

October 2016 Worship Services

October 2016

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October Office Hours:
Tuesday & Thursday
9:00 AM-2:00 PM
Monday & Wednesday
10:30 AM – 1:30 PM

www.uucorvallis.org

Sunday, October 2, 9:30 and 11:00 AM

“To Reconstitute the World”

Rev. Jill McAllister

The Jewish season of renewal – the High Holy Days – always provides an opportunity to look at ourselves again, to see more clearly and more honestly whether and how we are living from and toward our ideals. The lessons of this time are universal, and deeply needed as we work to serve the earth, each other, and Life.

Sunday, October 9, 9:30 and 11:00 AM

“When I Wake in the Night”

Rev. Jill McAllister

We live in anxious times, and anxiety is a daily experience for many people. It is too easy to believe that our anxiety is the truth of the way things are, instead of a perspective we get caught in. Understanding and coping with anxiety is an important skill for everyone.

Sunday, October 16, 9:30 and 11:00 AM

“Saved by Our Differences”

Rev. Jill McAllister

We gravitate toward people “like us” yet we depend upon those who are different. Perhaps this is the most important thing we have to learn – to love the fact of our differences, and to love the differences themselves.

Sunday, October 23, 9:30 and 11:00 AM

“Homelessness in Our Community”

Chris Quaka

Chris Quaka is the Director of Development at Community Outreach, Inc. in Corvallis. COI provides emergency shelter, behavioral health treatment services, medical and dental clinics, child-care and more for members of the community who are mostly homeless, or have difficulty accessing housing. In Corvallis, access to housing is becoming more and more difficult for a growing number of people.

Sunday, October 30, 9:30 and 11:00 AM

“White Fragility is Where I Start”

Rev. Jill McAllister

As a white person who considers myself not a racist, I’m wrestling with accepting my part in the system which keeps racism strong and alive. Luckily for me, I’m not alone in the struggle.

Between Us...

Jill McAllister

Last week we embarked on a new part of the journey – we’re calling it A Brave Year. It is a highly appropriate undertaking for these times in this world, there’s no doubt about that. We considered the idea that bravery is not merely strength and fearlessness, but instead a mixture of courage and intention. We’re exploring the experience of courage on the one hand as consent, or a willingness to give into the moment, into the way things are, into the path that opens before us. On the other hand, we’re exploring the experience of courage as dissent, or being unwilling to let our hearts be captured and controlled by fear, saying no to fear so that we can say yes to love. Consent and dissent at the same time. Easy, yes? No, not at all easy.

For this undertaking we’ll need to be diligent about learning more about ourselves. That means moving in beyond our opinions and habits toward our assumptions, prejudices, fears and entitlements, and looking at them fully, perhaps for the first time. We won’t be the first people to go in this direction. The wise teachers of all ages have pointed out this path.

This month, as we strive to navigate the election season, we’ll look at repentance and anxiety and contemplation and acceptance, as tools, or as entry points to build the skills we need for making our values as visible as possible. Later we’ll look at shame, and personal responsibility, and honesty and failure, and more. We need to do our best to turn to each other and give a hand as we encourage each other to step up or join in. This is at the heart of what holds us together as a congregation – that we keep promising to help each other live the values we share. That we help each other proclaim these values with our words and our deeds.

Why do we need to help each other? Why not just let everyone take care of themselves? Because these times are overwhelming for everyone. No one has the answer. No one is perfect. No one is the smartest, or the bravest. We are all trying to find our way, and no one’s individual perspective is enough to explain it all. That’s the way it’s always been. That’s what the liberal religious life is about.

And we have to help each other because the world needs ALL of us, every single one. If there was ever a season for giving up complacency, this is it. We are called, my friends, everyday. By the earth, by the living, by Life. Love needs us, to survive.

See you Sunday! *Jill*

BLACK LIVES MATTER

On September 18, we arrived at a point of shared commitment – a shared understanding that our values require us to join in any and all efforts to understand and help dismantle racism within us, between us, and around us. The Black Lives Matter sign, which hangs in the sanctuary, will soon move to the outside of the building, so that all who enter can be reminded and assured of our commitments, to be a welcoming congregation, to affirm the worth and dignity of every person, and to work for a world with peace and justice for all. I’m asking every member and friend of the Fellowship to read at least one book on racism, and to join in this work in whatever ways you can.

Words for Reflection

My heart is moved by all I cannot save:
So much has been destroyed.
I have to cast my lot with those who,
age after age, perversely,
with no extraordinary power,
reconstitute the world.

Adrienne Rich

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Sunday Services: Blessings for those who choose to act

A new part of the Sunday services in this Brave Year is a time to offer blessings and support for anyone who is ready to take a courageous step, in their own life, for others, for the world --whatever it is that is calling for courage. Each week we will take a moment for this possibility and this solidarity. We can also offer a ritual for this blessing, which involves the passing of a red candle (a color related to courage), then giving the candle to the person taking a courageous step; the candle represents or holds the many blessings from the congregation. The ritual will require some planning ahead; someone wanting this ritual will just need to let the minister know by Saturday.

Choir Invitation

Are you feeling the urge to sing? The UUFC choir has just started rolling again after our summer hiatus, so now is a perfect time to join the choir. The choir sings twice a month on the 1st and 3rd Sundays, along with a few other special performances throughout the year. Rehearsals are Wednesday nights from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. We are a friendly, welcoming group of about 35-40 singers, and we'd love to have you join us.

If you are interested, please email music director, David Servias (music@uucorvallis.org), or just come to a rehearsal on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM at the UUFC.

Music Sharing Night

November 6th 7:00-8:30 PM

Come share your musical talent at the UUFC - vocal or instrumental acts. All levels of experience are welcome. First-timers are especially encouraged to perform and debut their talents at Music Sharing Night.

Or, just come and enjoy the music.

Space is limited so email music director, David Servias (music@uucorvallis.org), to reserve your spot!

GOVERNANCE & SHARED MINISTRY

Board Notes: Goals, Goals, and Safety

The Board took on some weighty issues in our September 12th meeting. First, we discussed our goals for the year, which reflect the interests of the congregation and give us direction for this year and beyond. At this point we are considering goals and action in two areas—the enhancement of the UUFC building and further development of a culture of shared ministry. That discussion continues at our *next meeting, October 12, at 7 p.m.* And, as usual, *everyone is invited!*

To maintain our momentum on the building project, we considered a goal for capital campaign fundraising. Taking to heart the excellent information in the feasibility study, we set a goal of at least \$1.3 million in pledges to be contributed over a three-year period. This goal will provide us with a measurement of how we are doing during the campaign—“Look, we’re making great progress on our goal!” or “Hooray, we’ve exceeded our goal!” We can also give our architecture firm this number so that they have an idea of what the scope of the project can be.

Responding to the unfortunate realities of today and with the well-being of all in mind, we deliberated on a policy regarding the presence of weapons at the Fellowship. The policy will make it clear that weapons are not welcome here and that, if brought here, we will ask for their removal. Unfortunately, Oregon law is rather lax in this area and limits the

practical measures that we can take. However, through this policy we declare that our religious home is not a place for weapons. We will hold a second reading of the policy at the October meeting. Your thoughts on this are welcome.

And Mina Carson took our picture. Thanks, Mina! Check out our new Board bulletin board in the front foyer by the name tags to see pictures of your friendly Board of Trustees.

-Carl English-Young

Building Project Special Newsletter

If you haven't seen the newsletter from the building design team yet, check it out here:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/200dze16m4d3o0k/UUFC_News1.pdf?dl=0. Please contact any of our committee members with questions: *Marcia Shaw, Kelley Kendall, Chris Bentley, Peter Sanford, and Keith Martin.*

Building Conceptual Design Team Update

Thanks to the 102 individuals who attended and shared their perspectives on “What Do We Need” during the first of two workshops hosted by Di Loreto Architects on Sunday afternoon September 25th. While many of the issues addressed on Sunday were previously raised as building concerns during the World Cafe held in April 2015 and in the workshops held by the Conceptual Design Team in April 2016, this was the first opportunity for our architectural consultants to hear the diversity of expressed needs from our congregation.

We hope to see a similar turnout for the second workshop on Sunday, October 16th from 12:30-2:00 PM when our architects will want to hear our answers to the question “How Might It Function.” They will use a structured small-group discussion format for eliciting our detailed input.

For those of you who are unable to attend one or both of these workshops, please make use of these other opportunities to ask questions or provide input. On Sunday, October 9th and Sunday, October 30th, members of the Conceptual Design Team will be available in the gallery at the back of the sanctuary following the second service to talk with individuals or groups. Di Loreto Architects will also be providing us forms for written feedback for those who were not able to attend their workshops as well.

We look forward to sharing a summary of both these workshops in the next Building Project Update newsletter. Thank you for your continued engagement with this important process.

-Marcia Shaw, Chris Bentley, Kelley Kendall, Peter Sanford, Keith Martin

Fellowship Care & Support Team

We live in anxious times, and some days it seems like everything familiar to us about our world—from local to global—is in crisis. And we still have to make big personal decisions, manage finances, grieve because of loss and disappointment, deal with personal and family crises and conflicts, face deep spiritual questions, and do our work as best we can. Life can be a big mess of love, sorrow, fear, hope, fun, anxiety, and joy all mixed up together!

It's important to share, to talk and listen, to care for each other. There is a group of UUFC members ready to be good listeners when you need to talk. Members of the Fellowship Care and Support Team have received special training in compassionate listening and meet regularly for continued training, along with focused reading and study and conversation with each other.

If you would appreciate meeting with a listening companion—by appointment at a time and place convenient for you, or before or after a service at the Fellowship—contact Diana Vezmar-Bailey (541-740-9006; dianavb@inbox.com). Diana will help you schedule an initial appointment with a listening companion. All conversations are confidential.

-Susan Christie

Thank you from the UUFC Staff

Our UUFC staff had a busy month getting to know one another, planning our work for the year, and participating in district staff training. We want to thank the Wagenschutz's for a wonderful stay at their beach home for our staff retreat earlier in September, the Women's Retreat Committee for the opportunity for (the women) to participate in deepening connections, and the UUA for providing a staff development and training. We are looking forward to the year ahead!

LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION FOR CHILDREN & ADULTS

A Quick Guide to the 2016-2017 RE Curricula!

PreK/Kindergarten

Getting to Know Each Other

Beginning with “getting to know each other,” children will learn about UU symbols, UUFC building, our differences, families, Fall and harvest, helping each other, expressing our needs, gratitude, and finish this year talking about the winter holidays. The guides welcome parent volunteers and love to include parents who stay with their children for the morning.

1st-2nd Grade

Signs of Our Faith

The sessions of this program engage children to explore ritual practices of our faith that remind us of Unitarian Universalist traits and values and helps children understand the abstract concept of a ritual by naming rituals as signs of our faith. Rituals are defined broadly, so that naming and dedicating a baby is a ritual, but so too is befriending a new child at school. Through the concept of "ritual," children discover evidence of their faith in everyday actions and are encouraged to ritualize or form into habit such traits as caring, welcoming, and making fair group decisions.

3rd-4th Grade

Spirit of Adventure

This exciting program teaches UU principles, identity, and sources through different themes: sports, medicine, food, holidays, science, building, exploring, and the web of life. The program has been built with multiple learning styles in mind, and it seeks to create excitement in religious exploration through a sense of adventure and discovery, and even through a few fun history lessons about pioneers in the UU faith.

5th-6th Grade

Toolbox of Faith

This curriculum uses the concrete metaphor of “tools” to represent the important aspects of UU identity and faith. The tools in question are everyday objects like hammers (symbolizing Power) and mirrors (representing Reflection) and *even duct tape* (for Flexibility). This down-to-earth approach to teaching the fundamentals of the UU faith is both humorous and engaging. This detailed curriculum will be freely adapted by the 5th and 6th grade guide team.

-Rachel Kohler

Teenagers (7th – 12th grades)

UU Curricula for teenagers is not about pulling a book off the shelf: it’s about adults being in healthy and caring relationship with teens, being a reliable and encouraging presence in their lives. There are four primary “pillars” in UU religious exploration: Community Building, Learning, Social Action/Social Service, and Worship.

These four “pillars” are explored through discussions, presentations, field trips, service projects, movies, games, music and more. UU RE for teens can include using social media tools and technologies, and thinking ‘outside the box’, to reach youth where they’re at, providing opportunities for connecting not only with one another, but also with people of other ages and cultures.

The goal is for youth to experience sacred community, in which youth and their adult allies support and encourage one another, respect one another, listen to each other, sharing their hopes, fears, dreams, sadness and joy; religious community where youth’s contributions are heard and valued; where youth feel empowered to participate in decisions regarding issues which affect them, and are assisted by responsible adults in helping to implement those decisions. UU RE for teens is about gathering together, both in small covenant-style groups, and in larger groups, experiencing the power of youth to affect change, and challenging themselves and others to live up to the best of their ideals.

Unitarian Universalist religious exploration for teenagers requires adults who understand youth empowerment and youth leadership development, who listen to youth and respond with support, encouragement and assistance; adults who want to lift up the voices of youth and see them succeed; adults who speak out against oppression and racism, and model standing up for what you believe in; adults who are willing to give of their time and energy to be with youth, and who enjoy youth's company.

Ideally, UU RE for teens helps youth derive meaning in their lives, clarify their own values and priorities, provide tools to help them deal with the hardships that life can bring, and realize their interconnectedness: within themselves; with their sources of wisdom and inspiration; with others; and with the earth and universe which sustains us. Ultimately, it is the Fellowship itself, including all of us who participate in the life of the congregation, that makes up the 'curriculum' for teens, and for that matter, for all ages. Together, we share in the beauty, the mystery, and the wonder of creation.

- DRE Michael Molk

New Book Study Group beginning in November

Join us for the UUA Common Read, *The Third Reconstruction: How a Moral Movement is Overcoming the Politics of Division and Hate*. We will meet on Tuesdays 7:00-8:30 PM, November 1, 8, 15 and 22 in Room 9. This book study group will be facilitated by Susan Breckenridge (sbreck@peak.org). Limited to 12 participants. Here is more information about this year's UUA Common Read: *The Third Reconstruction: How a Moral Movement is Overcoming the Politics of Division and Hate* by The Rev. Dr. William Barber II and Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove (Beacon 2016), has been chosen as the 2016-17 Unitarian Universalist Common Read. Unitarian Universalists were electrified at General Assembly 2016 by Rev. Barber's call for building and sustaining a movement for justice for all people. The Common Read selection committee believes that this is a moment for Unitarian Universalists to answer that call. *The Third Reconstruction* offers helpful, practical guidance for engaging with justice movements born in response to local experiences of larger injustices. Drawing on the prophetic traditions of the Jewish and Christian scriptures, while making room for other sources of truth, the book challenges us to ground our justice work in moral dissent, even when there is no reasonable expectation of political success, and to do the hard work of coalition building in a society that is fractured and polarized.

PROGRAM COUNCIL

As the structure of programming and religious exploration have shifted in the last several years, we in the Program Council have come to realize that the current structure is outdated and in need of revision. And so, your friendly neighborhood Program Council is going to be making some changes this year. Our goal is to become more focused on our charge of the Love component of the mission statement, and thus more relevant to the direction our community has mapped out. Anyone with questions or comments, please contact me at rubisco26@gmail.com.

-Rachel Houtman

Women's Retreat Recap

This year's UUFC Women's Retreat was a huge success. We explored what it means to be connected in a world that highlights our disconnectedness. On Friday night, Jill lead us through what it means to be connected, to "matter". Then, on Saturday morning, we meet in assigned diversity groups to share times we felt that we mattered and again when we felt like we did not matter. It was a powerful conversation, highlighting the outcomes of both experiences, which then drove conversations for the rest of the Retreat. Our diversity groups are charged with meeting four times over the next couple of months to bring new connections back to our Fellowship Community. Thanks to all who joined us in the beauty of Silver Falls.

-Dianne Roth, 2016 Retreat Committee Chair

Men's Retreat

Save the date for the UUFC Men's Retreat! Friday-Sunday, October 21-23, at the Menucha Conference Center in Corbett, OR. We will explore the idea of courage in our personal lives and actions in a beautiful setting overlooking the Columbia Gorge. We will also have fun and get to know each other by sharing experiences and insights. You can learn more on the UU website (http://uucorvallis.org/?page_id=2660) or by contacting Lloyd Wagenschutz (541-753-9071 or lpwz124@comcast.net) or any other members of the planning committee (Gary Barnes, Jim Good, Alan Kirk, Al Ross, and Steve Strauss).

Connect Up

The Connect Up committee offers opportunities for us to gather in a variety of interest based small groups to better get to know one another. SIGN UP on OCTOBER 30th to participate in or to host an activity in NOVEMBER! Recent Connect Up opportunities have included wine tasting, potlucks, singing, games, and book discussions. What are your interests? Contact Wendy Sutton to get connected: connect@uucorvallis.org or visit Connect Up on the UUFC website: http://uucorvallis.org/?page_id=3776.

Exercise/Aerobics

Exercise/Aerobics has returned to our normal schedule. Join us Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 4:00-5:00 PM in the social hall. We're a small friendly group that believes in exercise and likes the support and camaraderie of a class. Visit and see who we are and what we do. We are led by an exercise professional that pays attention to individual needs and/or limitations. There is a fee to participate. For more information contact Nichele Deutsch (541-753-4664 or nandad@peak.org).

JUSTICE COUNCIL

EDI (Equity Diversity Inclusion) anti-racism group

The EDI task group helped plan the Sept. 18 Sunday service in which we introduced our Black Lives Matter banner and affirmed anti-racism learning, growth and action as a congregational priority, grounded in our UU principles and purposes. Every member and friend of the Fellowship is encouraged to take part in this work, at the very least by reading at least one book on racism. A list of good resources and books is available on the Fellowship web site at uucorvallis.org.

EDI members and friends invite you to join us at the **NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet**. The NAACP has traditionally held a yearly banquet to bring together its members, friends, and other community leaders to share a delicious meal, listen to interesting speakers, and learn more about what the NAACP has been working on. The catered Banquet will be on October 21 at the Adair Clubhouse from 6:00-9:00 PM. Admission can be purchased by going to the NAACP website: <http://www.naacpcorvallisbranch.com>, or picking up a Banquet reply form in the social hall after Sunday Service. There will also be a small silent auction at the Banquet, and contributions to that would be greatly appreciated even if you cannot attend the Banquet. Silent auction contribution forms will be available after the service.

Climate Justice Committee Setting Goals for this year

The CJC is spending time reviewing their working processes and assumptions and setting goals for this year. UUFC member Larry Roper facilitated the first part of this work, and Jill McAllister will help with the goal setting. Meanwhile, the work continues. Several CJC members attended a court hearing in Eugene in which the Our Children's Trust organization brought suit against the US government on behalf of 21 plaintiffs under the age of 21, who charge that while knowing the data about global warming, the government has not taken action to protect the rights of all, especially children, to an environment that can support health and life. The CJC has also supported the minister in signing on to a proposal to the Corvallis City Council for Corvallis to stand in solidarity with the indigenous communities of North and South Dakota in resisting the oil pipeline. In another gesture of support to indigenous peoples, the CJC sent a check for \$100 to Lummi Nation in support of the Totem Pole Journey. There will be more news next month about our climate justice goals and projects for 2016-2017.

Social Concerns Committee October Outreach: The ICUU

During the month of October, we will raise funds and awareness for the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists (ICUU), the network of Unitarian and Unitarian Universalists groups around the world. There are U-U (Unitarian and Unitarian Universalist) groups and organizations in more than 30 countries around the world. Some have been around for a long time, like the 500-year-old Hungarian Unitarian Church, and some are newly emerging groups, like the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kenya. All of these groups and organizations, including the American group – the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) – are relatively small in their own countries compared to many other religious groups. The mission of ICUU is to connect these groups for mutual support, so that together we can sustain and grow our global faith community.

In the twenty-one years since it was founded, the ICUU has provided training in leadership and organizational development, it has connected U-U theological schools around the world and provided guidelines for ministerial leadership, it has sponsored U-U theological symposia and conference, published books and worship materials, and introduced many U-U's to each other. A monthly publication, *The Global Chalice Lighting*, translates chalice lighting words into many languages for shared worship. Very recently, it was the ICUU which coordinated the international response and aid to Burundian Unitarians when many of them had to flee their country for safety. There are many other U-U organizations which work internationally, but only the ICUU works to connect and support U-U's around the world for the health and growth of our shared liberal religious movement. Our own Rev. Jill McAllister was one of the founders of the ICUU, and is retiring from this work in early 2017, after 21 years of service.

UUFC fundraising activities this month include an action lunch on October 2, right after the second service, bake sales during the coffee hours, and donations during services. If you can help with the action lunch by bringing a soup, a fruit or vegetable platter, or can help with clean-up, please contact Sylvia Yamada (yamadas@science.oregonstate.edu).

Weekly After-Service Snacks to Support Social Concerns

After each service, every Sunday, the Social Concerns Committee sets the table of snacks for all to share during the coffee hour, and all enjoy sharing them! There is always a basket on the table for donations, and everyone who enjoys the snacks is encouraged to contribute as we are able. The collected donations help support the monthly outreach to a local or UU organization. This is another way we serve the wider community. And, all of those snacks are donated, by us! Please sign up at the snack table, to bring snacks at least once this year, or more often if you can.

Environmental Reading Circle

The Environmental Reading Circle meets the second and fourth Sundays from 3:00-5:00 PM. To find out what book we are currently reading, or for more information, contact Elizabeth Waldorf (dewaldorf@comcast.net). Anyone who is interested is invited to join us at 3840 NW Lincoln Ave in Corvallis.

Get Involved in the wider UU Community

Oregon Unitarian Universalist Voices for Justice (ORUUVfj) invites you to our Seventh Annual Meeting in Salem on Saturday, October 15 from 9:30 AM – 4:30 PM at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem (5090 Center St NE). We gather together to celebrate our accomplishments, make plans for the coming year, and commit ourselves to supporting each other in our quest for a more just Oregon. The ORUUVfj board has suggested 4 broad campaigns for the coming year: Environmental Justice, Deepening Democracy, Human Rights, and Income Inequality. Our meeting agenda includes choosing specific issues within each area and organizing to be effective advocates. The Oregon legislature will be meeting for a long session in 2017. Much will be on the table; much is already happening in Salem. Let us make sure UU voices are represented during the legislature's deliberations. Visit our web site at www.uuvoicesoregon.org to learn more about our campaigns and find out how to propose specific issues to address within a particular campaign. Then register on our web site and join us in Salem. Better yet, bring a team from your congregation. Pre-registration is encouraged, but not required. Pre-register here: www.uuvoicesoregon.org/registration.html. Oregon UU Voices for Justice is here for you. We are one of 18 state advocacy networks across the country working to amplify UU voices and values in public discourse. Beverages and light snacks will be provided. We are working on having lunch available for a modest fee (maybe \$5). Please RSVP to oregonuuvoices@yahoo.com by Oct. 10 so we know how much food to have on hand.

THE BACK PAGE:excerpted from a *UU World* article by Kenny Wiley

This summer, the UUA General Assembly called on UUs to support the Black Lives Matter movement. . . In this time of renewed attention and energy toward racial justice work, there exists in UU spaces tremendous excitement—but also caution and fear. Here are five ways UUs can engage with Black Lives Matter:

1. Learn

Many UUs come to racial justice conversations with good intentions but a lack of information about the realities of racial inequality and injustice as it exists today in their own communities. Get up to speed by following publications that cover Black Lives Matter and other racial justice movements, such as *Colorlines*, *The Root*, and *Black Voices* from the *Huffington Post*.

Start a discussion group about Michelle Alexander's book *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* or Bryan Stevenson's *Just Mercy*, the UUA's new "Common Read." And, as you follow the news and dig deeper, resist the allure of "respectability politics" (listening only to voices if they have traditional markers of formal education and influence). White UUs need to talk with each other about whiteness, white supremacy, and "white fragility." Not all UUs are white, of course, but I am often asked whether mostly white congregations can do racial justice work. Yes, they can!

2. Connect

UUs need to connect to and embrace the BLM movement as it exists today. The Rev. Osagyefo Sekou, a middle-aged black man and renowned activist who spoke at the 2015 UUA General Assembly, told *Yes! Magazine*, "The leadership is black, poor, queer, women. . . I am not a leader in this movement; I am a follower. I take my orders from 23-year-old queer women." Listening to young, black leaders, locally and nationally, can be challenging—but it is a vital step.

Today's movement does not look like the civil rights struggle of the 1950s and 1960s, during which older black men (many of whom were clergy) got most of the credit and controlled the messaging and strategy.

So much of the conversation—and organizing—happens online, especially on Twitter. My good friend Brian Hubbard, when asked how people could connect with Black Lives Matter if they weren't on Twitter, responded, "By getting on Twitter." To get plugged into the conversation whenever a big event happens, follow activists like Netta Elzie (@Nettaaaaaaaa), "Ida's Disciple" (@prisonculture), and Deray Mckesson (@deray) and journalists and media analysts like Wesley Lowery (@WesleyLowery), Jenée Desmond-Harris (@jdesmondharris), Lisa Bloom (@LisaBloom), Elon James White (@elonjames), and Ta-Nehisi Coates (@tanehiscoates).

3. Support

Protests need food and water. Movements cost money. Events need setup and takedown help, and meetings need physical spaces. After connecting with local leaders, offering assistance can be a great way to show solidarity. . . For UUs of color, support can also mean supporting one another. Connecting with other UUs of color on a human level—whether it's with prolific social media users like black UU Leslie Butler MacFadyen (@LeslieMac) or with people in your area—can help reduce feelings of isolation. For me, checking in with other UUs of color has helped me feel spiritually and socially connected.

4. Engage

Make it known you are a part of this movement. Post about it on Facebook. Buy a yard sign or bumper sticker, even though it might get stolen. Go to protests or community meetings—they're usually just a Twitter or Facebook search away. Sacrifice part of your week to let your commitment to this work be visible. Leslie Butler MacFadyen issued a series of challenges to white allies concerning engagement. Read her series of tweets; does one of her challenges call you to act?

Part of engaging this work is reframing our view of what is truly at stake. White antiracism activist Chris Crass electrified a General Assembly workshop in June when he told the room of hundreds, "The question for us as Unitarian Universalists is not how many people of color we can get in our pews; it's how much damage can we do to white supremacy."

5. Stay Woke

The term "stay woke" is used on social media by people who continue pointing to the ever-growing list of victims of state violence, racial profiling, or other racial injustices. Unitarian Universalists, too, can "stay woke" by continuing to grapple with the magnitude of the work ahead, and by refusing to succumb to the temptation to ignore the racial realities of our country.

It is imperative, whatever our level of education or our privileges, that none of us looks away. If we are to live up to our First Principle, and truly honor the inherent worth and dignity of every person, then we must proclaim, with words and deeds, that black lives matter.

~Kenny Wiley is a *UU World* senior editor and director of faith formation at Prairie Unitarian Universalist Church in Parker, Colorado. His writing has also appeared in the *Boston Globe*, the *Houston Chronicle*, and *Skyd Magazine*.



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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.



UUFC Staff	
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