

JUNE | 2022

# NEWSLETTER

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis



## Between Us Rev. Monica Jacobson-Tennesen

It's June, somehow – I find that these days, time moves both too fast and very slowly, with all the rhythms feeling disrupted. I suppose that makes sense, given the incredible levels of disruption showing up at so many levels, for years now.

Given all this, I'm grateful to be part of the team offering Wheel of the Year services at the Fellowship. This reminder to connect to the life of the Earth and notice the movement of the seasons helps me. Starhawk has written about this time of year, "The Summer Solstice reminds us that nothing lasts forever. We do not live in the unchanging twilight realm of Faery, but in the living, dying, fading, and growing realm of earth. Whenever something is completed, we must let it go. Because the things we love don't last forever, we love them all the more while they are here. But letting go of things and people we love is never easy. ... When we let go, we allow space to change and grow and become different."

So much is changing and becoming different, including religious community. From colleagues and friends all over, I hear about shifting patterns of attendance and volunteering in congregations of many denominations and faiths. And recently the Pew Research Center adjusted the definition of "regular attendance" to "once or twice a month." These shifts have been exacerbated by the stresses and uncertainties of the pandemic, and they are leading to other changes, like offering ways to connect outside of Sunday mornings, and ways to join services remotely. It's a time of liminality, of letting go of some past practices and exploring new ones.

As our words of welcome sometimes remind us, one way we connect as a community is when we gather to worship: to seek the truth, to grow in love, to join in service; to celebrate life's beauty and find healing for its pain; to honor our kinship with each other and with the earth; to create even now a more compassionate world, beginning with ourselves; to wonder at the mystery that gave us birth; to find courage for the journey's end; and to listen for the wisdom that guides us. In all these ways, we are each other's companions through change and growth.

Thank you for being a part of this congregation, in all the ways you connect and share and witness and grow. The Fellowship is a blessing in my life; may it be so in yours as well.

## 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.

**JUNE SUNDAY SERVICES** – via Zoom and in-person indoors (outdoors on June 19). 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)

## Summer Services

Summer is coming! Weather permitting, we aim to worship on our lawn on June 19, and from July 3 into September. Here's our plan: on Thursday evenings we'll look at weather forecasts and air quality. In the event of a >15% chance of rain on Sunday morning, we'll move the service indoors (not only to make it a more pleasant experience for us, but also to protect our sound equipment, chairs, etc from the rain). In the event of low air quality from wildfire smoke, we'll move the service on to Zoom so everyone can stay home and avoid exposure to particulates. Any location changes will be announced in advance of Sunday via email. Of course we hope to be together outside for many Sunday mornings this summer! And we know that sometimes we'll need to pivot in response to factors beyond our control. Thanks for your understanding. If you have questions, or special expertise to share regarding weather and wildfire predictions, contact Monica Jacobson-Tennessen at [monica.djt@gmail.com](mailto:monica.djt@gmail.com).

## Chair Volunteers Needed

In order to have outdoor services, we need help to move our chairs and place them on the lawn. This year we're looking for teams of 2-3 people per Sunday who can arrive around 9 am to roll out the chair rack and place the chairs on the lawn with appropriate spacing, and help get the chairs re-racked and rolled back inside after the service. Email Jamie Petts at [office@uucorvallis.org](mailto:office@uucorvallis.org) to sign up for some Sundays to help out. You'll get an automated email reminder from our Breeze database before your Sunday(s). Thank you!

## Did You Know?

The Board's minutes are located on the Fellowship website, under Staff and Board, then Board Minutes. Or, follow this direct link: <https://uucorvallis.org/board-minutes/>

## June Sundays

**June 5** RE Sunday: Love in Action  
**June 12** Dr. Mike Hogue  
**June 19** Litha Sunday  
**June 26** Livestream of GA Sunday  
 Worship (9:30 start)

## Upcoming Events

**June 12** Dance Planet, outdoors, 4 PM  
**June 19** Litha Party, after the service  
**June 26** First Steps Class, 2 PM

*"Be kind whenever possible.  
 It is always possible."*

- The 14th Dalai Lama



# Religious Exploration Council

As much as much of the world would like to move on (myself included!), the COVID-19 pandemic is still very much with us. We, as a society and as a community, are finding ourselves stuck in a strange limbo of things struggling to return to normalcy while still contending with the reality that COVID continues to exist as a very real and present danger. No one is feeling this struggle more than families, especially families with young children. As we navigate new ways of balancing in-person togetherness as a community with safety precautions designed to keep the most vulnerable among us safe, we must, as a Fellowship, continue to grapple with the huge changes in our Religious Exploration program for our youth.

These programmatic changes aren't unique to our congregation. Most UU congregations are facing what is essentially a hard reset and a lack of attendance in all of their programs, but especially in RE. As the pandemic wore on, children, youth, and families, overwhelmed by the demands of digital schooling and the uncertainty of vaccination and masking, drew back from many RE programs all over the country. Which makes sense! But now, as we start to relaunch our own youth programs, we have to shift our practices and our expectations for this new reality.

For one, we expect our numbers to be small for a good while yet. With the vaccination/booster timeline for young children still uncertain, and schedules for families extremely complex due to changes in employment styles and schooling, it's understandable that many families might be reluctant or unable to return to in-person events yet, especially ones held indoors. For this reason, we will, for the foreseeable future, be sticking to three age groups - infant and toddler care in our nursery, our K-6 elementary Spirit Play program, and a Teen Cafe space for discussion, hangout, and service projects for grades 7-12. We will also continue to offer asynchronous story-based podcasts and activities online as resources for anyone who would like to engage with them. We are holding the space so that families know there is a place to return to when they are ready to do so. And for the children and youth who are coming, we are providing a meaningful gift and an assurance that even if there are only one, two, or three of them on a given Sunday, they are still worth our time, effort, and ministry.

A delightful benefit and silver lining of this necessary shift in our programming is that we have finally been able to really concentrate on creating truly intergenerational activities and service styles for the entire community. Our Wheel of the Year services, increased emphasis on storytelling content, and family and intergenerational activities on offer outside of Sunday mornings are helping our congregation to learn and grow together with people of all ages. Religious Exploration is meant to be a lifespan practice, and being able to include people on all points on that lifespan engaging together in activities rather than being siloed off in Children's and Adult RE has been an extremely rewarding experience for the RE staff and council to coordinate. While we're all excited to have more families return to us (and for new families to discover us!) in the coming months and years, it's hard to not appreciate the increased sense of togetherness that the COVID crisis has in some ways created by necessity.

Thank you all for being a part of our intergenerational community of all ages and working to tell new stories about our congregation...together.

-Rachel Kohler



# Religious Exploration Council

## Upcoming RE Dates

**JUN  
5** RE SUNDAY WITH  
BRIDGER, SHAMROCK  
KING, & ARTICLE 2 ART  
EXPLORATION

**JUN  
19** WHEEL OF THE YEAR: LITHA  
IGEN SERVICE AND POST  
SERVICE DANCING,  
DRUMMING, & CRAFTS

**JUL  
31** IGEN DISCUSSION SPACE:  
OUR SHARED VALUES,  
FACILLITATED BY DAWN  
DIRKS AFTER THE SERVICE

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



## LIFESPAN RE FOSTERING CONNECTION



## Board of Directors Update

Your Board met on May 10th, to prepare for the Annual Meeting.

Right Relations Task Force. We discussed the Fellowship's current Covenant of Right Relations and concluded that a review and possible update is warranted. We are still recruiting a few people to participate in a short-term evaluation of the covenant. If you are interested, please contact a Board member, Jamie Petts, or Monica Jacobson Tennesen.

General Assembly Delegates. GA is conveniently located in Portland this year. We still have openings for delegates. The Board has pledged part of its discretionary fund to help defray some costs for delegates. There is also a new category of Business-Only Delegate, which does not require in-person attendance nor full-time participation. Contact a Board member, Jamie Petts, or Monica Jacobson Tennesen if you would like to participate in-person, remotely, or full- or part-time.

Fundraising and Pledging. Pledging is going well though there may be a need to draw on reserves to meet this year's needs. In pandemic times, our fundraising activities have not brought in as much income as in the past. There is concern about relying on them to meet regular expenses. In addition, some Councils and Teams wish to raise funds for their activities. The Board is considering how to deal with these uncertainties and potential conflicts.

Carl English-Young  
UUFC Board Director

## Connections Council

### THE UUFC SERVICES AUCTION!



Our 2022 Auction is happening! The UUFC Goods & Services Auction is online this year. The Auction will run from Sunday, June 19 through June 26 and the form is live now for donating your goods and services to the Services Auction! Do you have a helpful service or giftable item to donate? We need everyone's help. The donation deadline is June 10. Fill out the form here <https://bit.ly/uudonations2022>. Questions? Contact Bonnie Morihara at moriharb@mail.wou.edu

# Justice Council

## REPORT ON TRANSYLVANIAN SUPPORT FOR UKRAINIANS

The Partner Church Team has recently received two communications that relate to the refugees from and the war in defense of Ukraine. One is from Rev. Kati, our partner church's minister, directly; the other is from Cathy Cordes, who led the UU Partner Church Council for many years.

-Rev. Kati writes that the war in Ukraine has caused fuel prices to double or triple, but no one's wages are increasing. Her congregations are lucky because they can grow food and make things for themselves, but it is getting harder for everyone to make a living.

-She offered the apartment next to the Korispatak church to Ukrainian refugees, but they don't want to move to a small village. There are very few refugees in the area served by Rev. Kati. Enough refugees have moved to Cluj-Napoca (Kolozsvár) that the Unitarian church there established a kindergarten for them. Both congregations that Rev. Kati serves, Firtosmartonos and Korispatak, had fundraisers at Easter and raised a nice amount of money, to which she added.

-Her son is in 8th grade and taking exams to qualify for high school. She is taking her own exams in June and then will be writing a dissertation. This is a watershed year for their family!

-Cathy Cordes forwarded information from the Hungarian Unitarian Church and its charitable arm, the Providence Charity Organization. Here is information verbatim from her letter:

I am writing to invite you to support the work of the Providence Charity Organization, aka Gondviselés Segélyszervezet. I first learned of their work months ago when Ukrainian families began streaming across the border into Romania seeking safety for themselves and their children. The report below details the various ways the Providence Charity Organization has reached out to Ukraine families, including housing some families in the dormitories in Kolozsvár/Cluj. There is also a link to a video in the message below from Bishop Kovács, Deputy Bishop Rácz, and Rev. Szabó, president of Providence.

Their work has been remarkable and I hope you will consider a contribution today. The UU Women's International Convocation has a funding page on the UUA's fundraising website, Faithify:

**<https://www.faithify.org/campaign/67/support-those-fleeing-war-in-ukraine>**

It is easy to contribute and all the funds will go directly to Providence Charity in Transylvania.

Here is the link to the video: **<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=irH8zvuKwvc>**

The report that Cathy refers to is long, but any member of the Partner Church Team would be happy to forward it to interested parties on request. In brief, food and medical supplies are being funneled directly to two areas of Ukraine – Transcarpathia and Odessa. The remaining funds are being used to support refugees in Kolozsvár and Budapest, as well as some smaller communities.

## CLIMATE SOLUTIONS HAPPENINGS

Shared by Deborah Clark, member UUFC Climate Action Team

**Washington State just became the first state in the country to mandate that newly constructed buildings be outfitted with all-electric space heating and hot water systems.** The revised energy building code requires that most new commercial buildings and large multifamily buildings install electric heat pumps and heat-pump hot water heaters. It is **projected** to cut more than 8 million tons of carbon dioxide by 2050, equivalent to the annual emissions of 1.8 million cars. Over 5,000 residents **submitted** comments in support of the policy, along with hundreds of experts. **Together we make a difference!**



# Fellowship staff

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

**AFFILIATED COMMUNITY MINISTER:  
LESLIE CHARTIER**

**CONSULTING MINISTER:  
MONICA D. 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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