



# UU Congregation of Phoenix

## April 2019

### *Future*



**The Wind in Both Ears**  
Rev. Margret A. O'Neill

I have always enjoyed peeking around the corner to see what I might discover, imagining what might be coming next, relishing the experience of waiting and the time of preparation. I vividly remember a childhood experience when my parents had planned an exciting vacation trip but did not tell us about it until the last minute – I felt cheated out of the joy of anticipation that for me is one of the best parts of any journey.

There is also the adventure, the thrill of un-knowing, when change awaits but we do not really know things may turn out. That stage of anticipation calls for both patience and courage, yes, but it also frees our imaginations to create all sorts of wonderful scenarios about the next stage of our shared journey.

Universalist professor of Religious Education, Angus MacLean, offers a story about facing into the future:

*My father sent me up from the root cellar to see about the wind. He was rechecking the winter's potatoes to remove all signs of rot and was planning on setting out nets for some fresh cod later on. Was there a steady breeze, he wanted to know. Yes, there was. "Now face it," he said, "so that the wind sings in both your ears. Then tell me where your nose points to."*

*... We wonder about truth, about all the whats and whys and whithers of life. Wondering is very important, but it should bear the fruits of faith and thought, and it should turn our faces to whatever is coming down the winds of time and circumstance. .... What is it that's coming down the wind to meet us? ... all that lies between us and life's exits calls for courage, thought, imagination, and active concern... let's keep the wind singing in both ears, and pray for the courage to interpret and act upon what it brings to us.*

In this time as we await the unfolding future, may we cherish these moments in beloved community as we imagine together the wonders that we and the power of universal love will create together.

Source:

"The Wind in Both Ears," by Angus MacLean, in *The Wind in Both Ears* (Boston: Beacon Press, 1965).

## **To the Future**

By Anthony Johnson

Can we go back to the Future?

Can we go forward to the Future?

Is the Future ours to behold, to control or to vanquish?

Is the Future ours at All?

Does the Future belong to anyone?

Or is the Future like Life, a Riddle and a Mystery?

Yes, I say, the Future belongs to no one, yet to All.

The Future is a Riddle and a Mystery.

A Riddle whose expression flows like a River,  
a river that is never the same twice

A mystery beyond comprehension, beyond any price.

The future Is mine, is yours, is hers, is his and is theirs

Is no ones and like the Tao cannot be truly expressed.

The Future is only to Behold, to be seen, yet is always hidden.

Without name, the Future alone nourishes  
and brings everything to fulfillment.

We Bless the Future and the Future Blesses us,  
Here's to The Future!

# Future

*Happiness is not something you postpone for the future; it is something you design for the present.* - Jim Rohn

*The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.* - Eleanor Roosevelt

*Do not dwell in the past, do not dream of the future, concentrate the mind on the present moment.* - Buddha

*Infuse your life with action. Don't wait for it to happen. Make it happen. Make your own future. Make your own hope. Make your own love. And whatever your beliefs, honor your creator, not by passively waiting for grace to come down from upon high, but by doing what you can to make grace happen... yourself, right now, right down here on Earth.* - Bradley Whitford

*Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.* - Malcolm X

*Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards.* — Søren Kierkegaard

*It's amazing how a little tomorrow can make up for a whole lot of yesterday.* — John Guare

*The past is always tense, the future perfect.* — Zadie Smith

*Real generosity towards the future lies in giving all to the present.* — Albert Camus



**Session Plan**  
**Theme: Future**  
**April 2019**

**Opening Words & Chalice Lighting:**

*Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards. — Søren Kierkegaard*

**Brief Check-in**

**Focus Reading:**

*Can we go back to the Future?  
Can we go forward to the Future?  
Is the Future ours to behold, to control or to vanquish?  
Is the Future ours at All?  
Does the Future belong to anyone?  
Or is the Future like Life, a Riddle and a Mystery?  
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The Future is a Riddle and a Mystery. — Anthony Johnson*

**Focus Questions:**

- How do you think about the future – open-ended, pre-determined, mysterious or obvious?
- What about your ideas of the future gives you comfort?
- What about the future creates anxiety?
- How do you prepare for an unfolding future?

**Checkout/Likes and Wishes**

**Closing Words & Extinguishing Chalice:**

*Real generosity towards the future lies in giving all to the present.*  
— Albert Camus