

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis

UUFC
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Weekly Announcements

Sunday, May 10 – Saturday, May 16

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: "General Assembly: The Power of We"

The UUA General Assembly is the annual gathering of American UU's. In this service Fellowship members Nancy Haldeman, Lorene Hales, Susan Christie, Mali Gottfried, Shikha Gosh Gottfried, Herky Gottfried, Bonnie Morihara, Patricia Parcells, and Jesse Ford share their powerful reflections from attending GA in June 2019.

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

Weekly Sunday Offerings

The offering this week will support **UUtheVOTE**, a network of UU's across the country working to make a positive difference in the crucial elections coming in November 2020. More than 120 UUFC members and friends have already committed time and energy to this

movement. Once a month between now and November we'll share our financial resources too.

*To make a donation to the weekly offering, go the [UUFC web page](http://www.uucorvallis.org) and click on the "SUNDAY DONATIONS" button.

The Annual UUFC Services Auction is Online for only two more days. Bidding ends Sunday, May 10 at midnight. Click on the link below to browse the catalog of items donated by Fellowship members and friends, and place your bids now!
<https://charityauction.bid/OnlineServicesAuction>

UUFC Annual Meeting, Sunday May 17, 1 PM, on Zoom. All members are needed and encouraged to attend. See more details on page 2 of this newsletter.

Thank you again to all who have made a pledge of financial support for the 2020-21 church year. We are in this together, with and for each other, for the world. If you've never made a pledge before, please consider doing so.

Where We Are This Week.....Reflections from Jill

We're watching with amazement (and trepidation) as some parts of the country "open." It will happen here too, but hopefully with as much care and deliberation as possible. We don't expect any gatherings at the Fellowship until well into the summer, and only small groups with appropriate distancing at that point. The staff and I are reading as many studies and reports as we can find which give ideas and guidelines about how to re-open, and what the phases may look like. This is all still speculation, and at the same time we are trying to imagine different scenarios. (For example – I wonder if anyone will ever want to come to a Sunday morning worship service again, if they can't stay in their pajamas.....)

Meanwhile, the life of the Fellowship continues in beautiful and surprising ways. We are so much more than what a building can hold. Connections remain, and grow stronger. Thank you to everyone who is reaching out – asking for help, calling others, providing food and errands and moral support, and good jokes. Please don't hesitate to call on Israel or me if you need to talk. Also, please plan to participate in the Annual Meeting next Sunday, May 17, at 1 PM. All members are needed and encouraged to attend, and friends of the Fellowship are invited.

I have deep appreciation for the group of Fellowship members who are sharing their reflections on the UUA General Assembly in the Sunday Service this week. Listening to their experiences and insights was powerful for me, and gives me renewed courage for the work we do together; supporting each other in worship and spiritual growth, working together to make a more inclusive community and a more sustainable and just world. We are each still needed, immensely, and to do this work, we need each other. Thank you for rising to the challenges of the world as it is, and for bringing your best to each day!

Fellowship Connections

UUFC Annual Meeting, Sunday, May 17, 1 PM online. The meeting will include financial reports and updates on the health of the Fellowship, especially related to the global pandemic. We'll hear an update on the building expansion/renovation project, the Religious Exploration re-visioning project, a road-map for the coming year, and feedback and suggestions for the good of the Fellowship. We'll vote on new members of the Board of Directors. The slate of nominees is included below. An invitation and link to the meeting will be sent by e-mail on UU-Announce by Friday, May 15. A packet of materials, including reports, will also be available. Instructions for voting will be included. If you, or another UUFC member you know, needs a paper ballot for voting, please let us know so that we can mail one. Please plan to be part of the annual meeting this year!

The Nominating Committee offers this **Slate for UUFC Board of Directors, beginning June 2020:** President – Steve Strauss, Secretary - Anna Sontag, Treasurer – Herky Gottfried, Directors: Scott Bruslind, Ann Mbacke, Darius Adams, Kedo Baye, Sheryl Stuart.

FELLOWSHIP WEEKLY PRACTICES AND CONNECTIONS

- ~Join the **Daily Practice** with an e-mail from Jill, sent out each weekday morning.
- ~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.
- ~**Friday Kirtan** 7-8:30pm. The Zoom link for each week is announced on UU-Announce.
- ~**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, **Thursday May 14 and Tuesday May 26**. Time: TBD.

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>. If you're interested in being a delegate, please contact Jamie Petts (office@uucorvallis.org). The UUFC Board of Directors will decide on our GA delegates and alternates at their meeting on May 21.

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, assistantminister@uucorvallis.org.

UUFC Spring Leadership Report: Since we couldn't gather for the final leadership supper of the year, a leadership update was prepared instead, and e-mailed to leaders of teams, task forces, councils events, committees. If you'd like to read it, [click here](#). *In response, we hope leaders will send in short reports on their activities in this church year, and ideas for the next church year.*

How about a joke night? Is anyone interested in helping host an online gathering to share humor? If so, let Jill McA know: minister@uucorvallis.org.

Opportunities to Help

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>

Perspectives on the Pandemic

Do you need a mask? The center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that Americans wear masks outside the home primarily to protect the community, not themselves. A simple cotton mask might not stop much from coming in, but

it can stop up to 99% of particles from exiting into the air. Countries that have universally committed to wearing masks have seen clear drops in infection numbers. In the United States, wearing masks for the public good could effectively halt the virus: Models suggest that if just 80% of the population protects those around them, the rate at which the coronavirus spreads could plummet to a stop. If you need a mask, please let us know: 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>

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

Two stones to add to the Sunday Service: Stones of Joy and Concern *from Lorene Hales*

Our ideal – an inclusive community where no one is left on the margins – is still an aspiration. Creating the ‘power of WE’ requires each of us to widen our openness to the other in **loving faith**. So, today I offer two stones toward this process: First, a stone of gratitude to all, every one of, our faith ancestors who practiced, across time, understanding, developing, and living out the core values of this faith. Today’s work builds on the spiritual foundations they helped lay for us. Second, a stone of concern for maintaining Beloved Community while working towards full inclusivity. As humans, we all stumble at times in building right relations. However, we also can learn and grow. This requires us to practice forgiving the other and to accept forgiveness for ourselves. May WE learn and grow together in this endeavor.

Stewardship: Caring for Our Congregation

As of Friday, May 8, we have 210 pledges, and approximately \$ 369,098.00 pledged, toward our goals of participation by all members and friends, and holding the budget steady from last year. We’re doing great! And, we need everyone! **Please do your part, by joining in. Make your pledge today.**

CONTACT US

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Office Hours: Currently Closed
Phone and e-mail are checked regularly.