



The Chalice and the Flame

Diverse people. Diverse beliefs. One community.

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

August 2018

Single Sunday Service at 10:30 am Will Continue

The results of the recent survey about UUCS services indicated that the congregation would prefer to have a single Sunday service. **In response to the survey, UUCS will continue our summer pattern by offering a single 10:30 Sunday service this fall.**

Plans are in the works to add an evening weekday service in the new year.

~ Worship Discernment Team (Rev. Rick Davis, Sara Pickett, Steve Rosen, Janet Stevens)

Aug 16 Dances of Universal Peace – Cancelled

The August 16 (3rd Thursday) Dances of Universal Peace is **cancelled**. Instead, we are invited to NW Sufi Camp at Camp Adams in Molalla for zikr, the remembrance of the Divine. We will be meeting at UUCS to carpool, leaving at 6 pm. Bring a water bottle. Celebratory clothes are encouraged but not required. Donations are gratefully received at Sufi Camp. There is a time for desserts and conversation after zikr. For more information, contact Angela Gross uu4peace@gmail.com.

Soul Matters Connections Group Sign-up

Connections Groups (formerly Covenant Groups) hold monthly meetings in small groups to discuss the monthly Soul Matters theme. The purpose of the meetings is for group members to enjoy each other's company, and to make connections between each other spiritually, and deeper within themselves.

Groups will be offered at various times. You can sign up using [the online form](#) at any time. You can sign up after Sunday service from August 19 through September 23.

These meetings are a wonderful way to make positive connections, learn more about yourself, and have fun. This year's monthly themes will be: Vision, Sanctuary, Memory, Mystery, Possibility, Trust, Journey, Wholeness, Curiosity, and Beauty.

Dharma Gaia Circle

This fall, a new special interest connection group, called Dharma Gaia Circle, is forming. As the name suggests, this group will explore the nexus between Buddhist practice (i.e. meditation and Dharma readings and discussion) on one hand and Gaian consciousness (i.e. environmental advocacy and Earth-healing through Permaculture theory and practice) on the other. We will meet once a month for meditation and discussion of readings and other topics chosen by the group, and periodically we will sponsor Gaia Walks--mindful hiking in various parks and nature reserves in our area--which will be open to anyone, but limited to 12 participants for each session.

For questions, call Tom Ellis at [971-701-6965](tel:971-701-6965) (H) or send a text message to [503-385-5594](tel:503-385-5594) (C).

Opportunities for Fellowship and Building Community

This newsletter offers many opportunities for you to participate in UUCS activities. If you are looking for more connections in our community, consider joining one of the groups having articles in this edition: Soul Matters Connections, Dharma Gaia Circles, Men's Retreat, RE Program, Art Works, or the Homeless Transitional Housing Committee. Beyond the articles, look at the Calendar for other monthly meetings. Maybe you'd like to help the Membership or Communications teams or attend the weekly meditation. What would you like to do when summer ends?



Reverential Ramblings

~ Rev. Richard Davis, UUCS's minister

Rick is taking a well-deserved vacation from "rambling" and will return in September.



Picture of our congregation taken on the day of the annual Flower Communion in June.



Lifespan Religious Exploration

~ Christi J. Olsen, Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration

August started off with a great Family Dinner attended by close to sixty people! We had a great meal and time for fellowship. It was fun to come and see so many that I have missed while I am off on Sundays this summer.

Our next Free Family Dinner will be on Friday, **September 14** from 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm. Mark your calendars now so you are sure not to miss this opportunity for community! Come to a dinner and work on learning names! We are working hard to take the Name Challenge and see if we can name twenty people in our UUCS community by their first name! Come join the fun.

With August already here, it is time to think about volunteering for our RE program. If you have one Sunday a month that you could give your service to the RE program, you would find that you feel so pleased giving that time and learning from the younger UU's in our community. Those that volunteer feel fulfilled leaving on a Sunday when they have shared their time in our program! We make it easy for you to remember when you volunteer by asking you to sign-up for the same Sunday each month. (Example: every first Sunday, every third Sunday, etc.). We will need two people every Sunday for each of our program areas - Youth (8-12th grade), UU Explorers (4th-7th grade), Wisdom of Wondering (pre-K - 3rd), Nursery (infant - 3). If you are interested in working with our Youth or Explorers classes, please let me know and I can share more details. Look for our sign-ups to be available soon! We can only offer an RE program if we have volunteers. Thank you in advance for your service.

We have exciting news. We were able to offer an approximate three hour a week paid Youth Coordinator to be our consistent person in our high school program. Looking forward to having a vibrant youth program - so help spread the word we are going to make this happen!! We welcome **James Snowcarp!** He has written about himself below:



Howdy! I'm James and I'm excited to be working with some of the youth this coming programming year. I've been involved with UU, as part of Youth & YA Conferences and attending various congregations, since I was in high school in North Carolina. Our tradition had an enormous and wonderful impact on me as a youth, and continues to be a deep well of inspiration and hope today. As an adult, I've worked with youth in a variety of settings, from mentoring high school students in technical theater, to collaborating with UU Youth leaders in the PCD district to adapt that district's policy around conference chaperons. I believe that youth should be empowered to find their own path, while being supported in drawing on the richness of our seven principles and six sources, inside of a context of the love of our community. I'm looking forward to seeing where our youth lead!

Hope your summer has been and continues to have moments of greatness!

In gratitude and until next time, Christi

Christi J Olsen, Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration

~~ RE NOTES ~~

Looking ahead to fall - dates to remember!

September 2 - NO RE CLASSES

September 9 - Annual Water Communion ([What is this?](#))

September 14 - Family Dinner 6:30 pm

September 16 - First day of fall classes

Happenings and Highlights

Sparkle and Clean Sunday September 2

The 5th annual Sparkle and Clean Sunday will occur on Sept 2 following a brief service. It is a time for community and action as we clean our glorious building from top to bottom (and "work clothes" will be in style). We will be cleaning out closets, dusting cracks and crevices, vacuuming corners, doing all the things our janitor doesn't get paid to do.

If possible, bring a vacuum cleaner with a crevice attachment, rubber gloves, and rags. Make sure everything you bring is tagged with your name. There will be team captains in the Sanctuary, RE Commons, and Fellowship Hall to guide the cleaning activities. If there are enough people, we will also be working in the front yard area pulling weeds, dividing plants and beautifying.

As part of the celebration, the Facilities Team will be serving root beer floats and watermelon. For more information, contact Angela Gross at uu4peace@gmail.com.



Parking Lot Lights

If you are planning on hosting a meeting at UUCS that ends after 8:30 pm, turn on the parking lot lights before your meeting starts so folks can safely get to their cars at the end of the meeting. The knob for the parking lot lights is located near the badge rack. Turn it back two hours to activate the timer. Set the timer to go off by 11 pm as a courtesy to our neighbors. For more information, contact Angela Gross, uu4peace@gmail.com.

Sign Up For October Men's Retreat



The Fall Men's Retreat will be at the Sunriver home of Rich Ford the weekend of October 5-7! The costs should be covered by what we raised on Father's Day. We will be carpooling. Theme/agenda are yet to be developed, but there will definitely be time to wander the paths of Sunriver with each other. Call or email Steve Rosen to RSVP or ask questions: [503-551-5501](tel:503-551-5501) or sjr1948@gmail.com.

UUCS Homeless Transitional Housing Committee

A new committee, *Habitat & Hope: A Salem, Oregon, Transitional Village* has been formed under the umbrella of the Social Justice in Action Team to address the problem of homelessness in Salem. We plan to work with the various churches, businesses and civic organizations in our area—including the City of Salem—to purchase a piece of land and build a tiny house village that can provide transitional housing for the homeless in our area.

Though in the early stages of the project, we are encouraged that in just a little over a month we have succeeded in creating a workable design for the village, as well as exploring the necessary steps to make this dream a reality. Stay tuned for further information as we move ahead on this project.

If you are interested in becoming involved, please contact Rev. Rick Davis, Bob and Cindy Francis, or the Social Justice in Action Team.

UUCS Has a New Art Support Group!

Art Works is a group of UUCS members wishing to support the visual arts as an essential element in the spiritual life of our church community and to foster an art ministry in a variety of ways. The group will focus on cataloguing and caring for art work in the church's permanent collection, supporting and encouraging members of all ages who wish to develop and improve their artistic skills, and organizing exhibitions of members' art works. They will meet at the church on the 2nd and 4th Fridays at 10 am.

If you are interested in joining the group or just sitting in on a meeting, you can attend the business meeting on August 10 or the artwork creation gathering on August 24. Both meetings are at 10 am. Contact either co-chairs with questions: Kathy Marsh, 4196kathy@gmail.com or Ann Moore, anadonaldovna@gmail.com.

Turmoil in Nicaragua affecting the UUCS Microfinance Project

The primary focus of the UUCS microfinance project this year is Nicaragua, where our loans have been helping lift out of poverty some who have actually had to live in the Managua city dump.

The recent wave of protests, met with severe government repression, have made any operation in Managua unsafe. However, our partner organization, the NEO Fund, is one of the few remaining organizations that is providing critical services such as medical care, food, and micro-loans. Now, more than ever, is our help needed as Nicaragua is teetering on the brink of civil war. On Sunday, October 7, our Microfinance Team will give a fuller report to the congregation.

Donations Requested

Partner Church News- Donations Requested in August

Recent emails from our Simenfalva partner church minister, Rev. Sandor Szen, describe a very busy month of June. There were a confirmation celebration for 8 young people, 5 christenings, 1 marriage, and 3 funerals – plus the usual end of the school years events....With the funds we forwarded from Share-the Plate donations this spring, repairs on the parish house (parsonage) will continue in August. Sandor sends his appreciation to UUCS for our help.

Sandor reported his family is well. Wife Csilla, a physician, “is working all the time.” Older son Sandor, Jr. will start a job August 1. Their daughter has finished work at the Psylogie University, and the young teenage son Andros attended a religious camp in July.

For several years, August is the month we have collected donations for our friends in Simenfalva. As you may recall, the village is cash poor, and many items we take for granted are out of reach financially for many. Sandor has sent us a list of items that would be very helpful: Reading glasses (especially for elderly folks); Vitamins B, C, D, and Omega 3; Pens, pencils, erasers, theme books; Linen and yarn for embroidery for the women; and Cash for textbooks for the school. Your donations will be gratefully received any Sunday in August at the Social Justice In Action table in the Fellowship Hall. Email me with any questions! Jean Sherbeck, jean@sherbeck.net.

Contribute Returnables in August and September

During August and September, bring your returnable cans and bottles to UUCS. Deposits on these items will benefit the Resource Center (formerly the library), the Landscape team and Salem Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans. Each Sunday in August and September, these groups will accept your returnable donations. After September, you can continue to contribute to this fundraiser by bringing your returnables on the first Sunday of the month. Send questions, to Benjahmin Boschee at benjahminboschee@yahoo.com.

News of the Community

Longtime UUCS member **Cathie Olcott** will be celebrating her 92+ (but who's counting?) birthday on August 8. Due to health issues, she no longer attends the Institute for Continued Learning but considers her time there some of her best time spent. Perhaps some of you would like to send her a snail-mail card to let her know you think of her. Her address is: 1950 45th Ave NE Apt #219, Salem, OR 97305

Community News Editor Needs Your Input

Steve Rosen is our new Community News Editor! We are looking for short news pieces about congregants for the monthly newsletter. So, what are you up to?

What is shareable is wide open:

travel - where have you been, or where are you going?

books - what are you reading, or wanting to read?

movies - recommendations, or the opposite?!

hobbies - what do you do in your spare time, if you have any...

activities - what have you done, or plan to do?

people - have you met someone new recently?

events - been to an event, or going to one?

If you are willing to share something, contact Steve Rosen at [503-551-5501](tel:503-551-5501) or sjr1948@gmail.com.

Splinters from the Board

At its July 12 meeting, the Board received a report from Vicki Cunningham on a proposed UUCS sign. The current UUCS sign is difficult to see and is not inviting. In 2018, the UUCS Board approved an ad hoc sign committee. The sign committee solicited information on a sign, and received a bid of \$11,500 for a hybrid sign. The center section would be illuminated, and the remaining panels would be vinyl and polymetal. There is an additional bid of \$6,295 to extend electricity to the sign. Some of that cost could be reduced if UUCS used volunteer labor to dig a trench for the electrical cable. There will also be a minimal additional cost for inspection relating to building code compliance.

There was discussion about how to fund the sign. After review of pending expenses, including salary adjustments, the Board deferred action on the sign until it receives a recommendation on the cost of salary adjustments from the Committee on Human Resources and the Finance Committee. The deadline for the recommendation is September 1.

The Board thanked Vicki for her work on the sign.

At its July 12 meeting, the Board also received a report from David Jeffers and Sara Pickett on a schematic of a remodeled UUCS sanctuary. The plan is to construct a permanent stage at the front of the sanctuary, with movable risers in the Southwest corner for the choir. The stage and choir risers would need to be constructed and would take a month to complete. All of the construction would be done with volunteer labor, and volunteer availability affects the timeline. The estimated cost is \$2,500 for framing and lumber for the front and risers. Around \$7,500 to \$10K would be needed for new furniture. These costs do not include carpeting, which will need to be replaced in the near future regardless of sanctuary remodeling plans.

The Board discussed holding fundraisers for the sign and sanctuary costs. There currently is no fundraising chairperson and a chairperson would be required to coordinate any fundraising activities. ***Any volunteers?***

Social Justice News

SJAT Had a Busy July!

Oppression and injustice did not take a break in July and neither did members of the Social Justice in Action Team. On July 1, members attended the third vigil/worship service at Sheridan Federal Penitentiary in opposition to the policy of criminalizing asylum seekers and their families. The crowd was estimated to be over 300. Michael attended a rally on Monday, July 9 at the Capitol to oppose Ballot Initiative IP-22, while Sarah was busy observing signature verification for the same ballot initiative at the Secretary of State's office.

IP-22 has the required number of signatures to be on the November ballot and it is now Ballot Measure 105. The Oregon UU Voices for Justice is planning to put a statement in the voters' pamphlet that supports a no vote on Ballot Measure 105, because it violates our UU values of recognizing the worth and dignity of every person, justice equity and compassion in human relations and working towards the goal of world community with liberty and justice for all. Members of the SJAT are collecting signatures of registered voters in the Salem area. If the total qualified signatures collected throughout the state is 600, the UU congregations involved will not have to pay the required \$1200 fee.

Members also attended the July 11 Health Care for All Oregon (HCAO) meeting at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Salem, and attended a Salem City Council Meeting to show support for the resolution by council member Tom Anderson, which opposes Zero Tolerance Immigration Policy. Members also attended training sessions and will work with many immigrant rights groups and faith groups to defeat Ballot Measure 105 and keep Oregon a Sanctuary State.

On July 17, team members also helped host and worked at the Mandela Fest. (See article below.)

The team is now working on a banner to be placed on UUCS grounds that will urge a no vote on Ballot Measure 105, as was stated in the resolution at the annual meeting. We will seek approval for the design and wording from the Communications Team before the banner is purchased. The money will come from the SJAT Fund.

I am honored to work and serve with such dedicated people. And Cecilia - Welcome Back; I hope you enjoyed your well-deserved vacation!

~Submitted by Patrice Pollard, Co-Chair

SJAT Takes Action to Defeat Measure 105

Members of the Social Justice in Action Team are taking part in the statewide campaign to defeat a November ballot measure that would, if passed, strip the state of Oregon of its sanctuary status. Our congregation has taken a strong stand against this measure. On May 20, 2018, at the UUCS annual congregational meeting, members voted to pass the resolution “A No Vote on IP 22.” In mid-July, this petition met the requirements for the November ballot, and was given a new name – Measure 105.

Oregon’s sanctuary law has been in place since 1987 to protect people of color from being racially profiled. The law also prevents local law enforcement agencies from working with federal ICE agents in arresting and deporting undocumented residents. If passed, Measure 105 will set Oregon back to the years prior to 1987 when the civil rights and protection of our immigrant neighbors were being constantly violated.

Members of the SJAT and other UUCS congregation members were part of a crowd of nearly 100 on hand for the official “No On Measure 105 Kick Off” campaign on Saturday, July 28 in Salem. Similar events were held throughout Oregon at the same time. Our team also helped with the Oregon UU-wide effort to collect enough petition signatures to get a ballot argument against Measure 105 into the November voter’s pamphlet.

The SJAT’s Sanctuary Team met on July 26 to consider what our congregation can do to help defeat Measure 105. Initially, we agreed to put up a large banner in a prominent location on our property to urge voters to uphold Oregon’s sanctuary law. In the upcoming months, we will join forces with immigrant rights, labor, faith and civil rights groups to defeat Measure 105 and uphold the state’s sanctuary laws. We will continue to attend community events on Measure 105, and we have offered to partner with the local Our Revolution group in its booth at the state fair.

Many local groups and organizations, including Our Revolution Willamette Valley, Racial Justice Organizing Committee, Mano a Mano, Causa, One Oregon, PCUN, Latinas Unidos Siempre (LUS) and many faith organizations are part of the campaign to defeat Measure 105.

The UUCS is part of Oregonians United Against Profiling, a broad coalition of business, labor, faith, justice groups and law enforcement officials, and also part of One Oregon, Causa’s political arm. Working together we can make a difference to keep Oregon a sanctuary state.

Mandela Fest Rocked!

The Mandela Fest, on July 17, at UUCS was a wonderful celebration of Nelson Mandela’s life and legacy. The event was jointly sponsored by the UN Association of Salem, the Oregon Assembly for Black Affairs and our Social Justice in Action Team.

Vocalist Marilyn T. Keller and jazz pianist Laura Cunard were amazing performers. The program and the delicious potluck dinner that followed were great ways to honor this great political and anti-apartheid revolutionary leader of South Africa on his 100th birthday. The 47 guests who attended had the chance for shared fellowship, new connections, and spiritual growth. Thank you John Prohovsky (our sound technician), Yvonne Rogers, Sarah Rohrs, Gracie and Chloe, Tom Ellis and Patrice and Michael Pollard, for your time and efforts.

“The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.” (Nelson Mandela)

UUCS Directory Updates?

Do you think it’s possible that you’ve changed your home address, email address or phone number and forgotten to let UUCS know about that change? Perhaps you’ve had a change in your family status?

To ensure that UUCS has the most current information about you, email your contact information or family status changes to directoryupdate@uusalem.org.

Calendar

Membership Team Meeting

Tuesday, August 7, 6:30 pm

UU Compassionate Mind Sangha Silent Meditation

Every Wednesday, 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.

Long Term/Strategic Planning Team Meeting

Wednesday, August 8, 7:00 pm

Habitat and Hope Meeting

Every Thursday, 12:30 pm

Homeless Coalition partnership with other Interfaith groups

Board Meeting

Thursday, August 9, 5:30 pm

Refuge Recovery

Every Friday, 7:00 pm

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.

Building Sacred Ground, Session 2

Sunday, August 12, 12:00 pm

SJAT Monthly Meeting

Monday, August 13, 6:00 pm

Join for discussion and plans for the Social Justice in Action Team.

Worship Team Meeting

Monday, August 20, 5:30 pm

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

Safer Congregation Committee Meeting

Tuesday, August 21, 6:30 pm

Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday, August 22, 4:00 pm

Communications Team Meeting

Monday, August 27, 4:00 pm

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

Life Lines Lay Ministry Meeting

Saturday, September 1, 9:30 am

Membership Team Meeting

Tuesday, September 4, 6:30 pm

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

Worship Services and Religious Exploration

August Share the Plate Recipient: [Rainbow Youth](#)

Service Time: 10:30 am

Sunday, August 12

The Rev. Mark Gallagher

"The Inner Life of Animals"

Celebrant: Sara Pickett; **Anchor:** Laura Christian

Music: Guy Hallman

With knowledge of evolution has come the realization that we are animals, and a growing sense of the ways we are like them (anatomy, metabolism, etc.). In recent decades, we have been learning how much they are like us -- thinking, feeling, experiencing. It's another game-changing realization.

RE Information: Today we explore the ocean through song! Fish Windsocks will be created to remind us of the beautiful ocean. People find peace in sitting by the ocean or listening to ocean sounds.

Sunday, August 19

David Jeffers and Dina Eichman-Triest

Poetry Sunday

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

Music: Native American flute and drums

Everyone has a voice. Poetry is an expression of one's voice (sometimes it's art, sometimes not so much). Writing and reading poetry is an experiment for some, a necessity for others. Poems are words strung together in images and patterns that can move us to tears, see a beautiful picture, show us another way of looking at the world, make a political statement, and much more. Join your fellows in a celebration of poetry and music (Native American flute).

RE Information: Today we study Beatrix Potter and her love of recording nature. Children will have their own notebooks to go outside and record things they observe in Bateman Woods.

Sunday, August 26

The Rev. Mark Gallagher

"A State of Grace"

Celebrant: Sara Pickett; **Anchor:** Joanna Manson

Music: Laura Christian

A reflection on the difference between how we 'are doing' and how we 'are'.

RE Information: Today the children learn about a boy rabbit that chooses to marry another boy rabbit. They will create rabbit hats in honor of this special wedding! I wonder do animals marry each other in nature?

Sunday, September 2

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

"Sparkle and Clean"

It's become a tradition: on the Sunday before Labor Day we come here to labor and learn. After a short ingathering worship service those who are so inclined are invited to join in our annual deep cleaning efforts (washing windows, dusting, etc.) and those who want to learn are invited to join Rev. Rick for a free-wheeling discussion of Unitarian Universalism and congregational life. **See the article on Page ?** about what you can bring to help with cleaning.

RE Information: We do not have RE classes today! Thank you to everyone that is helping with cleaning the RE wing today!!

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, the *This Week* email and or Facebook.

DEADLINES:

Newsletter: The deadline for the next newsletter is 8:00 pm on Friday, **August 31**.

Sunday Announcements and This Week submissions are due by noon, **Tuesday**.

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