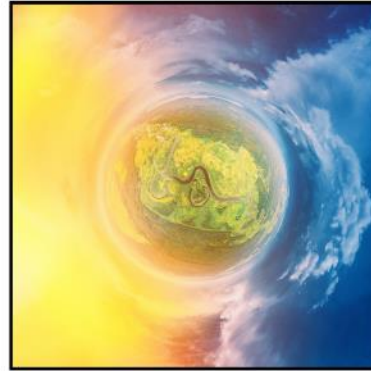


**Umpqua Unitarian  
Universalist Congregation**

Roseburg, Oregon

For Sunday, May 19th, 2024

**'What Connects Us?'**  
**Jake Tranter**



An experience delivered through immersive video that explores humanity's interconnectedness with Mother Earth, weaving together themes of spirituality and physicality. It delves into the symbiotic relationship between humans and the planet, highlighting how our actions impact the

**Offering**

Lillene & Kimberly

**Sung Response**

#402 *From You I Receive*  
From you I receive, to you I give,  
together we share, and from this we live.

**Hymn**

#1064 *Blue Boat Home*

**Introduction**

Jake

Presentation:

**What Connects Us?**

Jake Tranter

**Meditation**

Jake

**Community Conversation**

All

**Musical Selection**

'Shimmer No Waves'  
By Giants & Pilgrims

**Closing Words**

'Go In Peace'  
Lillene

**Extinguishing the Chalice**

Kimberly

**Taking Our Message  
Out to the World**

#1057 *Go Lifted Up*  
Go lifted up, Love bless your way,  
Moonlight, starlight,  
Guide your journey  
Into peace and the brightness of day.

**WELCOME, VISITORS and NEWCOMERS!**

Please take a moment to fill out a lime green visitor card,  
and drop it in the offering basket or put it  
in the box at the back of the Sanctuary.

**Thank you for joining us today, we are so glad you're here!**

## PONDERINGS FROM REV. DENNIS REYNOLDS

### **Pondering Good Ideas**

This morning, while driving south on I-5, I noted how the roadside and some of the hills were draped in golden blossoms. The “treat for the eyes shrub” was Scotch Broom. I trust that many of you know that this highly invasive non-native plant is not just an innocent giver of beauty. Allergy sufferers know that its pollen can be a particularly difficult irritant. While it was introduced as an ornamental back in the 1850’s, it now takes over landscapes crowding out native plants.



*Scotch Broom, photo courtesy Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board*

Ivy is another ornamental that when left unchecked, is deadly to native plants. Himalayan Blackberries have, likewise taken over many fence rows and ravines and, sometimes, whole valleys.

Why the heck did anyone ever plant these troublesome plants in the first place?

Well, no doubt, it seemed like good idea at the time. The plants were lovely or the fruit was sweet.

In my life, many things that seemed like a good thing at the time have become problematic. In my yard, I have a very fun Chinese Lantern plant that I planted at the top of a rock wall, hoping that these notorious spreaders would cascade down the slope. They had their own ideas though, and are now spreading across my young corn patch.

I can offer many examples of life choices that seemed like a good idea at the time. They range from career and financial decisions to becoming involved in a relationship. Each choice seemed like a good idea at the time.

Later, I discovered that I had made a mistake.

*(continued next page)*



We at UUUC celebrate the exploration of faith, please see the 'Viewpoints on Faith' statement in every Umpquest, and reach out any time with questions.

## PONDERINGS FROM REV. DENNIS REYNOLDS

*(continued from previous page)* I make mistakes. People make mistakes. The key question is, what do we do after we realize that something, that seemed like a good idea at the time, may not have been such a good idea after all?

What do we do ?

Well with plants we simply trying to undo the harm. I have volunteered in several invasive plant mitigation projects. I sometimes call it rooting out evil, but it's actually trying to undo an error that once seemed like a good idea.

Sometimes I learn from my mistakes. No more Chinese lantern plant in my yard.

I remember, too, to forgive. The sweetness of wild blackberries helps me to, for the most part, forgive their invasive nature.

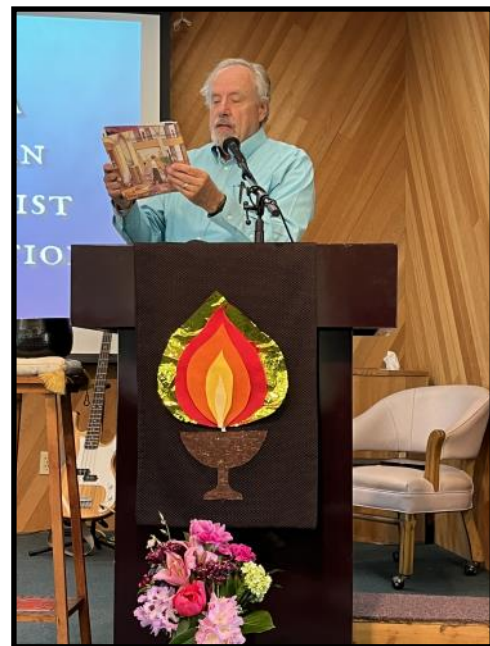
I try to do the same with people. I am not saying forget, but forgive.

The most difficult of all is to forgive myself. But I strive to do that. It means letting go of my own emotional energy around a past error, to stop beating myself over the past. Such recrimination is of little to no value. So, I seek to remember, so that I can learn, and to forgive.

There is reading in our hymnal that calls us "to forgive ourselves and each other and begin again in love." I recite it to myself often and, sometimes, I remember to do so. When I do it is, like a wild blackberry, very sweet.

## UUUC PHOTO ALBUM: May 2024

From  
Sunday,  
May 12th,  
2024: New  
Member  
Ceremony,  
more  
pictures  
later in  
Umpquest!



*We at UUUC celebrate the exploration of faith, please see the 'Viewpoints on Faith' statement in every Umpquest, and reach out any time with questions.*

## **MAY 2024 MINISTER'S REPORT TO THE BOARD**

I was honored this month to do some of the core work in Ministry when, in collaboration with my colleague Donna, we met with family and friends to create a Celebration of life that honored the wishes of the deceased for such a service and met the needs of many.

With limited success I have continued to reach out to members about potential Board service. Some who declined Board positions have agreed to do more here in other areas of congregational life.

The administrative side of ministry continues to take a significant amount of my time.

- Budget has also taken time as I first tried to mesh earlier budget conversations and some recommendations with my own professional recommendations to craft a budget, which the Board reviewed, amended, and approved provisionally at the April Meeting. Additional effort went into trying to capture and help format that Draft Budget in a manner that helps facilitate what will become the Boards recommended Budget, which will be reviewed by all and acted upon at the Annual Congregational Meeting at the end of the month.
- I also spent time on careful review of the By Laws and recommending some corrections and clarifications. Changes to this document will also, after Board review, be submitted to the Congregation.
- In addition I spent time this month in continuing conversations with members, formers members, and staff about several conflicts from the past that have not been fully resolved. I continue to seek ways in which our history can best help guide us into our shared future both in terms of individual issues and supporting a culture of open and inclusive communication.
- I continue to spend time on Personnel. If we are able to establish a Personnel Committee, and find skilled folks willing to be part of it, in the next church year, that would be a positive step.

I hope many will join in a Congregational Conversation about future options including internship and or continuing my consulting ministry and possible staffing partnerships with other UU communities in order to better access if and how such positions can best serve the longings and the needs of many.

It feels little strange to be winding down my current contracted ministry with all of you. I am glad we are planning to have continuing relationship through regular presence in your pulpit and additional work with you as either a consultant or as an intern supervisor in 24-25.



**Celebration of Life for Betsy Callaghan:  
Saturday, June 8th, 2024 at 2:00 pm at UUUC**

I am asking for a few volunteers to help make Betsy's Celebration a wonderful experience. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the Sanctuary. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

-Donna

**UUUC ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:  
Sunday, May 26th, after Services  
In the Sanctuary and via Zoom**

The Board invites all Members who are able to attend this Annual Meeting.

The Agenda includes:

- Annual Report on the Health of Finances.
- Presentation of the 2024-25 Budget
- Election of Officers
- Moderate Bylaws Amendments
- Written Summary Reports of Ongoing Board Activities

Attendance by Members to affirm the budget, select your Board officers, hear directly about the Health of our precious community and join in with Food and Conversation to share is a most significant day each year.

Please come.

**ATTENTION MEMBERS:**

**More information will be coming to your email inbox regarding the proposed bylaw changes, and physical copies will be available at church this Sunday, May 19th.**



**Please Note:** All are welcome to attend, but only members may vote. Sign up on the back table to help out with set-up and clean-up, or to bring food to share!

## ***The Monthly Book Report***

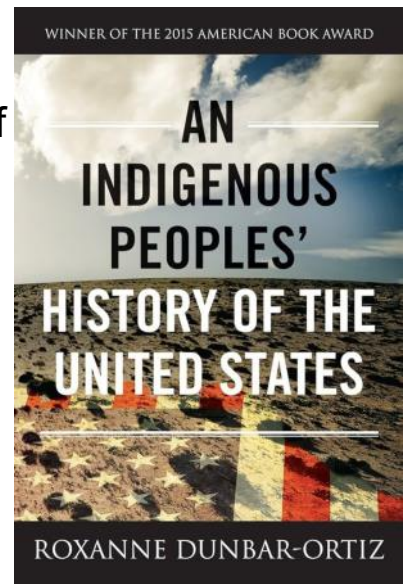
MaryAnne Balzer, Librarian

**“Wanted: Banned Books.”** “With Book banning on the rise, Beacon Press and UU Congregations are fighting literary censorship.”

This is the title and opening remarks of a very important article featured in the *UU World* Spring/Summer 2024 issue beginning page 32.

“Book banning threatens democracy because it chips away at a person’s right to choose what they want to read and believe in, according to Beacon Press, the 170-year-old publisher associated with the UUA.” The article goes on to say: “Libraries, often one-stop environments for people to access a breadth of information and services and historical defenders of the freedom to read, are in the crossfire of book banning battles.”

As you browse the issue I would urge you to read this very important article about your freedom to pursue knowledge. The book banning craze is not just about someone’s idea of pornography. The books include titles I stocked at my past church: *An Indigenous Peoples’ History of the United States* by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, and *White Fragility: Why it’s So Hard for White People to Talk about Racism* by Robin DiAngelo. (NY Times #1 best seller list) These are books published by/sold by Beacon Press.



Important current books are being subject to banning; books that inform and open the eyes and mind to the problems in American culture. We as a Congregation need to stand up in support of reading freedom and access for all people. If we do not stand up for everyone’s freedom to read, who will stand up for us when they come for our UU books?

**Fight back!** Support your Beacon Press (and InSpirit Press). Support your own UUUC reopened library. The two books mentioned above are on the purchase wish list for our library along with other important UU reading. Please support our ‘Buy a Book, Donate a Book’ restocking program. Cards with titles and authors are located in a basket on the top shelf of the library bookcase. When you have purchased/read the book, place the card in the book (with your full name on the back if you wish recognition) and place it on the bottom shelf of the bookcase.

*Have a blessed day shared with a great UUUC and Beacon Press book!*



## A Message from Chaplain Donna Smith:

Please note that 'Nurturing Our Spirits' will not be meeting on May 16th or 23rd, and Donna will be unavailable for counseling from May 12th to May 29th. Thank you for your understanding!

## NEW DIRECTORY TIME!

At church this Sunday, the DRAFT version of the new Directory will be out for folks to review- please take a moment to check your entry for accuracy, and let Genevieve know right away of any changes. Directories will be distributed at the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 26th.

# UUUC PHOTO ALBUM: May 2024



**Above left: UUUC Board Member Edith Carter speaks on May 12th; Above right: New member Lori Jo Anderson with new member Kimberly Pryce and family; Right: Some of the 'living gifts' presented to the congregation by the youth**



# UUUC PHOTO ALBUM: May 2024



## Growing the Memory Tree

***Pictured: Matt and Levi Pryce, assisting with the Memory Tree on Sunday, May 12th, 2024***



***Tree leaves added in honor of:***

***Joe Messinger  
Betsy Callaghan  
Lorrie Agost  
Margaret Amaro  
Mary Ann Wilcox  
Pat Zemlin  
Larry Flanagan  
Janet Ranyard  
Kasha Claire  
Janet Woodward***

# ON THE CALENDAR

## UPCOMING UUUC SERVICES:

May 19th

Jake Tranter

*'What Connects Us?'*

May 26th

UUUC Writer's Group

*'From the Writer's Mind'*  
*Congregational Meeting after Services*

### Regularly Scheduled:

- **Reverend Dennis is on site and holds office hours every Thursday** from 1:00 to 5:00 pm. He welcomes conversation about church life, your spiritual journey or shared theological ponderings. Please contact him to schedule an appointment at [dwreynolds123@gmail.com](mailto:dwreynolds123@gmail.com)
- **Positive! Open Mic!** is on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 6:30 to 8 pm at UUUC, all are welcome.
- **Writer's Group** meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month, 2 pm on Zoom.
  - **UUUC Office Hours** are 10:30 am to 3 pm, Tuesday through Friday.

## COMPASSIONATE SERVICES WITH DONNA SMITH

Life presents all of us at times with challenges or situations where we find that we could use some help. If you would like an ear to listen or guidance to help you through anything you may be experiencing, please feel free to call me.

Sometimes, it just takes talking with another to nudge your inner wisdom. **I will be available at UUUC on Thursdays from 11:00 – 1:30 by appointment. To schedule a time, call Donna at 541-530-8549.**



## THURSDAYS WITH DONNA – NURTURING OUR SPIRIT

Raising the collective consciousness is what will bring peace to our beautiful Mother Earth and into the hearts of humanity. We do this by increasing our individual consciousness. We will now meet in person on **Thursday at UUUC from 2:30 to 4:00.** We study and share teachings, reading, ideas and experiences on a number of topics that will help us raise our consciousness and therefore contribute to the raising of the collective consciousness.

**WHEN: Thursdays 2:30-4:00 at UUUC**







# UMPQUA UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

[umpquauuc.org](http://umpquauuc.org) · [admin@umpquauu.org](mailto:admin@umpquauu.org) · 541-672-2250

2167 NW Watters Ave  
Roseburg, OR 97471

P.O. Box 2106  
Roseburg, OR 97470

## YOUR 2023-2024 UUUC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>President</b>	Lillene Fifield	<b>Vice-President</b>	Martha Sinkula
<b>Secretary</b>	Julienne DeMarsh	<b>Member at Large 1</b>	Glennis Peterson
<b>Treasurer</b>	Maria Casas	<b>Member at Large 2</b>	Sharon Barlow Palm
		<b>Member at Large 3</b>	Edith Carter

## AROUND UUUC

*Consulting Minister: Rev. Dennis Reynolds*

*Chaplain: Donna Smith*

<b>UUUC Office</b>	Genevieve Gonzales	<b>Media Director</b>	Jake Tranter
<b>Music</b>	Sean Shea	<b>Building Maintenance</b>	John Aschim
<b>Sunday Services &amp; Music</b>	Chair: Martha Sinkula. Members: Lillene Fifield, Glennis Peterson, Jacie Pratt, & Kathy Mitchell. Board Liaison: Julienne DeMarsh		
<b>Membership</b>	Al Herring, Mary Herring, Doris Heyman, June Ervin, & Jacie Pratt		
<b>Cares and Concerns</b>	Connie Erickson & Dana MacDonald		
<b>Art Committee</b>	Chair: Jemma Crae		
<b>Chalice Lighters</b>	Lillene Fifield		
<b>Endowment Committee</b>	Chair: Dana MacDonald		
<b>Writing Group</b>	Connie Erickson		
<b>Website &amp; Communications</b>	Julienne DeMarsh and Genevieve Gonzales		

### **Viewpoints on Faith**

*Members of our Congregation, our Interim Ministers, and our Chaplain regularly share their viewpoints within this newsletter. In the multi-faith, non-creedal tradition that is Unitarian Universalism, you will see differing views about how individuals may name or describe the holy or that they see as larger than themselves. So do not take any one viewpoint as "the truth," but know that in our Congregation we openly explore many perspectives. We hope you enjoy such exploration.*