

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis

Weekly Announcements

Sunday, Sept. 27 – Saturday, Oct. 3, 2020

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

Sunday, September 27, 10 AM

“Politics, Religion and UUtheVote”

A live Zoom service, including Time for All Ages
Rev. Jill McAllister and members of the
UUFC UUtheVote team

More than 90 Fellowship members are part of a national UU movement supporting voter turnout, as a way to live our values in the world. So much is hard this year – this work is hopeful!

Join the Sunday Service at 10 AM at this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/96231448170?pwd=cUoxaWxyei9wOTE5cVFVZ0t0Qk5KUT09>

Between Us.....*reflections from Jill*

The Fellowship is not a political organization, and at the same time the Fellowship is a completely political organization. What on earth does that mean? Let's start here: the Fellowship is legally a religious organization. Our priorities are the religious and spiritual lives of our members. Worship is at the center of our congregational life. Our religious commitments are broad, and non-creedal – which is a challenge to understand, even for members of the congregation! The best way I can describe it is to say that each member is free to believe what makes sense to them to believe, that we gather around shared values, and that those values set before us a goal of living in right relations.

At the same time, we are a political organization; the word “politics” refers to Greek ideas about “the shape of the community.” We are constantly shaping and re-shaping our religious community in the daily details of how we relate to each other. “Politics” is a human process: who has power, who has authority, who makes decisions, who is impacted and how, how do we change and grow? None of these questions is merely theoretical. Between us there are different answers to these questions. And given our devotion to freedom of thought and belief, it follows that we differ in our understanding of many other things. In fact, we understand and interpret some our foundational shared values differently. The process of articulating and negotiating these differences is politics in action, and is challenging even in the best of times. Often in our history we have tended to assume similarities instead of working to understand our real differences. An old version of ‘don't ask, don't tell,’ until something breaks. The goal, however, is right relations – not winning. And that makes a huge difference. Politics for us, as the Fellowship, is not about choosing the right side in national debates. It is about love and justice between us.

It may go without saying that these are not the best of times. The wider world of secular politics is more intense than I've ever experienced – perhaps you too. I said out loud in 2016 that our traditional UU approach to secular politics (trying to honor all sides) had been upended by the fact that all of our stated values were now threatened. That has not changed for me. Four years later, the politics of the wider world are now also shedding new light on the politics of our congregational life, making some of our differences more visible, more pointed. This is not easy. Nothing is easy this year. But politics is not a dirty word, nor tangential to our religious lives. The great potential of politics is its ability to help us achieve right relations, which is always worth the struggle. The struggle for us, as members of the Fellowship, is not to see who wins. It is to stay in relationship with each other until we achieve the best level of shared commitment we can reach. No matter what happens in the world around us, even now, that is the what is asked of us.

Fellowship Connections

UUFC

2945 NW Circle Blvd

Corvallis, OR 97330

www.uucorvallis.org

541-752-5218



New to Zoom? For help getting started, contact Ann Marchant for guidance. Email: amarchant912@gmail.com to arrange a tutorial session by phone or email. Zoom is easier than you think! (A project of the 2020 UUFC Women's Retreat)

September Sunday Offerings

This is the final Sunday on which our offerings benefit UU the Vote. We're helping to cover costs of supplies and postage here, and also to facilitate phone banking across the country. To make a donation to the weekly offering, go the [UUFC web page](#) and click on the "SUNDAY DONATIONS" button.

Upcoming Sunday Services

October 4 Rev. Patrice Curtis, guest preacher

October 11 Rev. Jill McAllister

You can still register for RE – Please do! Our cooperative Religious Exploration program – AFIRE - began last Sunday, September 20, with orientations to all programs, from preschool activities to Coming of Age to parent groups. It's not too late to register your family, your children / youth, or yourself at this link: <https://afire.online/registration/> Adult RE classes and groups are available here, at UU university. Contact Rachel Kohler with questions: reassociate@uucorvallis.org

RE Council Survey on Intergenerationality at the Fellowship: Please take a few minutes to fill out this survey, to help the RE Council refine their vision and goals strengthening Fellowship connections: [UUFC RE Intergenerationality Survey](#)

UUDiscuss has been retired. Mighty Networks is up and running. A new, user-friendly platform called Mighty Networks was rolled out on Tuesday, Sept. 22, and UUDiscuss has been retired. With Mighty Networks, discussion threads are easier to follow and summarize, and discussions on various topics are easier to get to and join. We're also compiling a FAQ document, so watch UU-Announce for those helpful tips. (This year's RE program will also use Mighty Networks). Like UU-Discuss, it's an "opt-in" list – [We hope you'll join us, here.](#)

Last chance to RSVP for the Oct. 4 Social Justice Summit

Please rsvp to larry.roper@oregonstate.edu by September 27 if you intend to participate in the Summit. The UUFC Justice Council will hold a virtual Social Justice Summit on Sunday October 4, 3:00-4:30 pm. Our theme for the Summit is Reconnecting for Justice Work in a Time of Disconnection. We'll reconnect and engage with each other about our justice work and, importantly, how we are individually and collectively navigating these times. We'll have small group discussions to share how we have stayed connected, how we have sustained our work, and approaches we have taken to self-care during the pandemic. We are excited that Reverend Jill McAllister join us and share her thoughts on the importance of our connections. We sincerely invite your participation. A link to access the Summit will be sent to those who express intention to participate. Thanks for all you do to hold our community together.

Town Hall Follow-Up: Thanks so much to all – more than 60 – who attended our first town hall of the year last week on Sunday and Monday. We shared experiences of hard conversations and hurts in the life of the Fellowship. All agreed that we can learn more about dealing with differences in better ways, and some good suggestions were shared. One of the first next steps is a pilot project in working with differences; Jed Irvine is working with thirteen volunteers to try out a method he has developed. Thank you – all of you! We look forward to hearing what you'll have to teach.

Two good resources for thinking more about this work:

~Several Fellowship members have given recommendations for a discussion project called Living Room Conversations. Check it out here. [Living Room Conversations – Healing divides starts with conversation](#)

~ Please read this article if you can – this is what we need to aim for in the Fellowship.

<https://wearenotdivided.reasonstobecheerful.world/student-led-movement-depolarize-politics-college-campus/>

UU the Vote Letter Writing

Join us by Zoom for the last push before the election to Get Out the Vote:

At 10am on Tuesdays

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88456571013?pwd=VHQ2cnVLU1M5Yk9yLzVzdXZtU1QvQT09>

At 3pm on Thursdays

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87673598582?pwd=YzM2S2I2b3pFWFJDMUkzUjEYenVGQT09>

This is an easy, pandemic-friendly, and proven-effective way to increase voter turn-out among voters likely to support UU Values – plus we have fun chatting as we write! For information, go to <https://uucorvallis.org/uu-the-vote/> or contact Karen Josephson (kjosephson67@gmail.com) or Claire Montgomery (clairemtg@comcast.net).

Climate Solution Happenings

Why did I choose Citizens' Climate Lobby? Because I wanted ...

- to work with an organization that is focused on a national, legislative solution that will reduce America's emissions, fast
- to work with a non-partisan organization
- to work with an organization in line with my values --- that builds consensus through respectful relationships with others.

I have been a member of the local chapter of the Citizens' Climate Lobby for about two years now. Together we're building support in the Congress for a national bipartisan solution to climate change. I invite you to join me! "Citizens' Climate Lobby makes me feel like we can do this. We can solve climate change, and we can do it in a way that brings people together rather

than tears them apart.” (Chelsea, Portland, OR –Volunteer since 2015). *Deborah Clark, UUFC Climate Action Team member* (mizd@gmail.com). For more info on the national organization: <https://citizensclimatelobby.org/>
For more info on the local chapter https://citizensclimatelobby.org/chapters/OR_Corvallis/ (Note: meetings are via Zoom)

Black Lives Matter

Demand justice for Breonna Taylor. *Tangible Actions:*

- Demand Congress to [pass the BREATHE Act](#), a radical reimagining of public safety, community care, and how we spend money as a society
- Donate to [the Louisville Community Bail Fund](#):
- Donate to [the Louisville Healing Fund](#)

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/>

Fellowship Weekly Calendar – including Zoom meetings

The Fellowship calendar lists online gatherings (usually via Zoom): <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, Mindful Awareness Practice** is live on Zoom from 7:00 - 7:40. New name, same type of practice. 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.

~**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 for info.

Fellowship Zoom Account for Small Group meetings

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 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: We’re still here if you need us! 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.

Worship Archives Sunday services are archived on the Fellowship web site, at 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. If you’d like to share bouquets, please contact Chere Pereira at cherep@comcast.net.

Wildfire Response

The Oregon Health Authority is still updating [this document](#) regularly with resources for all things related to the wildfires.

Pandemic Response

Wearing a mask is required in all indoor public spaces in Benton county, and the entire state of Oregon. 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.

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

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.