



Salish Sea Fellowship

COMMUNITY UPDATE



WWW.SALISHSEAFELLOWSHIP.ORG



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



UPCOMING EVENTS

2

Sunday Service

November 2, 4 pm

CUMC, 130 Church Lane, Port Hadlock

Rev. Todd Eklof

When Polonius tells Laertes, "To thine own self be true" in Shakespeare's play Hamlet, he was advising him to do what he believes is right by remaining true to his values no matter the circumstances. That's good advice, but this saying could also be taken as an admonition to stop deceiving ourselves by accepting as true the things we want to be true, rather than the things that really are true. Going through life clinging to lies just because they feel good is to be out of integrity with ourselves. In this sermon Rev. Eklof will discuss both the mechanisms of self-deception and some tools to prevent it.

A festive Halloween-themed border surrounds the text. It features various icons: jack-o'-lanterns with different expressions, skulls, candy corn, swirls, and pieces of chocolate. The colors are primarily orange, purple, and brown.

COMMUNITY POTLUCK

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 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.

Also, responding to members' requests, we will be sharing
a short TED Talk-style video for group discussion.
Join us for good company and lively conversation!

UPCOMING EVENTS



**STARTING ON 11/16, WE
WILL SHIFT TO OUR 2:00
START TIME FOR OUR
SUNDAY SERVICES FOR
THE WINTER MONTHS!**

3



Sunday Service

November 16, 2 pm

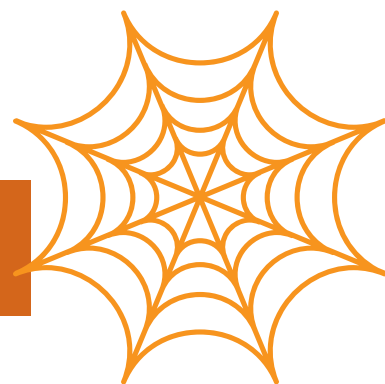
CUMC, 130 Church Lane, Port Hadlock

Joseph Bednarik

Sermon: God as Metaphor

This Sunday our congregation of theists and atheists, mystics and mechanics explore the use of a powerful linguistic practice: The creation of metaphors. Sharing the words and ideas of revolutionary astronomers, leaping philosophers, and visionary poets, we will focus attention on the miracle of our existence and wonder aloud whether God is Love.

GAMES & SNACKS WITH FRIENDS



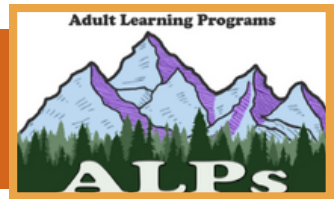
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2 PM

We are meeting on the 4th Sunday of every month for games and snacks with friends!

Join us for food, fun, and laughter! Bring a snack for sharing, and a beverage and a cup for yourself. Don't forget your winning smile and devil-may-care attitude! Additional information regarding a location will be announced shortly. Check our next Community Update or Salish Sea Fellowship for further details. With so much going on all around us, laughter and community are even more imperative than ever.



ALPs (Adult Learning Programs)



It's that wonderful time of year again, our beloved ALPs program launched 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, are available on our Salish Sea Fellowship website [HERE](#).

MEMBERSHIP



Membership Status: Consider Becoming a Member this Fall!

We are excited to welcome new members to the Salish Sea Fellowship Community this fall! Our community is growing and expanding thanks to our members. We'd love to have you join us, too! 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. All are welcome!

CHORAL BELLES HOLIDAY CONCERT AND POTLUCK LUNCH

Join the **Choral Belles**, an all-female chorale, performing in Port Townsend and surrounding communities for 30 YEARS, for a holiday concert and potluck lunch!

Thursday, December 4th, 10:30 AM at CUMC, 130 Church Lane, Port Hadlock

Please plan to join us and confirm your attendance with Joyce Francis at:

joyce.francis.pt@gmail.com or 301-512-6815 **by Nov. 18**. Our community is blessed by a such a wealth of musical talent!



FROM YOUR SSF BOARD

5

What Do You Believe?

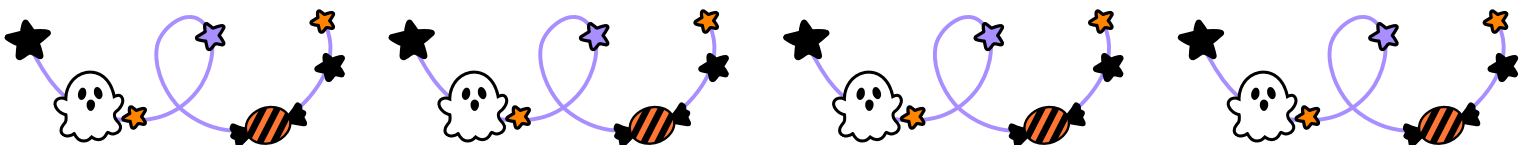
We are a community of free faith, each with our own carefully curated ideas and beliefs. On our new website, we include a section entitled **Who Are We**, and under that is tab entitled **Our Religion-What do We Believe?** In addition to a broad statement about our free faith and our Fellowship, we would 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.**

Notice to Members:

The Annual Meeting of the Members of the Salish Sea Fellowship will be held on Sunday, November 9, at the Community United Methodist Church in Port Hadlock.

Check-in for members will start about 3pm, and the meeting will begin at 3:30. Non-members may attend if they wish but may not be recognized during the meeting and are not allowed to vote. Our potluck (open to all) will follow the meeting. Materials for the meeting have been sent to members, and include an agenda, proxy materials and the proposed Annual Budget for 2026. Note that we are considering a vote of the Fellowship on joining the North American Unitarian Association (NAUA, discussed in our Community Updates for some time). Please also note that last year we elected six members to the Board of Directors, each for a two-year term. As such, we have one open slot on the Board this year (our Bylaws allow up to seven board members).

Anyone interested in Board service should contact Nils Pedersen at nilsepedersen@gmail.com. Once our budget is set at the meeting and our Board has an opportunity to meet, we will set a target amount for pledges to be raised to keep the Fellowship going through 2026. Please note that we hope to have all pledges returned by the end of the current year. Join us!



LIGHTHOUSE GROUPS



Many of us seek deeper spiritual and personal connection, as well as the opportunity to talk meaningfully and openly about our hopes, fears and beliefs. As such, we hope to start one or more Lighthouse Groups (also previously known as Covenant Groups) to allow our members and friends the opportunity for this deeper connection. Typically, these types of groups meet several times a month, either at a member's home or at the Fellowship, and the meeting involves both personal check-ins and topical discussion. Ten of our Salish Sea members have been part of the same group for years, and it has become a meaningful and important part of their lives. As such, the members of this group hope to start new groups in our Fellowship to allow others this deeper connection, and at least three of our group will help the new group(s) get started. Interested parties met after the Music Service on 10/19 to discuss next steps. We will keep you posted with upcoming updates! **Reach out to Virginia Nixon at nixonvirginia@gmail.com with input or questions.** Connection and community are more important now than ever.

CARING AND CONCERNS TEAM

Breakfast Club: Breakfast Club continues during the fall months! As the seasons change, get together for good friends and lively conversation. 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. We belong to each other.

Don't
Forget!



**STARTING ON 11/16,
WE WILL SHIFT TO OUR
2:00 START TIME FOR
OUR SUNDAY SERVICES
FOR THE WINTER
MONTHS!**

Getting to Know the North American Unitarian Association

7

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 our expectations, and we are 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. Note that we are considering a vote of the Fellowship on joining the North American Unitarian Association. Reach out to Joyce Francis with any additional questions or input.



Tolerance: Every person, regardless of their specific ideologies and identities, should have equal standing and equal access to the benefits and protections of society.



Reason: Every person has the capacity to reason and consider the empirical evidence before them in their pursuit of truth and understanding. Ideological dictums and religious dogmas should not be imposed upon them.



Tolerance: Every person, regardless of their specific ideologies and identities, should have equal standing and equal access to the benefits and protections of society.

"The North American Unitarian Association (NAUA) is committed to supporting and promoting liberal religion, including embracing the fundamental principles of human dignity, religious freedom, reason and tolerance. NAUA is not affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), which in 1985 adopted a number of principles and sources for its member organizations. These UUA principles and sources have neither been adopted nor rejected by NAUA. NAUA is not a governing body for its individual members, member organizations, congregations or fellowships. NAUA does not recommend or require its members to accept or follow any specific religious or spiritual beliefs, creeds or covenants. Each member of the NAUA is autonomous, and as such shall determine for themselves whether to accept or reject the beliefs, principles and sources of a particular religion or denomination. NAUA expresses no opinion as to whether its members should promote or subscribe to the UUA's principles and sources."

UU JOKES OF THE WEEK

What is the UU Definition of Sin?

A discussion group in which everyone agrees with each other.

UUs are the people who pray, "To Whom It May Concern...."



COMMUNITY OFFERING

Learn more about
Jumping Mouse

[HERE](#)

8

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 November: Jumping Mouse Children's Center



Healthy children, healthy families, and healthy community for all.



A big shout-out to member, Barbara McCaughin, for her dedication to coordinating our Community Offerings at the Salish Sea Fellowship!
Team work makes the dream work!



Thank you, Members & Friends! Through your generosity, Salish Sea Fellowship has donated nearly \$4,000 to local nonprofits, including: Jefferson County Immigrants Rights Advocates, Jefferson County Food Bank Association, National Alliance on Mental Health (NAMI), Chimacum Commons Project, Habitat for Humanity, Dove House, Sunfield Land for Learning, Center Valley Animal Rescue, Bayside Housing and Food Bank Growers. We continue to be so humbled by the kindness of our community.



ARCHIVE OF SUNDAY SERVICES

If you miss a Sunday Service, don't forget that we have a **Salish Sea Fellowship YouTube Channel** with a full archive of all of our Sunday Services! Access our YouTube Channel **[HERE](#)**, or through our webpage **[HERE](#)**. Enjoy a past service in the comfort of your own home with a warm cup of coffee!



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, Spam, Chicken, Pork, Vienna Sausages, etc.
- Pasta with sauce (small packages)
- Coffee & Hot Chocolate & Cranberry juice (single packages)
- Toilet Paper (2-ply)
- **Warm socks and clothing for the chilly winter months**

CUMC also runs a weekly soup kitchen, and Salish Sea provides the soup (a gallon of veggie 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.** Thank you so much to Kate and Kendra for their dedication to feeding our neighbors. We belong to each other.

