

Unitarians explore midwinter traditions

This Sunday, Jan. 28, at the Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, the Rev. Dr. Ruth Miller will lead the worship service titled: "Imbolc, Candlemas and the Midwinter Fast." Miller says, "While ice and snow cover the land and waterways, food is scarce, yet people have persevered. For millennia they have tightened their belts and focused on their inner, spiritual life during this dark time of the year." Miller will help the congregation to see how several different faith traditions interweave in

the powerful processes that unfold at this season. The meeting will be from 10 to 11 a.m. FUUF is located at 87738 Highway 101, at Heceta Beach Road, and is wheelchair accessible. Each service concludes with refreshments and a dialogue circle to explore the questions that come up during each worship service. For more information, visit www.florenceuuf.org.

OPB features driftwood artists in January

Oregon Pacific Bank is featuring the "Driftwood Art" of Andy Nedder and Edie Carhart during the month of January.

Driftwood Art is the collaboration of a retired carpenter and a trained artist. On a "lark," they combined talents and put together the image of a bird on a piece of local driftwood.

As Nedder states, "The idea bloomed into a celebration of Coastal Oregon birds."

Nedder collects and finishes the driftwood; they pick a bird to fit the wood and make a template for Nedder to cut out of plywood. Carhart paints the plywood, and then Nedder attaches the finished bird to the plywood.

Nedder and Carhart each moved to Florence in 2016 with their spouses. They met at a reunion for Laguna Beach High School graduates (their



COURTESY PHOTOS

"Driftwood Art" by Andy Nedder and Edie Carhart

alma mater), and began working together last winter. They plan to expand and diversify, and welcome commissioned work.

They are both member artists and volunteers at Florence Regional Arts

Alliance, 120 Maple St. in Historic Old Town Florence, where many more pieces of their artwork are displayed, and contact information is available.

For more information, call the alliance at 541-997-4435.

Spirituali-Tea to discuss suffering, maturation

This Monday, Jan. 29, at 6:30 p.m., all are invited to join a group of people who enjoy finding the common grounds in diverse spiritual thoughts and paths. The group's desire is to trust one's own path enough to be open to the value of the thoughts and paths of others. The group meets at 875 Seventh St.

The topic for Monday's gathering is divine happiness. The Baha'i Writings say, "The mind and spirit of man advance when he is tried by suffering. The more the ground is ploughed, the better the seed will grow and the better the harvest will be. Just as the plough furrows the earth deeply, purifying it of weeds and thistles, so suffering and

tribulation free man from the petty affairs of this worldly life until he arrives at a state of complete detachment. His attitude in this world will be that of divine happiness. Man is, so to speak, unripe: the heat of the fire of suffering will mature him. Look back to the times past and you will find that the greatest men have suffered most."

Bring your thoughts on the subject for open discussion.

The gathering will end at 8 p.m. with prayers for the requests left in the Prayer Pole in the garden of the Florence Playhouse and those shared by the group.

For more information, call Suzanne Mann-Heintz at 541-590-0779.

Seminary dean to lead Lenten Renewal Weekend Feb. 17-18

The Rev. Dr. Jana Childers, Dean of the Seminary, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Professor of Homiletics at San Francisco Theological Seminary, will lead the 22nd annual Lenten Renewal Weekend to be held Feb. 17-18 at the Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw, 3996 Highway 101, in Florence.



Rev. Dr. Jana Childers

The theme of the weekend will be "Creative Wellsprings of Lent."

Childers will give three 60-minute lectures on Saturday, Feb. 17: "Future Perfect" at 10:30 a.m.; "Creativity: God's Way with Us" at 1 p.m.; and "Managing the Life of Faith" at 2:30 p.m.

Childers also will preach at a multi-denominational worship service on Sunday, Feb. 18, at 10:30 a.m. at the Presbyterian Church, the site of the lectures, on the topic "Loving the Art in Yourself."

An ecumenical choir, under the direction Sylvia Hartman, will perform at Sunday's combined service.

Childers, a Presbyterian minister who has served congregations in Kansas and New Jersey, is past president of the Academy of Homiletics. A popular conference speaker nationally and internationally, she appeared regularly on a television program produced by the Chicago Sunday Evening Club, was co-host of the San Francisco CBS affiliate's television program Mosaic, and was featured on the Hallmark Channel's Great Preachers series.

She is the author and editor of a number of books and articles, including "Performing the Word: Preaching as Theatre" and the award-winning "Birthing the Sermon: Women Preachers on the Creative Process."

Childers holds a Ph.D. from the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA; a Master of Divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary; and a B.A. in Speech Communication and Rhetoric from Wheaton College.

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