

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis

UUFC
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Weekly Announcements

Sunday, May 24 – Saturday, May 30

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: "Grieving our Collective Losses"
Revs. Israel Buffardi and Jill McAllister

On this Memorial Day weekend, we remember and honor members and friends of the Fellowship who have died in the past year, loved ones and friends who have died, and all who have succumbed in this pandemic, including nearly 100,000 Americans. We hold our losses together, with love for them and for each other, thankful for their lives and ours.

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 the **Corvallis Men's Shelter**, which is now operating past its usual season, as a hygiene and aid center, serving even more people who are homeless.

*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: Update on Closures and Openings from Jill

It has been a sobering week, just trying to imagine being a religious community in this way for another year! A sobering week to be sure. And, as things "open up" more in Oregon, the rate of COVID infections and deaths is still rising. We will simply keep learning and keep doing our best. Even as we have done an amazing job of staying connected and helping each other so far, we will keep learning new ways to do so. People throughout history have had to do hard things. We can do this too.

To the many questions about when we might be able to use the building, a little information. We've checked with our insurance provider about guidelines for safe gathering. The upshot is that allowing gatherings of any kind in the building would mean wearing of masks, maybe taking temperatures, and in order to keep safe distance only this many people at a time in each of the main areas: 10 in the social hall, 22 in the Sanctuary, 2 in the kitchen and library, as few as 1-2 in smaller rooms. Plus, lots of cleaning before and after, and time limits. Most importantly, however, some people would not be able to take part at all, due to their general health, so they would in effect be excluded. It is a lot to think about!

Meanwhile lots of creative new projects are emerging, such as shared programs between congregations (classes and discussion groups), and "pulpit exchanges" across the country with no traveling required. A very interesting summer of programs is coming our way. We don't have all the answers, by any stretch of the imagination, and at the same time new ideas are coming every day. If and when you're having a hard time, or if you have creative ideas you'd like to share, please, let us know. Israel and I, and several counselors and Fellowship Care and Support Team members are available to talk, and visit at appropriate distances. Let's keep doing the best we can, and let's keep learning and growing.

Fellowship Connections

Thank you to all who attended the UUFC Annual Meeting online! We had well over 100 members! The meeting included financial reports and updates on the health of the Fellowship, an update on the building expansion/renovation project, and feedback and suggestions for the good of the Fellowship. We voted on the new members of the Board of

Directors offered by The Nominating Committee: Ann Mbacke, Darius Adams, Kedo Baye, Sheryl Stuart. A packet of information recapping the meeting will be sent out on UU-Announce soon for those who missed the meeting.

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.

Congratulations and Thank You to Susan Christie, who has been elected to the Board of the UU Pacific Northwest District.

Thank You! To Will Mustard, who has been the Fellowship's nighttime closer/building checker for 8 years (2920 nights!) and to Steve Ferrell who has agreed to take on the job. Will is retiring on May 31. Much appreciation to you both.

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.

Save the Date for the RE Town Hall, Sunday Jun. 14: Our new RE council has been reviewing and re-imagining our RE programs for a new world. They have visions and goals to share. We hope you can join in our first Town Hall by Zoom.

Know someone 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 (and they are recorded and stay on the UUFC Facebook page for later viewing) 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** 7-8:30 pm. 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: 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=TGJWUDhVa3ZlZTBiYTZBbWhZME1hQT09>. The lyrics for the songs we will be singing will be sent out the night before.

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>

Additional Resources

Housing Assistance: Community Services Consortium (CSC) has released their COVID-19 Rental Relief Program details for renters needing housing assistance in Linn, Benton and Lincoln Counties. If you need assistance paying your rent, see the details, here: <https://communityservices.us/csc-covid-19-rental-relief-program/?fbclid=IwAR1hCvgrTXAuG6YTYKq9d2NaYOB-MoYqfSlRs12ekppIA9uh89AYR1BQKEs>

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Office Hours: Currently Closed

Phone and e-mail are checked regularly.