



# Monthly Newsletter

## April 2016 Worship Services

### April 2016

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#### Sunday, April 3, 9:30 & 11:00 AM

“The Things We Carry”

*Rev. Jill McAllister*

On every journey, including the journey of life, we carry things with us. Sometimes we have what we need, and sometimes we don't. Sometimes we worry too much about what to bring. Other times we are weighed down carrying too much. Is it ok to just leave some of our baggage on the side of the road, and keep going?

#### Sunday, April 10, 9:30 & 11:00 AM

“Blessed Are the Humble!”

*Rev. Lazlo Major,  
with Jill McAllister & the Partner Church Committee*

“Humility matters. It is at the core of our experience of life. So central is this quality of being that it may be said that humility is, or should be, for a Unitarian Universalist what enlightenment is for a Buddhist, realization is for a Hindu, sincerity is for a Confucian, righteousness is for a Jew, surrender is for a Muslim, and annihilation is for a Sufi. Humility is what others see of our purity of heart!”

#### Sunday, April 17, 9:30 & 11:00 AM

“At Home on this Earth: An Intergenerational Service” *Jill McAllister & all*

All ages join in worship to share some of the lessons and insights of our Religious Exploration themes of Peace, Justice and the Interdependent Web of Existence. Children and youth will participate in the service, as will a multi-generational choir, for a beautiful introduction to Earth Week.

#### Sunday, April 24, 9:30 & 11:00 AM

“A Good Time to Be Alive”

*Rev. Dr. Marilyn Sewell, guest preacher*

As we become more aware of the crisis of climate change, we understand that we are the first generation to have the future of the earth in our hands. To ensure a viable planet for those who will follow, we are called as a religious people to be wise and to be bold.

*Rev. Dr. Marilyn Sewell is the Minister Emerita of the First Unitarian Church of Portland, OR, where she served for 17 years as Senior Minister.*

# Between Us ...

*Jill McAllister*

Denise Levertov's beautiful poem, "Beginners," (in our hymnal #648) ends with these lines: "We have only begun to know the power that is in us if we would join our solitudes in the communion of struggle. So much is unfolding that must complete its gesture. So much is in bud."

This is an excellent description of the life of the UUFC this month – so much is unfolding, so much is in bud. Start, for example, with the building process. Since we decided to take the 2008 plans for a building expansion and renovation off the shelf about a year and a half ago, we have revisited questions of expansion and renovation from our perspectives in 2015 and 2016. From much congregational input during the stewardship campaign last spring, several working groups have moved us forward. We realized that our highest priority was to stay in this current location and see what could be done to address our needs for more and different kinds of spaces, and our need to renew the buildings toward their continued usefulness in 30 years, as the congregation of the 1980's did for us. Now a building design team is taking our many ideas about spaces and structures, and will present some consolidated ideas for our perusal, on April 10 and 13. They'll give us 3-4 pictures of the ways the buildings might be renewed and updated. All who are interested can register their general responses. If we find ourselves in agreement, we'll be able to move forward to the design and funding of these building renovations and expansions. I hope you'll stay involved in the process and give your input now, so that we can keep moving forward.

Our three new decision-making councils, for Religious Exploration, Programs, and Justice work, are evolving in different ways, each still finding their path, each trying to articulate the best ways they can help us serve our mission, each in need of more members who can help do this work of growing. Some of our committee and task force work still runs around these councils, not quite knowing how to settle in, for consolidated planning, implementation and programming. All new things take time; we continue to learn as we go.

We have become a home for a refugee, and are learning step by step what that means. Step by step we'll see what is needed, and what it means for us to learn about the lives of others in the world, what we can do and can't do, what we can know and can't know. Again, all new things take time; we continue to learn as we go.

The pledge drive for 2016-17 is almost finished, certainly a bud that will bloom in due time. Thanks to all who have renewed their pledges, or have pledged for the first time! This shared work is simply essential – without these shared financial resources, the Fellowship would not exist. Never doubt that every single pledge is needed, and appreciated. Never imagine that any one of us is outside of this circle of sharing.

The inside work of religious and spiritual growth is always in bud. Our increased capacity for care and response, through compassionate listening and pastoral care is evident. We are stepping up and into the work of anti-racism, both inside ourselves and outside the Fellowship. We are working hard to increase our climate justice work through effective coalition building with other religious communities.

Levertov's poem starts this way: "But we have only begun to love the earth. We have only begun to imagine the fullness of life. How could we tire of hope!—so much is in the bud." Indeed. Indeed. "We have only begun to know the power that it in us if we would join our solitudes in the communion of struggle." Amen to that.

See you Sunday – *Jill*

## WORDS FOR REFLECTION

Intricate and untraceable weaving and interweaving, dark strand with light:  
 Designed, beyond all spiderly contrivance, to link, not to entrap:  
 Elation, grief, joy, contrition, entwined;  
 shaking, changing forever forming, transforming:  
 All praise, all praise to the great web.

- Denise Levertov

## WORSHIP & MUSIC

### Requiem, by John Rutter

The UUFC choir will combine with an ensemble of instrumentalists from the community to present one of the most well-known choral works of the 20th century--Requiem by John Rutter. This work, composed in 1985, is a powerful and profound setting of the some of the text from the Requiem Mass (Mass for the Dead), and contains text in both English and Latin. Please mark May 22nd on your calendar. The performance, which is about 40 minutes in length, will begin at 2:00 PM in the Sanctuary. Please join us for an afternoon of great music!

### Dinner & Presentation with Balázs Scholar

Rev. László Major, this year's Starr King Francis Balázs Scholar, will visit the UUFC April 9 and 10. On Saturday, April 9, all are invited to join in a potluck dinner with Rev. László at 6:00 PM. After dinner, at 7:00 PM, Rev. László will share a presentation titled "Life in a small Unitarian village in Transylvania."

### Family-friendly Wheel of the Year event for Beltane (May Day)

On Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, you are invited to join in nature-connected celebration and ceremony honoring Beltane (May Day) – a time to honor the beginning of the three months of greatest daylight. This family-friendly event is scheduled to begin at 3:00 PM. There will be time to arrive and get connected, followed by an hour-long ceremony and finally a potluck. You are welcome to attend any part of it. Watch for more details as the event approaches.

The Wheel of the Year honors eight special points in the Earth's annual dance around the sun: the two solstices, the two equinoxes and the four cross-quarter days half-way in between. The cross-quarter days mark the beginnings and endings of the traditional solar seasons that are based on the hours of daylight. Information: Cliff Pereira (541-760-4541).

## BOARD & STEWARDSHIP

### BOARD NOTES

*Kyle Jansson, UUFC president*

#### Reviewing purchase offer for sale of the adjacent house

The UUFC purchased the neighboring house on Circle Boulevard in 2001. While it had no immediate use planned for the house, the congregation thought it important to have a buffer with the neighborhood and to have a place for possible expansion of UUFC activities. However, during most of the 15 years the house has been rented out to provide a small source of income for the Fellowship. In considering use of this property for expanding our current building, the building task force concluded last year that the house was not suited for our current needs.

Recently, after discussions about interfaith cooperation between our groups, the Corvallis Zen Center made an offer to purchase the house. The Board is carefully reviewing the offer, including hiring a professional appraiser. Expect to see the call for a special congregational meeting if the Board and the Zen Center reach agreement on a proposed sale, since the UUFC bylaws require that a "super majority" of the congregation approve any sale of real estate, including the house. Board members believe the Corvallis Zen Center would bring advantages and diversity to the neighborhood, and that we'd benefit from close relations with the Buddhists. We'd welcome feedback. Stay tuned for more information.

#### Annual meeting scheduled for May 15

Mark your calendar and plan to attend the UUFC's annual meeting at 12:30 PM, Sunday May 15, where we'll elect new Board and Nominating committee members, and approve a 2016-2017 budget. The meeting agenda will also likely include

an update on building expansion planning, including consideration of a capital campaign. We may also vote on an offer from the Corvallis Zen Center to purchase the neighboring house on Circle Boulevard from the UUFC. Such a vote will require a quorum of 40 percent of the congregation's voting membership. Please plan to attend.

## Board Highlights – March and April Meetings

The Board has approved a **contract to re-roof part of the** classroom wing that has had serious leaks this winter. The cost of the roof, unanticipated a year ago, falls within the Board's budgetary authority for the current fiscal year. In keeping with Oregon law, the board approved a **policy on indemnifying directors and officers** against lawsuits.

Trustees typically discuss policy drafts for at least one meeting and then vote to adopt them at a subsequent meeting to enable more thoughtful review before implementation. Two policy drafts were reviewed for the first time at the March meeting. The first defines the **Senior Hub and its relationship within the UUFC**. The second establishes the **guidelines for creation of revolving loan funds for justice projects**. Both will be re-considered during an April Board meeting.

The Board will move its first April meeting to April 4, with a second meeting to be scheduled later in the month. Meeting times will be posted in the weekly calendar. UUFC members are welcome to attend; a brief time for member comments is available at the end of most meetings. Please contact President Kyle Jansson prior to the meeting if you want to speak.

## 2016-17 Pledge Drive Update

Thank you to the 150 families or individuals who have pledged a total of \$260,000 on our way to our congregation's budget goal of \$406,000 for next year. Your generosity and commitment enable all that we do together. *If you pledged by 12:30 PM on March 27, please check that your name is on the thank-you list included in this newsletter, and let us know if it isn't.* As more pledges come in we will continue to update the thank-you list posted in the foyer.

There are many members (about 125 families or individuals) whom we have not heard from yet during this pledge drive. When you receive this newsletter, our official pledge drive will have ended, but as you can see by the numbers, the pledge process is not complete. *If you haven't yet pledged, please take the opportunity to do so now. Today.* The health and effectiveness of our community depends on *everyone's* participation and contribution.

If you have internet access, the easiest way to pledge is to go to the UUFC website ([uucorvallis.org](http://uucorvallis.org)) and look at the section on the right side of the home page, called "Support our Congregation." At the top of that section, you can click on the green text "read the online pledge packet here and then make your pledge." If you prefer paper pledge materials and a pledge card, and haven't received them, please contact us and we will get them to you right away. Likewise, if you have any other questions, please contact us.

*Virginia Shapiro (541-223-8859) and Anna Sontag (541-221-6962), UUFC Stewardship ([uufcstewardship@gmail.com](mailto:uufcstewardship@gmail.com))*

## Next steps in building revision process

Working from the assumption we made last year, that we should stay at this location, a Building Design Team has been at work. Mark your calendar for two opportunities to give input on some specific options for building improvements: Sunday April 10th at 12:30 PM OR Wednesday April 13th at 7:00 PM. Come to either of these meetings to look at possible options on a layout of our property and you'll get to vote on your **general** preferences. We know you have an opinion, come tell us what it is! Can't come to either meeting? Contact the UUFC Office for a response form. Deadline for input is Wednesday, April 20, at 5:00 PM.

## UUFC Kitchen Spring Cleaning!

Thanks and appreciation to Ginny Gibson and a fabulous team of volunteers for undertaking a spring clean-up of the UUFC kitchen. Piles of clutter on counters, in cabinets and closets have been removed. Dishes, utensils and other supplies have been inventoried, cleaned, updated and organized. With consultation from the Environmental Action Council, new trash, composting, and recycling bins have been installed and labeled. Going forward, please consult with Ginny before donating any utensils, equipment or supplies to the kitchen, and thanks for your help in keeping it clean and user-friendly.

**Quarterly UU Path Class Offered**

The Spring "UU Path Class" is April 9th, 9:00 AM-12:30 PM in the UUFC Social Hall. This is the second segment in the 3-step process toward membership in UUFC. Those interested in Unitarian Universalism and the UUFC should plan to attend; you will learn about the history of our movement and this congregation, the wide range of things we do, and easy ways to get involved. The class is facilitated by Rev. Jill McAllister and staff, light brunch included. Please sign up at the Welcome Table so we are prepared. Contact John Bailey ([bailey61@comcast.net](mailto:bailey61@comcast.net)) with questions.

**Seeking a Church Operations Manager for the UUFC**

Since September 2015 we have had eight months of interim support in our office, with great thanks to Jean Gilbert for so ably and generously filling that role. This has allowed a review of administrative needs, from which we now announce the hiring process for a Church Operations Manager for the UUFC. This position will include more tasks, responsibility and authority than our past Office Administrators. It will depend upon a person with broad skills in technology, communication, and administration. It will require a person who is also able and willing to "hold the center" for all church operations, in ways that help and empower all those responsible for small pieces of this work – committee leaders and members, event planners, other staff, teachers, visitors, and more.

The full job description for the .66 FTE (2/3 time) position is posted on the UUFC web site, as well as instructions for applying, at [http://uucorvallis.org/?page\\_id=2724](http://uucorvallis.org/?page_id=2724) If you have questions, contact the church office or the Minister, Jill McAllister. Applications will be accepted until April 22. Interviews will be scheduled in early-to-mid-May. Pending approval of the 2016-17 budget by the congregation, this position will begin on July 1, 2016.

# LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

## CHILDREN & YOUTH

*Michael Molke*

Religious Exploration (RE) for teenagers at the Fellowship is based on the same underlying principles as we use for the younger children: creating emotionally safe space to examine questions and express oneself; age-appropriate development of critical thinking skills; guidance towards ethical and moral discernment; and pausing to appreciate the awe and wonder of life, and give thanks for our lives, for each other, and for the world. However, in practice RE for teens looks quite different from children's RE.

Teens' intellectual capacity is expanding rapidly, and also therefore their ability to process and understand complex issues. At the same time, strong emotions, hormones, and social awareness are demanding their energy and attention, all in the midst of schoolwork, extracurricular activities, and family obligations. RE at the Fellowship on Sunday mornings offers youth an opportunity to relax, open up, and reflect amongst supportive friends and volunteer adult advisors.

Youth advisors are dedicated adults spend time with the youth, getting to know them, drawing them out with questions, presenting them with issues to consider, and encouraging their blossoming. As youth move beyond their nuclear families and out into the larger world, advisors help them as they form their individual identities. We ask them to consider what responsibilities we all have to one another in working to create more justice and equity as we pursue our own personal goals and dreams. The teenage years can be simultaneously exciting and precarious as youth figure out who they are, what they want for themselves, what motivates them, how they fit into the world, and what their responsibilities to others are. All of our RE programs for youth have these concerns at heart.

The specifics of how this all happens varies from group to group, and year to year. One group of youth can be quite extroverted, asserting leadership and direction. Another group can be more passive, desiring more direction and program

from the adults. Youth RE requires planning, flexibility, patience, and good humor. In general, youth RE sessions start by lighting the chalice, followed by opening words. Then comes a check-in, a presentation or video or reading about an issue, and discussion of that issue. Sometimes a role-play is in order, other times breaking into smaller groups for deeper conversation, problem-solving, and games. Games serve to help youth realize this is not the same as school, where they will be tested for the “right” answer, but rather a place to make friends and be themselves. Games serve a deeper purpose: to open up consideration of possibilities, reflect on how the group is working together, and think about how each individual is within the group, and what their strengths and challenges are. Processing games afterwards is an important part of RE, to learn from what happened and build meaning from the experience.

RE for teens at the Fellowship embodies our 3rd, 4th and 5th UU Principles: acceptance of one another, encouragement to spiritual growth, a free and responsible search for truth and meaning, and the right of conscience and use of the democratic process. When these principles are working together, we build a radically inclusive religious community, where our youth learn that all should have a voice in affairs that concern them, while acknowledging and valuing our differences. Instilled with these principles, youth can know that they have the ability to live happy and meaningful lives, and make a positive difference in the world.

## ADULT RELIGIOUS GROWTH AND LEARNING

*Ann Mbacke*

Adult Religious Exploration (RE) and Growth invites you to learn more about who we are and to join us in our work. Last month we shared the seven principles and a brief description of what they mean; let’s explore two of them in depth this month. Our goal is to help answer the question of who, what, and where as it relates to Unitarian Universalism. Who are we in our community and the world, what does it mean to be an active, engaged Unitarian Universalist, and where is it that we are to take action and be able to live those golden seven principles:

1. **1st Principle:** The inherent worth and dignity of every person; “Reverence and respect for human nature is at the core of Unitarian Universalist (UU) faith. We believe that all the dimensions of our being carry the potential to do good. We celebrate the gifts of being human: our intelligence and capacity for observation and reason, our senses and ability to appreciate beauty, our creativity, our feelings and emotions. We cherish our bodies as well as our souls. We can use our gifts to offer love, to work for justice, to heal injury, to create pleasure for ourselves and others.” (excerpt from Rev. Dr. Rebecca Ann Parker)
2. **2nd Principle:** Justice, equity and compassion in human relations; “Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations point us toward something beyond [inherent worth and dignity](#). It points us to the larger community. It gets at collective responsibility. It reminds us that treating people as human beings is not simply something we do one-on-one, but something that has systemic implications and can inform our entire cultural way of being.” (excerpt from Rev. Emily Gage)

Interested in joining in our work? The Adult RE Steering Committee meets monthly on 2nd Thursdays at 3:45 PM. We are also recruiting some fine elders or folks with a strong interest in supporting our elders to co-lead our Over 65 group which meets monthly on third Thursdays at 3:00 PM. If you are excited about these possibilities, contact Ann Mbacke, Director of Adult Religious Growth and Learning ([reassociate@uucorvallis.org](mailto:reassociate@uucorvallis.org)).

### Multi-Cultural Skills Training

*Saturday April 16, 9:00 AM-3:30 PM, First Congregational Church on West Hills Road*

Join Rev. Lois Van Leer and Rev. Jill McAllister for a workshop on multi-cultural skills needed for effective anti-racism work, based on the work of Milton Bennett and colleagues. This training has already had over 40 UUFC participants during previous offerings; this session is open to people from other congregations and organizations as well as UUFC members and friends. The workshop provides a very useful format for starting to do anti-racism work, if you are looking for a good way to start.

# PROGRAM COUNCIL

## Re-envisioning the Holiday Bazaar

Over the last several decades our holiday bazaar has provided us with a venue to come together to celebrate, eat, and purchase fine, locally-made wares for the holiday season. This year the Program Council is considering significant changes to the event that include a shift from a large, out-of-fellowship vender event, to a small, in-house event, and a fall food “pre-order” event that will allow everyone to stock up on the delicious pasties and jams and jellies we enjoy each year. Anyone with an interest in restructuring this event, or with any other comments, concerns, or questions please e-mail Rachel Houtman at [rubisco26@gmail.com](mailto:rubisco26@gmail.com).

## Art Exhibit

Due to some unexpected issues, Susan Louise was not able to exhibit her work in the current exhibition in the Sanctuary, as planned and described in the March Newsletter. Instead, the pastel work of Joyce Canan joined the River masks of Becca Lemon. The two artists’ work complement each other, and you will be able to enjoy them until mid-April. Joyce has trained as an artist in California and Oregon in painting, ceramics and graphic design. She says, Simply, I love to paint and I love to look at paintings. More specifically, I love the challenge presented by painting outdoors with the changing light, the whims of the weather gods, the attempt to capture the beauty and drama of our Northwest scenery. I feel honored to exhibit at the UUFC. My mother, Molly Canan, was a devoted Corvallis-style Unitarian, plus I have so many Unitarian friends--the Fellowship really feels like family to me.

**The next exhibit in the Sanctuary, running from April 12th- May 24th is Art By Scientists.** It is common in our culture to suppose that there is a wide gulf between scientists and artists. We often think of scientists as rational skeptics, who rely on objective data, analysis and intellect; we think of artists as intuitive, subjective people who seek to express their emotions, hopes and fears. We often express this division in terms of brain hemispheres: scientists have ‘left brains’, and artists have ‘right brains’. This exhibit of Art By Scientists negates such generalizations, and demonstrates that humans are not bound to one category or another: we all use both halves of our brains, and we all aspire to integrated lives with the ability to respond freely to a great variety of circumstances.

Art By Scientists contains artistic pieces by ten scientists: John Byrne, Dudley Chelton, Jane Huyer, Chi Meredith, Charlie Miller, Karen Miller, Priscilla Newberger, Larry Small, Sylvia Yamada, and Ron Zaneveld. All have careers in marine science and an association with Oregon State University. The exhibit includes work in a variety of media. The artists have very diverse backgrounds in art: some have sketched or painted most of their lives, others began much later; some have formal training, others are self-taught. Most of the artists know each other through their scientific rather than artistic careers.

## Disaster Preparedness

Has all the scary news about “the Big One” and other potential natural catastrophes got you feeling fearful and unprepared? You are invited to attend the **first** in a series of UUFC’s Natural Disaster Preparedness Seminars, designed to help all of us find the information, resources, and support needed to “just get started” on our emergency preparations for our households and vehicles.

The first UUFC Natural Disaster Preparedness Seminar will be Saturday, May 7, 9:00 AM-1:30 PM. The theme is “Plan, Prepare, Practice.” This seminar is free and no registration is necessary. Local knowledgeable and experienced experts in Emergency Preparedness will offer 40-minute workshops on topics including developing an emergency response plan and storing items for emergency situations. There will be hands-on displays of materials, literature, and time to get your individual questions answered. This seminar will give you valuable information in a very concentrated manner to *just get started* on your household’s preparations! Future seminars will offer opportunities to link up with neighbors and other groups for mutual support and on-going networking. Questions? Contact Wolfgang Dengler at (541-745-5729, [wolfdengler3@gmail.com](mailto:wolfdengler3@gmail.com)).

# JUSTICE COUNCIL

## Microcredit Committee Update

The Micro-credit Committee of the UUFC lends funds to entrepreneurs in developing nations through a web-based organization called KIVA ([www.kiva.org](http://www.kiva.org)). Its mission is “to connect people through lending to alleviate poverty.” Leveraging the internet and a worldwide network of microfinance institutions, Kiva lets individuals lend as little as \$25 to help create opportunity around the world. Since we began working with KIVA in 2011, the UUFC microcredit committee has made 257 loans, usually \$100 or less, in 45 countries, for a total amount lent of \$22,275. All of this has been accomplished with input to KIVA of \$4,931 raised through concerts, bake sales and plant sales. We focus our loans on areas we are familiar with or particularly interested in. We were able to bring concerts from other cultures and countries and focused the loans there. Recently we have focused on Latin America and Mexico as we learn more about the problems with migrants crossing to ‘al otro lado’, or the US.

We would like to thank everyone who has contributed over the years. If you wish to make a donation to the Microcredit Committee, donations go through UUFC and are tax deductible. If you want to know more or join our efforts contact Sandy Houtman ([houtman@aol.com](mailto:houtman@aol.com), 541-602-1516).

### Coffee sales

UUFC members and friends have bought 131 pounds of organic shade grown coffee to support indigenous farmers in Chiapas, Mexico. Because the growers of Cafe Justo also own the roaster, they are able to have health care and retirement plans. This is such a simple way for us to help people stay on their land in their own communities. Come buy your coffee (whole beans or ground) for \$10 a pound after services on Sundays.

Enjoy a cup during coffee hour as well!

### Refugee Support Fund

Many have asked how to best support Blaise Ntakarutima, a Unitarian refugee from Burundi who has come to stay with us here. Thank-you for asking! At the moment, his needs for housing, food and transportation are mostly covered, though if you’d like to be part of that network please do let Jill McAllister know. He is very happy to continue making friends and acquaintances, and learning his way around Corvallis and Philomath. Eventually he will need our help to find work (8-9 months from now, hopefully), and the means to set up his own housing, transportation, etc. For now, we are establishing a UUFC Refugee Support Fund to begin to build what will be needed over the next 2-3 years. Contributions to the fund are already coming from several other congregations around the country. UUFC members and friends are welcome to contribute as well, with thanks! Checks can be made out to UUFC with “Refugee Support” in the memo line.

## Building an Interfaith Coalition for Climate Justice Work:

### An Evening with Rabbis Arthur Waskow and Phyllis Berman

Clergy and leaders of Beit Am Jewish Community and the UUFC are excited to announce as a joint project a very important event in May, which we hope will gather as many local religious congregations and organizations as possible. Please put this on your calendar, and look for more details to come soon. The evening of Wednesday May 25, 6:30-8:30 PM, at the UUFC, Rabbis Arthur Waskow and Phyllis Berman will present “An Interfaith Event: The Spirit, the Earth, and Human Earthlings: Multi-religious Thought, Feeling and Action in Response to the Climate Crisis”

Rabbis Arthur Waskow and Phyllis Berman are well-known and highly respected leaders of the movement for Jewish renewal and authors of a number of creative Jewish and multi-religious books and essays. They will speak, teach, tell stories, and weave conversations, in support of strengthening our local inter-faith and community efforts to address climate change.

## THE BACK PAGE: WHAT A BOARD DOES

It is said of congregations that ministers and individual members come and go, but the congregation endures. Although a congregation is made up of individual people, it has a kind of life of its own that is bigger than the people within it, and more than the sum of their opinions. In short, a congregation has a soul, and one of the ministries of the congregation is staying in touch with the growth of that soul.

This ministry mostly belongs to the Board of Trustees. Boards are responsible for mundane-sounding tasks: visioning, policy-making, stewardship, sponsorship, advocacy, and consultancy. However, like so many other spiritual practices, faithful participation in the activity of governance nurtures both the Trustees and the congregation they serve. *Visioning* means reflecting deeply on the mission of the congregation and picturing the difference that the congregation can make in the world. *Policy-making* is simply articulating how the mission and vision can be achieved in ways that don't violate the integrity of the congregation's values and relationships.

*Stewardship* refers to the fiduciary duty of the board: "fiduciary" is a word meaning "holding in trust," which reminds the Board that they are responsible for protecting the assets of the whole congregation – both money and property, and moral and other intangible assets – on behalf of the whole congregation. To be a good steward is to transcend oneself and connect deeply with the congregation's soul.

*Sponsorship* means giving generously of time and money toward the support of the congregation. This is less to do with total dollars and numbers of hours, and more to do with generosity as appropriate to each person's life. Board members are called to live out the importance of the congregation through their giving, which has the additional effect of nurturing their spiritual growth.

*Advocacy* and *consultancy* are opportunities for Board members to bring their whole lives to bear in their service. Advocacy means representing the interests of the congregation as an institution, both in internal discussions among the membership and in the wider community (which can mean something as simple as carrying reusable grocery bags with UU symbols on them and starting conversations!). Consultancy is a way of sharing talents with the staff, when invited to consult on an area.

One of the central questions of the religious life is how to live in such a way that even mundane activities are part of growing toward our best selves – how to make our daily lives a prayer. Trustees of a congregation do this in their work: in the tasks of the Board, and in their commitment to be present to each other and to the congregation, making deep connections between the individuals who make up the congregation and its soul. To live beyond oneself and hold something greater in trust; to have a vision and a sense of how to get there guided by the values of the community; to give time, talent, money, and voice to the congregation one believes will make a great difference for good in the world: these are the work of a Board.

### Antiracism Scholar Dr. Robin DiAngelo at LBCC

Monday, May 9, 12:00 PM (noon), Forum Lecture Hall (F-104), LBCC

Robin DiAngelo writes, "I am a white woman whose academic, professional, and personal commitment is to anti-racist practice; however, I don't call myself an 'anti-racist white' because I believe that it is for people of color to decide if, in any given moment, I am behaving in anti-racist ways. These are the issues and perspectives that guide my work." Dr. DiAngelo has done important work on white identity and white fragility, and how they affect the ability of white people to engage in anti-racist action.

Some resources from Dr. DiAngelo are available at <http://robindiangelo.com/resources-2/>

**On behalf of the UUFC, the Stewardship Committee thanks the following people for their pledges for the 2016-17 fiscal year. Your generosity makes everything we do possible!**

Akeroyd & Lear, Jen & Bill\*  
Allen, Jo Lynn\*  
Altimus, JoAnne & Mike  
Ames, Bud & Jan  
Anderson, Russ  
Aron, Mark  
Azul, Joey  
Bailey, John\*  
Baker & Loper, Carl & Joyce  
Barnes & Lee, Gary & Janet  
Barshay & Irvine, Laurie & Jed  
Behan, Ann and Dick  
Bencene, Gretchen  
Bentley, Chris  
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\* Denotes Fair Share Giver

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**Our video stars (who took the time to thoughtfully and beautifully share what the UUFC means in their lives):**

Ann Mbacke  
 Bill Lear (and family)  
 Carolyn Madsen  
 Jen Akeroyd (and family)

Jill McAllister  
 Julie Graves  
 Kim Henry  
 Lauren Servias  
 Michael Molk  
 Monica Jacobson-Tennessee  
 Nancy Kyle  
 Nick Houtman  
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 Roberta Smith  
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 Susan Christie  
 Svea Bruslind  
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Our online calendar is updated weekly or sometimes even more frequently!