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UUFC NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER
2018

“...working with differences to strengthen commonalities...requires dedication, skill and practice.”

Between Us.

My approach to ministry is not and never has been primarily political. I am not a good pundit, nor do I feel compelled to have an opinion on every current event. For me, congregational life is something very different than discussing politics. And yet, as I said last year, in our current political climate, in which nearly every religious value I hold is threatened and at stake, speaking from a political perspective seems inevitable. I want to affirm that at it's best our liberal religious tradition facilitates freedom of belief and the acceptance of a diversity of ideas and opinions. Our political perspectives can and will differ, but these differences ideally serve to hone and clarify our shared values. That kind of interaction -- working with differences to

strengthen commonalities-- requires dedication, skill and practice. It is that practice which is at the heart of a liberal religious community like ours.

My approach to ministry in these times is to focus on, and help others focus on, skills and abilities which enable us to feel threatened but remain courageous; to feel the pull of despair and hopelessness yet face our fears and remain engaged; to feel anger and rage and channel those emotions into building new ways of acting and relating -- all toward a greater good and common good. In this way, my priority is on what I call the religious life and the spiritual life, both defined broadly.

Opportunities for this work abound, in our commitments to address climate change, support immigrants and refugees, alleviate homelessness and access to housing, dismantle white supremacy culture, improve our gender awareness and competence, create universal access to health and health care, decrease violence and oppression, and much more. These are all areas of political action, but even more important for us, these are all areas for religious learning /growth and spiritual maturing.

We live in extremely complicated times. Everything we do is related to everything else. Our religious lives matter, more than ever. Thank-you for being part of this congregation.

See you Sunday --- Jill

Sunday Worship Services

In Sunday services in October, our consideration of deepening will focus on community. What do we mean when we say that we are a community, and what do we want from this community? Are there unspoken expectations for belonging? Can we deepen the ties and shared understandings that make us a community? Is community an idea, or is it a reality that requires practice? Are we able, or willing, to practice community?

We'll experiment with deepening in another way, too. Instead of focusing on sermon titles, which I will refrain from writing, you're invited to come, as often as you can, to participate in worship as one of the most important ways of practicing community at the Fellowship. In each worship service, we'll generally follow our common pattern: The Gathering of the Community: Coming from Gratitude; Affirming our Connections: Honoring the Pain of the World; Searching for Wisdom and Inspiration: Seeing with New Eyes; and Returning to the World: Going Forth.

Come with an intention to invest yourself in these movements of worship, and to learn to feel the movements. There may also be services in which the format changes slightly, and the movements vary. These services can also open up new ways of seeing and feeling.

Sunday Service Worship Leaders

- Oct. 7 Rev. Jill McAllister
- Oct. 14 A group of UUFC members
- Oct. 20 Rev. Jill McAllister
- Oct. 28 Rev. Jill McAllister

Creating Healing Time and Space

The events related to the Supreme Court nomination over the past several weeks have opened up countless wounds, fears, and trauma around sexual and gender-based harassment and violence, overwhelmingly perpetrated against women and girls (both cis and trans-gender.) With the aim of deepening our capacity to provide healing with and for each other, women and girls in need of support are invited to gather together on Thursday evening, Oct. 4, at 7 PM in the Sanctuary.

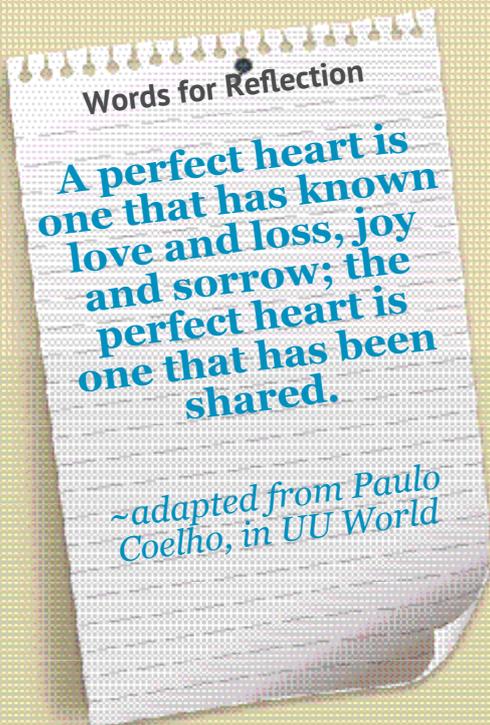
Sexual and gender-based violence also affect boys and men. A similar gathering will be offered for boys and men (both cis and transgender) on Thursday evening, Oct. 18, at 7 PM in the Sanctuary.



Congregational Meeting

Please join in on October 28 to vote on the new bylaws. The most recent updates have been posted online, with the changes highlighted on the final page. You can read them, by clicking [here](#). The first town hall of the year is scheduled for Oct. 7 after the Sunday services in Room 7. This will be for a final discussion of the proposed changes to the bylaws.

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Oct. Events at the UUFC

- 4 Creating Healing Time and Space, for girls/women, 7 PM, in the Sanctuary.
- 7 Town Hall on the new Bylaws, at 1 PM in Room 7.
- 8 Board Meeting, 7 PM, Rm 7.
- 11 Trebbe Johnson Book Talk and dinner, 5 PM in the Social Hall
- Mark Harmon Climate Talk, 7 PM in the Sanctuary
- 12 New World Kirtan, 7 PM in the Sanctuary
- 13 Men's Monthly Gathering, 9:30 AM in Room 7
- 28 Congregational Vote on the New Bylaws at both services.

CLIMATE JUSTICE TEAM OFFERS BOOK DISCUSSION OPPORTUNITY

Radical Joy for Hard Times: Finding Meaning and Making Beauty in Earth's Broken Places: Book reading and discussion with UU Author Trebbe Johnson on Thursday, October 11, 5pm, in the Social Hall/Kitchen.

In her new book, award-winning author Trebbe Johnson shows how creating art, ritual, and even joy in wounded places—from clearcuts and fracked farmlands to sites of extreme weather and urban sprawl—is essential to our collective healing. How do we think about places that are polluted, scarred, broken? How do we live with—and thrive in—these places, as they are, even as we work for a better future? Trebbe will read from her new book, and lead a discussion of how we feel about and cope with losses to the places we love. A pizza and finger food dinner will occur after Trebbe's program, and encourage you to stay for the evening talk by Mark Harmon.

For more information, contact Anna Coffman (anna.cupoftea@gmail.com, 978-760-0910)

Volunteer Needs

All are invited. All are needed.

The Fellowship is a big, busy, creative, productive community, among other things! The values at the core of our shared commitments, and shared religious lives, inspire us to work in many areas within the Fellowship and in wider communities. It's no surprise that there are lots and lots of opportunities to do this "work" and that each and every one of us is needed.

Here are a few of the needs and opportunities at the Fellowship this Fall. Please consider how you might be involved in any of them, and talk with Craig Olbrich, Jill McAllister, or Jamie Petts if you are interested.

Facilitators needed: Religious Exploration Council and Congregational Connections Council. These councils are the organizing umbrellas for two major areas of Fellowship life. The facilitator(s) plan and schedule council meetings, help the council set and work toward yearly goals, and coordinate with other councils. These are basically administrative roles, easy, and very important! Training is available.

Revenue Team: Traditionally, church finance teams spend most of their time on conserving resources. We hope to develop our capacities to grow our financial base as well! Do you have experience or interest in financial development? This will be a new team, with lots of creative possibilities.

Culture of Appreciation: We have so much to be thankful for at the Fellowship, including the many contributions of members and friends. Join us to be on a team to help make our appreciation more visible.



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Interfaith Potluck Dinner

Sunday, October 21, 2018, 5:30 – 7:30 PM at First Presbyterian Church (114 SW 8th Street, Corvallis, OR 97333). Vegetarian potluck to accommodate dietary preferences. Bring labels to indicate gluten or dairy-free if possible. First Pres. will provide tableware and drinks. If it's easy, bring your own plate/cup/silverware. Let us create and strengthen friendships among our faith communities.

Instant Church Directory

We will 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:

Community Outreach needs to replace a badly leaking roof before the rains start in earnest.

They are the October recipient of funds from our Sunday coffees and lunch as sponsored by the Social Concerns Team. They have received some grants which only partially cover the costs so they are seeking help from the community. You can help them by donating money during Sunday services, purchasing lunch (October 14) or refreshments during the social hour.

On Sunday October 14, Ben Danley, COI's Development Director will be with us during the luncheon to talk briefly about COI and answer your questions.

Since 1971 COI has successfully provided the community with many critical services for underserved populations. Some of them are:

Men's Shelter

Members of the UUFC Task Force on Homelessness and Access to Housing are gearing up for the coming season at the Corvallis Cold Weather Men's Shelter. The Fellowship will provide volunteers for the first 10 days of the shelter season, Nov. 1-10. Task Force members will be in the foyer on Sundays in October to help you sign up to be part of our volunteer team. (Last year nearly 60 of us took part -- let's do that again!)

In addition, we'll 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 in the roles of food and inventory coordinators for the shelter season. More information is available at the sign-up tables in the foyer this month.

For more info: Dawn Jones and Roz Keeney

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.

Community Outreach

--Behavioral Health Treatment programs on an outpatient basis for low income and homeless men and women

--Approximately 20 medical and dental clinics in Corvallis and Lebanon including women's health care.

--A state-certified, nature based, childcare center for children who come from families with a histories of domestic violence, drug and alcohol abuse and/or homelessness.

-- Day services include showers, kitchen, food pantries, phone, mail and message service, information and referrals, document storage and medical clinics for the uninsured.

--The Sunflower Shelter which uses a comprehensive approach that combines affordable housing with intensive, in-home case management, support services, counseling, education and skills training and referrals.

You can learn more about COI at their website: <http://www.communityoutreachinc.org>

WHEN TO CALL YOUR MINISTER

When you have questions about religion or spirituality; when you need a listening ear; when you need some help making an important decision; when you are afraid, or facing illness, dying, loss, change; when you just need someone to talk to; when you are trying out a new path or a new road; when you are not sure what you need, but you want to talk anyway.

Please call on me. Better yet, send an e-mail because that's the form of communication I see every day (minister@uucorvallis.org). My office hours are variable. I'm in the office some days, but I'm also out in the community, with you, doing the work of ministry. I am more than happy to make an appointment. You only need to ask. We can walk, talk, sit, share tea or coffee – whatever is comfortable for you. I'll do my best to get back to you as soon as I can when I'm not immediately available. Our Fellowship Care and Support team is always available too.



New World Kirtan Band

7:00 PM in the Sanctuary

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Adult Religious Exploration

Deepening Understanding: Dying & Death

Two things we know for certain that we have in common with all other people are the experiences of dying and death. Human cultures inevitably include not only beliefs about dying and death, but rituals and practices. In our so-called modern Western culture, most of our beliefs and practices around dying and death have been strongly influenced by scientific and

technological approaches. Yet, the facing of dying and death remains a deeply emotional experience for most of us, in ways that science and technology often do not support.

How can we deepen our ways of living with dying and death, and support the needs of others in this process? Several UUFC Adult RE programs will take up this theme in coming months: an adaptation of Death Cafés, an exploration of meaningful rituals we can share, and further discussions of what we want at the end of our lives, among other topics. Watch the weekly announcements for more information. If you'd like to help facilitate some of this work, contact Rev. Leslie Chartier mudslingingpyro@gmail.com.

Other Services

Building Enhancement Project Update

Sidewalk construction along Circle Blvd, which was a condition of the Corvallis Zen Circle's land use change as well as a requirement for approval of our building expansion plans, will begin soon. 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, 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.

Work continues on the revising our land use application to the City of Corvallis, in response to City requirement. Following another review, a public hearing before the Planning Commission will be scheduled, and the date will be well-publicized. Seismic upgrades on the building are in the planning stages, with engineering and construction estimates coming in. The congregation has decided this work should be done, and soon we'll have a price tag for the project.

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