



The Chalice and the Flame

Diverse people. Diverse beliefs. One community.

A Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem, OR

December 2016

Successful Pie Day Fundraiser!

Thanks to all the donors, fruit pickers, packers and freezers, to the pie makers and bakers and go-fers and cleaners! We had another successful Pie Day on November 19 with about 20 people making fruit pies, and another 5 bakers at a separate site making gluten free pies. All profits went to UUCS.



We equaled last year's achievement of making 200 pies in 5 hours, including 15 gluten free pies. Look for more opportunities to get involved next year.

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Women's Alliance Thanks Contributors and Volunteers

Hearty thanks are due to Holiday Bazaar organizers Molly O'Dea and Ruth Larson, and to all the others who helped make it a success, including Kaylan Adams, Anne Alexander, Jo Bateman, Diana Bodtke, Lynn Cardiff, Catherine Carlson, Sharon Dearman, Deborah Emeny, Marge French, Kaye Giorgi, Linda Lockwood, Sharon Pierson, Jean Sherbeck, Sue Strong, Elsa Struble, Loraine Stuart, Judith Van Osdol, Kay Young, and Jane Young. A preliminary count indicates sales of about \$1,900!

End Of Tax Year Is Near

The end of 2016 is fast approaching. We will start preparing giving statements in January. If you want your donation to count for the 2016 tax year, please make sure that your check is dated no later than December 31, 2016. Those of you who need an extra deduction on your taxes could consider prepaying your pledge for the rest of this fiscal year. You could also consider making a donation to one of our reserve funds such as the Endowment Fund or the Maintenance Reserve Fund. These funds are like your savings accounts, money put away future needs. If you have any questions, please contact Lorna Youngs at lyoungs@comcast.net or (503) 585-9220.

Different Service Schedule for Christmas and New Year's Day – Check Services

There will be no formal Christmas or New Year's Day services. UUCS will be open for coffee and light refreshments from 10:30-11:30am on December 25 and on January 1. If you would like to share gluten free goodies for these Sundays, they can be dropped off in the UUCS kitchen any time during the previous week. Thank you. For more information, contact Angela uu4peace@gmail.com.

UUCS Needs Those Linens You Took Home To Wash

If you have taken towels or tablecloths home to launder, THANK YOU!! Our towel drawers and tablecloth cupboards are almost empty. Please return the clean laundry to the UUCS kitchen. There is usually an extra need for towels and tablecloths during the holiday season. Thank you! You are appreciated.

Renewal Team Interested In LGBTQ+ Stories

The Welcoming Congregation Renewal team invites UUCS members of the LGBTQ+ community to be interviewed via email for the newsletter about such things as your experience within the UUCS and larger Salem Community and how welcoming has UUCS been for you. If you choose to share in this project, please contact Benjamin Boschee at benjaminboschee@yahoo.com.



Reverential Ramblings

~ Rev. Richard Davis, UUCS's minister

(Note: the following reflection is an exercise in my "freedom of the pulpit". It does not purport to be an official pronouncement of the congregation.)

I'm not sure Donald Trump really expected to be elected to the highest office in the world – he's certainly ill prepared to divest himself ?? of his many conflict of interest business holdings. He's coming from such a different world than the one in which he now finds himself – from business man and reality TV star to the presidency! (He'll be the first president in our nation's history never to have held public office or have served in the military.)

Trump comes from a rough and tumble business world where you bluster and blow smoke, threaten lawsuits, defraud people (i.e., consider the fraudulent practices of Trump University) and do all manner of things that are unethical, even if they're not technically illegal – all to "win". Such winning is a paramount value for Trump. Then, there is the alternate reality of the TV role he played. Perhaps he is assuming that the role he now plays is not all that different - that you get to create your own reality and bully others to get your way.

Trump operates as an amoral, unprincipled person who has told and tweeted lies and spouted divisive, destructive rhetoric that gained him an enthusiastic following. And the consequences of this? Well, so far there are mostly positive consequences for him – indeed, it has catapulted him into the most powerful position in the world.

Some say that with social media providing countless sources of information and misinformation we now live in a "post truth" world in which some will use these tools of mass communication however they like, so get used to it. This provides demagogues with the power to mislead millions and create authoritarian regimes, not democracies!

The president elect recently tweeted that anyone who burns the American flag should perhaps be stripped of their citizenship or imprisoned. Around the same time he tweeted out a claim that he would have won the popular vote had there not been several million illegal votes cast for his opponent. The mainstream media immediately and rightfully noted that this is a patently false allegation which only serves to undermine faith in democracy – ESPECIALLY when the president elect is the source. Lies are toxic, destroy public trust and corrode democracy.

The question naturally arises – which act does more harm to our nation – burning a flag or the president elect figuratively burning the first amendment (which protects freedom of expression – including burning flags) and tweeting out brazen lies about our election process to the nation?

Trump has a terrifyingly tenuous relationship with the truth. He has lied so often that there is talk of his mendacity becoming "normalized." Since he's been elected he's made it an unnerving, autocratic practice to relate to the public only through tweets or staged events rather than press briefings where he would have to be accountable or justify himself.

We cannot passively acquiesce as this man erodes the foundations of our democracy. Our constitution calls for the impeachment of elected officials who are guilty of "high crimes and misdemeanors." It's not too soon to be giving this serious thought.

One final thought. In these trying times, it's important not to lose oneself in bitterness, anger and hatred. We must oppose the forces that are threatening our democracy, but we let's remember the positive example of nonviolent protestors who helped overcome injustice in their time.

Love, Rick



Lifespan Religious Exploration

~ Christi J. Olsen, Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration

December brings with it a host of family activities to do in our community however you celebrate the holidays of this season. I think this year, in particular, it is especially important to use this time to teach acceptance and understanding of many cultures' traditions and enjoy a variety of things! In the Unitarian Universalist (UU) Religious Exploration (RE) programs, we provide opportunities for the children and youth to learn about other traditions, as well as study about Unitarian Universalism. One way to explore Unitarian Universalism in December is through participating in **Chalica**, a UU winter holiday that celebrates a different principle each of the seven days of the first full week of December, beginning on December 5. You can still get your Chalica kits for \$7!

On December 11, our service will include a **Child Dedication ceremony**. Please let us know if you are interested in more information about this time to have your child(ren) recognized among the congregation in this way. Please speak with Reverend Rick Davis or with me so we can include your family in this UU ritual.

The December 18 service will also feature our **traditional Holiday Parade** through the sanctuary. Children and youth are working on their props, including some rolling floats! We hope your children will be able to make it each Sunday to help us with this fun tradition!

This year, we will again have a **Family Christmas Eve Celebration!** It happens on Saturday, December 24 from 5:45-6:25 pm, before the traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. The earlier service is geared for families; however, all ages are invited to enjoy stories and singing together. We will also have the ceremony of removing all of the mittens, scarves and hats that have collected on the "mitten tree" during this month! **(Don't forget the mitten drive this month!)** Following our celebration together, children will be able to create ornaments like the ones in the story shared and enjoy refreshments. I hope many of you will join me for this special time together and then stay for the candlelight service!

We will not have RE classes or nursery care on Sunday, Christmas Day or Sunday, New Year's Day! For days without individual RE classes or for when your baby decides it is time to fuss right when you are enjoying the service in the sanctuary, we now have a space set aside for you in the fellowship hall! Thank you to David Jeffers, who has been working to get this area set-up for us! This space is an area for people with little ones to still be able to hear (and very soon also see on a screen) the service while your little one plays and can get over being fussy without you worrying you are disturbing anyone. Having raised six children and many foster children, a number of times our little ones ended up crying during the service. It would have been great to have a space to hear and SEE the service instead of deciding to leave and go home instead!

Starting in **January**, we will be adding an individual class during the second service for our younger **Wisdom of Wondering participants**. Preschool and kindergarten will be participating in their own class. First graders are also welcome. **If anyone is interested in leading this age group, we need volunteers to fill this new role!** Curriculum will be provided and the class supplies ready for the day.

It takes many of us to make RE happen for the children and youth and I am glad so many of you volunteer to help the program in so many ways! I am glad to be a part of a community that supports each other and provides an inclusive and welcoming place for the Salem/Keizer area and beyond. I believe that our UUCS community will be especially important to many in the months to come.

May your holidays be bright! Until next time, *Christi*

Christi J. Olsen, Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration

~ Other Notes Of Interest From RE ~

FILL THE RE MITTEN TREE: Help us fill the whole Christmas tree with mittens, hats and scarves! Items will be donated to people in need in our UUCS community and Family Building Blocks.

MANY SPECIAL SERVICES IN DECEMBER: Details in Christi's article, above.

VOLUNTEER! Talk to Christi about how you can help the RE program by giving a couple hours a month. A small cost with big benefits! We especially need volunteers for the **Wisdom of Wondering** classes (see above).

Words from Our Intern Minister



I've been thinking a great deal, this past month, about who and how we are called to be now. I've been turning to the words and wisdom of women and people of color particularly. To American Buddhist Joanna Macy, whose teachings on environmental activism tell us that we need holding actions that stop or slow further damage *and* structural analysis that helps us look at the deep causes of harmful behavior and build alternatives. Macy says that we must also shift our consciousness to help us develop the values that sustain us. To author Ursula LeGuin, who identifies the pervasive use of violent imagery in our culture which undermines our best intentions.

LeGuin writes, "I will try never to use the metaphor of war where it doesn't belong, because I think it has come to shape our thinking and dominate our minds so that we tend to see the destructive force of aggression as the only way to meet any challenge. I want to find a better way."

I'm turning to the words of Civil Rights leader Ruby Sales, who describes her understanding that "I can't control the world, but I can control myself. And you are not going to coerce me into hating." This very act of controlling our inner lives, she says, also contests the idea of the power of oppressors. To author Isabel Wilkerson, who compares living in America to living in an old house in which the repair work is never done. Wilkerson says "you may not want to go into that basement, but if you don't it's at your own peril. Whatever you're ignoring will be there to be reckoned with until you reckon with it."

And I'm reading and listening deeply to testimonials from Standing Rock, where people write about living from generosity and abundance, undertaking daily life in a sacred and reverent manner. Chief Phil Lane Jr. says, "It is easy to be grateful when things are going your way. It is a true sign of nobility to be grateful in hard times, when things are not going your way." The Oceti Sakowin camp is living this way in the literal shadow of violence and oppression. The water protectors live with the very real threats of resource scarcity and physical danger, and yet choose abundance and gratitude anyway.

It is time for us all to heed this wisdom. For us to go into the basement of our country and of our lives and confront what we find there. For us to bring resolute love and peace to bear on changing everything: our basic assumptions about life, our habits, our thoughts, our communities, our country. We will need plenty of immediate action to protect and assist the most vulnerable of us. We will need to attend to our own foundational work. And we will need to practice gratitude and generosity.

We are called to transform our lives and everything around us into the pluralistic world we have never yet seen. It will involve plenty of uncertainty and humility. It will require a commitment to listening to and learning from those whose voices have most often been disregarded. It will ask of us experimentation and creativity and vision. We will have to exercise trust and faith in the work which will continue for lifetimes. It's going to be hard work but also, I suspect, work that offers many chances for joy. My people, we are holding hands in the dark now. But look: there are still stars. And we are far from alone.

Warmly,
Monica

Happenings and Highlights

Sound and Video Improvements In The Sanctuary

Pardon our dust! With the assistance of the Chalice Lighters grant, and some very generous donations by members of the congregation, the audio/video systems in the Sanctuary are under construction. So far, we have been able to replace the projector (see if you can find it the next time you are in the sanctuary) and much of the back-end sound equipment. Yet to come, we will be adding new speakers and upgrading the Assisted Listening Devices. That you all for your patience during the construction and changes. The a/v team: David Jeffers, Dana Brown, John Prohodsky, and Paul Parmley.

Membership Badges

Membership badges can be picked up the first Sunday of every month at the “Invitation & Information” table during fellowship. If you need a replacement or you want to inquire about the status of your new badge, contact Samantha Scales, Office Manager at (503) 364-0932. If you have been waiting for your badge more than a month, report it at the “Invitation & Information” table. Every effort will be given to make it a priority so it will be available the first Sunday of the following month.

Salem Speaks Up December 10

Come to this year’s Salem Speaks Up! event on December 10, where the UUCS Social Justice in Action Team will have an informational table. This annual event commemorates the UN Declaration of Human Rights. At the event you can tell your story during an open microphone, and voice your concerns about racism, homelessness, and other issues. This year’s theme is “Coming Together in Peace and Thanksgiving”. The event takes place at the Micah Center, 690 State St. NE, next to the First United Methodist Church, from 4 – 6 pm. Event organizers are the Salem United Nations Association, AAUW and League of Women Voters, with support from numerous community groups. Free and open to the public. Light refreshments.

Helping Standing Rock December 10

The Social Justice in Action Team suggests that you can further help support the Standing Rock Pipeline Protesters by attending the benefit concert put on by Oregon PeaceWorks and 350 Salem OR on Saturday, December 10, at 7:30 pm, at the Ike Box Café, 299 Cottage St., NE in Salem. The \$10 admission charge will fund local people going to Standing Rock with skills, supplies, and equipment to help prepare for winter.

Our congregation was open 10 am - 2 pm Thanksgiving Day to take donations of warm clothing, sleeping bags, hand warmers and other cold weather items for Standing Rock Pipeline Protestors who are fighting the Dakota Access Pipe Line plans. Thank you to the UUCS members and others in the community who donated and to Dana Brown and others who helped organize this donation drive.

Women’s Alliance Meeting December 13

Women’s Alliance is meeting at 6 pm on Tuesday, December 13, to spend an hour or so decorating the sanctuary for the December 18 service. Molly O’Dea is bringing holly and some fir boughs; others could bring more fir boughs. There will not be a regular business meeting, but there will probably be refreshments! Helpers are welcome--“nice” clothes are not recommended. The next regular Alliance meeting will be Feb. 14, 2017.

Dances Of Universal Peace Celebrates Urs of Rumi – December 15

Please join us December 15 for a special Dances of Universal Peace as we celebrate the Urs of Rumi, the night he passed through the veil. Jalal al-Din Rumi, the 13th century Persian poet, is currently the best-selling poet in the USA. We will have an entire evening of Rumi poetry and dances inspired by the words of Rumi, and community building with tea and snacks. Dancing starts at 7:00 pm. Please come to the Fellowship Hall a few minutes early to stow purses and coats. Donations are gratefully received. If you’re able, please bring snacks to share. If you would like to read a poem during the evening, please contact Angela at uu4peace@gmail.com.



Our Directory – Your photo welcome December 18

We continue to welcome new people into our congregation. All are welcome to be included in our UUCS Directory. Photos for the directory will be taken following both services on December 18 in the Fellowship Hall. Individuals, couples and families are welcome. Anyone who would like to add or update their directory photo is welcome to stop by. Volunteer photographer and (relatively) new member Sarah Rohrs will be taking photos near the Social Justice table. Bring a smile! The purpose of the Directory is to facilitate communication among the membership, help people put a name to a face, and to give recognition to those who actively participate in our congregation. The directory is available online, or you can request a printed copy from the UUCS office.

John Gear To Participate In SPFS Panel December 20

UUCS member John Gear will be a speaker during the December Salem Progressive Film Series movie night. He will be on a panel following the showing of the Michael Moore’s “Where to Invade Next,” showing at 7 p.m., Tuesday, December 20, at Grand Theatre, 191 High St. NE. Admission is \$5.

John is a member of the UUCS Social Justice Action Team and is an engineer turned attorney. “Where To Invade Next,” Moore’s newest film, is an insightful, eye-opening call to arms to restore the American Dream in America. The purpose of the film series is to raise awareness through education and action.

Winter Solstice Service December 21

Join Salem Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans as we celebrate the return of the light. A traditional calling of the four directions, songs, readings, and a story focusing on the Dragons of the Night who bring the Light back to the earth with the help of Grandmother Winter and Grandfather Frost. Refreshments and fellowship will be held in the Fellowship Hall after the service. Everyone is welcome. Childcare will be available for young children in the nursery. Service begins at 7:00 pm.

Blood Drive at UUCS December 23

On December 23, we will host a Red Cross blood drive in the Fellowship Hall. This is an important time to give blood as holiday donations sharply drop off even though the need increases. We have been given 40 slots to fill from 1:00 - 6:00 pm. This is also a Double Red Blood Cell (2RBC) collection. Please remember to eat a couple of hours before donating. Last time, several people were turned away because they hadn't eaten before giving. To sign up to donate on December 23, go to redcrossblood.org and use sponsor code **uusalem**, or call (800) 733-2767. Please share this far and wide so we can have a completely filled blood drive schedule. For more information, contact UUCS drive coordinator Angela Gross at uu4peace@gmail.com.

Join Dances Of Universal Peace To Celebrate New Years

Please join the Dances of Universal Peace for a **Global Peace Dance** in the UUCS Fellowship Hall on Saturday, December 31. Celebratory and ethnic dress encouraged. Every dance fully taught, and no partners are necessary. We will begin dancing at 8:30 pm with a potluck break at 10 pm. More dancing at 10:45. If you can, please bring food to share. Please bring a bell or noisemaker to ring in the New Year at midnight! \$10-15 donations gratefully received. No one turned away due to lack of funds. **Child care NOT provided. Children are welcome under direct parental supervision. Contact Angela at uu4peace@gmail.com with questions.

Next Welcoming Congregation Film In January

The Welcoming Congregation monthly movie night will be taking a break for December. We wish everyone a wonderful holiday season. We will be showing the documentary "Do I Sound Gay" on Monday, January 23. We hope to see many of you there! The Welcoming Congregation renewal process is dependent on the participation of UUCS members in events such as this.

Zen Classes Wednesdays In January



Each Wednesday in January, from 7-9 pm, UU Compassionate Mind Sangha is offering a wonderful opportunity to "begin again, learn Zen again!" with a series of four sitting and walking meditations, silent tea and lectures to help us begin or return anew to including the peace and stillness of daily meditation in our new year.

The January 4 class, is titled "Being a Beginner (again and again)" and will focus on enjoying the process of not knowing and being totally open and receptive in life. The January 11 session includes a refresher on the fundamentals of Zen practice. January 18 focuses on how to maintain a regular meditation practice. The month concludes on January 25 with "Sitting Still and Forgetting the Self".

Health Workshops In January

David Haber, UU member and Visiting Scholar with the Gerontology Department at Western Oregon University, is offering a series of Health Promotion and Aging workshops. The four Saturday workshops focus on Medicare preventative services, exercise and nutrition, mental health, complementary and alternative medicine, and methods to change health behaviors. The content is derived from his book, **Health Promotion and Aging** (7th edition, 2016). The preferred age range of participants is 60 to 80+. Workshops are from 11 am -12:30 pm on 1/14, 1/21, 1/28, and 2/4. The cost is \$20 for the 4 workshops. Scholarships are available. To sign up for the class, contact David at haberd@wou.edu or (971) 338-3755.

Upcoming Concerts in the Sanctuary January 28 – February 26

Songs of Civil Disobedience and Hope - January 28 at 7:00 pm

Roy Zimmerman - February 18 at 7:00 pm

Trio Nova Mundi featuring an all-female composer concert - February 26 at 4:00 pm

Help Needed and Appreciated!

New Facebook Administrators

The Communications Team is delighted that Angela Gross and Meg Green have taken on the role of Facebook co-administrators. **Thank you to Chad Halsey** for his long and dedicated commitment to promoting UUCS on Facebook.

Thank you for Supporting our UUCS Microfinance Project!

Thanks to your generosity and support, we raised \$4,400 in October from Share the Plate, direct contributions, and sales of jewelry and other items from Africa and Nicaragua!



\$400 was given to IMANI to help women farm crops to yield food and a profit that will be applied for healthcare and schooling. We were delighted to learn that this project resulted in a successful corn harvest for the Kenyan women who participated. As a result, each woman will have two large bags of corn to feed her family and funds to help pay for healthcare and education. They were able to repay the loan, so our contribution will live on through a revolving loan fund to help others. Your generosity is making a very real, significant difference in the lives of these families! For more information on IMANI go to www.imaniproject.org.

We will also send \$4000 to The NEO Fund for micro-lending to the poor living near the dumps in Nicaragua. Ron Hockley with the NEO Fund spoke to our congregation during the October 9 services about how The NEO Fund learned the most effective way to help those in need. In the beginning, they gave spare coins and even beanie baby dolls before realizing that this approach did not address the needs of people who are struggling to survive. Using local people who work closely with the poor, they identified the importance of providing people with the means to earn a sustainable living and lift their families out of poverty. Check out the NEO Fund's website (www.theNEOfund.org) to learn more about how they have helped individuals.

We will be providing additional funding for another project with IMANI over the next year in addition to helping poor families in Nicaragua with the NEO Fund.

The UUCS Microfinance Committee is in the beginning stages of planning a trip to Nicaragua to visit people we are helping through our project. We are considering going in either late 2017 or early 2018. If you're interested in joining us, please contact ann.hanus@gmail.com.

Kairos Community Lunch

What a wonderful feeling serving a Thanksgiving lunch to the Salem community through the Kairos program! UUCS volunteers prepared and served turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy, yams, beans, cranberry sauce and of course pumpkin pie to 106 diners. We ran out of everything except pie! Thanks to Carolyn and Joel Woodman, Patrice and Michael Pollard, Jane Maute, Diane Mitchell, Danielle Shearer, Victor Reppeto, Joan Erickson, Cathy, Sara and Evan Ponsioen, Gayle Gilmour, Adele Moore, Glenn Morrison, and the fabulous Loraine Stuart for all their help. What they all realize is how much fun it is to serve. Consider joining us next year! Sign-ups will be at the Social Justice table. Call Mary Beth Hustoles at (503) 587-7949 with any questions.

UUCS Music Program Needs You!

Music at UUCS is an integral part of the worship services. It has been said that "what we sing is who we are". There are so many ways to be a part of the musical experience here and not all of them require music expertise! In addition to performing, we have opportunities to be a part of the music committee and all of the behind the scenes work that happens every week. If you are interested in contributing to the musical needs of UUCS please contact the Director of Music, Aimee Larsen-Amend at music@uusalem.org.

Want a fun, stress-relieving activity that provides proven health benefits and is completely FREE? Why not join choir?! The UUCS choir meets every Thursday from 6:30-8 pm and performs 2-3 times a month. Come meet some new people (or say hello to long-time friends) and help contribute to the UUCS musical community!

Choir too much of a commitment? UUCS is also looking for musicians to help provide the special music for the Sunday services. Singing, instrument playing, interpretive dancing, and even hymn leading! This is a fantastic way to give back to the worship services that give so much to us every Sunday.

Fun Opportunities In RE

Do you have one Sunday a month (or every other month) to spend time with our UUCS children? Talk to Christi about the many opportunities in RE to give to our community and receive so much back in return! (Hugs, gratification you helped someone have a great Sunday, shared learning and MORE!)

Membership News

New Leadership for Membership Team

Brenna Norval and Michael Pollard will be the new co-chairs for the UUCS Membership Team starting January 1. Joel and Carolyn Woodman, previous co-chairs, will continue to serve on the Membership Team and will provide support and leadership for specific team projects. Cecilia Craig is the new coordinator of the Welcome Table. She has joined the Membership Team and has also assumed a leadership role in the planning of the Pathway to Membership program. Caroline Bridges is the new coordinator of the Visitor Gift Pack that is given to visitors upon signing the guestbook. It's a vital piece of our outreach and follow-up with first time visitors.

Meet Our New Members

Pat Mallette



I was born in the Detroit, Michigan area and grew up Catholic. I married in the Catholic Church, but as an adult soon became skeptical of the whole "God thing." My marriage ended. I moved with my three young children to study political science at Michigan State University. When my seven year old daughter began asking questions about God, I remembered a friend's comments about Unitarian Universalism and joined the East Lansing congregation.

I became interested in California government and politics and moved my family there to finish my degree at the University of California at Davis. Later I attended their law school. As a member of the Davis UU Church, I was chair of several committees, served as Secretary of the Board of Directors, and began what I call my "kitchen goddess" ministry.

For the next 40 years I cooked and served Sunday lunches at four different UU churches.

Unable to find work using my degree and needing to support my kids, I turned to administration. I held various office manager and regional administrative positions in both northern and southern California. I retired last spring and moved with my sister to Salem. We bought a home in south Salem and are enjoying life with our three cats. We love it here.

I am grateful for my UU faith as it allows me to find my own answers to spiritual questions. I describe myself as an open-minded atheist/humanist.

Deborah Emeny



My name is Deborah Emeny. I moved to Salem from New Hampshire in January of this year. In March 2014 I became a widow. I ultimately decided that since I had to start my life over I would start it nearer to one of our six children (I have three biological children and three "bonus" children). My youngest daughter and her family live in Salem. I am the grandmother to 15!

I am retired now. I spent my "career" as an educator of young children...pre-school and kindergarten. These days I call myself a decorative artist. I enjoy painting. I paint anything from candle sticks to large pieces of furniture. I also love felting wool.

I came to UU on the Sunday of the Orlando shootings. It was such awful news, and I didn't have anyone to talk to in Salem other than my daughter. I needed to find a community of compassionate, caring, loving, open-minded people. Everything about the service that day was just what I'd been looking for...the songs, the spoken words, the feeling. I felt welcomed and embraced the minute I walked in. As I sat there, hope once again found its place in my heart. I'm forever grateful.

Calendar

UU Compassionate Mind Sangha Silent Meditation

Wednesday, December 7, 5:30 pm, 7 pm - 9 pm

A welcoming place for meditation practice.

Session I is for experienced meditation practitioners. Session II provides attendees with basic instruction, and explanation. The last hour, 8 – 9 pm, is for discussion, compassion, about how to use meditation as a spiritual practice.

Board Meeting

Thursday, December 8, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 8, 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Refuge Recovery

Friday, December 9, 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Please visit refugerecovery.org for more information. Or send an email to rruucs@gmail.com.

Exploring the Old Testament - Discussion

Sunday, December 11, 9:30 am – 10:30 am

Are you curious about the bible or looking to change your relationship with this often controversial text? Bring your baggage, your questions, and curiosity. Together we will traverse passages from a historical perspective to finding meaningful interpretations. No experience necessary. We are all explorers in this open and free discussion of Biblical passages and stories. You can bring your own copy of the New Revised Standard Version or copies will be provided. Drop in -- Explore -- Discover new Questions.

Salem Speaks Up!

Sunday, December 10, 4:00 – 6:00 pm

See the [article](#) above for more details.

Standing Rock Benefit Concert

Sunday, December 10, 7:30 pm

See the [article](#) above for more details.

Taize Prayer Service

Sunday, December 11, 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Contemplative sung prayer in the Sanctuary, led in the style of the Taize Community of Taize, France. Led by vocal choir, guitar, viola/violin, and flute. includes an anointing/laying on of hands for the purpose of healing for those attendees wishing this. Led in dim candlelight, includes a period of silent meditation.

Salem Covenant of UU Pagans meeting

Monday, December 12, 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Monthly business meeting for the executive team of Salem Covenant of UU Pagans, discussing items that are relevant to the spiritual and business needs of the group and supporting the greater pagan community at UUCS. The meeting is open to anyone to attend.

Social Justice Discussion Group

Monday, December 12, 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

The Social Justice in Action Team invites you to join us to discuss current social justice topics in an informal setting. Topics will be decided by participants. This meeting will be in addition to our regular monthly meeting, but will be more focused on allowing people to talk about issues in a deeper way than we have time for in our 'business' meetings. No commitment to attend both meetings is expected or required.

Please join us with an open mind, an open heart, and open ears. If you are able, please consider bringing a snack or non-alcoholic beverage to share. Hope to see you there!

Women's Alliance Meeting

Tuesday, December 13, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

UU Compassionate Mind Sangha Silent Meditation

Wednesday, December 14, 5:30 pm, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

See December 7 event for details.

Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 15, 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Dances of Universal Peace

Thursday, December 15, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Simple, easy-to-learn movements and songs honoring spiritual traditions from around the world. The dances bring together sacred phrases from the world's religious traditions in heart-awakening circle dances dedicated to peace within and without. See SalemDances.com for more information.

Journey to Belonging

Thursday, December 15, 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

"Spiritual growth is an individual affair that is best pursued in groups." -Henry Miller This is a 3 month covenant group that explores the spiritual journey: where we come from, where we are, what we look forward to exploring. All are welcome to join! The group will be facilitated by Reverend Richard Davis or our Intern Minister, Monica Jacobson Tennesen.

Finance Team meeting

Friday, December 16, 10:00 am – noon

Salem Covenant of UU Pagans Meet & Greet

Friday, December 16, 7pm – 9pm

A place for pagans to gather, connect, and share. All are welcome to discuss and learn about each other, events, and shared spirituality. Bring a snack to share and a smile.

We'd like to get to know you. In the RE Commons

Refuge Recovery

Friday, December 16, 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Please visit refugerecovery.org for more information. Or send an email to rruucs@gmail.com. In the Green Classroom

Soul Matters Sharing Circle

Sunday, December 18, 9:30 am – 10:30 am

Similar to Covenant Groups the Sharing Circle will discuss a topic based on timeless spiritual themes. The Sharing Circle offers a way for those who aren't able to attend a regular convent group a place to find spiritual grounding and deeper conversation. New members and visitors are free to join in. We meet on the third Sunday of each month. You can download December's topic from the [Covenant Groups](#) page of the UUCS Website. Additional copies of Soul Matters material will be available at each meeting.

Social Justice in Action Team meeting

Sunday, December 18, 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm

UU Compassionate Mind Sangha Silent Meditation

Tuesday, December 20 5:30 pm, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

See December 7 event for details.

Yule Celebration (Winter Solstice)

Wednesday, December 21, 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

See the [article](#) above for more details.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Friday, December 23, 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Facilities Team Meeting

Tuesday, December 27, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

UU Compassionate Mind Sangha Silent Meditation

Wednesday, December 28, 5:30 pm, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

See December 7 event for details.

Refuge Recovery

Friday, December 30, 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Please visit refugerecovery.org for more information. Or send an email to rruucs@gmail.com

New Year's Eve Dances of Universal Peace

Saturday, December 31, 9:00 pm – midnight

Global Peace Dance to ring in the New Year. See the [article](#) above for more details.

Membership Team meeting

Tuesday, January 3, 2017, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Unitarian Universalist Congregation Of Salem

5090 Center St. NE, Salem, OR 97317

Minister: The Rev. Richard R. Davis

rdavis@uusalem.org

Intern Minister:

Monica Tennessen Jacobson

monica@uusalem.org

Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration:

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This issue was edited and formatted by Sharon Pierson, edited and proofed by Elsa Struble and Vicki Cunningham.

DEADLINES:

Newsletter Submissions for *The Chalice and the Flame* must be received by the Friday before publication. The deadline for the **January 3** newsletter is 8:00 pm on Friday, **December 30**. Please send your submissions, including personal news items, directly to editors@uusalem.org.

Announcements for the separate **Sunday Bulletin** must be at the **office** by 9 a.m. **Tuesday**.

EVENT SCHEDULING: please use the [Event Scheduling Request](#) form on the UUCS website to add your event to the UUCS calendar and/or reserve a UUCS space.

PUBLICITY: please use the [Event Publicity Request](#) form on the UUCS website! This form is a one-stop place to put a notice in the Sunday announcements, the UUCS newsletter, the UUCS website and or Facebook.

Worship Services and Religious Exploration

Soul Matters Theme: [A Community of Presence](#)

December Share the Plate Recipient: [Salem-Keizer NAACP](#)

Sunday, December 11

9:30 am & 11:15 am

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

"Beautiful People"

Celebrant: Benjahmin Boschee; **Anchor:** Joanne Manson
First Service Music: Cheryl Randall; **Second Service Music:** UUCS Choir

When you look at others, or yourself, what do you look for? What do you see? In such matters it's good to be aware of the spiritual perils of "lookism".

This service will include the **Child Dedication** ritual. Contact Rev. Rick or Christi if you would like to have your child recognized among the congregation.

Sunday, December 18

9:30 am & 11:15 am

Monica Jacobson Tennesen

"Drawing Warmth Out of the Cold"

Celebrant: Gloria Holland; **Anchor:** Ann Hanus
Music Both Services: Ted Cory

At their core, winter holidays are about light in the darkness and sharing what we have, from warmth to gifts to time. What can considering this teach us about life as a whole?

As a special part of this service, our children and youth will make a **Holiday Parade** through the Sanctuary, complete with floats.

Wednesday, December 21

7:00 pm

Winter Solstice Service

Celebrant: Arrhiannon Kirkpatrick; **Anchor:** Benjahmin Boschee

See the [article](#) in this newsletter for details.

Saturday, December 24

5:45 – 6:25 pm

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

Family Holiday Celebration

Short service full of stories and singing and the traditional "mitten tree" donation ceremony. Fellowship following the service will feature ornament making and light refreshments.

Saturday, December 24

7:30 pm

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Celebrant: Monica Jacobson Tennesen; **Anchor:** LJ Frederickson
Music: UUCS Choir

The UUCS Choir and musicians provide exalted sounds, readings of the ancient biblical narratives, a modern reading by Sophia Lyon Fahs, a Christmas Eve homily by Rev. Rick, a Christmas Prayer to the World, Singing "Silent Night" by candle light. A special night to be together and experience the spirit of peace and love.

Sunday, December 25

10:30 – 11:30 am

No Service

Sunday, January 1

10:30 – 11:30 am

No Service

Coffee and Hospitality

Organizer: Angela Gross

There will be no formal Christmas Day or New Year's Day services. On both days, UUCS will be open from 10:30-11:30am for coffee, light refreshments and discussion. If you can share gluten free goodies for that day, they can be dropped off in the UUCS kitchen any time during the previous week. Thank you. For more information, email Angela Gross at uu4peace@gmail.com.

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NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION: to subscribe to *The Chalice and the Flame* monthly newsletter, email your request to the UUCS office at office@uusalem.org and include your full name and email address. If you are a pledging member and want to receive a printed copy of the newsletter in the mail, also include a physical address.