

MARCH | 2022

NEWSLETTER

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis



Between Us

Rev. Jill McAllister

I'm very proud of and grateful for the ongoing dedication to being more welcoming, in the Fellowship and in UUism. To inviting more people into the centers of the circles, away from the margins. Our dedication does not mean this has been smooth, nor easy. Marginalized groups have almost always had to put up a fight to get those in the center to change. It took centuries for women to be allowed into leadership; centuries for non-white people to be welcomed (though their struggles to join the center continue); more decades to officially welcome gay and lesbian people. Many gender queer, non-binary, transgender, and gender fluid people, and many differently-abled people among us are still in the struggle.

Xochital Gonzales writes a newsletter for the Atlantic Monthly. Their latest installment is "Ukrainians Are Fighting Erasure. It includes this: "Parul Sehgal has defined erasure as "the practice of collective indifference that renders certain people and groups invisible."... Too often, when people talk about erasure in America, we confine it to rhetorical offenses. A lack of representation in history lessons, or the imbalance of media attention to the crimes and suffering of minority groups. This is problematic because it allows the concept to retreat into a catchphrase... It distances itself, safely, from day-to-day life. When people say, "Erasure is violence," it is not always just metaphorical, and it is not always just historical. We are watching it happen now in Ukraine, and we are seeing the great lengths that individuals—people just like you and me—will go to in order to stop the violence that threatens their way of life. A way of life of which they are proud."

Welcoming is an antidote to erasure. For us, it is a moral imperative. "We welcome and celebrate the presence and participation of BIPOC, White, LGBTQI+, differently-abled people and more. We aim to be as welcoming and inclusive as we can be, and are dedicated to continually learning more."

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.

MARCH 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=cUoxaWxyci9wOTE5cVFVZ0t0Qk5
KUT09](https://zoom.us/j/96231448170?pwd=cUoxaWxyci9wOTE5cVFVZ0t0Qk5KUT09)

Building Enhancement

UPDATE ON CLASSROOM ADDITION

BY NICK HOUTMAN

On Feb. 17, David Dodson, the UUFC land-use consultant for the building project, hosted a neighborhood meeting to discuss the latest site plan and receive neighbors' questions and comments. Three neighbors attended, in addition to the architect, a representative of MSS Engineering, and several UUFC members and staff.

Neighbors expressed appreciation for being able to use the UUFC grounds for recreation and requested that the Fellowship continue to allow neighborhood youths to play basketball in the parking lot.

The architect has revised the site plan to include a recent change to the entry sidewalk. Instead of running through the shrubs and trees north of the existing walk into the Fellowship, the entry to the addition follows the existing gravel path near the Sanctuary and then joins a sidewalk coming directly from the parking lot. The goal is to preserve as many of the trees and shrubs in this area as possible.

Jon Pywell, the arborist who evaluated the UUFC's trees, has recommended removing the two white birch trees near the proposed sidewalk. Those two trees are not well adapted to this location, are in poor health, and require regular maintenance.

Foundation Engineering is continuing to evaluate the adequacy of the existing French drain system to handle groundwater and stormwater flows in this area. Water currently drains through a pipe under the Sanctuary and connects to the city stormwater system under Circle Ave.

David Dodson expects to submit an application to the city for a conditional land use permit in April. The city is likely to respond by late summer.

March Sundays

March 6 Rev. Jill McAllister
March 13 Rev. Jill McAllister
March 20 Wheel of the Year – Ostara
March 27 Rev. Jill McAllister

Upcoming Events

March 7 & 14 "How We Gather"
March 13, 20, 27 UUism– Past, Present and Future" (see page 4)
March 27 First Steps, orientation to UUFC

*"Peace cannot be achieved through violence, it can only be attained through understanding."
 - Ralph Waldo Emerson*



Congratulations to CHRIS BENTLEY, who was named **2021 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR** by the Greenbelt Land Trust. More than 50 UUFC members actively support the work of this local conservation organization, some since its inception in 1989. Check out the scope of Greenbelt Land Trust activities at their website: <https://greenbeltlandtrust.org>, and get outside and enjoy our spectacular trails in the Corvallis area.

Religious Exploration Council

RE Council Events

March 20	Intergenerational Wheel of the Year service for Ostara
April 24	iGen punctuation primer offered by Rachel Kohler after the service
July 31	iGen discussion space: our shared values, facilitated by Dawn Dirks after the service
TBD	iGen discussion space: processing anger, facilitated by Janet Farrell

Religious Exploration Council continued...

LIFESPAN RE IN MARCH

A reminder of classes, study groups, and practice groups for religious learning and growth, for teens and adults, beginning this month. You are invited! Links for zoom sessions are included for each group.

"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. Zoom introduction Thursday March 3, 7 pm.

Join with this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/510347014>

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-Tennessen 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.

Use this link to join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/510347014>

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-Tennessen on Zoom, Monday evenings, March 7 and 14, 7-8:30 pm.

Use this link to join <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/94291968018>

RESOURCES for "The Art of Gathering"

- 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>



Worship Council

SABBATICAL PLANNING

A sabbatical takes lots of planning! And we have been doing just that. It began with Jill listing all of her many responsibilities as well as the myriad of activities at UUFC that keep our Fellowship alive and vibrant. Additional input came from the Staff and Board, and a sabbatical planning team of Carl English-Young, Bonnie Morihara, Monica Jacobson-Tennessen, and Jamie Petts to work with Jill and many others to map out all the needed details for her upcoming sabbatical.

We have been regularly meeting since January to review the many responsibilities that will ensure a no-surprises transition in each of these arenas: Worship; Communication; Lifespan Religious Exploration; Fundraising and other events; Membership; Fellowship Care & Support; Justice Council and Connections Council teams; Facilities, Grounds, & the Building Expansion Project; the Stewardship Campaign; and the UUFC Board. These areas all have “point persons” and committees that will continue to keep things running smoothly. We will continue to meet and plan and post details in the weekly announcements and monthly newsletters. If you have a concern about a particular aspect of the sabbatical time, you’re welcome to contact us: Carl English-Young, cey544@yahoo.com or Bonnie Morihara, moriharb@wou.edu.

RETURNING TO MUSIC

In February we returned to limited-attendance in-person Sunday services, with the addition of our pianist, Lauren Servias, once again at the piano providing live music. What a difference that makes! Slowly, taking into account still-existing COVID precautions and moving forward at the same time, the Worship Council plans to move us toward more singing and more music in our Sunday morning gatherings.

We'll start with weekly sing-alongs on **Tuesday evenings in March, the 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th**. These will likely be short sessions, 30-45 minutes, probably including some vocal warm-ups and vocal instruction, some singing of hymns just for fun, and maybe working on one or two pieces for use in a Sunday service in April. All who are interested in singing are invited. Our COVID protocol still limits in-person use of the Sanctuary to 40 persons, masked and with spacing. These will be the parameters for weekly sing-alongs as well, until conditions change.

Connections Council

PLAN AHEAD FOR THE UUFC SERVICES AUCTION

The annual Services (and Goods) Auction has always been our largest FUNd-raiser and we need your help to continue that tradition. This year we’re planning on a combination online and in-person auction and are scheduling it for **early June** so we can hold the in-person portion outdoors. Be thinking of a service of your time or expertise that you could donate (yardwork, teaching a skill, cooking a meal, organizing, bicycle tune-ups, etc.) or some desirable items (time at your vacation cottage, bike rides or hikes with you, useful like-new treasures that you’re not using, beautiful art or jewelry, etc). This is really a FUN time for all and a real benefit to UUFC.

Board of Directors

Kedo Baye, Secretary of the UUFC Board of Directors

The Board focused on the following items during its February Zoom meeting:

- The Board heard from Susan Christie regarding the recent dissolution of UUA Districts, and formation of regions. All the previous advantages of our region are still available, and Jill did not believe this change harms us in any way.
- The Board heard from Deborah Clark of the Climate Action Team, and unanimously approved a request for the UUFC to join the Renew Oregon Coalition.
- The Board discussed the upcoming stewardship campaign, which will kick off in late March.
- The board is aware of topics of conversation among UUFC members involving race, gender, and other identities, that have been extremely hurtful to our community. The board is taking steps to articulate our community's right relations covenant and determine next steps to address these comments.

Justice Council

CLIMATE SOLUTIONS HAPPENINGS

RENEW OREGON AND THE OREGON CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Shared by Deborah Clark, member UUFC Climate Action Team

Did you know that Oregon has a [Climate Action Plan](#)? Yes, in fact we do! Moreover, a coalition of over 1000 businesses and organizations, including UUFC, is working together to advocate for implementation of the [Oregon Climate Action Plan](#).

For example, through the efforts of this coalition - [Renew Oregon](#) - groundbreaking climate legislation was passed last summer including the [100% Clean Energy For All Bill](#). This ambitious bill will transition the state's electricity to 100% clean energy by 2040 while centering benefits for communities of color and rural, coastal, and low-income communities and workers. **With passage of this bill, Oregon will have the fastest timeline to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions from the electric sector in the United States.**

Currently Renew Oregon coalition members are advocating tirelessly during the 2022 Oregon Legislative session for policies that will reduce [climate pollution, promote natural climate solutions, and address climate resilience and environmental justice](#). **Together we make a difference!**

BOB OZRETICH MEMORIAL FUND - APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING DUE APRIL 1, 2022

The UUFC is seeking proposals from younger UUFC members, or friends, for use of funds available through the Bob Ozretich Memorial Fund. Details about the fund and the application process are available on the Fellowship website. We encourage everyone to think about younger people who might be able to put these funds to good use and to work with them, or to encourage them, to submit an application. Applications are due April 1.

[Read details of the fund here.](#)

Unitarian Universalism

MULTI-PLATFORM UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN PORTLAND, OR - JUNE 2022

What does “Multi Platform General Assembly” mean? How can you choose the best platform for you? How has the delegate platform transitioned? Learn this and more by watching this video: **Preparing for a Multi-Platform GA**. We outline what to expect from in-person registration, virtual-only registration, and business-only virtual registration. Join us as we re-imagine GA in the multi-platform realm.

*If you plan to attend GA this year (online or in-person), please let Jamie Petts know so that we can coordinate some gatherings: office@uucorvallis.org.

UUFC: Welcoming for the Health of the Community

From an introduction to the Nov. 10, 2013 Sunday Service, by the then co-chair of the "Living the Welcoming Congregation Committee, Becky Evans:

"Over the years, our congregation, the UU Fellowship of Corvallis, has truly shown our commitment to being a Welcoming Congregation. Being welcoming of all people is a part of our philosophy and our mission. We live it out through how we engage with and educate our children and youth; through the public statements we make on our website—and even on yard signs about marriage equality. It is in the hearts of our greeters who provide warmth and welcome to everyone passing through our doors, and who continue to take steps towards deeper learning about the multiple identities our guests and members bring. In short, it is who we are. So much so, that over the past several years the energy around the work of our committee began to fade.

So, almost a year after Stacey (Bartholomew) and I accepted the responsibility of leadership of the Living the Welcoming Congregation committee, we decided that it was time to revitalize: to explore our values and current needs. And what we discovered was our new mission: We enhance the health of our community by deepening our understanding of the human experience.

For example: In seeking community with other religious congregations in Corvallis and Albany, we have begun connecting with one that is just now going through the process of becoming welcoming and feeling the very real impacts of such a transformation. The UUFC has something to offer that congregation, and we can learn from them as well. We can intentionally recognize how people experience their sexual orientation and gender identity differently across things like race, socioeconomic class, and national origin. We are looking at homeless youth—at least 166 in Albany, roughly 40% of whom identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and/or Queer—and we are asking how we can help the situation in a way that reminds us that we are all a part of each other's interconnected lives. We can look at how disparities in marriage equality, health insurance, employment nondiscrimination, and more, impact us as a community, and how we can do something about it.

We enhance the health of our community by deepening our understanding of the human experience.

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

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