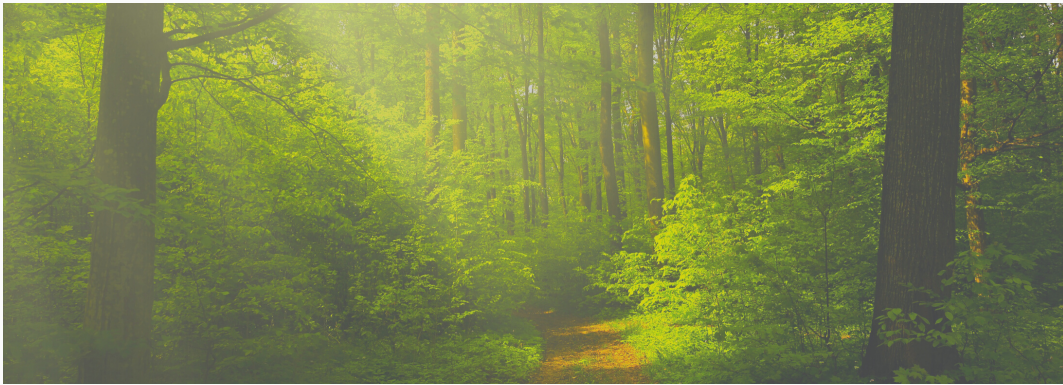


# NEWSLETTER

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis



## Between Us

## Rev. Jill McAllister

"*And this too.*" Here in Oregon, in the global pandemic, we are not where we thought we would be, where we hoped we would be. According to NPR, Benton County's rate of COVID transmission has moved from moderate to substantial; Linn County's rate from substantial to high. We are offered, again, a chance to practice inner nobility and steadiness, to orient ourselves to the way things truly are and to respond as much as possible with equanimity, wisdom and compassion. Of course, this is the daily challenge of the religious life! It's not new, it's not novel, it's no easier or harder than it ever has been. There is simply less room for equivocation now – less room for dismissal, distraction, and denial, though our tendencies in those directions are as strong as ever.

And so we begin again. As this newsletter shows, the life of the Fellowship continues to be broad and rich and deep. We have certainly learned new ways to stay focused on our mission and our ideals. This returning monthly newsletter aims to be a regular report of the work of Fellowship teams, groups and individuals – a way to articulate how we live what we say we are committed too. A way to keep each other informed and invite each other to join in, work together, learn and grow.

This month is a time for planning, in wholly new ways, given that so much is unknown. We're planning programs and projects with no idea of how or when they will actually unfold, but we are planning nevertheless. This month is a good time for you to think about how you want to be involved in the life and work of the Fellowship this year. And, this is a good time to consider your religious life – to take your religious life seriously (as I say in new member orientations.) What are the elements of your religious life -- your beliefs, your practice? What holds you and what do you serve? What questions are moving in you? What commitments do you want to make for a new year of learning, growing, and serving? All of these questions are worth consideration and conversation, and I look forward to being part of them with you.

## Monthly Newsletter

### About this publication

This monthly newsletter focuses on the life of the Fellowship. Each month we'll share reports from Fellowship leaders, councils, teams and projects. We'll explore Unitarian Universalist (and Fellowship) history and practice, and important 'save-the-dates' will be shared.

### AUGUST SUNDAY

**SERVICES** – both outdoors in person, and online. Join us on the back lawn of the Fellowship, or connect via zoom.

Live Zoom Sunday Service  
at 10 AM:

[https://zoom.us/j/96231448170?  
pwd=cUoxaWxyci9wOTE5cVFVZ0t0Qk5KUT09](https://zoom.us/j/96231448170?pwd=cUoxaWxyci9wOTE5cVFVZ0t0Qk5KUT09)

# Board of Directors

## July Board Meeting Highlights

- As this was the first meeting of the new Board, with new members, much of the meeting involved orienting members to the Board's roles & responsibilities and governance structure. The primary roles of the Board are policy oversight, budget making, and collaborating with the Minister and the Office and Business Managers. The BOD has the ultimate fiduciary responsibility, but work of the Fellowship is undertaken through Councils and the Teams that are formed under Council oversight.
- The Board received an update from the Pandemic Response Team, via Kedo Baye, on Covid trends as we discuss the timeline for reopening the Fellowship Building. Trends are either static or unpromising to get to Phase 1 (<40 cases/7 day rolling average Linn & Benton Counties combined.) August will remain the same as July (closed building, outdoor only activities.) The Covid Task Force meets 07/28 and will work to have a contingency for staff coverage if Phase 1 target is achieved. The Covid Task Force is best able to address any particulars with Retreat planning.
- Legacy White Oak: The Indigenous Connections Team proposes that UUFC name the white oak "Api'nefu Oak" and place a sign at the tree that acknowledges we live with respect and gratitude on the traditional lands of the Api'nefu Band of the Kalapuya people. ICT will be guided to appropriate wording by the tribes. The Ground-stewards Team supports the proposal and is working to take all possible steps to protect and care for the oak and her two daughter oaks. Steve will take to the ICT the Board request for a proposal that considers liaison with tribes, signage that is safe and secure, and estimate cost and ask that they report back. (See more information on this project on page )

## August Sundays

**August 8** Rev. Jill McAllister

**August 15** Mina Carson and  
Eliza Barstow

**August 22** Rev. Leslie Chartier

**August 29** Rev. Jill McAllister –  
Question Box Sunday

## Upcoming Events

**August 18** RE Ice Cream Social  
at 6 PM, outside at the UUFC. All  
families with children and youth  
are invited.

**September 6** Tuna Roast

**October 15-16** Men's Retreat

**November 5-6** Women's Retreat

*"True life is lived when tiny changes occur."*

—Leo Tolstoy



# Facilities Council

## **BUILDING UPDATE: A CITY LOAN FOR ENERGY CONSERVATION RENOVATIONS**

This summer, the UUFC applied for and received a \$10,100 loan from the Corvallis Climate Action Revolving Loan Fund. If paid back in two years, the loan carries no interest. The purpose of the fund is to assist nonprofit organizations in saving energy and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The application was written by the UUFC's Climate Action Team.

We will use these funds to insulate the Social Hall floor, replace three single-pane windows and two exterior doors with high-efficiency units, reduce air flow and heat loss through four attic access locations, add ceiling insulation in the Social Hall and seal gaps around pipes entering the kitchen from below the floor.

These and other needs were identified in an energy audit performed last spring by UUFC member Dennis Feeney. Dennis does audits and other energy conservation work for Community Services Consortium downtown. He generously donated his services to help the UUFC reduce energy use.

Once a contractor has been hired, efforts will be made to avoid conflicts with ongoing Fellowship activities, assuming we will be able to occupy our building later this year. The goal is to have the work completed by next summer.

## **BUILDING EXPANSION UPDATE: PROGRESS ON CLASSROOM ADDITION**

Planning proceeds on the construction of the new classroom addition. Our land use consultant, David Dodson of Willamette Valley Planning Services, is preparing an application to the city for a conditional land use permit. A key piece of that application is an assessment of the impact the project will have on our trees. We expect that work to be done in August. The application will include the tree report, the schematic design for the building from Varitone Architecture of Albany, and an engineering report on utility lines, pathways and stormwater.

The city will conduct a public process to consider how the project fits the criteria for a conditional permit in the residential zone we occupy and the impact the project will have on the neighborhood. We are hoping for a decision by the end of the year. Among the steps we anticipate taking are removal of the garden shed just northeast of the building and construction of a new shed onto the east side of the Fellowship building just north of the Social Hall deck. In addition, we are seeking the city's permission to remove 54 incense cedars along the east boundary line and replace them with smaller trees, shrubs and wildflowers.

Simultaneously, we have enrolled in the Oregon Energy Trust's Path to Net Zero program. We will meet with the architect and energy specialists to identify opportunities to create a facility that produces no net greenhouse gas emissions. The goal is to reduce energy losses to a minimum, generate as much of our own fossil-fuel-free power on site as possible and invest in solar, wind or other energy projects elsewhere to meet the rest of our needs. The net effect of this project is that over the next few years, the Fellowship building and grounds will undergo a transformation. We will build the addition, redesign parts of our landscape, renovate our existing facilities, and remodel the existing RE wing to accommodate a new social hall and commercial kitchen. The goal is a facility that responds to the climate crisis by reducing our use of fossil fuels (eventually to zero), enhances pollinator and wildlife habitat, and meets the Fellowship's need for a larger space for social activities.

# Facilities Council, continued

## GROUNDS STEWARDS

As we meet outside for in-person service, your Grounds Stewards continue to make "The Grove" a lovely and welcoming space to gather. Low limbs have been pruned, holes filled, up-jutting stumps sawn off, and the area kept mowed and raked. Tree service companies are all very busy, but overhanging dead limbs will be removed as soon as possible.

The Grove is created by three trees, an oak and a maple planted by members and an ash that was there before us. And speaking of trees there before us.... The largest of the three white oaks off the social hall deck is estimated to be 300 to 400 years old. That means the oak was there when the Kalapuya people thrived on this land before European contact. The two smaller white oaks are estimated to be 200+ years old, which means they predate the removal of the Kalapuya from this land in 1855.

The Board has approved a proposal from the Indigenous Connections Team to name the largest white oak "Api'nefu Oak" and place a sign in the oak grove that acknowledges that we live with respect and gratitude on the traditional lands of the Api'nefu Band of the Kalapuya people, whose descendants live on as members of the Grand Ronde and Siletz consolidated tribes. ICT will be guided to appropriate wording by the tribes.

In late fall/early winter, we plan to plant, either as acorns or volunteer seedlings, two of the Api'nefu Oak's offspring. These will be planted out at its dripline, one within the fence, towards the Zen Center, and the other just west of the Circle Blvd. driveway. These plantings have been discussed and are being coordinated with our facilities team, the Zen Center, and the Corvallis Urban Forester.

To care for and respect Api'nefu Oak, the mowed lawn within its dripline between the Circle Blvd. driveway and the Zen Center will, in phases, be replaced with native plantings. In the first phase, in collaboration with the Zen Center, a native hedge will be planted along the current border between the UUFC lawn and the Zen Center landscaping. Suggestions for the plants for the hedge are here:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Z1DoCKmW\\_Vkqp99JC1\\_FPlm3oZKZpjJk/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Z1DoCKmW_Vkqp99JC1_FPlm3oZKZpjJk/edit) and your suggestions are welcomed. Planning is underway, and we hope to begin planting this fall. As the hedge becomes established and provides a visual barrier, the lawn will be replaced over time with native plantings and the wooden fence removed.

On the opposite side of campus, the plan for the strip between the parking lot and Elmwood drive, was described in our Spring 2021 newsletter:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1sgOfaUN8g02zGtEc43tiTTgmmlvKmMlk/edit> with details available:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1YjG-FiiU4VU3Bz7cRlIBc9MvatQtjUAq>. We hope to begin planting the Corner Garden at the elbow of the parking lot, a component of that plan, in the coming planting season. To discuss opportunities to work outdoors with others to create and maintain a campus that supports and enhances UUFC as a religious community, members and friends are invited and encouraged to contact Michael Hughes (michael.a.hughes1951@gmail.com or text 541-543-9450).

## Religious Exploration Council

While the RE Council has taken a break from monthly meetings over the summer, we have been in conversation with families to assess the current needs of our beloved community. As you are aware, these are still times of great uncertainty, and a clear vision of what RE will look like in the fall remains just out of reach. As such, we are planning for a variety of in-person and remote scenarios for the new congregational year so that we may be flexible and responsive to the changing times.

To kick off the upcoming season of RE, families with children are invited to an ice cream social on the evening of August 18th, at 6PM. If you would like to volunteer help out with that event, please let Rachel Kohler know by emailing her at [reassociate@uucorvallis.org](mailto:reassociate@uucorvallis.org). Watch the announcements for more information! We look forward to connecting with many of you then!



# Justice Council

## EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION TEAM AND ANTI-RACISM TEAM

During our 16-month lockdown, the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Team (EDI) and the Anti-Racism Team (an EDI task group) have continued to meet monthly and offer activities to educate ourselves and our community about the underpinnings of racism and how we might address the many forms of systemic oppression we observe around us and within us. Our aim is to challenge prejudice, bigotry, and discrimination in all forms. We devote ourselves to the mission of justice for those who are marginalized and oppressed. We welcome opportunities to combine efforts with UUFC justice groups and others in our community, as key issues intersect. As Unitarian-Universalists, we recognize that our work is directly aligned with our principles, in particular, “justice, dignity, and compassion in human relations;” as well as the honoring of “the right of conscience” in our choice to address racism and oppression.

EDI meets 6:30-8:00 PM every fourth Thursday via Zoom to report on and discuss actions taken, programs offered, upcoming educational activities, and community involvement opportunities, particularly with NAACP. Our special relationship with NAACP provides us with Black leadership and meaningful guidance for our work. The Anti-Racism team meets two Tuesdays each month to discuss readings & video selections, practice responsive communication strategies, and do core planning of events, such as our recent Town Halls to explore the proposed 8th Principle, so relevant to our work. All events and activities are open to everyone. For more information on attending our meetings, suggested readings & video selections, or our plans moving forward, please contact Elona Meyer at [elonameyer@icloud.com](mailto:elonameyer@icloud.com).

## IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE SUPPORT TEAM (IRST)

IRST has done a fantastic job of supporting the Perla family as they pursue their case for asylum. With support from the Interfaith Immigrant Support Group, the Perlas arrived here from Tijuana in March, spent their first few weeks living in the Fellowship until a duplex was found for them. We furnished the house and moved them in. The older two boys attended Garfield School and are enjoying the Boys and Girls Club during the summer. Summer school starts in August. The youngest will be in Head Start in September. Juan and Aracely have been taking English classes. Their work permits arrived allowing Juan to start working for a roofing firm. The work is hard on the two ruptured discs that he suffered at the hands of the gang in El Salvador, so we are helping him look for another job. Their neighbor gave them a car! So now they will be able to get around on their own.

Through the past year Elaine Kahn provided pumpkins for our Pumpkin Patch, lettuce and strawberry bowls, and sunflower bouquets – all to support immigrants and refugees. We continue to sell Café Justo coffee on Sunday mornings, which helps indigenous people in southern Mexico remain on their land and support their families. Thanks to Zoom and email, we have continued our work.

## CLIMATE ACTION TEAM (CAT)

CAT is committed to the vision of UUFC members and friends acting with love for the Earth and the entire web of life in alignment with the overwhelming scientific evidence of global climate change. CAT recognizes that climate change is happening now and works to avert its most disastrous consequences. To learn more (Who is CAT? What is CAT working on? What has CAT accomplished? How can I contribute?), visit: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dmOhyCpwrOK7X\\_EwZEgMPED7xAZlcZ5X/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dmOhyCpwrOK7X_EwZEgMPED7xAZlcZ5X/edit)

## Upcoming Justice Council events to watch for in UU-Announce!

- September **Town Hall**, sponsored by EDI and ICT, our Indigenous Connections team
- A **book group discussion** in September, for her newest publication, *Nice Racism*, by Robin DiAngelo
- A **workshop on Principle 8**, coming in later this fall. Join us and learn How did this principle come to be? Why is it important?
- October Pumpkin Patch, a great way to select a fresh organic pumpkin and benefit refugees and immigrants.

## Justice Council, continued

### UUTHEVOTE --> UUFC DEMOCRACY ACTION TEAM

A plea went out from John Swanson asking for a new leader to step up for our UUtheVote group. Claire Montgomery and Karen Josephson responded offering to co-lead, with the group being under the purview of the Justice Council.

We will begin by working on protecting the rights of all U.S. citizens to vote. These protections are being attacked in 49 states and we must address them now. Plus next year's 2022 midterm elections will be critical for a broad range of social and environmental justice issues that we all care about.

Some changes are in the works. Our new name will be the UUFC Democracy Action Team and we'll take some guidance from UUSJ Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice. <https://uusj.salsalabs.org/AIWActionAlert/index.html>. Our mission is to work to protect access to the vote for everybody, fair elections, and democratic processes. "We haven't yet figured out quite how the group will interact and run but we are working on it." said Claire. We have a leadership group of six people which met today, Aug. 1st. Waiting in the wings (we hope you're still there!) are about 90 people who signed up last year to help bring UU principles to the 2020 election. Many of them wrote letters to citizens to get out the vote.

The group serves our UU 5th Principle "The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large".

If you want to be part of this effort, contact any of our team members – Karen Josephson ([kjosephson67@gmail.com](mailto:kjosephson67@gmail.com)), Claire Montgomery ([clairemtg@comcast.net](mailto:clairemtg@comcast.net)), Susan Christie ([crypto716@gmail.com](mailto:crypto716@gmail.com)), Deborah Clark ([deborah.clark@lifetime.oregonstate.edu](mailto:deborah.clark@lifetime.oregonstate.edu)), Anna Emery ([timanna.emery@gmail.com](mailto:timanna.emery@gmail.com)), Louise Ferrell ([lferrell2@peak.org](mailto:lferrell2@peak.org))

## Connections Council

### CHALICE CIRCLES

**"...deep listening and connecting with each other has contributed to their well-being..."**

Chalice Circles provide a time and safe space to share experiences and express our feelings to help us discover more about ourselves--what really matters in our lives. Seven chalice circles have continued meeting twice each month, as scheduled, with 60-70 attendees overall. Each group has currently has 7-10 members. Participants report that deep listening and connecting with each other has contributed to their well-being during the pandemic. Newcomers are invited to join a chalice as a way to build connections with the Fellowship. All are welcome to contact Elona Meyer at [elonameyer@icloud.com](mailto:elonameyer@icloud.com), if you are interested in learning more about Chalice Circles.

### FIRST STEPS

Each month, on the last Sunday of the month, newcomers to UUFC are invited to join a First Steps class. First Steps is an informal gathering for meeting others, asking questions, learning more about Unitarian-Universalism, and exploring what our fellowship has to offer--how to make meaningful connections and build community. This class is designed for those new to Unitarian-Universalism as well as those joining us from UU congregations in other locations.

During the pandemic, First Steps has been offered each month with typically 1-5 people requesting the Zoom link and materials we provide. The meetings are delightful and engaging, with attendees sharing the experiences that led them to explore UUism, and often expressing interest in further involvement. Newcomers frequently request more information about Connect Up and Chalice Circles. During the pandemic, so far, 44 folks expressed interest in attending a class and requested information on line; 25 people attended First Steps via Zoom. You may have met one or more newcomers at a Sunday service or other UUFC activity. If you or someone you know would like to join us for First Steps, contact Elona Myer at [elonameyer@icloud.com](mailto:elonameyer@icloud.com).

# Finance Council

## ANNUAL PLEDGE DRIVE PROCESS AND PROGRESS

A pledge drive is held in spring each year to afford Fellowship members and friends the opportunity to commit to the continued success and growth of the Fellowship through a financial pledge. Despite the continued COVID pandemic, our pledge drive process was no different this year. We kicked off this year's drive in early April with an announcement in the weekly news email and in the April 4 Zoom service. Emails were sent directly to all fellowship members and friends encouraging people to use the on-line system to make a pledge or let us know that they would be unable to pledge. In late April and early May, a Finance Council member followed up by email and/or phone with those who had not yet pledged. Our thanks to all who participated in the drive process. Your prompt replies were much appreciated as were the delightful conversations we had with some people.

So where are we now, one month into the new fiscal year? Your board had set a pledge goal of \$390,000. This pledge level was below pre-pandemic levels but higher than that for 2020-21. To date, we have \$392,203.00 in pledge drive responses from 214 pledging units (individuals/couples/households). Thanks!

Almost 75% of our budget goes to support our minister and staff. They are the backbone on which almost all Fellowship activities are built. Given your generosity, we will be able to continue to support the good works of our exceptional staff as we move into the new world coming at us in the coming year.

If you have not yet pledged or planned for a donation in support of the UUFC, it is not too late. The pledge drive website is still operational (<https://uucorvallis.org/annual-pledge-drive/>) and Jean Gilbert stands ready to answer your questions ([businessmgr@uucorvallis.org](mailto:businessmgr@uucorvallis.org)). Thanks to all for the many ways in which you support our Fellowship.

Russ Karow, UUFC Finance Council Chair

# Unitarian Universalism

## "RELIGIOUS LIBERALISM" - WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

"You count your blessings, and you carry on. If I were to propose a creed for liberals, which I am not about to do, this would be it. The most powerful liberal instinct in the world is a grating hunger for more freedom, more justice, more fairness, more inclusion, more fulfillment for more of earth's creatures. It is a hunger requiring a goat-like digestive system that can thrive on brush and weeds in absence of rye grass and clover. Staying liberal means savoring small successes and digesting constant frustrations, and counting blessings.. to gird myself to keep keeping on -- being liberal in an illiberal age. To a liberal, every age is illiberal. Forget perfection. That's not the issue. Remember instead the failings, the shortcomings, the repressions, the egocentricities, the hypocrisies. In the human condition, they are unfailingly present!..

The liberal spirit is today beleaguered and besieged, attacked from all sides, but particularly by a surging radical right in religion and politics. That this has always been so, in varying degrees, and is likely to go on being so is historically verifiable. But such verification comforts only in collaboration with the liberal will not to be morally confused within. Now is always the best time to redefine, revitalize, and reconnect the liberal spirit to the human future; and especially now, when we can starkly add, if there is to be a human future."

*-the late Rev. Jack Mendelssohn, in "Being Liberal in an Illiberal Age: Why I am A Unitarian Universalist" 1985*



# Fellowship staff

## AND CONTACT INFORMATION

REV. JILL MCALLISTER  
SENIOR MINISTER  
MINISTER@UUCORVALLIS.ORG

JAMIE PETTS  
OPERATIONS MANAGER  
OFFICE@UUCORVALLIS.ORG

JEAN GILBERT  
BUSINESS MANAGER  
BUSINESSMGR@UUCORVALLIS.ORG

RACHEL KOHLER  
INTERIM DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION  
REASSOCIATE@UUCORVALLIS.ORG

DR. DAVID SERVIAS  
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC  
MUSIC@UUCORVALLIS.ORG

LAUREN SERVIAS  
PIANIST

---

2945 NW CIRCLE BLVD  
CORVALLIS, OR 97330  
(541) 752-5218  
WWW.UUCORVALLIS.ORG

OFFICE HOURS: CURRENTLY CLOSED  
PHONE AND E-MAIL ARE CHECKED REGULARLY.



# CONTACT US

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis



2945 NW Circle Blvd  
Corvallis, OR 97330



(541) 752-5218



[office@uucorvallis.org](mailto:office@uucorvallis.org)



[www.uucorvallis.org](http://www.uucorvallis.org)



[www.facebook.com/  
uucorvallis/](https://www.facebook.com/uucorvallis/)



[https://uu-fellowship-  
of-corvallis.mn.co/](https://uu-fellowship-of-corvallis.mn.co/)



[https://twitter.com/  
UUCorvallis](https://twitter.com/UUCorvallis)