

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis

UUFC
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www.uucorvallis.org
541-752-5218



Weekly Announcements

Sunday, Apr 19 – Saturday, Apr 25

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: "No Going Back"

Revs. Jill McAllister & Israel Buffardi,
with Charlie Miller and Susan Christie

When the Israelites first found themselves in the desert, they thought of returning to the lives they had known, but soon realized there was no going back. There was only the new life ahead. This is now our story – there is no going back to what we thought was normal. There are only new ways of living ahead, for the sake of the Earth, and all that lives. That's the message of this 50th anniversary Earth Day.

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

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.

Take action with #UUtheVote: Write your Representatives and Senators to safeguard free and fair elections in the stimulus bill, including expanded vote by mail. <https://www.uua.org/justice/vote2020/congregational-organizing/tell-congress-prepare-elections-covid-19-crisis>

Join the #NoBodyIsDisposable campaign (<https://nobodyisdisposable.org/>), organizing to ensure people with disabilities, fat people, the elderly, people with HIV/AIDS and other illnesses are not targeted by discriminatory triage policies during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Corvallis School District Family Support Project Update: (Chris Hawkins, coordinator)

"This week we delivered over 120 bags of food and supplies to families. Most included gift cards to help with purchases on perishable items and non food items. We are also granting financial support for many families from our Foundation donations. We are paying for internet service, cell phones, rent and utilities. We receive requests daily for financial support. This week it seemed the climate around our families has turned from great fear of the virus to great fear of the financial burden this is having on their lives and questioning how they are going to keep their families fed and housed. Our team of advocates are working hard to ease their fears with constant support emotionally and with providing the food and financial help. We hear story after story of gratitude! With that I share that gratitude to all of you. This community is truly banding together to support our families and again I thank you!

Current Needs: Beans, rice, canned tuna or chicken or any canned protein, Lysol wipes

Weekly Sunday Offerings

The offering this week will support our initiative to offset the 2019 carbon usage of the Fellowship (that's us). In March we raised \$710, enough to offset 11.5 tons. Our goal is to offset 32 tons. By offset, we mean we'll contribute the cost of each ton (\$60) to a local organization which helps put solar collectors on as many houses and buildings as possible in Corvallis. Your contributions are very much appreciated.

Thanks for your support last week of local food banks in Benton and Linn counties. We sent nearly \$560 to Produce for the People and Linn-Benton Food Share.

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

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! We hope to have all pledges in hand by next Sunday, April 26.

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 22 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, New Time!** 7:00 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.
- ~**Fridays, New Weekly Opportunity!** We're happy to say the virtual Kirtan last Friday was a success, so we'll be using this method to stay connected going forward each Friday from 7-8:30 PM. The Zoom link for each week will be announced on UU-Announce.

The UUFC Services Auction is ON, in a new format. Beginning May 2 – and extending through May 10 – we will hold our services auction online. You can relax in the comfort of your own home, peruse objects and services at your leisure, and make – or increase – your bids over eight days. It won't be as lively as our traditional face-to-face gala, but there will be plenty of "appropriate-to-the-times" objects and services on which to bid. And, as always, we will still have fun by building connections and community as we raise funds for the Fellowship.

We need you! **Donations are needed.** A list of possible things you might do or offer was sent out on UU-Announce (or contact Judy Westlake below), or use your imagination to come up with something else that is fun or unique. Offered services will need to follow social distancing guidelines, so dinner parties, wine tastings, group game nights and such are not allowed. [Click here to fill out an online donation form](#). Donations will be accepted from now until midnight, May 1. Starting the next day, May 2, bidding will begin online using a program called Auctria. Bidding will close at midnight on Sunday, May 10. **Help is needed:** Judy needs help with recording donations and entering donors and bidders into Auctria. Please contact her if you would like to help at 541-740-9457 or judywestlake@comcast.net.

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.

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. Do you need a mask? Let us know: office@uucorvallis.org.

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>

Listen to Arundhati Roy read from her essay, "The Pandemic is a Portal" <https://youtu.be/7hgQFaeao0>

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 Board President Scott Bruslind*

It was just a matter of time for it to become a hashtag: #pledgemystimulus. An unexpected windfall for a fully expected national emergency. It's never been a matter of 'if,' but 'when.' We are compelled, by circumstances well beyond our control, to do something wise. If you are looking at your bank account, wondering if/when the IRS check has cleared because you post-dated a rent check, your decision is made. Maslow's hierarchy dictates that you cover immediate needs.

To the rest, I quote the Rev. Tamara Torres McGovern, "I am asking you to do something wild, wonderful and life-giving. I am asking you NOT to get attached to that money-but to join me in imagining where you could direct those funds... Can you imagine the joy and vitality that could be generated by us investing deeply in one another's sustainability and wholeness during this time?"

Read more here- <https://www.pledgemystimulus.com/home> and add your own pledge story, as you see fit. I'll make the case for pledging the stimulus check to the UUFC Building Fund. First, please, please, please make an annual pledge to our operating fund if you have not already done so! Click here: <https://uucorvallis.org/annual-pledge-drive/>

A stimulus pledge is a completely different matter. Pledge the stimulus to our Building Fund by contacting our Business Manager, Jean Gilbert businessmgr@uucorvallis.org or 541-752-5218. That's two pledges - one for our operating budget, and the second for a deep investment into our shared future. The stimulus money, as we know in our hearts, is something that will take time to repay in an economy that will take time to recover.

Let's invest it in something that lasts longer than the payments.

Stewardship: Caring for Our Congregation 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 by Sunday, April 26.**

Please do your part, by joining in. Make your pledge today.

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.