



02 WELCOME
Governance &
Shared Ministry
Upcoming Services
Words for
Reflection
Partner Church

03 RE & Volunteer
Needs
Picture Directory
Social Concerns

04 Holiday Fair
Building
Enhancement
Project

UUFC NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER
2018

“Keep coming. Keep helping. Keep asking for help. Keep building. Keep planting.”

Between Us.

“Wenn ich wüsste, dass morgen die Welt unterginge, würde ich heute noch ein Apfelbäumchen pflanzen.” “If I knew that tomorrow the world would end (go under), today I would still plant a small apple tree.”

These words, attributed to the 15th century theologian Martin Luther, are my touchstone for November. The national news of the past few months brings heartache after heartache. In the words of poet Adrienne Rich “...so much has been destroyed.” But love still calls me, every single day, and I will continue to plant, and to build, and to love.

Much is new at the Fellowship this year. To begin with, there are newcomers every week. Welcome, welcome, to all who are finding your way here! Please ask for help as you need it, to learn about the Fellowship and to meet others. I hope that this congregation will be a blessing to you, as it has been for so many of us. Our first orientation to membership, the UU Path class, takes place

Nov. 3rd and 4th. All are welcome to attend, including “oldcomers” who’ve not had a chance to participate before.

The by-laws of the Fellowship are new! What a big accomplishment. Thanks to everyone who participated in town halls and discussions of the various drafts, and who brought up both concerns and ideas for by-laws that would fit our values and our mission. The world is a very different place than it was when the Fellowship was founded, and these new bylaws will serve us more effectively.

The look of Religious Exploration is new this year. Never before has the classroom wing housed an Auxiliary Campus of Hogwarts! The “Harry Potter and UU” curriculum is full of creativity for all ages. I’m especially grateful for the justice projects which are integrated into the curriculum. Already this year children, youth and adults have worked together to collect books local children and 1000 pounds of food for local foodbanks.

The Board of Directors is half new, and is continuing to experiment with new ways of communicating, making decisions, and providing leadership for Fellowship projects and priorities. Our council structure is not completely new, but we’re still learning our way into it, step by step.

What’s not new is that we gather every Sunday to share our lives, to encourage and help each other, to find wisdom and inspiration, to keep going in this crazy, still beautiful world. Our mission is still: “Explore. Love. Act. We gather as an inclusive religious community to search for meaning, build deep connections and inspire action toward a better world for all.” The new, the old, the ongoing, the changing; all are parts of this journey we share. Keep coming. Keep helping. Keep asking for help. Keep building. Keep planting.

See you Sunday --- Jill

Worship Services

In November Sunday services, we'll consider deepening in several areas, including gender awareness and transgender identity; healing brokenness; gratitude for this living earth; and dying and death - for ourselves, others, and the Fellowship community. Each of these Sunday services will be a small introduction to other opportunities to deepen understanding of these subjects, through classes, discussions and events.

Sunday Service Worship Leaders

- Nov. 4 Rev. Jill McAllister
- Nov. 11 Rev. Jill McAllister
- Nov. 18 Rev. Leslie Chartier
- Nov. 25 Rev. Jill McAllister

Grief Tending Ceremony

7:00-8:30 PM, **Thursday, November 29**, in the sanctuary.

In this evening service, we will turn our attention to healing the sorrows we carry for self, community and the world after a challenging year. We will use the tools of singing/toning, readings, sharing and ritual to coax our stories of loss and suffering into the visible world so that they can be transformed. Facilitated by Susan Sanford and Anna Coffman.

Fellowship Finances

Thank you to all who support the Fellowship financially, especially those who made a pledge for this year, 2018-19. Pledge payments are ahead of target for the first quarter of the year, with 32% paid. We still need new pledges to reach our budgeted goal. If you are new to the Fellowship, or have not made your pledge for this year, please talk to Business Manager Jean Gilbert to find out how you can do so. Also, much, much gratitude for all who made a pledge to the capital campaign for our building enhancement project. Payment of those pledges, now in year 2 of 3 years, is at 49% of total pledges. New pledges are always welcome.

A Legacy of Generosity

The Fellowship recently received a bequest of \$80,000 from the Jane M. Loomis Trust. Jane and her husband David were longtime members who lived very simply. After their deaths in 2007, the Loomis estate gave \$2.8 million to be shared equally among their alma maters - Iowa State University (David) and Vassar (Jane), and six local nonprofits - UUFC, Corvallis Public Library, Greenbelt Land Trust, Benton County Historical Society, Majestic Theater and OSU Folk Club Thrift Shop. A decade later we are again the beneficiaries of their generosity. The Loomis Trust owned two parcels of land near Bend that were recently sold and the money from the sale is being divided among the same organizations. We have been told to expect second distribution of approximately \$55,000 later this year. 10% of the total gift will go to the UUFC Justice and Outreach Fund. Our Board of Directors will soon be considering how best to use the rest.



Town Hall Meeting on Gender Awareness

What does the UUFC need to learn about the challenges and perspectives of trans people as the US government tries to deny their existence? Please join in on Thursday, November 8 at 7:00 PM in the Social Hall for a discussion of trans gender awareness and inclusivity. Rachel Houtman will facilitate the meeting.

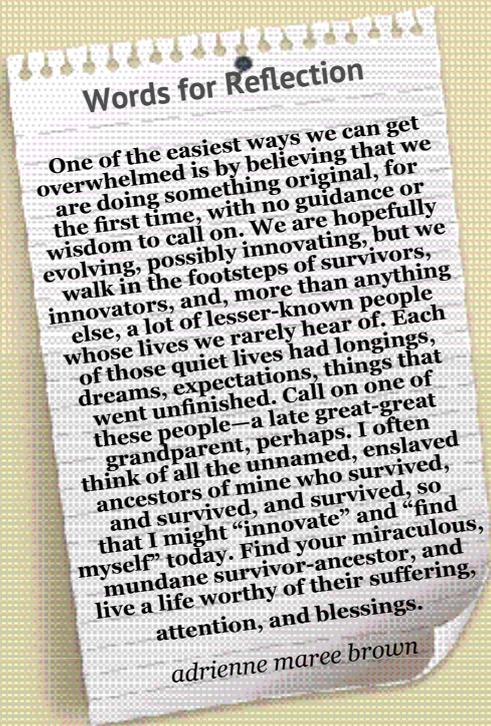
08



Veteran's Day Service of Silence

Join us for a Service of Silence in honor of Veterans. in on Monday, November 12 at 11:00 AM in the Sanctuary.

12



Words for Reflection

One of the easiest ways we can get overwhelmed is by believing that we are doing something original, for the first time, with no guidance or wisdom to call on. We are hopefully evolving, possibly innovating, but we walk in the footsteps of survivors, innovators, and, more than anything else, a lot of lesser-known people whose lives we rarely hear of. Each of those quiet lives had longings, dreams, expectations, things that went unfinished. Call on one of these people—a late great-great grandparent, perhaps. I often think of all the unnamed, enslaved ancestors of mine who survived, and survived, and survived, so that I might “innovate” and “find myself” today. Find your miraculous, mundane survivor-ancestor, and live a life worthy of their suffering, attention, and blessings.

adrienne maree brown

Nov. Events at the UUFC

- 3-4 UU Path Class, Sat 9-12 and Sun 12:30 - 1:30
- 8 Town Hall on Gender, 7 PM, Social Hall
- 9 New World Kirtan Band, 7 PM, SFH
- 12 Veteran's Day Service of Silence, 11 AM, Sanctuary
- 12 UUFC Board Meeting, 7 PM Room 7
- 25 Young Adult Pizza Hour, 12:45 PM in Room 7
- 26 Living With Depression - Yours or Someone Else's, 7 PM, Room 10
- 28 Coordinating Council Meeting, 7 PM, Social Hall

LETTER FROM OUR PARTNER CHURCH MINISTER, REV. KATALIN SZASZ-CSEREY

Approximately 6 students are wanting to go to high school. During the summer, many things happened here in our congregation, including public/volunteer works to create flower beds in the courtyard of the church. We're renovating the bathroom, living room and kitchen in the pastor's flat. We've already finished the exterior in the Spring. There was a wonderful week long ecumenical summer camp and 60 children attended it at the Calvinist Church.

[Note: Rev. Kati also sent pictures of the church confirmation of some of the teenagers—here's one. Notice the beautiful traditional clothing they wear during special ceremonies.



Religious Exploration

7th/8th Grade RE: Coming Of Age (COA) Orientations for Parents, & Youth

Sunday, December 2:

11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. - FOR YOUTH, in room 8

1:00 to 2:30 p.m. - FOR PARENTS, in room 7

Coming Of Age (COA) is a series of activities for 7th/8th grade youth, to help them make friends, learn about themselves, clarify their beliefs, learn about Unitarian Universalism, and develop an appreciation for being of service. COA includes overnights, a wilderness retreat, a ropes challenge course, social service, meeting with a council of elders, and more. COA will occur between January and early June of 2019. These orientations are an opportunity for youth and parents to learn more about the COA program and express their interest in participating. For more information, or to request childcare, contact RE Director Michael Molk at molk@uucorvallis.org.

Like working with teens? We need a couple more energetic adults to join our COA team this winter and spring. COA is a program we offer every other year for middle school youth. COA involves one overnight at the Fellowship each month, from January through May of 2019, and a couple of weekend field trips, to the Cascade Mountains, Portland, and Opal Creek. We have some wonderful adults already on the team, and some wonderful youth who want to do COA! We provide the lesson plans, orientation and support, you'd provide the caring, enthusiastic presence! For more information and to volunteer, contact Michael Molk.

Religious Exploration Council needs Volunteers

Are you interested in our Fellowship's Religious Exploration programs, but don't have time to commit to volunteering on a regular basis? If so, consider joining our Religious Exploration Council (REC). The REC meets 2 or 3 times a year, to review and evaluate our RE programs, make recommendations to staff about priorities, and review and propose the RE program budget. For more information and to volunteer, contact RE Director Michael Molk at molk@uucorvallis.org.



22

UUFC Fest Event Thanksgiving Potluck

Thursday, November 22

10:00 AM all-ages soccer game

4:30 PM Social Hour

5:30 PM Potluck Dinner. UUFC provides turkey, gravy, mashed potatoes, tofu turkey with vegan mushroom gravy, and beverages. You bring a side dish and donation of \$5/person suggested donation, but no one turned away for lack of funds. We need volunteers! Contact Rich Brainerd (541) 740-2961 richmondbrainerd@comcast.net

Instant Church Directory

We will soon be printing a photo directory for those who would like one, but we need you to submit your photo, first!

You can do that here: https://www.instantchurchdirectory.com/submit_photo.aspx?id=e61a78a0-c507-4f9e-b765-b9752b191057

Also, if you want your photo taken by someone from the UUFC Photography Team, let the office know (office@uucorvallis.org).

If you haven't signed on to Instant Church Directory yet, go to: instantchurchdirectory.com and use the email address the Fellowship has on file for you to sign up and create your own password.

Social Concerns:

The South Corvallis Food Bank NEEDS your continued support! As a 501©3 organization, the South Corvallis Food Bank relies on donations and volunteers to be able to supply food to families in need every month. So far in 2018, we have served an average of 326 households a month representing over 1,090 individuals, 40% of whom are children. For more information visit our website: <http://www.southcorvallisfoodbank.org>

Who comes to the food bank? Some are homeless; some have had a financial downturn like needing to repair a car so they can get to work spending their food budget, some come when they lose a job or have a medical emergency and need help with food but may be able to get back on their feet in a few months. Others come most months and will never be able to make it without assistance.

Men's Shelter

Members of the UUFC Task Force on Homelessness and Access to Housing are once again taking lead roles for the coming season at the Corvallis Cold Weather Men's Shelter, which opens on Nov. 1. The Fellowship will provide volunteers for the first 10 days of the shelter season, Nov. 1-10.

We still need a coordinator for our Fellowship team of shelter volunteers. Might you be able and willing to fill that role? And, help is still needed to recruit other organizations to fill volunteer slots. More information is available from Dawn Jones and Roz Keeney.

The Fellowship is once again the Fiscal Agent for the shelter, which means we handle the finances and hire the staff, and this year we have signed a rental lease for space to operate the shelter. Soon we hope to be part of a community process to create a new coalition or collaborative entity to take on the task of shelter operator.

CONNECT UP.....helps us gather in a variety of interest-based small groups to better get to know one another. For questions, contact Wendy Sutton at connect@uucorvallis.org. For current events, visit Connect Up on the UUFC website: http://uucorvallis.org/?page_id=3776.

South Corvallis Food Bank

Some of the things we do: provide lots of fresh produce to our families through the generosity of groups who grow it for us, provide donated plant starts to those with a small garden, give away donated children's clothing and books, deliver food to homebound people, have bilingual volunteers to communicate with our latino families, and much more. We always have a surplus area, including produce, where clients can come weekly and take as much as they can use. This has meant a huge increase in how much healthy food we are getting to those in need.

Many of our volunteers are UUFC members. Please see our website for all the ways that volunteers are needed and how you might be able to help. Last year the UUFC Social Concerns Committee raised over \$1,900 for the food bank through the action lunch and Sunday collection baskets; that about covers our food purchases for one month. In addition, many UUFC members donated generously during their year-end giving: over \$6,000. Thank you!!

Holiday Fair

The annual Holiday Fair will be on Saturday, December 15 from 9 AM - 3 PM at the Fellowship. Join us for local handcrafted art, greenery, gifts, silent auction, recycled gifts, delicious food, and more! We will need volunteers to help set up, greet, be cashiers, bake, clean up, and more! Let Jerrie Jones know if you can help: jerrieleejones@gmail.com.

Place recycled gift donations in the box outside the Fellowship office. For silent auction donations, contact Bonnie Morihara: moriharb@wou.edu.

Help With Sunday refreshments

We are so fortunate that Elaine Kahn volunteers to make and bring most of the snacks the rest of us look forward to during the Sunday Coffee hour. However, a team of one is not a team! Can you join in, and help bring, set up, serve and clean up snacks one or two Sundays a month? Let Jamie Petts know.

Thanks!

Art Exhibitions

The current art exhibit is by Corvallis artist Marilyn Singh. In her detailed, free-hand water colors, she tries to capture the light, movement and living essence of a scene, rather than an exact photographic image.

Marilyn grew up in Salem, OR, and spent her early adult life in Nepal, India, London and Hong Kong, until returning with her husband and children to live in Albany in her mid-thirties. As a child, she was surrounded by art supplies, brothers and sisters, and encouraging parents, and she has continued to paint throughout her

adult life. Since her retirement as a long time shoe buyer for Footwise, she has been happily spending her leisure time painting, practicing Tai Chi, reading, writing and singing in the Corvallis Community Choir.

Upcoming UUFC Art Exhibits: Now is the time to start thinking about and planning for the next two UUFC exhibits. New this coming year will be a combined Visual and Literary exhibit titled, "What I Love About Corvallis". This exhibit is open to all styles of writing and all visual medium that can be hung on walls. The second exhibit will be a nonjuried exhibit open to the entire UU community-professional artist and hobbyist, young and old, all are encouraged to share in this community event. The more the better! One entry per person. Start getting the creative juices flowing. Stay tuned for more info. Niya Standish, niyabeth@gmail.com

Other Services



09

New World Kirtan Band

7:00 PM in the Sanctuary

The weekly kirtan meditation and chanting, with a live kirtan band. If you've been wanting to try kirtan, come join us.

Building Enhancement Project Update

What are those "straw sausages" along Circle Boulevard? By now you've probably noticed them, and perhaps you've learned that they are sediment control devices, intended to prevent rainfall-carried sediment from entering the Corvallis storm sewer system. It's a sign that the existing sidewalk may soon be removed and a new one poured 12 feet from the curb, with a landscape strip in between. Street trees will be planted within the curbside landscape strip, with irrigation to ensure their health. A row of pavers along the curb will make it easier for people parking along Circle to access their vehicles. The new sidewalk and landscaping is a requirement of the City for both the Corvallis Zen Center's building project, and our own.

Our architects are getting closer to completing the application re-submittal to the City, and when it's complete a public hearing will be scheduled before the Planning Commission. We'll make sure everyone knows the hearing date. Meanwhile, a task group is working on measures to adjust the sound quality in the sanctuary. Sound characteristics have changed, especially for amplified sound, as a result of the new floor.

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