

NEWSLETTER

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis



Between Us Rev. Jill McAllister

The wheel of the year turns, September arrives and at the Fellowship we begin again. It's not that we're starting over, but that we're returning to this place we've been to as a congregation decade after decade, and with thanks and devotion, marking the start of a new church year. To begin again includes looking both backward and forward, and then making a commitment to the present moment -- to aiming once again to live up to our highest values.

I come to this moment with new energy and some new insight, gleaned from the gift of a four-month sabbatical. I come with so much gratitude for both the gift and for all of you who maintained your dedication to each other and to our shared ministry in my absence. I hope you've found some renewal and new insight as well.

The context for our work, for our religious lives and for the life of this congregation, has not changed much in four months - we are still faced with immense challenges and dangers on the earth, in our society, and in our own lives. No one is unaffected. No one is just fine. To say that we need each other, and the ideals which inspire us, is an understatement.

The theme I'll be working with this year is Commitment - specifically commitment to the religious life. As our UUA president has said often during her tenure "This is no time for a casual faith." It is a changing time at every level of our lives, including within UUism. We have things to learn about navigating the world as it is now, and we must learn. What does commitment to the religious life look like for you? I am eager to enter into this year-long conversation with each and every one of you.

And so, we breathe in and out, we give thanks, and we begin again!

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.

SEPT 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=cUoxaWxyci9wOTE5cVFVZ0t0Qk5KUT09](https://zoom.us/j/96231448170?pwd=cUoxaWxyci9wOTE5cVFVZ0t0Qk5KUT09)

When To Call Your Minister

When you have questions about religion or spirituality or Unitarian Universalism or the Fellowship; when you need a listening ear; when you need some help making an important decision; when you are afraid, or facing illness, dying, loss, change; when you just need someone to talk to; when you are trying out a new path or a new road; when you are not sure what you need, but you want to talk anyway.

Please call on me. Better yet, send an e-mail because that's the form of communication I see every day (ministere@uucorvallis.org). I don't have regular office hours (the pandemic changed so much about being in an office), but I'm happy to make an appointment with you. You only need to ask. We can walk, talk, sit, share tea or coffee – whatever is comfortable for you. I'll always do my best to get back to you as soon as I can when I'm not immediately available. Our Fellowship Care and Support team is always available too.

Fellowship Staff News

Some changes are coming for the Fellowship staff this year. We start with very important news: **our Business Manager Jean Gilbert plans to retire in January.** Jean developed this staff position for us, and has done a spectacular job. There will be time to say much more about that in the coming months.

The Chief of Staff (our senior minister), with the help of the personnel committee and the Church Operations Manager, will review the position description and begin to make plans for hiring a new business manager later in the year. And some things are staying the same: **Rev. Monica Jacobson-Tennessen** will continue to serve as a part-time consulting minister with us this year, in addition to her primary ministry with the UU congregation of the Tri-Cities in Eastern Washington.

September Sundays

Sep 11 Rev. Jill McAllister – Ingathering

Sep 18 Rev. Jill McAllister & RE

Sep 25 Wheel of the Year: Rachel Kohler, Skyla King-Christison, and Rev. Monica Jacobson-Tennessen

Upcoming Events

Sep 11 Board Retreat, 1–4 PM

Sep 25 Leadership Meeting, Noon

*"There is always light. If only we're
brave enough to see it. If only we're
brave enough to be it."*

-Amanda Gorman



Board Report

NOTES FROM BOARD MEETING, AUGUST 30, BY SCOTT BRUSLIND, TREASURER

After a summer hiatus, the Fellowship Board of Directors, Minister and Operations Manager convened on the back deck for check-ins followed by a working session. Attending were Sheryl Stuart, Carl English-Young, Ann Marchant, Jill McAllister, Jema Patterson, Gavin Araki, Jamie Petts, Steve Strauss and Scott Bruslind.

The overall tenor of the meeting was to renew our mutual commitment to the care of the UUFC, and to suggest ways that we can improve in the coming year.

We closed the year-end financial report for 2021-22 and agreed to review the relationship between Investment income draws and deficit budget-making. Related to financial management is the alignment of staffing and we reviewed policy on how the Chief of Staff (Rev. Jill) oversees staff assignments and how that work is evaluated. We also worked on policy that guides endorsements and financial contributions to organizations external to the Fellowship. Our objective is to keep good faith for the pledges made to our congregation and encourage generosity for the outreach ministries we engage in.

Thank you to Sheryl Stuart for becoming Board liaison to the Personnel Committee, and for Ann Marchant to continue as Board liaison for the Nominating Committee. Your Board considers leadership development an ongoing priority and the Nominating Committee is key to that work. Thank you also to Elona Meyer for agreeing to continue chairing the Personnel Committee and to Russ Karow for agreeing to chair our Investment Committee as part of his Financial Oversight Council portfolio.

The board will meet in Retreat on 09/11/22, to review and renew our commitments to working together well for the good of the Fellowship, and to begin to set goals for the coming church year.

Our next regular board meeting is 09/20/2022 at 7pm, likely outside (weather dependent). As always, guests are welcome to observe; an RSVP is appreciated. Drop a note to the Operations Manager (Jamie Petts) and tell us you are coming and we'll have enough snacks.

UPDATES TO OUR MASK POLICY, FROM THE PANDEMIC RESPONSE TASKFORCE

The UUFC Board of Directors approved this recommendation from the Taskforce:

- On Sundays- if indoors, masks required for all persons above age 5.
- On other days- if indoors, in groups of 10 or less, masks are optional but highly encouraged. Everyone attending such small group meeting should be made aware that masks are optional.

UUFC Choir

Hello UUFC! My name is Steven Evans-Renteria, and I'm the new choir director here, working with David Servias, the Director of Music. Beginning this month, the choir will be singing on Sundays again, generally twice a month. Our choir rehearsals are open to the whole congregation, regardless of ability, on Wednesday nights from 7:00pm - 8:00pm. If you'd like to come and listen, please by all means sit and listen, and if you would like to sing, we welcome all singers of all abilities and ages. If you plan to attend for the first time and would like some music, please email me at: stevenevansres@gmail.com.

Connections Council

WELCOME ALL!

As the seasons change and we begin a new church year together, we want to extend a special welcome to our newcomers. Our theme this year is "Commitment" and we hope you might join us! Once a month, we offer a one-hour First Steps orientation session. If you are new to UUFC, exploring Unitarian Universalism for the first time, and trying to find your way around the Fellowship, this is for you. At our First Steps class, held on the last Sunday of most months, you'll find out more about us, how we connect, and get a tour of the building. The next step is to join the formal membership exploration process - the UU Path and Membership classes, held 2-3 times per year. Register for these sessions at the Welcome Table on Sundays.

SAVE THE DATE! UUFC MEN'S RETREAT IN CORVALLIS OCTOBER 28-29, 2022

Due to Covid concerns UU men will hold a retreat close to home once again this year. The dates are the eve of Friday October 28 (7-9 PM) and then all day on Saturday October 29 (9-5, including lunch and breaks).

The theme will be "Belonging." 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 increasingly diverse gender, sexual, ethnic, racial, and political identities affected our sense of belonging? 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? We will of course 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 whose primary identity is as a male.

Questions? Contact the Men's Connection Team, including....

Steve Strauss,
steve.strauss@oregonstate.edu

Jed Irvine, jedirvine@gmail.com

Gary Barnes, gary32640@gmail.com

Lloyd Wagenschutz, lpwz124@comcast.net

Nick Houtman, houtman58@gmail.com

From Jacob King, ministry student

Jacob King is a student for the UU ministry: the Fellowship is his sponsoring congregation. He served as a YRUU advisor, and has preached for us several times. He has recently moved across the country to serve as an Intern Minister.)

Greetings Corvallis Friends!

In case you didn't know, Karmen and I have moved to Albany, New York, where I'll be serving as a ministerial intern with the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany (FUUSA). It has been a bit of a change, from the West coast to the East coast, but we are adjusting. Karmen recently was hired and will begin working at a local major hospital network. I am enjoying my internship thus far, and still keep the spirit of love Corvallis has extended in my heart.

Warm regards, *Jacob King*

House Managers Needed for Sunday Services

To keep up with our increasing worship support needs, our Sunday 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, helping people find seats, counting the attendance, and receiving the offering. Interested in helping with these tasks for just one Sunday service per month? Email Cliff Pereira (peartree15@comcast.net) for more information and to sign up.

Unitarian Universalism

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS HONOR WORKERS' DIGNITY AND SUPPORT THE LABOR MOVEMENT

The UUA unequivocally sides with the inspiring labor resurgence happening in workplaces across the country. As Unitarian Universalists, we have long believed that challenging inequity locally and globally for workers is a moral imperative.

As a pragmatic faith, we are committed to working to change economic and social systems with a goal of equitable outcomes of life, dignity, and well-being experienced for all. The labor movement is critical to creating and strengthening an economic system that is fair and that addresses the economic injustices we know have been experienced by BIPOC individuals, low wage workers across sectors, and across gender and sexual orientations. We have worked together with diverse partners to ensure that the rights of workers are protected and we will continue to do so.

In 2000, we adopted a Statement of Conscience on economic injustice, poverty, and racism, and another Statement of Conscience in 2017 to address escalating economic inequality. And just last year, our national Unitarian Universalist General Assembly passed an Action of Immediate Witness on the COVID-19 pandemic, understanding that our commitment to justice, equity, and compassion, calls on us to join in solidarity with people fighting for living wages, healthcare, and a more fair economy...

-from UUA President Rev. Susan Frederick Grey, April 2022

Justice Council

FAITH-BASED CLIMATE ACTION - TOWARDS NET ZERO

The UUFC Board has declared a climate and environmental emergency that threatens humanity and the natural world and has committed to addressing the resulting moral and ethical issues, and Jill, our Minister, repeatedly reminds us that climate change is the context for all we do as a religious community.

The Towards Net Zero project is a crucial component of the work, where members and friends of UUFC, work to (a) advocate for national, state, and local climate policy and legislation, and (b) reduce and take responsibility for the carbon emissions of the UUFC facility and in our personal lives. Highlights, with links to descriptions of this work include:

- Advocacy: Partnering with the UUFC Democracy Action Team/Vote Forward, UUMFE/UUSJ and Side with Love, Citizens' Climate Lobby, and Renew Oregon, we advocate for climate legislation and policies <link> & <link>.
- Facility emissions: UUFC continues to reduce carbon emissions through conservation. With a climate action loan from the city of Corvallis, we replaced three single-paned windows with double-pane units (kitchen and business office), put fiberglass insulation under the social hall floor, insulated the social hall furnace ducts, caulked pipe openings in the floor and added weatherstripping and installed styrofoam boxes at attic access points in the RE wing and social hall. UUFC has taken responsibility for emissions from facility-use of fossil (aka "natural") gas and purchased electricity going back to 2017 <link>.
- Household emissions: Transportation, home heating and cooling, and other home energy use represent 60% of the average US carbon footprint <link>, with the remainder being the stuff we buy (26%) and the food we eat (14%). Thirty six UUFC households have committed to reducing and taking responsibility for their households' emissions from purchased electricity, fossil gas, gasoline/diesel, and flights and the resulting carbon emissions <link>. Add your household <link>.

The UUFC Climate Action Team invites and encourages all to engage in this faith-based work to realize our second and seventh Principles of justice and equity through care for the interrelated web of all life:

- Join the Faith-based Climate Action space on Mighty Networks <link>.
- Participate in:
 - o Climate advocacy, via contact with <Deborah.Clark@lifetime.oregonstate.edu>.
 - o Reduction of and responsibility for household emissions, via sign up <here>.

Religious Exploration Council

CELEBRATE A NEW RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION YEAR

Join us on Sunday, Sep. 18, to celebrate the launch of a new year of Religious Exploration! The service will recognize those in our congregation who have made commitments to serve our youth and children over the coming months. After this important milestone recognition, we'll have the first introductory sessions of our K-6 RE program "Spirit Play" and our 7-12 Youth program YRUU! Spirit Play is our brand-new Montessori-based approach which prioritizes stories, art, and self-directed play as a basis for the spiritual development of children. Our YRUU program continues as a place for our teens to grow through social connections between each other and the youth of other regional congregations, service projects, and participation in the larger life of the Fellowship. Registration links for these two programs can be found under their respective images (on the next page.) If you'd like to find out more about how these programs can meet the needs of your family, or you'd be interested in learning how to volunteer as an RE guide, you can email DRE Rachel Kohler at reassociate@uucorvallis.org.

Religious Exploration Council, cont.



Register for Spirit Play @ <https://bit.ly/childrensre>



Register for YRUU @ <https://bit.ly/yruure>



Buildings and Grounds

YOU'RE INVITED TO BECOME A FELLOWSHIP GROUNDS STEWARD

With summer 2022 winding down and autumn around the corner, your grounds stewards invite and encourage you to join us in tending our grounds. Grounds stewarding offers the opportunity to become aware of, care for, and build relationships with our trees, bushes, flowers and grasses; our visiting deer, squirrels, turkeys, and song birds; our flying and crawling insects; our in-soil worms, fungi, algae, and bacteria, the interdependent web of life. And to do this outdoors in fellowship and collaboration!

The opportunities are endless, from joining the autumn leaf crew or next spring's mowing team, to taking the lead or to help in caring for an area, large or small, to pruning and trimming, to mulching, and more. In the near term we need three or four people for autumn leaf clean up. Please contact michael.a.hughes1951@gmail.com to sign up for the leaf crew or to discuss other opportunities that fit your preferences and abilities.

Fellowship staff

SENIOR MINISTER: JILL K. MCALLISTER

**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
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WWW.UUCORVALLIS.ORG

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

CONTACT US

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis



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