

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF SALEM

Diverse people. Diverse beliefs. One community.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, December 4, 2016

For the most up-to-date information, please verify dates and times on the online UUCS calendar: uusalem.org/news/calendar

1. **The Social Justice Team is having a Fundraiser selling “Safety Pins” at their table to show people “You are SAFE with Me”. Please come by and show your support for our team and your community.**
2. The Membership Committee is coordinating **Fall Circle Suppers December 9th, 10th and 11th**. Circle Suppers are potluck-style gatherings at members' homes. Hosts provide their homes to gather in, and guests bring food to share. These are a great opportunity for an evening of fellowship and fun with a handful of members and friends of UUCS. Hosts decide the menu and call/email people who have signed up. **Signup at the welcome table Today**. Contact Anna Tally at 802-417-1080 if you have questions or if you would like to volunteer as a host.
3. **RE MITTEN DRIVE:** Our Annual Mitten Drive is under way! Our goal is to 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. Thanks for your generosity.
4. **Chalica, a UU holiday celebrating the Principles**, one each day for seven days, **begins December 5th**. Chalica kits are available from RE for \$7. The kits include 7 votive candle holders and the supplies to decorate and create a special candle holder for each of the UU Rainbow Principles. Information and ideas about how to celebrate are included! Money goes toward RE projects!

5. **Child Dedication** is happening on **December 11th** at our holiday service. Anyone interested in having your child(ren) participate in this special ceremony, please talk with Reverend Rick Davis or Christi Olsen, DLRE for more information. Please pick up a Child Dedication Pamphlet in the RE hallway. More information is available on the UUA website at <http://www.uua.org/beliefs/what-we-do/celebrations/births>.
6. **Join us Sunday, December 11**, at 7 pm for a beautiful candlelight contemplative sung prayer service in the style of the Taize Community in Taize, France. Guitar, flute and vocal ensemble lead this restful and centering meditation in music and silence that includes healing and laying on of hands. All are welcome!
7. **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 between 1-6pm. This is also a 2RBC event; a Double Red Blood Cell 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 using sponsor code uusalem, or call 1-800-733-2767 or sign up in the Fellowship Hall. Please share this far and wide so we can have a completely filled blood drive schedule. For more information contact Angela Gross uu4peace@gmail.com, UUCS drive coordinator.
8. **Family Christmas Eve Celebration: 5:45 — 6:25pm, Saturday, December 24th**. Come enjoy a service geared for families of all ages. Following the service there will be an ornament making craft and refreshments. Our traditional Candlelight Service follows.
9. **There will be no formal Christmas day services. UUCS will be open** for coffee and light refreshments and discussion on how UU's have influenced **Christmas from 10:30-11:30am**. If you can share gluten free goodies for that day, they can be dropped off in the UUCS kitchen any time during the week before Christmas. Thank you. For more information, contact Angela Gross uu4peace@gmail.com.
10. **Please join the Dances of Universal Peace for a Global Peace Dance in Salem, Dec 31**. Celebratory and ethnic dress encouraged. Every dance fully taught. No partners necessary. **We will begin dancing at 8:30** with a potluck break at 10pm. More dancing at 10:45. If you can, please bring food to share. Dancing and food will be in the UUCS Fellowship Hall. 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 is NOT provided.** Children are welcome under direct parental supervision. Contact Angela uu4peace@gmail.com if you have questions. .

11. **There will be no formal New Year's Day services. UUCS will be open** for coffee and light refreshments **from 10:30 to 11:30am**. If you can share gluten free goodies for that day, they can be dropped off in the UUCS kitchen any time during the week before New Year's Day. Thank you. For more information, contact Angela uu4peace@gmail.com.
12. **Do you have one Sunday a month** (or every other month) to spend time with our UUCS children? **PLEASE 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!)
13. **We are still accepting donations for the Refugees.** Please stop by the Social Justice Table to see what is needed. Thank you.
14. **Love Facebook?** Want to help UUCS? We are looking for a replacement for our retiring UUCS Facebook administrator. As UUCS Facebook administrator, you would generate posts to inform the community of congregational events and news and educate the community about UU principals. Through Facebook we connect the congregation with UUs across the state, country, and world. Posts would be expected at least once a week. Contact Vicki Cunningham at vickicunningham11003@gmail.com.
15. **Coming of Age is for 7th-9th grade and only offered every other year.** This is an opportunity for your youth to spend time articulating their spiritual beliefs with the help of a mentor and a UU curriculum. **The classes begin in January and will culminate in May** with a Credo (statement of belief) and project presented to the congregation. We need a minimum of four youth to make this program possible. Please register with Christi@uusalem.org.
16. **Did you notice a change in our website at uusalem.org?** Check it out! It is now mobile friendly and includes Google calendars of events and meetings. Use the search function at the top, if you cannot find what you are looking for, contact the webteam at webteam@uusalem.org.