

NEWSLETTER

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis



Between Us

Rev. Jill McAllister

Monthly Newsletter

I've been thinking a lot about the history of the Fellowship: the dedication and steadfast support which have made our present congregational life possible. Recently I read a copy of a vision statement, drafted in 2010, which included these ideals: In five to ten years, the UUFC is:

- Enjoying inspirational, inclusive ministries, programs, and community outreach across the generations, facilitated by our well-compensated staff and generous volunteers.
- Drawing upon and welcoming diverse life-affirming cultural, religious, and spiritual heritages, we are living our UU principles with passion, both in word and deed.
- We are inviting and welcoming others into our cherished community, thereby expanding our influence for good.
- We are interacting with one another and others with respect, honesty, and compassion.
- We are enjoying the beauty of our physical spaces and gardens, which through our generosity and stewardship, have grown to fit our numbers, needs, and resources.
- The local community and the world know and respect us for our work for peace, social and economic justice, and care of the earth.

I wasn't here when this draft was made, but nearly thirteen years later, it seems to me that we have certainly moved in these directions, whether or not we have accomplished all of these ideals. What stands out is this: none of these ideals have happened or will happen without the active participation of the many members and friends of this congregation. This has always been true and will remain true. The Fellowship is us - all of us. As you've heard me say many times, this is not a "spectator sport." We move this month deeper into our theme of commitment. We'll begin a process of renewing our congregational covenant. Whatever it is that you are seeking, it can be found in this work we do together. I hope you'll stay on this journey with us.

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.

OCT 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)

From Fellowship Leaders: What's Needed Now?

Twenty Fellowship leaders, representing sixteen different "departments" and projects, met on the patio on Sunday September 25, to talk together about the health and strength of the Fellowship. In small groups we asked each other "What is needed now?", taking into account the effects of two years of pandemic disruption. Here are some of the highlights of that discussion.

- ~Updates on and perhaps re-visioning of the building expansion project
- ~More group activities and events (both in-person and on Zoom) wanted
- ~More volunteers needed - more folks to share the tasks and responsibilities
- ~Continued improvement in providing safety (including emotional and psychological safety) for all.
- ~Improvements in formats for sharing information - Mighty Networks is not quite working
- ~More non-gendered spaces, activities, retreats
- ~A new start for our RE programs

These observations are a beautiful beginning for a year in which we will work together to update so much of Fellowship life, including renewing our Fellowship Covenant. All are needed and welcome in this work!

Fellowship Staff News

A few more changes are coming to the Fellowship staff this year. We announced last month that **our Business Manager, Jean Gilbert, plans to retire in January.** In other news, our Director of Music, **David Servias, is now the Director of Music and A/V Tech.** The pandemic required use of new skills by most of our staff; David Servias and Rachel Kohler became the chief A/V technicians for two years. David will continue to do that work and will also become our Web Master, starting this month. And **Jesse Ford completed a 1-year contract as our Chaplain for Transformative Justice** on Sept. 30. Jesse will continue to focus their time and energy on final requirements for ordination as a UU Minister, with our best wishes!

October Sundays

- Oct 2** Rev. Jill McAllister - on Covenant
- Oct 9** Rev. Jill McAllister
- Oct 16** Rev. Jill McAllister
- Oct 23** Rev. Jill McAllister
- Oct 30** Wheel of the Year - Samhain

Upcoming Events

- Oct 9** - Post-sermon discussion
- Oct 15 & 16** Harvest Festival
- Oct 16** UU Path - Membership Class
- Oct 30** Wheel of the Year: come in costume!

"Of all the paths you take in life, make sure a few of them are dirt."

- John Muir



Connections Council

WOMEN'S RETREAT 2022

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7

6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8

9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.



After a long physical separation from our sisterhood community, we will be gathering in person at the UUFC campus to re-ignite and explore our caring connections and learn how their strengths and vulnerabilities open us to new possibilities in loving ourselves and our world.

Registration fee of \$50 includes lunch Saturday, workshops, materials, speakers, and a gift. Scholarships are available. Our keynote speaker is Linda Carroll - author, therapist, and activist. Attendees need only to identify as women in a way that's significant to them.

Fill out registration using this link, found on the UUFC website:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeZLMF79Yz9cKwg9JDIDCmB0hyjqEOG7ocReFwOifZLuqc_aAQ/viewform?usp=pp_url. If you can help, contact Amy Ayers at 1stnewamy@gmail.com.

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). **Registration is now open at this web site:** <https://forms.gle/VSFcrhgdyomAuSSq8>

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

Connections Council

FOR ALL WHO DEPEND ON ONLINE CONNECTIONS - LET'S MEET

Many of us, for a variety of reasons and needs, continue to depend upon on-line connections to Fellowship services, groups and activities. Let's meet together (on Zoom) to talk about staying connected with each other and with the Fellowship, **Sunday, Oct. 9, 5 PM**. Watch the weekly announcements for the Zoom link.

CONNECT UP - STARTING ANEW, REBUILDING

Before the pandemic shut-down, each month at UUFC there were many Connect-Up offerings: walks and study groups, suppers and movies, game nights, wine-tasting, garden sharing and much more. Connect-up exists as mutual sharing: some folks offer to host or lead activities and others sign up to join in. Anyone can host, anyone can join in. What kinds of things can we do together now? Let's be creative and start finding new ways to connect with each other. If you can host or lead an event, or want to suggest an event you'd like to join, **fill out a blue card at the Welcome Table on Sunday**.

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 (minister@uucorvallis.org). I don't have regular office hours but I'm happy to make an appointment with you. You only need to ask. We can walk, talk, sit, share tea or coffee, phone, Zoom, 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.

UUFC HISTORY

....this congregation was *gathered* in 1949. That's a legacy from our Puritan ancestors - that a congregation is not founded, or planted, or established, but gathered. People have, in many times and in many places, found their way to Unitarianism, Universalism, and Unitarian Universalism. The conversion experience for UUs is often the sensation of recognition, of finding a community of people who share some ways of approaching the world. For us, on both sides of our heritage, those ways of approaching the world have historically involved a quest for truth, a willingness to challenge "the way things are," a fierce individualism, a desire to build the world as we think it ought to be, with more justice for all, and a great faith in the human capacity for goodness."

from "The Gathered People" - a short history of the UUFC, by Monica Jacobsen Tennesen

Connections Council



CHALICE CIRCLES AND CONNECTING CIRCLES

- **CHALICE CIRCLE**

A chalice circle provides time and a safe space to share experiences and express our feelings on topics designed to help us discover more about ourselves--what really matters in our lives. In a chalice circle, each person is fully heard. We honor each others' presence with no interruptions, no judgment, no advice, and no gossip.

Chalice circles meet once or twice each month and are ongoing.

We currently have some space in our chalice circles, including Monday evenings, Tuesday evenings, and Wednesday mornings.

Email elonameyer@icloud.com if you are interested in joining one of our groups.

Currently groups are meeting via Zoom; however, some groups intend to meet in person very soon.

- **CONNECTING CIRCLES**

If you would like to learn more about chalice circles, you are invited to join us for a **CONNECTING CIRCLE** series in October.

A connecting circle honors the same format as our chalice program, but is completed in three sessions, allowing participants to explore the chalice experience, without an ongoing commitment. Some of our ongoing groups began as a connecting circle.

Pending interest, we have two series to consider; both series will be offered via Zoom:

Monday Afternoons, 2-3:30 PM October 10th, 17th, and 24th

Tuesday Evenings, 7-8:30 PM October 11th, 18th, and 25th

Our topics for this three-part series are "Finding Meaning," "Welcoming," and "Commitment."

RSVP to Elona Meyer, your chalice coordinator, at elonameyer@icloud.com for more information and to reserve your space in either of our series.

Justice Council

GET OUT THE VOTE GATHERING - OCTOBER 3 AT 5:30 PM ON THE UUFC DECK

Don't miss our youngest speaker on politics - Savannah Sanford (new UUFC member and OSU political science student) - "Voter Involvement in the Midterms". Join us to write letters, share finger food and beverages, and a book raffle! October is the last month to write letters to Get Out the Vote for the 2022 midterm elections! So much is at stake!! And hand-written letters or postcards to people who are registered to vote, but who don't always get their votes in, is a proven method to increase voter turnout. We plan to celebrate the BIG SEND on October 29. For information, contact Karen Josephson, UUFC Democracy Action Team, kjosephson67@gmail.com.

FAITH-BASED CLIMATE ACTION

Towards Net Zero

Members and friends are invited and encouraged to join the 22 UUFC households tracking carbon emissions from the use of natural gas, purchased electricity, and gasoline/diesel and flights taken as they follow through on moving towards net zero. More information on this project is provided [<here>](#). Questions: michael.a.hughes1951@gmail.com

Bottle-drop Bags

Members and friends are invited and encouraged to support the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition [<link>](#) by using the Coalition's blue Bottle Drop [<link>](#) bags, which are available in the social hall after service. Once filled with eligible containers [<link>](#), bags are dropped off at a local bottle-drop location [<link>](#). (For Corvallis, that's behind the WaFd bank on 9th Street.) Questions: michael.a.hughes1951@gmail.com

Tree Planting

This fall, for the second time, we will collaborate with the City of Corvallis Urban Forestry Program [<link>](#) to plant (and water for three years) 12 oaks along Conifer Blvd NE. With details TBD, members and friends are invited and encouraged to indicate interest in this project. Questions, and to indicate interest: michael.a.hughes1951@gmail.com

Mighty Networks

Members and friends are invited and encouraged to join the 48 current members of the Faith-based Climate Action space [<link>](#) on Mighty Networks. Join Mighty Networks [<here>](#). After joining, access the network [<here>](#). If you bookmark the site, your computer will remember you, and you won't need to login again. There are Powerpoints on viewing and posting content [<here>](#) and [<here>](#), respectively, which may help you personalize the Network to your needs. Questions: michael.a.hughes1951@gmail.com

HARVEST FESTIVAL: IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE SUPPORT TEAM

Get your pumpkins at UUFC! Saturday, October 15 10:00 to 1:00 and Sunday, October 16 11:00 to 1:00. Jams and salsas and more. Democracy Action Team will be there too. But we need help! Especially setting up the tables and tents and taking them down. Sign up at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0449adaa28a7fc1-harvest>



Justice Council, cont.

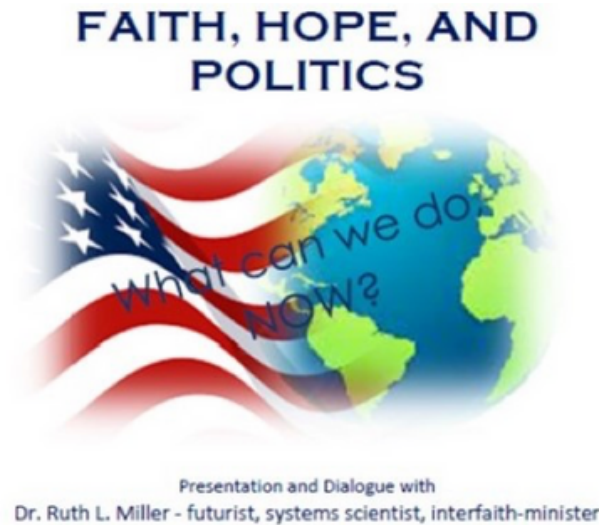
FAITH, HOPE, AND POLITICS

Faith, Hope, and Politics - October 23 - at 1-4 pm in UUFC Sanctuary. Speaker - Ruth Miller. Whatever our political position may be, we're all aware that the system is crumbling around us, and we're all wondering what, if anything, we can do about it. Dr. Miller will present an historical overview of how the US got where we are today, what our national and local potential futures are, and what we can do - individually and collectively - to make a difference, now.

Have you ever wondered whether we are a Republic or a Democracy and what that means? Or how we seem fixed with a 2-party system? Or what drives a drift towards fascism? This is a chance to find out more.

Dr. Miller is the author of over 25 books. Working as a futurist, as a minister, and as director of research at Gaia Living Systems Institute, she brings an in-depth understanding of how social, economic, and political

systems evolve and change, and how individual actions affect large-system dynamics. Donations appreciated. For information, contact Claire Montgomery, UUFC Democracy Action Team, at clairemtg@comcast.net.



CLIMATE JUSTICE VOTER PLEDGE

Surprisingly, most people who say that they prioritize climate don't vote! One of the most important things we can do to address the climate crisis is to elect leaders - from the local to federal levels -- who understand the scale of the climate threat and are ready to do something about it. Thus, it is essential that we all vote and make our voices heard!

All Unitarians are encouraged to sign the Climate Justice Voter Pledge. UU the Vote and the Environmental Voter Project are working together to send you reminders to vote before every election. Studies show that these simple reminders can dramatically increase the likelihood of voting.

Our pledge is simple. As a climate justice voter, you commit to:

- Vote as an act of conscience and care on behalf of the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.
- Prioritize voting for candidates and laws that explicitly work to create a sustainable and thriving future for our sacred earth and all life.
- Vote to protect those who experience disproportionate impacts of climate change.
- Engage our communities to vote on climate. Connect with the climate justice activists in your life and invite them to join you at the polls.

Are you already a consistent voter? Please sign the pledge anyway! The more people who pledge to vote, the easier it is to convince others to join you! You can find it here:

<https://sidewithlove.org/climatejusticevoterpledge>.

Thank you! Together we make a difference! Deborah Clark, UUFC Climate Action Team, and Claire Montgomery, UUFC Democracy Action Team. For information, contact Deborah at Deborah.Clark@lifetime.oregonstate.edu.

Justice Council, cont.

PERLA FAMILY UPDATE

Jeremías and Carlos are back in school at Garfield and loving it. Mateo is anxiously awaiting the opening of Head Start on October 3. It's so unfair that his big brothers got to start school weeks before he does. Juan is working in maintenance at Hotel Corvallis and Aracely has worked at Pastini's long enough to qualify for health insurance!

SPONSOR NEEDED

Juan Perla's brother, his wife and 3 year old daughter are in Tijuana, hoping to come to the US. Legally right now MPP protocol and asylum program has been stopped. So no legal crossing for now. In the mean time they will be staying in a shelter in Tijuana and looking for a job. They will fill out the application for asylum so that when the asylum program is reopened they can be called. They will be needing a sponsor as the Perlas did and a lawyer for their case. If you think you may be interested in becoming their sponsor, I would be happy to talk to you about what a rewarding experience it is sponsoring the Perlas. We will also accept donations to help with their expenses.

Immigrant and Refugee Support Team
Nancy Kyle, n.kyle12@gmail.com



Religious Exploration Council

Upcoming
RE Dates

OCT 23 YRUU ANNUAL CORN MAZE SOCIAL W/ EUGENE YOUTH @6:30PM *PLEASE NOTE THE TIME CHANGE OF THIS EVENT

OCT 30 WHEEL OF THE YEAR SERVICE FOR SAMHAIN COME IN COSTUME FOR THE TRICK OR TREATING EVENT!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Religious Exploration Council, cont.

CHILDREN'S LIBRARY PROJECT

Thanks to a generous gift from an anonymous donor, the RE Council and a special task force have been able to create an updated children's library collection that reflects our community values and is more accessible and easy to use than ever before.

Large orders have been placed from Mahogany Books, a black owned and operated bookstore with a mission to "ensure Black Books were accessible to anyone eager to read about Black culture"; Birchbark Books, which is native owned and operated with "a special emphasis on Indigenous American titles"; and a Kids Company About, which is a small publisher operating out of Portland that focuses on children's books about social issues. The Book Bin is currently working to locate second hand copies of the remaining titles on our list, helping us not only spend local, but go easy on our planet's resources.

As we complete purchasing, our collection is being cataloged into a Libib electronic database. Soon you will be able to sign up and simply scan books with the camera on your phone to check them out. The system is simple and intuitive for users of all ages!

If you have questions about our new children's library, or would like to volunteer, please contact Skyla King-Christison or ask any member of the RE Council!



YOUTH SUMMIT BY HAVEN KING-CHRISTISON

The Constellation Youth Summit held at University Unitarian Church in Seattle on Sept. 24 was a great experience for Fellowship youth to realize that there are a lot of others involved in their area. We met lot of youth our ages and started to build the sense of community that everyone has been looking for. The UU as a whole has started to make plans to create the YRUU experience that the young folks are looking for. We learned a lot about how we can build a safe and inclusive area we're everyone can hang out and have fun.



Board Report

NOTES FROM BOARD MEETING, SEPT 20, BY SCOTT BRUSLIND, TREASURER

Attending were Sheryl Stuart, Carl English-Young, Chareane Wimbley Gouveia, Jill McAllister, Jema Patterson (via Zoom), Gavin Araki, Steve Strauss and Scott Bruslind.

With a rather short interval from the 09/11/22 retreat, your Board of Directors and Minister met on Tuesday evening, 09/20/22 in the Social Hall.

We reviewed the proceedings from the retreat. Notable is the attention given to how we covenant with one another on the Board and how that care emanates out through the Councils, Teams and to the members and friends in our congregation.

We were reminded that, as representatives of the congregation, we are in a Shared Ministry with our Minister and the cycle of reflection/evaluation came up. Toward the end of each fiscal year (June), we take stock of our work, the staff, our budget and realign, accordingly. Then, every 3 years, we take time to consider our Ministry- both the work of the Minister and that of the congregation. Our last 3 year review was in 2020, and engendered the congregational survey. A summary of Our Shared Ministry, presented at the 2020-21 annual meeting, is available on the website in the UUFC filing cabinet. We will reprise this review in 2023. <https://uucorvallis.org/uufc-filing-cabinet>.

There are lots of good things in our filing cabinet, including a copy of Board Policies. In the September Board meeting we spent a goodly amount of time on Policies, we have spent quite a bit of time in past Board meetings on Policies and we are not done.

It's important to consider that, as we streamlined our Bylaws in 2018, we operate through Policies and Procedures. A comprehensive overhaul of our Policies was completed in 2021, and we are well underway in keeping the Policy manual a living document. Fleshing out Procedures remains very much a work in progress. Both are the glue that holds us in all our congregational relationships.

Finally, with regard to relationships, your Board discussed the many benefits that accrue from denominational membership in the Unitarian-Universalist Association. Look for more communication regarding our many-faceted work with other UU congregations and with UUA leadership and staff. We are stronger together.

Our next Board meeting is 10/18/22 at 7pm. As always, guests are welcome and an RSVP is appreciated. Drop a note to the Operations Manager and tell us you are coming and we'll have enough snack.

Fellowship staff

SENIOR MINISTER: JILL K. MCALLISTER

**AFFILIATED COMMUNITY MINISTER:
LESLIE CHARTIER**

**CONSULTING MINISTER:
MONICA D. JACOBSON-TENNESSEN**

CHURCH OPERATIONS MANAGER: JAMIE PETTS

BUSINESS MANAGER: JEAN GILBERT

**DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION:
RACHEL KOHLER**

RE COORDINATOR: SKYLA KING-CHRISTISON

MUSIC DIRECTOR/AV TECH: DAVID SERVIAS

PIANIST: LAUREN SERVIAS

CHOIR LEADER: STEVEN EVANS RENTERIA

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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