



September Theme: Love

Service Times

Sunday 10:30 a.m. (Meditation)
and 11:00 a.m. (Celebration)

Joyful News

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September 2023

Volume 28, Number 9

A Special Message from Rev. Maur Horton

Love

"Love is a many splendored thing." A song with this title was popular when I was a teenager. It includes a powerful idea that rings true today. "Then your fingers touched my silent heart and taught it how to sing. Yes, true love's a many splendored thing."

The hugs, handshakes, and smiles we have shared during my recovery have enticed my heart to sing. As have your prayers. For each of you is a splendid manifestation of the love that resides in all hearts. Thank you for being so supportive in our interactions.

I will be taking a retreat later this month and will continue to treat for the well-being of each one of you.

Love truly is a many splendored thing.

Blessings and Love Always,

Rev Maur

While Rev. Maur is on Sabbatical, Rev. Don Kerr and Rev. Julie Applegate are serving as interim co-ministers.

Office hours are on Tuesdays for the summer. Please feel free to leave a message for them, 503-362-4139.

Theme for September 2023

September 3
Love Starts Here
Cheryl Ostrander RSP

September 10
Love On A Spectrum
Rev. Maur Horton

September 17
Work is love made visible.
Rev. Julie Applegate

September 24
L.O.V.E.
Rev. Don Kerr

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Sunday Potluck September 3 After Sunday Celebration

Enjoy good food and fellowship with your friends.

Bring your favorite dish to share. the menu is always a delightful surprise. This is a most popular event in the life of our community. First we nourish the soul then the body.



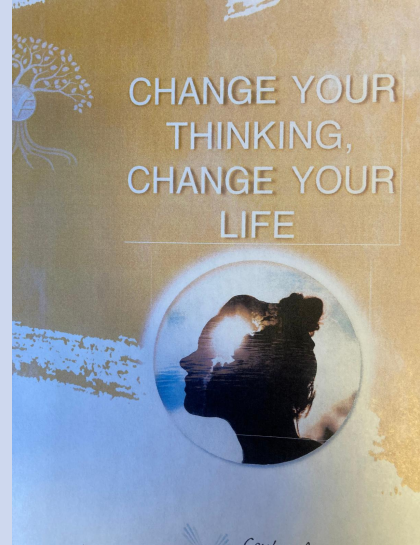
Fall Class begins September 15

Sunday 1:00–3:00 PM,
6 weeks, beginning September 15

Facilitators:

Rev. Julie Applegate & Rev. Don Kerr

Special introductory fee: \$20 per class, \$100.00 if paid in advance. This covers all materials except required text: *The Essential Ernest Holmes*, Edited by Jessie Jennings



A Message from Rev. Julie **Finding Happiness**

The theme for our outdoor service last week was “Be Happy” Rev. Don, lead us on a journey into a deeply meaningful path to happiness.

These ideas have captured my thoughts this week. What more is there to happiness?

One lazy afternoon some time ago, my daughter and I were watching “Extreme Home Makeover.” A humble, loving and dedicated individual was sent, with her family, on a trip to Hawaii, while her decrepit house was torn down to be replaced with a fabulous new home with special features for each member of the family.

In addition, the neighboring charter school for the poor children of her neighborhood, to which she was completely dedicated, received much needed improvements. The whole town, or what seemed to be the whole town, turned out to celebrate with joy. Viewers, like me, were in tears as she was filled with happiness and gratitude. Later, I wondered how it would all turn out. Would her neighbors soon resent this splendid home, a home that would have been an asset to all but the wealthiest neighborhoods? When they came to lunch, would they compare her kitchen to theirs and be bitter. Why not me! Would the recipient of the new home then feel badly about this, be hurt and confused? I don’t know if any of this will happen. Perhaps her happiness will linger on through the years and her neighbors will continue to bless her good fortune. Surely, she must be happy about the house, but will it ultimately be the source of her lasting happiness?

The Dalai Lama in his book The Art of Happiness, wrote that the “*very purpose of our life is to seek happiness.*”

Our Declaration of Independence says we have the right to “*Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.*”

One thing is true, we do pursue happiness, and with vengeance. Even so, many of us are not really deep down happy. Obviously there must be something more to it than a right and a desire. What can we know about happiness so that we might apply this information and be happier?

We are told that if we lead meaningful life, we will be happy. However, there are many people who lead meaningful lives yet find happiness illusive.

The Buddhists give us a formula for a happy satisfying life, most of the rules boil down to moderation in all things. I think that works for some.

Abraham Lincoln said, *"Most folks are as happy as they make up their minds to be".*

Eleanor Roosevelt said *"Happiness is not a goal...it's a by-product of a life well lived."*

According to Alan Wallace, President of the Institute of Consciousness, *"Happiness is not simply the culmination of a meaningful life, but a characteristic of developing person in the process of ethical and spiritual maturation. The mature person, ethically or spiritual, then lives a life of virtue. It is up to us to determine what virtue is best."*

The great Socrates argued, *"The key to happiness, is to turn attention away from the body and towards the soul. By harmonizing our desires, we can learn to pacify the mind and achieve a divine-like state of tranquility. A moral life is to be preferred to an immoral one, primarily because it leads to a happier life."*

Whose advice do I take. Probably no ones. Each of those individuals found happiness that harmonized with their nature/personality.

This really is a key, *"Know thyself"*. The way is unique to each one of us. This should not be a new idea to people on a spiritual path. The great barrier to wisdom or self- knowledge is ignorance and delusion. Specifically, as it pertains to our own identity.

This is why the discovery of who we are and the ability to walk in truth is so critical to our happiness. Until we really know who we are, we erect facades and masks, primarily for protection from prying eyes, eyes that might see the person we "really are". We can believe that our person is so flawed that, who could like who we really are. Often, we are unaware of the depth of our own lack of self-acceptance, self-love.

When we discover who we are, the façade drops off and we put down the masks. The interesting thing is that then real love can emerge, and it is magnificent.

The core foundational virtue out of which all arises is Love. Love is our essence, the warm embrace of the divine. To the degree we love will be in proportion to

self-knowledge and the depth of our self-knowledge, our realization of our divine essence is the degree we experience happiness.

Happiness the I believe, is the direct consequence of the presence of real love.

Our theme for the month of September is love.

Blessings, Rev. Julie

Hello from the Board of Trustees president, Michele Giammatteo



In my Chiropractor's office above each door is a sign that says:

"I invite all that is good to be present for all that are involved."

I have always felt that way about Woodland Chapel as well.

So here are a few updates; Well Divine intervention was afoot with one of our trees again. We had a dead Oak tree near the driveway and we tried to see about its removal. apparently even dead Oaks needed to have a permit. so we said we'd leave it to Divine intervention and it happened. I noticed it while we were working on the hedge-it had snapped and fell landing just perfectly to miss the electric light pole and is resting or hugging the Maples downhill from it,. We have had the Gardener Dale look into the hole in the meditation garden and are having some estimates for moss removal and gutter cleaning.

Here are a few quotes I came across again that seemed share worthy.

"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members." Coretta Scott King

"Your mind will always believe everything you tell it. Feed it Hope. Feed it Truth. Feed it with Love." Natural Life

Many Blessings of Love and Light to you
Michele



Divine Intervention. The mighty oak fell on it's own and saved a bunch of money!!

Kevin making the grounds at Woodland Chapel beautiful. You are appreciated.

For those who may have known Charlie Prade, before he became Wheel chair bound several years ago, We want to let you know that an informal Memorial service will be held by his neighbors and friends, with Rev Don Kerr officiating. The date for this is set for September 14, Thursday at 3 PM. In Woodland Chapel's Rev George Powell's Memorial Meditation Garden.

Bring your own chair and any memories you may wish to share. When Charlie was able to drive and move without his electric scooter he attended our outdoor services several times and Sunday Services. We bless his memory and his continuing journey into forever, wherever forever may be for him and know all is well as he moves freely in the Flow of his Eternal Mind, Soul and Spirit. And so it is.



**Soup for the Soul
September 17
(After Sunday Celebration)
Just a reminder.**

A Woodland Chapel Fundraiser
Chaired by Sandy Maghan and Satya
Riversong

Soup for the Soul has turned out to be a very successful event. We enjoy several tasty soups, bread, and a bite of dessert. Every season is a season for soup. It is particularly delicious when it is shared with friends.

COST: \$3 love offering per person. Funds will go to purchasing an Automated Electronic Defibrillator for the Chapel. We have raised \$310 so far.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: There is a [signup sheet on the Library table](#). We invite 3 or 4 volunteers to make soup and 3 or 4 volunteers to bring bread (Cornbread, French/Italian bread, or biscuits). We also would like volunteers to help wash the bowls and spoons, as we will be environmentally conscious and not use disposable dinnerware.

Please list the ingredients for each soup or bread item. List any **VEGAN**, **VEGETARIAN**, or **GLUTEN-FREE** foods. We are especially interested in whether it contains **nuts, milk, or any other allergens**.

Affirmative prayer



One Presence, One Power, One Love, One Life! I am so grateful this morning to recognize and accept this knowing into my heart and consciousness. The Infinite Loving Power is all around me, around you –in and through and around all things!

Today, I am grateful for this Absolute Truth! There is only One Life, that Life is Perfect, that Life is God's Life and that Life is my Life now and your life and all the Life of all that is!

I claim deep gratitude for this particular "time" that I am spending on Planet Earth! I am so thankful for all the blessed souls with whom I am moving through this life! I think to myself, what a wonderful world!

I am, we are, so blessed by the fantastic company we keep! You are a gift to me, and I am a gift to you. So today I thank the Infinite Creator for your presence, for my presence, for our sacred journey!

Thank you, Holy Spirit for the many blessings in our lives!

I release this into the Law of Love, and I see it in my experience every day. And so it is!

Rev. Anna Scott



Hello,

I work with your local American Red Cross office in Salem. I would like to ask if Woodland Chapel Center For Spiritual Living would help us encourage members of your congregation to donate blood this summer, by including verbiage about blood donation in your summer bulletins

and announcements.

The need for blood donation is always present. The American Red Cross provides over 40% of the nation's blood supply, and that only comes from volunteer blood donors. Blood donations typically decrease over summer, and this summer has been no exception. The Red Cross continues to see a concerning trend – blood donations are being sent to hospitals faster than they are coming in. The Red Cross has collected about 50,000 fewer blood donations than needed over the last two months.

You can make a difference! By collaborating with your church, we can engage the congregation and reach out to a wider network of potential blood donors. Help us spread the message of compassion, hope, and start a lifesaving

tradition within your group that brings others together for a cause that can save hundreds of lives each year. By promoting this greatly needed community-service, you would help us ensure patients have the blood they need for care. We have daily blood drives in Salem/Keizer, and the surrounding areas. Please let me know if you would be willing to allow us space in your announcements this summer, and I will get back to you with a brief message to share.

If you would be interested in partnering with us on a deeper level, we have multiple opportunities (including hosting your own blood drive).

Thank you for your consideration. I will look forward to hearing back from you.

Tami Aalto

Account Specialist, Biomed
American Red Cross

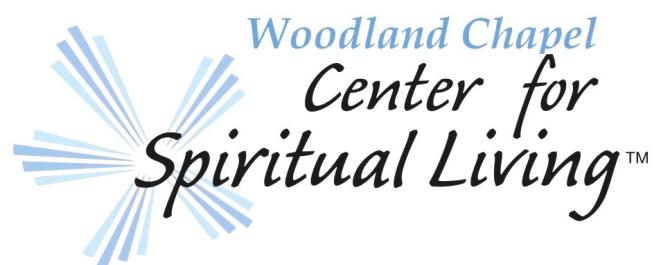
Pacific Northwest Blood Services Region

Inspiration Practitioners Perspectives and Affirmative Prayers on Our Website

Inspiration on our website

Donate Now

Get In Touch With Our Center



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