

# Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis

UUFC  
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## Weekly Announcements

Sunday, June 21 – Saturday, June 27

Sunday Worship and all other events at the Fellowship continue to be on-line. We offer a video-recorded worship service, sent out each Saturday on UU-Announce.

### Sunday, June 21: “Still Aiming for Freedom” Rev. Jill McAllister

Though it is difficult to mark the change, we finish the “regular” church year this Sunday, and look forward to Summer Services beginning next week. Today we’ll reflect on this wildly unexpected year of considering ethical living – who could have imagined all the ways in which we’d get to do this work? From a place of daily disorientation and new possibilities, we’ll think about how the real work of the Fellowship, and of our religious

lives, is freedom – not just freedom of thought, but the ability of all lives to live free from fear, and safe.

*A Time for All Ages story will be sent out on Saturday evening, and another one mid-week. Also this week, see an announcement from Rachel Kohler sent on Thursday, June 18, to join a Children’s Chapel on June 20 with Seattle’s University Unitarian Church, focusing on Juneteenth.*

## Weekly Sunday Offering

The offerings for the month of June support **We Care**, a local interfaith network, providing emergency aid for families and individuals, especially for costs related to housing and basic needs. 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, and Rev. Lois Van Leer

A little further in this newsletter, you’ll read about the Board of Director’s recent decision about gathering at the Fellowship. Like almost all other religious congregations in our interfaith circle, we are not ready to take the very real risks posed by bringing people together in our building. Yes, we’ve heard of other churches which are gathering – and yes, we’ve heard of resulting spikes in COVID-19, including very recently in Union County, Oregon. Yes, gathering outside is much safer, as long as precautions are heeded by *everyone* (and no one needs to use the bathroom, which brings into play a whole host of logistical considerations.) We are certainly not alone in these questions and concerns. My colleague Lois Van Leer, minister of the UU Church of Eugene, summed up the challenges beautifully this week; I share her words with you here because they convey my convictions as well:

“...until we have a vaccine or until COVID-19 cases are near zero, we just cannot gather in physical spaces together as a whole community. The truth is we still do not have a great handle on the COVID-19 virus. Yes, we know some things, but we are learning new information weekly. As far as I am concerned no one is immune from the virus. So we have to act as if. As if we could all contract it. As if we could all infect others.

I know this social isolation is hard. It is wearing and disheartening. We miss one another. We miss our friends and family. We miss being able to move about freely, be anywhere in public without masks, get in a car or on a plane and travel. There is no certainty about when we can resume those interactions and activities. I get it. But...just because we want something to be so, doesn’t make it so. I have been over and over different ways we can have church in our physical space in the time of COVID-19. Talked with staff. Talked with university folks who are working on how to have classes in the coming year. Each scenario either excludes a demographic, doesn’t bring the risk of transmission to zero, or puts an undue burden on staff. Each scenario has no guarantee that all who participate will be safe. Sometimes love has to wait. To be held at a distance. Let our love for one another and this community be held at a distance....”

That’s where we are this week. Meanwhile the life of the Fellowship continues, in connections, caring, worship, daily and weekly practices, RE, justice work, planning, visioning, wrapping up the church year. Thank-you for your courage, your perseverance, and your patience. Thank-you for being part of this remarkable religious community!

# Fellowship Connections

## **UUFC Board of Directors: Decision to maintain building closure for the time-being**

Your board of directors heard recommendations from a task force on what Phase 2 openings in Oregon mean for the Fellowship. We noted the current increase in COVID cases around the state and country, predictions for continued increases and therefore continuing risks; we noted the hardships of isolation; we noted the input of members; we noted guidelines from our insurers. Taking all of this into consideration, the Board agreed these next steps in July and August:

1. Plan an outdoor activity for Sunday July 12, as a farewell for Israel Buffardi and his family, which may include some drive-by / stay-in-car elements, and some appropriately spaced / face-covered on-the-lawn elements.
2. If the July 12 event is successful, and follows safety procedures well, consider holding a similar event in August.
3. In deciding whether to allow small group meetings at the Fellowship, first find out what kinds of meetings are considered of high importance to do at the Fellowship instead of in people's yards or in parks. Only if a case can be made that a small group gathering must be at the Fellowship, then consider the necessary logistics for that to occur (such as logging in all participants, all distancing and face covering protocols followed, monitoring, sanitation, etc. )

The Board is aware of the strong desire for social contact, but advises great caution given the very serious threats to the health and welfare of our congregation that a UUFC-associated outbreak would impose. This policy decision will be revisited as conditions for the spread of the virus become less favorable or effective treatments and vaccines become widely available. The task force and board will continue to monitor changes around the state which could give us different options, and will provide updates in the weekly announcements. We always welcome your thoughts, suggestions and concerns – please contact us at [office@uucorvallis.org](mailto:office@uucorvallis.org).

## **First Steps Class June 28 for all who are interested in becoming members of the Fellowship**

Are YOU, or is SOMEONE YOU KNOW interested in: Learning more about Unitarian-Universalism? Exploring what UUFC has to offer? Discovering how one might make meaningful connections and build community? Join us on Zoom for First Steps, 11:00 AM, on the last Sunday of each month. Contact Elona Meyer at [elonameyer@icloud.com](mailto:elonameyer@icloud.com); she will provide the Zoom link, agenda, & readings. Our next First Steps Class is 11 AM, Sunday, June 28th!

## **Magic Flute Pre-School to Re-Open at the Fellowship July 1**

With special dispensation from the state, and because child care is critically needed, the Magic Flute preschool will re-open July 1, using two rooms in our classroom wing on weekdays. The protocols for COVID-safe operations will be very strict. Only adults working in the preschool will be allowed to enter the rooms being used. Parents will drop their children off outside.

## **UUtheVote: Building our Local and National Network – Please Join Us!**

UUtheVote is a nation-wide UU network aiming to turn out voters across the country in November and provided an accessible, effective pathway for participation. More than 80 Fellowship members and friends are already members of the UUtheVote network. Our aim is to swell our UUFC ranks to at least 100 by July 4<sup>th</sup>, and 200 by early Fall. Join us! And help recruit others as part of this membership drive. (You could win one of the prizes!) To join contact Peter Stoel at [PeterFStoel@gmail.com](mailto:PeterFStoel@gmail.com).

## **Calling Fellowship Households – Checking In With Each Other**

Fellowship volunteers are still making phone calls to as many Fellowship households as possible during the month of June. Our aim is to check in, to say hello, to find out if anyone needs help and support, especially for staying connected to the Fellowship. More callers are needed; if you'd like to help, please let Jill McAllister know. If you'd rather not get a call -- that's fine. Please let Jill McAllister know that too! [minister@uucorvallis.org](mailto:minister@uucorvallis.org).

## **UUFC Women's Retreat August 8, 2020**

SAVE the DATE August 8, 2020 8:30AM – 8:30PM for the 2020 UUFC Women's Retreat "Expanding Our Creative Potentials to Give." Plan to join the all new online retreat format! Highlights include: 3 great presenters, social time during coffee hour and happy hour and follow-up creative pod activity sessions. Watch the UU-Announce listserv for more details, registration information, and a call for Creative Pod group facilitators.

*The 2020 UUFC-WR Team: Eileen Maxfield, Joyce Federiuk, Barb Lachenbruch, Bonnie Morihara, Emily Rosen and Julie Halter.*

## Climate Forward: Upgrades to Fellowship Lighting

With thanks to the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition, and a \$10,000 grant from Energy Trust of Oregon, the remainder of the fluorescent light fixtures at the Fellowship have been upgraded to low-energy LED's. Much, much appreciation for helping this to happen goes to Jean Townes and Louise Ferrell, and especially to Kathy Johnson, our go-to volunteer electrician, for overseeing all of the installation.

## News, Notes, and Thanks

- ~Sending good wishes to Dick Behan, who had surgery this week, and Rollie Davison, recovering from surgery in Portland.
- ~Ted Lane is looking for a room to rent, or a small apartment. Contact him at [contacttedlane@gmail.com](mailto:contacttedlane@gmail.com), if you know of something available.
- ~Thank-you Heather Emberson for a recent contribution to the UUFC Birthday Club! The birthday club is a way to support the Fellowship by making a contribution in honor of your own birthday (donate the amount of your age, or some multiple thereof) or the birthdays or celebration days of others.
- ~Thank you Jean Townes, Louise Ferrell, and Kathy Johnson for making it possible for all Fellowship light bulbs to be replaced with LED's at no cost to the Fellowship! (See more about this above.)
- ~Other Graduates? Do you know of people graduating, in your family, or in the Fellowship? If so, let the office know, so that we can send congratulations.

**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](mailto:minister@uucorvallis.org), [assistantminister@uucorvallis.org](mailto:assistantminister@uucorvallis.org).

## Fellowship Calendar: Weekly Connections, plus Plan Ahead

### 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, crafts and family resources.
- ~**Wednesdays, Evening Mindfulness Practice** is live on Zoom from 7:00PM – 7:30PM. 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.
- ~**Friday Kirtan** 7-8:30 pm. The Zoom link for each week is announced on UU-Announce.

### Plan Ahead

- Sunday, June 28: First Steps Class, part of preparation for becoming a member of the Fellowship. If interested, contact Elona Meyer, for materials and the zoom link.
- Saturday, July 11: Orientation and planning retreat for the Board of Directors, online.
- Sunday, July 12: Farewell to Rev. Israel Buffardi and his family, as they move to Pennsylvania to begin his new ministry. This will be an outdoor activity, probably primarily a drive-by event. Stay tuned for details.
- Saturday, August 8: Women's Retreat, online
- Anti-racism events – see below under Black Lives Matter

## Black Lives Matter

### Board Approves Making Juneteenth a paid holiday for UUFC employees

The UUFC Board of Directors has approved making [Juneteenth](#) (June 19th) a paid holiday for UUFC employees. This is a small step, but a good step. It will help us all to tell more of the stories of our nation, especially stories that have been left out of the dominant culture for too long. From here we can encourage other congregations, and local and state businesses and institutions to take this step as well, and we can take an active part in a movement toward making Juneteenth a national holiday.

### Your Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Team invites you to:

**Brunch with Bryan.** See the movie or read the book, *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson. Then join us for a discussion, **11:00 AM, Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup>** via Zoom. Bring your favorite brunch dish with you. **Zoom Link** for June

20<sup>th</sup>: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89938994521?pwd=cTBTdERqbXJSdTB1MzdXVzFPsDRyZz09> (See *Just Mercy* for free. Being offered on YouTube, Dish, DirecTV, Prime Video, Fandango Now, etc.) RSVP at [elonameyer@icloud.com](mailto:elonameyer@icloud.com) –Elona will send questions for reflection & discussion. Visit Equal Justice Initiative website; (EJI) Link: [contact\\_us@eji.org](mailto:contact_us@eji.org)

**Dine with DiAngelo:** Using the link provided, set aside some time to listen to DiAngelo--or to read her book, *White Fragility*. Then bring your favorite snack plate & beverage and join us **5 PM, Monday, June 29<sup>th</sup>** to discuss *White Fragility* and its role in maintaining the status quo. **RSVP to [elonameyer@icloud.com](mailto:elonameyer@icloud.com)** for additional materials. Link for June 29<sup>th</sup>: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86486569813?pwd=RIZ4Zk1kNmJET2E5UHdLS2NEVmoXZz09> **Links for Robin on White Fragility** : <https://youtu.be/DwIx3KQer54> or <https://youtu.be/45ey4jgoxeU>

**Contemplate the 13<sup>th</sup> on the 13<sup>th</sup>:** Want a fuller understanding of the effects of systemic racism on our criminal justice system? View the Ava DuVernay's compelling documentary, *The 13<sup>th</sup>*. Or read Michele Alexander's *The New Jim Crow*. Then join us at **6 PM, Monday, July 13<sup>th</sup>** to discuss your perspectives and questions from your reading/viewing experience 13<sup>th</sup> with this link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85600546784?pwd=eVhHbXk3VldFVnlpWtN6bmRhdmFoZz09>

## Pandemic Response

**Wearing a mask is proving to be one of the most effective preventative measures.**

Do you need a mask? If so, we can help. Let us know: [office@uucorvallis.org](mailto:office@uucorvallis.org).

### Oregon Pauses Openings Amid Rise in COVID-19 Cases

On June 12, the Governor called for a one-week pause in county-by-county openings in Oregon, as COVID 19 cases are increasing.

**The Fellowship Building Remains Closed** [UUA Guidelines on Gathering In Person as COVID-19 Subsides](#)

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**Explore. Love. Act.** We gather as an inclusive religious community to search for meaning, build deep connections, and inspire action toward a better world for all.

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## CONTACT US

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### Church Office

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### Office Hours: Currently Closed

Phone and e-mail are checked regularly