

02 WELCOME
Governance &
Shared Ministry
Upcoming Services
Words for
Reflection

**03 Religious
Exploration (RE)**
Justice Council
(cont. on pg. 4)

**04 Connections
Council**
Wider
Community
Staff Contacts



UUFC NEWSLETTER

April
2018

"When I know that there are others here doing the same, I am lifted up and emboldened to give generously."

Between Us.

This month we begin the annual process of making our pledges of financial support to the Fellowship for the next fiscal year (18-19). This part of our stewardship of the Fellowship – its history, resources, and potential. Stewardship is not an unfamiliar word or concept to most of us. It is equated with sustainable management of resources, not only for present use and benefit, but with a duty of responsibility to future generations and to a wider community. From our Jewish and Christian heritage, and especially in the parables of Jesus, stewardship is described as the management of worldly goods (our money for example) with great liberality and generosity, to promote true faithfulness, charity and enlightened benevolence (in other words, right relations.)

When I think of myself as a steward UUism, I see myself in a long line of dedicated people, stretching back more

than 65 years in Corvallis, more than 400 years in Europe and elsewhere. I know I'm part of the resistance to oppressive and authoritarian religion and government, and of all movements for peace and justice. I remember I'm part of a stream of life which is much bigger than me and my own days on Earth, and that I am called to do my best in these days I am given. I remember that whatever I "have" – stuff, and money for example – is simply passing through my hands, temporarily. In my commitment to healing some of the wounds of the world, I aim to put all the resources I can muster into the service of these ideals. My pledge to the Fellowship comes to represent not "what I can afford" or what I can get away with without feeling bad, but my attempt to live according to my highest ideals. When I know that there are others here doing the same, I am lifted up and emboldened to give generously.

Soon we'll all be receiving information needed to begin the pledge process. I encourage each and every one of you to spend time considering your roles in the stewardship of the Fellowship. Each person and family must decide for themselves what their commitment can be. If you are a student, living on a tight budget, you are called to stewardship, beginning now. If you are a parent of small children, you are called to stewardship, and also to help your children understand how important it is. If you are retired, living on a fixed income, you are no less called to stewardship than ever before. As always, good stewardship begins with thoughtful consideration of your reality and how to best share your resources in the ways that work for you. And ALL pledges of support are appreciated and gratefully received, no matter how large or small.

Thank you for joining in! - Jill

Bylaws Revision Discussion Continues

More than 30 people attended the the March 17 Town Hall to consider and discuss proposed updates and changes to the UUFC bylaws. There was general affirmation of proposals to disconnect financial support from membership, lower the voting age to 16, move away from use of Robert's Rules of Order, and use percentages of membership for quorums instead of specific numbers. Concerns were raised about giving the board authority to change by laws in some cases, and to approve the annual budget without a congregational vote. Plus suggestions for clarifying language and definitions in several sections. All of these comments, plus any which have been sent to the task force, have been incorporated into a report. The Board will now revise the proposal, for further group discussion. The aim of all discussions is a renewed set of by laws we can agree upon and approve. Thanks for joining in this process!

Annual Meeting will be Saturday, May 19, 2018

We'll gather this year on a Saturday evening (not Sunday after services) for a celebratory annual meeting, including dinner, review of our work, electing board members and nominating committee members, approving the annual budget, thank yous, other business items as needed, plus dancing, singing and general enjoyment. Please save the date and plan to be there! Sign up in April to help prepare the meal if you can.

Stewardship Pledge Drive in April Building Design Team & Related Building Issues

The Board will consider the proposed 2018-19 UUFC budget at their April 9 meeting. The annual Stewardship canvas will begin shortly after that. The canvas, or pledge drive, is the time of year when all members and friends make a commitment of financial support for the Fellowship. This year expanded online pledging is planned. For those who would rather receive pledge materials by mail, packets will be sent. The most important thing is for each one of us to consider how we will support the Fellowship financially, and choose the most convenient way to return our pledge forms. The canvas will last for only a few weeks, from mid-April until early May. Please, be ready to consider and to make your pledge during that time. The programs and operations of the Fellowship depend on pledges of financial support from *all of us*.

The required neighborhood meeting about the proposed building project is scheduled to happen in early April. Once input is received from neighbors, application for city permitting can go forward. The Board also received a report about the structural stability of our existing buildings in relation to seismic activities (see the full report in the "File Cabinet" on the web site) which indicates that upgrades are definitely needed, with an estimate of \$500,000 for repairs in the Social Hall and classroom wing. These upgrades were part of our commitment for the building project. The board will discuss next steps at it's April meeting.

The task group looking at replacing the sanctuary floor is closing in on earth-friendly options and will make a final recommendation to the Board at the April meeting.

The next, and final town hall meeting of the year, on April 19, will focus on the building project. Join in!

Worship Services



"In Need of Resurrection"

Rev. Jill McAllister

The traditional story of Easter is of a very specific resurrection, which was a radical take on a much older idea. Resurrection generally meant "renewal," into a different kind of existence. We are in need of renewal now! We'll look at this idea from the perspective of the 50th anniversary of the death of Martin Luther King Jr, and calls for a revival of the poor people's campaign. Potluck Easter Brunch follows the services.

01

"Sowing Seeds of Love"

Rev. Jill McAllister with David Newman

Faithfulness starts in love – you must love something in order to be faithful. We're joined this morning by well-known kirtan musician David Newman, who brings songs, chants and teaching designed to nurture the seeds of love which live in us all.

08

April Events at the UUFC

- 1 Easter Potluck Brunch, 10:30 AM and 12:30 PM, Social Hall
- 6 Justice Summit, 6:00-8:30 PM at the UUFC. All are welcome, but please RSVP. For more info ---->
- 7 UU Path Class, 9 AM, Social Hall. Register at the Welcome Table.
- 7 Kirtan Concert with David Newman, 7 PM in the Sanctuary
- 8 Workshop with David Newman, 2 PM in the Sanctuary
- 9 UUFC Board of Trustees, 7 PM
- 19 Town Hall #6: Building Enhancement Project, 7 PM
- 22 Post-Sermon Response, following the second service.
- 23 Coordinating Council Mtg, 7 PM

Justice

UUFC Social Justice Summit Friday, April 6, 6:00-8:30 PM

We invite your participation in the 2018 UUFC Social Justice Summit, on Friday April 6, 2018, 6:00-8:30 pm, at the Fellowship. Dinner will be served and child care will be provided.

The broad goal for the 2018 Social Justice Summit is to convene a Fellowship-wide conversation about the direction, intensity, progress and outcomes of our many social justice endeavors. In order to create a more focused platform for the conversation, the Justice Council will ask presenters to think about their work based on one of two spheres of influence: Taking Care of People or Taking Care of the Planet. While this may be a false dichotomy, as most social justice work is intersectional in nature and affects both, we are asking leaders to think about the predominant focus of or sphere in which their work resides. Each social justice group will describe their

Words for Reflection

All that we have ever loved
And all that we have ever been
Stands with us on the brink
Of all that we aspire to create:

A deeper peace,

A larger love,

A more embracing hope,

A deeper joy in this life we share.

~Rev. Leslie Takahashi

Religious Exploration

Children's Chalice Theatre Summer Camp

RE Associate Rachel Kohler will lead children in a variety of theatre-related activities and games, focusing on collective storytelling and teamwork. Children will learn the basics of blocking and respectful rehearsal etiquette while working together to act out stories taken from our living traditions of wisdom that reinforce UU principles. The week will culminate on Friday with a performance for parents, relatives, and friends, and children will get to take home the puppets and/or costume elements they've constructed over the course of the week.

Camp sessions will take place Monday through Friday of the week of June 18th in the mornings from 9 AM - 12 PM. A snack will be provided. Cost to offset materials and snacks will be \$100 for UUFC members and \$150 for non-members. Scholarships are available for families on SNAP, TANF, or WIC.

Official registration forms will be available after spring break!

Questions may be directed to reassociate@uucorvallis.org.

Regional Assembly is for the Whole Family!

The PWR Regional Assembly in Portland, Oregon (April 27-29) has something for people of every age. In addition to the main programs for adults, we'll have a UU Kids Camp for ages 5-14, a Youth Assembly for ages 14-18, and high-quality childcare for infants to age 4. Families can spend time together, too, sharing the experiences of the opening ceremony, the Sunday morning worship, mealtimes, and more. Because of our UU commitment to including children and youth, the PWR is covering much of the cost of the programs for young people. The registration fee is just a portion of what it costs for these engaging, inclusive, and faith-building programs.

The Pacific Western Regional Assembly promises to be an experience that deepens UU identity and fosters hope and resilience in people of all ages. Register now and join us in Portland this spring: <https://www.uua.org/pacific-western/regional-assembly>

Save the Date:

~Monica Jacobson-Tennessee's ordination to the UU ministry by the UUFC and the UU Congregation of Salem.

On Saturday, May 26, 2 PM at the UU Congregation of Salem, the UUFC and the UU Congregation of Salem will jointly ordain Monica Jacobson Tennessee to the Unitarian Universalist ministry, and you are invited! In our tradition, only congregations have the power to ordain people – to call a person forth from our community and recognize them as a minister. Members of both congregations are asked to attend to perform the act of ordination, and of course all are welcome to witness and bless this event, with a reception to follow. Some folks will be coming from out of town to attend, so if you have a guest room and can offer home hospitality for the night of Friday, May 25, or Saturday, May 26, please let Monica or the UUFC Office know.



"Never More Needed Than Now"

Rev. Jill McAllister

15

There have been hard times before, but never quite like this, when the entire world is at stake. Justice, peace, freedom, inclusivity, respect, compassion, wisdom, love -- these values we hold in common have never been more needed. Each and every one of us is also needed, to keep these values alive and growing. This is the real stewardship – of life.

22

"Earth Teach Us"

Rev. Jill McAllister and All

Ever more fragile, this Earth our home. Once again we will share caring, concern, grief and gratitude as we remember and honor the life of the Earth, and our ways of life upon it. The service will include a traditional Czech Unitarian Flower Ceremony. Please bring a flower or two to share, for each member of your family.

Council

work. Our hope is that we can have a robust conversation about what we are doing as a Fellowship to "Take Care of People" and "Take Care of the Planet." Our specific goals for the Summit are to:

~Learn more about what we are doing in various social justice arenas~Consider how we are progressing in our endeavors~Assess the impact we are having through our efforts~Identify areas that may be in need of more attention from us~Strengthen our sense of community~Inspire deeper engagement by congregants.

Our hope is that our time together sharing will bring greater clarity about the intersections of our efforts, uncover opportunities for future collaboration among groups, and inspire deeper engagement.

Please RSVP by email: larry.roper@oregonstate.edu by March 30, 2018. Please indicate if you have dietary restrictions or require child care.

Social Concerns

Bake Sales in April will benefit the UU Service Committee

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our fundraisers. Our efforts in raising \$2,100 allowed the Corvallis Environmental Institute apply for, and receive, a \$20,000 grant to help fund the "Sagebrush in Prison Project". This will allow them to continue the project in at least one prison and they are actively raising funds for more. For the Men's Cold Weather Shelter we raised a total of \$1,966. We are making a difference in our community!

In April, we will support the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee: <http://www.uusc.org/>. UUSC partners with marginalized communities around the globe. In situations of forced displacement and gross violations of civil and political rights, those who have been historically excluded from

mainstream aid responses are helped through grassroots collaboration. This April the Social Concerns Team will support the work UUSC is doing helping the most vulnerable women, men and children in the world: refugees fleeing horrific violence in their homeland.

UUSC's innovative approaches and measurable impacts have earned it the highest possible ratings by Charity Navigator (4/4). Where donated monies go is important to donors. 88 cents of every dollar donated the UUSC sends to support relief and recovery efforts on the ground. The remaining 12 cents covers essential administrative expenses such as wire transfer fees to send funds, phone calls, and temporary hires to support rapid response. General membership is \$35 with lower amounts for seniors and youth. Gifts of \$125 or more are eligible to be matched dollar for dollar by the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock. **Please help us by bringing refreshments for the bake sales on April 8, 15, 22 or 29.**

Serving the wider community

~Congratulations to Kari Gottfried on being selected to attend "Summer Seminary," an exploratory program for UU youth, at Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago. This is in addition to serving as co-dean for Youth Caucus at General Assembly earlier in the summer. Way to go Kari!

~Congratulations to Blaise Ntakarutimana who's traveling to New York City this month to serve as a Chaplain for the UU United Nations Office Spring Seminar. (And for recently completing his Commercial Driver's License, and beginning training for a job.)

~So many thanks and kudos to Lorene Hales and Elizabeth Sollie for managing our team and more than 60 UUFC members and friends for volunteering at the Men's Shelter over the past 5 months. And to Roz Keeney and Sherrie Day for volunteer coordination. Outstanding!!

~Congratulation to Elizabeth Sollie, who passed her oral exam with the Ministerial Fellowship Committee in March, an essential step toward a career in ministry.

Connections Council

CONNECT UP offers opportunities for us to gather in a variety of interest-based small groups to better get to know one another. **SIGN UP** on Sunday, April 29, to participate in or to host an activity in May! In March, our Connect Up opportunities included 2 hikes, book club, a sing along & potluck, craft day with soup lunch, wine tasting, charity poker, and a movie at the Darkside. What are your interests? Questions: contact Wendy Sutton connect@uucorvallis.org. For current events, visit Connect Up on the UUFC website: http://uucorvallis.org/?page_id=3776.

Traveling Altars

Traveling altars are available upon request from the Fellowship Care and Support Team. What are traveling altars? A small piece of cloth, battery-operated candle and candle holder, and a tiny oragami peace crane are held in a silk bag for easy transporting. Many Fellowship leaders, staff & team members have been using these kits to help with opening meetings, visiting with other members and friends, and for centering personal quiet time.

Contact Diana Vezmar-Bailey (541-740-9006; dianavb@inbox.com) if you would like a traveling altar kit.

Worship Services



"Are you a Religious Naturalist and Don't Know It?"

Elizabeth Sollie, Ministerial Intern

29

Many Unitarian Universalists are Religious Naturalists, but not many of us are familiar with that term. Join us to explore what this theology offers us in the times we are living in.

07

Special Kirtan Event

Join us for a special evening of Kirtan with David Newman on April 7, at 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall. Also known as Durga Das, Newman has a big following across the country.

Interfaith Potluck Dinner

Sunday, April 15, from 5:30 – 7:30 pm at the Westminster House, 101 NW 23rd St (corner of 23rd & Monroe) in Corvallis, sponsored by Corvallis Mennonite Fellowship and Westminster House. All are invited -bring your friends and neighbors! This will be a vegetarian potluck to accommodate dietary preferences. Bring labels to indicate gluten or dairy-free if possible. We will provide tableware and drinks. If it's easy, bring your own plate/cup/silverware. Let us create and strengthen friendships among our faith communities. Let us be the peace and love we wish to see in the world. FMI: Hannah Field, 7vallets@cmug.com, 541-929-4301.

Friends of the Valve Turners Present: Shut It Down Party, Corvallis!

What: An evening of music, entertainment, food and drink; a fundraiser to benefit the Valve Turners. Many of us saw their wonderful presentation at UUFC a few months ago. **When:** April 14, 2018. 6:30 PM: doors open, food and drink for sale. 7:00 PM; music program begins, featuring Gumbo, Plaehn-Hino Blues Band, and Bryson Skaar. **Where:** Odd Fellows Hall, 223 SW 2nd St., Corvallis. **Admission:** Suggested donation, \$20. Age: 21 and over.

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