

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis

UUFC
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Weekly Announcements

Sunday, Mar 29 – Saturday, Apr 4

Sunday Worship and all other events at the Fellowship remain CANCELLED. We're offering a video-recorded service, sent out each week on UU-Announce.

“To Bless the Space Between Us”

Revs. Jill McAllister and Israel Buffardi

The late John O'Donohue's book by this title could not have foreseen how needed it would be right now. Israel and Jill will consider how we are responding to our fears and uncertainty by cultivating beauty and courage to bless the space between us.

A Time for All Ages story and craft will also be sent out on Sunday, and another one mid-week.

Where We Are This Week

Dear all – We are just beginning to settle in. This is no longer novel, and it's beginning to feel scarier, at least to me.

Some folks may have imagined a few days – perhaps that was all they could imagine – and now they're ready to get up and go. But just now it's the time to stay, stay put, stay calm, and lean into it. We all need practice for this, and practice takes motivation. The biggest motivator must be love and compassion, for everyone, and for the fabric of community life – here and everywhere else. This is truly a challenge in this country where we have become experts as taking care of mostly ourselves. We are being challenged to live into new ways of thinking.

Like others, I worry about “the economy.” I'm not an economist, but I know that there is no such thing as the economy which isn't the sum total of the relations between all people in the whole world, and even more between all people and the whole living earth. Yes, this is a disruption. The worst kind of disruption. It comes at the cost of too many lives. May we imagine that perhaps it will eventually provide opportunities to change and improve the relations which make up the economy -- opportunities for more equity and justice, and the sustaining of life.

I'm worrying about the small economy which is the Fellowship. Things will change for us as they have during other times of hardship. We will adjust as needed, maintaining our priorities to supporting our staff and taking care of our facilities. The leaders of the stewardship and finance teams have agreed that we will do our annual pledge drive as planned, in April. We know that finances have changed, and will change, for some of us. But we will go ahead, to see where we are and how the support of the Fellowship can be maintained.

Our focus this year has been on ethical living. Stewardship of our congregational life is an ethical obligation, a responsibility of being a member of the Fellowship which comes more clearly into focus in hard times. If there

Weekly Sunday Offering Resumes

Starting this week, we'll gather an offering for a local need, of which there are plenty. This week, at the request of our Food and Housing for All team, support will be given for the building of micro-shelters (safe sleeping pods) for homeless people – possibly for the most vulnerable, who have medical conditions. Several of these shelters are already built (by volunteers); each one costs about \$3K for materials. The SafePlaces organization hopes to raise \$15K by early April. Your contributions are welcomed. You can mail a check to the Fellowship, or stay tuned to the UUFC website for a new “Donate” button connected to our Vanco account.

Next week, we'll send support to the Corvallis School district for their project of maintaining weekly food support for families who depend on school breakfasts, lunches and weekend supplies

was ever a time to reconsider our obligations, and re-commit ourselves to the covenant which makes us a congregation, this is one of those times.

Thank you for the hard work you are doing, and for staying dedicated to the values we share. The world needs us, and we need each other. I'm sending my love to each of you. *Jill*

Fellowship Connections

Help is available: The ministers, members of the Fellowship Care and Support Team, and several counselors and psychologists are available to talk if you need us. Food and grocery delivery is available. Technical support for making phone and computer connections is available. Contact Jill or Israel, even if you're not sure what you need and you just want to talk. minister@uucorvallis.org, assistantminister@uucorvallis.org.

Wednesday, April 1 at 11:30 am: "Virtual Coffee Hour, with Sharing of Sorrows and Joys" Join in by Zoom, for greeting and centering together, with sharing of struggles and silver linings. The zoom link will be sent via UUAnnounce. We've made some technical adjustments which will hopefully make it easy for everyone to join in, the first time!

Staying Connected: Look for the Daily Practice e-mail, sent out each weekday morning. Join Israel on UUFC Facebook live for the noon-time meditation / blessings, on weekdays. Join the Wednesday virtual coffee hour, 11:30 am. Share the mid-week Time for All ages story and craft. Keep all those chalice circles, book groups, friend groups, craft groups, going.

The Great Fellowship Phone-a-Thon: This week we'll undertake a big project. We aim to make a phone call to **everyone** in the Fellowship. (Not that it is easy to define who "everyone" includes – the lists change all the time). That's probably between 400 and 500 people. There has never been a better time to call to check in, just to find out how everyone is faring during these challenging days. At least 40 people are needed, to each make at least 10 calls over a week. The Connections Council has provided a script. 30 callers have already volunteered! (Thank you!) If you'd like to be a caller, please let Jill McA know: minister@uucorvallis.org

UUFC Emergency Aid Fund: Thanks to all who have made donations to this fund recently! The Emergency Aid Fund allows us to give financial aid, up to \$500 per family, especially now for those who might experience loss of income due to shutdowns. Requests should be addressed to Jill McA, minister@uucorvallis.org. And, for all those who want to contribute to this fund to help provide aid during this time (thank you!) checks can be made to UUFC with Emergency Aid Fund on the memo line.

Keep washing your hands: Another song to try, to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star": Twinkle, twinkle little star, Look how clean my two hands are. With soap and water, wash and scrub. Get those germs off, rub-a-dub-dub. Twinkle, twinkle little star, Look how clean my two hands are. (Repeat)

Things you might find helpful on the UUFC website:

~Did you know that instructions for getting logged in to InstantChurchDirectory.com can be found on the website, under the "Contact" tab?

~You can also sign up for UU-Announce and UU-Discuss by clicking on the "Email List" tab.

~We've also recently created a tab called "Zoom Instructions." If you still haven't joined us for a Virtual Coffee Hour, we invite you to consider doing so using Zoom!

~And maybe you'd like to watch old sermons to pass the time? Click on "Worship" to find links to all sermons since January.

Updates on coronavirus and the Fellowship: Our highest priority continues to be finding as many ways as possible to stay connected and help each other. Up-to-date information is posted on the UUFC website, and on UUAnnounce. Thanks to all who keep sharing information with us as we work to stay aware of developments.

Opportunities to Help

The Benton County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is coordinating donations and volunteers in the community during the pandemic: They need you to use this new web portal to help them get their arms around the community's available resources. There's a lot of goodwill and positive energy out there. Let's get it pointed in the right direction: <https://bentoncounty.recovers.org/>

Wider UU Connections

The UU United Nations Office offers its annual Intergenerational Spring Seminar: *All In for Climate Justice: People, Power, Planet*, Fri, Apr 17 - Sat, Apr 18, will take place virtually rather than in-person due to the current threat posed by COVID-19. **Registration for all attendees (age 14+) is open!** Attendance is free, and we request a donation of \$20 per attendee so we can pay our presenters. The Planning Committee is currently working on schedule details and programming, which will be updated online as frequently as possible. Go to unitednations@uua.org to register, and for more information.

Perspectives on the Pandemic

The United States now has more cases than any other country, even with continued testing limitations. Now, more than ever, it is important for us to understand the severity of this crisis, and the need for everyone to do the best they can at helping decrease the spread of the virus, and some of the justice issues involved. It's also very important to allow yourself to grieve. Here are several good sources of information:

The Oregon Health Authority has a comprehensive webpage outlining our local situation and efforts. You can sign up for a daily email from the by visiting this page: <https://govstatus.egov.com/OR-OHA-COVID-19>

On Grief and Grieving: https://hbr.org/2020/03/that-discomfort-youre-feeling-is-grief?fbclid=IwAR1zhsBjItAlh74nuj0jeoLli37jIuE9_sU8CdOY8n2Almc4SGXJ2w

Stewardship: Caring for a Community in Hard Times

Stewardship has always meant the careful and loving sustaining of a system – whether a household, a village, an eco-system or any other community of relatedness. Stewardship is at the foundation of the Fellowship as a religious congregation. Together, we care for and maintain this community and its resources to carry out our mission in the present, and to sustain the ability to carry out our mission in the future. What does this mean in the present circumstances, as the entire world faces the disruptions of a pandemic?

Our care and support for each other, which has long been at the heart of congregational life, is paramount now. Circumstances are changing for everyone. Our fundamental question remains “How do we live in right relations”, even in these days. And what does it mean to take care of our resources now? Staff and employees, buildings and grounds, renters and suppliers? These are new questions for us, and we are working to find new ways. We will learn more as we undertake our annual pledge drive in April.

Fellowship members and friends have sustained the Fellowship over decades. The support of all has been essential, and it remains essential. For all who have helped sustain us, and who continue that support, may you know how important you are, and how much appreciated you are. Now, together, we will learn what it means to maintain stewardship of our community through hard times. Thank-you, all!

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