



The Chalice and the Flame

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

August 2015

Summer Schedule --- Single Sunday Service at 10:30 a.m. through September 6

We are currently on our summer schedule of a single service followed by coffee hour. Our regular schedule of two services will resume September 13, the weekend after the Labor Day weekend. Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Three Reflective Reviews of the General Assembly Experience

Shared by LJ Fredrickson,
Current Board Chair

The annual General Assembly (GA) was held in Portland, Oregon from June 24 through June 28. Attending the GA was a special opportunity for Unitarian Universalists to join together to share and exchange ideas, experiences, and religious awareness.

A special General Assembly program will be presented by selected attendees as part of the August 30 service.

Two strong themes permeated the offerings:

- Embracement of **Tolerance, Compassion, and Acceptance** by reinforcing that we affirm people of all ages, abilities, finances, races, ethnicities, gender identities, family structure, sexual orientation and faith backgrounds.
- Advancement of **Human Rights** through Social Justice efforts such as climate control, immigration, training, and engagement.

GA was an enriching opportunity to inspire, affirm, and stretch each attendee. GA was a reminder that we offer a unique religious voice of freedom, reason and tolerance. UUsers won't tell you what to believe. Daily discussions and workshops spiked the need for more of everything. John Prodhofsky said it best: "Going to GA is like drinking water from a fire hose. There is SO much information available and coming at you all at one time!"

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Every one of us who attended excitedly returned with ideas and suggestions on how to improve our congregational life. With so much new input from so many, it highlighted an important question: How do we practically develop and implement these ideas in a cohesive, effective and productive way?

Experience has taught us that we can't successfully implement everything at one time. Priorities have to be established. We need to work together to implement changes and improvements. We need to ensure that these "changes" and/or improvements really are necessary for our successful future.

Since I'm a visual learner, I imagined our congregation as a beautiful tapestry being woven by each of us, Rev. Rick, each Committee

Chair and all Board Members. What does our tapestry look like? What will it look like when we're finished, when so many of us are weaving our own section of the tapestry? Somehow, we each need to understand what part we play and what part of the tapestry we are responsible for. We all need to be weaving the same dream/theme/picture. Our tapestry needs to be threaded with the traits of our specific culture - changing the world by living lives of wisdom, compassion and tolerance, moving hearts and minds, providing opportunities for sacred learnings and spiritual growth, all while healing our planet. **Our tapestry IS our culture, our mission, our vision. It is us.**

LJ Frederickson, Board Chair

If you have any feedback or questions, please call me at 503-602-2194 or email me at lifrederic@aol.com.

(continued on page 4)



Reverential Ramblings

Rev. Rick has been enjoying his well deserved summer respite. He has submitted the article below in lieu of his usual "Reverential Ramblings."

"...it simply is not true that one can believe anything and be a Unitarian. This is not what creedlessness means. One cannot be a racist and a Unitarian; be a Nazi and a Unitarian; a polygamist and a Unitarian; a bigot and a Unitarian. In our zeal for growth, we must not sacrifice the character of our movement as a rational, idealistic, ethical religion. Everybody is not, and cannot be a Unitarian regardless of their unethical behavior or prejudicial beliefs."

Rev. A. Powell Davies

"On Going to Church"

By Rev. A. Powell Davies (1902-1957)

Let me tell you why I come to church.....

I come to church—and would whether I was a preacher or not—because I fall below my own standards and need to be constantly brought back to them. It is not enough that I should think about the world and its problems at the level of a newspaper report or a magazine discussion. It could too soon become too low a level. I must have my conscience sharpened—sharpened until it goads me to the most thorough and responsible thinking of which I am capable. I must feel again the love I owe my fellow men (and women). I must not only hear about it but feel it. In church, I do.

I need to be reminded that there are things I must do in the world—unselfish things, things undertaken at the level of idealism. Workaday enthusiasms are not enough. They wear out too soon. I want to experience human nature at its best—and be reminded of its highest possibilities, and this happens to me in church. It may seem as though the same things could be found in solitude, but it does not easily happen so.

In a congregation we share each other's spiritual needs and reinforce each other. In some ways, the soul is never lonelier than in a church service. That is certainly true of a pulpit, for a pulpit is the most intimately lonely place in the world—yet it is a loneliness that has strength in it. Perhaps this is because the innermost solitude of the human heart is in some paradoxical way a thing that can be shared—that must be shared—if the spirit of God is to find a full entrance into it.

We meet each other as friends and neighbors anywhere and everywhere, but we seldom do so in the consciousness of our souls' deepest yearnings. But in church we do—in a way that protects us from all that is intrusive, yet leaves us knowing that we all have the same yearning, the same spiritual loneliness, the same need of assurance and faith and hope. We are brought together at the highest level possible. We are not merely an audience, we are a congregation.

I doubt whether I could stand the thought of the cruelty and misery of the present world unless I could know, through an experience that renewed itself over and over again, that at the heart of life there is assurance, that I can hold an ultimate belief that all is well. And this happens in church.

Life must have its sacred moments and its holy places. The soul will always seek its nurture. For religious experience—which is life at its most intense, life at its best—is something we cannot do without.



Lifespan Religious Exploration

~ Christi J. Olsen, Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration

August is here! For Religious Exploration, that means we are in the middle of our summer program....this year our summer program looks a lot like our fall program – other than having a wonderful garden growing! (Thank you to Angela Gross for helping the children grow such an awesome garden.) When I tried to change our time together to follow a different schedule with different activities, there was so much push back with wanting to be doing the same thing that we always do, I decided it was not worth the disconnect to get used to a new system for a few months, only to return to the original plan! Why mess with something that works?

Our *Wisdom of Wondering* program, an adaptation of *Spirit Play*, is a mixed ages program, preschool – fifth grade, that encourages “wondering questions” generated from a story presented during the group worship time. The worship stories are chosen to be representative of one or more Unitarian Universalist principles and/or the sources. Following our worship together, story lesson and “wondering questions”, children head to their classroom to explore the materials in the room and wonder about the lesson. While children play with a variety of manipulatives and thematic items, classroom leaders ask focus questions and encourage conversation to further the learning and wondering. Play is an important part of our program.

The Reverend Anthony Makar, senior minister of the UU Congregation of Atlanta and a former professor of philosophy, says what makes play *play* is an activity that is freely entered, is self-determining, is full of imagination, is valued primarily because it is enjoyable, and is characterized by a mindset of utter absorption. He continues to say that it is amazing how evolution—which is as practical and ruthless as you can get—seems to love playfulness...It’s because play develops your mind and keeps it sharp. We play because play teaches people how to take turns, which is nothing less than the basis of civilization. We play because it gives people the opportunity to connect and socialize. We play because it energizes the imagination and can open doors to new insights and connections.

The Reverend Maker’s reasons for the importance of play are precisely why in Religious Exploration we include play as an important aspect of the program. It is amazing to watch the wondering and learning that happens through this play. To read more of the article in the UU World, here is the link: http://www.uuworld.org/articles/wisdom-play?utm_source=n

We do not always remember that play is not reserved just for children. I hope that everyone finds time to add some playful activities to their month! I would love to hear your story about your fun!

Until next time, Christi

RE NOTES

August 1st – FALL Registration forms are available to print from the website. Forms are available in the RE Information Rack and at the Visitor Table. ***Please fill them out soon!***

August 9th – Deadline for registering for the all congregation retreat.

August 16th – Blessing of the Animals Service. Non-Human companions are welcome at this service. Please bring on leash or in crate for this experience. Stuffed animal toys and pictures are welcome “stand-ins” for your actual companion.

September 6th – No Religious Exploration Classes / Summer Session Volunteer Break

September 13th – Water Communion Service – Multigenerational – All Ages Welcome

(There will be supervised quiet play available in the Fellowship Hall, if your children are restless)

September 20th – No Religious Exploration Classes – REGISTRATIONS FOR RE DUE TODAY!

(continued from page 1)

Other GA Perspectives

Shared by Barry Halgrimson, Past Board Chair

My GA experience has since compelled me to try to better understand 1) the roots of **institutional racism** and **classism**, 2) how I have **personally benefitted** from them, and 3) what a **fairer system** would look like.

I attended GA sessions that dealt with white privilege, the relationship between minorities and the police, environmental activism, and conflict resolution. I witnessed the efforts of a dozen or so trained volunteers whose assignment was to station themselves around the convention center in recognizable costume, and reconcile disputes between convention-goers where insensitive behavior had been exhibited or offensive language had been used, such as using an inappropriate pronoun while speaking with a transgender person or blatantly dismissing an outspoken young person. I witnessed several examples of physically handicapped individuals demanding not only equal access but equal participation in every aspect of the proceedings. I saw young people attempting to energize older (and now less idealistic) veterans of the progressive struggle. I watched as whites listened intensely while blacks shared their opinions on how best to combat racism in the white community. I, for the first time, recognized the existence of a wide diversity of opinion amongst African-American attendees - some communist, some militant, many vociferously anti-capitalistic, and still others looking to God for answers, and quoting Martin Luther King.

What became evident, across the board, was that a powerful force is at work in this country and the world. Simply maintaining the status quo is no longer good enough. The time may be right for the idealism, energy, and technological capabilities of younger Americans to join with the Baby Boomer generation's resources so their disdain for 'tradition for tradition's sake' and their increasing awareness of their impact on the environment can really make a difference.

It was an exciting, challenging experience. It was an uncomfortable time for those of us who are normally just observers. **There are no sidelines anymore.**

Barry at 512-948-8842
bhalgrimson@gmail.com

Shared by Samantha Scales, Office Manager:

My six days at GA were packed with workshops, discussions, and presentations; almost all of them about membership, stewardship, or administration. And the three that were not still offered gems of information that directly related to one of those topics. While the energy of GA buzzed around the Actions of Immediate Witness and the Supreme Court's ruling on marriage equality, I was in a bubble of professional development. I am excited about what I learned, energized by the examples of how other UU congregations grow and succeed. I came home with twelve pages of notes to digest, books to read, and a long to-do list based on recommendations from the Association of UU Administrators and the UU Association of Membership Professionals. I am looking forward to being a part of developing a plan for how UUCS can benefit from the wisdom presented at GA. The most memorable sentence of the six days was, "*We are a People of Deep Spiritual Inquiry.*"

Happenings and Highlights

Interested in Other Countries and Alleviating Global Poverty?

Join us for the next meeting of the UUCS Microfinance Committee on Wednesday, August 12 at 6:00 p.m. in the UUCS Library. We have initiated two successful microfinance projects in Laos and Peru and will focus on where to launch our next project. We will also discuss plans for the October 11 service that will be dedicated to the microfinance project and alleviating with global poverty.

The goal of our microfinance project is to give people a boost out of poverty through an ongoing sustainable means to make a living and empower

people we work with. Through our actions, we are enriched by crossing international boundaries, forming a direct connection with other people, and improving lives.

To learn more, please contact Ann Hanus at ann.hanus@gmail.com or at 503-364-3108.

Partner Church Project for August

During the month of August, the Partner Church team will be collecting over-the-counter pain relievers and Vitamins B and C to send to our partner church in Simenfalva, Romania. As we discovered when we visited the village in 2011, analgesics are very expen-

sive and people do not always have them on hand in their homes. The minister's wife, Dr. Csilla Szen, has suggested that older people have a need for vitamins B and C so we will collect those as well. The doctor in Simenfalva and Dr. Csilla Szen, who practices in a nearby village, share the donations and dispense them as needed. Let's help make life more comfortable for our Transylvania friends!

Please place your donations in the basket on the Social Justice table in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you so much for your help.

Jean Sherbeck

Share in the Blessings of Stewardship

Sunday 6 September 2015 is a day for celebrating stewardship of this home for our spiritual community. Annually at the Sparkle and Clean Sunday Service we, after a brief service, don our gloves for a couple hours and take special care of the facilities we are blessed to be stewards of. As a community, we will wash windows, vacuum in all the corners, dust our chairs, window ledges and art, oil the wood, sweep and damp mop our hardwood floors, deep clean our kitchen and generally take stock of the welcoming nature of a clean and safe home, so carefully watched over by our Facilities Team.

For our guests and congregants inclined to spiritual discussion that day, the Rev. Richard Davis will provide an engaging personal forum for enlightening your spiritual path.

Enjoy a Labor Day Hike

UUs are invited to join a lovely hike around Clear Lake on Labor Day, September 7. Total of seven miles in one of the most scenic places anywhere, including a side trip down to Sahalie Falls, at a moder-

ate pace. This is a Chemeketans hike, so Chemeketans rules apply; for example, no dogs, and stay with the group. Contact George Struble, 503-364-3929, to register.

34 Days of Peace

Starting September 21 (the International Day of Peace), "Oregonians For Peace" will observe "34 Days of Peace" with a series of daily presentations and events intended to educate and inspire our community to choose peace. Many churches, non-profits, institutions, and individuals are hosting activities. So far the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem has agreed to participate by inviting all to join in the following:

- **UU Compassionate Mind Sangha:** Every Wednesday - silent sit at 5:30, beginning meditation instruction available at 7 p.m., Dharma talk & discussion at 8 p.m.,
- **First Friday Dances of Universal Peace** on October 2. It will begin with a presentation in celebration of the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi (October 2, 1869) at 6:30 p.m., dance begins at 7 p.m.,
- **Third Thursday Dances of Universal Peace** on October 15 at 7 p.m.; and
- **October's Friday Night Folk Circle** on October 16 at 7 p.m.

Other UUCS groups interested in hosting a peace-related event during this 34 day period, which ends on October 24, the United Nation's Day of Peace, may contact Barry Halgrimson, bhalgrimson@gmail.com, with details to forward to the 34 Days of Peace planning committee.

Find Your Niche

It's High Time for Pie Time

The harvest continues with 30 pounds of Blackberries so far, 80 pounds of Marionberries, 25 pounds of rhubarb, and 12 pounds of sour cherries now resting in freezer bags, waiting for the Saturday before Thanksgiving when they become Good Neighbor Pies. Blueberries are next! Then it's apples.

If you can spend a half-day in the country "bringing in the sheaves" contact: Vicki Cunningham vickicunningham11003@gmail.com 503-390-6697 or Barry Halgrimson bhalgrimson@gmail.com 512-948-8842

Also, if you bought jams and jellies at the Christmas Bazaar and need to find a home for the empty jars, please bring them to church with you. Your neighborhood jam, jelly and pickle providers will be happy to recycle those jars for the next Bazaar! Please place them in the box on the counter in the kitchen.

A Work-at-Home Volunteer Opportunity

Here's an opportunity to perform an easy task every other month and at the same time earn \$70 to be donated to the Minister's Discretionary Fund. The job is to put stamps and address labels on 270 envelopes for mailing the journal for American collectors of Swiss stamps. The materials will be delivered to

you by George Struble and the work can be done in your home or a place of your choosing. You could also partner with someone else. There is a window of nearly one week to complete the task, at which point George will pick up the finished envelopes. This is a nice service project for those who may have physical limitations that inhibit their participation in other volunteer opportunities.

Contact: George Struble, 503-364-3929 or gstruble@willamette.edu

UU101 Might Be For You

In the UU101 class, Rev. Rick will provide an overview of the history of our free faith heritage, our UUA Principles and Purposes and the eight practices of meaningful membership. Rev. Rick will gladly answer pertinent questions. Visitors, prospective members, regular members, anyone who would like a refresher course in UUism and the meanings of membership are welcome to join the class. Rev. Rick will be assisted by Samantha Scales (Office Manager) and members of the Membership Team. UU101 is the first step to formal membership for those seeking to join UUCS. The next UU101 is

scheduled for August 20 at 6:00. The room assignment will be determined by the number of people who register. A light supper will be served. Signup with Samantha Scales: office@uusalem.org 503-364-0932

Recognition Sunday is a Big Day

Sunday, August 9 is a big day for our congregation and for those who have made the commitment to membership. Our new members will be embraced and recognized for their commitment to UUCS in a simple ceremony conducted by Rev. Rick.

Part of our responsibility as a congregation is to welcome each new member as a fellow passenger on the journey of spiritual growth. We will pledge our acceptance, our friendship and our support in their personal quest. Give some thought to what you might do to welcome them - perhaps a card, a friendly email, a greeting in the Fellowship Hall, a handshake, or just a welcoming smile. Recognition Sunday is a big day for all of us.

Submitted by: Membership Team

UUCS Community News

For questions or comments, contact Column author Petra S. Berger at petraoregon@comcast.net. You may send your stories to the UUCS editors at editors@uusalem.org or call 503-400-7646. This column is dedicated to sharing news of the UUCS community, such as Vignettes of "Caught in the Act of Kindness," Health concerns, Accomplishments, Volunteer Honors, and The Spirit of UU among us & beyond us.

Caught in the Act of Kindness

Not only has **Janet Neuburg** been one of three important leaders of our recent Foster Parent Night Out program, but she also has generously shared her home for fourteen months with a young family of refugees from abroad while they were qualifying to take independent residence in this country. Recently, they finally found a home in Salem. It happens to be near Janet's residence, and they can continue their warm relationship. Janet, we think you are awesome.

Health Concerns

On a sad note, one of our long-standing members, **Bill Devery**, became ill and went to the hospital July 27. Sadly, he passed away a few days later, on July 31. His family was at his bedside. We send our deepest sympathy, especially his wife Rhea. There will be a memorial service at 2 p.m. on Sunday, August 9. And a thank you to Cora Clark for her prompt alert note.

On a less solemn note, joint and limb injuries for those of us at UUCS who have passed the threshold of "Youth" can be highly concerning. We want all of our joints and limbs – ankles, knees, hips, spine, wrists, arms, etc. to function well for a very long time. That does mean we must safeguard them and not expect the impossible of them, like we did at age 20, 30, or 40. Such unreasonable expectations include extensive Spring yard work when it's time once again to re-do and transplant many of your bushes and other plants by digging deep planting holes that will prevent initial root transplant shock.

Well, yours truly **Petra** is still feeling the consequences of vigorous and extensive 'plowing of the land' this spring. Despite multi treatments, a persistent and painful tendinitis and bursitis of the rotator cuff of her right shoulder prevails and prevents her from doing her routine work-outs at the gym, or swivel around to catch her cat, for example.

Furthermore, **Joan Stembridge** is recovering from a severe right arm injury and subsequent surgery and now is busy with rehab in a strong effort to regain the usefulness of her right arm. She says she is healing nicely although she may need 6 months to regain the complete function. She feels blessed to have available family and friends to help.

Moral of the story: as we age a bit, we are ever more aware of the miracle of the human body, and so grateful for the health we enjoy today.

The Spirit of UU – Among us & Beyond us

New member **John Andrade** spoke passionately at “Joys & Concerns” about his dear younger sister coming out when still at home. John described the non-approving response from their father who has never accepted his daughter. In his shared story, John advocated for all of us at UUCS with our Welcoming mission to stand up in public for LGBTQ persons.

He gave an example of when, during a business ethics class at a Christian college, a professor cited a scripture that stated that homosexuality is a sin as a foundational belief in Christian ethics. John spoke up about it right then and there. John’s gift of genuine concern for equal rights, justice, and compassion touched everyone.

Erik Larson, a long-standing and dedicated member of UUCS, emphasized the concept of “non – exceptionalism” in our UU principles as the core UU value he treasures the most. This caused me to research the concept further in Roget’s Thesaurus - a worthwhile exercise. Thank you, Erik.

Volunteer Honors

Wordsworth wrote, “Continuous as the stars that shine”. It takes more than energy and enthusiasm. It also requires exemplary Stick-to-itiveness to lead projects to their full conclusion – AND benefit UUCS at the same time. Such perpetual dedication to UUCS projects is demonstrated by Arrhiannon Kirkpatrick who takes on many volunteer tasks plus motivates others alongside her. She is well organized for follow-through in scheduling of our coffee hour volunteers. Thank you, Arrhiannon for your amazing dedication.

Accomplishments

UUCS member **Jerry Nathan** decided to focus on the relevant global concern of population growth, and recently published a book about it that is now available on Amazon under the title of ‘*The Legacy Rule*’. Jerry’s book is short, concise, easy to read. It is packed with references and resources for anyone who wishes to delve more deeply into the topic. Here is one of several positive book reviews from the Amazon website:

“Don't let your ideologies determine what knowledge you accept. Let knowledge determine what ideologies you accept.” - This quote is a prime example of what I like about this book. The approach that the author takes is original and refreshing, and the points made are logical and valid. The structure of the book is such that you can read as much or as little as you'd like in a sitting, as sections are generally kept to a single page or two, and you can always pick it up, flip to a page, and find interesting discussion upon important topics. This book achieves its intent well: it makes you think. It makes you contemplate our society, and the impact of population growth upon it. It's intelligent, interesting, and well-written. I highly recommend giving it a read, I am certainly glad that I did.”

And here some insightful comments and personal information from author Jerry Nathan, a self-described naturalist, news junkie, scholar of lifestyles, and retired behavioral psychologist:

“Relevant sciences say planet Earth can sustainably handle three to five billion people in global health and peace. We passed seven and we haven't stopped yet. Nature made us sexual and over half of us are of child-bearing age. Who thinks hunger and homelessness won't increase? Will not the competition for opportunities and resources grow more unequal, unethical, and unjust? Do we want unending warfare and terrorism between established winners and growing numbers of those left-out?

In time, our population will decrease. It will decrease because of our sub-human DNA for killing each other or because of disease and disaster from our ignorant-human degrading of finite, natural life supports. Or we could reverse population growth using our fully-human intelligence for communicating why and providing contraception everywhere.”

Congratulations Jerry for making your passion and concern known to the English-reading world, plus offering lots of other resources.

The Calendar

Need to Reschedule an Event?

When scheduling an event at UUCS, you go to the website (uusalem.org/Calendar). While you are on the calendar page, you click on the Event Scheduling Request Form link to reserve the room and time. If you later need to reschedule your meeting or event, please submit a new Event Scheduling Request Form for the correct date, **and** follow up with an email to office@uusalem.org asking that your prior meeting or event time be cancelled. If you don't have access to email, call the office; leave a message if your call isn't answered. Please do not ask office staff to remember spoken information when they're away from their desks.

Tuesday August 4

Compassionate Connection - 11:30 a.m.

Animal Ministry Meeting & Potluck - 12:30 p.m.

Social Action Meeting - 12:30 p.m.

William Devery Memorial Service - 2:00 p.m.

Wednesday August 5

Coffee Klatch - 10:00 a.m.

UUCS Coffee Klatch meets at The IKE Box coffee house, located at 299 Cottage St NE. There is a room reserved especially for UUCS, so the atmosphere is private and quiet. Please note that no beverages or food may be brought in from the outside. The IKE Box prices are quite reasonable, and the munchies are excellent! We look forward to seeing you!

UU Compassionate Mind Sangha

Session 1 - 5:30 p.m. Session 2 - 7:00 p.m.

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 p.m. is for discussion, compassion, and how to use meditation as a spiritual practice.

Monday August 10

Tuesday August 11

Archives Work Party - 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday August 12

Coffee Klatch - 10:00 a.m.

UU Compassionate Mind Sangha

Session 1 - 5:30 p.m. and Session 2 - 7:00 p.m.

Microfinance Committee Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

Thursday August 13

Board Meeting - 5:00 p.m.

Friday August 14

Saturday August 15

Sunday August 16

Blessing of the Animals – 10:30 a.m.

Bring any animals (or photos) who are your current life companions and join us in a new twist on the time-honored tradition of a Blessing of the Animals.

Christi Olsen, DRE, and Michelle Blake

Thursday August 6

Friday August 7

Dances of Universal Peace - 7:00 p.m.

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.

Saturday August 8

Sunday August 9

Monday August 17

Tuesday August 18

Clothing - Books - Craft Swap! - 4:00 p.m.

We're expanding our yearly clothing exchange to include books and craft items. Please join us! Bring freshly laundered clothing in good repair to exchange. All age, gender and size clothing welcome. Used books in reasonable condition are welcome. There will be a separate table to exchange craft items, supplies and fabric. For more information contact Angela Gross uu4peace@gmail.com

Wednesday August 19

Coffee Klatch - 10:00 a.m.

UU Compassionate Mind Sangha

Session 1 - 5:30 p.m. and Session 2 - 7:00 p.m.

Thursday August 20

UU 101 - 6:00 p.m.

Join us for an evening of discussion about Unitarian Universalism, the history, the movement, and what it means to be a UU. The discussion is designed for those who are new to Unitarian Universalism, but all are welcome and encouraged to come and share their experiences.

Dances of Universal Peace - 7:00 p.m.

See August 7 entry.

Friday August 21

Friday Night Folk Circle - 7:00 p.m.

Folk Musicians from all over the Willamette Valley, and anyone who enjoys folk music, are invited to bring their instruments and stories and a favorite song to share. We'll improvise and harmonize and otherwise raise the roof. Bring snacks and soft drinks to share.

SCUUPS Meet & Greet - 7:00 p.m.

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.

Saturday August 22

Sunday August 23

RE Team Meeting - 11:45 p.m.

Social Action Meeting - 12:30 p.m.

Kairos Community Lunch (offsite) - 12:30 p.m.

UUCS members will prepare and serve lunch & soup for the community, through the facilities at St. Mark Lutheran at Marion & Winter Streets. Please sign up at the Social Justice table on Sundays.

Monday August 24

Communications Team Meeting - 4:00 p.m.

Celebrant Anchor Team Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday August 25

Facilities Team Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday August 26

Coffee Klatch - 10:00 a.m.

Congregational Retreat

Join us for our first Congregational Retreat at Big Bear Camp in Walton, OR. Come experience a time of fellowship and fun, relax in a beautiful forest, and enjoy the quiet, off-grid camp. The beautiful lodge comes complete with a library, sitting room, and fully furnished kitchen. There is an outdoor kitchen as well. Arts, crafts, games, singing, good food and good conversation for all! Please see Christi Olsen for details, or look for the registration form in the Fellowship Hall.

UU Compassionate Mind Sangha

Session 1 - 5:30 p.m. and Session 2 - 7:00 p.m.

Thursday August 27

Congregational Retreat

Friday August 28

Congregational Retreat

Submission Deadline for the September 1 Newsletter is Midnight tonight!

Saturday August 29

Congregational Retreat

Sunday August 30

Monday August 31

Tuesday September 1

Wednesday September 2

Coffee Klatch - 10:00 a.m.

UU Compassionate Mind Sangha

Session 1 - 5:30 p.m. and Session 2 - 7:00 p.m.

Thursday September 3

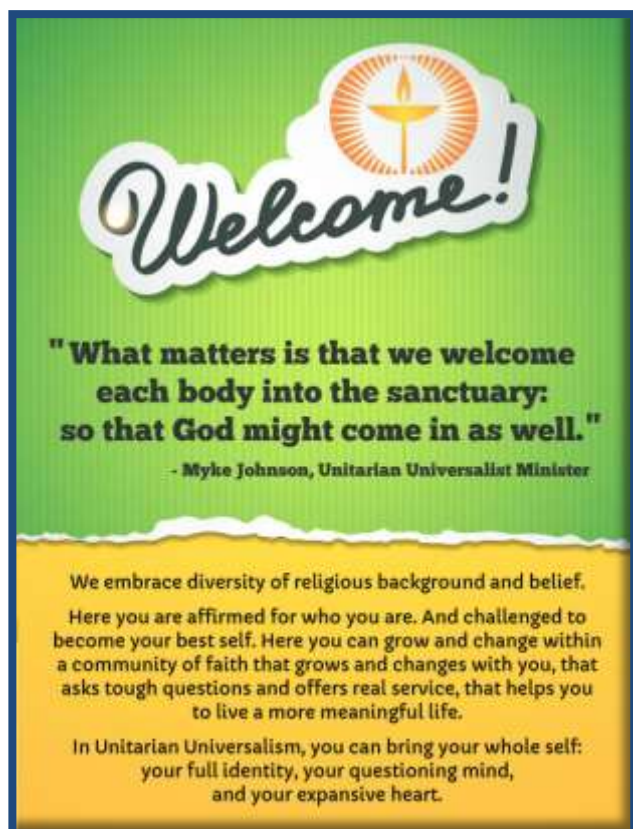
Friday September 4

Dances of Universal Peace - 7:00 p.m.

Saturday September 5

Lifelines Lay Ministry Meeting - 9:30 a.m.

Sunday September 6



From UU Media Works

Design by Jessica of [J. Ferguson Designs](http://www.jfergie.com) & www.jfergie.com

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This issue was edited by Joel Woodman and formatted by Mike Berger.

DEADLINES:

Newsletter Submissions for *The Chalice and the Flame* must be received by the Friday before publication. The next deadline is Friday, August 28.

Please send your submissions, including personal news items, directly to the editors at the following email address: 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! Note that all fields are required. When complete, remember to click the submit button.

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION: to subscribe to *The Chalice and the Flame* monthly newsletter and mid-month update (September thru May), 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.

Sunday Morning Services and Religious Exploration

--- 10:30 a.m. ---

Sunday, August 9 **"The Things That Hold You Down"** **Theresa Soto, Intern Minister**
David Gortner, Celebrant
Lennie Martin, Anchor
Music, **Marcia Christenson**

This sermon will allow us to explore our relationship to things like risk and failure. You will have the opportunity to examine the ways in which failure is a teacher, along with the reality of confronting the lessons in failure in a culture that tells you that you must always, at any cost, succeed. We will look at a tightrope, at a boating accident, and even human flight for lessons on this. Come ready to consider how you want to be lifted up.

Sunday, August 16 **"Blessing of the Animals"** **Michelle Blake & Christi Olsen**
Arrhiannon Kirkpatrick, Celebrant
Mark Kendall, Anchor
Music, **David Gortner & Mark Babson**

Bring any animals (or photos) who are your current life companions and join us in a new twist on the time-honored tradition of a Blessing of the Animals. In this service, we will celebrate the mutual gift that is our human/animal bond, honoring their contributions to our lives, and reveling in the spirit of life that we all share.

As part of our usual food offering to the Marion-Polk Food Share, we encourage you to bring food donations for the non-human members of families requesting emergency food assistance.

Sunday, August 23 **"Many Forms of Thirst"** **Theresa Soto, Intern Minister**
Gloria Holland, Celebrant
Petra S. Berger, Anchor
Music, **Ryan Amend & Aimee Larsen-Amend**

In a recent conversation with my doctor, she pointed out that if you are thirsty, you are already a little dehydrated. How is thirst a spiritual marker? We will join together in the inquiry of what it means to be ethically or spiritually thirsty. We will examine the means of quenching that thirst. You will have the opportunity to identify both the ways of quenching the thirst you have and the refreshment that you offer.

Sunday, August 30 **"General Assembly: A Remarkable Resource"** **GA Participants**
Dave Jeffers, Celebrant
LJ Frederickson, Anchor
Music, **It Ain't Beethoven**



Banner Procession
UUCS at General Assembly
Sam, Aimee and Christi

Banner Procession
UUCS at General Assembly
Sam, Aimee and Christi



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