

Speakers look at 'ma

A couple described as "gifted troubadours who celebrate the new evolutionary epic" will address two Mid-Columbia congregations Sunday and offer follow-up workshops that bring religion, science, and philosophy together.

Connie Barlow, writer of popular books and articles treating evolutionary and ecological sciences, will address the Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship at 10 a.m. at Mid-Columbia Center for Living, 1610 Woods Court, Hood River. Her topic will be "Deep-Time Eyes: Evolving Our Ecological Spiritualities."

Pastor-theologian Michael Dowd will speak at the 10:30 a.m. service at United Church of Christ, Fifth and Court Streets, The Dalles. The title of his presentation is "Giving God Glory in Evolution: Why Jesus Loves Darwin and You Can Too."

The couple will also offer workshops at UCC's downstairs meeting room 7 p.m. Tuesday evening and at the Blackburn residence, 410 Montello in Hood River, 7 p.m. Wednesday.

The theme of the workshop is "The Marriage of Science and Spirit: An Inspiring Vision of the Next 250 Years." There is no admission fee for the presentations or workshops, but freewill offerings will be received.

Dowd is the author of the 1991 book "EarthSpirit: A Handbook for Nurturing an Ecological Christianity" (Twenty-Third Publications.) During the 1980s and 1990s he pastored United Church of Christ congregations in Massachusetts, Ohio, and Michigan.

In 1995 Dowd began working with Jewish, Catholic, Protestant, Evangelical, and New

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Marriage of science and spirit'

Thought leaders across America on environmental, peace, and justice issues. Barlow's most recent book, "The Ghosts of Evolution," (Basic Books), was Amazon.com's number one recommended science book for several months in 2001. Her previous books also explore the nexus of science, spirit, and meaning.

The couple's position is that evolution no longer needs to be feared as a chance, meaningless, mechanistic, purposeless, directionless process.

The growing edge of evolutionary thinking today points to a radically different and far more sacred understanding of the history of Creation, according to Barlow and Dowd. They said their workshops go beyond the "creation vs. evolution" debate, and seek a realistically hopeful, inspiring vision of the future."



Submitted photo

MICHAEL DOWD and Connie Barlow will speak in Hood River and The Dalles.