

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis

UUFC
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Weekly Announcements

Sunday, July 12 – Saturday, July 18, 2020

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

Sunday, July 12: Rev. Israel Buffardi

Rev. Israel Buffardi will preach his final service as the Assistant Minister for Religious Exploration at the Fellowship. A few days later he and his family will move to Lancaster, Pennsylvania, where he'll begin his position Senior Minister of the UU Church of Lancaster.

A Time for All Ages lesson or story will be sent out on Saturday evening. These posts are truly for ALL ages. During the summer, there will only be one RE activity each week, sent on Saturday evening.

Farewell for Rev. Israel Buffardi, Sunday July 12

We bid Israel, Abigail and Nicola, farewell as they prepare to move to Lancaster, Pennsylvania, where Israel will become the minister of the UU congregation of Lancaster. You can still give them good wishes at the "Drive-by Good-bye," in the parking lot of the Fellowship on Sunday, July 12, beginning at 11:30 am. Those who are able and willing to come out are invited to drive through the parking lot, where Israel will be present, to stay in your cars and share brief good-byes.

(Cyclists and walkers are welcome too!) We've created a better link to sign-up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0945ACAC2CA5FF2-goodbye>.

Not everyone can or should come out for this! There are several other ways to send your good wishes to Israel. You can send a card or letter to him at the Fellowship. And, you can record a short (1 minute or less) video good-bye, to be part of a Tribute Video we'll give him, by clicking on this link: <https://www.tribute.co/rev-israel-buffardi/>

Instructions on how to record yourself on your phone or computer are on the page. Record your tribute by Saturday!

Between Usreflections from Jill

I remember when most of us thought, or believed, or expected, that the quarantine would last a few weeks. Now, four months later, we watch with various levels of disbelief and horror as the virus continues to spread, overwhelming communities in many states. In Oregon, with a relatively low case count, still the number of cases continues to increase. People are sick and dying here in our community. At the same time, in this beautiful Oregon summer, it is a relief to be able to see friends and neighbors outside while also taking precautions. Yet, the risks are real and lives are at stake, as has been the case all along. I'm still very uncomfortable at the thought of any gatherings for Fellowship activities, even outside on the grounds. If only one person contracted the virus in such a gathering, it would be too many. If one person died from the virus, contracted in any kind of Fellowship gathering, it would be devastating for our community life. I think it would be tragically clear to us that the life of any person would not have been worth what ever we were doing in the gathering. So, we continue to be the Fellowship in all the ways we can be, safely; we call forth from each other patience and perseverance; we support one another and nurture the life of the congregation by staying connected, and by being creative, generous and committed. If our religious and spiritual values and practices do not help us in these aims, they are worthless.

Our Art Wall returns in an online version, as part of the Sunday service this week, then posted on the web site.

Upcoming Sundays

July 19: Rev. Jill McAllister will consider some complexities of ancestry, especially her own immigrant ancestors to the United States.

Weekly Sunday Offering

Our offerings in July will support the **Albany/ Corvallis branch of the NAACP**, especially for their work with the Oregon Cares Fund for Black Relief and Resiliency. To make a donation to the weekly offering, go the [UUFC web page](#) and click on the "SUNDAY DONATIONS" button.

Meanwhile, we are making space in our buildings and grounds for critical and life-saving work. The Magic Flute pre-school is using two rooms again, with very strict protocols issued by the state. I would be happy if we could find ways to offer more childcare at the moment – it is certainly critical to the survival of many families. This week, our front porch on Circle Blvd. will become a drop-off and pick-up hub for the Corvallis Sewing Brigade (which has made and delivered more than 38,000 masks, so far--thank-you to all who have helped!) At the moment, this is our guide for use of the grounds or building: “is it life-saving work?” We will continue to do our best, until things change. Thanks for staying in this mode for the long haul.

Fellowship Connections

Summer Sunday Soapbox Series: Do you have an issue you care deeply about, which you'd like to share with others at the Fellowship? In this updated version of “Soapbox Sunday,” we'll have a series of speakers, depending upon who would like to speak. Each speaker will have 10-15 minutes, plus some time for Q&A. This series will most likely be live, via Zoom, on Sunday mornings in July or August. **Please let Rev. Jill McAllister know if you'd like to be a speaker, by July 12.** minister@uucorvallis.org.

UUFC Women's Retreat August 8, 2020: Register Now!

[Register Now](#) for the 2020 Women's Retreat: “Expanding Our Creative Potentials to Give.”

When: August 8, 2020

Where: Online (Zoom) with a suggested donation \$10 - \$20; no one will be turned away for lack of funds.

Plan to join the all new online retreat format! Our speakers include: Amita Lhamo – psychotherapist and hospice chaplain, Kate Gallagher – OSU Contemplative Studies program coordinator, and Mary Brutsaert – grief and trauma therapist. Other highlights include: social time during coffee hour and happy hour and follow-up creative pod activity sessions. For more information, visit the Fellowship website: <https://uucorvallis.org/womens-retreat/>. Also watch the UU-Announce listserv for more details, registration information, and a call for Creative Pod group facilitators.

UUtheVote: Updates and Opportunities

(1) We just concluded our membership drive - increasing our numbers to 80. You can help us continue to grow our membership by joining us. To find out more contact our membership chair: PeterFStoel@gmail.com. UUtheVote provides an accessible, effective pathway for participation in impacting the upcoming election. We plug you in to a variety of opportunities and support your efforts.

(2) Our team members have been writing hundreds of letters. Karen Josephson has organized regular zoom sessions on **Tuesdays at 10 AM and Thursdays at 3 PM** to write letters to key states. It's easy and folks have a good time connecting. To find out more contact Karen at: kjosephson67@gmail.com.

(3) We raised \$330 to support the national UUtheVote campaign. During the UUA General Assembly, national UUtheVote completed a successful phone banking campaign exceeding its goal making over 114,000 calls to Texas. When you join and get on our listserv you can join in on the next national phone banking session: Saturday, July 18, 12-2 pm. UU the Vote and Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) are partnering to identify and build connections with anti-racist voters in Pennsylvania. We're inviting white folks in PA to actively join in the urgent work of racial justice and learn what non-partisan racial justice issues are at play in the election this year.

For more information, contact John Swanson, facilitator, Corvallis UUtheVote Team: jnhf@aol.com.

Fellowship Weekly Calendar

Weekly Practices and Connections

~Join the **Daily Practice** with an e-mail from Jill, sent out each weekday morning on UU-Announce.

~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 on Tuesday evenings.

~**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.

~**Men's Weekly Gathering** – Sundays: Zoom link sent by UUAnnounce.

~Share the Sunday Time for All Ages stories, crafts and family resources.

~Chalice circles, book groups, discussion groups, RE groups, justice work and more are available. Contact office@uucorvallis.org for info.

Plan Ahead

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.

Drive-by the Fellowship parking lot, beginning at 11:30 am.

Saturday, August 8: Women's Retreat, online

Anti-racism events – see below under Black Lives Matter

Black Lives Matter

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

Contemplate the 13th on the 13th: Want a fuller understanding of the effects of systemic racism on our criminal justice system? View the Ava DuVernay's compelling documentary, *The 13th*. Or read Michele Alexander's *The New Jim Crow*. Then join us at **6 PM, Monday, July 13th** to discuss your perspectives and questions from your reading/viewing experience 13th: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85600546784?pwd=eVhHbXk3VldFVnlpWTN6bmRhdmFoZz09>

Book Discussion: Centering: Navigating Race, Authenticity, & Power

Revs. Jill McAllister and Israel Buffardi will be hosting a discussion group, of readings from the 2017 Skinner House book, *Centering: Navigating Race, Authenticity, and Power in Ministry*. This book was the UUA common read in 2017-2018. A joint project of the Committee for Antiracism, Anti-oppression, and Multiculturalism of the UUMA and Skinner House Books, *Centering* is the first book to center the stories, analysis, and insight of Unitarian Universalists of color offering their religious leadership. The discussion continues on **Monday evenings at 7:00PM**, through July. Discussions will focus on a few essays per session. "Centering" can be purchased through the [UUA Bookstore via this link](#). Please **RSVP** to Jill McAllister, minister@uucorvallis.org to attend, or to request financial assistance with the cost of the book.

From our Immigrant and Refugee Support Team: Food Bank Needs

South Corvallis Food Bank needs volunteers. Volunteers 12 and up are welcome. Two types of volunteer shifts, one packing boxes Mon 10am-noon and Thurs 2-4pm and one distributing food to clients Mon/Wed 12:30-3:30, Thurs 4:30-7:30, and Sat 9:30am-12:30pm. The packing shifts are just 5-10 volunteers who can maintain social distancing easily. The distribution shifts will involve taking food out to clients' cars and loading it in for them, so while we are maintaining social distancing, there is interaction with the public. We are asking all volunteers to wear facemasks. If you have a personal mask, please wear it to your volunteer shift. We have bandanas available for use at the food bank if you don't have one. A brief training is required at the beginning of each shift. Since there is training involved, we are seeking volunteers who intend to volunteer multiple times over the next few months. Sign up for July shifts at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0544adad2ca5fd0-july5>. If you sign up for a shift and then find you won't be able to make it, let Sheila know at sheila@southcorvallisfoodbank.org or by phone or text, 541-760-9382.

Pandemic Response

COVID-19 cases continue to increase. In Benton County, once again this week there is a record number of new cases. In too many states across the country, the virus is surging, and in several states the hospital capacity is now overwhelmed. It is clear that this is no time to loosen restrictions. Please continue to use as much precaution as possible.

Wearing a mask is now required in all indoor public spaces in Benton county, and the entire state of Oregon. It is one of the most effective preventative measures. Do you need a mask? If so, we can help. Let us know: office@uucorvallis.org.

The Fellowship Building Remains Closed: UUA Guidelines on Gathering In Person as COVID-19 Subsides

Help is Available: The ministers, members of the Fellowship Care and Support Team, and several counselors and psychologists are available 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.

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.

CONTACT US

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Office Hours: Currently Closed

Phone and e-mail are checked regularly