



The Chalice *and the* Flame

A Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem,

December 2015

Christmas Bazaar December 6

Please mark your calendars and be sure to come to church on December 6 for our annual Christmas Bazaar, which will run after each service. The funds raised by the Women's Alliance at this event go to support various church needs and this year are earmarked for the Facilities Committee to carry out some improvements to Hanneman Hall.

The Women's Alliance has put together over 80 themed baskets for our members to browse. In the photo from left to right are Cheryl Randall, Molly O'Dea, Sharon Dearman, Ruth Larson (W.A. chair), Pam Ruona, and Judy Van Osdol. Many others also worked on the baskets.

In addition, we hope the rest of you will bring your baking, crafts, pickles, jams and jellies, and anything else you think would make a perfect gift for someone! We will accept



cash, checks, and credit/debit cards. Shopping to your heart's content – and for such a good cause! – you can enjoy music and caroling, and individual cookies for sale to go with your coffee.

We will be setting up for the bazaar on **Saturday, December 5**, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and encourage you to drop off donations then. Of course, we will also welcome donations Sunday morning.

German Baroque Music for Advent

Please join us Sunday afternoon, **December 6**, at 4 p.m. for our next "Concerts in the Sanctuary" performance. We are excited to welcome once again the Western Oregon University Early Music Ensemble, directed by Dr. Dirk Freymuth, assisted this time by our very own UUCS Choir. The program features music for Advent by Hans Hassler, Michael Praetorius and other German baroque composers. The WOU Early Music Ensemble is a small instrumental and vocal continuo specializing in the playing of baroque period instruments in the style of that time. This is truly a holiday concert you do not want to miss! There is an \$8-10 suggested donation; proceeds go to benefit the WOU Early Music Ensemble and the UUCS Music Fund. Please contact Aimee Larsen-Amend at music@uucs.org if you have additional questions.

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Holiday Decorating

Women's Alliance will be decorating the church for the holidays on Tuesday, December 15. Have you wanted to attend Women's Alliance or help out with some events and just haven't had the chance? This is the perfect opportunity to come join us for our December meeting as we decorate. We will not have a program at this meeting and we start early, at 6:00 p.m. Please come and join us!



Reverential Ramblings

~ Rev. Richard Davis, UUCS's minister

This coming week the nations of the world convene for Climate Change talks in Paris. This is THE preeminent issue of our time. Below are the comments I shared at a rally on Sunday in Riverfront Park.

If you had a family member who had died in a flood, or a drought, or from exposure to extreme heat or from lack of food or water, how would you feel? Just imagine how devastating that would be. There are many who don't have to imagine such grim scenarios because this is their harsh reality. In recent memory, over half a million people have died, and several billion have been adversely affected by climate related events. When people die, we are called to acknowledge this and grieve the loss, so let us pause for just a moment in solemn recognition of our sisters and brothers in our global community who have sustained such heartbreaking losses.

Now imagine that you learned that these calamities you had experienced – the drought, flooding, storms, rising sea levels, ocean acidification that destroys marine life – was not due to the vagaries of nature but was the result of the willful ignorance and practices of those who were indifferent to you and your loved one's well being, whose attachment to their profligate lifestyles and their profit margins overrode any concern for you living on the margins? Would you not call this as an injustice?

What has happened as a consequence of our addiction to fossil fuels, corporate malfeasance, and governmental inaction is unjust, and such devastation will continue to happen because the disastrous effects of climate change will continue even if we stop using fossil fuels today. In all probability, there will be more frequent and intense heat waves, heavier rainstorms, flooding, droughts, more death and devastation. This year now ending will be the hottest on record.

In the meantime, we have a Congress which has become a bastion of willful ignorance, morally bankrupt denialism, which cravenly capitulates to corporate interests, and refuses to address this global crisis. Therefore it is up to us as citizens to be the moral voice of our nation, to lead our purported leaders out of the dead end of denialism, because the stakes could not be higher. Yet we, too, must remember that we are complicit – by virtue of our environmentally heedless lifestyles, we have been part of the problem. We can and must end our addiction to fossil fuels and slow the momentum of climate change, for this will save the lives of our fellow citizens in our global community and our fellow beings in our precious earth, our only home.

Do you think that the poor, vulnerable ones in developing nations have the right to a livable climate? Do you think that your children and grandchildren and future generations beyond have that same right? Then you know what to do. Let us join the growing global community which recognizes the call to live on this earth as though we do plan to stay here. Long Live our precious planet. Let's do what we must to stop global climate change.

Love, Rick



Lifespan Religious

~ Christi J. Olsen, Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration

December has arrived quickly again this year! I always think that the next year I won't feel the same way, and then December comes just as quickly again, and I do! December finds Religious Exploration (RE) in full swing, full of many activities and ways to celebrate the season and being Unitarian Universalist. I hope that you will take advantage of the opportunities to spend time together and connect with other families as well as continue to support the RE offering and our mitten drive this month! Below is a list of the things that are happening in RE.

I so enjoy getting to know your families and being a part of your experience and time at UUCS....this is what makes my job especially exceptional! Happy Holidays!

In faith and peace,
Until next time....Christi

RE HAPPENINGS:

Mitten Drive: Please bring mittens, scarves, or hats to decorate the tree in the foyer. We will be trying to fill up the tree with warm items until Dec. 20 to donate to Family Building Blocks to disperse to people in need.

Chalica Workshop - Saturday, December 5th – 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. All are invited to attend a workshop to create a kit of supplies and ideas to celebrate Chalica (uua.org/worship/holidays/chalica), a weeklong UU holiday that celebrates one UU principle each day. It begins the first Monday of December.

December 6th – Women's Alliance Bazaar. There will be items for children to buy as gifts for their families, and a gift wrapping station. We will also have completed Chalica Kits for sale.

December 6th – Parent Covenant Group meets 12:45 – 2:30 p.m.

December 13th – Animal Chalice group meets 12:45 – 2:00 p.m. Guest speaker is Rachel Backer, Willamette Humane Society, Shelter Manager. (Thank-you Rachel!)

December 20th – Holiday Multigenerational Service. This month we will be creating props for our traditional Holiday Parade through the sanctuary. If possible, please wear Red and/or Green clothes to this service or your fancy holiday clothes to complement our holiday props!

December 20th – Child Dedication (uua.org/beliefs/what-we-do/celebrations/births) will be during the Holiday service. In this celebration the congregation recognizes your child(ren)/youth and welcomes them into the life of the congregation. Please let Reverend Rick or me know if you are interested in having this ceremony and we will get you more information and help you personalize the experience.

December 24th – 5:45 – 6:20 p.m. This year we have added a **Family Christmas Eve Celebration** before our traditional candlelight service. This celebration will be in the sanctuary and geared to families with younger children, though all ages are welcome to celebrate Christmas Eve with us. There will be a chalice lighting, reading, singing, telling of a special story, closing ceremony of the RE mitten collection offering, and more singing! Stay afterward to create a special ornament and have refreshments while you wait for the traditional Candle Lighting Service to begin.

December 27th and January 3rd – Holiday Break – NO RE Classes or Nursery

Happenings and Highlights

Transition Workshop Held at UUCS

The UUCS Board of Directors sponsored a Transition Workshop to evaluate the congregation's transition or shift from a Pastoral Congregation to a more Programmatic Congregation. The workshop was facilitated by David Jeffers and Mary Gear with help from LJ Frederickson and Rev. Rick.

The Board would like to thank the approximately forty members who attended, including staff and committee/team leaders. We learned that a "pastoral" model is "minister-centered" and can successfully manage the activities and services until it reaches a 125-150 "threshold average" of Sunday Service attendance.

UUCS has progressively, since 2013 and before, seen its Sunday Service attendance increase from an average of 150 people to 180 people by the end of June 2015. Since the beginning of our 2015-16 fiscal year, our average attendance has been nearly 200 people per Sunday: an increase of 50 people each Sunday. Many of these newer folks are families with young children. Yea!

A "program" congregation, with steady increases in attendance, needs and depends on many 'smaller groups of people' to meet the needs of all, rather than only depending on just the minister and staff. These smaller groups of people are committees and teams such as Life Lines Lay Ministry and the Celebrant/Anchor Team (which will now be known as the Worship Team). These are true examples of how lay leaders and volunteers assist ministers and staff in managing the workings and activities of a thriving congregation.

The transition workshop looked at some of the differences between a "pastoral" model and a "program" model; learned a bit about the history of UUCS from Rev. Rick Davis; examined how UUCS now fits a "program" model at this point in time; and shared suggestions as to how UUCS might improve

as we move forward in our congregational life. Ideas included recruiting additional professional and/or lay staff to concentrate on developing programs and activities that can engage everyone, especially newcomers, and expanding UUCS's "identity" in the larger community by focusing on being more inclusive in our outreach.

The information and data obtained in the workshop is being compiled and evaluated as a preliminary step prior to the Board of Directors appointing a team to process this knowledge further, and plan specific procedures and activities for moving forward on this path. (If you are interested in this Transition Team Committee, please contact David Jeffers at david.jeffers@centurylink.net or LJ Frederickson at lifrederic@aol.com.

This is an exciting time at UUCS, with challenges and opportunities ahead. Please stay tuned and get involved! We need everyone!

The Board of Directors

Splinters from the Board

1. Most of the November Board meeting was devoted to a discussion of cleaning the church. Angela Gross presented the study she had done and already shared with the Facilities Team. Our current cleaning service has been inadequate and unresponsive to problems. It has been even worse than the previous one -- which wasn't good enough. The current service has been terminated as of December 15. The proposal from Angela and the Facilities Team is to hire a janitor. After considerable discussion, the Board authorized the Facilities Team to work with the Personnel and the Budget Committees to hire the janitor. Under our hiring procedures, this cannot possibly be done by December 15. People on the Facilities Team may be asking volunteers to "adopt" an area of the church to keep clean until the new person can be brought in; if you are approached, please try to be helpful!

2. Carol Manka and Tom Lancefield brought up a problem with the recently adopted policy on building keys. As adopted, the policy forbidding a member to give another member the lock box and security alarm access codes under any circumstances is too restrictive. A relaxation was approved by consensus:

"If a caller phones someone for the access codes, (1) If you know them well and trust them, give them the codes. Both caller and callee should report the event to the UUCS Office so records can show that the caller now has the codes. (2) If you don't know them well, or they are new to UUCS, or



you don't trust them, don't give the codes and redirect them to the UUCS Office during office hours."

Better yet, there will be a card posted above the lockbox just outside the front door with names and phone numbers of nearby UUs who are willing to run over to the church and let people in.

3. Rev. Rick Davis announced that the new members of the Committee on Ministry are Dina Triest, Susan Farris-Gosser, Joel Martin, and Claudia Koch.

George Struble, Board Secretary

Joys & Sorrows "Etiquette"

Those who attend our 11:15 a.m. Sunday services know that our Joys & Sorrows ritual is one way we build our community and our connection to one another.

If you write your joy or sorrow in our book (located in the foyer) before the service, you may designate that one of Life Lines Lay Ministers read it to the congregation during the service. A candle of acknowledgement will be lit and placed in the sand table for you. Alternatively, some members may wish to personally come up front to speak their joy or sorrow and light their own candle.

To enable us to stay within our allotted time for the ritual as we continue to grow in attendance, we ask that those speaking share only a *personal milestone* in *their* lives (e.g., a graduation, engagement, new job, illness, the death of a loved one, retirement, birth of a child or grandchild, etc.). Please be brief—keeping it to a few sentences will be appreciated. And please, no political statements or general announcements.

By remembering our "etiquette" we can continue to make our Joys & Sorrows a more meaningful part of our worship service.

Karen Piter, Life Lines Lay Ministry

UUA Sexuality Education

Honest, accurate information about sexuality changes lives. It dismantles stereotypes and assumptions, builds self-acceptance and self-esteem,

fosters healthy relationships, improves decision making, and has the potential to save lives. For these reasons and more, UUCS is proud to offer **Our Whole Lives**, a comprehensive, lifespan sexuality education curriculum. See facilitators and find out more at the OWL table during coffee hour. For still more information, see www.uua.org/ourwholelives.

On **January 10**, parents of children in grades 3 – 5 and youth in grades 7 – 9 are invited to come and hear detailed information about the curriculum and schedule, to decide if this is something that you wish your child(ren)/youth to attend. If your child is close to these grades, please talk to a facilitator about the possibilities of them being included in these classes beginning in February.

Swimming Lesson Opportunity

Please remember that if you wish for your child(ren) /youth to attend one set of swimming lessons at the YMCA, there is a donation to RE families to provide for the cost. Register your child for the lessons and bring the payment receipt to Christi Olsen to be reimbursed for the cost. You may also register and request a check be sent directly to the YMCA.

Salem Speaks Up

For the twenty-third year this local event will take place on Thursday evening, **December 10**, United Nations Human Rights Day. At First United Methodist Church at 7:00 p.m., Jean Moule will speak on the state of human rights -- internationally, nationally, and locally. The traditional open microphone will follow. This year's planning organizations are the United Nations Association, Oregonians for Peace, LWV, and AAUW.

Animal Chalice Group

Sunday, December 13, 12:45 p.m.

A special guest speaker will join us for our monthly meeting: Rachel Becker the Shelter Manager from the Willamette Humane Society. All are welcome!

Find Your Niche

This Gift Has No Price Tag

The recent celebration of Thanksgiving brings to mind that we have so much for which to give thanks. In our reflections over the holiday feast, many of us expressed the thought that every day should be a day of "thanksgiving." In a quiet moment of reflection,

perhaps we made a secret commitment to give back to those who bring joy to our lives. Think about the smile that lightens your burden, a gentle hand on the shoulder that lends support and comfort, the time taken to inquire about and share your joys and sorrows, the effort given in volunteer service and leadership throughout the UU community and, of

course, the giver of those special hugs. These are just a few of the folks in our congregation who deserve a "Shout Out".

The Membership Team is providing a "Shout Out" board (white board on an easel). It will be visible and accessible during the fellowship hour following Sunday service starting, December 6.

Take a moment for a "shout out." Write a brief sentence naming or describing the person and what he/she did that touched you in a special way. Keep in mind, this is also for you. You will feel good for doing something special for someone else. As we do this for others and they in turn do it for others, our sense of community will grow stronger.

Joel Woodman, Membership Co-Chair

December UUCS Cleaning by Volunteers

The UUCS Facilities team has decided to replace its current cleaning contractor effective December 16th because of their unsatisfactory performance in cleaning UUCS. We are now seeking a licensed, insured cleaning business to clean UUCS. If you know a cleaning contractor that you can recommend, please provide Angela Gross uu4peace@gmail.com with your experience in using the contractor along with the contractor's contact information.

Given the increased use of UUCS facilities during the week by various UUCS groups and the full calendar of services during December and January, supplemental cleaning of UUCS will be required. Because of budget constraints, we need volunteers from the UUCS community to form mini "clean and sparkle" work parties to ensure that our buildings are clean and inviting for the Sunday and the additional services in December.

Supplemental cleaning of our beautiful building is a perfect chore for volunteers since it allows our members to show their love for UUCS and pay it forward. Volunteer cleaners help preserve our limited Facilities budget for other maintenance activities that require services from licensed professionals like the recent replacement of the water heater and toilets.

For further information, please contact Angela Gross at uu4peace@gmail.com.

Thanks, Paul Manka

Giving Tree

Again this year, the **Mental Health Association** is asking for your support during the holiday season in providing gifts for people with severe mental health conditions who are lacking support from friends or family. Please join us in reaching out to those who are so often alone and forgotten. Pick up a tag expressing someone's wish (often a wish for a gift card) from the **Giving Tree** before **December 13** and

bring your gift item, wrapped or placed in a holiday card with the tag attached, by December 13. Please contact Nina Donnelly at 503-949-6266 if you have questions. MHA appreciates your caring and generosity.

Social Justice in Action

The Social Justice in Action Team (SJAT) has been busy this month. On November 16, several members of the congregation participated in lobby days at the Oregon Capitol to raise the minimum wage. Raise the Wage Oregon engaged the SJAT in their effort to bring faith communities out to encourage legislators to provide workers a livable and dignified wage. The morning started with prayers and speakers from diverse faiths testifying to the morality of raising the wage. SJAT members then spent the day speaking to legislators, providing lawmakers with data on the positive impact of increased wages, and then sitting in on a hearing to witness testimony from those advocating for the wage increase. A minimum wage increase is likely to be on the agenda for the next session of the legislature when it returns in February.

Raise the Wage Oregon plans on continuing pressure on lawmakers, but will pursue an effort to put an initiative on the ballot if the issue is not addressed by politicians.

Following up on the SJAT's efforts to pressure Oregon's legislators to take down the Mississippi flag from the "Walk of Flags" park (next to the Capitol) with a petition, Intern Minister Theresa Soto organized a rally for November 19 to engage the community and lawmakers more directly. Days before the rally was scheduled to take place, racist threats were directed towards Black students on Lewis & Clark College's campus. Lewis & Clark students decided to come to the Capitol to pressure lawmakers to improve safety for Black students on campuses and to address institutional racism more broadly. Our two groups shared similar goals, so we came together in solidarity with each other and spoke out about racial injustice.

Between the Lewis & Clark students and UUCS congregants, there were about 50 people in attendance. The event was covered by the Statesman Journal, which quoted Rev. Rick's remarks. Sadly, a few days after the rally, a black Lewis & Clark student was attacked by three white men. The struggle for justice, equity and compassion in human relations continues.

Please consider joining the Social Justice in Action team in putting our principles into action. Our next meeting is **December 27**, 12:30 p.m., in the Minister's Office. We would love to see you there.

Chad Halsey

News of the UUCS Community

For questions or comments, contact 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, Volunteer Honors, Accomplishments at all Ages, and The Spirit of UU among us & beyond us.

Author's Note: Yes, my October travels to Germany and Austria via Amsterdam were enlightening as usual, and the weather was ideal. I love to read the newspapers there, and talk with residents to update myself. Beginning in January, I plan to offer a few short vignettes about life in today's Western Europe.

Caught in the Act of Kindness

Many thanks to **LJ Frederickson** for all the help and support she gave to the **Parmley** family during **Danna's** recent hospitalization. We trust Danna continues to do well at home!

Our Treasurer, **Lorna Youngs**, is grateful to **Jerry Bray** and **George Struble** for taking over making the weekly UUCS deposit while she was recovering from her case of shingles.

For all to enjoy, **Denise Hughes'** emailed a "Thank you note" to SIHN volunteers that is an outstanding example of expressing gratitude for our treasured volunteers – and I was one of them :-). "Thank you all! Whether you cooked a meal, spent the night, or visited with the families last week, your help with hosting SIHN families at our church is so appreciated! Thank you from the SIHN Day Center staff, your UU Church, and especially THANK YOU from the families you served. May you have a Thanksgiving infused with love, peace, and gratitude. Your UU Coordinators for SIHN, **Denise, Stephanie & Meredith**"

And one more most articulate expression of gratitude from **Mako Hayashi-Mayfield** for our pie sale event: "Hi **Vicki and Barry**: You have my boundless amazement and gratitude that you both would undertake this tremendously complex project! The amount of coordination of many facets of gathering supplies, preparing your mother's Fabulous Piecrust by the TON, prepping all the pie fillings so we could work most efficiently, keeping track of all the orders, finding a wonderful alternative church kitchen to do the making and baking, and all the other details..... it boggles the mind! Thank you for the countless hours you have spent once more on this fundraiser. And you both put in the longest hours of setup, baking, cleanup and selling. My six friends, family, and neighbors have all received and are enjoying their pies immensely"

Health concerns

A benign tumor at his brainstem sent **Dr. Jon Hughes**, husband of Denise Hughes, into major surgery followed by a 6-week absence from his professional work as lead physician at Kaiser Permanente. His recovery went well, and he has returned to part-time work earlier than expected. We send him our best wishes to find himself as good as new very soon.

UUCS member **Beth Malouf** is in good spirits while continuing her very lengthy and unpleasant treatments for pancreatic cancer. We were so glad when we saw her at UUCS on a Sunday morning, smiling, even laughing with her friends. Beth, your perseverance and courage and optimism are enviable and inspiring.

Volunteer Honors

UUCS volunteer **Facilities Team members** are applying their professional expertise as they continue to get down to accurate evaluation of what is needed to enhance and protect the various aspects of our Heating system. In particular, **Joel Martin, Tom Lancefield and Paul Manka** spearhead the research, and **Samantha Scales** is a tireless supporter of the projects. Cooling down our building during hot summer days is included in their concerns. We are so lucky to benefit from the dedication and knowledge of these volunteers.

Sunday Coffee Service was managed on November 15 by about ten very friendly and well organized members of the Salem **Zen Center**. Usually attending the UUCS Compassionate Mind Sangha every Wednesday, they also generously shared sweet pastry and healthy bread for everyone. Furthermore, Zen members **Ed LaPaz, Ted Cory, Carolyn Donnelly, and Kristen Wilson** spent time on Saturday morning, October 17, to help fulfill our agreement with the Marion County Adopt-a-Road Program by picking up trash along Cordon Road. Extra kudos to Ted and Carolyn returning Tuesday to clean another section of the road. It is an important program, as more than 10,000 cars drive past the corner of Center and Cordon each day. Our 'thank you' to all of you.

Accomplishments at All Ages

Fiona Fitts, granddaughter of UUCS members **Gloria and Allen Holland**, frequently attends our RE program. Over the past year or two since she and her family moved back to Oregon, she has enjoyed the attention of her grandparents, and exposure to early learning challenges. Very soon, it became clear that she had an incredible level of understanding of books, and an advanced ability to read at about one or two grade levels ahead. For example, in December 2014, grandma Gloria sat down with her 5 year old granddaughter and asked, "Fiona, would you like to learn to read today?" Gloria had gifted Fiona with a complete edition of *Dick and Jane*. At that first sitting, Fiona zipped through the first six chapters, and continued the following day, covering 18 chapters. Gloria thought, "Today, *Dick and Jane*, tomorrow, *War and Peace!*" At that, Fiona was hooked on reading. By Sept. 2015, as she turned six and entered Kindergarten, Fiona was reading *Harry Potter*. She loves all books, as she buries herself in history, fantasy, animal lore, and folk tales. Lucky girl!

The Spirit of UU – Among us & Beyond us

"A free and responsible search for truth and meaning," our 4th UU principle, is made so much easier when from a young age, boys and girls have learned to read well, and have an interest in books. However, nearly 7,500 Oregon third graders are reading below benchmark levels. Add poverty to the mix, and a student is 13 times less likely to graduate on time than her/his middle class peer. About one in five Oregon children are living in poverty (see SMART website, getsmartoregon.org/about-smart). Too many young children don't enjoy frequent reading sessions at home. Sadly, there are very few if any books found in some homes

Fortunately, many people have worked on ideas to enrich young children's reading opportunities. Following our 2nd UU principle of "**Justice, equity, and compassion**," UUCS during the past decade has supported students at Auburn and Four Corners Elementary Schools in their reading program. At this time, there are five UUCS members (perhaps more) offering weekly reading sessions with young elementary students under the SMART (Start Making a Reader Today) program – **Eugenia Becker, Allana McDonald, Mike and Petra Berger, and Gayle Gilmour**. They donate one to two hours each week to various schools – others have been doing it for five or even ten years. They treasure their involvement, and their assigned three or four children don't want to miss the weekly time with their volunteer readers, thus slowly but continually building reading skills, a love of books, and self-confidence. To be sure, "success" does Not mean that volunteers teach how to read. Instead, the young children can develop a lasting interest in reading books and interpreting pictures while engaging in discussions about them in a non-judgmental, affirmative environment. Observable benefits are expected sometime later.

The SMART reading program was launched in 1992 in eight Oregon schools in two cities. Over the years, it has steadily grown to become Oregon's largest nonprofit organization devoted to children's literacy. SMART students receive up to 14 new books each school year to take home and keep. Although volunteer response this Fall was good, right now the program is still urgently seeking one or two dozen more volunteer readers for children in Head Start and Kindergarten up to 3rd Grade. The highest need sites are: East Salem Head Start; Center Street Head Start (PM only); Yoshikai Elementary; Four Corners Elementary; and Bush Elementary school. If you are interested in helping, you may call SMART Northwest area managers Michael Finlay or MiKayla Ryan at 503-391-8423 and/or complete a Volunteer application on-line.

The Calendar

Event Scheduling and Rescheduling

To schedule an event at UUCS, go to the website (uusalem.org/Calendar). While you are on the calendar page, 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 **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.

Northwest Permaculture Connections Potluck

Tuesday, December 1, 6:30 p.m.

Meet other people interested in sustainability, creating resilient communities, and supporting local

business, community groups and nonprofits working towards positive change. We encourage everyone attending to bring business cards or fliers to share. Individuals, businesses, and non-profits can sign up for a 5 minute time slot to speak to attendees about

their local business, or the work they are doing to help our communities.

Contact 503-449-8077 or nwperma@gmail.com to be added to the speaker list as space will be limited. Please visit nwpermacultureinstitute.org for more information.

Membership Team Meeting

Tuesday, December 1, 6:30 p.m.

UU Compassionate Mind Sangha

Wednesday, December 2, 5:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

A welcoming place for meditation practice. The earlier session is for experienced meditation practitioners. The later session provides attendees with basic instruction and explanation as well as time in the second hour for discussion about how to use meditation as a spiritual practice.

UU 101

Thursday, December 3, 6:00 PM

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.

Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 3, 6:30 PM

Young Religious Unitarian Universalists

Thursday, December 3, 6:30 PM

High School Youth Group regular weekly meeting. All high school aged students welcome!

Dances of Universal Peace

Friday, December 4, 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. See SalemDances.com for more information.

Annual Christmas Bazaar

Sunday, December 6, after each service

Please see article on page 1.

Membership Open House

Sunday, December 6, 10:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. (following each service)

Do you have questions about your membership at UUCS? Questions about what it means to be a member of UUCS? You are invited to stop by the front office and chat with our Office Manager, Samantha Scales. *If you are ready to become a member, the Membership Book will be open and available to sign.*

Western Oregon University Early Music Ensemble

Sunday, December 6, 4:00 p.m.

Please see article on page 1.

Microfinance Committee

Monday, December 7, 6:00 p.m.

Salem Covenant of UU Pagans

Monday, December 7, 6:30 p.m.

This is our monthly **business meeting** where we will be discussing current and future SCUUPS events and projects. Anyone interested in attending is encouraged to do so. Gathering at 6:30pm (feel free to bring a snack to share) with the meeting starting at 7:00pm.

Computer Basics

Tuesday, December 8, 5:00 p.m.

Ted Fontaine will offer a free seminar on the basics of PCs and laptops (keyboard and mouse use, word processing) and the World Wide Web. There will be a coffee & cookie intermission; donations to UUCS will happily be accepted. To sign up call Ted Fontaine at 503 899-3557 or visit www.fontaine-academy.org.

UU Compassionate Mind Sangha

Wednesday, December 9, 5:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Please see the December 2 entry.

Board Meeting

Thursday, December 10, 6:00 p.m.

All members are welcome to attend.

Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 10, 6:30 p.m.

Young Religious Unitarian Universalists

Thursday, December 10, 6:30 p.m.

High School Youth Group regular weekly meeting. All high school aged students welcome!

Salem Philharmonia

Friday, December 11, 5:00 p.m.

See www.salemphil.org for details about the orchestra concert.

Kabbalistic Shabbat Salem

Friday, December 11, 7:30 p.m.

Join Rabbi Jonathan Seidel for an accessible mystically oriented service of joyful prayer, chant, kirtan and mediation with lots of music, as well as Drash (short teaching or homily). The focus will be earth-based, Shekinah mystical Judaism, with elements of Rabbinic and Kabbalistic traditions in a Neo-Hasidic mode.

The goal is monthly prayerful gathering of loving, gentle souls from a host of backgrounds, who will sing and study in joy, forming a new caring

community of Jewish devotion in Salem. Rabbi Seidel welcomes all who are interested in Judaism and its learning and liturgy. For further information please call him at 541-520-3434 or the office at 503-364-0932 or email him at rabbiseidel@gmail.com. The UUCS contact is Angela Gross at uu4peace@gmail.com.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Friday, December 11, 11:00 p.m.

Items for the mid-month update must be submitted to the editors@uusalem.org.

Compassionate Connection

Sunday, December 13, 10:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. (following each service)

Are you going through a hard time? Would you like to feel the compassionate support of others? Please join us in the front of the sanctuary, following service, for Compassionate Connection, a time when we lay our hands upon those in distress and our minister offers a prayerful reflection. We also invite other members to join us and offer compassionate support.

Giving Tree gifts due (MHA)

Sunday, December 13

Team Council meeting

Sunday, December 13, 12:45 p.m.

Women's Alliance Decorates UUCS

Tuesday, December 15, 6:00 p.m.

UU Compassionate Mind Sangha

Wednesday, December 16, 5:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Please see the December 2 entry.

Young Religious Unitarian Universalists

Thursday, December 17, 6:30 p.m.

High School Youth Group regular weekly meeting. All high school aged students welcome!

Dances of Universal Peace

Thursday, December 17, 7:00 p.m.

Please see the December 4 entry.

Salem Covenant of UU Pagans Meet & Greet

Friday, December 18, 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.

Winter Solstice Service

Sunday, December 20, 7:00 p.m.

Celebrate the return of the sun and the birth of the light. 3rd Annual event with ritual and fellowship to celebrate the Winter Solstice and Yule. Any and All

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem

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rdavis@uuma.org

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Tisoto@gmail.com

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Facebook: facebook.com/UUSalem

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This issue was edited by Elsa Struble and formatted by Mike Berger.

DEADLINES:

Newsletter Submissions for *The Chalice and the Flame* must be received by the Friday before publication. The deadline for the December mid-month newsletter is noon on **Friday, December 11**.

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.

are invited to attend this special event to welcome the end of darkness of winter and the light of hope.

Worship Team

Monday, December 21, 6:00 p.m.

UU Compassionate Mind Sangha

Wednesday, December 23, 5:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.
Please see the December 2 entry.

Facilities Team

Tuesday, December 29, 6:00 p.m.

UU Compassionate Mind Sangha

Wednesday, December 30, 5:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.
Please see the December 2 entry.

New Years Dances of Universal Peace

Thursday, December 31, 8:00 p.m.
Please see the December 4 entry.

Worship Services and Religious Exploration

December Theme: *Expectation*

The sermon topic is similar at both the early and later services, with the early 9:30 a.m. service being more interactive. Childcare and Religious Exploration (RE) classes for children through 5th grade are available at both services. RE for grades 6 through 12 is offered at 11:15 only.

Sunday, December 6

"What's Your Role?"

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

David Gortner, Celebrant; **Lennie Martin**, Anchor

We can get lost in the drama of our lives. From time to time it's good to step back and examine the basic script.

Sunday, December 13

"Afraid of the Dark?"

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

David Jeffers, Celebrant; **LJ Frederickson**, Anchor

First Service Music, **Aimee Larsen-Amend** and **Ryan Amend**; Second Service Music, **UUCS Choir**
Life does come with its challenges and hardships. What can you do during dark times?

Sunday, December 20

"Abandon All Hope?"

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

Mark Kendall, Celebrant; **Arrhiannon Kirkpatrick**, Anchor
Music, **David Gortner** and **Loraine Stuart**

Hope comes in many packages. Better make sure you unwrap the right one.

Sunday, December 20, 7:00 p.m.

"Solstice"

SCUUPS

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

All are invited to attend this special event to welcome the end of the darkness of winter and the light of hope.

Thursday, Dec. 24, 5:45 p.m. **"Christmas Eve Family Service"**

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

Joanne Manson, Celebrant; **Mark Kendall**, Anchor

This celebration is especially for families with younger children, but all ages are welcome.

Thursday, December 24, 7:00 p.m.

"Christmas Eve Service"

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

Joanne Manson, Celebrant; **Mark Kendall**, Anchor
Music, **UUCS Choir**

Sunday, December 27

"TBA"

Theresa Soto, Intern Minister

Mark Kendall, Celebrant;
Benjahmin Boschee, First Service Anchor; **Arrhiannon Kirkpatrick**, Second Service Anchor



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem
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