

# Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis

## Weekly Announcements

Sunday, August 2 – Saturday, August 8, 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 2: “Another Day is Given” Rev. Jill McAllister with singer Peter Mayer

We’re very grateful to welcome UU singer/songwriter Peter Mayer into the service today, coming to us live from Stillwater, Minnesota. Peter has given several concerts at the Fellowship in recent years. In this service, Jill and Peter share some of the things they’ve learned as we live in this pandemic, and we all get a front-row seat as Pete shares some of his songs. (Spoiler alert: *Blue Boat Home* will be the closing song – as shared singing.)

*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

I’ve been asked to officiate at a graveside memorial service next week, for a person I didn’t know, but wish I had. The grieving spouse wanted me to know that the two of them were not really religious. I’m never surprised to hear this – in general people have very narrow definitions of what constitutes being “religious.” My definition of religion is one of the broadest I’ve ever heard, and thru many decades it remains more than adequate: religion is a human process of understanding the nature of our essential relatedness, in order to live in right relations.

I know many people claim that the most important thing about the Fellowship, for them, is the community. I understand and appreciate that. At the same time, it’s important to remember that this community would be very different if it weren’t for the fact that we are a religious congregation, with religious commitments. For me, our response to the pandemic is first and foremost a religious response. We take seriously the worth and dignity of every person – therefore we are taking the highest precautions we can to protect each other’s health, and the health of our communities. Our response to the heightened awareness of Black Lives Matter, and to the uncovering of more truths about the creation and rise of white supremacy in the United States, and to calls for the removal of Confederate statues, is a likewise a religious response, grounded in commitments to justice and to freedom – which is what “right relations” are made of.

I’ve been part of conversations in which people wonder how we can possibly keep up with calls for change on every side along with the breakdown of institutions we have depended upon. Some White people still don’t understand why it is important to be actively anti-racist. Some cis-gendered folks (those who identify with the gender they were assigned at birth) wonder how in the world they can learn to use different pronouns for trans and non-binary folks. Some people aren’t worried about the climate crisis and wonder why making changes in our energy use is so important. My response to all of these questions is a religious response: though these things may be hard or uncomfortable for us, I contend that responding in ways that move toward right relations is our responsibility as members of a religious congregation. This is one of the definitions of

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## August Sunday Offerings

This Sunday begins our August offerings to support 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. To make a donation to the weekly offering, go the [UUFC](http://UUFC) web page and click on the “SUNDAY DONATIONS” button.

## Worship Archives

Sunday services are archived on the Fellowship web site, at [uucorvallis.org](http://uucorvallis.org). A monthly Art Wall offering is now also available there too. If you’d like to share art, 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).

## Upcoming Sunday Services

August 9 – UUFC member Kari Gottfried  
August 16 – Rev. Monica Jacobson Tennesen

accountability – that we practice what we preach. Another part of accountability is that we help each other both remember and learn more about how to practice what we preach.

If the good old days were any of the days prior to this pandemic – they are now gone. If the good old days were any days in which being part of this religious congregation was primarily about our own comfort – I think those days are gone too. These days are about creating a better world. We have what is needed to respond to the particular challenges of these days; we have commitments to principles and values, we have all of the resources we share between us – including wisdom, strength and creativity, and we have each other. We have each other, and so much more. Thank-you again for all you are doing!

## Fellowship Connections

**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)

**A New Chance to Connect – Fridays, 4 PM, via zoom.** Fellowship member and Care and Support Team leader David Maxfield will host 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 are present, 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 UUAnnounce.

**Online Rummage Sale : Updates** 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 which provides ample time for UUs and the larger community to look over donations. The format will be an online auction, which is even more fun! The Extravaganza will run from Monday, August 24 at 9:00 a.m. through Sunday, August 30 at 5:00 p.m.

It’s time to start looking through your garage or closets to find those choice items you no longer want and are willing to donate to the Fellowship. 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, so our team can enter everything over the weekend, ready for the fun on Monday.

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, remember to 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 or 541-740-9457. Bonnie Morihara at moriharb@wou.edu or 503-383-5692

**Connect Up Returns!** 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. So far we’ve had a zoom Poetry Night, a zoom Trivia Night and a hike to Marion Lake. Great start!

We all know the rules – here’s how to keep in-person gatherings safe for everyone: Limit in-person gatherings to 4 or 5 people; 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? That’s fine, and still a good idea! Host a zoom game night 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!

**Thank you, thank you! --**

~To Andrea Daily who continues to coordinate care of the Fellowship grounds. Andrea is hoping to transition out of this role sometime soon – might you be the person who could be the next grounds coordinator? If you're interested, contact Jill McAllister.

~ To all who have sent suggestions for new connection formats for Fellowship activities, to help widen our choices for meaningful conversations, and take some pressure off of UUDiscuss. Suggestions are being reviewed this week – stay tuned for updates.

~ To Peter Hseih for coordinating a collection of medical supplies to send to Portland in the wake of violence against Black Lives Matter protesters by militarized federal police. And thanks to all who brought supplies!

**RE Invitation from Rachel Kohler :** Looking for storytellers - would you like to read a story to be shared as the Weekly RE Podcast? Great! Here's how you can do it:

**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).

## 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.

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

~**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

**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/>

**Buddhism and Black Lives Matter – An Invitation from Jean Gilbert.** 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 this Sunday, August 2. Click on the link above for details.

## 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, 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 Circle Blvd. 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***

**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).

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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