

FEBRUARY 2015 WORSHIP SERVICES

February 2015

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Weekdays 9:30 AM-1:30 PM

Inside this issue:

-Upcoming Services

Page 1

-Between Us

-Words for Reflection

Page 2

-Worship, Music, and Pastoral Care

Page 3

-Lifespan Religious Exploration

Page 4 & 5

Program Council

Page 5

-Governance and Stewardship

Page 6 & 7

-Justice, Outreach, and Social Concerns

Page 8 & 9

-The Back Page

Page 10

-Calendar

Page 11

-Staff Contacts

Back Page

Sunday, February 1, 9:30 & 11:00 AM

“The Everlasting Tao”

Rev. Jill McAllister

We begin an exploration of the classic religious traditions of China with an introduction to Taoism. What and where are humans in the scope of “nature?” How do polarities shape our lives? What does it mean to live close to the earth? Taoism is a religious tradition with much wisdom for our times. With special guest Peter Mayer.

Sunday, February 8, 9:30 & 11:00 AM

“Taoism – The Way and It’s Power”

Rev. Jill McAllister

Tao is often translated as the nature of ultimate reality – or “the way things are.” In Taoism, to understand and live in harmony with “the way things are” is a primary motivation. This involves understanding the movements of power – as the life-force within us, as relations between us, and more.

Sunday, February 15, 9:30 & 11:00 AM

“Confucianism: Learning to Be Human”

Rev. Jill McAllister

According to Tu Wei-Ming, contemporary scholar of Confucianism, what distinguishes the Confucian approach to human flourishing is a focus on education, and that learning is a continuous holistic process of character-building. A very U-U approach, explained millennia ago. Come learn more.

Sunday, February 22, 9:30 & 11:00 AM

“Self-Discipline – The Core of Chinese Religions”

Jonathan Lipman

All of China’s religious traditions, including Confucianism, stress the disciplined individual as the foundation of a good society. What can this notion tell us about being a good person anywhere in the world? Can self-discipline lead to contentment and freedom?

Jonathan Lipman has been teaching East Asian history at Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts, for nearly forty years. He and Ann Pemberton now live (mostly) in Corvallis and regularly attend the UUFC.

Other Worship Services

Sunday, February 1, 7:00 PM

Imbolc Worship

Wheel of the Year

We gather at Imbolc to celebrate the end of the three darkest months and the lengthening light. The Celtic name of Imbolc means “stirring in the belly,” referring to the pregnancy of ewes and the stirring of seeds deep beneath the ground. We will clear the ground for new growth, listen to the seeds of new life stirring within us and welcome the nourishing and warmth of the returning sun. You’re invited to bring something you’ve created (or an image of it) for the altar and finger foods to share afterward.

Sunday, February 8, 7:00 PM

Monthly *Kirtan* Service

The New World Kirtan Band

Kirtan comes from ancient Hindu traditions of chanting as devotional practice, to calm your mind and open your heart. This service is a new monthly offering from the UUFC Worship Committee and the New World Kirtan Band.

Sunday, February 22, 7:00

Monthly Vespers Service

Join us in a quiet service of meditations, music, and movement for centering.



Between Us . . .

Taking stock of Fellowship life and work as the new year unfolds, there is SO MUCH in motion, though it may not all be highly visible. A line from a poem of Rumi might be the best description of what it feels like to me at the moment: "And don't

think the garden loses its ecstasy in winter. It's quiet, but the roots are down there riotous."

At the board level, here is a short list of the major movements. The first is restructuring the role and tasks of the treasurer for a more realistic job description for a volunteer, in order to elect a new treasurer in May. To this end, we have assembled an "interim treasury team" – Russ Karow, Carolyn Madsen, Alan Mix, and Claudia Keith – to oversee the transition and help revise the job description. This work is closely linked to a review of all administrative tasks (at my request) which includes the possibility of developing a staff role for a business manager. In addition a task force has been appointed to help the whole Fellowship come up to speed on the many issues around our physical plant (buildings), especially to revisit an expansion plan drafted several years ago. We need to figure out whether or not what we were thinking then has any relevance now, and/or whether new realities call for new ideas and approaches. Congregational input for this task will be asked for as part of the stewardship drive this Spring.

At the same time we see emerging a new decision-making structure closely aligned with our mission statement, in which the three areas of the mission statement would be addressed by a council responsible for work in that area. For example, an RE Council would focus on how we "Explore", the Program Council to focus on "Love" – how we connect; and a Justice Council to coordinate the many ways in which we Act, for real impact and effectiveness.

And there's more! A group of 25 recently gathered to look at the whole area of Pastoral Care at the Fellowship

and to ask questions about how we currently care for one another and others in need, and what is now and will be needed in the future to support and care for each other in a radically changing world. Plus there is training for new leaders underway in the Worship Committee, classes beginning this month in Pastoral Care and Leading from Spiritual Depth, activities being planned for anti-racism and multi-culturalism skills-building, and continued work to make our communication more efficient and effective. And much more!

Any one of these projects would be notable. For us, they are all happening at the same time. And that's ok – we are a big organization with lots of people, lots of interest and commitment, and lots of expertise. We can do many things at once. What is needed and what we all need to work on, is seeing how all these pieces are part of one "whole." The Fellowship is one organization with one mission. That is where our true strength lies – together.

It sometimes makes me feel a little dizzy, but I couldn't be happier. We are alive, growing, and changing – yes, changing. And we are called by the world to be doing exactly this. I hope you are part of this movement, and I hope you are excited about it too.

See you Sunday - Jill

Sign up to be a Sunday Chalice Lighter

Individuals of all ages, and/or families, are invited to take a turn lighting the chalice for Sunday morning worship! To schedule a Sunday morning, sign up on the clipboard outside Jill's office. Jill will contact you to confirm, and to provide the words you'll say.

Living with Loss

A meeting for any and all who are working through illness, grief, loss of loved ones, and life transitions; facilitated by Jill McAllister. One meeting this month:

Tuesday, February 17, Noon (can bring your lunch)

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

"At fifteen I set my heart on learning; at thirty I firmly took my stand; at forty I came to be free from doubts; at fifty I understood the Decree of Heaven; at sixty my ear was attuned; at seventy I followed my heart's desire without overstepping the boundaries." (From the *Analects of Confucius*, a description of his own spiritual development.)

From the Director of Music

The newest version of the Music Committee met this month to discuss ideas for the future of music at UUFC, and do some brainstorming about how we can use music serve the mission of the Fellowship. I am excited that our music program continues to develop and grow and reach more people in new ways all the time. One event that has become popular is Music Sharing Night. If you have a musical act or talent to share, you are invited to participate in our next Music Sharing Night will be February 13th at 6 PM. Please email music@uucorvallis.org to reserve a time.

After a short break for the holidays, the choir is back in session, resuming their pattern of singing on the first and third Sunday of each month, with drop-in choir on the second Sunday. If you've thought about joining, now is a great time to start. Email me at music@uucorvallis.org, or ask any choir member for more information. Recently the choir had a workshop in Body Mapping with Cynthia McGladrey, where we learned a about anatomy as it relates to singing, and how we can move more efficiently to sing with less effort and more beauty. Also we cancelled rehearsal (a rare occurrence) and had a choir outing to hear Kathleen Dean Moore's collaboration with pianist Rachele McCabe of OSU in a moving presentation of words and music on the subject climate change.

Recordings of Services

Many thanks to John Myers for helping to preserve twenty UUFC archive VHS tapes of worship services by transferring the contents to four DVDs, which will be available in the library for checkout. These DVDs include worship services from interim minister Harry Green, Jill McAllister (the early years), Lynn Kelly (now Rev. Gardner), Art Wilmot, Gretchen Woods, Joel Miller, and special events like the celebration honoring UUFC's 40th year and Rev Jill McAllister's ordination.

We have many boxes of VHS tapes and audiotapes from the last 30 years, which are aging and deteriorating as well as becoming obsolete. Future plans for archiving the remaining media might include transferring the contents to some digital format. If you are interested in being involved in this project, contact Wolf Dengler or Kyle Jansson.

Pastoral/Spiritual Care for Time Such As These

In a workshop facilitated by Jill McAllister and Diana Vezmar-Bailey, twenty people gathered on Saturday, January 17 to explore the history of pastoral care at the Fellowship, to look at where we are now, and to think about what are the real pastoral care needs, considering the current climate crisis. Both pastoral care and spiritual care are called for, the latter focusing on right relationships with self and others.

The next step is training people to establish a network of care and concern. The training begins on Sunday, February 8, 1:30-5:00 PM and ends on March 22, also from 1:30-5:00 PM. Other sessions are Thursdays from 6:30-8:30 PM, February 19, 26, March 5, 12 and 19. Sunday sessions will conclude with dinner. People interested should contact Diana Vezmar-Bailey at dianavb@inbox.com.

Advance Directives with the Caring Connection

Mark your calendars for these Saturday mornings: February 14, 21 and 28, 10-11:30 AM. Join us to discuss and COMPLETE an Advance Directive. Dr. David Grube will present a brief history of advance directives, living wills, and durable powers of attorney for health care on Saturday, February 14. We'll meet again on February 21 and 28 to follow up and give information about hospice, information release forms, green burials, and more.

If you've come before but didn't fill out your forms, come again. We'll help you get over the hurdle. Sign up at the table on Sundays or email Janet Farrell (janetfar@comcast.net).

Interested in sharing in a **Sunday after-service discussion**? We're starting a series of discussions, in the Gallery at 12:30 PM, beginning once we have facilitators signed up. If you are interested in facilitating, please contact Carolyn Madsen (carolynzac@comcast.net) or Ann Mbacke (reassociate@uucorvallis.org).

In February our focus for Sunday worship and Religious Exploration is on the classic religious traditions of China—Confucianism and Taoism. Of these two traditions, Huston Smith says: Taoism and Confucianism circle around each other like the *yin* and *yang* themselves, and represent the two indigenous poles of the Chinese character. Confucius represents the classical, Lao Tzu the romantic. Confucius stresses social responsibility, Lao Tzu praises spontaneity and naturalness. Confucius' focus is on the human, Lao Tzu's on what transcends the human.

February Focus: Chinese Traditions

Children and Youth

Infant/Toddler care is provided every Sunday, at both the 9:30 and 11:00 AM worship services.

Religious Exploration (RE) sessions for **pre-kindergarten through 12th grade** are held during the 11:00 AM worship service.

February Topics for Children (1st-6th Grades):

- February 1st – The Wisdom of Confucius
- February 8th – The Wisdom of Tao
- February 15th – Children’s Chapel
- February 22nd – Chinese New Year

“Coming of Age” – What is it?

Coming of Age (COA) is a program our Fellowship, and many other Unitarian Universalist churches, offers youth in 7th and 8th grades. Coming Of Age is about the transition that youth make as they move from childhood through adolescence to adulthood. We offer COA every other year, over the course of 5 months. Our Coming Of Age program just got underway again. Activities in COA include: overnights at the Fellowship; a ropes challenge course; credo writing; social service locally and in Portland; drumming; a wilderness retreat; and meeting with a council of elders; COA culminates in the youth presenting a worship service at the Fellowship. Through these experiences, our youth learn about themselves—their gifts, strengths, and challenges. They learn about Unitarian Universalism, about working together to achieve goals, and about the importance of helping others through service. They increase their self-confidence, expand their vision of the world, take responsibility for themselves, and discover their uniqueness, in a supportive religious community of their peers and dedicated volunteer adult advisors. Your financial pledges to the Fellowship make this program possible for the youth. Thank you!

Children’s RE Steering Committee

The Children’s RE steering committee, part of our new Lifespan RE Council structure, began meeting in December. This committee reviews, evaluates, supports, and makes recommendations about all the children’s RE programs we offer at the Fellowship. If you’re interested in helping with this work, contact Director of Lifespan RE Michael Molk (541-752-5218 x225, molk@uucorvallis.org).

Adults

We are so fortunate to have a thriving religious community. There are discussion groups, meditations, walks with nature, and so much more. Check out the listing of Adult RE Winter Programs at:

http://uucorvallis.org/?page_id=223 and join in!

The **Over 65 group** gathers on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 3 pm in the Sanctuary. Each month we converse on a topic relevant to this age group. Newcomers are welcome to join us for these discussions where we share perceptions, experiences and ways to deal with challenges related to the current topic. If you’re interested in these activities and would like to join us, contact Carolyn Madsen (carolynzac@comcast.net).

Rescheduling: Walk with the Seasons - Winter

To be held on two of these Tuesdays, with four to eight participants per group: Tuesdays, February 3, 10, 17, 4:00-6:00 PM OR 7:00-9:00 PM. Please contact Anna Coffman (978-760-0910, anna@journey-home.net) to register or for more information; indicate which time slot is best for you or if either could work.

The **Young Adult (YA)** discussion group is meeting Sundays during the 11:00 AM service, in the Library. For those YAs out of high school but under 26, contact Ann Mbacke at reassociate@uucorvallis.org for more info or drop in on Sundays. YAs between ages 26-35, contact Ann if interested in being a part of an ongoing group.

Third Sundays Children Present in Worship

This year, January through May, during the third Sunday service of each month a group of children or youth will present to the congregation about something they’ve learned or discussed in their RE sessions. After they present, all the children will go to a “Children’s Chapel” in room 6B, where 1st-6th graders will continue with worship, discussion, songs, games, and art projects. This month the third Sunday is February 15th. Come hear what the children have to share!

Religious Exploration for Children and Youth
is offered at 11:00 AM on Sunday
Childcare for Infants and Toddlers if offered at both services.
Children and Youth are welcome at all services.

Programs and Events

UUFC BOOK CLUB

Thanks to the Program Council's Connect Up, the UUFC has a new book club! We have two meeting options: second Sundays at 6:30 PM in the UUFC library or second Wednesdays at 6:30 PM in room 7. In February we're discussing The Art of Racing in the Rain by Garth Stein. Books are available to borrow in the UUFC library – feel free to check one out and join us Feb 8th or Feb 11th. Everyone is welcome! March's book will be The Bean Trees by Barbara Kingsolver. Questions? Contact Wendy Sutton (541-737-5242, suttonw@science.oregonstate.edu).

IT'S TIME TO SHAPE UP FOR HERETICS SOFTBALL!

Has it been a few weeks or maybe a few years since you last picked up a softball or a bat? If so, February is a good time to start stretching and exercising for the UUFC's co-ed softball team, the Heretics. Practice won't start until March when the team's first meeting will take place. For more information or to sign up for the team, contact SaraDe Hensley (541-606-3712, sarademoda@gmail.com) or Kyle Jansson (503-838-2313, kjansson1@minetfiber.com).

GROUNDS CREW NEEDS A FEW MORE

The Grounds Crew is looking for more volunteers to mow lawns and keep up our landscapes.

Mowers: Spots are open on the riding-mower and the walk-behind "trimmer" mower teams. Volunteers mow once a month, spring through November. You choose when to mow, Thursday-Saturday. New to our mowers? Experienced mowers are ready to show you the easy steps.

Landscape Care: Routine weeding, pruning, deadheading, etc. four to five hours a week on average, more during spring rush and fall leaf season. Flexible scheduling. High-school-age youth and adults are always welcome to work with Andrea on Saturdays; contact her to arrange this.

For more information or to volunteer contact Andrea Dailey (541-368-5212, 2daileys@gmail.com).

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Our next UUFC Blood Drive is Thursday, February 5th from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The Red Cross is counting on twenty of us from the Fellowship to donate that day – be one of them! You can schedule an appointment on line at www.redcrossblood.org (the sponsor code is 'unitarian') or you can contact Wendy Sutton at 541-753-6931 for assistance.

PARTNER CHURCH DINNER

Saturday, February 7, 5:30 PM at the Fellowship

Tickets: \$15 each – Sunday, February 1 is the last Sunday to get tickets after services. After Feb 1, check at the church office or call Janet Throop (541-753-1804).

Experience cuisine from some global sites of Unitarianism with food from Hungary, India, the Philippines, and Africa! The main dishes will be served over rice and you may choose two. Dishes are Pork and Mushroom Goulash (Hungary), Chicken Adobo (Philippines), Groundnut Stew (Africa), Vegetable Curry (India). All are gluten-free and dairy-free, two are vegetarian.

Dinner will be followed by a musical program featuring piano, violin, accordion, voice, drums. This event is a fundraiser for our partner church in Kórispatak, Transylvania, Romania. We help especially with high school scholarships for youth.

MEN'S ACTIVITIES IN 2015

Interested in activities for men at UUFC? Come to a Men's Activities Committee organizational meeting on **Saturday, February 14, 2:00-3:30 PM in the Social Hall**. All are welcome.

For several years a small group of men has organized activities and opportunities for men at UUFC to get to know one another better. Now it's time to take a wider look at what kinds of activities might foster meaningful connections among men of all ages. We are looking to build a new Men's Activities Committee to oversee the current activities for men and envision new ones. For more information, contact Alan Kirk (541-738-0642, alanrkirk@gmail.com).

The next **Women's Retreat** will be October 16-18 at Silver Falls State Park, and the planning committee needs your input via a three-question survey, available at http://uucorvallis.org/?page_id=2237.

Board of Trustees News

The five-month-long process to create a UUFC budget for the 2015-16 church year has begun. During January, committees reviewed their activities and expenditures so far this year, considered how Fellowship members might live out our values more effectively, and then dreamed a bit about what they might accomplish during 2015-16. They submitted proposals to the Budget Committee and will present them to a congregational wide budget forum following the second service on February 1.

These “dream budgets” and other fiscal information will be used to create a budget which will be used for the Pledge Drive. Based upon the results of the Pledge Drive, a final budget will be prepared for consideration at the Sunday, May 17 congregational meeting.

Last year’s Pledge Drive resulted in a nearly 20% increase in pledges for this year’s budget and enabled some “dreams” to come true. The forum on Feb. 1 will enable everyone to hear about this year’s “dreams” and identify synergistic financial opportunities.

UUFC President Kyle Jansson is chairing this year’s Budget Committee. Contact him for more information (503-838-2313, kjansson1@minetfiber.com).

Interim Treasurer Team appointed

Four long-time members have been appointed by the Board to be an Interim Treasurer Team. They are Russ Karow, Claudia Keith, Carolyn Madsen and Alan Mix. They will serve until July 1. Besides helping to carry out many of the functions of the Treasurers, they will also be making recommendations to the Board about the re-design of the position. The congregation will elect a new treasurer at its May 17 Annual Meeting.

Thinking of Going to GA in Portland?

The UUA General Assembly is in Portland this year, June 24-28. If you are thinking about it, have never attended, or haven’t in a while, and want to learn more, hear first-hand what some of our members who have attended recently have to say about their GA experience. Get your questions answered too. Join Jim Good and other GA veterans at 12:45, Sunday, February 22 in room 7 after the second service to learn more about GA! For more information, contact Jim Good, jwg4@yahoo.com or 541-754-9398.

Future Structures Task Force gathering data

With resolving how to move forward on the UUFC’s space needs as its number one goal this year, the Board has formed a Future Structures Task Force to:

1. Conduct fact-finding to identify space issues.
2. Articulate the processes necessary to address the needs that are identified.
3. Develop a plan that will best meet the vision and future space needs of the UUFC.

As part of its effort, the Task Force plans to openly provide the congregation with facts, trends and projections for space. It hopes to create a fact report for the Board to review at its regular March meeting, with potential solutions submitted a month later.

For more information, contact John Bailey.

Do you write *meditations, readings, prayers*, or other pieces that could be used for centering or contemplation? If you do and would be interested in discussing options for sharing your writing with others at UUFC and beyond, contact Monica Jacobson Tennesen (monica.djt@gmail.com).

What does UUFC Membership Mean?

There are dozens if not hundreds of answers from our members and friends to this question. Usually, the answers are some combination of rights, responsibilities and limitations.

It has been ten years since the UUFC officially addressed the legal definition in our bylaws. Now, after ten years of new members, new beliefs, new legal standards, and new concepts, board members are discussing membership and the rights, responsibilities and limitations that it carries.

Now is a good time to talk with other people about what membership means to you. Board members would be interested to hear from you, too. They are considering submitting changes to the membership section of the bylaws at the May 17 congregational meeting.

Last year, a small team had monthly workparties to select and load content for the UUFC social media channels. If you enjoy finding interesting content and using Facebook, consider becoming part of the UUFC Social Media Team. For more information, contact Monica Jacobson Tennesen (monica.djt@gmail.com).

Food for Thought from the Stewardship Committee

| Quartile# 2014-15 | Range of pledges | Number of pledging units* | Percentage of total pledging units (265) | Percentage of total revenue raised from pledges |
|----------------------|------------------|------------------------------|---|---|
| First | \$3,600-\$12,000 | 17 | 6%# (UUA goal 10) | 25% |
| Second | \$2,160-\$3,600 | 32 | 12%# (UUA goal 15) | 25% |
| Third | \$1,200-\$2,100 | 59 | 22% (UUA goal 30) | 25% |
| Fourth | \$100-\$1,200 | 157 | 59%# (UUA goal 45) | 25% |

| Quartile# 2013-14 | Range of pledges | Number of pledging units* | Percentage of total pledging units (249) | Percentage of total revenue raised from pledges |
|----------------------|------------------|------------------------------|---|---|
| First | \$3,500-\$10,000 | 18 | 7%# (UUA goal 10) | 25% |
| Second | \$2,040-\$3,460 | 28 | 11%# (UUA goal 15) | 25% |
| Third | \$1,200-\$2,000 | 62 | 25% (UUA goal 30) | 25% |
| Fourth | \$25-\$1,200 | 141 | 57%# (UUA goal 45) | 25% |

Mean (average) and Median pledges are another way to look at distribution of pledging.

Fiscal Year 2014-15 pledge drive yielded: \$360,774 (20% increase over previous year)
 265 pledging units at UUFC
 UUFC Average pledge= \$1361
 UUFC Median pledge= \$ 1200

Fiscal Year 2013-14 pledge drive yielded: \$301,892
 249 pledging units at UUFC

Tending the Flame: Sustaining our Mission Through the Annual UUFC Pledge Drive

This year, between March 1 and April 5, we will be asking you to renew and strengthen your commitment to the UUFC and its mission by making your annual pledge of financial support. We are excited to tell you that this year the pledge drive will be combined with conversations about what is next for our buildings!

Please save the date of Saturday morning, March 7, when we will host a UUFC breakfast (all members and friends are welcome) followed by a “World Café” - a facilitated congregation-wide conversation in small groups in the sanctuary. Following breakfast, Rev. Jill McAllister will frame the overall conversation, and John Bailey will present possible options for your consideration regarding our current buildings, and possible alternatives. The Board of Trustees created a special Future Structures Task Force, chaired by John, to research these issues.

In the facilitated conversations you will have the opportunity to reflect on what it means to live our mission: how we, individually and as a congregation, change lives. Then we will imagine how best to “tend the flame” or support our mission, especially with our financial commitments and our physical spaces. Children and youth are welcome at breakfast, and childcare will be provided during the “World Café.”

Your Stewardship Committee: Virginia Shapiro (chair, 541-223-8859), Gerri Buckles, Uta Hussong-Christian, Monica Jacobson Tennessen, Kathy Kopczynski, and Anna Sontag.

Social Concerns

Social Concerns Outreach: February

In February our fellowship will be supporting the Mid-Valley HealthCare Advocates. Our goal for the Action Lunch on February 1 and the Sunday donations is to pay for one bus to take people to the rally in Salem on February 11. If you can help with the action lunch by bringing soup, fruit, vegetables, refreshments for the bake sale or can help with set-up or clean-up, contact Sylvia Yamada (yamadas@science.oregonstate.edu).

February Action Lunch: Healthcare for All

The last three bake sales in February will be sponsored by the Young Adult Group of our Fellowship and will benefit the Center Against Rape and Domestic Violence. Contact Helen Dziuba (hdziuba@hotmail.com) if you can bring refreshments.

UUFC February Action Lunch: Health Care for All

In February the Social Concerns plate and the Action Lunch will be in support of Mid-Valley Health Care Advocates, working for healthcare for all Oregon. The UUFC voted that "Healthcare is a human right" and the UN agrees with this ethical issue. While the legislature is in session we have some special opportunities to act on that statement and help the process of making healthcare available for everyone.

There will be a healthcare rally at the Capitol in Salem on Wednesday, February 11, 2015. Busses hired by Mid-Valley HealthCare Advocates will leave from several different locations in Corvallis and will stop to pick people up in Albany. You may make a reservation from the MVHCA.org website or on Sunday morning at the UUFC. No one will be turned away for lack of money but the suggested donation is \$15. You can buy your ticket at the UUFC or make a contribution for someone who can go to the rally but cannot make the donation. Those of us who went last session found it a valuable experience.

What objections are you hearing about single-payer healthcare for all? Stop at the table and get your questions answered.

UU Oregon Voices for Justice* - MTA

A steering committee was formed in response to the selection of passing a U.S. Constitutional amendment aligned with the 2014 GA Action of Immediate Witness, as one of two Oregon UU Voices priorities for 2015 (Health Care for All was the second). The steering committee is working on building a democracy movement to pass an amendment to the U.S. Constitution stipulating that corporations are not people with constitutional rights, and that money in politics is not speech and may be regulated. These goals are very similar to those of the national Move to Amend Coalition (MTA) The steering committee calls itself Oregon UU Voices for Justice - MTA.

Several conference call meetings have helped the committee develop some initial goals, which include recruiting representatives from more Oregon UU churches and fellowships, and educating all Oregon Unitarian-Universalists about the two national goals and strategies, as well as related activities in Oregon. Contact UUFC members Bob Ozretich (boboz@peak.org), Karen Josephson (kjoseph@spiriteone.com), or Rachel Ozretich (541-758-3221) for more information, or to join the group.

*In addition, the Oregon UU Voices for Justice leaders have put out a call for immediate volunteer help with the Vfj website (<http://www.uuvoicesoregon.org>). Let one of us know if you are willing to help with that and we will put you in touch with those leaders.

Using a kill-a-watt meter

Corvallis is competing —along with 50 other cities — this year and next for the Georgetown University Energy Prize of 5 million dollars!!!. So, we thought it was a good time to remind us all about what a Kill-a-watt meter can provide to help us all cut our electricity use, and help our city as well as our own budgets. The Prize goes to the city, and its residences, that most reduce their use of electricity and natural gas (see <http://energizecorvallis.org/> for details). The Kill-a-watt meter is the neat little device that tells you how much each electricity-using item in your residence uses—it identifies the greedy energy hogs and helps you control them. We have a few to loan out and forms to help you interpret your data—or you can check one out at the Corvallis-Benton County public library (circulation desk). We also invite you to stop at the Environmental Action Council table between services to contribute your own tips on how to reduce electricity — we've learned some by having these conversations about the phantom energy hogs, so bring your favorites, and pick up others.

Submitted by Roberta Hall

Moving Beyond Racism

Laws and attitudes have changed, but people of color in the mid-Valley still experience racism, both overt and subtle. What can a well-intentioned person do? A facilitated discussion of the book Waking Up White by Debby Irving will improve our ability to understand white privilege and challenge racism within ourselves and our community. The group will meet for eight Mondays, starting March 30, from 7:00 to 8:00 PM at the north co-op (First Alternative Natural Foods), corner of Grant and 29th. Participants are asked to commit to attend all sessions and contribute to discussions. Limited to twelve people. Pre-registration is required by March 15; contact:

Faith Reidenbach, fer@caleyreidenbach.com or 541-609-8420. No fee.

The Public Gratitude Project

The Stewardship Committee invites you to participate in an on-going public gratitude practice. A board has been created in the Fellowship Social Hall where UUFCers of all ages can post brief thank-yous or messages of appreciation. These can be directed to other persons, to processes, things or events.

2014 All Electric Smart Car—Available!
Owner going overseas for a year. Rent, or lease takeover, or? All Electric, gets 72 miles per charge, 110 volt plug-in, great around-town transportation. Interested? Contact Ashlee Young, 406-208-2327, ashleejyoung@gmail.com.



Remember to Fill the Baskets for the South Corvallis Food Bank
Canned fruits or vegetables (no home-canned, please)
Contact Martha Clemons at 541-757-9627.

Climate Justice Work

By Susan Christie, Chair, Climate Justice Committee

This congregation has the potential for greatness. It does. You do. *We* do. I think about that often, especially when I gaze out at all your beautiful faces from the choir chairs on Sunday mornings. So much talent, knowledge, energy, and commitment—to so many and such a variety of endeavors! I love our determination to move toward cherishing all life, and while we're doing that, to explore the breadth and depth of human spirituality and be strengthened by what we learn and by our caring for each other. There is sometimes dissention among us, for sure, as we face the scary challenges of our times, but “the beloved community” will always be here for us, no matter what, if we hold that concept at the core of our life together.

We will be tested as we face the ramifications of the climate crisis together, but I'm convinced we will live up to our potential. We might even be a shining light for other congregations and organizations! Members of the Climate Justice Committee are working to provide education about some of the challenges we face, as well as opportunities to change the course of our future. Watch for information on topics including:

- Could we create a vision and a strategy for how we need to live in the future right here at UUFC?
- The Sustainability Coalition Town Hall. Much hopeful innovative action is happening in Corvallis. We can be part of that.
- The importance of agri-business, especially the cattle industry, in the climate crisis.
- Joint actions with other Corvallis faith communities on finding hope and facing climate change.
- Updates on the fossil fuel divestment movement.

The Climate Justice Committee meets first Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. We deeply appreciate the people who have come to our meetings with ideas for projects at UUFC. We hope we can help make them happen. You are always welcome to join us.

Living the Mission

Explore. Love. Act

We gather as an inclusive religious community to search for meaning, build deep connections, and inspire action toward a better world for all.

Explore. The search for meaning is at the heart of the Unitarian Universalist tradition. In the historical movements toward religious liberalism, away from orthodoxy and creeds, the search for meaning meant the ability to look and see and understand and interpret life for oneself. The emphasis on freedom supported not only the right to search and learn, but the need for each person to discover and articulate for themselves the meanings of living and dying, of love and fear, community, individuality, beauty, evil, etc. And so for hundreds of years we have been explorers of religion and spirituality, paying attention to many sources of wisdom and inspiration, plus science, art, philosophy and more. What we find, what we come to understand, we then share with each other in community, as one of the ways of walking together on the journey of life.

Religious exploration is still at the heart of our shared religious life. At the UUFC we create and offer a program of Lifespan Religious Exploration which includes classes, study and discussion groups, spiritual direction, mentorship and companionship, being learners and teachers together. What are you exploring this year?

Love. “If not love, what are we here for?” Love is the word we use to describe the movement toward right relations. Love is that which helps us, pulls us, encourages us, leads or guides us toward being honest with ourselves and others, being true to ourselves and others, and living in harmony with ourselves and others. This kind of love is not a simple sentiment nor necessarily a warm feeling. This love comes from courage and commitment, from the need for each person to be free, to be whole, to be recognized and appreciate for exactly who they are. This love is what replaces mere curiosity about, and too-easy judgment of, others with a willingness to listen deeply and be present.

When love is moving within us and between us, the connections we build with each other become deep. We can see ourselves in each other and we come to understand that we are not alone in our searching, our struggles, our accomplishments. To nurture and increase the movements of this kind of love is fundamental to the project of

religious community — it is in fact what makes a group of individuals into a community. How is love moving in and around you this year?

Act. The Buddhist monk Thich Naht Hanh wrote “...if there is seeing, there must be acting. Otherwise what is the use of seeing?” Taking action to make our values and convictions real in the world has always been an integral part of the liberal religious movement. We could say that the actions of struggling and fighting to increase freedom, justice and peace in the world have created and sustained that movement.

To act can mean many things. It can mean changing your mind as a result of new understanding. It can mean giving of time, of money, of skills and expertise, of presence, to help achieve a shared goal. It can mean speaking or writing or marching to give voice to values. It can also mean retreating, and contemplating—returning to the search for meaning again, in order to understand what is truly needed and truly effective. Sometimes action means listening, waiting, or simply helping with the day-to-day activities of the community. Sometimes action means stepping out of your normal habits, giving up assumptions, and moving into new spheres of activity. Sometimes action means leading, and sometimes it means joining in. Different actions are appropriate for different ages and stages of life, and for people of different temperaments and abilities.

Our aim is to help each other and encourage each other to act in the best ways possible, toward the healing of the world, which always begins with ourselves. We can help each other grow in our abilities and understanding, to make our actions more effective. This takes time, and real connections between us. What actions are you taking this year?

Library News

A big thank you to everyone who has contributed books to the UUFC Library. We now have approximately 600 books catalogued by author and title divided into thirteen categories. This month we would like to bring to your attention the World Religions section that includes over 100 books. Directions for checking out books is listed on the entry bulletin board.

The library is a work in progress and we welcome new people interested in working with the library committee. Please contact Roz Keeney at rozkeeney@comcast.net.

| SUNDAY# | MONDAY# | TUESDAY# | WEDNESDAY# | THURSDAY# | FRIDAY# | SATURDAY# |
|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| Art Display: Kat Sloma 11:00 AM Young Adult Group Noon Action Lunch 12:30 Partner Church Meeting 12:30 Coming of Age CREDO Drumming 12:45 Budget Hearing 2:00 <u>The New Jim Crow</u> Book Discussion 6:30 Great Decisions Discussion Group 7:00 Wheel of the Year Worship: Imbolc | Art Display: Kat Sloma 4:00 Exercise/Aerobics 7:00 Shawl Ministry 7:00 Living with Depression | Art Display: Kat Sloma 4:00 Walk with the Seasons Winter 7:00 Walk with the Seasons Winter 7:00 Community Choir Rehearsals 7:00 Stewardship Committee | Art Display: Kat Sloma 1:00 Women's Lunch Bunch 4:00 Exercise/Aerobics 6:00 Weekly Potlucks 7:00 UUFC Choir Rehearsals | Art Display: Kat Sloma 11:00 AM Red Cross Blood Drive 7:00 Program Council 7:00 Climate Justice Committee | Art Display: Kat Sloma 10:30 AM Insight Meditation 4:00 Exercise/Aerobics 7:00 <i>Kirtan Bhakti</i> Yoga Study Group | Art Display: Kat Sloma 10:30 AM Coming of Age Game Day 6:00 Partner Church Dinner and Program |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| Art Display: Kat Sloma 8:45 AM Drop-in Choir 11:00 AM Young Adult Group 1:30 Pastoral Care Training 3:00 Environmental Reading Circle 6:30 Connect-up Sunday Book Club 6:30 Great Decisions Discussion Group 7:00 <i>Kirtan</i> Worship | Art Display: Kat Sloma 4:00 Exercise/Aerobics 7:00 UUFC Board Meeting 7:00 Living with Depression | Art Display: Kat Sloma 4:00 Walk with the Seasons Winter 7:00 Walk with the Seasons Winter 7:00 Community Choir Rehearsals 7:00 Stewardship Committee 7:00 World Religions Class | Art Display: Kat Sloma 9:00 AM Meet Bus for Health Care Rally in Salem 1:00 Women's Lunch Bunch 4:00 Exercise/Aerobics 6:00 Weekly Potlucks 6:30 Connect-up Wednesday Book Club 7:00 UUFC Choir Rehearsals | Art Display: Kat Sloma 9:30 AM Over 80 Brunch 7:00 Dances of Universal Peace 7:00 Transgender Group Meeting | Art Display: Kat Sloma 9:45 AM Circle that Reconnects 10:30 AM Insight Meditation 4:00 Exercise/Aerobics 7:00 Music Sharing Night 7:00 <i>Kirtan Bhakti</i> Yoga Study Group | Art Display: Kat Sloma 9:30 AM Men's Monthly Gathering 10:00 AM Caring Connection End of Life Forums 2:00 Men's Activities Organizing Meeting |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| Art Display: Kat Sloma 11:00 AM Young Adult Group 12:30 EAC Meeting 2:00 <u>The New Jim Crow</u> Book Discussion 6:30 Great Decisions Discussion Group | Art Display: Kat Sloma UUFC OFFICES CLOSED For President's Day 4:00 Exercise/Aerobics 6:00 Dining for Women 7:00 Shawl Ministry 7:00 Worship Committee | Art Display: Kat Sloma Noon Living with Loss 4:00 Walk with the Seasons Winter 7:00 Walk with the Seasons Winter 7:00 Community Choir Rehearsals 7:00 World Religions Discussions 7:00 Stewardship Committee | Art Display: Kat Sloma 1:00 Women's Lunch Bunch 4:00 Exercise/Aerobics 6:00 Weekly Potlucks 7:00 UUFC Choir Rehearsals 7:00 Leading from Spiritual Depth Newsletter Deadline (for March 2015 Edition) | Art Display: Kat Sloma 3:00 Over 65 Group 6:30 Pastoral Care Training | Art Display: Kat Sloma 9:45 AM The Circle that Reconnects 10:30 AM Insight Meditation 4:00 Exercise/Aerobics 7:00 <i>Kirtan Bhakti</i> Yoga Study Group | Art Display: Kat Sloma 10:00 AM Caring Connection End of Life Forums |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| Art Display: Kat Sloma 11:00 AM Young Adult Group 11:00 AM GA Informational Meeting 3:00 Environmental Reading Circle 6:30 Great Decisions Discussion Group 7:00 Monthly Vespers 6:30 EAC Film/Talk | Art Display: Kat Sloma 4:00 Exercise/Aerobics 6:30 Veterans for Peace 7:00 MVHCA Meeting | Art Display: Open 1:00 Newsletter Folding 7:00 Community Choir Rehearsals 7:00 Stewardship Committee | Art Display: Open 1:00 Women's Lunch Bunch 4:00 Exercise/Aerobics 6:00 Weekly Potlucks 7:00 UUFC Choir Rehearsals 7:00 Leading from Spiritual Depth | Art Display: Open 6:30 Pastoral Care Training | Art Display: Open 9:45 AM The Circle that Reconnects 10:30 AM Insight Meditation 4:00 Exercise/Aerobics 7:00 <i>Kirtan Bhakti</i> Yoga Study Group | Art Display: Open 10:00 AM Caring Connection End of Life Forums |



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