

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis

UUFC
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Weekly Announcements

Sunday, Apr 12 – Saturday, Apr 18

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.

This week: "Old Stories, New Life"

Revs. Jill McAllister McAllister and Israel Buffardi

The stories of Passover and Easter are human stories which continue to speak after thousands of years. Many of the elements are shockingly familiar today, including the messages of new life, always possible.

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

Weekly Sunday Offerings

With our offering this week we'll support local food banks in Benton and Linn counties. Across the country food banks are being inundated with requests from people who have never needed them before, but really need them now. Your contributions are very much appreciated.

Thanks for your support last week of the Corvallis School District's food program for families. We sent nearly \$700 to aid this program, which will now need to continue through the end of the school year. Donations of non-perishable foods are still welcome, Mon – Thurs, 9 AM – noon, at the school district office.

*To make a donation to the weekly offering, go the [UUFC web page](#) and click on the "SUNDAY DONATIONS" button.

Opportunities to Help

Food for delivery: We're supporting several families by delivering meals. If you'd like to be part of the meal train, please contact Wendy Sutton, wendycsutton@gmail.com.

Masks are still needed – join the sewing brigade: Get more information at CorvallisSewingBrigade.org

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/>

Fellowship Connections

Stewardship: The UUFC Annual Pledge Drive Has Begun. If you haven't received an email from the Fellowship address stewardship@uucorvallis.org with pledge materials and links to complete your pledge online, then please check your spam folder or "promotions" tab in g-mail, or contact Business Manager, Jean Gilbert, businessmgr@uucorvallis.org. Finance council members and others are also available to talk you through online pledging as needed. **Please pledge online as soon as you are able, so we can begin to prepare our budget and next steps for this upcoming year.** All of us are needed!

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 15 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 out via UU-Announce.

Many Ways to Stay Connected to Fellowship Life:

~Look for the **Daily Practice** e-mail from Jill, sent out each weekday morning. Also, during the month of April, we are sharing a daily poem in honor of National Poetry Month. These poems are posted on the Fellowship website. Click on the new "**Poetry Month**" tab on the front page of the Fellowship, or continue to click on "**Get Involved**" to access the poems.

~Join Israel Buffardi **weekdays** on UUFC Facebook live for the noon-time meditation / blessings.

~Join the **Wednesday** virtual coffee hour, 11:30 AM.

~Share the **mid-week and Sunday** Time for All ages stories and crafts.

~**Tuesdays**, 4-5:30 PM. "Turning toward Our Hearts", A time of music, poetry, and sharing with each other what is in our hearts. Led by Susan Sanford, Anna Coffman and Cliff Pereira on Zoom. Click on the link below to join.

<https://zoom.us/j/173333179?pwd=TGJWUDhVa3ZlZTBiYTZBbWhZME1hQT09>

~**Wednesdays**, Evening Mindfulness Practice is live on Zoom from 7:00PM – 7:30PM in April. You may join on your computer or by phone call. Join about 5 minutes before to make sure your system is connected. Watch UU-Announce for the Zoom link. If you are new to Zoom email Patti ahead of time and she may be able to help you. Patricia White: minerva5cl@gmail.com.

Congratulations! To Alice Lyman and Lee Holt on their 47th wedding anniversary. To Mary Vance and Bud Ames on recent birthdays.

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. 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 noted.

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 UU-Announce. Thanks to all who keep sharing information with us as we work to stay aware of developments.

Perspectives on the Pandemic

The CDC continues to emphasize that everyone should wear a mask when going out into public places, as masks can slow the spread of coronavirus from people who are carriers without symptoms. There are cautious observations that due to the successes of shelter-in-place, and social distancing, the curve of the spread of the virus is "flattening" in many places. Below, more on how areas of outbreak in the United States are highlighting disparities in access to health care due to economic and racial inequities.

From Lisa Friedman of the New York Times 'Climate Forward' series: Two important pieces of coronavirus research came out yesterday. One showed that African Americans are getting infected and dying from Covid-19 at disproportionately high rates. The other found that counties with higher levels of pollution are seeing greater numbers of coronavirus deaths than cleaner ones. The data in both reports is preliminary. But environmental experts said that together, the statistics pointed to a troubling story of vulnerability in communities of color.

This article is not to be missed: The Ideas That Won't Survive the Coronavirus
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/10/opinion/coronavirus-america.html?referringSource=articleShare>

Here in Corvallis, the city has taken first steps in approving the use of micro-shelters for housing of homeless people. Several churches have filed applications to host micro-shelters on their property. A coalition of faith-based groups and non-profit organizations are also urging the city to re-open public restrooms, with latest news from the CDC that personal protective equipment is not required for cleaning restrooms.

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>

Where We Are This Week..... a note from Jill

Where are we this week? There is an answer to that question that never changes. We are in the present moment – the only place we can be. Thank you Mark Weiss for sharing this poem from William Stafford: today it seems like the best answer to any question.

You Reading This, Be Ready

Starting here, what do you want to remember?
How sunlight creeps along a shining floor?
What scent of old wood hovers, what softened
sound from outside fill the air?

Will you ever bring a better gift for the world
than the breathing respect that you carry
wherever you go right now? Are you waiting
for time to show you some better thoughts?

When you turn around, starting here, lift this
new glimpse that you found; carry into evening
all that you want from this day. This interval you spent
reading or hearing this, keep it for life -
What can anyone give you greater than now,
starting here, right in this room, when you turn around?

William Stafford

Stewardship: Caring for a Community in Hard Times

Our annual stewardship pledge drive has begun, amid the global pandemic. This is new for all of us! The pledge drive is our request for financial support from all members and friends, so that we can plan a budget for the next year of Fellowship life. E-mails have been sent, including a link to online pledging, which is easy and quick. **We hope to have all pledges in within two weeks!**

Can you do your part?

Some might say – “How can we ask for money at this time?” Others will say – “How can we not?” The Fellowship is affected like we all are, and the leadership needs to be able to understand what resources we can count on, and where we will have to make changes. No one is ever asked to do more than they can do. Everyone is always asked to do what they can. **Everyone** is asked to participate in the pledge drive, whatever your contribution may be.

Now, as perhaps never before, we begin to see what is truly of value in our lives. This is part of dedicating ourselves to Sacred Stewardship, for the Earth, for our community and for the Fellowship. Perhaps this is one of our most important thresholds now – to move from simply being “part of” the Fellowship, enjoying it when and as we want to, to considering it part of a life of Sacred Stewardship, a life that we are each an important part of, a commitment we each make. Please, join in, and make your online pledge.

Contact Us

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Office Hours: Currently Closed

Phone and e-mail are checked regularly.