Milestones Circle: Sharing Our Lives Now

DATE: October 25, 2016

TOPIC: The Impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on Older Adults

Facilitated by: Barbara Boshard and Kathie Bergman

Opening Words and Chalice Lighting:
For Humanity: ***You kinda suck, but you invented books and music, so the universe will probably keep you around for a little bit longer, You got lucky. This time.***
From: In the Lives of Puppets, TJ Klune, 2023
Check in:

Without cross-talk, please state briefly how you are doing now.

Song: Artificial Average Intelligence by Nate Ziller
https://www.bing.com/videos/riverview/relatedvideo?q=songs%20about%20ai&mid=66C4B74DA82FE5BACADB66C4B74DA82FE5BACADB&ajaxhist=0

Reading #1: The integration of AI into faith-based work has seen the emergence of diverse insights into ethical considerations and how congregations can use Artificial Intelligence (AI) in a way that aligns with their values. Resources in this collection include websites, online articles and podcasts that discuss the potential influence of AI in congregational ministry and leadership, how it may reshape the faith community, how to view it through a theological lens, and the potential impact on congregational values. These resources can provide valuable information to consider when navigating the intersection of faith and technology
1.https://thecrg.org/resources/AI_and_the_Human_Faith_Perspectives_On_The_Future**; 2. httAIarch?FORM=SLBRDF&PC=SL06&q=AI+in+the+Unitarian+Church**

Reading #2: The March 2023 introduction of GPT-4, the chatbot developed by the research lab OpenAI, has sparked enormous excitement — and great anxiety about the latest advances in artificial intelligence, or AI.

In response to questions and inputs from users, ChatGPT-4 can converse and write poetry like a human. In minutes, it can spin out college-level essays on an endless array of topics — though details can be wrong. It can write and correct computer code, and supply work products that may soon threaten the livelihoods of lawyers, accountants and journalists.

But in a March 2023 “open letter,” top technologists warned that this promising instrument posed “profound risks to society and humanity.” The signers called on “all AI labs to immediately pause for at least 6 months the training of AI systems more powerful than GPT-4.”

In May 2023, a second high-profile letter underscored the need for urgent action by government regulators and the tech sector.

AI technologists are “locked in an out-of-control race to develop and deploy ever more powerful digital minds that no one — not even their creators — can understand, predict or reliably control,” read the letter, released by the nonprofit Future of Life Institute.

The pause would provide time to introduce “shared safety protocols” for AI systems, the letter said. “If such a pause cannot be enacted quickly, governments should step in and institute a moratorium.” (Comments by Father Philip Larry)
https://www.ncregister.com/interview/human-centered-ai-how-should-the-church-engage-with-emerging-artificial-intelligence-technologies

Reading #3: Older adults are increasingly familiar with and open to using AI, but most are still in the early stages of adoption and confidence. • Adults 50 and older show a growing reliance on technology, …• While most adults 50-plus are aware of common AI terms such as "text to speech" and "voice recognition," fewer are deeply familiar with advanced AI concepts like "generative AI" or "recommendation algorithms." • Interest is high in AI's potential for translation services, home safety monitoring, fraud prevention.
Older adults believe AI can be a helpful tool for people as they age. Yet, many remain cautious or unsure about AI's role and impact on their lives. • 65% agree AI can be a helpful tool supporting daily activities of living and independence. • An additional 68% worry AI advancements might reduce important human interactions. • In their own words, many have positive thoughts about how AI could assist in their daily lives, but also concerns over privacy, security and job displacement
https://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/research/topics/technology/internet-media-devices/artificial-intelligence-survey.doi.10.26419-2fres.00888.001.pdf

Questions to consider:

1. What might be some of the benefits for you as a result of AI?
2. What concerns you about AI?
3. How does AI intersect with UUA's shared values and covenants (Love at the center, surrounded by interdependence, equity, transformation, pluralism, generosity and justice)?
4. How do your own belief systems and values intersect either negatively or positively with the various components of AI?

Meditation/Quiet Reflection: We will take a few minutes in silence to reflect on the readings, and on the questions to consider. If you wish, use the back side of this paper to jot down your thoughts.

Sharing/Listening round our Circle. Choose one or more questions to answer or choose to speak on a related topic. We will first go around our Circle to ensure that everyone gets an equal opportunity to speak. Please be cognizant that this is not the time for "crosstalk."

Sharing part 2: Thoughts and Questions: You are invited during this time to *verbalize the questions or comments* in your heart and mind that may spark discussion on our monthly theme. Participants may speak in no particular order and respond to each other, respectfully.

Sharing part 3: Possible further information? As time allows, please share your recommendations of books, movies, writers, websites, etc. that offer more on today's theme.

1. Links on this document
2. Klune, TJ, In the Lives of Puppets, 2024
3. Commentary, Missouri Independent, October 8, 2026, *As Trump pushes to deregulate AI, Missouri must weigh innovation, risks, and cost*
4. *The God Test- Artificial Intelligence and Our Coming Cosmic Reckoning* by Robert Wright (UU Bookshop)

Check Out: This is the time to share a last word or to make a request of the Circle friends for tangible care from one another.

Closing Words and Extinguishing the Chalice:*As fear abounds, may courage as well. We will pay attention! For the sake of our children – and all children are ours – we will pay attention! In the name of our ancestors and the faith we share, we will pay attention! In all our struggles, we will remember that we are not alone! Today we vow to pay attention!* (We will Pay Attention – inspired and edited from poem by Leslie Takahashi)

Date and topic for the next meeting: 2026_11_22 How have you coped with the inevitable changes of aging? What have been your challenges? Facilitated by Kathie Bergman and Barbara Boshard