

# SCUUP



**South Coast Unitarian Universalist Press**

**January 2017 Issue**

*(Deadline for material for the February 2017 issue: January 31, 2017)*

Allen M. Solomon, Editor  
541 294 6182  
allen.m.solomon@gmail.com

**SCUUF Programs and Activities  
for January - All programs will be  
held at the Dolphin Theater at 10 am  
except as noted otherwise.**

**January 2017 – Theme is “Covenant”**

**Jan. 1** – A discussion about a sermon titled "A Radical Covenant" given by the Reverend Susan Frederick-Gray looking at how our lives are inextricably bound up with the lives of others. Linda Smith

**Jan. 8** - "Whose am I?" Faith, family, kith & kinfolk; how do you honor those who have gone before and pave the way for those yet to come? Robin McCreery

**Jan. 15** - "Knowing it in your Knower" Anita Coppock

**Jan. 22** - Our original and true nature, "Our Authentic Self," comes as an "aha" experience as we reconnect with the relationship of reason and intuition. Suzann Robins Stroup

**Jan. 29** - "Covenants with Self" Promises we make to ourselves about the kind of person we want to be and the kind of life we want to have. Kathy Maxham

**Charles Smith, SCUUF President**

As some of you know, Charles is healing at Cascade Terrace in Portland from his November stroke. He will

soon be transported to a Coos Bay rehabilitation facility. When he is able to return to his home, he will need help of various kinds (transport to therapy, doctors; meal preparation; etc.). Jean Adamson, Asialee Crumley and others are developing a "Share the Care" circle to coordinate and implement this care. Please contact one of them (phone/email of each is found below under SCUUF Board of Directors), if you are able to participate.

**A NEW APPROACH TO PROGRAMS  
(repeated from December 2016 SCUUP)**

The Program Planning Committee recently joined the Soul Matters Sharing Circle, "a group of over 200 UU congregations who follow the same monthly worship themes so we can more easily share small group material, as well as worship, sermon, music and children's religious education resources."

Although the Soul Matters Sharing Circle is a once-a-month model, we will be using the themes and the resources as the basis for many of our upcoming Sunday programs. **We'll begin this new approach in January**, when the monthly theme will be "Covenant." We hope you find it meaningful, perhaps even useful.

Soul Matters is a distinctive small group curriculum. Like other small group programs, its central goal is to foster circles of trust and deep listening. However, Soul Matters adds four unique components:

**1. Explore the Worship Themes in More Depth**

Soul Matters is not a "stand alone" program. It is designed as a companion program to a congregation's worship experience. Congregations using Soul Matters position it in their system as "an opportunity to explore our congregation's monthly worship themes in more

depth.”

### **2. Experience the Worship Theme, Don't Just Talk about It.**

Unitarian Universalists want to do more than just read and talk about spiritual topics. Discussing a topic is important. But there is nothing like experiential learning. Honoring this, Soul Matters participants are given a spiritual exercise each month in which to engage prior to their group meeting. For instance, when we wrestled with the concept of grace, we didn't just read what theologians had to say about it, we also challenged ourselves to find a way to bring grace (a gift one doesn't expect, earn or even deserve) into another person's life.

### **3. Questions To Walk With, Not Talk Through.**

In traditional small groups, questions are an opportunity for the group to think together. Soul Matters uses questions differently. We see them as tools for *individual* exploration. Instead of asking our groups to go through the questions and discuss them one by one, Soul Matters participants are asked to read all the questions ahead of time and find the one question that “hooks them”—the one that speaks to and challenges them personally. Participants then live with--or “walk with”--that question for a couple weeks leading up to the group, coming to their meeting, not with an answer to each of the questions on the list, but with a story about how this one particular question lead them to deeper, personal learning. This technique leads us away from abstraction and intellectualizing and challenges us to think about how the topic (and question) apply to our daily living.

### **4. A Reminder That UUism is Distinctive, Not an “Anything Goes,” Religion**

Our monthly themes are not just interesting

topics. Rather they focus us on a spiritual value that our UU faith has historically honored and emphasized. At each meeting, we are reminded that our faith promotes a preferred way for us to be in the world. This is why each monthly theme is framed by the question: “What does it mean to be a community of \_\_\_\_\_?”

From a Soul Matters participant - *“It's like getting a new chapter to a great book every month.”*

#### **SCUUF CARE COMMITTEE**

The following comprise the SCUUF Care Committee:

Georgia Martin, Chair 541-267-6181,  
[georgiacmartin@charter.net](mailto:georgiacmartin@charter.net)  
Marian & Asialee Crumley 541-888-4349,  
[asialeecrumley@gmail.com](mailto:asialeecrumley@gmail.com)  
Curt Clay 541-294-1156, [curtclay@gmail.com](mailto:curtclay@gmail.com)

Amazon Smile contributes 0.5% of all your purchases, to South Coast Unitarian Universalist Church, if you identify SCUUF when you buy through “smile.amazon.com.” Try it!!

#### **HERE TO SERVE: THE SCUUF BOARD OF DIRECTORS for 2016-2017**

Charles Smith, President. [chazcms@gmail.com](mailto:chazcms@gmail.com)  
Asialee Crumley, Secretary. [asialeecrumley@gmail.com](mailto:asialeecrumley@gmail.com)  
Jean Adamson, Treasurer. [J5adamson@gmail.com](mailto:J5adamson@gmail.com)  
Marian Crumley, Director. [mjcrumley32@gmail.com](mailto:mjcrumley32@gmail.com)  
Kathy Maxham, Director. [kmaxham@gmail.com](mailto:kmaxham@gmail.com)

**Support the SCUUF Virtual Thrift Store.** If you can contribute merchandise (clean, intact, functioning), please contact Asialee Crumley by email ([asialeecrumley@gmail.com](mailto:asialeecrumley@gmail.com)) or telephone (541-888-4349)



**South Coast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship**

PO Box 595

North Bend OR 97459-0048

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