

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis

Weekly Announcements

Sunday, July 19 – Saturday, July 25, 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 19: “We Are Cousins” Rev. Jill McAllister

Jill will consider some complexities of ancestry, especially her own immigrant ancestors, and how learning new stories of our lives can change us. She'll have help from her sister, Lisa McLaughlin.

Between Usreflections from Jill

There are lots of things I don't understand these days, like 'cancel culture' and 'influencers,' and why calling someone Caucasian unconsciously supports white supremacy. (I'll keep reading.) I read a lot, trying to keep up with all this movement, and I'm often confused. Things change so quickly! So, before I come to convictions, I usually take a lot of time. People say to me “aren't you against this, and aren't you for this?” and much of the time I'm still listening. The truth is, that's always been my way. I've never been a leading political activist, or the first to take up the newest cause. I appreciate those who are. These days, what I'm listening for is how ideas and speech affect people. I'm moving in the direction of thinking free speech which offends people is OK – part of our democracy – none of us is immune to being offended. But when free speech encourages or enables harming people, I think limits need to be set. Don't ask me to debate this with you – I'm still thinking, and conversing and reading!

Meanwhile, life at the Fellowship is moving and changing, like everything else. Here are some of the changes in our Religious Exploration program: Rachel Kohler is moving into a new position of Interim Director of Religious Exploration. She'll be the hub of the RE program, and she'll also work with the new RE Council, chaired by Rachel Brinker and Skyla Cristisen, to move forward with the council's strategic plan. Plus, we're joining a collaborative RE venture, an alliance of ministers and RE staff in 4 congregations between here and the east coast, to provide lifespan RE. This is very exciting! Other changes include the return of Connect Up (see elsewhere in this newsletter for more info), the inclusion of our greeter team and flower providers in each Sunday service, and the return of Jamie Petts to the office, from home. Jamie will spend lots of time this summer getting our new web site filled out and updated so that it can be the resource we need at our center in these COVID- 19 days.

What's not changing is our commitment to the health and safety of all, as we remain out of the building and grounds for as long as it takes. What's also not changing is our ability to stay connected and to help each other – this we have shown without a doubt. The need for us to let love live through us into the world has definitely not changed! Let's stay in this together. Thank you for all that you do!

“..May we, as people of faith, be so bold, so brave, and so loving.”

Rev. Joseph M. Cherry

Fellowship Connections

UUFC
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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.

Our Art Wall returns in an online version, as part of the Sunday service once a month, then posted on the website.

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.

Connect Up Returns! Is anyone else out there ready for some Connect Up fun? One of the things that is hardest about these COVID - 19 times is missing our community. With the warmer weather and the beauty of our area I think we can have safe gatherings that will also bring joy and connection.

We all know the rules – here are a few suggestions to keep things safe for everyone: Limit the number of guests to 4 or 5; Always wear masks; Choose an outdoor activity where you can maintain social distancing - like hiking/walking, or a lawn game like croquet, or something creative like painting in your backyard; Tell your guests this gathering is BYOE – bring your own everything!

Not ready to break your bubble? Host a zoom game night – there are several free games on line like scattergories , or watch a movie or documentary and then have a group discussion, or play 2 truths and a lie (always fun!)

Pick the date and time that works best for you - choose an event that will be low-stress to host - then submit your event to connect@uucorvallis.org - and we'll send them out the beginning of next week. Hope to see you soon!

Changes to Annual UUFC Fundraisers: This year we are planning to hold both the **UUFC Rummage Sale** and the **Holiday Fair** online. We will need some tech support to do so. For the Rummage Sale, this will mean we would like to have a concurrent showing of Michael Hughes or someone else talking about reducing, reusing, and recycling. For the Holiday Fair, we would like some volunteers to explore with us the possibility of putting part of the celebration online, perhaps the vendors, performers, or other parts of the event. For both events, we also need help from folks who can enter data into our online donation and auction database. Please contact one of us if you are interested: Judy Westlake at judywestlake@comcast.net or 541-740-9457; Jan Elyse Witt at robertson2175@comcast.net or 541-760-4056.

Summer RE Invitation from Rachel Kohler : The RE department has been sending out RE Storytelling podcasts for several months now. You've heard lots of stories from me. But for the summer, wouldn't it be fun to hear some stories from you? If you and your family have a favorite story, Rachel would love to hear it! That's going to be our special summer RE project. Here's how this will work.

Step One: Choose a story. It can be a family favorite, a fairy tale, or even something you've made up! If you'd like some ideas, here's a good source: <https://literacytrust.org.uk/family-zone/9-12/book-hopes/>

Step Two: Record the story! Most smartphones have a recording app, but you can also use a computer that has a webcam. My go-to free audio software is Audacity. Try to record the story in as quiet a place as possible. Don't worry too much about mistakes; I can edit a lot of things out, including some background noises.

Step Three: Send me the audio file via email! Include the title of the story, the author, and who is reading it.

Step Four: I will edit the story into podcast format, complete with music and sound effects like I do with the stories I tell. I'll also come up with a cool craft or activity to go with it.

Step Five: Profit! Everyone at the Fellowship gets to hear your beautiful voices!

If you have any questions, you can email Rachel at reassociate@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) Suggested donation \$10 - \$20; no one 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.

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 at noon. 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.

Black Lives Matter

Buddhism and Black Lives Matter – An Invitation from Jean Gilbert. I invite you to join me in signing up for an online class titled [White and Awakening Together](#) offered by Spirit Rock, the Buddhist meditation center founded by Jack Kornfield. I don't know the teachers of this class but I have great respect for Spirit Rock teachers in general because of the amazing Women's Retreat I attended there last Fall. Click on the link above for details about the retreat.

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

Rev. Jill McAllister hosts this continuing discussion of the 2017 UUA Skinner House book, *Centering: Navigating Race, Authenticity, and Power in Ministry*. The discussion continues on **Monday evenings at 7:00PM**, through July. Discussions will focus on a few essays per session. Contact Jill McAllister, minister@uucorvallis.org to attend.

Pandemic Response

Wearing a mask is now required in all indoor public spaces in Benton county, and the entire state of Oregon. Also, as of July 15, masks are also required in all outdoor spaces where social distancing of 6 feet or more is not possible. Wearing a mask is one of the most effective preventative measures. Do you need a mask? If so, we can help. Let us know: office@uucorvallis.org.

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.

The Corvallis Sewing Brigade has been operating since March 21, 2020 and has made and distributed 6,000 face shields, 400 Tyvek gowns, and 36,000 cloth reusable face masks. As they start to ratchet down production and distribution because there are more opportunities to obtain masks from other places and their sewists are tired :), they are downsizing their hub where their members go to pick up materials for mask making. **The new hub will now be located at entrance to the UUFC** and will be maintained by Elizabeth Wyatt and other brigade members. For updates about the brigade, please check CorvallisSewingBrigade.org or the Corvallis Sewing Brigade Facebook page.

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.

In order to create a community that shares a powerful love and shapes a common purpose we must know one another. In order to know one another, we must hear each other's stories, seeing the world through each others eyes.

Rev. Peter Morales

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