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UUFC NEWSLETTER } SEPTEMBER 2018

“Building on our learnings about courage and faithfulness, we’ll focus on practices to build more skills and insights.”

Between Us.

Here comes September, the birth month of several people I love, the time when summer turns to autumn, the beginning of a new church year. Here comes September, and I am taking stock. Did I appreciate the beauty of summer? Did I read as much as I hoped? How did I cope with the days of fire and smoke? Will I greet Autumn with open arms, or be surprised to realize the season has changed? Here comes September, when we gather together again and set our goals for a new church year. I’m always excited for September Sundays, which bring a sense of glad returning, of possibility, and of appreciation for the being a community.

Our theme this year will be “Deepening.” Building on our learnings about courage and faithfulness, we’ll focus on practices to build more skills and insights. We can deepen our connections and commitments, deepen our understanding

and insights, deepen our devotion and discipline, and much more. The context for this work is the world we live in, where old ways and old assumptions no longer work. I hope you’ll open yourself to many chances to learn and grow.

A note about the work of the Fellowship with the Men’s Cold Weather shelter: If you read in the Gazette Times about the Fellowship agreeing to operate the shelter at the former location (the Hanson Tire Factory building) and were surprised, you were not alone. Under mounting pressure and threats of legal action, the owner of the 2nd street building finally felt he needed to give up the 2nd street plan. When presented with the possibility of a new owner for the Hanson building and the invitation to locate the shelter there, I replied that the UUFC Board stood by its April decision to once again be the fiscal agent for the shelter. As you can

imagine, the conversations are ongoing and there remain many complications.

Meanwhile, with several others from the faith community, I’ll facilitate a Community Capacity Building workshop focused on issues raised in these community discussions about homelessness and shelter, on Friday evening Sept. 7 and Saturday, Sept. 8. The workshop is open for any and all who are interested in trying to develop solutions to some of the challenges. More information can be found at this link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/shelter-for-all-safety-for-all-tickets-49222830812>.

Here comes September, and we begin again, “starting with ourselves as we are, to share the strength of integrity and the heritage of the spirit in the unending quest for wisdom and love.”

See you Sunday --- Jill

Governance

Board News & Updates

The Men's Homeless Cold-Weather Shelter plan has changed again.

A developer in town is purchasing the Hanson Tire Factory building from its current owner and intends for that to be a permanent site for the homeless shelter. The board is still planning for the UUFC to operate as the fiscal agent for the shelter, much like we did last year. The board is continuing to evaluate our risk in this endeavor and is looking into appropriate action to protect UUFC assets as necessary. This last change is seen as significantly less risk than the other approaches.

Perhaps you have seen the new paint in the Sanctuary?

A big thanks to Wolfgang Dengler for cat-herding (I mean project-managing) and to all the volunteers who made that happen! You will also note that we installed a new system for hanging art in the Sanctuary - no more tiny holes in the wall. Thanks to Niya Standish for leading that effort.

Moving forward with engineering design and estimates for the seismic upgrades to the rest of the buildings.

At this point, we are planning to do those upgrades in August of 2019 when Magic Flute Preschool is not in session. We are also building a list of needed repairs and required upgrades to the fellowship buildings. We will communicate more about those topics as we make progress on estimates and funding capability.

Congregational meeting on October 28 to vote on the new bylaws.

Please join in! You'll receive more information about that soon, including communication about the most recent updates. The first town hall of the year is scheduled on Oct. 7 after the Sunday services for a final discussion of the proposed changes to the by-laws.

Worship Services

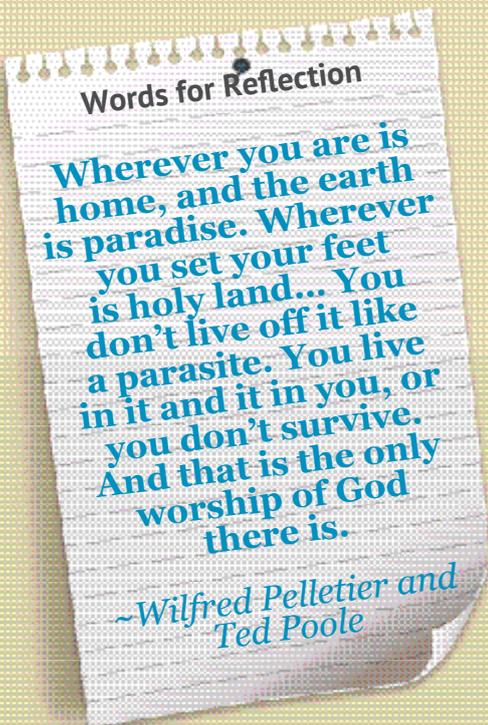


NO WORSHIP SERVICE

Enjoy a long weekend with a free Sunday. Then join with UUFC friends at the Annual Tuna Roast Picnic at Avery Park on Monday, Sept. 3, beginning at 3:00 (gathering) with food served around 5:30.

Homecoming Sunday Rev. Jill McAllister and All

Two services, at 9:30 and 11:00 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.



Sept. Events at the UUFC

- 3 Annual Tuna Roast at Avery Park, 3-8 PM, with food served at 5:30 PM.
- 9 Two Worship Services Resume, at 9:30 and 11 AM
Beit Am uses UUFC for the High Holy Days Sept 9-10 and 17-19.
- 12 Choir Rehearsals resume - all are welcome! 7 PM in the Sanctuary
- 14 New World Kirtan, 7 PM in the Sanctuary
- 26 Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Taskforce Meeting, 7:00 PM in the Library

COORDINATING COUNCIL MEETINGS IN THE NEW CHURCH YEAR

All leaders of councils -- Justice, RE, Finance, Admin, Worship, and Connections, please put the following meeting dates on your calendar:

Monday, September 17 at 7 PM

Wednesday, Nov. 28 at 7 PM

Friday, March 1 at 5:30 PM for happy hour

Tuesday, May 28 at 7 PM

Other Fellowship News

TOWN HALLS 2018-19

Continuing last year's success with Town Hall meetings, please put these dates on your calendar. Town Halls are an opportunity for us to come together and talk and learn about important topics.

~Sunday, Oct 7, after services

Topic: ByLaws Review

(and mark Sunday, October 28 to attend a Congregational Meeting to vote on the new Bylaws).

~Thursday, Nov 8, at 7 PM

Topic: Gender awareness

~Topics TBD: Wednesday, Jan 16, at 7 PM,

Thursday, Feb. 2, at 7 PM, Monday, March

18, at 7 PM, Sunday, April 28, after services.

UUFC Fall Office Hours

Starting after Labor Day, the UUFC office hours will be:

~Monday & Wednesday,

10 AM - 2 PM

~Tuesday & Thursday,

8:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Emergency Aid Fund

The UUFC Emergency Aid Fund is available to Fellowship members in need, once per year, for up to \$500, depending available funds.

The fund is maintained purely by contributions from members and friends. Contributions are always welcome, and much appreciated.

Checks can be made out to the UUFC, with Emergency Aid Fund in the memo line.

SLOWLY, PLEASE, IN THE PARKING LOT

Magic Flute pre-school, operating in our classroom wing on weekdays beginning again in September, asks for greater awareness of safety as parents pick up their children. Please drive SLOWLY into the Firwood Parking lot -- children and parents are crossing there.

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

RE Guides and Advisors will be introduced and commissioned during the Sunday services on September 9, and RE sessions for children and youth will begin September 16. Watch for the first edition of the RE Newsletter, coming out later this week, which will contain all key dates and information for the year ahead!

Adult RE Team Members Sought

Help set the agenda for adult religious exploration at UUFC. The Adult Religious Exploration Team is looking for new members and new ideas. Contact Michael Molk, Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration for more information (molk@uucorvallis.org).



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"Deepening"

Rev. Jill McAllister

Love, courage, compassion, perseverance, justice, peace, and all of our other noble ideals do not come easily. All of them require practice, and dedication. This year, our theme will be "deepening", a consideration of what it takes to truly stay focused on these aims. If the question is "How Shall We Live Now?", the answer will certainly include an understanding of deepening.

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"We Are Here To Learn"

Rev. Jill McAllister

In our religious lives, what does learning look like? This well-known chalice lighting might be the answer: "Mindful of truth ever exceeding our knowledge, and community ever exceeding our practice, reverently we covenant together, beginning with ourselves as we are, to share the strength of integrity, and the heritage of the spirit, in the unending quest for wisdom and love."

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 Thursday dates on your calendar, at 6 PM.

September 13

January 24

April 4

Men's Retreat

Save the date: Fri – Sun, October 19 – 21, Menucha Conference Center in Corbett, OR.

We will explore the idea of visiting the deeper layers: open-hearted encounters with ourselves in a beautiful setting overlooking the Columbia Gorge. The theme this year is "Visiting the Deeper Layers: Open-hearted encounters with ourselves. Reverend Mark Gallagher, formerly minister at the UU Fellowship in Vancouver, Washington and visiting minister at our UUFC, will help us to probe beneath the surface layers. We will also 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 (e-mail lpwz124@comcast.net) or other members of the planning committee (Jed Irvine, Alan Kirk, and Steve Strauss).

Social Concerns

Fundraising to benefit School Children

To be successful in school, students need the basics, such as school supplies, winter clothing, money for transportation, fees for sports, soap, shampoo and laundry detergent. Not all parents can provide these, nor do all children have permanent homes. That is why we are raising funds for Vina Moses in June and July, and for the McKinney Homeless Education Program in August and September. During the summers our fellowship typically raises between \$1,200 and \$1,500 for each charity, thus allowing each charity to help well over 30 children. You can help by donating money during Sunday services, and by donating, or purchasing, refreshments during the social hour.

Building Design Team (BDT)

This has not been a lazy summer!

Our architects and Building Design Team are adding more details and information to our land use application; to be followed by another review by the City of Corvallis. Then they will schedule our public hearing before the Planning Commission.

New flooring will be installed in the newly-painted sanctuary in the week following the rummage sale. Before the red chairs are placed on the new flooring they will all receive soft leg tips to protect the floor and assure that it has a long life.

No seismic repairs on our building will commence this year. Next August is the time slated for these upgrades, which turned out to be more extensive (and expensive) than we envisioned.

September may see the start of sidewalk construction along Circle Blvd., which was a condition of approval for the Corvallis Zen Center's land use change from residential to religious assembly. The new sidewalk will be built 12 feet from the curb, the city's required standard. Street trees will be planted within the curbside landscape strip.

Connections Council

CONNECT UP...

...helps us gather in a variety of interest-based small groups to better get to know one another. SIGN UP on Sunday, September 30, to participate in or to host an activity in October! August activities included Badminton and Ice Cream, Crafts and Connections, a discussion about Senior Cohousing, and 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

FCST Listening Companions

Over the summer the Fellowship Care and Support team trained a new group of Listening Companions. Every time I participate in this training, I continue to be impressed by how deep listening helps me transform raw experience into a meaningful narrative. I would like everyone in the Fellowship to share this experience. Please take a chance and have a Listening Companion sit down with you and listen deeply while you share something that is occurring in your life. Contact David Maxfield, pastoralcare@uucorvallis.org.

FCST Transition Support

We have volunteers willing to help with meals, errands, dog walking, yardwork, etc., when an unexpected transition make your life challenging for a short period of time. Maybe you know ahead that a transition is coming or maybe an accident makes it an immediate need. Surgery, births, adoptions, hospitalization or death of a family member can all thrust us into a transition during which we deserve the support of our Fellowship.

Worship Services



"DACA: Living in the USA?"
Priscila Narcio and Juan Navarro

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The UUFC Immigration and Refugee Support Team hosts OSU students Priscila Narcio and Juan Navarro, both DACA students, for an overview and update on what it means to be part of DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) now, living with uncertainty and fear.

First 2018-19 UUFC Art Exhibition

The new church year begins with the annual UU ritual "Pooling of the Waters" as we reconnect after the summer. The art gracing our newly updated sanctuary for the service will be an exhibit by UUFC artists around the theme of "Water". The art represented is as diverse as our community. Photography, paintings, drawings, textiles, realistic, expressionistic, abstract – it's all represented. This will also be the first show hung on our new display system. No more holes in the walls for each exhibit! We patched hundreds and hundreds before the recent paint job. The exhibit is being hung Tuesday September 4 at 9:30 AM. We are in need of help to hang the show as many of the ongoing "hangers" are on vacation. If you have an artistic eye it is helpful but being comfortable on a ladder is most important. As a group we decide where to place each piece and then get to work hanging. Because this is our first time using the new nailless system it will be new for all of us. It usually only takes a couple hours. We would love to have helpers join our team. Contact: Niya Standish niya-beth@gmail.com / 541 754-6328 to sign up or for more information.

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