

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis

UUFC
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Weekly Announcements

Sunday, May 17 – Saturday, May 23

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: "In This Great Turning"

Rev. Jill McAllister

We have been turned – no doubt about that! And we keep turning, toward the future, which is the only way to go.

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 CARDV, the Center Against Rape and Domestic Violence, in Corvallis. Domestic violence has not decreased in this time of staying at home - in many instances it has gotten worse. Support and safe shelter for families is always needed.

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

The UUFC Annual Meeting, is on Sunday, May 17, 1 PM, on Zoom

All members are needed and encouraged to attend. Registration is required, so that we know we have a quorum. Register here: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_xacfaYWXQL-Gh5rBFQJhqQ. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. See more details on page 2

Where We Are This Week: Update on Closures and Openings from Jill

Hi all – Like many of you, we're watching and listening closely as things related to the pandemic and stay-at-home guidelines continue to change. Now that Benton County has received state approval to start a Phase One re-opening, there are more questions. "What will the next few months look like for the Fellowship?" and "When can we go back?" are questions we are considering seriously too! Here is an update for Fellowship life:

1. We're still following guidelines from the Governor's office, and also from the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA).
2. We're learning more about the effects of being inside as compared to being outside, on rates of infection. Being inside with other people without good air flow or ventilation is proving to be one of the high risk factors. That means Fellowship spaces continue to be very risky for meetings. (<https://www.erinbromage.com/post/the-risks-know-them-avoid-them>)
3. Meetings outside still require distancing of at least 6 feet between people and wearing masks. Masks are one of the most effective ways to limit the spread of the virus and should be worn in all public places.
4. High risk individuals (people over 60 and those with underlying conditions), whether staff or volunteers, should continue to stay home even if they feel well.
5. For Fellowship life, we plan to continue to close the building to all gatherings at least through June. We plan to continue to offer Sunday services and weekly gatherings (coffee hour, meditation, etc.) via Zoom through August at the very least.

6. We're exploring options for small groups to meet outside this summer, and will be in touch if we determine that there are safe ways to do so.

Like many of you, we look forward to the end of this crisis. But our work is just beginning. The UUA sent out updated recommendations (on May 14) that congregations continue to keep physical buildings closed. Over the past several weeks, the UUA has consulted with multiple public health officials in order to update the guidance they provided on March 12 recommending congregations stop gathering in person. Based on advice from experts, the UUA continues to recommend that congregations not gather in person and also that congregations begin *planning for virtual operations for the next year (through May 2021)*. They remind us why we must hold the line:

"In making our recommendations, we are guided by science and our deepest held values. This pandemic teaches us that our actions directly impact the health and well-being of our neighbors and so it is imperative that we make choices that keep our congregations and larger community safer. As COVID-19 disproportionately impacts people with disabilities, Black people, Indigenous communities, Latinx people, the elderly, and essential workers, a majority of whom are women and women of color, religious communities have a moral responsibility to do all we can to reduce risks for those already at such high risk."

Rev. Susan Frederick Gray

At the Fellowship, we'll will continue to reach out in the most safe, effective, and generous ways possible in the weeks and months to come. Please consider that the most effective outreach mission we can have is to stay home as much as possible, and if we must go out, to wear a mask and keep social distancing. As we watch other countries around the world re-open, see spikes in cases, and close back down, we know that we have a long road ahead of us. But together, rooted in community care and in science, we can and will weather the storm until we can be back in physical community again.

Sending love to you all, *Jill and UUFC staff*

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 registration link to the meeting was sent by e-mail on UU-Announce on May 14. 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 register and 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.

Remembering Those We Have Lost This Year: The Sunday service next week, May 24, will include remembering Fellowship members and others who have died this year. If you'd like to have someone named in this service, please let Jill McAllister know: minister@uucorvallis.org

Memorial Gathering (via Zoom) for Erin Cimbri: Erin was a relatively new member of the Fellowship. We'll be holding a Zoom gathering to remember and honor her life, for all who'd like to attend. Sunday, March 17, 5 PM. Join the Zoom gathering here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81216937018>.

Thank you! The Annual UUFC Services (online) was a great success! Thanks so much for all the support! We raised \$7,247 for the UUFC! Thanks to the donors. You were more than generous. Thanks to the bidders. You were persistent up to the last moment, and more than generous, too. Donors should have received receipts for their donations from Auctria, listing who won their items. Please contact those folks. Winners should have received statements listing what they won from Auctria, and how to contact the donors. **How to Pay:** Winners have two options: *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 or 541-740-9457.

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.

~**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: 5-6:30 PM. We will be meeting on zoom. If you use the link below, you should not need a password. However if for some reason you are asked for a password, it is "2945". <https://zoom.us/j/173333179?pwd=TGJWUDhVa3Z1ZTBlyTZBbWhZME1hQT09>. The lyrics for the songs we will be singing will be sent out the night before.

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.

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.*

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.

Perspectives on the Pandemic

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

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>

Good News

This is worth sharing! Thanks to Deborah Clark, of the UUFC Climate Action Team:

Big Business calls on Congress to include climate in COVID-19 recovery plans

More than 330 businesses, including Capital One, General Mills, Microsoft, Nike, Salesforce, and Visa, are calling on bipartisan federal lawmakers to build back a better economy from COVID-19 by infusing resilient climate solutions.

https://www.marketwatch.com/story/microsoft-visa-and-others-worth-combined-115-trillion-want-congress-to-include-climate-in-covid-19-recovery-plan-2020-05-13?utm_source=Sightline%20Institute&utm_medium=web-email&utm_campaign=Sightline%20News%20Selections

Stewardship: Caring for Our Congregation

As of Friday, May 15, we have 216 pledges, and approximately \$ 373,128 pledged, toward our goals of participation by all members and friends, and holding the budget steady from last year. **Thank you to all who have made a pledge of support for the Fellowship this year!** We will keep moving forward.

CONTACT US

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Phone and e-mail are checked regularly.