



02 WELCOME  
Governance &  
Shared Ministry  
Upcoming Services  
Words for Reflection

03 Religious  
Exploration (RE)  
Justice Council

04 Connections Council  
Building  
Enhancement  
Staff Contacts

# UUFC NEWSLETTER

September  
2017

*The Fellowship is made of all of us. What we each do or don't do determines what the Fellowship truly is.*

## Between Us.

**B**It took me a few days to stop saying WOW every time I remembered the eclipse. So much about that moment was amazing, but now I'm lifted up by knowing that so many shared that moment and were amazed together. It was truly a moment of realizing how connected we are.

I'm bringing that awareness into the beginning of a new church year, hoping it will continue to give me insight into nature of our connections, insight into the relationships that make us into the UU Fellowship of Corvallis. That I'll remember there are always new ways to see things we think we already fully know and understand. New perspectives are always possible. Thank goodness for that, or we would never learn and grow.

This year we'll be exploring the meaning of 'faithfulness' – a term and a concept we're all familiar with at an experiential level. It is one way of describing what it takes to stay com-

mitted, to keep going, to know what is most important. It might be what helps us understand how to stay committed and at the same time be willing to change – everything if needed. For as the world changes, we are in fact, changed.

This work is already underway in so much of the life of the Fellowship. The Board of Trustees will experiment with different ways to make decisions this year; with different kinds of democratic processes. Several of our justice teams – on climate justice and immigration and homelessness and anti-racism, for example -- are moving into arenas where the landscape is constantly changing, and we're trying to learn how to be most effective. Our Adult RE team is considering religious and spiritual formation; what it takes to help someone grow more mature, or closer to our religious values.

We have decisions to make this year, including strategy and goals around climate change and racism (what does

the Fellowship as an organization aim to accomplish in these areas?) We have decisions to make about building renovations and expansion, and about how to continue to face the upheavals and tensions in our society, and on the earth. If the Fellowship succeeds in these areas this year, it will be because each of us has set some intentions and made commitments to be faithful to those intentions, even as circumstances may change.

The Fellowship is made of all of us. What we each do or don't do determines what the Fellowship truly is. I invite you to join in, and to imagine how you will be part of the life of the Fellowship in the coming year, and how you might be changed in the process. I'm thinking often of Al Gore's words: Must we change? Yes. Can we change? Yes. Will we change? That is our question.



See you Sunday! -Jill

# Governance & Shared Ministry

## Update on House Sale by Carl English-Young

There is one more hurdle to jump before we can complete the sale of the house next door to the Fellowship. On Sept. 6, the City Planning Commission will hold a hearing on the application by the Corvallis Zen Center (CZC) to change the use of the house from residential to religious assembly. The city planning staff have reviewed the application for completeness, and now the commission will see if the CZC's plans are acceptable.

The house sale team (Kyle Jansson, Jean Gilbert, and Carl English-Young) have been working with the CZC to get all the details agreed to so we can complete the sale efficiently. In addition to selling the house, we will sell a small piece of land to the west of the house so that the CZC can fulfill their vision for a gathering place (a zendo).

The city has determined that our lot is part of the overall "development unit." This means that the sidewalk on Circle in front of our building and the house will have to be moved to allow a 12-foot landscaping strip next to the street. If we don't do it now, this improvement will be triggered by our Building Enhancement Project. So we're doing it a bit sooner.

The financial arrangement for the house sale calls for a down payment of almost \$30,000 and monthly payments of \$1,400 for 23 years. This will pay off the solar collectors on the house, too. In the past, the rent we received from the house was approximately \$1,400 per month minus up to \$600 per month in expenses.

**Leadership Suppers in the New Church Year**  
The Committee on Ministry will once again sponsor three working suppers, inviting all Fellowship leaders of teams, circles, events, tasks and councils. **The food is always good, and, the chance to get together is even better. Communicating and coordinating our work makes real shared ministry possible. Please put these dates on your calendar:**

- Thursday, Sept. 28 – 6 pm
  - Monday, January 29 – 6 PM
  - Thursday, May 10 – 6 PM
- Coordinating Council Meetings in the New Church Year**  
**All leaders of councils -- Justice, RE, Finance, Admin, Worship, and Connections, please put the following dates on your calendar:**
- Friday, Sept. 8 -4:30 (Happy hour)
  - Sunday, January 21, after the service
  - Monday, April 23, at 7 PM \*Please note the date change!

# Board of Trustees

We started this fiscal year without the board president or vice-president roles filled. Marcia Shaw and Craig Olbrich agreed to help run the Board and work on improving our leadership methods and practices to make those roles much less time-consuming and more easily managed by our part-time volunteer led organization. To that end we are trying some new structures this year to determine what works better. One of our goals is to provide more inclusive leadership, to be in close sync with the needs of our fellowship. We are still focused on supporting fellowship activities and performing our 'fiduciary' duties. The addition of more (very skilled) professional staff over the last few years makes this a good time to consider the board processes as they help make the daily running of the fellowship quite smooth.



## "The World We Have"

Rev. Jill McAllister & Elizabeth Sollie

As the new church year approaches, we take time to ground ourselves, and to breathe deeply, in this service of meditations, music, prayers and readings.

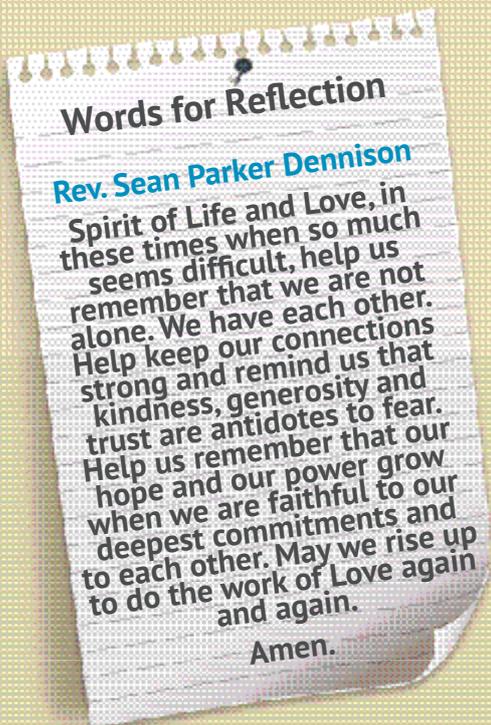
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10

## HOMECOMING SUNDAY

Rev. Jill McAllister & All

Two worship services, at 9:30 and 11 AM, begin today, our Homecoming Sunday. Both services will include the Joining of the Waters Ceremony. All are invited to bring a SMALL amount of water from a place important to you, to pour into the common bowl, as we remember that Water is Life. We'll also introduce and commission our RE Guides for this year.



### Words for Reflection

Rev. Sean Parker Dennison

Spirit of Life and Love, in these times when so much seems difficult, help us remember that we are not alone. We have each other. Help keep our connections strong and remind us that kindness, generosity and trust are antidotes to fear. Help us remember that our hope and our power grow when we are faithful to our deepest commitments and to each other. May we rise up to do the work of Love again and again.

Amen.

### Upcoming September Events

- 20 Beit Am will again be using Fellowship space during their High Holy Days of Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur (Sept 20-21; 29-30). During this time the Fellowship is largely closed to other activities.
- 24 Interfaith Health Care Network Forum: The future of health care in Oregon. 3 - 4:30 PM at First Congregational United Church of Christ, 5515 West Hills Road, Corvallis. Find out about: Medicare, Medicaid, private insurance; Who loses...who wins; How we can save our health care; Where to get more info; Hope for the future.

# Justice

## Preparing for Climate Change in the Pacific Northwest

Nov. 15-16 at the University Place Conference Center, Portland. The conference is sponsored by the International Transformational Resilience Coalition (ITRC), a network of over 250 mental health, resilience, climate, faith, disaster response, and other professionals working to prevent harmful psychological & psycho-social-spiritual reactions to climate impacts and use them as catalysts to increase both human and ecological wellbeing. Full rate: \$375; Early bird (ends Sept. 15) \$295. For more information, email [tr@trig-cli.org](mailto:tr@trig-cli.org).

Elizabeth Sollie is planning to attend. If we have a group of at least 5, the group rate and early bird savings will be \$225 per person. They think the conference will fill, so let's register soon! If you are interested please contact Elizabeth Sollie [intern@uucorvallis.org](mailto:intern@uucorvallis.org) by September 9th.

# Religious Exploration

## September Sundays for Children & Youth

**Sept. 3, 10 AM** - All ages participate together. Infant/Toddler Care provided. No RE Sessions.

**Sept. 10, 9:30 and 11 AM** - resume two worship services. All ages worship together. Infant/Toddler care provided. No RE

**Sept. 17 (and ongoing), 11:00 AM.** Regular Religious Exploration sessions for preschool through 12th grade. Infant/Toddler care (up to 3 years) provided during both 9:30 & 11 AM services. 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.

### Orientation Brunch & Welcome for All RE Guides and Advisors

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

### 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 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](mailto:molk@uucorvallis.org).

## Adult RE

The UUFC Adult Religious Exploration (RE) program aims to promote life-long intellectual and spiritual growth by:

\* providing diverse learning and exploration opportunities that strengthen community,

\* giving life and meaning to our UU Principles, and

\* supporting the engagement of members, friends, and visitors in their religious and spiritual journeys.

If you have ideas or proposals for programs, classes, or activities this fall that would help further our mission, please contact us no later than August 31. Are you interested in being part of the Adult RE Team to help develop and oversee these programs? We'd love to hear from you! For more information, contact Michael Molk, Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration -- ([molk@uucorvallis.org](mailto:molk@uucorvallis.org) or 541-752-5218). Information on our current Adult RE programs is available at the UUFC website: [http://uucorvallis.org/?page\\_id=223](http://uucorvallis.org/?page_id=223)



### "Gonna Keep on Moving Forward"

Rev. Jill McAllister

Last year we struck out boldly to be brave in hard times. This year we must keep going! What will we need to stay on this road, to embrace the whole journey? I think faithfulness will be very important. (And I don't mean believing in things that aren't true.) Special music from Portland-based pianists Ashlee Young and Stephanie Cooke.

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24

### "To Live A Committed Life"

Rev. Jill McAllister

The religious life, when fully lived, is much more than intellectual stimulation or contemplation. The religious life is a committed life, involving all our relations and all our actions. Spirituality is just part of it. Intention, action and reflection are required as well. Where are you on this path?

## Council

UU Voices for Justice - Statewide Annual Meeting at UUFC Saturday, October 14, 2017, 10 AM -4 PM

An invitation and a request...UUVfj is a state-wide advocacy network mobilizing Oregon UU's to work for public policies that embody our UU principles of justice, equity, compassion in human relations and global stewardship. Through education, advocacy and action UUVfj champions legislation consistent with UU values, and is one of Oregon UU Voices for fifteen statewide UU advocacy networks nationwide. Anyone interested in statewide justice work is invited to attend and to learn how we are leveraging our voices.

Can you provide home hospitality for someone traveling a long way? (Oct. 13 and/or 14th). If so, please contact: Elizabeth Sollie, [Intern@uucorvallis.org](mailto:Intern@uucorvallis.org).

## Partner Church

Excerpts from a Letter from Rev. Katalin Szász-Cserey, July 2017

*When I arrived home [from her Feb. 2017 visit to the U.S.], I kept a report about my trip, and I told the congregation in detail about my time with you all on the basis of the pictures. When the weather allowed it, we tore down the stone gate at the church and built a very beautiful one. I am sending pictures [will be on the bulletin board]. I received the \$100, thank you very much [the quarterly stipend we send to help with transportation expenses].*

*I am trying to make an e-mail account for a girl, Nikoletta, so she will be able to correspond with an American girl. I hope that the correspondence will start by autumn. If I counted well, we are going to have 8 students for scholarships. I will make them fill out the form and send them to you. [We send each student \$600 to help with high school room and board for the year. Pictures will be on the bulletin board.] We are going to have a big event in the village tomorrow. Every year on the third Saturday of July we keep Village Day. The event starts with worship tomorrow, and I am the one who is going to do it. Children have been on holiday for a month, but there are lots to do in the two congregations.*

## Social Concerns

During September, the Social Concerns Group will again 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](mailto:yamadas@science.oregonstate.edu)).



# Update on UUFC Building Expansion Project Aug 2017

**The Building Design Team has been clarifying our project scope and finalizing contract details with DiLoreto Architects.**

Our current tasks are to hire a land surveyor to do a survey of our property's boundaries, topography and utility locations and to contract with a geotechnical consultant for a geotech report on our site's subsurface soil conditions and weight bearing capacity. The architects need both of these reports before beginning their schematic design. We are also currently seeking estimates for a structural and seismic review of our existing facility. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any one of us.  
*Building Design Team* (Chris Bentley, Peter Sanford, Keith Martin, John Bailey, Carl English-Young, Kelley Kendall)

# 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, September 24, to participate in or to host an activity in October!

In August, our Connect Up opportunities included a potluck, hiking, playing croquet, the book club, a musical jam session, a show at the Majestic Theatre, and playing board games. What are your interests? Questions: contact Wendy Sutton [connect@uucorvallis.org](mailto:connect@uucorvallis.org). For current events, visit Connect Up on the UUFC website: [http://uucorvallis.org/?page\\_id=3776](http://uucorvallis.org/?page_id=3776)

### Ordination Video

If you would like to watch the video recording of Leslie Chartier's ordination, please contact Diana Vezmar-Bailey ([dianavb@inbox.com](mailto:dianavb@inbox.com); 541-740-9006).

### CONNECTION CIRCLES on FAITHFULNESS

Join a Connection Circle Series at noon, on Wednesdays, September 13, 20, and 27, focusing on our church year theme, Faithfulness. Related topics include commitment, trust, perseverance, and doubt, to name a few. How do we stick to a brave new path, once chosen? RSVP to Elona Meyer at [elonameyer@msn.com](mailto:elonameyer@msn.com).

### Share Garden Produce! ↘

### Do you have extra vegetables 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.



## 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!

# 04



## 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](http://uucorvallis.org/?page_id=2660)) or by contacting Lloyd Wagenschutz (541-753-9071 or [lpwz124@comcast.net](mailto:lpwz124@comcast.net)).

# 20

## From the Intern: Elizabeth Sollie

It's good to be back at UUFC after my summer hiatus. I did a lot of hiking, camping and thinking this summer. Under a juniper tree (no Bodhi trees were handy) I had the revelation that I should work hard, but stop being busy. I suspect a lot of you can relate to that. I am not sure how that is done, but maybe we can figure it out together this year. Quite a few weeks into my journey, I finally slowed down enough to let peace in. If you haven't done that for a while, maybe you can carve out some silence this fall. A lot of exciting things happened at UUFC this summer. We are poised for a meaningful and fulfilling church year.

## UUFC TO HELP MAKE WINTER SHELTER POSSIBLE THIS YEAR!

Last week, the Board of Trustees approved a proposal for the Fellowship to become the fiscal agent for the Men's Emergency Winter Shelter for the coming winter season. The details of our involvement are still being worked out, and the board was very diligent in their attention to the details of liability and risk this work might pose to the Fellowship. Members of our Homelessness and Access to Housing Task Force will be helping to staff the shelter with volunteers. Your participation will be welcome. Contact Jill McA or Roz Keeney.

## Contact Us

JAMIE PETTS  
Operations Manager  
[office@uucorvallis.org](mailto:office@uucorvallis.org)

MICHAEL MOLK  
Director of Religious Exploration  
[molk@uucorvallis.org](mailto:molk@uucorvallis.org)

RACHEL KOHLER  
Religious Exploration Associate  
[reassociate@uucorvallis.org](mailto:reassociate@uucorvallis.org)

REV. JILL MCALLISTER  
Minister  
[minister@uucorvallis.org](mailto:minister@uucorvallis.org)

DR. DAVID SERVIAS Music Director  
[music@uucorvallis.org](mailto:music@uucorvallis.org)

LAUREN SERVIAS  
Pianist

JEAN GILBERT  
Business Manager  
[businessmgr@uucorvallis.org](mailto:businessmgr@uucorvallis.org)

ELIZABETH SOLLIE  
Intern Minister  
[intern@uucorvallis.org](mailto:intern@uucorvallis.org)

Any other enquiries **541-752-5218**

**4** Have you got an interesting story to tell that we can include in the next newsletter? Email us! [office@uucorvallis.org](mailto:office@uucorvallis.org)

**Fall Office Hours begin Sept. 5. Mondays 10 AM - 2 PM. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 9 AM - 2 PM.**