

NEWSLETTER

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis



Between Us

Rev. Lois Van Leer

Monthly Newsletter

UUFC and Jill are now 2 weeks into her sabbatical. And because Jill, the staff, the Board, and the Committee on Ministry did such an amazing job of preparation for the sabbatical, nothing has fallen apart! A sabbatical is not only a gift to a minister, it is a gift to a congregation. This sabbatical time is just as much yours as it is Jill's.

As a congregation, your job is to take some time to reflect on some questions: where have we been, where are we, and where do we think we are heading? How shall we live our values in this complex, and hard to keep up with world? What are our responsibilities not only to one another but to the communities beyond the Fellowship? How do we discern what it means to engage in "right action?" How are we accountable to one another and how do we set a tone of "right relationship?" And lastly, how to do what is essential in the work of church and what are we passionate about?

Your theme for this year is "Radical Belonging." Not just welcoming folks but how to engender a sense of belonging for newer folks and folks who have been around for a long time. How does everyone move from visitor or new member or the periphery to a sense that UUFC is their community where they belong? It is a human need to belong, to feel valued, included, heard, supported.

In UUism right now, the focus is on formerly marginalized persons. In particular, Persons of Color and Indigenous folks. Persons with disabilities. And on transgender, non-binary, and queer identifying people. This is not to say that other marginalized identities' voices do not matter. It is simply that these are the groups that currently are facing hatred and violence. These are voices which when heard, expand our understanding of what it means to be human beings and what a current need is in terms of justice work.

(Continued on page 2.)

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.

MAY SUNDAY SERVICES –

via Zoom, and in-person indoors. No reservation required. All COVID protocols apply.

Live Zoom Sunday Service
at 10 AM:

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

Between Us, continued

The Rev. Hector Lopez, the first Latino Conference minister to be called to serve a UCC conference (translate to District Executive and now Regional Lead), once led a workshop in the 1990's on what we were then calling diversity. Now I think we would call it radical and radical belonging. He said, God keeps sending us people who are "other." People who are in need of a liberal religious community, a place of refuge and affirmation for their identities. He said, congregations keep asking how far do we stretch our arms in this effort. The answer: as wide as they can and then wider.

As you ponder the theme of Radical Belonging, remember that UU's, once did not affirm inclusive language, the ordination of women, or the participation of the Queer community in congregations or pulpits. In the 1970's, a group of women in the Eugene congregation, took it upon themselves to go through each and every hymnal and cross out all language that was not inclusive of women. Thankfully our recent hymnal, Singing the Living Tradition, has addressed that issue. But even that hymnal is not sensitive to racist or ableist language. Those on the margins bring us new awareness's of what it means to do justice. We do not always welcome them or like what they have to say. It makes us uncomfortable or we just want to keep things the way they are. That is the deathnell for any congregation.

Unitarian Universalism is a living tradition. The UUism of 2022 is not the UUism of William Ellery Channing, Emerson or Theodore Parker- the founding fathers of UUism in this country. That train has left the station. Ours is not a static denomination with doctrines and creeds that do not change. Ours is a denomination that realizes as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "God ain't finished with me yet." We are constantly emerging and re-emerging. So, I encourage you in this sabbatical time to metaphorically stretch your arms wide and then wider still. This is your time as well as Jill's. Do not squander it.

In gratitude,
Rev. Lois E Van Leer

May Sundays

May 1 Beltane Sunday
May 8 Jacob King
May 15 UUFC Board Members
May 22 Rev. Leslie Chartier
May 29 Rev. Rachel Lonberg

Upcoming Events

May 15 Annual Meeting, in-person and on zoom. All are needed! 12:00 PM
May 22 Coffee and Cocoa for Caregivers and Kiddos, 3 PM
May 29 First Steps Class, 2 PM

*"The wise rest at least as hard
as they work."*

- Mokokoma Mokhonoana



Religious Exploration Council

Upcoming Intergenerational Wheel of the Year Services



Beltane (May Day)
May 1, 2022



Litha (Midsummer)
June 19, 2022



Lughnasa
July 31, 2022



Join us!

**4th Sundays @ 3PM
through May**



Coffee & Cocoa

FOR CAREGIVERS & KIDDOS

Outdoor social hour for families with
children ages birth–18.

Join us on the back deck for warm
drinks, games, & crafts.



THANK YOU TO THE
CLIMATE ACTION
TEAM & GROUNDS
TEAM FOR GUIDING
THE YOUTH PROJECT
FOR EARTH MONTH!



WATCH
FOR THESE
NESTING BOXES
IN TREES AROUND
OUR PROPERTY SOON!

Stewardship

PLEDGE DRIVE UPDATE

Thank you! We are Coming Back and Moving Forward.

Stewardship means to sustain commitments to our values and ideals. One essential part of this work is the making of a pledge of financial support each year. We, the members and friends of the Fellowship, share this responsibility: to sustain the resources which make the life and the aims of the Fellowship possible. Each person answers the questions about commitment to the mission, and sharing in the upkeep, and how much to give. Most important is for each and every member to participate. The future of the Fellowship is in all of our hands, together. This is the work of love. Thank you to everyone who has pledged! **We have 158 pledges and a total of \$381,248 pledged! It's not too late to make your pledge before the annual meeting.**

Board of Directors Update

Your Board of Directors met via Zoom the evening of April 19, 2022. It was the first meeting without our fearless leader, Reverend Jill. But all went smoothly in her absence, helped by the guidance of our helping minister Monica, Reverend Monica Tennesen. Significant time was spent discussing the annual meeting on May 15 at noon (please mark your calendars!), and what we need to put on the agenda. Many great things have happened at the UUFC it will be challenge to fit it all in. We also discussed the pledge drive, and that while its going well we are still awaiting some pledges. Please go online and make your pledge ASAP. The link is here:

<https://uucorvallis.org/2022-23-pledge-drive/>

We discussed the need to update our Right Relations Covenant, which has not been revised since 2003. Many changes in the world, including online communications, social media, and increasing political polarization make it appropriate to take a fresh look at how we wish to act. A process will be starting to engage the entire congregation in formulating this new vision—as you will hear at the annual meeting. Let us know if you wish to take part. Related to this work, the Board is working on a policy to help us deal effectively and compassionately with “disruptive behavior,” which seems to occur more frequently through the online world that we live in today. Let us know if you have any concerns or passions that the Board can assist with. Happy springtime!

Steve Strauss
UUFC Board President

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.

Justice Council

PERLA FAMILY UPDATE

The Perlas are loving living in Corvallis. Mateo and Jeremías just had April birthdays. Mateo turned 4 and Jeremías turned 10. Mateo is really enjoying Head Start and has a special friend that he plays and reads with. Jeremías is in Elementary Strings and swimming lessons and is a star student. Carlos, 7, loves math and sports, especially soccer. All 3 boys are picking up English very well. Juan has just started working at Hotel Corvallis in housekeeping and maintenance, and Aracely continues at Pastini's. They invited a big crowd of friends to a birthday party at Pastini's, and we had a wonderful bilingual time.



CLIMATE ACTION TEAM'S (CAT'S) 2021-2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Climate change gives us plenty to worry about, but inaction is not an option. Our 7th Principle calls us to work for the Earth. Over the past year, the UUFC Climate Action Team has been advocating for legislation, planting trees, educating ourselves, and supporting efforts to reduce fossil fuel use. See more about our accomplishments [<here>](#).

We're sharing this in the spirit of keeping the need for climate action front and center, and to share that there are lots of different ways that members and friends can join in the work.

This is also a good opportunity to share that we've renamed ourselves to be the UUFC Climate Action Coordination Team to better reflect our goal of being catalysts for climate action here at UUFC.



CLIMATE SOLUTIONS HAPPENINGS: OREGON CLIMATE ACTION PLAN (OCAP)

Shared by Deborah Clark, member UUFC Climate Action Team

Yes, Oregon has a climate action plan. Not only that, we're accomplishing those goals! The OCAP Coalition recently released a report celebrating the second year anniversary of the Oregon Climate Action Plan. Oregon made significant progress to reduce climate pollution, address historical environmental injustice, and promote resilient communities and economic vitality across Oregon.

Learn more about what two years of advocacy around the Oregon Climate Action Plan has accomplished. Together we make a difference!

UUFC Finance Council

OPPORTUNITY TO VOLUNTEER



If you have an interest in money management and a willingness to reach out to other members of our Fellowship about topics related to money (pledge drive, long-term giving, estate planning, endowments, etc.), then participation in Finance Council activities may be a fit for you.

Our activities in the past two years have been somewhat in slow motion due to the pandemic. We have provided electronic follow-up support for all recent pledge drives. This involves contacting, via email or phone, members and friends who had made past pledges, but from whom we have not yet heard, to remind them of the current pledge drive. We helped to establish an endowment in memory of Bob Ozretich. The second Ozretich award will be made in May 2022. This endowment supports youth empowerment through provision of funds to support involvement in education, training, and experiential learning opportunities. All of our long-term investments are currently held in the Unitarian Universalist Combined Endowment Fund (UUCEF), but there is interest in exploring opportunities for local investments that may better foster our UUFC aspirations for social and climate justice. Over the past years we have provided short-term, bridge funding for solar power installation projects in Western Oregon. We were successful in obtaining a federal Payroll Protection Program pandemic loan for the UUFC, have submitted a grant proposal to the Oregon Community Foundation, and are exploring other grant opportunities for the Fellowship.

In the coming year we plan to:

- Access our financial council/committee structure and make recommendations for change, if any, to the Board
- Gain additional expertise in using the Breeze software membership management system to enhance its use in pledge drives
- To access our investment holdings in the UUCEF and consider whether there are more satisfying, though possibly less lucrative, possibilities for local or other investment
- To reinvigorate our efforts in encouraging members and friends to consider estate planning and long-term gifts to the UUFC

We can use help in Finance Council work. If any of these activities or plans are of interest to you, please contact Russ Karow, UUFC Finance Council Chair, about becoming involved.

- russell.karow@oregonstate.edu
- 541-754-9484 (leave a message and I'll call you back)

Fellowship staff

**SENIOR MINISTER: JILL K. MCALLISTER
(ON SABBATICAL)**

**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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