

# Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis

## Weekly Announcements

Sunday, August 16 – Saturday, August 22, 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, August 16: “How the Story Ends”

**Rev. Monica Jacobson Tennessen**

Stories of living through unsettled times, like a global pandemic, are interesting when they're someone else's story, but when it's us we often want to skip ahead and to know how the story ends. Today we'll explore where we are on the story arc and talk about how to live in a liminal season.

*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.*

### Between Us.....reflections from Jill

We began this pandemic time five months ago (!) with an aim of “blessing the space between us,” and I’d say we’ve done a very good job. The Fellowship has not been a source of COVID-19 for members, friends, staff or building users– that was and still is our goal. And more than that, we have continued to explore, love and act in both familiar and completely new ways. We have been equal to the challenge.

There can never be too many blessings! Let’s begin the new church year with blessings from each to all. I need your help with this: For Sunday, Sept. 6, all are invited to write a blessing or two (or more) to be given as a gift to someone else in the Fellowship. Similar to the Czech flower ceremony which we have shared many times, in which we each bring a flower for someone else to take home, for this ceremony we’ll each send a blessing that will then go to someone else in the Fellowship. What is a blessing? What words would you like to hear from someone else? Words of encouragement, inspiration, and comfort to help carry you through the coming year. Words you could read each day to be reminded of the gifts of community and connection. We have a week for writing: **Please send me your blessings by Sunday, August 23.**

One more request: I’d love to hear from a few of you about what you’ve learned or discovered so far, during the pandemic. What have you discovered about yourself, about your assumptions and expectations, about your capacity for change, about what is truly important and what is not? I would be very happy for our Sunday service on August 30 to include some of you sharing lessons you’ve learned. Please let me know if you’re interested.

Meanwhile, may these words from “*You Still Dream*” by poet Nikki Grimes, guide us: “*But what’s needed in this moment is unmixing confession of our nation’s sin, deep and indefensible. ‘Now I lay me down to sleep’ must make way for something more muscular: sack cloth and ashes, prayer and fasting, naked prostration....radical repentance... Please heal our nation. Cleanse our stubborn hearts. Show each of us what part to play.*”

### Fellowship Connections

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541-752-5218



### August Sunday Offerings

This month we’re supporting the Corvallis Schools Family Support program, which includes the McKinney Homeless Education Fund, to support Corvallis students who are struggling to be able to keep learning, now with even greater needs due to the pandemic. (See more detailed information under the Pandemic Response section of this newsletter.) To make a donation to the weekly offering, go the [UUFC web page](http://www.uucorvallis.org) and click on the “**SUNDAY DONATIONS**” button.

### Upcoming Sunday Services

**August 23** – Rev. Fulgence Ndagijimana, founder of Flaming Chalice International, supporting African UU refugees and immigrants.

**August 30** – UUFC members: What I’m Learning

**September 6** – Blessings Day: A Sunday drive-by

**September 13** – Homecoming Sunday: A live Zoom service

**UU Path: Introduction to Membership** The next training and orientation session for becoming a member of the Fellowship will be held via Zoom on **Monday, August 17, at 7 PM**. Contact Elona Meyer if you are interested in joining: [elonameyer@icloud.com](mailto:elonameyer@icloud.com).

### **Online Rummage Sale: Monday, August 24 at 9:00 a.m. through Sunday, August 30 at 5:00 p.m.**

The UUFC Reduce-Reuse-Recycle Extravaganza—our annual Rummage Sale—online this year for safety. The R3 Extravaganza will take place over a full week. The format will be an online auction, which is even more fun!

**What will you donate?** Please look through your garage or closets to find choice items you no longer want and are willing to donate. We are limiting donations to items worth at least \$15 at garage sale prices, and ask that items be clean and new or lightly used. Excluding low cost items will make the online catalog a manageable size for folks to look through, and our team will have time to enter all items. Please donate now and often! **The deadline for donations is Friday, August 21.**

You can donate three ways:

1. Complete the form below and mail it to Judy or Bonnie at the addresses below
2. Complete the form and scan it and send it to Judy or Bonnie at the email addresses below.
3. Complete the form online at [Online Donation Form RRR Event](#)

With all three methods, text a picture of your donation to Judy or Bonnie or email a jpg photo to our email addresses. Call us if you have problems with this. Judy Westlake at [judywestlake@comcast.net](mailto:judywestlake@comcast.net) or 541-740-9457. Bonnie Morihara at [moriharb@wou.edu](mailto:moriharb@wou.edu) or 503-383-5692

**RE News for Fall:** The UUFC Religious Exploration program is excited to partner with four other UU congregations across the country to provide a robust online RE experience for the 2020-2021 church year. The coalition is called “AFIRE: Alliance for Inspiring Religious Exploration.” There will be online programs available for every age, from preschool activities to Coming of Age to parent groups to a substantial adult RE program called UUniversity. Online “open house” sessions will be held in early September, so stay tuned for details!

**A New Weekly Connection Space – Fridays, 4 PM, via zoom.** Fellowship member and Care and Support Team leader David Maxfield hosts a new weekly connection time for members and friends. “**Heart to Heart: UUFC conversations about what is moving inside us,**” will be an open, facilitated conversation about whatever needs to be talked about. If more than 6 people attend, break-out rooms will be used to allow smaller groups for more conversation. Each session will begin with a chalice lighting and brief check-in, and end with closing words. A zoom invitation will be sent via UU-Announce.

### **Indigenous Connections Reading Group**

The Indigenous Connections group will begin reading Charles Wilkinson's *The People are Dancing Again: The History of the Siletz Tribe of Western Oregon*, on Thursday, August 27th at 4 pm on zoom. This book was commissioned by the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians. At the first meeting we'll talk about the introduction and about our group process. We're inviting people from nearby UU congregations to join us. A Siletz tribal member will also join us for some discussions. Please respond by email to Michael Hughes, [michael.a.hughes1951@gmail.com](mailto:michael.a.hughes1951@gmail.com) to join in, and to receive a zoom link. Please put “Indigenous” as the subject.

**New Communication Platforms for the Fellowship** Thank you to all who made suggestions about finding new and better ways to facilitate both discussions and connections during pandemic Fellowship life. Most likely, the current UU-Discuss listserv will be re-named and aimed more closely at sharing of community resources and needs (not necessarily Fellowship programs or events.) A new platform or platforms will be created to host important Fellowship conversations and discussions – this might use Slack or Canvas or some form of online bulletin board; all of these platforms make discussion threads easier to follow and summarize. Users of these platforms will agree to basic participation guidelines. As we launch these new platforms an open meeting will likely be held, to find out what conversations are most important between us now, and to talk about how to facilitate those conversations effectively. More details coming soon.

### **From the Fellowship Music Department – A hymn project for the new church year**

Have you ever wondered where your favorite UU hymn comes from? Who wrote it? What was the inspiration behind the words and music? This Fall we'll create short videos featuring the origins and contexts of some favorite UU hymns. If you have suggestions or ideas for this, I would love to hear them. Please send an email to [davidservias@gmail.com](mailto:davidservias@gmail.com).

### **Fellowship Weekly Calendar – including Zoom meetings**

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.

~**NEW: Friday “Heart to Heart” 4 PM** An open forum for Fellowship members and friends. The zoom link will be sent 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.

## Plan Ahead

~Memorial Service for David Sundquist, via Zoom, Saturday, August 29, 3 PM

Looking forward to the beginning of a new church year in September, you’re invited to keep these dates in mind:

~Sunday, September 6 – Blessings for A New Year – a drive-by event

~Sunday, September 13 – Homecoming Sunday, with a live Zoom Sunday service for all

~Sunday, September 20 – New RE year begins, with offerings for all ages.

## Fellowship Zoom Account for Small Group meetings

Coming soon, our Fellowship Zoom account will become available for small groups to reserve. These reservation requests should be limited to small meetings with not largely publicized meeting links, because security will be loosened in those meetings in order for us to enable non-staff members to host.

Is using the Fellowship Zoom account right for your group? The advantage: longer meetings (more than 40 minutes) are available using the Fellowship account. The disadvantages: 1. Scheduling with the office must occur, as we can still only host one meeting at a time, and 2. the Zoom security is not as strong.

In order to keep it as secure as possible, we need a team of a few people who are willing to host Fellowship Zoom meetings to be trained in how to do so. Let Jamie Petts know if you’d like to be trained.

To request use of the Fellowship Zoom account, check the church calendar first (<https://uucorvallis.org/calendar/>) to assure availability, then send an email to Jamie at [office@uucorvallis.org](mailto:office@uucorvallis.org) with the name of the event, date, and time. If it’s reoccurring, please indicate that.

If you’re using a personal Zoom account for a Fellowship meeting and would like the meeting to show up on the UUFC calendar so others can potentially join, please send the same information as above (name of the event, date, and time) to Jamie, note that it’s a personal account, and she’ll add it to the calendar.

**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).

## UU the Vote, Black Lives Matter and Climate Justice: An Intersection

UU the Vote, Side With Love, and UUSC are excited to invite you to Taking A Collective Breath: Deepening our alignment with the Movement for Black Lives, a five-session series built around the elements of the BREATHE Act and created in a collaboration between Side With Love and UUSC. The webinars will explore the components of the BREATHE Act and utilize its structure as a way to focus our energies to effectively support ongoing racial justice work. Come learn and build with local and national partners who are shaping conditions to make liberation possible. This is an invitation to locate yourself in this moment as well, we each have a role to play.

## Black Lives Matter

Two articles by Ibram X. Kendi, in *The Atlantic* this month – well worth reading: “The End of Denial,” and “We do not want our freedom gradually,” (*Patience Is A Dirty Word*)

**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 continues to be updated: <https://uucorvallis.org/black-lives-matter-movement/>

## Worship Archives

Sunday services are archived on the Fellowship web site, at [uucorvallis.org](http://uucorvallis.org). The monthly Art Wall offering is now also available there too. If you'd like to share artwork in a Sunday Service, please contact Niya Standish at [niyabeth@gmail.com](mailto:niyabeth@gmail.com). If you'd like to share bouquets, please contact Chere Pereira at [cherep@comcast.net](mailto:cherep@comcast.net).

**The July 2020 UUFC Justice Newsletter is posted here:** [https://uucorvallis.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Justice-news-July-2020.FINAL\\_.pdf](https://uucorvallis.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Justice-news-July-2020.FINAL_.pdf)

## Pandemic Response

**Wearing a mask is 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).

An essay from “**The Clergy Letter Project**” discusses how religious institutions are dealing with the Covid-19 crisis and offers lessons for others, including academic institutions. Read the essay by clicking [here](#).

**N95 Mask Giveaway** The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints has partnered with Benton County to host an event to distribute up to 10,000 KN95 masks, and hand-sanitizer. This will be a drive-by event, **Saturday, August 22, 2020, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm**, in the parking lot of the Corvallis LDS Stake, at 4141 NW Harrison Blvd. All in the community are welcome.

**Corvallis School District Family Support** Our Sunday offerings support this effort during the month of August. In addition to financial support, the Welcome Center is in need of these items:

Canned items such as pasta sauce, proteins, vegetables, fruit, soups and instant meals such as chili or ravioli

Cereals, oatmeal, pasta, macaroni and cheese, ramen,

Snacks: granola bars, nuts, crackers, applesauce

Other: laundry soap, dish soap, cleaning supplies, hand soap, toothpaste, tooth brushes, shampoo, cream rinse, sanitary pads, diapers, pull ups. We are always in need of gift cards and laundry cards

*\*We appreciate items that can fit in a grocery bag such as small containers of liquid laundry soap. We can only send out food that is within the pull date.*

**The Corvallis Sewing Brigade** hub is now located at the Circle Blvd entrance to the UUFC. 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**

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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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**Office Hours: Currently Closed**

Phone and e-mail are checked regularly.