



# *The Chalice and the Flame*

*Diverse people. Diverse beliefs. One community.*

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

## December 2018

### **Annual Giving Tree Gifts Ends December 16**

The Mindful Organization for the Recovery of Psychological Health, M.O.R.P.H. (formerly the Mental Health Association of Marion County) is asking for your support this holiday season by providing gifts for people with significant mental health conditions who are lacking support from friends or family.

You are invited to select gift tags which will be on a Christmas Tree in the foyer. The gift items need to be returned wrapped or placed in a holiday card **no later than December 16 with the tag attached.**

We appreciate your caring and generosity. For questions contact Nina Donnelly at 503-949-6266.



### **Annual Mitten Drive Ends December 23**

Every year our Religious Exploration program collects mittens and other warm items (gloves, hats and scarves) and we donate them to Family Building Blocks to disperse to families in need. Items need to be gently used or new. They will be hung on the Christmas Tree in the foyer during the month of December. At the December 23 service, we will have the children remove the items and box them to be delivered and donated!

### **Get Your Simenfalva Christmas Ornaments on December 9**

Here is your chance to bring home a memento from our partner church – crocheted ornaments made by the Simenfalva Women's Group as a fundraiser for their projects. Look for the table in the Fellowship Hall after the service on December 9.

### **Salem Speaks Up! on December 10**

The 26th annual Salem Speaks Up! will be held Monday, December 10, 2018 at 7:00 pm at the Micah Building, 680 State Street NE. The date commemorates the 70th anniversary of the UN declaration of human rights. The event features an open microphone so that community members can speak about human rights issues in the Salem Area.

Planners for the event are the League of Women Voters, the American Association of University Women, and the United Nations Association. It is hosted by the Social Concerns Ministry Group of the Salem First United Methodist Church.

Follow at: [facebook.com/SalemSpeaksUp](https://www.facebook.com/SalemSpeaksUp) or post your own human rights stories and events there.

### **Women's Alliance Decorating UUCS December 11**

The Women's Alliance will be decorating the sanctuary and Hanneman Hall for the holiday season on Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at 6 pm. We will decorate first, then have refreshments and a short meeting. All congregants are invited to help out with this activity.

### **Join Rev. Rick's Discussion with Evangelical Christians December 12**

On Wednesday December 12 at UUCS beginning at 2 pm, Rev. Rick invites UUCS members and friends to join a dialogue with some young Christian Evangelical students. Periodically, these students meet with Rick to learn about UU principles. In this meeting, they've offered to turn the tables. The more who come the merrier... or murkier.

### **Men's Group Now Meeting on Third Sundays – Next on December 16**

Men's group had a successful first meeting on November 11! The group will now be meeting on the 3rd Sunday of the month, from 12:30-2 pm, after the service. December 16 will be the next meeting. All identifying as male are welcome.



## Reverential Ramblings

### ~ Rev. Richard Davis, UUCS's minister

*As cold winter days begin to set in I am grateful to have a roof over my head, yet I am conscience stricken to see so many in our community who have no place to call home. How brutally hard are the lives of those without shelter. What can we do? Please read on about a bold, creative and compassionate initiative members here are proposing.*

*Rev. Rick*

There is a homeless crisis in Salem. As I write these words, fellow human beings are living out in the open with nothing but what they carry on their backs. They are sleeping on park benches, in doorways, in alleys, in sheltered parking lots, in the wooded areas, under overpasses, wherever they can. My wife Cindy and I see these folks every day as we go walking in Wallace Marine Park and Riverfront Park. There are currently over 3,000 of our neighbors trying to survive without a roof over their heads—and the City of Salem is not doing enough to address the problem. Its Housing Rental Assistance Program (HRAP) is great and greatly needed but it is limited in scope and far too costly to adequately address the problem (costing 1.4 million dollars with only 100 people helped thus far).

However, there are people who care. We are so grateful that many people are doing their very best to alleviate this crisis; congregations, civic organizations, help agencies, individuals, all stepping up to help the best way they can. Some are helping those with drug and alcohol problems, or families who find themselves living in their cars and needing help to get on their feet, warming shelters and short-term sleeping quarters for the chronically homeless. We are truly thankful for their kind and compassionate service.

Yet, one essential thing has been missing in Salem—a transitional village. For those unfamiliar with this concept, a transitional village is a facility designed to provide a safe place to live while helping these folks move toward a more stable life. At this time, the only help many of these people receive in terms of housing is from the Union Gospel Mission, located next to the bridge in downtown Salem. The UGM provides a place where about 150 people can stay for up to three days. They have access to showers, meals and a nice bed; unfortunately, after three days they find themselves back out on the street. In short, there is no facility that provides any type of longer-term housing for this population. Also, Family Promise – formerly the Salem Interfaith Hospitality Network – is wonderful at providing this service for a few families; UUCS can be proud to have participated in this effort for twenty years. Unfortunately, the vast majority of people are left unserved, especially the single males and females.

It was in answer to this deep concern of that a group of Unitarian Universalists met with the desire to do something—and that something was to build a transitional village. We started with a model of the project and have fine-tuned it over time with the input by leaders from the community. We have spent the last six months learning as much as we can about such projects. We visited Eugene and looked into what was being done there and brought many of their ideas back with us. We have tried our best to secure land in Salem for the village but so far have been unsuccessful.

So, we now reach out to our church. There is property owned by the church located outside the boundaries of the city of Salem (our North Lot, just across Center street). We have asked the Board to consider this as a possible location for our village. The transitional village would take a minor fraction of an acre, leaving plenty of space for our overflow parking lot. We know, of course, that this is a big decision requiring approval from our congregation. Wouldn't it be great if we, as a liberal congregation, acting on our deep values of compassion and concern for those most in need, could lead the way by providing this essential link to alleviating homelessness?

Please examine the model of the project in the Fellowship Hall after our Sunday services, and see on the map the small portion of our North Lot that would be used. We have been in talks with Marion County officials about zoning and other requirements; we can pursue those questions more thoroughly if/when we have approval from our Congregation. There are many questions about the project; we look forward to a congregational information meeting soon to explore those questions with you.

The steering committee for this project includes UUCS members Larry Nasset, George Struble, Bob and Cindy Francis. Rev Rick Davis and UUCS Board chairperson Lynn Cardiff have been tremendous help in advising the group. They are joined by community members Delana Beaton (Homebased Shelters of Salem), Greg and Margrethe Gregg, Paul Wilson and John and Patty Davenport. Please talk with any of us with your ideas about the possibilities and problems that you see.

~Submitted by UUCS Member Bob Francis



## Lifespan Religious Exploration

~ Christi J. Olsen, Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration

**DECEMBER** in Religious Exploration (RE) is a time for us to think about giving and helping people who need to stay warm in December. Our Good Samaritan bag project, led by Cindy and Bob Francis, continues every month and December is not an exception. Hand warmers, chap stick, and small Kleenex packages would be especially good items to donate for the homeless bags this month. Mittens, hats, and scarves are all welcome donations to hang on our "Mitten Tree" during the month of December. We will split donations between our Good Samaritan Bag project and Family Building Blocks!

Speaking of donations, we are announcing that our RE Offering project will be Meals on Wheels! Not only will we be making a monetary donation at the end of our program year from the offering each Sunday that the children/youth bring, we will be donating pictures and projects that can be delivered with the meals. The recipients of these drawings, coloring pages and projects will be so cheered up to have something special to hang on the refrigerator or set on the table! We will also have a time that we will be volunteering to help with the meals. Stay tuned for those details as our program year continues.

December's Soul Matters theme is: What does it mean to be a people of mystery? According to the Soul Matters Sharing Circle, "Pondering about mystery helps us to feel a part of something bigger than ourselves and invites us to focus on the experience of something greater, not arguing about what to call it." In RE we will be exploring this theme.

Youth (8<sup>th</sup> grade – 12<sup>th</sup> grade) are exploring topics that they choose to discuss. If you would like to be connected to the group email and receive the links to the topics for the next week's discussions and you are a youth or parent of a youth in our program, please let me know!

In December, watch the calendar and website ([usalem.org](http://usalem.org)) for special service offerings. Due to the holiday schedule, RE programming and nursery care will not be available December 23 through January 6. Children are always welcome in the service. If you wish your children to have more space to move around, the service can be viewed and heard from the Cozy Corner in the fellowship hall.

I hope that you have a nice holiday season with your family.

*In spirit and until next time, Christi*

Christi J Olsen, Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration



# Happenings and Highlights

## Winter Solstice / Yule Service on December 21



On December 21 beginning at 7 pm, join the Salem Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPs) in the Seeds of the Sacred Yule / Winter solstice service. On the longest night of the year, we will be chanting and setting intentions for the coming year. We celebrate the return of the light and the rebirth of the Sun.

Childcare will be provided **with advanced notice**. If you need childcare, notify Benjahmin Boschee via email at [benjahminboschee@yahoo.com](mailto:benjahminboschee@yahoo.com) **by December 14**.

Everyone is warmly invited to enjoy snacks and fellowship after the celebration.

## Dance Out the Old Brunch Potluck, Sunday Service on December 30

The Sunday service on December 30 will be Dances of Universal Peace in the Fellowship Hall with Angela Gross followed by a potluck brunch. This will be a special celebration to release regrets, anxieties and the energies of 2018 and make room for dreams to become reality in 2019. Please bring a list of ingredients in your potluck donation so people can make healthy choices. There is no RE. Children are very welcome to dance with us. We are looking for volunteers to help with clean-up. Please join us for this celebration of our community.

## Master Gardener Classes Begin January 7

Interested in being a Master Gardener? Classes are Mondays January 7 to April 1, 9 am -1 pm. Consistent attendance is required. There is also a commitment of 66 volunteer hours to Marion County Master Gardener Association. If you are interested in being a certified Master Gardener and are able to fulfill these requirements, please contact Angela [uu4peace@gmail.com](mailto:uu4peace@gmail.com) by December 7.

## Health and Aging Workshop Series Begins January 15

If you are age 60+ and didn't make the first Health and Aging series, please try again. Improve your health or your money back! Four (free) workshops on health and aging will be offered again at UUCS, this time on Tuesdays from 2:00 to 3:30 pm, January 15, 22, 29 and February 5. Content is different on each date. David requests that you register for the entire series.

David Haber, retired Western Oregon University gerontology professor, and author of Health Promotion and Aging (8th edition will be published in 2019) will distribute the latest health research findings, followed by discussion (if willing) of your own practices and ideas. Group limited to 12 participants. [Click here to register](#).

## Home Stays in Spokane for 2019 General Assembly June 19-23

The 2019 General Assembly will be held in Spokane, Washington June 19-23. The UU Church of Spokane has arranged over 20 homes to house visitors at rates well below hotel rates. Spokane is offering them to Northwest churches prior to going on the UUA website in February.

Visit the [Spokane Homestay page](#) to find appropriate lodging. All of the listings include photos, amenities, and how far you will be from the convention center as well as whether you will be close to a bus line. Please consider this option; not only is it affordable, you will have a breakfast provided and meet a great UU from Spokane.

## Many Thanks!!

### Bottle Drive Thanks and Continuation

Hello Everyone! A BIG thank you to everyone who participated in the bottle drive these last few months. With your help, we were able to raise over \$150. This money will be divided among the Resource Center, Minister's Discretionary Fund and CUUPS. You can still help by bringing your bottles and cans on the first Sunday of every month. Or, if you have an Oregon BottleDrop account you can donate money to the UUCS BottleDrop account.

### Cordon Road Cleanup on November 10, 2018

Thanks to: Ted & Carolyn Cory, Jewel Conway, Joan Stembridge, Cathy Ponsioen and her son Evan, Barbara Stebbins-Boaz, Robert Muir, Rebecca Harrison, Ingrid Stromberg, and Wayne Harris. We made a great clean-up crew and left 17 yellow bags for the county to pick up. We truly appreciated your help.

### Thanks for a Successful Pie Day

We had another successful Pie Day on November 17. Not only did we make about 210 pies, and sell all of them plus 15 Gluten Free pies made by the G-F Gang, we had a lot of fun doing it. A crew of 20 worked from 9 to 1:30 pm, with just a few breaks for pie, boiled eggs, and yoga. We netted about \$2,700 for the church general fund.

Many thanks to everyone who helped, but particularly Tracy Boyle, Mark Kendall, Sharon Pierson, Barbara Stebbins-Boaz, Deborah Emeny, Joel Woodman and others who came early and/or stayed late on pie making day. Many of these folks also helped on pie selling day, November 18. Thanks also to Mieke Visser, Deborah Emeny, Kay Giorgi, and Louise Meyer on the gluten free pies, and to all of our pie buyers. We appreciate your support. The room is already reserved for next year!

*~Submitted by Vicki Cunningham*



## Get Involved!!

### Friendship Minute - Requesting Submissions!

Do you want to participate in the Friendship Minute at Sunday Services? This is an opportunity to share who you are with the congregation, and to help form friendship connections and build fellowship at the UUCS. The one-minute limit is rigorously enforced (big hook awaiting you in the wings). This will begin being part of the service at the end of January.

Stage fright? Have someone read it for you. The subject matter is one of two areas: 1) Share an activity that you are currently doing, e.g., quilting, banjo, training cats, that may be of interest to others, or 2) share something bold that you once did and feel good about. You get to define your own boldness, even if it might not be bold for someone else. If you are interested, email no more than one-minute's worth of content to David Haber at [haberd@wou.edu](mailto:haberd@wou.edu), or approach him at UUCS.

### **CUUPs is Collecting Craft Materials**

The Salem Covenant of UU Pagans (CUUPs) is gathering beads, fabric and yarn to make crafts for a fundraiser in 2019. If you have these things to donate, please leave them in the Resource Center marked "Donations for CUUPs". If the Resource Center is closed, leave the supplies in the workroom. Thank you for your generosity. If you have questions contact CUUPs member Angela Gross at [uu4peace@gmail.com](mailto:uu4peace@gmail.com).

### **Join or Donate to a Downtown Salem Good Neighbors Team**

Ken Houghton of Arches is looking for volunteers to work in teams with unsheltered neighbors, mornings from 7-9 am. The Good Neighbor Hospitality Teams will wake up folks sleeping in doorways and stairwells, getting them up and moving before the businesses are open for the day. The volunteers will have a cart with hot drinks and breakfast sandwiches. Each Hospitality Team of four will consist of two sheltered and two unsheltered volunteers. Ken Houghton sees the Downtown Salem Good Neighbors Team as one step towards uniting sheltered and unsheltered neighbors as valuable partners in a mutual goal of keeping Salem clean, vibrant and thriving.

You could also help by donating items for outreach bags such as socks, underwear, thermal underwear, feminine hygiene products, foot powder, hand and foot warmers, shoe laces, belts, address books and day planners with a calendar, and gallon size ziplock bags. Also, you can donate money (Costco gift cards would be very welcome for purchasing items in bulk food and drink cart).

For more information on volunteering or on donations, contact Ken Houghton at 503-399-9080, extension 4015 or via email at [kenneth.houghton@mwwcaa.org](mailto:kenneth.houghton@mwwcaa.org).

### **Calling All Artists to March Art Show**

Oil painters, water colorists, fiber artists, photographers and more are invited to participate in the first art exhibit at and for UUCS congregants. "Celebrating Creativity" will be held in the Fellowship Hall Sunday, March 24 - 31, 2019. START NOW to create a special piece for this Art Works Team event. All art must be for sale and be able to hang on a wall for display. Details to enter the show will be available in the coming weeks in a Call to Entry Form.

## **Splinters from the Board**

**Youth Advisor** - The Board previously approved the establishment of a Youth Advisor program for the 10 month church year. The Advisor is paid a stipend. At its November meeting the Board received a presentation on the program. The goal is to have a person consistently available to help implement a program to encourage greater youth participation. The position is for the 10 month church year.

**Kaleidoscope Expansion** - In September 2018 the Board received a request from the Kaleidoscope pre-school to expand the lease area and approve other changes to space use, so that the school could expand its program to serve children in grades 1 through 3. Meetings were held with representatives of both Kaleidoscope and Religious Exploration about the request. The Board agreed that each program advances the values, goals and purposes of UUCS. Of concern to the Board were the difficulties involved in resolving how to use the common space for the benefit of both programs. At its November 2018 meeting, the Board voted to approve the expansion of the Kaleidoscope Program. The Board deferred action on space usage issues until no later than the January Board meeting.

At its retreat on November 14, the Board was given a tour of the proposed use of space for the program. The program requested that the space usage issue not be deferred, because Kaleidoscope needed to begin the certification process for its expanded program. The members present recommended that the proposed action by the Board be considered electronically.

Following the email from the Chair, the Board approved a motion to authorize the space usage in the Kaleidoscope proposal.

**Strategic Plan** – (note: the Strategic Plan is [available for review on the UUCS website](#)) In the spring of 2017, the UUCS Board created a Long Term Strategic Planning Team with the charge to create a long term, strategic plan for the next 3 to 10 years. The Plan was accepted by the Board at its November 2018 meeting. The Plan contains a number of proposed actions, including establishing Covenant as a theme for the first year of plan implementation. Recommended actions include educating the congregation, leadership and staff about covenants; creating and teaching a congregation-wide covenant education program that includes processes to repair broken covenants, and leading the congregation's creation of a new UUCS Covenant of Good Relations, with a five year renewal plan. The Board will focus on the Plan at its January 2019 retreat. The focus will be on how to use the plan to develop priorities for the next church year.

## Microfinance Success Story

In late 2007, Rev. Rick gave a sermon challenging us to do something to help alleviate global poverty. He had read about transformative effects of microfinance; could we do something like that? Soon after that, we formed a UUCS microfinance committee. Carol Doolittle had worked in Laos and still had contacts there, so we settled on Laos for our first project. The congregation donated money and bought Laotian art work and crafts. From 2009 to 2012 we sent \$8418 to PADETC, a philanthropic organization in Laos, to be used for small loans to women in several villages there. We have remained in touch, and last month received a report of the success of that project so astounding that we must share with you what we – *you* – have achieved.

PADETC already had staff who could work with women in the villages. Our funds were lent to women in the villages of Phonexong, [Thaphoxay](#), Lahanam, and Bolikhan, mostly to workers weaving baskets and silk fabric. At first, loans averaging \$125 were used to increase the women's income from their handicrafts. The women were organized into groups that helped each other but also guaranteed the loans: if a member was unable to repay a loan, the group undertook to repay it. You can imagine how powerful that is! In the first two years, PADETC and its subsidiary SAOBAN sent a staff member to each village at least once a month to provide training and advice. As the women became more proficient, those visits were only needed once or twice a year.



The women became more productive with the materials and equipment they could buy with their working capital, and markets developed for their products. They were very faithful in repaying their loans – with interest; further loans helped them become still more successful. The average loan grew to \$250.

Over these seven years, progress has been dramatic:

In a country where the official poverty level was \$120 per month and many urban wage earners still earn less than \$200 per month, "our" families' monthly income from their crafts has increased from under \$200 per month to over \$600.

Most of the children of the borrowers have completed secondary education; some of them are now in university.

Many borrowers have been able to repair or extend their homes, installing new kitchens, refrigerators, toilets, water and electricity systems, even buying TVs and motorcycles.

The status of the women in their families has improved: many now are the main source of income for their families. They proudly and confidently see themselves as business leaders in their communities. In some households, the men are now helping their wives with delivery of products to the market or collecting dye materials in the forest.

The success goes beyond these families. Representatives of other communities have come to study the successes in these villages and use these as a model. Banks have come to realize the viability of home-based enterprises and are now willing to provide credit; with support from the World Bank and other international financial institutions. Microfinance programs like ours are no longer the only source of capital for such families. The Laotian government is realizing the value of the handicrafts segment of its economy and is giving it more attention.

*Did we do all this?* We played a small but crucial part. Much more important were the efforts of the women themselves, and the guidance of the staff of PADETC and SAOBAN, especially the sterling work of Sombath Somphone until his disappearance in 2012. But we provided them the crucial resources.

There is more. Are you sitting down? This is unprecedented! SAOBAN now proposes to return to us the \$8418 we sent them, to use to support other programs and benefit other countries and groups. We never intended our funds to be a loan to SAOBAN; we wanted to establish a permanent revolving fund to help the villages. They have been so successful they no longer need that money; it's as if our little child has grown up! As we redistribute that money to other programs, will it provide as dramatic a success as our Laos program? Maybe; maybe not. But it has that potential! Take a moment to be proud of our – *your* – part in reducing world poverty. Stand tall!

# Social Justice News

## **SJAT Monthly Report for December**

The Social Justice in Action Team is very grateful Measure 105 was defeated. We acknowledge the hard work, dedication and votes from our congregation. At the CAUSA Celebration on November 10th, Loraine Stuart received a beautiful bouquet as recognition for her canvassing efforts.

Many SJAT members attended the Immigration Symposium on November 13th. Dr. Santos spoke of the ever-changing history of US immigration laws. Reverend Rick talked of compassion and the necessity of morally compelling acts of civil disobedience. Alonso Oliveras spoke of the needs of the immigrant community and CAUSA's next efforts.

The SJAT, on behalf of Lisa and Brenda, thanks all who gave donations for Jhonny. He now has the necessary clothing, bus passes, and phone cards that allow him to talk with his family. Jhonny has been volunteering with an organic farm and taking English classes and now is better prepared to move forward. Once again, our hearts are so very grateful for Lisa and Brenda, and Gregory and Margrethe (who are hosting Milton and Jessica). They opened their homes to people in need and are offering hope, support, and love.

The new SJAT lending library will be available soon and blinds for the Green Room have been ordered and will be installed upon arrival.

The Share the Plate recipient for October (Microfinance) received \$3656.74 (art sales included). Also, please remember that Susan Frederick-Grey, our UUA president, has asked that every congregation donate to BLUU. If you have not had the chance to contribute yet, you may give at the red basket on our table in the fellowship hall. (Suggested donation is \$10 per person. However, all contributions are very welcome.)

~Submitted by Patrice Pollard

## **Thank You, Humanitarian Rights Supporters**

The SJAT received this thank you note on behalf of Jhonny, who is moving forward in hopes of a better life: The people who organized and participated in the vigils, those who participated in acts of civil disobedience, the lawyers, and so very many more all made a difference.

*Dear Asylum Seeker Humanitarian Rights Supporters,*

*Thank you again for your generous support in helping Jhonny (from Nicaragua.) Your generosity has helped us to provide a foundation for his future here. He had his court appearance today and filed his asylum application. His asylum hearing has been scheduled for May, 2019.*

*We have enjoyed hosting Jhonny for these last 3 months. Jhonny has been volunteering at a local farm. He's loved the experience at the farm and was very happy with the comfortable private room and the delicious farm fresh meals. The farmers are very impressed with Jhonny's work ethic and intuition with working with the various animals. Jhonny is also very excited to learn basic carpentry skills as he learns to do repairs around the farm and related farm buildings. The farmers have volunteered to take over as the next host family. Jhonny had a few other options that became available, but ultimately decided that this was the best fit. We all feel very positive about this transition.*

*We were happy to find that Jhonny will be able to continue with English classes. He's also found a strong community at a nearby church.*

*Thank you again for your help. On behalf of Johnny we extend our sincere thanks,*

*Lisa, Brenda and Jhonny*

## **Salem Speaks Up! December 10.**

See the article on page 1.

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

# Calendar

## **Annual Giving Tree**

**Through December 16**

See article on Page 1.

## **Annual Mitten Drive**

**Through December 23**

See article on Page 1.

## **Salem CUUPs Business Meeting**

**December 4, 6:00 pm**

## **Membership Team Meeting**

**Tuesday, December 4, 6:30 pm**

## **Danza Azteca**

**Tuesday, December 4, 7:00 pm**

The teachings of the Aztec Dance are tied to the Pre-Hispanic roots of ancient Mexico. It serves to connect the dancer to a universal view of the Anawak culture and the Nawatl philosophy: a worldview of nature. Aztec dance awakens and develops various human faculties which are essential across society but which the current educational system fails to implement in a conscious and permanent manner. All are welcome to attend.

## **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.

## **Committee on Human Resources Meeting**

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

## **Habitat and Hope Meeting**

**Every Thursday, 12:30 pm**

Homeless Coalition partnership with other Interfaith groups

## **Choir Rehearsal**

**Thursday, December 6, 6:30 pm**

## **Dances of Universal Peace**

**Friday, December 7, 7:00 pm**

Simple, easy-to-learn movements and songs honoring spiritual traditions from around the world. The dances bring together sacred phrases from the world's religious traditions in heart-awakening circle dances dedicated to peace within and without.

## **Refuge Recovery**

**Every Friday, 7:00 pm**

UUCS' Addiction Recovery Ministry and Support program is glad to sponsor the Refuge Recovery group meeting every Friday from 7 to 8 pm at UUCS. The mission of this national non-profit

organization is to build an extensive and comprehensive network of groups, meetings, and communities that practice and promulgate Buddhist teachings and meditations for anyone seeking recovery from addiction. Drawing inspiration from the core teachings of the Four Noble Truths, emphasis is placed on both knowledge and empathy as means for overcoming addiction and its causes. Those struggling with any form of addiction greatly benefit when they understand the suffering that addiction has created while developing compassion for the pain they have experienced.

## **Marj Smith Memorial**

**Saturday, December 8, 10:00 am**

## **Compassionate Connection**

**Sunday, December 9, 11:30 am**

Please join us, 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.

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

**Sunday, December 9, 12:30 pm**

The monthly SJAT meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend.

## **Women's Alliance Meeting**

**Tuesday, December 11, 6:00 pm**

See article on Page 1.

## **Abundance Team Monthly Meeting**

**Thursday, December 13, 4:00 pm**

Monthly planning meeting for the Abundance Team (formerly called "Pledge Team").

## **Board Meeting**

**Thursday, December 13, 5:30 pm**

## **Choir Rehearsal**

**Thursday, December 13, 6:30 pm**

## **ArtWorks Team Meeting**

**Friday, December 14, 10:00 am**

Monthly business meeting of the ArtWorks Team. Open to all interested UUCS members.

## **Landscape Committee Meeting**

**Saturday, December 15, 1:30 pm**

## **Dharma Group**

**Sunday, December 16, 9:00 am**

Facilitator: Tom Ellis

## **RE Team Meeting**

**Sunday, December 16, 12:00 pm**

## **Men's Group Meeting**

**Sunday, December 16, 12:30 pm**

See article on Page 1.

**Worship Team Meeting**

Monday, December 17, 5:30 pm  
Monthly Meeting of the Worship Team to plan & discuss Sunday Services

**Microfinance Committee Meeting**

Monday, December 17, 6:30 pm  
The UUUCS Microfinance Committee will meet to discuss project funding.

**Safer Congregation Committee Meeting**

Tuesday, December 18, 5:00 pm

**Facilities Team Meeting**

Tuesday, December 18, 6:00 pm

**Danza Azteca**

Tuesday, December 18, 7:00 pm  
(See December 4)

**Committee on Human Resources Meeting**

Thursday, December 20, 12:00 pm

**Journey to Belonging**

Thursday, December 20, 6:30 pm  
A three month covenant group to explore our spiritual journeys.

**Dances of Universal Peace**

Thursday, December 20, 7:00 pm  
(See December 7)

**Finance Team Meeting**

Friday, December 21, 10:30 am

**Winter Solstice / Yule Service**

Fri, December 21, 7:00 pm  
See article on Page 4.

**No RE Classes or Nursery - Holiday Break**  
Sunday, December 23

**Executive Committee Meeting**  
Wednesday, December 26, 4:00 pm

**ArtWorks Art Making**  
Friday, December 28, 10:00 am

**No RE Classes or Nursery - Holiday Break**  
Sunday, December 30  
(See December 4)



*Women's Alliance Bazaar December 2*

# Services and Religious Exploration

**December Share the Plate:** [Center for Hope and Safety](#)

**Service Time: 10:30 am (except Christmas Eve)**

**Sunday, December 9**

**The Rev. Dorothy Emerson**

**"Sea Change: What can we learn from the 1960s?"**

**Celebrant:** Sara Pickett; **Anchor:** Laura Christian  
**Music:** UUCS Choir

The 1960s introduced many cultural changes that still influence us today, as we continue to struggle with issues of freedom, equality, peace, and love. What can we learn from this era about the challenges of creating a culture based on Unitarian Universalist values and principles?

**Sunday, December 16**

**The Rev. Richard R. Davis**

**"Suffering and Creativity"**

**Celebrant:** Janet Stevens; **Anchor:** David Gortner/Tom Ellis  
**Music:** Guy Hallman

How do you fit Beethoven (Dec. 16 is his birthday!), Job, Solomon, Mohammad and Buddha into one sermon? Well, they all have some wisdom to share on these subjects.

**Sunday, December 23**

**The Rev. Richard R. Davis, Bob Francis**

**"A Bright Vision During a Time of Darkness"**

**Celebrant:** Sara Pickett; **Anchor:** Laura Christian  
**Music:** UUCS Choir

Come learn about a newly formed group "Habitat and Hope" and our vision for how UUCS can help with the homeless crisis - a true gift to the community.

**RE Information:** We will not have nursery care or RE today due to the holiday! Remember that the Cozy Corner in the Fellowship Hall is available to hear and see the service if your little ones need more space to move around.

**Monday, December 24 – 7:30 pm**

**The Rev. Richard R. Davis**

**"Candlelight Christmas Eve Service"**

**Celebrant:** Janet Stevens; **Anchor:** Sara Pickett  
**Music:** UUCS Choir

Please join us for our Christmas Eve Service with beautiful music, traditional and contemporary readings, and great fellowship afterwards.

**Sunday, December 30**

**Angela Gross**

**"Dance Out the Old and In the New"**

Join in a special Dances of Universal Peace in the Fellowship Hall with Angela Gross followed by a potluck brunch. This will be a special celebration to release regrets, anxieties and the energies of 2018 and make room for dreams to become reality in 2019. Please bring a list of ingredients so people can make healthy choices. There is no RE. Children are very welcome to join in the dances.

Volunteers are needed to help with clean-up.

## 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, **December 28.**

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

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