

Edition #28

September 16, 2025

Salish Sea Fellowship

COMMUNITY UPDATE



WWW.SALISHSEAFELLOWSHIP.ORG

**ALL ARE
WELCOME**

>>> ABOUT US

The Salish Sea Fellowship is a center for liberal religion, providing an independent, educational, spiritual and liberal religious community of mutual support that embraces the traditional *seven principles* of Unitarian Universalism. This is our Community Update for our friends and members. If you have anything you would like to tell the community, please let us know at salishseafellowship@gmail.com.

HOW TO FIND US <<<

We meet in-person at the Community United Methodist Church (CUMC) in Port Hadlock, 130 Church Lane.

UPDATE: OUR ZOOM LINK HAS CHANGED AS OF 2/10/25

Click [HERE](#) for our updated Zoom link for viewing our services, or go to Zoom and enter Meeting ID: 909 702 5487, Passcode: 338490.

**JOIN US IN
COMMUNITY**

UPCOMING EVENTS

2



SUNDAY SERVICE

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 4 PM,
CUMC, 130 CHURCH LANE, PORT HADLOCK**
Rev. Alex Holt: Welcoming the Stranger

Alex is a semi-retired UU minister currently living in a humble cottage in the forest outside Eugene, Oregon. He is an accredited interim minister and served congregations in Oregon, Washington, Illinois, Texas, Pennsylvania and South Carolina over 30 years. Currently, he is working on an online support group tentatively called "Making Friends with Aging and Death". He also volunteers at cat shelters and has a cat who adopted him four years ago. He also is 22 years sober from alcohol and leads a Buddhist Recovery group.

**The Salish Sea Fellowship has returned to our
regular schedule beginning in September!**



GAMES & SNACKS WITH FRIENDS

GAMES & SNACKS WITH FRIENDS
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2 PM

Come Gather Together with SSF Friends for Food, Fun, & Games!

We are meeting on the 4th Sunday of every month. Join us on 9/28 at the CUMC (130 Church Lane, Port Hadlock) for fun and laughter! Bring a snack for sharing and a beverage for you. Don't forget your winning smile and devil-may-care attitude! Please contact Karen Wamstad at (call/text) 650-452-4721 with questions.



UPCOMING EVENTS

3

INAUGURAL HOME FELLOWSHIP FOR NAUA SUMMIT THE HOME OF JOYCE & NILS AT NORTH BEACH

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 4-6 PM

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 9-11 AM

Responding to a request that we hold services more than twice per month, the Board Retreat attendees determined to experiment with "Home Fellowship," gatherings in our homes to view a Zoom or Recorded service together. The upcoming 2025 NAUA Summit provides us with an opportunity to try this out.

Please consider joining one or both upcoming Home Fellowships at the home of Nils and Joyce in North Beach. **To sign up, go to <https://tinyurl.com/SSF-HomeFellowship>.** Light refreshments will be available at both events.

Friday, October 3, 4-6 PM - Keynote Address: "Deep & Historic Roots of our Liberal Religion," with Rev. Előd Szabó and Rev. Dr. Todd Eklof, followed by a Q&A.

Rev. Előd Szabó has been Minister of the Unitarian Church in Ürmös, Transylvania (Romania) since 2007, and is also a District Dean of the Hungarian Unitarian Church. Rev. Előd will share some of these insights with us and help us better understand the deep and historic roots of our liberal religion. Rev. Dr. Todd Eklof is president of NAUA and minister of the UU Church of Spokane.

Sunday, October 5, 9-11 AM - Summit Worship Service: "What We Believe. Unitarian Reflections" by the Worship Services Committee, including the Salish Sea Singers, followed by open discussion.

To learn more about the 2025 NAUA Summit, see <https://naunitarians.org/2025-summit/>. Questions? Contact Joyce at joyce.francis.pt@gmail.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

4



SUNDAY SERVICE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 4 PM, CUMC

Joseph Bednarik

The Salish Sea Fellowship enthusiastically welcomes Joseph Bednarik back to our community to lead us in thoughtful contemplation with his unique humor and empathy.



COMMUNITY POTLUCK

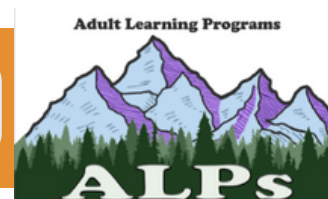
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 5 PM, CUMC

Doors open at 4:30 to allow for more socializing.

As always, bring your own beverages and table settings, as well as a dish to share.



ALPs (Adult Learning Programs)



5

It's that wonderful time of year again, our beloved ALPs program is launching its Fall Schedule on September 7! Fall ALPs programming will run from Sept. 19 through the end of the year. A flyer of ALPs offerings, as well as a link to sign up, will be available in our next Community Update, and on our Salish Sea Fellowship website [HERE](#). We will also have the ALPs Fall Schedule offerings in our Order of Sunday Service on September 7. Gather together to learn and grow!

LET'S TALK ABOUT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Salish Sea Fellowship has contributed \$632.00 to the Port Hadlock Community United Methodist Church (CUMC) since the first of the year to help support their free food pantry and clothes closet. CUMC also runs a weekly soup kitchen, and Salish Sea volunteers provide soup (a gallon of veggie and a gallon with meat) and assistance on the third Saturday of each month. Additionally, Salish Sea contributors donate to local non-profits through our designated offerings.

Do you feel our fellowship should be involved in our community in any other way? What might that look like? We'd like to get your input next week at our Sunday, September 14 potluck. Please give the question some thought and come prepared to share. Thank you! Kendra Golden and Kate Madson.

NEW SSF WEBSITE!



We are excited to announce that the Salish Sea Fellowship's new website is now live! Our address ([**salishseafellowship.org**](http://salishseafellowship.org)) is the same, the new platform is just more user-friendly and easier to keep you informed and updated. Our little Fellowship sure is growing up! Please know that the website is a work-in-progress and that Lily is continuing to update it!

SUPPORT REQUEST: We'd like the new website to be full of photos of our members and our community events. **Please send any photos to salishseafellowship@gmail.com.**

FROM YOUR SSF BOARD



What Do You Believe?

We are a community of free faith, each with our own carefully curated ideas and beliefs. On our new website, we include a section entitled Who Are We, and under that is tab entitled Our Religion-What do We Believe? In addition to a broad statement about our free faith and our Fellowship, we would love to include individual statements of personal belief, ideally a 3 or 4 minute video of you expressing your credo statement, your set of personal beliefs, whether those are Christian, Buddhist, Atheist, Humanist, or defying all labels (like many of us!).

So if you would be comfortable expressing your personal belief statement to the world to help show who we are, please contact Doug Rodgers, who will coordinate this effort for us. We hope to post five or six videos, and if we get more than that, we can rotate the ones we have up on the web. Doug can be reached at douglas.rodgers@sbcglobal.net.

CARING AND CONCERNS TEAM



Breakfast Club: Breakfast Club continues during the fall months! Sarah, Karen, and others hang out on Wednesdays at **9:30 AM** at the **Bay View Restaurant**. Join together for coffee, tea, breakfast, or even pie. You could add ice cream (it's in the dairy group)!

Carpooling to Events: If you are interested in carpooling to events, please send an email to salishseafellowship@gmail.com. Tell us your preferred pickup location and phone number, and we will figure out a plan.



CUMC BENEFIT CONCERT

8



TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

5:00-7:00PM

**Community United
Methodist Church**

130 Church Lane, Hadlock

\$20 Suggested Donation

EQUINOX BENEFIT CONCERT for The Benji Project & D.A.S.H. Programs CELTIC, FOLK, & WORLD MUSIC with FOUR SHILLINGS SHORT

Proceeds benefit The Benji Project & D.A.S.H. Programs

Four Shillings Short play Traditional & Original music from the Celtic Lands, Medieval & Renaissance Europe, India and the Americas on a fantastic collection of instruments: Hammered & Mountain dulcimer, Mandolins, Renaissance Woodwinds, North Indian Sitar, Recorders & Tinwhistles, Banjo, Guitar, Charango, Psaltery, Ukulele, percussion, vocals & even a Krumhorn. For information, call (707) 472-8772

MEMBERSHIP



Membership Status: Consider Becoming a Member this Fall!

We are pleased to welcome Elizabeth Barnes, Barbara McCaughin, & Lily Gold as new members of the Salish Sea Fellowship! We note that Barbara has already jumped in with both feet, taking charge of organizing Community Offerings; thank you!

You too may become a member of the Salish Sea Fellowship by filling out the application form (available [HERE](#)), and then being approved by the Board. All membership applications we have received have been approved by the Board. Join today! All are welcome!

COMMUNITY RESOURCES



Our Member, Gail Sandlin, recommended the following resources for our community. Reach out to Gail with any questions!

- Access the **International Association of Religious Freedom** [HERE](#)
- Access the **Free-Religion Institute** [HERE](#)
- Access the **International Convocation of Unitarian Universalist Women** [HERE](#)



UU JOKES OF THE WEEK



It is show-and-tell day at school, and all the children are requested to bring in an item which illustrates their religious beliefs. David stands up and says "This is a star of David and I am a Jew." Dorothy stands up and says "This is a crucifix and I am a Catholic." Jimmy stands up and says "This is a coffeepot and I am a Unitarian."

Did you hear about the UU who was a dyslexic, insomniac, & agnostic? He stayed awake all night questioning the nature of dog.



Getting to Know the North American Unitarian Association (NAUA)

10



To learn more about the NAUA, please visit their website [HERE](#).

We've spent the last year building our new fellowship, and we've much to celebrate. The Salish Sea Fellowship has certainly surpassed my expectations, and I am grateful to all who have contributed to that success. Perhaps it is now time for us to engage with the growing number of other "Dissidents/Refugees" in North America and around the world.

In order to begin the discussion of the SSF joining the NAUA, I have created a 15-minute video telling a bit about the NAUA, which I hope will help inform that conversation. Please visit https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uyJ6oozB7XDgVnqL6F-IJJwT2Q1c2_Hw/view?usp=share_link

Additionally, it may be helpful for you to view/read two other items:

1. Learn more about NAUA's founder, Rev. Dr. Todd Eklof, and his story of "dis-fellowshipping" by the UUA. Watch his recent sermon recommended by Ron Strange, "Better than This: Are We?" at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hVNr8yM_mnw
2. Review Nils's article for the UUnderworld magazine on the Origin Story of our Fellowship at https://salishseafellowship.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/SSF-Origin-Story_-_Nils-Pedersen.docx.pdf

I encourage you to inform yourself about the NAUA in order to meaningfully engage in the conversations to come, but also to avail yourself of the services NAUA provides us all. Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

In gratitude,

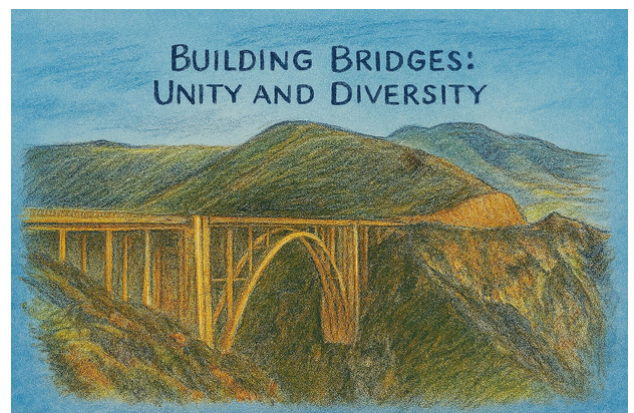
Joyce Francis

joyce.francis.pt@gmail.com

The 2nd Annual NAUA Summit, September 30-October 3rd, will be entirely virtual this year. The theme is BUILDING BRIDGES: UNITY & DIVERSITY. Last year, six SSFers joined in person in Spokane, and many others joined online.

Please take a look at the programs and consider joining the summit. Enrollment is only \$50, and you can join whatever programs you wish. Note that we'll be voting on NAUA membership at our Annual Meeting in November, so this is another way to learn more about the organization.

JOIN US



Register for the NAUA Summit [HERE](#)!



COMMUNITY OFFERING

Learn more about
Center Valley Animal Rescue
[HERE](#)

11

Our Sunday Service offering is now taken in support of organizations doing important work in our community. If you know of deserving groups doing good work in our community, please send us your suggestions for such organizations by email to salishseafellowship@gmail.com. Please make sure that these groups are local non-profit organizations with 501(c)(3) status. For the offering, if you want to put money in the collection plate for any reason other than the Community Offering being supported on a particular Sunday (e.g. your pledge) you can do so by: 1. writing a check including instructions on where the money should go, or 2. If you want to give cash, placing it in one of the provided envelopes and write your name and instructions on the envelope. This allows us to credit you in our records.



Community Offering for September:

Center Valley Animal Rescue



FROM RESCUE >>> TO RECOVERY

CVAR'S NEW WILDLIFE & ISOLATION FACILITY WILL TRANSFORM HOW WE CARE FOR ANIMALS IN CRISIS. JOIN US IN BUILDING HOPE AND A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR ALL CREATURES IN NEED!

Center Valley
Animal Rescue



**THE LOVE AND CARE OF ABUSED AND ABANDONED ANIMALS
IS THE SOUL OF THIS ORGANIZATION.**

Thank you, Members & Friends! Through your generosity, Salish Sea Fellowship has given well over \$3,000 to local nonprofits, including: Jefferson County Food Bank Association, National Alliance on Mental Health (NAMI), Chimacum Commons Project, Habitat for Humanity, Dove House, Sunfield Land for Learning, and Bayside Housing. We are so humbled by the kindness of our community.

COMMUNITY REQUEST

Virginia Nixon still needs volunteers for "Coffee Hour" after Sunday Services. Current helpers have earned a break. Please pick a first or third Sunday (Nov. 2 is full) and let Virginia know at 260-769-2170, or sign up on the chart at the next service. Complete orientation info will be sent to you...or shadow Dan and Virginia on Sept 7. This is such a fun way to get involved!

HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS

Our hosts, the Community United Methodist Church (CUMC), staff a free food pantry on Saturdays from 10 to 1:00. Wet and cold weather is coming, and food insecurity is a serious problem for many of our neighbors – some of whom live in their cars or without full kitchens. **Please donate non-perishable food (no out-of-date donations) such as individual pull-tab cans of chili, stew, hash and spam, or packets of hot chocolate, coffee and pasta with sauce.** You can bring donations on any Sunday and leave them in the church or place them on the desk in the pantry.

The CUMC General Store is currently in need of:

- Protein Drinks & Bars
- Peanut Butter & Jelly & Crackers
- Pull tab cans of Chili, Stew, Span, Chicken, Pork, Vienna Sausages, etc.
- Pasta with sauce (small packages)
- Coffee & Hot Chocolate & Cranberry juice (single packages)
- Toilet Paper (2-ply)
- Fall and winter items will be needed shortly

CUMC also runs a weekly soup kitchen, and Salish Sea provides the soup (a gallon of vegie and a gallon with meat) on the third Saturday of the month. If you would like to join the list of folks who provide soup and/or assist with set-up and clean-up in the future, **please contact Kate Madson at kmadson3of9@gmail.com or Kendra Golden at kendrajgolden@gmail.com.**

