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UUFC NEWSLETTER

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"More and more, I understand the 'search for truth' to be the description of a journey toward healing."

Between Us.

One of the very common ways that we describe our religious movement is as "a search for truth." At the foundation of our liberal tradition, the search for truth usually means choosing to question or abandon doctrines or ideas that no longer make sense to us. Almost every one who comes to the Fellowship has experienced this process at some stage of their lives.

More and more, I understand the "search for truth" to be the description of a journey toward healing. Letting go of or changing beliefs and practices is not the final aim of our religious lives – indeed it is often only a first small step. The aims of our ideals are far deeper. Like most people who choose a religious path, we aim to live according to the highest values and ideals we can imagine – honesty, compassion, justice, peace, wisdom and joy. We aim toward right relations, or ethical living. We aim in this direction because most of the time we are not there – we rarely arrive at right

relations or ethical living as a final destination. Somehow, there is always farther to go – we could be kinder, or wiser, or more compassionate, or we could draw the circle of our relations wider, etc.

I see now that the journey toward right relations is also a journey toward healing, because we always exist in the midst of brokenness. In our relations to others, to the world, or to ourselves we carry too much grief or anger, and we are not fully just, or peaceful, or honest. We are always in need of healing for our brokenness, if healing means restoring communication, accepting what is painful, finding willingness to change and grow, and restoring balance or harmony. If healing means all of these things, which it does to me, then healing means learning to live with the truths we find.

What good is the search for truth if we can't recognize, or accept and live with,

the truths we find? Healing is the process of taking in truth, of integrating truth into our lives, of establishing harmonies based on truth. For example, for an individual faced with a life-threatening illness, healing means coming to terms with facts of loss, disability or death. Healing may not mean being cured – but it might mean finding peace and joy and wisdom even in the face of those facts.

February is a very good month to move deeper into a search for truth as a journey toward healing. Recognizing and participating in Black History Month can be a prompt for this work. There is so much truth to learn, and so much brokenness to heal, within us and around us. I hope you'll stay on the journey.

See you Sunday --- Jill

P.S. Remember that I'm available if you need me: minister@uucorvallis.org.

Worship: February Sundays

February is Black History Month.

How can we participate in ways that deepen our commitment to grow in wisdom and compassion, and to help heal the world? There are many truths to learn about the history of black people and other people of color in our country. We'll share some of these truths, through stories, on Sunday mornings. UUFC member Kari Gottfried, (the first new member to sign as an 18-yr old, according to our new by-laws) will give a sermon this month, to share some of what she is learning as an active youth leader in the national UU youth community. And at the end of the month, retired local physician Dr. David Grube will talk with us about The Conversation Project.

Sunday Service Worship Leaders

- Feb. 3 Rev. Jill McAllister
- Feb. 10 Rev. Jill McAllister
- Feb. 17 Kari Gottfried
- Feb. 24 Rev. Jill McAllister with Dr. David Grube

From the UUFC Board of Directors

The board has been focused on business-as-usual. We fielded a request from the Immigrant and Refugee support team regarding the proposal to become a sanctuary fellowship. We recommend that everyone view the information and be prepared for a fellowship vote on the topic in May. We are looking forward to the upcoming cottage meetings where that will be one of the topics of discussion.

You'll see information soon about our upcoming Stewardship drive. Last year the on-line pledging options were very helpful. This year we'll continue that process, along with cottage meetings and some face-to-face visits. Feel free to contact Craig Olbrich or Uta Hussong-Christian if you have questions or ideas.

We welcomed the new sound system into the sanctuary, as the old one was on its last legs. Thanks to everyone who helped us find the right fit for our space. Thanks also to the "Dance Planet" folks who donated their January funds to purchase the subwoofer for the sound system.

The sidewalk improvement is nearing its end, we hope. The construction was delayed some as the contractor had to deal with a newly-discovered underground stream. That's taken care of now and the construction will finish fairly soon. Look for a more complete update on the overall construction project status in the next few weeks.



Dance Planet

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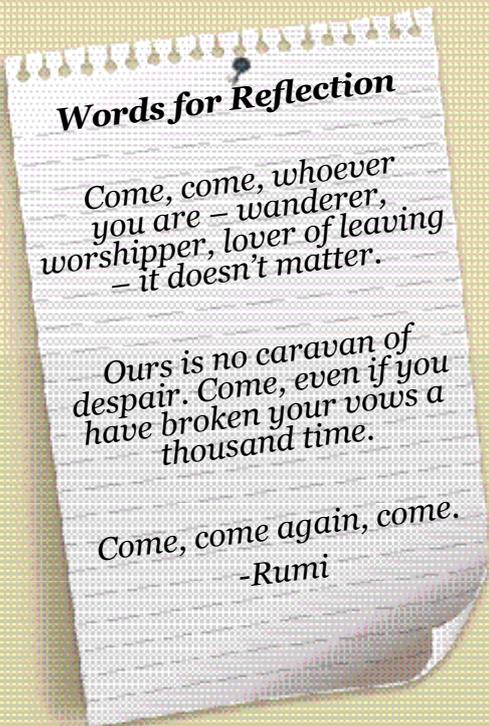
Join us from 7:30-9 PM. Dance your own way, to a joyous blend of music and rhythms from around the globe and across the decades! Join your energy with a beautiful community of dancers, movers, and shakers. No prior dance experience necessary. This is now an on-going Fellowship event on the 2nd Saturday of each month. \$5-10 suggested donation going to environmental causes.



UU PATH CLASS

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In this quarterly class, we discuss history and principles of our liberal faith, and we will get an understanding of our Fellowship's programs. Brunch will be served during this class. Sign up at the welcome desk beforehand.



Feb. Events at the UUFC

- 2 UU History & Identity, 9 AM, Room 7
- 3 Action Lunch, 12 PM, SH/K
- 9 ~Men's Monthly Gathering, 9:30 AM, Room 7
~Dance Planet! 7:30 PM
- 10 Post Sermon Discussion, 12:30 PM, GAL
- 11 ~UUFC Board Meeting, 7 PM, Room 7
~Living With Depression, 7 PM, Room 10
- 14 Dances of Universal Peace 7 PM, SFH
- 21 Town Hall, 7 PM, SH
Topic: "Religious Exploration: What is Needed Now?" Read the full description here ----->
- 22 Madrigal Dinner, 6 PM, SH/K/SFH
- 27 First Steps Class, 9:30 AM, LIB

ADULT RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION (RE)

Spiritual Practices Toolkit continues Sundays from 1 to 3 p.m. in room 6, with:
~February 3rd-Qigong with Dean Johnson (wear comfortable clothes)
~February 10th-Kirtan with Kitzi Stern
~February 17th-Meditation with Mary Leigh Burke

Post-Sermon Discussions
Every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month from 12:30-1:30 pm in the Gallery at the Fellowship, through April. See Shikha Ghosh Gottfried for more information.

Town Hall: Thursday, Feb. 21, 7 PM, SH
Topic: "Religious Exploration: What is Needed Now?"
The world is constantly changing - we know that. Our Religious Exploration programs for children and youth aim to teach the value of right relations, skills for ethical living, and awareness of and reverence for the world and life. How do we best meet these aims in the current political, social and environmental contexts?

"A Legacy of Generosity" Update and Note of Gratitude

The [November 2018 UUFC Newsletter](#) contained a short piece, titled "A Legacy of Generosity," highlighting the two-part very generous bequest to the Fellowship from the late Jane and David Loomis (via the Jane M. Loomis Trust), former members of the Fellowship. The first part of the bequest, in the amount of \$445,000, was distributed between 2007-2008 to a variety of funds and projects including the Flexible Endowment Fund; the Reserve Fund; the Charitable and Educational Endowment for Social Justice; the loan on the house next door (which the Fellowship owned at that time); the RE Wing project; and Operation needs. The second part of the bequest was completely settled in December 2018 in the amount of \$144,984. Since the second part of the bequest was not designated for a specific purpose, the bequest was split into the Charitable and Educational Endowment for Social Justice (10%), the Reserve Fund (40%), and the Flexible Endowment Fund (50%) per the policy on Undesignated Financial Bequests and Gifts.

This bequest will support (and has supported) the work of the Fellowship in a variety of ways, including projects funded via the Charitable and Educational Endowment for Social Justice. More recently, the Board of Directors approved in December 2018 that a small portion of the bequest going to the Reserve Fund be used to enhance the Fellowship's sound system. These improvements allow the Sanctuary to be a more welcoming and inclusive place for our whole community and also allow for a wider range of events to be offered at the Fellowship. The recent Dance Planet event in mid-January was one such event! **Continued -->**

On behalf of the UUFC's members, the Board of Directors expresses its deep gratitude to Jane and David Loomis for their generous gifts to the Fellowship and to the broader Corvallis community.

If you wish to "meet" Jane and David Loomis, stop by to see their picture on the RE Hallway wall.

If you are interested in learning more about making bequests to the Fellowship, please contact the Business Manager, Jean Gilbert (businessmgr@uucorvallis.org).



Madrigal Dinner

Saturday, Feb. 22, 6 PM

The Fellowship will be transformed into Camelot for the UUFC Madrigal Dinner Fundraiser. Plan to attend!

Volunteers are still needed. Contact Rachel Kohler: reassociation@uucorvallis.org.

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Grief Tending Ceremony

Thursday, Feb. 28 at 7 PM
in the Sanctuary. See full description on page 4.

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Check Your Annual Contribution Report

The regular contributions of members are critical for the ongoing operation of the fellowship. In early February, you should be receiving your annual statement for 2018 contributions. Please review this statement and make sure that your contributions are being deducted appropriately.

If you would like to make any changes to your contribution, or if you are not currently a pledging member and would like to contribute to the financial health of the fellowship, please contact business manager Jean Gilbert.

Thanks - Herky Gottfried, UUFC Treasurer

Social Concerns: WE CARE

In February, we will raise funds and awareness for WE CARE, a Benton County coalition of religious organizations, additionally supported by businesses and private donors. Its mission is to provide one-time financial assistance to people who are experiencing an emergency. Our fellowship was one of the founding members of this organization 33 years ago. By preventing a utility shut-off, avoiding an eviction, or helping cover the cost of getting into safe housing, WE CARE helps these households remain financially viable. All requests are verified through the Community Services Consortium case worker. This system discourages duplication, waste and fraud, and encourages long-term solutions. It helps to ensure that contributed funds are used for the most urgent needs. More than 98% of funds contributed go directly to those in need. Lyn Martin, a member of the We Care Board of Directors, will be our speaker. Please support this by coming to the action lunch on February 3 and contributing to our bake sales and Sunday collections during February.

Connect Up

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, February 24th, to participate in or to host an activity in March!

In January, our Connect Up opportunities included a movie & discussion, a sing-along and potluck, a crafts connection gathering, book club, and sharing travels (Overseas Adventure Travel).

What are your interests? Questions: contact Wendy Sutton connect@uucorvallis.org.

For current events, visit **3** Connect Up on the UUFC website: http://uucorvallis.org/?page_id=3776.

Grief Tending Ceremony

New Climate Justice Books in Library

Members of the Climate Justice Task Force have contributed a number of recent books to our Library, including:

Angus: *Facing the Anthropocene*

Brecher: *Against Doom: A Climate insurgency Manual*

Klein: *This Changes Everything*

Kolbert: *The 6th Extinction*

Macy & Johnstone: *Active Hope*

Moore: *Great Tide Rising: Towards Clarity and Moral Courage in a Time of Planetary Change*

McKibben: *Eaarth [sic]: Making a Life on a Tough New Planet*

McKibbon, Ed.: *The Global Warming Reader*

Parenti: *Topic of Chaos*

Pearce: *With Speed and Violence*

Wise: *Awake on Earth: Fighting Climate Change with Sanity and Grace*

Thanks! Christine Robins, Librarian

Join us for a Grief Tending Ceremony 7:00-8:30ish PM, Thursday, February 28, in the Sanctuary.

We have moved through the darkest time of winter, and the days are getting longer. Once again, we turn our attention to healing the sorrows we carry for self, community and the world. Tending to our grief is an ongoing process – we all carry sorrows, small or large, that can build up when we ignore them for too long. And very often, finding access to the feelings connected to our grief helps us also connect to joy and aliveness.

We will combine singing, poetry, sharing and ritual to invite our stories of loss and suffering into the visible world so that they can be transformed in community. Come with your own sorrows, but also come to support others - this ceremony is an expression of the love that lives in our community, of the caring that we have for each other.

If the grief you carry is very fresh, and you are not sure about coming to this ceremony, please contact one of us, and we can help you discern what is right for you at this time. Childcare will be available if you contact us by Wednesday, February 27.

For more information, contact Anna Coffman (anna.cupoftea@gmail.com) or Susan Sanford (susanwulfe@gmail.com).



New World Kirtan Band

7:00 PM in the Sanctuary

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Other Events

Wednesday Drop-In

Coffee Hour

Every Wednesday, 11:30 - 12:30 in the Library. Join Jill and staff for this informal time to visit. Bring your lunch if you like.

Partner Church: December Letter from Rev. Katalin Szasz-Cserey of Korispatak

There's a wonderful snowy winter here and the kids are very happy about it. I don't like it that much because the roads are slippery. However, white Christmas is the most magical. We are in great preparation for the Christmas season. I have made the Christmas packages for the kids. This year, 40 children will receive a Christmas package. On Monday, Dec 24th there will be a Christmas service in the church and then we will hand over the parcels. Many children will receive only this gift for Christmas, so thank you very much for your generous donation. We had our Elder Celebration on November 11th. I prepared 25 food packages, and they were gifted to the Elderly on that day. The elderly people were very grateful for the rich packages. Thank you very much for your support. On November 10, we went to the Castle of Deva with the Confirming Youth. The pilgrimage was a great experience for all of us. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year for everyone!

[Note from Partner Church Team: The UUFC has sent funds for Christmas packages for the children ever since the beginning of the partnership. Rev. Kati prepares individual packages with school supplies and other necessities, fruit, candy, and a personal gift for each child. We have sent funds for the elderly for about five years since Rev. Kati started that program. These packages contain winter staples: flour, potatoes, sugar, fruit, etc. and a personal gift. Kati has visited the home of all her congregants and knows what they need.]

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