



# *The Chalice and the Flame*

*Diverse people. Diverse beliefs. One community.*

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

**April 2018**

## **Circle Suppers April 13 and 14, Register by April 8**

The Membership Committee is coordinating another set of Circle Suppers for Friday, April 13 and Saturday the 14! Circle Suppers are potluck-style gatherings at members' homes. Hosts provide their homes, and guests bring food to share. Hosts decide the menu and call/email people who have signed up for their dinner. Signup sheets will be available during fellowship hour on Sunday, April 8. You can also call or email Anna Tally to sign up or to ask question. Phone: [802-417-1080](tel:802-417-1080), email: [annastally@gmail.com](mailto:annastally@gmail.com) OR sign up online using [this link](#).

## **Cordon Road Cleanup April 7**

Come help with the Cordon Road Cleanup effort on Saturday, April 7, from 9 am to 11 am. Sign up at the Social Justice Table in the Fellowship Hall or contact Michael Pollard at [mpollard608@aol.com](mailto:mpollard608@aol.com).

## **Landscape Spring Cleanup April 7**

Come help with the Landscape Spring Cleanup on Saturday, April 7, from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. Help with shredding, weeding, trimming bushes, planting, or painting rocks. There is something for all physical abilities. Children welcome to work alongside parents. Snacks provided by the Landscape Team. Contact Angela Gross at [uu4peace@gmail.com](mailto:uu4peace@gmail.com) for more information.

## **Women's Alliance Meets April 10**

At the April 10 Women's Alliance meeting, Carol Doolittle of the UUCS Human Resources Team (as well as the Microfinance Team) will speak about providing health care coverage for our staff. For an introduction to the topic, you can re-view [the video shown during the February 4 service](#), in which Carol talked about the need to support our staff and suggested we increase our pledges by a latte a week! As always, everyone is welcome at Carol's talk, which begins at 7:00 pm in Hanneman Fellowship Hall. Refreshments and then a business meeting follow for those who have the time to stay.

## **Prospective Travelers to Simenfalva Information Meeting April 15**

On Sunday, April 15, at 10:35, there will be an informational meeting for people who are interested in learning more about a prospective trip to Transylvania and our partner church in Simenfalva. The trip is scheduled for July 2019. All are welcome.

## **Beltane Ritual and Potluck May 1**

Come and celebrate Beltane. Weather and space permitting this will be held outside. The potluck will start at 6:00pm and the Ritual at 6:30.

## **Visit to NORCOR Apr. 28, RSVP Now!**

The Social Justice in Action Team of UUCS is planning a trip to the Northern Oregon Regional Corrections Facility (NORCOR) in The Dalles, Oregon on April 28, and invite you to join them. They are working closely with the Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice (IMirJ). Once there, they will join others to hold a vigil at the facility. A chartered bus will leave UUCS at 8 am and be back in Salem by 6 pm. Contact Michael Pollard at [mpollard608@aol.com](mailto:mpollard608@aol.com) to reserve a place on the bus. A \$10 donation is requested to cover bus costs. [More information](#) is available on the UUCS website.



*Canned food collected for RE's Easter "Egg" Hunt*



## Reverential Ramblings

~ Rev. Richard Davis, UUUCS's minister

I spend a good bit of time writing text on my laptop and occasionally misspell a word. In fact, in writing this, I misspelled, “misspell” and the spell check feature in my computer software underscored this misspelled word with a red line to draw my attention to this error. That red line appears to me like a literary wound (I’m still carrying painful memories of being the first kid to go down in my all elementary school spelling bee contest years ago because I misspelled “banana”), so it’s gratifying to correct the spelling, see the red line disappear as though I’ve instantly healed this mistake.

We’re living in an era of significant social transformation when we’re becoming aware of how our habitual uses of language too often have an oppressive, demeaning, bullying, belittling, dismissive impact that strips people of their dignity. It’s as though a social word check feature has suddenly been activated, and we’re seeing all sorts of red lines underscoring wounding words and interactions whose harsh effect has hitherto gone largely unmentioned because of social pressures on those most adversely affected to remain silent. Now those affected are feeling empowered to underscore such interactions with a figurative red line that says “this is unacceptable.” Such oppressive interactions have needed to be recognized and challenged, yet it has also been disconcerting to those of us who haven’t been the brunt of them to realize how unjust and oppressive daily life with its multiple interactions feels for so many. (I write this from the perspective of who I am – a middle class white male with a few years under my belt.)

Yet there’s nothing wrong with becoming disconcerted – it creates an opportunity for new truth and insight to enter your heart and mind. It’s good to become more aware of your impact upon others so that you can avoid causing harm, even unintentionally.

One common pitfall that freezes people up is the fear of shame and guilt that arises when someone points out that what you said or did was racist or sexist, especially if this message is delivered in a stigmatizing manner. (Buddhist teacher Thich Nhat Hanh gently advises “speak the truth, but not to punish.”) We’re still struggling with how to have these difficult conversations so that new awareness and transformation rather than defensiveness and denial are the end result. It takes humility, courage, commitment, perseverance and wisdom.

These challenges should not obscure the fact that something good is finally happening – that oppressive social structures are being dismantled, that those who had no voice are feeling empowered.

If anything, authentic spirituality entails having “reverence for life” (Albert Schweitzer), which for me means embracing the ideal of a spiritual egalitarianism which subverts oppressive hierarchies in society. In truth, our UU values (as embodied in our 7 Principles) proclaim a radical spiritual vision of spiritual egalitarianism which has revolutionary implications we’re only beginning to recognize.

Love,  
Rick



## *Lifespan Religious Exploration*

~ Christi J. Olsen, Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration

**APRIL** is here! This year the first of April emerged as Easter Sunday and April Fool's Day all in one! Our annual canned food "egg" hunt was successful and we collected an extra 150 pounds of food for Marion Polk Food Share. Even the weather cooperated to make this a successful event! Thank you to everyone who supported this Religious Exploration (RE) project and donated canned food.

During the month of April, we will be focusing on our Soul Matters Theme of Emergence. Each of our classes will be learning about this theme through a variety of experiences. Every second Sunday (this month - April 8) is our Soul Matters theme Sunday and we all attend the service to support our learning about the theme. Parents, this is your opportunity to have your children attend the worship with you to let them take in the experience at their own developmental level. There will also be supervised coloring tables available for your children to sit and color while they listen and participate in the service.

April 6-8 is our annual Women's Retreat! We have twenty-two people registered to attend! I am so excited that so many will have the opportunity for this connection and relaxation. Thank you to Stephanie Jernstedt for leading the organization and to everyone who volunteers to help make this event successful. Our annual Men's Retreat will be October 12-14 – mark your calendars now so you have the weekend free to attend.

The second Sunday of the month (April 8) we continue our monthly creation of the Good Samaritan Bags. After each service, put bags together and take them with you to hand out to people in need. During the fellowship time, visit the table and see what it is all about. Donations are continuously needed to make this a successful outreach project.

April 15 will be our faith exploration visit for youth 8th – 12th grade. We have been fortunate to have people from the Islamic Center of Salem visit us in February and people from the Salem Baha'i Center visit us in March. We will be traveling to another faith on the 15th. Parents and youth, watch for your email about more information.

April 15 from 1:00 – 2:30 pm, please join us in the high school room (1st room to the right when you enter the commons) for more information about our RE team. We would love to have more parents join us for supporting the RE program through monthly meetings of discussions and planning. It is a great opportunity to have direct input into the programming for your child(ren) and/or youth. Childcare is available if you let us know you are planning on attending.

Reminder: April 22 we will not have individual RE classes; however, the service will be about Earth Day and appropriate for all ages! Many of our middle school youth, adult volunteers and I will be attending an Earth Day event at Opal Creek with the other UU Congregations in the Willamette Valley. I am looking forward to this experience!

May 5, our First Service yoga practice returns! All ages are welcome to join us. The experience is geared for children; however, the practice fits all levels of yoga experience. Please bring a yoga mat if you have one. We do have a limited number of mats available to loan.

Watch for more information and for registration to begin for our staff-led UU Summer Camp, June 25- 29. The focus will be on World Religions with a variety of UU experiences and fun!

There is always a lot of activity and learning happening in our RE classes! We are thankful to spend Sundays with your children and to be a part of helping them on their spiritual journeys.

*In faith and until next time . . . Christi*

Christi J. Olsen, Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration

# Words from Our Intern Minister



For the last few months, I have been participating in the UU search process, the way in which ministers and congregations match with each other. Rather than having bishops or other denominational authorities do matchmaking, our tradition uses a process that is similar to online dating. (No, really.) Congregations looking for new ministers elect Ministerial Search Committees, who write and post detailed summaries of the congregations in question, called “congregational records.” Ministers, having written their own descriptions of themselves (“ministerial records”), read the congregational records and click a button to indicate their interest. Search Committees then read ministerial records and, if they are interested, initiate a “packet exchange,” which in the past involved mailing three-ring binders

of information to each other and now takes the form of sharing links to the minister’s and congregation’s websites.

After the packet exchange, a minister and Search Committee can progress to a phone interview (or, more common these days, a Skype interview). From there a Search Committee picks a small number of ministers to bring out for “pre-candidating weekends,” in which the minister visits the town and the church building(s), shares meals with the Search Committee, spends several hours in an interview, and preaches one Sunday in a “neutral pulpit” at a congregation in the area so that the Search Committee can see the minister in action during a worship service. All this takes place under confidentiality, with only the Search Committee knowing which ministers are being considered and interviewed.

After pre-candidating, the Search Committee deliberates and eventually determines which minister would be the best fit for the congregation. Meanwhile, the minister considers the congregations at which they have pre-candidated and determines which congregation would be the best fit for them. Both Search Committees and Ministers often have several possible good fits, so there is room in the process for multiple successful combinations.

Then in late March or early April comes Offer Day, when Search Committees can officially invite their chosen minister to be the candidate for next settled minister of their congregation. The candidate minister comes out for a “candidating week,” preaching one Sunday, spending a week meeting the congregation, and preaching at a second Sunday service which is followed by a congregational vote to call the minister, or to decline that minister and spend an additional year in the search process. Most candidating weeks end in votes to call the minister in question; Search Committees tend to do a good job finding ministerial matches.

As I write this column, March is drawing to a close and Offer Day is approaching. The offer is followed by contract negotiation, and then the match between minister and congregation can be announced. So the day is coming when I will be able to share my plans for next year.... but that day is not here just yet. I wanted to give you all a summary of what I have been engaged in, and I look forward to telling you about the outcome of all this searching and deliberation soon!

I wonder what you have been working on, or what has been quietly growing for you, all winter. May you have the time to sit and appreciate what is coming forth in your life, and to wonder a bit at the unpredictable and delightful way that things come to fruition. Perhaps as you ponder this, you’ll take the time to tell me what you have discovered. I hope you do.

Warmly,  
Monica

**NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION:** to subscribe to *The Chalice and the Flame* monthly newsletter, email your request to the UUCS office at [office@uusalem.org](mailto: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.



# News of the Community

## **Nancy Murphy is Moving**

Nancy Murphy, who retired from the Oregon Department of Transportation last June, is moving to a live/work building in Philomath. She will more than double her studio space for quilting and other crafts and eventually she'll have a retail store in an existing additional space. She says it's the first time she's deliberately moving into a construction zone! She'll also be moving next door to three grandkids, while a fourth one born this month will be fairly close in Tigard. Sounds great, Nancy!

## **News of the Community Editor Wanted**

Have you missed having News of the Community regularly reported in the monthly UUCS Newsletter? Do you think you could fill this spot? Do you have some writing ability, interest in people, and willingness to ask others if their personal news could be reported? Contact Vicki Cunningham or Sharon Pierson at [editors@uusalem.org](mailto:editors@uusalem.org).

# Social Justice News

## **Join the May Day Rally on May 1**

The May Day March and Rally will take place from 11:30 am to 2 pm at the Oregon State Capitol. This year, the march will focus on defending Oregon's Sanctuary law (NO on IP 22), standing with Unions, and driver licenses for all. The event is being organized by Causa, Oregon's immigrant rights organization. Come join and bring more awareness to the rights of immigrants and workers in Oregon.

## **Sister Helen Prejean Visit to Lake Oswego May 24**

Sister Helen Prejean will visit Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church in Lake Oswego on Thursday, May 24. Her talk will begin at 5:30 pm. Sr. Helen has been instrumental in sparking national dialogue on the death penalty and helping to shape the Catholic Church's newly vigorous opposition to state executions. She travels around the world giving talks about her ministry. For more information, visit the Oregonians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty website ([oadp.org](http://oadp.org)).

## **Sanctuary Team Visited Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis**

Members of the Sanctuary Team were invited to the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis (UUFC) on February 15 to answer questions related to the discernment process. Michael Pollard, Sarah Rohrs, and Patrice Pollard travelled to Corvallis and had an unexpected fellowship hour in the car because they missed the exit to Corvallis and had to turn around when they realized they were getting close to Eugene! This was the first town hall meeting for the UUFC, as they begin to consider the possibilities and responsibilities of becoming a sanctuary congregation.

## **UUCS Board Apology to Social Justice in Action Team**

The UUCS Board wrote a letter to apologize to the Social Justice in Action team for any unintended hurt or dismay they may have caused during the SJAT attendance at the recent board meeting. The board appreciates the excellent work and dedication of the Sanctuary Team and the entire Social Justice in Action Team. [Read the full text of the letter](#).

# Help Needed and Appreciated!

## **Reception Volunteers Needed**

The UUCS office is building a "team" of reception volunteers to help at UUCS during the week. Volunteers will be answering phones, greeting visitors, giving building tours, and taking care of some light "housekeeping" tasks such as addressing cards for visitors, filing, organizing, and keeping our foyer presentable. The UUCS office is open from 9am - 1pm, Tuesday - Friday. The hours would be broken into two-hour shifts: 9 - 11am & 11am - 1pm, on each day. If you are interested in experiencing just how busy our building can get during the week, contact the office at [office@uusalem.org](mailto:office@uusalem.org) or call during business hours at 503-364-0932. This is a great way to connect to our greater community, and to learn about what it takes to keep a congregation as busy as ours running smoothly.

## **UUCS Hosts Needed**

We are recruiting Hosts for this summer (May 27 - September 9) and for the 2018 - 2019 year. Please express your interest by [filling out the online form](#) or contacting Michael Pollard at [mpollard608@aol.com](mailto:mpollard608@aol.com).

Have you ever thought about joining a Host team? The letter below written by Carol Manka after her "retirement" from the program in July, 2016 provides an excellent insider's view of what it means to be UUCS Host.

*All of us know that being a UUCS Host is not easy. It requires special skills. You have to focus on why you're there and you have to be available to help anyone who needs information, assistance, or just wants to talk. You have to keep your eye on the door and the people coming in, detect a newcomer, and greet and guide them.*

*That often means that you can't talk at length with friends and members of other teams, which is often one of the heartfelt reasons you come to UUCS.*

*The Host Teams are UUCS' Ambassadors. We are ushers and hosts; information gatherers and disseminators; helpers and enablers; the first representatives of the congregation that visitors see, hear, and meet.*

*Being an ambassador is an honor and a pleasure even for those of us who are introverted and who struggle to reach out to speak to strangers with the goal of touching another person's life and perhaps changing it, as UUCS often does.*

*When UUCS Hosts are effective in all these roles, people will join UUCS, adding to its diversity and strengthening it with new ideas, new knowledge and new experiences. This grows UUCS' collective energy into more robust and effective congregational programs that nurture and support the Salem community.*

*Think about it. Each Host is an Ambassador for the only Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Salem!*

### **Thanks for the Help Making St. Patrick's Day Dinner**

Michael and Patrice Pollard would like to express gratitude to all the leprechauns who helped to make the St. Patrick's Day Fellowship Dinner a success. Thanks to Joel Martin, our chef, and to John Prohodsky for making the Irish Soda Bread. A special thanks to Alex Bauman and Tabitha Danek who helped to sell tickets and greet our guests. Thanks to Christi Olsen, for organizing a puppet activity. Thanks to all the other leprechauns who helped to prepare the food, set the tables, serve the food, and with clean up. Our leprechauns were: Rich Ford, Doni-Marie Rutledge, Sandi Guenther, David Stallwood, Sharon Pierson, Deborah Emeny, Joan Erickson, Tracy Boyle, Jane Maute, Tabitha Danek, Maria Danek, Sara Shatto, Sarah Rohrs, Cecilia Craig, Robert Muir, and Barbara Stebbins-Boaz.

### **THANK YOU to Women's Alliance for Our New Refrigerator**

Next time you are in the Fellowship Hall, stop by the kitchen to admire the new refrigerator purchased by UUCS Women's Alliance. The old unit was breaking down fairly regularly, in spite of the best efforts of our Facilities Team. We thank Women's Alliance for this significant upgrade to the kitchen facilities, the most recent result of their fund-raising activities, which include supplying the dishes and "silverware" when the current kitchen was built in 2003. The "shopping committee" consisted of Ruth Larson, Jean Logan and Sharon Pierson. The committee is very grateful for the help and support of the Facilities Team (Tom Lancefield, Joel Martin, and John Prohodsky) who showed up for both the removal of the old unit and the delivery of the new unit with power tools (to remove the old base) and questions for the installers. Samantha Scales helped with scheduling, asked good questions of the installers and filed the documents related to the purchase.

### **Flower Buds Add Color to the Sanctuary**

Recently, Rev. Rick and Kathy Marsh began recruiting folks to join the "Flower Buds" committee. The committee will create floral arrangements for display in the front of the sanctuary for Sunday Services. This is a tradition in many UU churches, giving the congregation a focal point for meditation and bringing a little natural beauty inside.

In consideration for those with pollen allergies, the arrangements will be made up of plants that have low pollen, plants that lack pollen altogether, and other greenery. The arrangements will NOT contain any high-allergen plants such as Asters, Daisies, Dahlias, Gerber Daisies, Easter Lilies, Chamomile, Chrysanthemums, Ragweed, or Sunflowers.

If a specific flower/plant triggers your allergies or if you would like to help with this endeavor, please contact Kathy Marsh at [4196kathy@gmail.com](mailto:4196kathy@gmail.com).

### **UUCS Landscape Team Needs Rocks**

The Landscape Team is looking for retaining wall rocks, decorative rocks, and patio pavers an inch thick or more. If you have any of these supplies and would like to donate to UUCS, contact Angela Gross at [uu4peace@gmail.com](mailto:uu4peace@gmail.com) \*before\* you bring them to UUCS.

# Board and Finance News

The Board welcomes the involvement of members of the congregation in the administration of the church. Please join us at Board and other meetings. The Board meets the second Thursday of each month at 6 pm. Other meetings are posted on the calendar.

## Board Adopts Budget Priorities

At its March retreat, the Board discussed the need to provide the Budget Committee with priorities to help with developing a budget to propose to the Board and then the Congregation. The Board adopted the following budget priorities, to provide guidance on how any additional budget resources should be allocated.

- ◆ Implement fair and equitable compensation as an employer of choice;
- ◆ Fund facilities maintenance requirements and facilities reserves;
- ◆ Hire a part time Office Assistant in the interim until sufficient funds are available to add administrative staff;
- ◆ Hire a Congregational “Administrator”. The definition of the position would need to be developed, as there are several different job functions that could be implied by that title.

## Board Approves Expanding Sanctuary to Include Families in Emergency

On March 8, 2018, the Board met with representatives from the Sanctuary Team to discuss the process for granting sanctuary to immigrant neighbors in danger of deportation. Documented family members of targeted undocumented immigrant neighbors may be unable to return to their homes immediately following ICE activity and may need temporary shelter. The Board voted unanimously that UUCS would provide temporary shelter to such families in emergency. ([more information](#))

## Financial Report from Our Treasurer

John Prohodsky prepared a report that presents the status of UUCS income vs budget. The report is below.

### Treasurer’s Report for UUCS 2018 Annual Meeting

As of February 28, UUCS’s finances are stable and our net income is \$17,021.86. Although the budget doesn’t cover all operating expenses for the Music and RE programs (expenses above budgeted funds are covered by off-budget funds), UUCS is able to provide basic Music and RE programs. Other programs and teams that have off-budget funds include Fellowship, Facilities, Landscaping, Lifelines Lay Ministry, Social Action, and Salem Interfaith Hospitality Network.

Our income is derived from six sources: pledges, non-pledged contributions, Sunday plate offering, fundraising, building rental, and investment income. Table 1 summarizes income as of February 28, 2018.

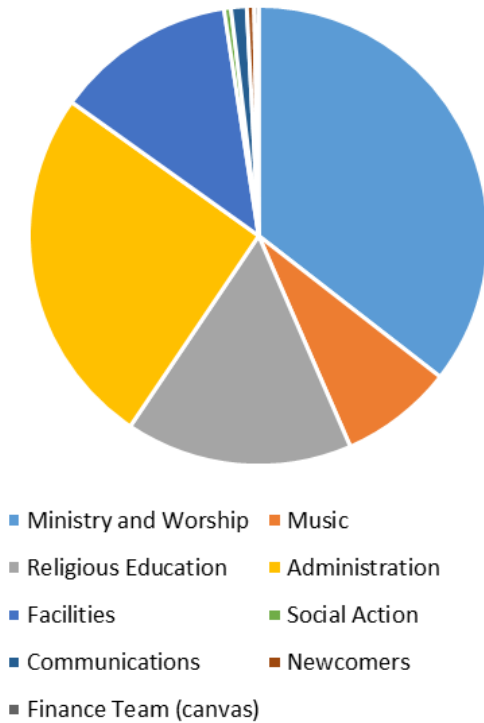
	Income as of Feb. 28 2018	Budgeted Income	% of Budget
<b>Sunday Plate Offering</b>	\$5,388	\$6,000	89.8%
<b>Non-Pledged Income</b>	\$4,496	\$8,000	56.2%
<b>2017-2018 Pledges</b>	\$185,885	\$275,335	67.5%
<b>Prior Year Pledges</b>	\$1,885	\$3,000	62.8%
<b>Fundraising Income</b>	\$20,956	\$7,000	299.4%
<b>Building Rental Income</b>	\$8,816	\$10,000	88.2%
<b>Investment Income</b>	\$5,158	\$3,500	147.4%
<b>Total Budgeted Income</b>	<b>\$232,584</b>	<b>\$313,695</b>	<b>74.2%</b>

*Table 1 – Income as of February 28, 2018*

**Table 1** shows the actual income received vs the expected (budgeted) income. The end of February is 8 months or 2/3 into our fiscal year. So, by February 28 when this report was written, you’d expect the % of Budget column to show about 66%. That is true for all of the line items except Non-Pledged Income. That income is a little behind.

The large increase in fundraising income resulted from the eclipse and auction events. Eclipse income was generated by members renting rooms to UUs from elsewhere who visited Salem to view the eclipse.

## Budgeted Expenses



*Table 2—Budgeted Expenses*

**Table 2**, on the left, shows a breakdown of our expected expenses. 55% of the budget is allocated to our major ministries (Ministry and Worship, Religious Education and Music). 35% is allocated to expenses required to keep the doors open, administer church operations, and support membership and programs. The remaining 10% pays for taxes (8%) and other programs (2%).

The information presented in this report provides the current status of our operating fund budget. This is the annual budget approved every May at our Annual Meeting. A discussion and explanation of the additional non-budgeted funds will be posted on our web page. This is part of the Finance Committee's efforts to help the congregation understand the total financial picture.

## Calendar

### Ordination Meeting

Tuesday, April 3, 2:30 pm

### Membership Team Meeting

Tuesday, April 3, 6:30 pm

### Titlakawan - The Flowering of the Self

Tuesday, April 3, 7:00 pm

The teachings of the Aztec Dance are tied to the Pre-Hispanic roots of ancient Mexico. It serves to connect the dancer to a universal view of the Anawak culture and the Nawaatl philosophy: a worldview of nature. The Aztec dance depends on understanding nature and draws its sustenance from it. Hence, the dance does not depend on the Western pedagogical approach but depends on the physical activity, with heavy symbolism in each dance and its specific steps. Aztec dance awakens and develops various human faculties which are essential across society but which the current educational system fails to implement in a conscious and permanent manner. The group meets on Tuesdays from 7 pm to 9 pm. All are welcome to attend.

### UU Compassionate Mind Sangha Silent Meditation

Wednesday, April 4, 5:30 pm & 7:00 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, 8:00 – 9:00 pm, is for discussion, compassion, about how to use meditation as a spiritual practice.

### Microfinance Committee Meeting

Thursday, April 5, 6:00 pm

### Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 5, 6:30 pm

### Annual Women's Retreat

April 6 – 8

### Finance Team Meeting

Friday, April 6, 10:30 am

### Dances of Universal Peace

Friday, April 6, 7:00 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.



### **Refuge Recovery**

**Friday, April 6, 7:00 pm**

UUCS' Addiction Recovery Ministry and Support program is glad to sponsor the Refuge Recovery group meeting every Friday from 7 to 8 pm at UUCS. The mission of this national non-profit organization is to build an extensive and comprehensive network of groups, meetings, and communities that practice and promulgate Buddhist teachings and meditations for anyone seeking recovery from addiction. Drawing inspiration from the core teachings of the Four Noble Truths, emphasis is placed on both knowledge and empathy as means for overcoming addiction and its causes. Those struggling with any form of addiction greatly benefit when they understand the suffering that addiction has created while developing compassion for the pain they have experienced.

### **Cordon Road Clean Up**

**Saturday, April 7, 9:00 am**

See article.

### **Landscape Spring Clean-up**

**Saturday, April 7, 11:30 am. See article.**

### **Compassionate Connections**

**Sunday, April 8, 10:30 am & 12:15 pm**

Life Lines Lay Ministers and sympathetic members of the congregation meet with those who want to share their life challenges with a small group and receive 'hands on' comforting. While the circle is not comprised solely of Life Lines Lay Ministers and therefore matters spoken of there should not be assumed to be held in confidence, many derive solace from sharing and connecting with a small group.

### **Soul Matters Discussion Group - All are Welcome!**

**Sunday, April 8, 12:45 pm**

If your schedule did not allow a commitment to an ongoing monthly covenant group or you are new to our congregation and missed the sign-up period, plan to join our Drop-in group every second Sunday to discuss the Soul Matters theme for the month. You are welcome to attend every second Sunday meeting or just come when you can! This is an opportunity to extend the sermon topic into a small group discussion following the Soul Matters theme service that happens every second Sunday of each month through June.

### **Social Justice in Action Team Meeting**

**Monday, April 9, 6:00 pm**

Regular monthly Social Justice in Action Team meeting.

### **Salem Covenant of UU Pagans Meeting**

**Monday, April 9, 6:30 pm**

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

### **Women's Alliance Meeting**

**Tuesday, April 10, 7:00 pm**

### **UU Compassionate Mind Sangha Silent Meditation**

**Wed, April 11, 5:30 pm & 7:00 pm**

(See April 4)

### **Long Term/Strategic Planning Team Meeting**

**Wednesday, April 11, 7:00 pm**

### **Board Meeting**

**Thursday, April 12, 6:00 pm**

### **Choir Rehearsal**

**Thursday, April 12, 6:30 pm**

### **Circle Suppers**

**April 13 & 14**

### **Finance Team Meeting**

**Friday, April 13, 10:30 am**

### **Refuge Recovery**

**Fri, April 13, 7:00 pm**

(See April 6)

### **YRUU Faith Exploration**

**Sunday, April 15, 11:00 am**

Every third Sunday, our YRUU (Young Religious UU's/8th-12th grades) group will travel to a different faith service as part of their learning about diversity and exploring their own faith development. Locations and times will be announced when confirmed.

### **Building Sacred Ground, Session 1**

**Sunday, April 15, 12:45 pm**

An experiential, 4-session, class to help people explore Unitarian Universalism deeply, share personal foundations of faith, and get to know a small group of people very well. Building Sacred Ground is strongly recommended for people considering membership. It is also highly recommended for established members who want to deepen their relationship with their faith, UUCS, and our community.

**Intern Committee Meeting**

Sunday, April 15, 1:00 pm

**RE Team Meeting**

Sunday, April 15, 1:00 pm

**Worship Team Meeting**

Monday, April 16, 5:30 pm

Monthly Meeting of the Worship Team to plan & discuss Sunday Services

**Vertical Gardening Workshop**

Tuesday, April 17, 9:00 am

Vertical Vegetable Gardening Harry Olson, OSU Master Gardener will share with you vertical gardening techniques and solutions that will produce huge crops in small spaces. This class will also cover plant varieties that prosper when grown vertically. After attending this class you will be ready to "Grow Vertical" This was a very popular presentation at the International Master Gardeners Association conference in Portland, OR last summer. Pre-registration required. [Register online.](#)

**Safer Congregation Committee Meeting**

Tuesday, April 17, 6:00 pm

**Titlakawan - The Flowering of the Self**

Tuesday, April 17, 7:00 pm

(See April 3)

**UU Compassionate Mind Sangha Silent Meditation**

Wednesday, April 18, 5:30 pm & 7:00 pm

(See April 4)

**Board Retreat**

Wednesday, April 18, 6:00 pm

**Journey to Belonging**

Thursday, April 19, 6:30 pm

A 3-month covenant group to explore our spiritual journeys.

**Dances of Universal Peace**

Thursday, April 19, 7:00 pm

(See April 6)

**Finance Team Meeting**

Friday, April 20, 10:30 am

**Refuge Recovery**

Friday, April 20, 7:00 pm

(See April 6)

**Opal Creek Trip for Middle School Youth**

April 21 & 22

**Keith Sohlstrum Memorial**

Saturday, April 21, 2:00 pm

**NO RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION CLASSES**

Sunday, April 22

**Building Sacred Ground, Session 2**

Sunday, April 22, 12:45 pm

(See April 15)

**Committee on the Ministry Meeting**

Tuesday, April 24, 3:30 pm

**Titlakawan - The Flowering of the Self**

Tuesday, April 24, 7:00 pm

(See April 3)

**Executive Committee Meeting**

Wednesday, April 25, 4:00 pm

**UU Compassionate Mind Sangha Silent Meditation**

Wednesday, April 25, 5:30 pm & 7:00 pm

(See April 4)

**Covenant Group Facilitator Meeting**

Thursday, April 26, 6:00 pm

**Choir Rehearsal**

Thursday, April 26, 6:30 pm

**Pacific Western Regional Assembly**

April 27 – 29

Western Region – UUA. We've got a theme - Stories of Hope, Courage, Resistance, and Resilience - and some fantastic speakers for the Pacific Western Region's 2018 Regional Assembly. [Registration and information](#) available on the UUA website.

**Finance Team Meeting**

Friday, April 27, 10:30 am

**Refuge Recovery**

Friday, April 27, 7:00 pm

(See April 6)

**Building Sacred Ground, Session 3**

Sunday, April 29, 12:45 pm

(See April 15)

**Communications Team Meeting**

Monday, April 30, 4:00 pm

Join the communications team for discussion of progress on our UUUS newsletter, website, Facebook, publicity and video projects. Newcomers or visitors welcome.

**Membership Team Meeting**

May 1, 6:30 pm

**Titlakawan - The Flowering of the Self**

Tuesday, May 1, 7:00 pm

(See April 3)

# Worship Services and Religious Exploration

April Share the Plate Recipient: [Kairos Community Kitchen](#)

Service Times: 9:30 am and 11:15 am

**Sunday, April 8**

**The Rev. Richard R. Davis**

## "Was Marx Right?"

Celebrant: **Joanne Manson**; Anchor: **Steve Rosen**  
Music Both Services: **Ted Cory**

### SOUL MATTERS SUNDAY

The political philosopher Karl Marx wrote that religion preserved the unjust status quo in society. Was he right? Wrong? Or maybe right and wrong?

**RE Information:** Today all ages attend the service to explore our Soul Matters theme of "emergence". Coloring tables are available for children to move back and forth between their seat and the table as they wish, while taking in the learning from attending the service.

**Sunday, April 15**

**Monica Jacobson-Tennessen**

## "Two Pockets"

Celebrant: **Lana Driscoll**; Anchor: **Janet Stevens**  
Music Both Services: **Guy Hallman**, piano, **Cathy Heithaus**, violin, **Georgienne Young**, cello

This morning we'll look at wisdom from the Hasidic Jewish tradition and how those teachings can help us to be the people we're called to be and to build a better world for all.

**RE Information:** WoW (pre-K -3rd) children and UU Explorers (4th-7th) will be exploring the theme of emergence. Youth (8th-12th) will be on their faith exploration excursion and will return to UUCS no later than 1:00 pm.

**Sunday, April 22**

**The Rev. Richard R. Davis**

## Earth Day

Celebrant: **Janet Stevens**; Anchor: **Sara Pickett**  
Music Both Services: **Ted Cory**

Angela Gross and Tom Ellis will help with this Earth Day service.

**RE Information:** Middle School Youth and staff are attending a middle school retreat with other UU's from around the valley. All ages are joining in the sanctuary worship today. The Cozy Corner is available in the fellowship hall for little ones that need more wiggle room! The service can be heard and seen through a monitor.

**Sunday, April 29**

**The Rev. Richard R. Davis**

## "Islam in America"

Celebrant: **Joanne Manson**; Anchor: **David Jeffers**  
First Service Music: **UUCS Choir**

Mohamed Siala, director of the Salman Alfarisi Islamic Center in Corvallis will share his perspectives on Islam in America. We've extended a special invitation to the members of The Islamic Center of Salem. Please join us as we welcome our special guests.

**RE Information:** All ages will be working on our UU art to be available for sale in June.

## Unitarian Universalist Congregation Of Salem

5090 Center St. NE, Salem, OR 97317

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

**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 and ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Fill out the [Publication Request](#) form on the UUCS website for any announcement, event or news item. This form is a one-stop place to put a notice in the Sunday announcements, the UUCS newsletter, the UUCS website and or Facebook.

**DEADLINES:**

Use the [Publication Request](#) form for all submissions.

**Newsletter:** The deadline for the **next** newsletter is 8:00 pm on Friday, **April 27**.

**Sunday Announcements and This Week** email by noon **Tuesday**.