

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis

Weekly Announcements

Sunday, Oct. 11 – Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020

Sunday, Oct 11, 10 AM

“What We Bring With Us” Revs. Jill McAllister and Fulgence Ndagijimana

A live Zoom service, including Time for All Ages

Every person has been hurt in some ways, and we carry those wounds – healed or not healed – differently. We carry wounds of generations. We see and experience hurt in the present. All of this makes a difference to how we relate to others.

Join the Sunday Service at 10 AM at this link:

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

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

Seven months into this pandemic and the immense changes it has required from all of us, I must pause to share with you my thanks and appreciation for the UUFC staff. To the extent that the life of the Fellowship continues to be both possible and coherent, it is because of the many new skills and tasks undertaken by the staff. Not only are they continuing to hold things steady, they are doing so mostly from home, several of them also juggling new and difficult daily family needs. Everyone has stretched! To Jean Gilbert, Jamie Petts, David and Lauren Servias, and Rachel Kohler – thank-you! And to Steve Ferrell for joining us as building coordinator, thank-you!

It is hard to describe how much we have learned, through necessity, about providing weekly worship services. We began with what we had – a willing volunteer (John Myers) and his media expertise, and a flexible Music Director with good computer skills. Over the summer months we learned how to put together pre-recorded worship services. We discovered how much time was needed-- probably three times more than had ever been needed for in-person services. For the past four weeks, with help now from Rachel Kohler, we have been on a steep learning curve to provide live Zoom services each Sunday – which require almost as much time in preparation and learning new skills, but less time in editing and converting the final production. Each week we're learning more!

Many of you said you would like a mix of live zoom services, and pre-recorded services. For now, what that looks like is this: the live zoom service is recorded on Sunday morning and then posted for viewing at your convenience, after Sunday. For now, we're not able to provide both a recorded service AND a live service on Sunday mornings. At some point, we'll likely switch to having at least one service a month be pre-recorded only. In the meantime, for those who really want both each Sunday, there is a fabulous archive of UUFC Sunday services available on the website. A little later, I plan to talk about the role of worship in our lives in this time; it may be more necessary than ever before.

One of the unexpected benefits of the pandemic is that now it's possible to attend worship almost anywhere in the country, by Zoom. I've heard from many people who are enjoying this freedom. My colleagues and I are discovering how easy and wonderful it is now to collaborate; we are sharing parts and pieces of worship in ways that benefit us all. This Sunday we begin one of those collaborations – with the Rev. Fulgence Ndagijimana, former minister of the Unitarian Church of Bujumbura, Burundi, now living in Ottawa, Ontario. Through the church year Rev. Fulgence will join us for worship, for discussion groups and classes, and more. I hope you'll take some time to get to know him.

Fellowship Connections

UUFC

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www.uucorvallis.org

541-752-5218



October Sunday Offerings

In October, our offerings will support the South Corvallis Food Bank. The need for food has increased during the pandemic. To make a donation to the weekly offering, go the [UUFC web page](#) and click on the "SUNDAY DONATIONS" button.

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)

Upcoming Sunday Services

October 18 Rev. Jill McAllister

October 25 Mid Willamette Trans Network

Immigrant and Refugee Support Team (IRST) is featuring a PUMPKIN PATCH: this month, Saturday, October 17th, at Elaine Kahn's mini farm (4690 SE Booneville Drive), 9:00 AM-1:00 PM; and Sunday, October 18th, at UUFC, Noon-2:30 PM. Elaine is donating the pumpkins, volunteers are donating their time, and all proceeds will go to [One Story at a Time](#). Suggested donation per pumpkin: \$5. RSVP Elona Meyer at elonameyer@icloud.com to let us know which day, the 17th or 18th, you would like to pick up your pumpkin—this will help us organize our volunteers and make arrangements. Masks and social distancing will be expected throughout. We could use volunteers to help us both days! Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0449adaa28a7fc1-pumpkin>

Pronouns & Inclusive Language. The Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Task force has teamed with the Mid Willamette Trans Support Network (MWTSN) to plan a presentation on pronouns and inclusive language as part of our **Sunday service on October 25th**. We're hoping this service is well-attended and will help us refresh our awareness for using preferred pronouns and honoring more inclusive language in all our communications.

Mighty Networks Updates. Thanks for joining us in our new, communication platform called Mighty Networks (UU-Discuss has been retired). We've made some updates on it this week, so be sure to check it out! With Mighty Networks, discussion threads are easier to follow and summarize, and discussions on various topics are easier to get to and join. (This year's RE program is also using Mighty Networks). There are discussion groups for resource sharing, politics, reading suggestions, blessings, invitations to action, humor and more. There are group spaces for our major work – Anti-Racism, Climate Action, Immigration and Refugees, Indigenous Connections, LGBTQ support, Parent support, and more. Like UU-Discuss, it's an "opt-in" list – [We hope you'll join us, here](#).

Partner Church Invitation. The UUFC Partner Church Team invites you to attend a Zoom meeting at 9:00 AM on **Saturday, October 24**, with Rev. Katalin Szász-Csereny, the minister of the Unitarian Church of Köröspatak in Transylvania, Romania, our partner church. She and some of the six scholarship students we support, and their families would like to thank us in person and tell us about their lives in the pandemic. Please RSVP to Patricia Parcels (patriciaparcels@aol.com) or Beverly McFarland (jellofair@gmail.com); we would just like to have some idea of how many people to expect. Our translator Ildiko Overbay, will be at the meeting to help us.

First Steps: New to UUFC? Interested in making connections and learning more about our community? Our next First Steps Class is on Sunday, Oct. 25 at 11:30 am. Contact First Steps coordinator Elona Meyer: elonameyer@icloud.com to learn more!

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](#)

You can still register for RE – Please do! Our cooperative Religious Exploration program – AFIRE - began on 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

Black Lives Matter

Meeting Up with Other Black UUs One of the most difficult aspects of being a Black Unitarian Universalist in a predominantly white congregation and Association is the sense of isolation that persists. So any opportunity to gather face-to-face can offer spiritual uplift that may not otherwise be readily available. So if you're coming into a new area for a limited time or permanently, or just haven't connected with other Black UUs where you've been, visit the link below and fill out the form. And if there are folks in your area who we know about, the BLUU Ministerial Network will be delighted to connect you! Link -- <https://www.blacklivesuu.com/bluumin-meetups>

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/>

UU the Vote: Letter Writing and More

We're getting closer to our estimated 18,000 + letters to be mailed on Oct. 17. 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=YzM2S2I2b3pFWFJDMUkzUjEYenVGOT09>

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).

Also, from national organizer Aisha Houser: [**I am excited to announce that we are inviting UU the Vote leaders to the VUU on Thursday, October 15th at 12 pm ET/9 am PT.**](#) Join us to discuss the rising challenges and threats of this election season and learn how UUs can show up to defend democracy.

Climate Solution Happenings

Even with aggressive greenhouse gases reduction, the effects of climate change will be with us for decades. As a result, the state is preparing an **Oregon Climate Change Adaptation Framework**, which identifies how state agencies can respond to the impacts of climate change in Oregon.

- **If you have a little bit of time**, become informed on the state's adaptation efforts by reading a summary of the Climate Change Adaptation Framework (https://www.oregon.gov/lcd/Commission/Documents/2020-07_Item-11_Briefing-CCAF_Attachment-A-Adaptation-One-pager.pdf).
- **If you have a little more time**, share your perspective as an Oregonian by completing a survey to help the state understand how climate change is and will be affecting people, organizations, and state agencies (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RPHBY7N>).

Questions! Deborah Clark (mizdclark@gmail.com), Member of UUFC Climate Action Team.

Pandemic Response

Benton County placed on the COVID-19 watch list: On Friday, October 2, 2020 the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) released data that demonstrates Benton County is not currently meeting the sporadic case rate threshold. Per OHA, counties are placed on the watch list when there is:

- A sporadic case rate of ≥ 50 per 100,000 in the last two weeks and the county has >5 sporadic cases in the last two weeks.
- For the period 9/13/2020 - 9/26/2020, Benton County experienced a sporadic case rate of 58.3/100,000.

The sporadic case rate represents the rate of cases that do not have a clear epidemiological link to other outbreaks or and therefore indicate the virus is spreading uncontained in a community. This is also referred to as “community spread. This is a stark reminder for us all to keep social distancing, wear a mask, wash your hands frequently, and stay home if you are sick. Today, Oct. 9, there are 500 active COVID cases in Oregon – the most since the pandemic began!

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.

UUFC Helping in the community While we cannot meet in our buildings for worship and almost all Fellowship activities, we continue to provide support for the community. Recently a “little Library” structure has been placed in our parking lot to be a source of materials and connection information for the many AA groups which used our space before the pandemic. Also, we have become an address of record for the Mid Willamette Trans Support Network, a group which also met at the Fellowship before the pandemic. And many neighbors continue to use our park-like setting as a place of rest and refuge everyday.

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*

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.

Join Jill in Support of Lumina Hospice and Palliative Care

A note from Rev. Jill McAllister: "I serve on the Board of Lumina Hospice. On Nov. 5th at noon, Lumina will celebrate 40 years of service to the community with a virtual lunch fundraiser. I'm the host of one of the virtual tables. If you would like to join me for this event, please let me know – I'd be happy to include you."

Strengthening Connections

~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/>

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.

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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