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REV. JILL
MCALLISTER

BETWEEN US

August
2017

It is more important than ever (and it's always been of utmost importance) that we help others.

We slept under the stars this week. It's amazing how many stars you can see in Philomath. I kept waking up to look again, to see more shooting stars. It's also amazing that we have these long weeks of clear skies and hot weather. Looking back 25-30 years to my early years in Oregon, I seem to remember it rained into the middle of July. Not anymore. This is what climate change looks like here, so far.

In July I attended a 3-day training with the Climate Reality Project, the organization founded by Al Gore. I wanted to go because Gore has been studying and explaining climate change for decades, and has been so good at spreading that knowledge around the world. (I have a hunch now, that it is his work and dedication to this issue that led to the Paris climate talks.) I wanted hear for myself how and why he, and the CRP, have managed to stay positive and hopeful in their analysis of the state of life on earth. I was amazed by what I learned.

The Climate Reality Project is an international organization, which connects governments, NGOs, businesses, corporations and non-profit organizations around the world. It fosters grassroots local leadership, but does so with the resources and expertise of a global entity. More

than 16,000 have been trained! This international network of scientists, politicians, activists, teachers, business leaders and people from all walks of life is tracking the effects of climate change day-by-day, everywhere. They are also tracking, encouraging, and in many cases innovating effective responses to climate change in laws, business, science, technology, and community organizing. With several others from Corvallis, I made a commitment to collaborate on local responses to climate change, aided by the existing leadership capacities of our UUFC Climate Justice team.

We're eager for the release of Gore's new movie, the sequel to "An Inconvenient Truth," titled "An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power." It will be coming to Corvallis sometime in August. If you've taken no other action related to climate change so far, I hope you'll come out to watch this movie, to get a good idea of where things are. So often I hear (and I ask) the question: Given the state of the world, what can I do? Here's the answer I like best, from climatejusticenow.earth: "We need everyone everywhere doing everything all the time as quickly as possible." What to do? Anything you can do, starting as always by learning more about what is true, which changes

nearly every day.

Remember: understanding facts, though essential, is just part of how we must live everyday. It is more important than ever (and it's always been of utmost importance) that we help others. That we reach out to connect, to understand and to help. No one in the world is unaffected by climate change. No one in the world can change or save everything. Each person can only do at they can, to try to understand and to act. Some never will – some will not be able or willing. We can stop trying to convince everyone. Instead, we can keep moving forward by working together with all who are willing and able.

Most important for me, facing the realities of climate change, is that the Fellowship continue to be a welcoming and encouraging religious community, where we learn as much as possible together (EXPLORE), build deep connections for helping each other (LOVE) and help each other do whatever we can toward as much healing and justice as possible (ACT). The coming year will give us many opportunities to continue in this work. In the meantime, at least once in this summer season, may you too sleep under the stars, or sit with a tree, or greet a hummingbird face-to-face! May you have time to remember, and to love, how we are connected to everything.



See you on Sundays! -Jill

Religious Exploration: Fall



Time is Ticking...

Raft Trip for High School Youth - Save the date! Sunday, September 10th, 10:30 AM - 6:00 PM. Meet at Micheal's Landing Boat Ramp on the Willamette River in downtown Corvallis, between Tyler Ave and the Old Spaghetti Factory.

Permission slip required, so contact DRE Michael Molk for information: molk@uucorvallis.org.

Children & Youth

Regular Religious Exploration sessions for Kindergarten through 12th grade will resume Sunday, September 17th at 11:00 AM. The theme for the year is "Faithfulness." Through stories, discussion, worship, games, food, music, art, and more, we'll explore many aspects of what it means to have faith, and what is worth having faith in.

New Fellowship Children's Choir!

For children in 1st through 6th grades (older teens are welcome to help). Starting Sept. 17, we'll meet on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in room 6B during the early worship service. The children's choir will sing periodically in worship services. We'll also play singing games, play recorders, and do some dancing, movement exercises and interpretive gestures. Directed by Michael Molk: molk@uucorvallis.org

Orientation Brunch & Welcome for All RE Guides and Advisors

Sunday, September 10th, 12:30-3 p.m. in Room 6

of dates this fall for parent orientations, which are required for all children and youth to attend OWL classes. For more information, email DRE Michael Molk at molk@uucorvallis.org.

Our Whole Lives (OWL) Sexuality Education

This coming year we'll be offering OWL classes for K/1st grade, 4th-6th grades, 7th/8th grades, 9th-12th grades, and adults. Watch for an upcoming announcement

Toddler Playgroups



Six UUFC children enjoyed our summer toddler playgroups in July. Great fun was had playing both inside and outside. Through

play, art, songs, and stories, we crawled, flapped, and "roared" our way through the Zoo themed week. A big thank you to the volunteers who helped! We hope to have more kids and more volunteers next year.

Religious Exploration for Children: August

Infant/Toddler care and Summer Fun for children continues throughout August, on Sundays at 10:00 AM during worship services.

Summer Fun for children includes conversations, arts & crafts, stories, mindfulness exercises, scientific experiments, and play on the playground.



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"My Brave Year: Learning to Love in a New Way"

Leslie Chartier

My brave year was spent as a ministerial intern in a Methodist congregation. I learned about progressive Christianity and how to collaborate to make the world a better place. We are not the only ones open to questions!

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When It Gets Hot

Rev. Jill McAllister

There's the weather, of course. Summer temperatures are getting hotter all over the world, and we wonder if we can adjust. There are also "hot" elements of our personalities, and our spirits. Religious traditions have long recognized the interplay of elemental forces. What do we know about those elements within ourselves?



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Living in the Universe

Rev. Jill McAllister

Eclipses have always fascinated humans, so it's no surprise that lots and lots of people will travel for a good view of this one. A chance to watch these movements in the sky is a very good chance to ponder, once again, the facts of life in a universe far bigger than we'll ever fully comprehend.

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Question Box Sunday

Rev. Jill McAllister

What have you learned this year about courage? Or about UUism, or your religious life? What are you curious about? Are there religious or theological questions that interest you or bother you? The "sermon" this Sunday is a chance to ask any and all questions - Jill will do her best to respond.

Words for Reflection

Marta I. Valentin (adapted)

Spirit of the circle that is Love...we give thanks for the reminder each day of our task of ministering to each "other," with a searching glance, a safe touch, a generous smile, a thoughtful word... For the reminder that we are always building our beloved *comunidad*... That through our covenant with Love and with each "other" we are made whole. In gratitude, we celebrate with open hearts and minds. We discover who we are, separate from each other and within each other. In this circle that holds all life may we ever work toward widening its boundaries until there are none.

Upcoming August Events

- 11 7:00 PM New World Kirtan Band in the Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall. Kirtan comes from ancient Hindu traditions of chanting as devotional practice, to calm minds and open hearts.
- 13 11:30 AM Lunch, with an Open Mic. Grab a sandwich or salad, and settle in to hear what is on each other's minds and hearts. We'll put out the proverbial "soap box", and give whoever wants to speak time to say what they most want to say. Opinions welcome!
- 26 Rummage Sale All Day! Bring your donations to Room 6C beforehand for the Reduce, Recycle Extravaganza! (Remember, we don't take items like Adult Clothing, large exercise equipment, tires, poisons, etc. For a complete list, see the sign on the door of Room 6C.)

Justice Council

Prison Ministry

UUFC member Coleman Ward is incarcerated at the Southern Desert Correctional Center in Nevada and would appreciate being in contact with members and friends of the UUFC. We're hoping to set up several ways to do that as part of exploring more involvement in prison ministry in general. Our work may include letter writing, visiting prisoners, financial aid, advocacy for prison reform, and more. If you're interested in this work, please contact Jill McAllister. And, if you are able and willing to help start providing regular letters for Coleman Ward, contact Beany Kunis at askbeany@gmail.com for more information or you can write to Coleman directly: Coleman Ward #1131564, Southern Desert Correctional Center, PO Box 208, Indian Springs, NV 89070

UUFC Refugee Support

Through our UUFC Refugee Fund, we are reaching out to help support two Burundian Unitarian refugees living in Rwanda. These two young men had to leave Burundi for the same reasons Blaise left. That meant leaving families and livelihoods, and trying to settle and make a living in a place where work is already scarce even for Rwandan citizens. Being an outsider makes it even harder. Both have experienced hunger, due to not being able to afford food on a regular basis. We're aiming to provide \$100 a month for each of them. Are you able and willing to be part of this effort? Can you give \$100 once a year, or some portion of that on a regular basis? One-time gifts are also appreciated. Please let Jill know if you are interested and able to help.



UUFC Emergency Aid Fund

The Emergency Aid Fund (EAF) is for members and friends of the Fellowship in a time of need: a one-time, emergency situation when assistance is not available through any other sources. Examples of needs include food, shelter, utilities, medical prescriptions, or transportation to a job or job interview. All inquiries are confidential. To make a request contact EAF Committee Chair Judy Malouf (541-740-4805), or Rev. Jill McAllister (541-752-5218).

Social Concerns

During August, the Social Concerns Group will hold bake sales to help McKinney Homeless Education Program.

Funds will help pay for sports fees, transportation, laundry soap, school supplies etc. If you can help with bake sale set-up, please contact Sylvia Yamada (yamadas@science.oregonstate.edu).



Share Garden Produce



Do you have extra vegetables from your garden to share with others?

Please bring them to Sunday Services, and there will be a box on the bench near the front door to leave them there. You are welcome to take home vegetables also.

What's left there will be donated to a food bank in UUFC's name.

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, August 27th, to participate in or to host an activity in September!

In July, our Connect Up opportunities included hiking, a potluck dinner, lunch at a restaurant, making driftwood mobiles, playing croquet, and the book club. 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

Making driftwood mobiles with Lew Pennock. -->

Help Needed for the Labor Day Tuna Roast!

Monday, Sept 4, is the 21st UUFC Labor Day party, and with over 200 people of all ages attending, we need help! Help will be needed in the set-up, clean-up, barbequeing, corn shucking/cooking, and lemonade. How about you volunteer to be the leader of one of those activities? We need someone with a truck and a strong helper to pick up five of the long tables on the back deck of UUFC, and return them afterwards. Contact: Rich Brainerd, 541-740-2961 to volunteer to help.



21st Labor Day Tuna Roast

Monday, September 4, 3:00 - 8:00 PM (Tuna, potatoes, and corn served at 5:30). Lion's Shelter at Avery Park. Suggested cost of \$5/adult, plus your choice for kids. We provide barbequed tuna, hot dogs, and garden burgers; plus sweet corn, baked potatoes, lemonade, and a sheet cake; plus paper plates and plastic eating utensils. Please bring potluck food like salad, bread, chips, dip, veggies, fruits desserts, etc. Don't forget a serving tool!

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UUFC Men's Retreat

Fri - Sun, Oct 20 - 22 at Menucha Conference Center in Corbett, OR. We will explore the idea of resilience in our lives and actions in a beautiful setting overlooking the Columbia Gorge. We have fun and get to know each other by sharing experiences and insights. You can learn more on the UU web site (http://uucorvallis.org/?page_id=2660) or by contacting Lloyd Wagenschutz (541-753-9071 or lpwz124@comcast.net).

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Call for Clothes!

Clothes for Josh and Shanti.

Do you have kids clothes for a 1-year old or a 3-year old?

Blaise Ntakarutimana & Gisele Akimana are happy for hand-me-downs for Josh and Shanti.

Call for Annual Report Information!

If you have information that would be useful for inclusion in this year's annual report, please email it to Jill and Jamie.

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