

NEWSLETTER

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis



Between Us

Rev. Jill McAllister

The new calendar begins with old news in a new variant – COVID Omicron. It's spreading fast. Three adults in my own family network have tested positive (and luckily only gotten mildly sick – thanks to vaccinations!). I'm pretty sure I've now been exposed. This is probably going to be a common story. And so we watch and wait and keep learning more, and try to help in whatever ways we can. Please let me and our Care and Support team know if help is needed.

I want to let you all know that I'm planning to take some sabbatical time this year, beginning in mid-April, through August. Pandemic ministry has been hard on everyone I know, and I have come closer to burn-out than ever before. I simply need to rest and re-collect myself. The Board of Directors has given their approval, the Committee on Ministry has agreed, and I'm working now to create a Sabbatical Planning and Coordination team, with much gratitude to Carl English-Young and Bonnie Morihara for agreeing to anchor that team. We are also blessed with a circle of ministerial support this year, plus an offer from the Rev. Lois Van Leer, newly retired from the Eugene congregation, to be part of sabbatical ministry as well. In thirty years of ministry, I have only taken one sabbatical, of four months, nearly twenty years ago. For my sake and for yours, it's time for me to take some time to catch my breath and get ready for the new era which is already upon us. I'll keep you informed as plans progress. And if you have questions, don't hesitate to ask.

Monthly Newsletter

About this publication

This monthly newsletter focuses on the life of the Fellowship. Each month we're sharing reports from Fellowship leaders, councils, teams and projects and exploring Unitarian Universalist (and Fellowship) history and practice. We're also sharing important 'save-the-dates' information.

JANUARY SUNDAY

SERVICES – via Zoom, and in-person indoors, for up to 40 persons only, at 10 AM, weather permitting. No reservation required. All COVID protocols apply.

Live Zoom Sunday Service
at 10 AM:

[https://zoom.us/j/96231448170?](https://zoom.us/j/96231448170?pwd=cUoxaWxyei9wOTE5cVFVZ0t0Qk5KUT09)
[pwd=cUoxaWxyei9wOTE5cVFVZ0t0Qk5](https://zoom.us/j/96231448170?pwd=cUoxaWxyei9wOTE5cVFVZ0t0Qk5KUT09)
[KUT09](https://zoom.us/j/96231448170?pwd=cUoxaWxyei9wOTE5cVFVZ0t0Qk5KUT09)

In-Person Sunday Services Continue in January

For the month of January, we're offering just one service at 10 AM, for up to 40 people, first come first serve (still with proof of vaccination). The live Zoom option continues as well, also at 10 AM. Weather is now a factor: if the outside temperature is 40 degrees C or less, we'll do the service only on Zoom – not in person. The Pandemic Response team, Board, Admin and RE staff continue to watch COVID conditions carefully, especially the spread of Omicron after the holidays. So far, we plan to continue with our limited re-opening of the building to small groups, using the two largest spaces – the Sanctuary and Social Hall.

Connections Council

REACHING OUT THIS MONTH

Twenty-two months into pandemic living: it's time to reach out to Fellowship members and friends to see how we're doing. Members of the Fellowship Care and Support team, plus other volunteers, will be making phone calls and sending emails and texts to as many as we can reach, especially newcomers, new members and folks we haven't seen or heard from since March 2020. Feel free to contact us first by emailing Care and Support team coordinator Mary Anne Sellers at sellersm@peak.org

MIGHTY NETWORKS

–Many of us are signed-up to use Mighty Networks – the Fellowship's online discussion platform for general sharing of information and insight. Some are still unsure of, and confused by, how Mighty Networks works. If you'd like to understand better, and be able to enter into the sharing and discussions more easily, join Rev. Monica Jacobsen Tennessen on **Thursday evening, Jan. 19 at 7 PM**, on Zoom, for a walk-through plus questions and answers.

–Also on Mighty Networks, you can read Fellowship member's response to, **"What I've Learned From Pandemic Living"** and add your own reflections!

January Sundays

Jan. 2 Explore Rev. Jill McA

Jan. 9 Love Rev. Jill McA

Jan. 16 Act Rev. Jill McA

Jan. 23 Generational Differences, 1

Jan. 30 Generational Differences, 2

Upcoming Events

Mon. Jan. 10 7 PM Living With Depression, first session, online

Sun. Jan 16 4:30 PM – Film– Mission: Joy. (Tutu and Dalai Lama)

Sun. Jan. 30 RE Council Town Hall – Between Generations

“When I dare to be powerful, to use my strength in the service of my vision, then it becomes less and less important whether I am afraid.”
– Audre Lorde



Board of Directors

Steve Strauss, Board President

Your Board of Directors met on Zoom, for the final time in 2021, on December 21. The meeting started with a reading of the poem "Introduction to Poetry" by Billy Collins, instructing, quite wisely and humorously, on how to read, and not read, poetry. Very useful this time of year.

Senior Minister Jill discussed her plans for a sabbatical, long overdue, to start in April 2022 and last several months. She will be putting together a committee to handle her duties while away; let her know if you wish to serve.

We discussed the option of opening our parking lot to the Harvest Host company, a web-based platform that helps RVers find places to park overnight during travels. The Board will study the benefits and concerns of making our lot available, and recommend whether to enter a test phase in 2022, wait until the new parking lot (part of new building construction) is finished in ~2023, or decide not to get involved.

The Board considered and unanimously adopted a new policy 5.10 that describes in some depth the UUFC "Annual Budgeting Process," whose steps were known mainly by word of mouth until now.

Finally, the Board discussed that the CARES act, with its special tax deduction of up to \$600 for a donation to a charity (including the UUFC), will expire at the end of 2021—so it encouraged interested UUFC members to take action, and fast.

The Board hopes everyone had a very happy holiday, all things considered.

Please stay safe and stay warm, and take special steps to care for others this time of year.



Religious Exploration Council

I-GEN GATHERING

The RE Council is planning an iGen gathering at the end of January to consider ways to better communicate with people of different generations. Watch for more information near the end of the month and join us for conversation and skill building.

CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

We're beginning the acquisitions phase of the RE library overhaul, and are looking for parents of young children interested in adding their vision to the process. If you're interested (or you have questions!), you can email DRE Rachel Kohler at reassociate@uucorvallis.org.

WHEEL OF THE YEAR - FEB. 6, IMBOLC

Look forward to our intergenerational Wheel of the Year observation of Imbolc on Sunday, February 6th, during which we will honor the slowly expanding light of our fledgling year. Fun, self-paced activities will be sent out in the week leading up to the service to engage people of all ages in the celebration.

RE VOLUNTEERS!

The UUFC's Religious Exploration program looks very different in this transitional pandemic world. We have been moving away from small groups using formal curriculum to mixed-age groups engaging in activities together. Since in-person Sunday services began in November our K-6 group has been meeting in the Social Hall, where they have been invited to choose from hands-on activities, storybooks, and/or supervised play. Our 7-12 youth have been meeting in Room 7 for a Teen Cafe. Numbers have been very small, as children are only just being able to get vaccinated and families understandably have different comfort levels with in-person gatherings. But we need to continue offering RE opportunities so that people can come once they feel ready to do so.

This can only happen with volunteer support, however! Below is a sign-up for Sundays in January, during which we will have only one service at 10am. If you're available, sign up for as many (or as few) slots as you like. Each week, we'll send that Sunday's volunteers detailed activity instructions. RE staff/council members will set up and gather materials. If no children RSVP for a particular Sunday, we will let volunteers know. If there is no in-person service on a given Sunday, we will not have RE activities.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080845aca723a7ff2-religious1>

If you'd like to volunteer, you will need to show DRE Rachel Kohler proof of full vaccination. All volunteers and children must remain masked at all times while indoors. If you haven't volunteered with us before or in the past few years, you'll need to have a background check prior to signing up, so reach out to get that set up!

Religious Exploration Council, cont.

LIFESPAN RE - WINTER 2022

Several new classes, study groups, and practice groups are available for religious learning and growth, for teens and adults, beginning this month. You are invited!

Climate Action as Spiritual Practice - Three Wednesday evenings in January beginning Jan. 5, 7 - 8:30 PM

- "The Long Game," with Jill McAllister on Wed. Jan 5 - What is spiritual practice?
- "Broadening Perspectives," with Jesse Ford on Wed. Jan 12 - Cultural practices and perspectives for sustainability
- "Climate Action At Home - An Example Practice," with Michael Hughes on Wed. Jan 19 - Taking responsibility for our own carbon emissions

The zoom link for all three sessions is: <https://zoom.us/j/95762710995>

Living With Depression: Yours or Someone Else's - a sharing and support circle beginning with an initial meeting on Zoom on Monday, January 10, at 7 PM. From this meeting we'll decide how best to connect and support each other through the Winter months. Facilitators: John Morris and Tom Sattizahn. Join with this link: <https://zoom.us/j/97411015708>

The Book Of Joy - A study / practice group using the book of conversations between the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Five sessions, Thursday evenings at 7 PM, beginning Jan. 27, through February. And first, an opportunity to watch the video titled, "Mission: Joy" of Tutu and the Dalai Lama during the live conversations which resulted in the book. All are invited to watch: Sunday, January 16, 4:30 PM. Watch for more information. Facilitators: Susan Sanford, Janet Farrell, Bonnie Morihara.

"The Path: What Chinese Philosophers Can Teach Us About the Good Life" - Join Jill McAllister for three sessions of reading and discussion of this small but powerful book by Michael Puett and Christine Gross-Loh. Coming in March...watch for more information.

UUism - Past, Present and Future - Where have we come from, what's happening now, and where is UUism headed? A combination of UU history, identity and philosophy, with a chance to think about the tradition that lives through us into the future. With Revs Jill McAllister and Monica Jacobson Tennesen. Coming in March...Dates TBA.

On-going gatherings for religious learning and growth include weekly Men's Discussion group on Sundays; Wednesday evening mindfulness practice; book groups and discussions sponsored the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Team and the Indigenous Connections Team; chalice circles; UU Path, and more. Contact Rev. Jill McAllister, minister@uucorvallis.org, for more information.

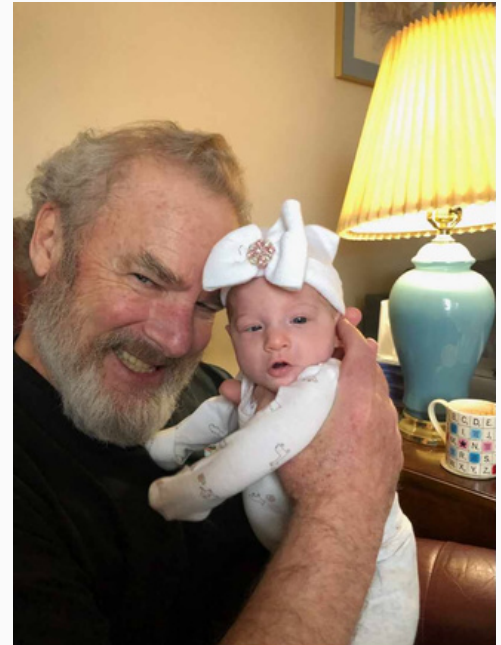
Worship Council

THANK YOU TO JOHN MYERS!

John Myers has been an indispensable part of Fellowship Sunday services, as our videographer, for almost 10 years. He has had some help – mostly from Virgil Agnew as the back-up camera person (thanks Virgil!) – but generally speaking John has been there almost every Sunday. And, then he spends time editing the recording and posting it for us so that anyone who wants to watch a Sunday service online is able to do so. This has made a big difference for many people – especially those who work or are out of town on Sundays, or are homebound. It has also allowed our Sunday services to be shared with family and friends – that has made a difference too.

John has recently retired from this post. It is hard to say thank you enough for how much his work has supported the life of the Fellowship. Much appreciation to you John! Thank you!

(PS – this means we're looking for a few people to become a team to carry on with video-recording the Sunday services. See an invitation below from Cliff Pereira. Perhaps you'll be one of them?)



CAN YOU HELP WITH CAMERA WORK FOR ZOOM SUNDAY SERVICES? A NOTE FROM CLIFF PEREIRA

I am looking for a few individuals to join me in helping people have a meaningful Sunday experience over Zoom by being willing and able to learn how to do the camera work, and commit to doing it at least one Sunday a month. Personally, I'm excited about the possibility being part of a trained and rotating team to do this work. (Most important to me, the schedule will be flexible – so no interference with my Seattle trips to see the Granddude! :)

As a major bonus, no actual video experience is required (I'm an audio-only nerd). We'll all get to learn the necessary basics of simple zooming and panning (moving side-to-side) at a short and efficient workshop with a video professional (thank you, John Myers). To learn more, contact Cliff Pereira, at peartree15@comcast.net

ART AND MUSIC - THANKS CHINH AND JERI LE, AND DAVID SERVIAS

The return to in-person services includes a return to the sharing of beautiful art work in the Sanctuary and Gallery. Chinh and Jeri Le were generous in the sharing of their art in December – batiks by Chinh and weaving by Jeri. If you haven't been able to see it in person, here's a [video](#) of the collection, set to "China Gates" by John Adams, played by David Servias.

Justice Council

CLIMATE SOLUTIONS HAPPENINGS

GOOD NEWS! OREGON'S CLIMATE PROTECTION PROGRAM

Shared by Deborah Clark, member UUFC Climate Action Team

Did you hear the good news? Oregon adopted the Climate Protection Program, making Oregon the second state to set enforceable limits on greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels, including gasoline, diesel, and natural gas.

This program is an important milestone because it requires oil companies, methane gas utilities, and large industrial polluters to reduce climate pollution 50% by 2035 and 90% by 2050, by transitioning to healthier clean energy options.

The program also creates a Community Climate Investment Fund, which **will invest in projects that help communities that are most impacted by climate change** transition from fossil fuels more rapidly - projects that reduce emissions, improve health, and create new jobs.

The Oregon legislature approved funding for the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to develop this program in 2020. Multiple public hearings were held by the DEQ to hear from Oregonians on options for designing a fair and effective program. **The agency received more than 7,000 written public comments. Together we make a difference!**

DEMOCRACY ACTION TEAM

The main focus of the Democracy Action Team for several months has been to have the U.S. Senate pass the three bills needed to secure our democracy requiring all states to provide secure voting and counting systems. The Freedom to vote Act is primary.

We are seeing that without this national legislation, all other efforts Unitarians support, - health care, social and environmental justice, Immigrant supports, Equity Diversity and Inclusion efforts, the very bedrock values of our Fellowship, will face increasing attacks because we will have essentially lost our democratic form of government.

Why?

Attacks on a fair voting system at state levels are increasing and if only a few states have laws that allow citizens' ballot choices to be overturned, that will destroy the validity of national election outcomes. This sounds scary, but we need to face the highly precarious position we are in and what it takes from us to get these Bills passed, steady action writing to Senators Wyden and Merkley repeatedly. Do this using the support system and value structure that UUFC provides. Join the Democracy Action Team. We are in this together. We support and help each other and as a united group, we are far stronger than any force trying to stop us.

Today's good news: "Majority Leader Chuck Schumer announced the U.S. Senate will vote on filibuster rules changes to advance stalled voting legislation that Democrats say is needed to protect democracy." Albany Democrat Herald

Attend our Jan. 6 at 5 pm Candlelight Vigil for Democracy at the County Courthouse.

Jan6unityday.org

Questions? Karen Josephson, Co-leader of Democracy Action Team with Claire Montgomery

Kjosephson67@gmail.com

Unitarian Universalism

RELIGIOUS PRACTICES - WHAT WE DO

We create change: in ourselves, in the world.

Seven days a week, Unitarian Universalists (UUs) live their faith by doing. Whether in community with others or as an individual, we know that active, tangible expressions of love, justice, and peace are what make a difference. Embracing peace, love, and understanding that goes beyond individual belief systems, we are creators of positive change in people and in the world.

The ways we do it:

- Worship & Inspiration—Sunday mornings and beyond.
- Action & Service—volunteering and work for justice.
- Connection & Care—caring outreach, mutual support, and small groups for adults, youth, families, and children.
- Celebrations & Rites of Passage—weddings, memorials/funerals, baby blessings, coming-of-age, and child dedications.

We gather together in spiritual community because we need constant reminders of what matters most in life. In a world of heartbreak and dehumanization, our congregations and communities call us to our better selves. We learn to live with more wisdom, more connection, and more compassion.

Our Worship Services are weekly reflections that weave together our own thoughts and experiences with music, beauty, poetry, and words that both comfort and challenge. Our programs for all ages inspire us, and awaken us to our capacities to make a difference in our own lives and in the world.

We are inspired not just by religious sources but by the people with whom we journey: the diverse and spirited Unitarian Universalists.

"Our faith is not interested in saving your soul. We're here to help you unfold the awesome soul you already have." —Andrea Lerner *from UUA.org*

UUFC Right Relations Covenant – 2011

As a member of this Fellowship, I will strive to create a welcoming, respectful, and vibrant religious community where each person can search for truth and meaning in an environment that builds connections, renews spirit, and inspires action. I further commit to thoughtful, active participation in the life of this religious community; caring and respectful relationships with one another and with visitors; cooperative support for the minister, staff, and volunteers; individual and collective contributions to the wider community, and environmental actions that demonstrate that I cherish our glorious Earth.

This covenant represents my commitment to thoughtful, active participation in the life of this religious community; caring and respectful relationships with one another and with visitors; cooperative support for the minister, staff, and volunteers; individual and collective contributions to the wider community; and respect and caring for the Earth.

Fellowship staff

SENIOR MINISTER: JILL K. MCALLISTER

**AFFILIATED COMMUNITY MINISTER:
LESLIE CHARTIER**

**CONSULTING MINISTER:
MONICA JACOBSON TENNESSEN**

**CHAPLAIN FOR TRANSFORMATIVE JUSTICE:
JESSE FORD**

CHURCH OPERATIONS MANAGER: JAMIE PETTS

BUSINESS MANAGER: JEAN GILBERT

**DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION:
RACHEL KOHLER**

RE ASSISTANT: SKYLA KING CHRISTISON

MUSIC DIRECTOR: DAVID SERVIAS

PIANIST: LAUREN SERVIAS

BUILDING MAINTENANCE: STEVE FERRELL

CUSTODIAN: FELISA TORRES

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

CONTACT US

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