

# Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis

UUFC  
2945 NW Circle Blvd  
Corvallis, OR 97330  
[www.uucorvallis.org](http://www.uucorvallis.org)  
541-752-5218



## Weekly Announcements

Sunday, May 31 – Saturday, June 7

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

This week: "Our Humanity Is At Stake"  
Rev. Jill McAllister

There are openings, and protests, pandemic fatigue, corruption, questions, deaths and killings, and our humanity is at stake. What can we do but begin again every day, to build a new way and a new world?

*A Time for All Ages story will be sent out on Saturday evening, and another one mid-week.*

## Weekly Sunday Offerings

The offering this week will support **We Care**, a local interfaith network, providing emergency aid for families and individuals, especially for costs related to housing and basic needs. The need is growing and so is the response by We Care.

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

## Where We Are This Week: .....reflections from Jill

We are grieving and mourning, as we are witnessing, again, again, the structures of white supremacy and the violence which has kept it in place for the entire history of the United States. The spread of the pandemic and the response to it already clearly highlight the inequalities which racism maintains in our country. The killings of black people in Minneapolis, and Atlanta, and Kentucky, and everywhere in America, make it so blatant, so obvious, that we continue to live in, participate in, and be part of an immoral system. The protests in many cities are saying this out loud. I've included in this newsletter perspectives from UU leaders and colleagues on these latest horrors and challenges – I hope you'll take time to read them.

Here in Corvallis, and at the Fellowship, it is time to figure out next steps for our response to the pandemic, which are also next steps in assuring the strength and vitality of the Fellowship to be present in this world of pain and need. With the help of Board leaders, I'm putting together a small task force to deliberate and then make recommendations to the Board for our next steps. You're invited to join in an open discussion, beginning on Sunday night, May 31 at 7 PM – see the zoom link under Fellowship Connections in this newsletter. If you'd like to be part of the task force, please let me know.

David Servias has just sent out a letter to the choir to announce that we are beginning to imagine a new music program for the Fellowship, since singing in choirs, indoors, is one of the riskiest activities with regard to the virus. Our justice teams are still very active – in work to improve community resources for homelessness, in support of immigrant communities, in deepening our commitments to anti-racism. A Justice Newsletter with more updates will be coming in a few weeks. The RE Council will introduce their work on re-imagining an RE program for a new world, in a Town Hall on June 14. The YRUU is planning its annual youth service to honor graduating high-school seniors and bridge them into young-adulthood (June 14). I'm hoping our volunteer callers will be able and willing to call their lists again, to check in with Fellowship households.

Like everyone else, we are weary, we are wondering, and we are moving into a new phase (of the world, of our lives, of the future.) Any and all spiritual practices we have ever done are for this. Any and all of our highest ideals and commitments are for this. For this moment, for this time, for these challenges. May we be courageous and bold as we keep moving forward.

## Fellowship Connections

**UUFC Pandemic Response Next Steps : A chance to share ideas, Sunday, May 31, 7 PM via Zoom**

Things are changing as we live into a next phase of the COVID pandemic. Fellowship members and friends are invited into an open meeting to share ideas, needs, and concerns as we consider the next steps for Fellowship life. What we share in this meeting will help inform a task force which will make recommendations to the Board. If you can't attend, please e-mail your ideas, needs or concerns to Jill McAllister at [minister@uucorvallis.org](mailto:minister@uucorvallis.org). To join the Sunday evening meeting by Zoom: <https://oregonstate.zoom.us/j/93054095237>, or call in at 1-971-247-1195.

**Congratulations!** To Jamie and Dave Petts, and siblings Annika, Nelson and Evelina, as they welcomed new baby Dawson into their family on May 28. All are doing well. Jamie will be on parental leave for most of June. And congratulations to Susan Christie and Matt Mathews on celebrating their 37<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Sending love to you all!

### **RE Town Hall: Visions for Intergenerational Community -- Sunday June 14<sup>th</sup> 12:30 PM**

The Religious Exploration Council has created a strategic plan for the future of our Lifespan Religious Exploration Program, a vision that is calling our congregation to commit to building a culture of intentional intergenerational community. Join our first Town Hall by Zoom, to learn more about this vision, and about the long-term commitment it asks us to undertake.

### **Questions about our Life Touch Photo Directories**

Just as some questions about photo directories were emerging in Fellowship conversations this week, we have updates to share. Our Life Touch photo directory, for which pictures were taken in November, is still in process! There were delays on our end, and then there were delays for the company due to the shutdowns. The directory will still be produced – it is in the que. And, because of the delays at the company, for a limited time we can offer a copy to anyone who would like one who did not have their photo taken (or submit one) for inclusion. If you would like to order a copy, send a check for \$10 to the Fellowship, this week, by Saturday, June 6. Thanks to everyone for their patience!

### **UUA General Assembly: Registration is Open!**

General Assembly will be online this year, which means that many more people will be able to participate. Find out more here: <https://www.uua.org/ga>. Thank you to all who volunteered to be a GA delegate. The UUFC Board of Directors decided on our GA delegates at their meeting on May 21: Nancy Haldeman, Bonnie Morihara, Kari Gottfried, Shikha Ghosh Gottfried, Mali Gottfried, Susan Christie, and Patricia Parcels.

### **Payments for the Auction**

Thanks to everyone who donated and bid in the Auction, and especially to all who have paid for what they bought! **How to Pay:** \*If you can, please pay for your auction items by writing a check to UUFC and put Auction in the memo line. Checks can be mailed to 2945 NW Circle Blvd. \*If you want to pay by credit card you can use the Online Collection Basket on our UUFC website. Select Operations for the fund to which you are giving. Questions? Contact Judy Westlake at [judywestlake@comcast.net](mailto:judywestlake@comcast.net) or 541-740-9457.

### **Do you know someone in the Fellowship who needs help being connected electronically?**

Thanks to some very generous donations to our Emergency Aid Fund, the Fellowship can help supply hardware (tablets, iPads) for a few people who have not yet been able to take part in online Fellowship activities. Contact Jill McAllister if you know of someone who could use this help.

### **FELLOWSHIP WEEKLY PRACTICES AND CONNECTIONS**

~Join the **Daily Practice** with an e-mail from Jill, sent out each weekday morning on UU-Announce.

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

~Join the **Wednesday virtual coffee hour** with sharing of sorrows and joys, 11:30 AM. Join in by Zoom, for greeting and centering together. The zoom link is sent out via UU-Announce.

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

~**Wednesdays, Evening Mindfulness Practice** is live on Zoom from 7:00PM – 7:30PM. 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](mailto:minerva5cl@gmail.com).

~**Friday Kirtan** 7-8:30 pm. The Zoom link for each week is announced on UU-Announce.

**Help is available if you need it:** 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](mailto:minister@uucorvallis.org), [assistantminister@uucorvallis.org](mailto:assistantminister@uucorvallis.org).

**Why the Fellowship Building Remains Closed and In-Person Gatherings Suspended:** A Message for Congregations: [Updated Guidance for Gathering](#).

**Do you need a mask?** If so, please let us know: [office@uucorvallis.org](mailto:office@uucorvallis.org).

**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>.

# Perspectives on American Racism in this time of Pandemic

A collection of writings and responses from UU ministers and leaders around the country.

~One of my colleagues said it this way: "It is impossible to miss what's being revealed: the truth that this country was built on the exploitation of people of color, that our systems were intentionally designed to protect white freedom and terrorize Black lives (and Indigenous lives, and Latinx lives, and Asian lives, and and and). It's unacceptable that we see armed white men protesting in state capitols with no consequences while George Floyd is murdered by four police officers..."

~The response from UUA president Susan Frederick Gray includes this: "People of faith, particularly those of us who are white progressives, need to combat the systems of criminalization in our country. Systems of policing and criminalization in this country are inherently violent, steeped in and created to reinforce white supremacy, anti-blackness, and racialized control. Systems like violent policing are built on the larger layers of racism and white supremacy that operate everywhere – in ourselves, in congregations, in workplaces, in public parks, in everyday interactions of white people dismissing, denigrating, attacking, and undermining Black people and Black leaders. We must all commit to dismantle white supremacy everywhere it shows up. We cannot advance the values of justice, equity, dignity, compassion, and interdependence without working to dismantle the culture of white supremacy."

~From the President of Meadville Lombard Theological School, Dr. Elias Ortega "James Luther Adams, in "A Faith for the Free," shared with us a story that happened in a congregation in which congregants challenged their minister's position that the church must stand fully committed to racial justice. For members of this congregation, "if the church was to remain a free fellowship, these different ideas about race discrimination should be given equal respect. Otherwise, freedom of faith would be violated!" James Luther Adams surmised that what was really happening here was that they "repudiated the 'faith for the free' by trying to conceal injustice behind simulated ethical neutrality." There is no equal respect to be found amongst differences of opinions in which issues of justice are involved. Racism does not deserve a place at the table of justice and advocating its voice and place at the table, is simulated ethical neutrality. This kind of simulated ethical neutrality spells danger to many members in our faith communities and our nation. It spells danger to many that we love and love us back in return. This simulated ethical neutrality puts my life, and others like me, who serve and lead among us in danger. "The faith of free persons," James Luther Adams conclude, "must tangibly make them free in a community of human dignity and equal justice." This is central to our responsible search for truth and the meaning of a beloved community, a community marked by equal dignity and equal justice." (Read the rest of Ortega's letter at meadville.edu)

~Shared by many, from "[The Other America](#)," a speech given by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at Grosse Pointe High School on March 14, 1968. After affirming his stance on nonviolence, Dr. King said:  
"But it is not enough for me to stand before you tonight and condemn riots. It would be morally irresponsible for me to do that without, at the same time, condemning the contingent, intolerable conditions that exist in our society. These conditions are the things that cause individuals to feel that they have no other alternative than to engage in violent rebellions to get attention. And I must say tonight that a riot is the language of the unheard. And what is it America has failed to hear? It has failed to hear that the plight of the negro poor has worsened over the last twelve or fifteen years. It has failed to hear that the promises of freedom and justice have not been met. And it has failed to hear that large segments of white society are more concerned about tranquility and the status quo than about justice and humanity."

~A prayer from Rev. Victoria Stafford, of the UU congregation of White Bear, MN, a suburb of Minneapolis:

So much carries on as usual, even now in the pandemic time. Why are we so surprised?

Not everything has changed.

The greening of the tender land... the spotted fawn now 12 days old, spindly, graceful, in the reedy grasses... orioles returning, flash of fire, miracle...

the murder by police of a human soul in daylight.

Just like that, another black man gone from our sight, gone from the embrace of family.

"I can't breathe," he said, as they killed him on the pavement in the greening spring, sun shining down, rain raining.

"I can't breathe," he said to them, as they stole the breath.

He can't breathe, nor hear the birds, nor greet the sun, nor laugh in rain, nor clasp a hand, give thanks, eat bread, or sing. They killed him on the pavement in the greening spring.

Not everything has changed, even now in the pandemic time.

Spirit, may there come, may we make, may we bring and be a mighty change.  
Shake us from our solitary sadness into unremitting and concerted rage.  
Shake us from complicit silence and our usual complacency into people worthy of the birds, the trees, the spring, the rain,  
and breath. May we who are still breathing be worthy of the breath.

---

## CONTACT US

**Rev. Jill McAllister**

Senior Minister

[minister@uucorvallis.org](mailto:minister@uucorvallis.org)

**Rev. Israel Buffardi**

Assistant Minister for Religious Exploration

[assistantminister@uucorvallis.org](mailto:assistantminister@uucorvallis.org)

**Jamie Petts** (on parental leave)

Operations Manager

[office@uucorvallis.org](mailto:office@uucorvallis.org)

**Jean Gilbert**

Business Manager

[businessmgr@uucorvallis.org](mailto:businessmgr@uucorvallis.org)

**Rachel Kohler**

Religious Exploration Associate

[reassociate@uucorvallis.org](mailto:reassociate@uucorvallis.org)

**Dr. David Servias**

Music Director

[music@uucorvallis.org](mailto:music@uucorvallis.org)

**Lauren Servias**

Pianist

**Church Office**

(541)752-5218

Website: [www.uucorvallis.org](http://www.uucorvallis.org)

Email: [office@uucorvallis.org](mailto:office@uucorvallis.org)

**Office Hours: Currently Closed**

Phone and e-mail are checked regularly.