

AUGUST | 2022

NEWSLETTER

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis



Between Us Rev. Leslie Chartier

I believe I'm the Fellowship's first affiliated community minister. So, you might well wonder what that is. To begin, we must start with what a community minister is.

Community ministry is care for the world outside the walls of the local congregation. Community ministry has deep roots within the Unitarian Universalist movement, dating back to Joseph Tuckerman's pioneering work among the poor of Boston in the 1820s. Today, community ministry is a growing and thriving vocation for both lay and ordained people.

Some community ministers work independently and/or entrepreneurially; others serve in an organization outside a congregation; some form a bridge between congregations and secular organizations. Community ministers are in a variety of placements: hospitals, hospices, prisons, campuses, in police departments, or in the military; spiritual directors, pastoral counselors, street ministers, social justice advocates, UU legislative ministers; educators, journalists, UUA field staff, arts ministers, and nonprofit administrators.

In my case, for paid employment, I work for the State of Oregon in the Paid Leave Oregon division. This is a new program created from a bill passed in 2019. The program is the most advanced found in our country so far. Paid Leave Oregon is a new program that ensures individuals, employers (small employers who pay into the system can apply for grants to replace workers), and families have the time and support they need to care for themselves and their loved ones when life's important moments affect their health and safety.

My UU values mesh quite well with this program. It is an insurance program that allows people to make a claim if they need medical and/or family leave. The program is funded by employers and employees who pay a total of 1% of their wages to the fund--.4% from the employer and .6% from the employee.

My favorite features: lower income employees can apply for up to 100% of their missed income; family is defined as family of affinity (in addition to blood relatives) which protects those of us in the LGBTQIA+ communities; and it includes safe leave for those affected by domestic or sexual violence and stalking. (continued on the next page)

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.

AUG SUNDAY SERVICES –

via Zoom and in-person outdoors (weather permitting). No reservation required. Covid-19 vaccinations expected.

Live Zoom Sunday Service
at 10 AM:

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

My position there is in change management—helping people accept and make the changes necessary to continue progress. Mostly what is involved is making plans, providing direction, and especially, pastoral care.

And that brings me to what I provide as an affiliated community minister. I also provide pastoral care here. During Jill's sabbatical, it has been a little wider field than usual. Usually, I provide care for the elders of the congregation. I have a deep interest in the challenges and blessings of age. I have training as an end of life doula—why should the end of life be any less sacred than the beginning?

To minister means to care for. These are some of the ways I express my care for others and the world in my ministry. I invite you to ask yourselves and each other, this month: How do you express your care for our world?

Catching up in September

Rev. Jill McAllister will return from her four-month sabbatical the last week of August, and will be eager to catch up with Fellowship life and folks. She's planning a series of circle conversations in early September, hoping to see and hear from as many people as possible, to talk about what we've learned during the sabbatical time and what we're aiming for and hoping for in the coming church year. Look for the schedule of meetings to be published in the weekly announcements in a week or two, and also in the September newsletter.

Non-Tech House Managers Needed

To keep up with our increasing worship support needs, our House Manager team is dividing into a Sound Tech team and a "new" House Manager team. This means we're looking for volunteers to take on responsibility for some non-technical tasks such as putting out hymnals, counting the attendance, and receiving the offering. Interested in helping with these House Manager tasks for just one Sunday service per month? Email Cliff Pereira (peartree15@comcast.net) for more information and to sign up.

August Sundays

Aug 7 Rev. Lois Van Leer
Aug 14 Health Care Justice Cmte
Aug 21 Rev. Jill McAllister
Aug 28 Rev. Jill McAllister & Rev. Monica Jacobson-Tennessen

Upcoming Events

Aug 7 Post-service discussion with Shikha Ghosh Gottfried, 11 AM
Aug 21 Celebration of Life for Nancy Leman, 2 PM
Aug 27 Rummage Sale!
Aug 28 Ice Cream Social, 6:30 PM

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.
-Margaret Mead.



Connections Council

SAVE THE DATE FOR UPCOMING MEN'S RETREAT

As a reminder, the men's connection team is planning a full in-person retreat, similar to that in past years, from Friday evening through Sunday lunch, November 4-6, at the Menucha Retreat & Conference Center in the Columbia Gorge near Corbett, OR. To make sure you have it on your calendar, we will send reminders and updates monthly.

The theme is expected to be "Where Do I Belong?" It will focus on our feelings of belonging, especially in this pandemic and politically fractious time. Where and to whom do we belong? What does that mean as we age, change employers, or move our home from one community to another? How have our gender, ethnic, racial, and political identities affected our sense of belonging? How has it been affected by pandemic restrictions and our political polarization? When have we felt excluded from groups or organizations, and when have we excluded others? How do we build a community together where we feel like we belong?

The COVID situation is still in flux, but we will adhere to all COVID protocols in place at the time to provide a very low-risk experience. Please mark your calendars, and pass this notice along to friends and especially any newer members.

Questions? Contact the Men's Connection Team, including: Steve Strauss, steve.strausse@oregonstate.edu, Jed Irvine, jedirvine@gmail.com, Gary Barnes, gary32640@gmail.com, Lloyd Wagenschutz, lpwz124@comcast.net, Nick Houtman, houtman58@gmail.com

Justice Council

CLIMATE ACTION TEAM

Your Faith-based Climate Action Team invites and encourages you to join the 31 UUFC households participating in the Towards Net Zero project to track, reduce, and take responsibility for our household carbon emissions. Please check out the UU-Announcement <[here](#)> from June 17 to learn more about the project and to sign up your household. Questions: michael.a.hughes1951@gmail.com

YOUR EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION (EDI) TEAM INVITES YOU TO JOIN US!

For What? A 2-part discussion series on Heather McGhee's book, *The Sum of Us*.

This book invites us to consider what the "zero sum" framework for racial justice costs us and to imagine how a collaborative approach could transform both how we view the world and how we could more equitably allocate resources. It is an inspirational exploration of "how we could prosper together."

When? Tuesdays, 7-8:30 PM, August 2 and August 23, via Zoom.

Get to know Heather McGhee. Hear a brief TED talk by the author, at this link:

<https://youtu.be/eaCrsBtiYA4>. RSVP elonameyere@icloud.com for the Zoom link and additional details for the 2-part book discussion series. Need a copy of the book? Let us know; we can help.

Religious Exploration Council

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION SEEKING NEW RE SUPPORT STAFF!

One of our commitments as an intergenerational community is supporting families with infants and toddlers with reliable and accessible childcare during Sunday morning services. To this end, we generally employ one or two RE Support Staff members to supervise in our nursery, and we're seeking a couple of new members for the team! This opportunity would be ideal for a youth or young adult with some childcare experience, but anyone is welcome to apply. The current commitment, given our service schedule, is Sunday mornings from about 9:30am-11:30am, and the pay starts at \$13.50 per hour. Prospective applicants must submit to a background check. If you're interested in learning more, please email Director of Religious Exploration Rachel Kohler at reassociate@uucorvallis.org.

SPIRIT PLAY GUIDE TRAINING - SUNDAY, AUGUST 21ST

Our Religious Exploration offering for elementary school students for this upcoming RE year is called Spirit Play, a Montessori-style form of Religious Exploration that uses storytelling and quiet, self-directed creative play as a way for children to connect to their inherent spirituality and to their burgeoning Unitarian Universalist identities. The program is designed to be a refreshingly simple ask of prospective volunteer RE guides -- rather than learning an entire curriculum and committing to RE for several Sundays a month, we're looking for a team who can devote one or two Sundays each month to sitting with the children, sharing stories with them, and bearing witness to their development. It's a wonderful way to get to know the children of the congregation! If you're interested in being a part of this, we're offering a training day to get to know the Spirit Play philosophy and procedures. This will take place on Sunday, August 21st after the service at 12:00pm. Lunch will be included! If you'd like to learn more about the training or the program, you can email Director of Religious Exploration Rachel Kohler at reassociate@uucorvallis.org. If you'd like to RSVP for the training, you can do so with this form:

<https://uufc.breezechms.com/form/6341ac> (All prospective RE volunteers must submit to a background check.)

TIME FOR ALL AGES STORY ARCHIVE

Every week, DRE Rachel Kohler gets asked by at least a few people if she has a copy of that week's story. The answer is always "Yes!" because did you know that there's a complete archive of Time For All Ages stories on the UUFC's website in the form of downloadable podcasts? You can find them at this link: <https://uucorvallis.org/re-podcasts/> When Rachel writes or adapts a story to go with a Sunday sermon, she generally records it as a brief podcast episode with music and sound effects. We publish them on the website along with an accompanying activity as a resource for anyone who'd like to connect with our Religious Exploration program remotely. You can scroll down and listen to stories from the past several months, and there are even a few of the fun videos that the RE department used to make as part of our digital church services. This is one of the many intergenerational resources that the UUFC wants to make widely available to anyone who loves stories!



**SPIRIT
PLAY**

**COME
PLAY!**

Spirit Play is here & needs adults! Volunteer just one Sunday a month!

- Serve the community that serves you
- Explore your own faith through stories
- Know & be known by the children of our community

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

**2945 NW CIRCLE BLVD
CORVALLIS, OR 97330
(541) 752-5218
WWW.UUCORVALLIS.ORG**

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

CONTACT US

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis



2945 NW Circle Blvd
Corvallis, OR 97330



(541) 752-5218



office@uucorvallis.org



www.uucorvallis.org



[www.facebook.com/
uucorvallis/](https://www.facebook.com/uucorvallis/)



[https://uu-fellowship-
of-corvallis.mn.co/](https://uu-fellowship-of-corvallis.mn.co/)



[https://twitter.com/
UUCorvallis](https://twitter.com/UUCorvallis)