

FEBRUARY | 2022

# NEWSLETTER

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis



## Between Us

## Rev. Jill McAllister

We move forward, we move backward. We start in one direction, we turn into another, and then we turn again. Perhaps it would be better to simply say that “we move.” This is the practice, and the art, of navigating change. Our January in-person Sunday services were put on hold by another COVID spike; now we begin again. We learned new things about the virus which reinforce the underlying reality – the virus continually changes -- and therefore we shift. Starting on Feb. 13, we’ll try offering one Sunday service at 10 am, both in-person and online, with in-person attendance for up to 40 persons, no reservations required. And if more than 40 show up – we’ll shift again, most likely back to two services. No one knows exactly how this will go – we’re in a continuing exploration together.

**It's Black History Month** – an annual reminder that there is always more to learn. This year brings new twists and turns in the realities of American racism – or some will say nothing new at all -- as politically powerful White men push back vociferously to claim victimhood and discrimination. What are your intentions for learning and growing this month, in ways that could help bring an end to this kind of racism? There are many ways to help; as people of faith dedicated to justice and as Unitarian Universalists it is my conviction that we have a responsibility to move and grow and help to make a difference.

We observe, we learn, we practice, we move. We aim again and again for justice and peace, between us and in the world. This is the religious life we share. Stay with us!

## 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.

**FEBRUARY SUNDAY SERVICES** – via Zoom, and in-person indoors, for up to 40 persons. No reservation required. All COVID protocols apply.

Live Zoom Sunday Service  
at 10 AM:

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

## In-Person Sunday Services Resume February 13

Beginning on Sunday Feb. 13, we're once more gathering for an in-person Sunday service at 10 AM, for up to 40 people, first-come first-served (proof of vaccination still required). The live Zoom option continues as well, also at 10 AM. Note from our resident epidemiologist (and Board member) Kedo Baye: "Oregon's Covid numbers finally appear to be decreasing statewide, including in Benton and Linn Counties. The UUFC Pandemic Taskforce and Board of Directors recommended in-person indoor services should be paused until Covid numbers were safer a few weeks ago. In person gatherings are so important to feel connected to the community, and they will return soon... I feel much more hopeful about Spring."

## Facilities and Connections Councils

### HELP WITH IN-PERSON GATHERINGS: VOLUNTEER BUILDING MONITORS NEEDED

Slowly, we're trying to return to the Fellowship building, in the wake of the COVID Omicron spike which is now beginning to recede. Fellowship small groups are invited to apply for building use [using this form](#). Volunteers are needed to help establish some regular weekly "building open" times for a variety of uses. Would you like to spend a couple of hours a week at the Fellowship to help us begin to open up again and welcome folks in? Specific tasks TBD. And, would you or a group you're part of like to host a drop-in gathering of some sort in the next few months? A craft or discussion group, and art project, a presentation? Contact Rev. Jill McAllister if you have ideas or questions. [minister@uucorvallis.org](mailto:minister@uucorvallis.org)

## February Sundays

**Feb. 6** Imbolc Service  
**Feb. 13** Rev. Jill McAllister  
**Feb. 20** Rev. Jill McAllister  
**Feb. 27** Rev. Jill McAllister

## Upcoming Events

**Feb. 7 & 21** Learning from Depression, Together  
**Feb. 24** 7 PM Group Dynamics: Responding Skillfully When Hard Stuff Happens

*"Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies."*  
 - Mother Teresa



# Religious Exploration Council

## INTERGENERATIONALITY AT THE UUFC

As far back as we have records of RE reflection meetings, increased intergenerationality has been a stated goal. In January 2022 that goal manifested in a series of Sunday services created by multiple teams of volunteers, followed by the second annual iGen Labs Town Hall, hosted by the RE Council. Services featuring a reader's theater and a comedic game show, both written from responses to a congregation-wide survey, gave voice to the fears, frustrations, joys and hopes of five generations of current fellowship members. Next, the iGen Labs gathering was designed to invite friends of all ages to hear from one another the ways we help and hinder each other's efforts to show up compassionately in our intergenerational spaces. The work of understanding and meeting the needs of multiple age groups will continue for as long as our community continues to age and grow. Thank you for supporting these efforts by keeping the conversation going, and continuing to show up bravely at every age!

## THE WHEEL OF THE YEAR KEEPS TURNING

Tuesday, February 1st was the Gaelic festival of Imbolc, the point on the Wheel of the Year halfway between the Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox (it's also the Chinese New Year - the year of the Tigress!). The first hints of Spring are beginning to show themselves, the light is very slowly returning, and it's a time to plant the seeds of everything we hope will grow this year!

Even while we're physically apart, the Wheel of the Year keeps turning and we can keep celebrating together!

For all ages, here are reflection questions which you can journal about, think over, make art about, and, if you like, invite someone to discuss with you (maybe a friend, maybe someone you'd like to get to know better).

- Imbolc is a time for helping yourself be aware of the unseen, and one major unseen force in our lives is love. How is love moving in your life in these times? What do you notice about its flow, to you and from you and within you?
- Early spring is a time of beginnings, from seeds sprouting to lambs being born. It's a time of midwifery: helping with these beginnings, knowing that we don't MAKE them happen but that our presence can help. Where are you being called to midwife new beginnings, and who or what is midwifing for you?
- Brigid is the Irish goddess of poetry, and Imbolc is her season. Create a poem that speaks to what is on your heart now; you might do this with pen and paper, or make a found poem by crossing out the unneeded words on a printed page, or cutting out words to glue together. See what this poem opens up for you.



# Religious Exploration Council continued...

## LIFESPAN RE : PLAN AHEAD FOR MARCH

A reminder of classes, study groups, and practice groups for religious learning and growth, for teens and adults, beginning in March. You are invited!

**"The Path: What Chinese Philosophers Can Teach Us About the Good Life"** - Join Jill McAllister for two sessions: a Zoom introduction, and an in-person discussion (with online option) of this small but powerful book by Michael Puett and Christine Gross-Loh. watch for more information. Zoom introduction Thursday March 3, 7 pm. In-person discussion Sunday March 6, noon - 1:30 pm.

## 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 our spiritual heritage and the tradition that lives through us into the future. Join Revs Jill McAllister and Monica Jacobson-Tennessee for three sessions, including one in-person meeting! Dates: Sunday, March 13, 1-2:30 pm on Zoom; Sunday, March 20, 4-6 pm in person at the Fellowship (with an online option); and Sunday, March 27, 1-2:30pm on Zoom.

## Priya Parker's "The Art of Gathering"

Monday, March 7, 7-8:30pm - Zoom and Monday, March 14, 7-8:30pm - Zoom

Priya Parker is "a facilitator, strategic advisor, and acclaimed author of "The Art of Gathering: How We Meet and Why it Matters." She has spent 15 years helping leaders and communities have complicated conversations about community and identity and vision at moments of transition." Parker's work is aimed at helping hosts and conveners of gatherings move away from habit and toward intentionality in planning and offering events from staff meetings to dinner parties.

We'll meet twice, first to share what sparked our attention in our encounters with Priya Parker's work, whether in her book or via podcast (see links below). At our second meeting, we'll discuss ideas and visions for applying what Parker teaches to our Fellowship events, from worship to social gatherings to meetings, in person and online. Join Revs Jill McAllister and Monica Jacobson-Tennessee on Zoom, Monday evenings, March 7 and 14, 7-8:30 pm.

## RESOURCES

Book: The Art of Gathering: <https://www.priyaparker.com/thebook>

On Being interview with Krista Tippett: <https://onbeing.org/programs/priya-parker-remaking-gathering-entering-the-mess-crossing-the-thresholds/>

Unlocking Us interview with Brene Brown (November 2020): <https://brenebrown.com/podcast/brene-with-priya-parker-on-the-art-of-gathering/>

Dare to Lead interview with Brene Brown (September 2021): <https://brenebrown.com/podcast/brene-with-priya-parker-on-how-we-return-and-why-it-matters-part-1-of-2/>

Finding Our Way interview with Prentis Hemphill: <https://www.stitcher.com/show/finding-our-way/episode/s2-ep9-power-intention-and-gathering-with-priya-parker-84696878>



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 by the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Team and the Indigenous Connections Team; chalice circles; UU Path, and more. Contact Rev. Jill McAllister, [ministereuuocorvallis.org](mailto:ministereuuocorvallis.org), for more information.



# Worship Council

## DO YOU HAVE A SERMON TO PREACH?

Everyone has at least one sermon in them! The worship council is looking for several Fellowship members to join our line-up for summer Sunday services beginning in June. If you're interested, but a little shy about preaching, we're happy to invite you to a "How To Write (and Preach) a Sermon" tutorial in April - to help you prepare and practice a sermon. Contact Rev. Jill McAllister if you're interested, [minister@uucorvallis.org](mailto:minister@uucorvallis.org).

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRY SUNDAY VIDEOGRAPHY?

Cliff Pereira is looking for a few partners who are willing and able to learn how to do the camera work for our livestreamed Zoom Sunday services,, and can commit to doing it at least one Sunday a month. (Cliff says: "Personally, I want to be part of a trained and rotating team to do this work, with a flexible schedule - so no interference with my Seattle trips to see the Granddude! :)")

No experience with a video camera is required - everyong will 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>](mailto:<peartree15@comcast.net>)

## ART FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Do you have artwork (paintings, fabric art, photography) by or about Black artists or Black history which you could loan to the Fellowship for our Art Walls this month? We have a small collection and there is room for more. Contact Rev. Jill McAllister, [minister@uucorvallis.org](mailto:minister@uucorvallis.org)

Watch for an announcement soon to view the artwork of RayHart, with permission of the artist, set to music by David Servias for a Feb. 2021 worship service.

## THANK-YOU, FLOWER CREW

Season after season, through rain, snow and summer drought, outdoors and indoors, on Zoom and in-person, our crew of artful flower arrangers have continued to provide beautiful bouquets, and more, for Fellowship worship services. Thanks-so much for the beauty you share with us week after week: Chere Pereira, Sandy Piper, Roberta Smith, and welcoming Sylvia Yamada, and Susan Louise (every now and then.)

## SABBATICAL PLANNING

A sabbatical planning team of Carl English-Young, Bonnie Morihara and Jamie Petts are working with Rev. Jill McAllister and many others to map out all the needed details for Jill's upcoming sabbatical. Rev. Monica Jacobsen Tennesen will be the lead minister for worship during the sabbatical and will work with David Servias and the rest of the Worship Council to plan and coordinate Sunday services from mid-April through August.



"FAITH SEEKERS", BY RAYHART

# Justice Council

## CLIMATE SOLUTIONS HAPPENINGS

### NATURAL CLIMATE SOLUTIONS: A WIN-WIN FOR ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE

Shared by Deborah Clark, member UUFC Climate Action Team

**Natural climate solutions are one of the most important, often overlooked climate solutions.** Even if we were to reduce carbon emissions to zero tomorrow, the excess carbon dioxide already in the atmosphere needs to be reduced. **Nature is our best bet to accomplish this!** America's forests, grasslands, wetlands, farms, and ranches naturally remove and store carbon through photosynthesis. By protecting, restoring, and sustainably managing our natural and working lands, we not only remove excess carbon, but we also at the same time keep our air and water clean, and our soil healthy and productive. **A win-win solution!**

Check out the proposed natural climate solutions plan for Oregon from the Oregon Global Warming Commission: [2021 Natural and Working Lands Proposal](#). If Oregon is able to achieve the sequestration goals proposed in this report **and** get back on track to meeting our 2035 and 2050 emission reduction targets, **Oregon could be net neutral before 2040. Together we make a difference!**

## AN INVITATION FROM FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF PORTLAND



You are invited to join members of the First Unitarian Church of Portland Racial Justice Action Group for:

### SEEING WHITE:

Anti-Racism Learning Circles

Since they're on Zoom, you can join from anywhere! For full descriptions, schedules & to register, go to [LEARNING CIRCLE REGISTRATION](#)

Learning Circles are small discussion cohorts based on a book or podcast that provide important learning about white supremacy, racism, and our national history, the opportunity to build trust and go deep in small group discussions over time, a safe space to have difficult conversations and deal with discomfort, creating and strengthening relationships with other UUs, connection, focus and purpose in a virtual setting. These circles are free of charge.

#### MONDAYS

7-8:30 PM

Starts Monday, February 7

10 sessions

Meets every other week

#### TUESDAYS

10:30 AM-noon

Starts Tuesday, February 8

10 sessions

Meets every other week

#### WEDNESDAYS

3:30-5 PM

Starts Wednesday, February 9

10 sessions

Meets every other week

# Justice Council

## EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION TEAM (EDI)

EDI, Your Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Team invites you to join us for any or all of the following offerings:

- In case you missed it, ARD, Anti Racism Daily, is providing an opportunity to receive fascinating and informative articles on Black history, each day this month, for free! Use this link to sign up: **28 Days of Black History**
- Starting Tuesday, February 22, join us for a three-part book discussion series focusing on *The 1619 Project*, created by Nikole Hannah-Jones. We will meet Tuesdays, 7-8:30 PM via Zoom February 22, March 22, and April 26. RSVP to [elonameyer@icloud.com](mailto:elonameyer@icloud.com) to receive details.
- EDI meets this month, Thursday, February 24, 7-8:30 PM. Each time we meet (quarterly), we will be focusing on a specific issue of equity. In February, our focus is on poverty. We will share the compelling documentary, *The Invisible Child* ahead of our meeting. Those in poverty lose access to healthcare, housing, adequate education, and even basic nutrition. If any of these equity issues are of concern to you, we hope you will join us in viewing and discussing *The Invisible Child*. RSVP to [elonameyer@icloud.com](mailto:elonameyer@icloud.com) for details and the Zoom link.
  - Not a night owl? If there is an interest, we will offer *The Invisible Child* and discussion activities in the daytime. Let Elona know you prefer this option. [elonameyer@icloud.com](mailto:elonameyer@icloud.com)

We look forward to seeing you! We welcome you to consider EDI membership; members choose their level of involvement, from learner to activist. However, you do not need to be a member of EDI to participate in our meetings and activities. All are welcome.

In addition, we are looking forward to collaborative offering among justice teams, including Climate Action and Indigenous Connections (see below).

## RESPONDING SKILLFULLY WHEN HARD STUFF HAPPENS IN GROUPS - THURS. FEB. 24

Thursday, Feb. 24, 7 PM - online at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/510347014>

A repeat of the Feb. 5 workshop, for any and all who were unable to attend. (The Feb. 5 workshop was recorded and will be available soon on the Fellowship website)

Strong emotions lie unexpectedly closer to the surface, and these days many of us have become more vulnerable in community than is comfortable. Even in the best of times, upset and hurt can be caused despite our best intentions, even when we are in agreement. Meaningful dialogue when true differences or disagreements are present often can be difficult, and needs skills. It's become easier and less painful to simply withdraw than to stay engaged, hoping that things will somehow magically change.

And yet. Religious community is where we practice the art of belonging, helping each other to grow and deepen our spiritual lives, understanding that all thriving must be mutual. In that spirit, UUFC is offering this beginning to practical, skills-based training, to help increase our collective ability to compassionately navigate disagreement and strong emotions. We'll consider "group dynamics," and ways to respond skillfully and with care when emotions start to run high and hard stuff begins to happen. This workshop is likely the beginning of a series of skills-based training conversations. RSVP: [jessecand22@gmail.com](mailto:jessecand22@gmail.com), or just arrive (on time, please!)

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/510347014>

Meeting ID: 510 347 014

Dial in: +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

# Unitarian Universalism

## "WILD EMANCIPATION FOR ALL OF US"

When I was small and just learning how to do life in my body, I didn't hesitate, didn't hold back, didn't worry how it would look, didn't look for cues or ask for a line. My imagination ruled... I was entirely free to be, driven by the innovation my body inspired. This is the wild emancipation I wish for all of us—a world where we are all free to be, to move, to exist in our bodies without shame; a world that isn't interested in making all of its humans operate in the exact same way; a world that instead strives to invite more, include more, imagine more. That world sees the humans existing on the margins and says, *You have what we want! What barriers can we remove so we can have you around? What do you need? How can we make that happen?*

*From Dr. Rebekah Taussig's "Sitting Pretty: The View from My Ordinary Resilient Disabled Body" as excerpted at UUA.org.*

## UUFC: Where Do We Come From? Where Are We Going?

*Minister's Report to the Congregation, by the Fellowship's first minister, Rev. RCA Moore, February 2, 1969. (Gendered language common at the time has not been changed here.)*

"Two years ago this week you called me to be your minister and I accepted. During that time my every effort has been aimed at developing the religious community within this congregation: a religious community, a church, a liberal religious beacon in the mid-Willamette Valley. I have been trying to develop a church with a two-fold purpose: the saving of men and the saving of society – and the saving of them simultaneously. We might quibble over the word "saving;" use others if you choose – giving men more options in their lives, offering them new opportunities for finding truth – but "saving" is a good word and I use it gladly.

For a congregation to undertake so large a task as saving men and society together, the dream of being a religious community must be made real. The people in the congregation must consciously resolve to act in and for the larger society toward the end of saving it. Much in our society urges us to believe that acting for others is foolishness. We feel embarrassed. Yet all of us know that our living can take on infinite meaning when we try it. The reified religious community will support our effort and we shall be able to be religious men in society without embarrassment.

The religious community requires and allows our loving each other in ways that count. It encourages our facing up to the pain in the general society, the pain inside the congregation, and the pain inside ourselves. It is the quality of our religious community, not the minister or any individuals in the congregation, that provides us the inspiration for doing the most important things in our lives, the things rarely done quickly."



# Board of Directors

## Gavin Araki, Member of the UUFC Board of Directors

### Board Meeting 1/18/2022 Highlights

The Board focused on three broad areas during its Zoom meeting on Tuesday January 18th:

**Technology and the Fellowship:** A significant part of the BOD meeting was devoted to exploration of different technologies to help UUFC members better connect with each other, both electronically and in person. We discussed some of the challenges and limitations with the use of UU Announce as well as what we would want if we replaced it. We talked about Breeze, the system the UUFC now uses to help communicate and keep track of member activities, and how it could enhance outreach efforts. The equipment used to stream the Worship service will soon be upgraded to enable simultaneous online and in person worship, as that model is expected to continue even after the current phase of the pandemic is over. We also talked about increasing the use of Mighty Networks by UUFC members, including to help Team and Council leads to keep track of budgets.

**COVID Updates:** Kedo Baye, a member of the UUFC Covid Task Force, presented information on the current state of the COVID pandemic. While the numbers have plateaued, they are very high and may spike again before they drop. The board was in unanimous agreement that the numbers are well over the threshold for safe indoor in-person worship and will likely remain so for the next several weeks. However, small group connections outside at the Fellowship, or among widely spaced individuals in a well-ventilated indoor area, are something that the Board agreed can be safely done as some members are needing some level of in person contact.

**Alternate uses of the Parking Lot:** There is ongoing discussion of the use of the UU parking lot. There are two proposals being reviewed. The first is opening it up as a waystation for travelers passing through as part of the Harvest Host system. The second would be to offer it as a place for one or a few people experiencing homelessness to park for the night. The Board continues to study these options and is consulting widely both inside and outside the UUFC before any decisions are made.

# 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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