

Learning Community e-News



Sunday, January 7, 2024

Dear Ones,

Waaay back last year (ok, late November) I created my first Learning Community e-newsletter with the trepidation I often bring to something brand new. By way of introduction, I shared a snapshot of Diana Barry, one of my tuxedo cats. A child greeted me the following Sunday with a handmade cat figure, modeled after my pet. This generous act filled my heart and soothed my jitters, as did kind words of welcome from many. Shout out to the K-1 class, who gifted me a lovely chalice they made from bark and other nature items.

That day's warm feeling spread out to fill my week with the desire to greet those I encountered with a similar spirit. I helped a stressed stranger figure out a particularly unfriendly parking kiosk. I applied a little extra patience at home when some of us were having a hard time keeping it together on a busy school night. *What else can I do to grow my list of satisfying moments?* I've been wondering.



Generosity, our spiritual theme this month, is contagious. Let's keep it circulating. Join me by asking yourself and your loved ones where and how you encounter generosity.

With love and generosity in this new year and always,

Leah

Keep scrolling for info about
this Sunday's RE classes,
next Sunday's MLK service project,
upcoming child dedications and baby blessings,
and more!

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7 RE CLASSES

All ages start in the sanctuary together at 10:30 AM

Classes end at 12:00 PM

Nursery/Toddlers (A103): A loving, playful, and supportive space during worship for our little ones 6 months to 3 years old. You may drop off right at 10:30 am and pick up anytime. (Milena, Rhionne, & Kay)

Preschool (A106): As UUs, we believe in learning and searching for what is true. We'll also meet a goat named Oat in a story! (Mindy & Jody)

K-1st Grade (A200): Our Homes; a Big Box Community. (Evie & Kris)

2nd-3rd-4th Grade (B202 & B203): New year, new curriculum! By using Love Will Guide Us (click for more info), participants learn to seek life guidance through the lens of our UU Sources, with an emphasis on love. Together we ask, explore, and address questions like, "Where did we come from?" "What is our relationship to the Earth and other creatures?" "How can we respond with love, even in bad situations?" "What happens when you die?" (Robert & Robin, Miranda & Brian)

5th-6th Grade (B201): Baby animals (human and otherwise), loyalty in friendship, and other fun-to-discuss topics. (Christa & new core teacher Lee)

7th-8th Grade OWL (B302 & B303): No Together Time! Start at 10:30 am! Healthy Relationships: Through a series of engaging activities and discussion, participants learn the basics of healthy relationships and begin to identify the characteristics of romantic partners who can support them in exploring and defining their identities, developing interpersonal skills, and gaining emotional support. (Sierra & Christopher, Vivien & Summer)

YRUU (A108): Practice the story we will offer in the sanctuary for Together Time later this month. (Faith & Andrew)

MLK SERVICE ACTIVITY: HELP LAUNCH 13 SALMON SHOWER PROJECT

Jan. 14th, 10:30am-12pm

Buchan Reception

Parents welcome,
but not required to stay



DONATE

Bring unused art and other supplies;
donation wish list below

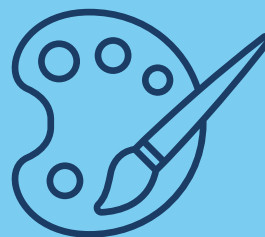


LEARN

Get a facilities tour;
hear why
our unhoused neighbors
need a safe, kind space
to shower and rest

CREATE

Decorate envelopes; volunteers will
use them to pass out laundromat
gift cards and other resources



RITUAL

Families pick up kids at noon;
everyone joins Rev. Alison
to bless the space and gift a chalice

QUESTIONS?

CONTACT LEAH AT LONGIRI@FIRSTUNITARIANPORTLAND.ORG

BRING DONATION ITEMS TO CHURCH ON 1/14

DRAWING SUPPLIES



- Colored pencils
- Markers
- Chalk pastels
- Pencils

PAPER



- All purpose drawing paper (white and colored)
- Painting paper (white)

CONTAINERS

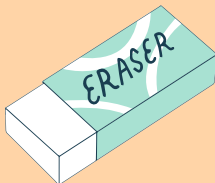
- Desktop hanging file folders
- Craft storage caddies with handle
- Storage containers with lids



PAINT SUPPLIES

- Acrylic paint sets
- Plastic paint trays and palettes
- Watercolor paint sets

OTHER SUPPLIES



- Pencil sharpeners
- Erasers

*For questions about supplies,
contact Dana at dbuhl@firstunitarianportland.org*

Baby Blessing or Child Dedication

This ritual during worship recognizes and celebrates young ones who have come into the world, their family, and this community's embrace. It can be a meaningful event for babies and children whose families are church members or committed friends.

Interested? Contact [Leah](#)

Good Links to Know



Please sign up to bring snacks a few times this year

Get the Front Steps, the all church weekly newsletter

Watch the worship service live or during the week



Monthly spiritual theme:

GENEROSITY



Keep in touch!

Rev. Leah Ongiri (she/her)

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