

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis

UUFC
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Weekly Announcements

Sunday, June 7 – Saturday, June 13

Sunday Worship and all other events at the Fellowship remain CANCELLED. We offer a video-recorded service, sent out each Saturday on UU-Announce.

Sunday June 7: “RE-Visioning: From the Pain of Today to a More Inclusive Community”

Rev. Israel Buffardi and Rachel Brinker

Our Religious Exploration program is the focus of new visions of the future of the Fellowship. Given the rising movement in our country – toward freedom and safety for all, repudiating our long history of racist violence, toward full inclusion, the life of the Fellowship will shift in as many ways as we can, to help bring about better ways of being a

community. A Town Hall on June 14 will give opportunities to talk about these visions.

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

Weekly Sunday Offerings

The offering for the month of June 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](http://www.uucorvallis.org) and click on the "SUNDAY DONATIONS" button.

Black Lives Matter

Lawn Signs Zoom Event: Sunday, June 7, 5 PM.

As part of our ongoing commitments to Black Lives Matter, the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Justice Team (EDI) will place signs naming many African Americans who have been killed by anti-black policing on the front lawn of the Fellowship. A zoom “gathering” is planned for Sunday, June 7 at 5 PM, hosted by EDI. Please join us as we read the names and listen to a strong, moving message from the Rev. Otis Moss III, pastor of Trinity UCC in Chicago, IL, titled “When is Someday?”(see link below). The Zoom link for this event will be sent via UUAnnounce.

Becoming More Anti-Racist: Monday, June 8, 7 PM.

Join Jill and Israel to talk about ways we can each become more anti-racist. What does that mean, and what does it look like? Before the Zoom gathering, all are asked to watch a special message from Rev. Otis Moss III which will be part of the Lawn Signs event on Sunday, or you can watch it here: https://youtu.be/J_dNzYifsow Here’s the zoom link for the meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81364552527>

Podcast: Understanding White Privilege In February, Jill was interviewed for a podcast called “Our Story Speaks”, to share from her experiences of learning how to be more anti-racist. You can listen to the podcast here. <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/our-story-speaks/id1478819794?i=1000467994661>

Fellowship Connections

UUFC Pandemic Response in Phase Two

On Sunday May 31, 20 Fellowship members joined in a discussion of openings, and what the changes might bring for the Fellowship this summer. Benton and Linn Counties have now been approved for Phase 2 Opening: more businesses can open, restaurants can stay open longer, and many other activities can resume, although safe distancing, face masks in public and diligent hand-washing are still included. At our meeting, the majority were in favor of continuing to take the

greatest amount of precaution that we can. Several people expressed the need and hope to find some ways for Fellowship members to gather, as safely as possible.

A small task force is taking all of this input into account. Under Phase 2, faith communities are “allowed” to hold gatherings of up to 100 people outside, only if all safety precautions (including distancing) can be met. The logistics for this kind of meeting are huge! It is unlikely the Fellowship will host any gatherings of that size in the next few months. The task force will make recommendations to the Board’s June meeting and from there we will outline our next steps.

Calling Fellowship Households, Round 2 in June

Fellowship volunteers will once again make phone calls to as many Fellowship households as possible, over the next couple of weeks. 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.

RE Town Hall: Visions for Intergenerational Community, Sunday June 14th 12:30 PM via Zoom

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. A link to the Zoom meeting will be sent out by e-mail on UU Announce.

UUA General Assembly, June 24-28. Registration is Still 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.

UUtheVote: Please Join Us! The Coming Election is Monumental.

UUtheVote is a nation-wide UU network aiming to turn out voters across the country in November. The importance of the work is almost too big to describe! 60 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 4th, and 200 by early Fall. Join us! And help recruit others. To join contact Peter Stoel at PeterFStoel@gmail.com.

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

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, assistantminister@uucorvallis.org.

Emergency Aid and The Power of Community *(written by a Fellowship member)*

An opinion piece recently pointed out how we say "the economy" as if the monetary exchange of goods and services is the only way *value* moves in the world. Thanks to our fellowship community, I recently experienced two movements of value, the biggest of which isn't counted or measured by the monetary economy. COVID-19 brought immediate financial hardship to my already-modest life. When I viewed the experience only through the lens of the monetary economy, I suffered greatly. To the idea of applying for relief via a Fellowship Emergency Aid Grant, I responded with reasons not to: I'm accustomed to being a giver to such funds, not a receiver; I'm sure there are others with greater need; I should keep looking for solutions that solve my entire crisis - not just a sliver.

When I finally applied, I juggled many challenging emotions: vulnerability, shame, doubt, fear. And a little bit of hope. Upon taking the first step, I remembered again the value in dropping perfectionism (in my case, resisting any solution that doesn't solve everything). Upon receiving a grant, I discovered it brought with it something exponentially more valuable than the grant itself. By an economist's or mathematician's ruler, my circumstances have hardly changed. If anything, they've gotten more dire. I am still very much sinking, says the ruler of the monetary economy. And yet, despite continuing on the same trajectory, the sense of being held by community makes my financial life falling down around me bearable in a way I didn't know was possible.

A "this too shall pass" attitude comes so much more readily now that I see I am truly not alone. Being held by this web of humans in this small way helps me step back far enough to see my problems as one of the many sets of events happening in the world (a person is losing their income and life as they know it) instead of the one thing that is happening to me. It makes it possible to instead see many things happening: I am experiencing hardship, so are others; I am falling down, so are others; my community is catching me, we are catching each other; gaps are being bridged thanks to the power of 'we.' The beauty of this brings tears to my eyes.

Having this help has opened up so much space in my life to see the forest for the trees, to notice where and how I have been grasping, to ask myself questions that might start a next and unexpected chapter of life. The respite from being fully captivated by my current financial crisis gives me space to say yes to the pandemic and all the storms it brings - both in my life and in our community. Being held by community has given me the lightness needed to - as Rumi says in his poem *The Guesthouse* - to meet the 'crowd of sorrows' "at the door laughing and invite them in." That is the greatest gift I know - the ability to welcome all with a smile, and the power of community made it possible.

Where We Are This Week:reflections from Jill

We're a little confused, still anxious, horrified at what we've seen this week around the country, and a little hopeful that perhaps a great tide of justice is rising. Hard to hold it all together! Confused about openings: what can we do now? Why are some people not wearing masks: do they not know, do they not care about others, is it a political statement, have they had the virus? There are probably as many answers as there are people. I'm wearing a mask in public! And what about all of these rallies and protests - won't that help spread the virus? Quite possibly! For some African Americans the the second pandemic (anti-black violence) is much worse than the first, and has been going on much longer. It's hard to compare the risks.

I want to say a little about openings and gatherings. We're looking carefully, and slowly, at what might change at the Fellowship over the summer. And I know how important it is to have human contact. So, first, I simply mention that some people are making decisions to "open their bubbles" and include contact with one or two other people. This requires commitment to each other, and quarantining beforehand, but it may be a good next step, especially for some people who are on their own. I'm not directing anyone to do so, nor prescribing it. It's a personal choice, with its own risks, but also benefits.

As for gathering at the Fellowship, it's possible we might allow small groups, outside, over the summer. There will be lots of logistics and much need for volunteer help, monitoring, and personal responsibility to everyone else. Meanwhile, lots of people are becoming comfortable gathering at and around homes, mostly outside, with distance, but in each others presence. Anyone can choose to do this, with Fellowship friends and acquaintances, with making it a Fellowship event. We need to think about this: if we gather for a "Fellowship" event, what happens to our ideals of openness and welcome to all? It's going to be a long time before many Fellowship members can safely go out in public, and so they will be excluded from any gathering at the Fellowship. Any decisions we make about gatherings should not be just about logistics, but also about inclusivity. There's no going back to whatever we used to think was normal. There's only working to do our best with the way things are now. And our highest values and best practices have never been more needed.

Pandemic Response

Why the Fellowship Building Remains Closed and In-Person Gatherings Suspended: [UUA Guidelines on Gathering In Person as COVID-19 Subsidies](#)

Do you need a mask? If so, please let us know: office@uucorvallis.org.

The Oregon Health Authority 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>.

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