

# Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis

## Weekly Announcements

Sunday, July 26 – Saturday, August 2, 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 26: “Centering” Rev. Jill McAllister

You’ve heard the phrase that history is written by the victors (leaving so much out!) That’s a good example of “centering.” Whose voice, whose story, whose needs get heard and considered? Who dominates, and who gets left out, and why? Let’s start to think about how centering works in the Fellowship.

## Fellowship Connections

**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](mailto:connect@uucorvallis.org) - and we’ll send them out the beginning of next week. Hope to see you soon!

**Rummage Sale Will Be Online!** Each year the UUFC holds a giant Reduce-Reuse-Recycle Extravaganza on the Saturday before the Labor Day weekend. This year that date falls on August 29, and once again we’re organizing a rummage sale. Put the date on your calendar now; you don’t want to miss it. Since we must be virtual this year, our Extravaganza will be smaller and all online. We have not yet sorted out how everything will work, but this is what we are planning so far:

On August 29 items will be sold online from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm using the program Auctria. The sale will be open to both UUFC members and the larger community. Items will be limited to those worth \$25 or more at garage sale prices. (Please, no tires, liquids, chemicals, hazardous materials, old mattresses, textbooks, large exercise equipment, or poisons.)

Donors will submit an online form (available soon) describing the donation and send a photo to Judy Westlake for the online catalog.

Items will be stored by donors until after the event, when buyers will pick them up.

UUFC  
2945 NW Circle Blvd  
Corvallis, OR 97330  
[www.uucorvallis.org](http://www.uucorvallis.org)  
541-752-5218



*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. Flower arrangements now appear in each Sunday service as well – thanks all!

## Weekly Sunday Offering

This Sunday will be the last of our July offerings to 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](http://UUFC web page) and click on the "**SUNDAY DONATIONS**" button.

Thanks to those who have already volunteered to help with the technical aspects of the Rummage Sale (entering data, creating a concurrent zoom event). Other volunteers are needed! Who would like to help publicize this event? (online mostly) Who would like to help plan? Who would like to be filmed talking about reducing, reusing, and recycling, and other environmental issues ?

We're hoping for some up-scale donations because you have had lots of time to clean out closets and garages and find those choice items that you no longer want. Start finding items now if you haven't already. This fun event will make it easy for both donors and buyers to reduce, reuse, and recycle – all to benefit UUFC. Judy Westlake at [judywestlake@comcast.net](mailto:judywestlake@comcast.net) or 541-740-9457.

**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](mailto: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.

**Thank you, thank you:** To Louise Ferrell and Julie Halter for recent gifts 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.

## **Fellowship Weekly Calendar**

\*As we work toward even more online gathering opportunities, we have reinstated the use of the Fellowship calendar so you can see when online gatherings (usually via Zoom) are happening: <https://uucorvallis.org/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](mailto:office@uucorvallis.org) for info.

# Black Lives Matter

**New Resources available on the UUFC Website.** Information on the Black Lives Matter movement, and anti-racism in general, has been posted on the Fellowship website and more will be coming soon. <https://uucorvallis.org/black-lives-matter-movement/>

**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. The class begins August 2. Click on the link above for details.

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

The discussion of this Skinner house book continues for **two more Monday evenings at 7:00PM**. Contact Jill McAllister, [minister@uucorvallis.org](mailto:minister@uucorvallis.org) if you'd like to join us.

## **UUFC Board of Directors Begins a New Year -- July 2020**

Your Board of Directors (BOD) met by Zoom Tuesday evening July 19. This was the first meeting BOD of the new working year with new board members in attendance: Darius Adams, Kedo Baye and Sheryl Stuart. We heard opening words by John Lewis, and reflected on the recent Board retreat. Highlights of our work included:

~Discussion recent posts on UU-Discuss, and related items from the General Assembly, speaking to UU policies and actions in relation to the Black Lives Matter protests and commitments. UU-Discuss is not moderated, and has been used more intensively since COVID-19 isolation began. The BOD and minister agreed that it's best to move some of these sensitive discussions into another, more carefully moderated forum in association with the *Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Task Force (EDI)* under the Justice Council. We also agreed to continue UU-Discuss as an open, unmoderated forum, but urge all who post to be measured and thoughtful about what and how they write there as our congregation has a very wide variety of views and sensitivities.

~Review of the minister's contract (Letter of Agreement), which occurs every three years. We happily agreed to extend it forward. The minister's annual review and the ministries of the congregation (shared ministry) will be discussed with the Committee on Ministry in August.

~A proposal from the Immigrant and Refugee Support Team to provide sanctuary (housing) at the Fellowship should a family of five from El Salvador (fleeing gang violence there) be able to enter the USA (a court date is scheduled for next month). The BOD agreed that this case is well aligned with our Resolution on Sanctuary, passed by the congregation last year, thus agreed to the proposal to temporarily house at the family at the Fellowship if needed.

~Discussed a proposal to establish a named endowment in honor of long time and much loved UUFC member Bob Ozretich who was killed while doing UUFC sponsored road clean-up in 2018. The BOD agreed to modify its policy to allow the establishment of this named fund, called the Bob Ozretich Social Justice Memorial Fund, to be established and used to support justice work by UUFC and other youth from its earnings.

~Continued work on the long and overdue job of updating our policies, as well as replenishing the UUFC web site after it was hacked and had to be rebuilt from scratch.

~Affirmed that Fellowship finances are still in good shape as a result of continued healthy levels of congregational support, a federal loan/grant for payroll, and some planned budget reduction.

We look forward to hearing about any of your concerns and thoughts.  
Steve Strauss, UUFC BOD President [steve.strauss@gmail.com](mailto:steve.strauss@gmail.com)

## **Pandemic Response**

### **Medical Supply Drive (UUFC parking lot, this Sunday, 7/26, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.)**

Support the medics and first aid providers who are assisting BLM protesters injured by police action in Portland. (New, unopened, clean supplies only, please.) A list of needed supplies can be found **here**. Please wear a mask or face covering and observe social distancing. A volunteer will be present to assist you for curbside drop-off.

**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, and children over the age of 5 are required to as well.** 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](mailto:office@uucorvallis.org).

**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. **The new hub for the sewing brigade is now 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](http://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 minister, 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 McAllister even if you're not sure what you need and you just want to talk: [minister@uucorvallis.org](mailto:minister@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**

**Rev. Jill McAllister**  
Senior Minister  
[minister@uucorvallis.org](mailto:minister@uucorvallis.org)

**Jamie Petts**  
Operations Manager  
[office@uucorvallis.org](mailto:office@uucorvallis.org)

**Jean Gilbert**  
Business Manager  
[businessmgr@uucorvallis.org](mailto:businessmgr@uucorvallis.org)

**Rachel Kohler**  
Interim Director of Religious Exploration  
[reassociate@uucorvallis.org](mailto:reassociate@uucorvallis.org)

**Dr. David Servias**  
Music Director  
[music@uucorvallis.org](mailto:music@uucorvallis.org)

**Lauren Servias**  
Pianist

**Church Office**  
(541)752-5218  
Website: [www.uucorvallis.org](http://www.uucorvallis.org)  
Email: [office@uucorvallis.org](mailto:office@uucorvallis.org)

**Office Hours: Currently Closed**  
Phone and e-mail are checked regularly