



# The Chalice and the Flame

*Diverse people. Diverse beliefs. One community.*

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

## November 2019

### Rev. Rick's October 20 sermon in Spokane, "Finding Our Way Through the Fog"

Rev Rick was the guest preacher on October 20 at the Spokane church served by Rev. Todd Eklof whose book, *The Gadfly Papers*, is being discussed by UUs around the country and was discussed at UUCS in meetings during the past month. Rick's sermon, "Finding Our Way Through the Fog" addresses the current crisis in the Unitarian Universalist Association. You can read [the text of the sermon](#) or [watch and listen to the delivery](#). The video site lists all recorded services. Select the October 20 service and scroll to Rick's sermon at about 41.00.

### Welcome to Our Newest Staff Members:

Recently, UUCS has had some staff changes. We hope you will introduce yourself and welcome our new Congregational Administrator and our new Pianist. Last month, we published an article explaining the role of the Congregational Administrator.

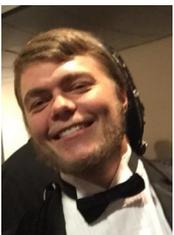
#### Emma Kreger, Our Congregational Administrator



Emma Kreger, new to UUCS with a background in HR and Administration, introduces herself:

*"I'm mother to four children and proud wife to a Disabled Vet. I love spending time with my family playing games, reading and going on adventures big and small. We love comics and pop-culture and like attending comic conventions when we can. I have a lifelong love of learning and I'm looking forward to learning as much as possible about your unique organization and challenges."*

#### Kit Abrahamson, Our Pianist



Dr. Kit Abrahamson will be the primary pianist for services and choir practice starting the first full week of November. He has a PhD in Music Theory, a Master's in Composition from the UO, plays cello with the Salem Philharmonia Orchestra, and sings bass in Confluence LGBTQ choir. He also teaches private music lessons and substitute teaches in the Salem-Keizer District. He and his husband and dog moved to Salem about 2 years ago and are active in the local Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA) in their "free time." He is looking forward to playing with you!

### Microfinance Fundraisers Continue November 10

The UUCS Microfinance Committee's annual fundraising events will continue following the November 10 service in the fellowship hall. This is a great opportunity to buy wonderful holiday gifts including jewelry, textiles, and Northern Lights movie tickets.

Microfinance Committee members will be selling Basha products such as jewelry, textiles, and Christmas items. Basha is helping end trafficking in Bangladesh, India.

It will also be selling tickets to the Northern Lights movie theater. A great place to relax and have snacks as you watch current movies you did not catch at first run.

For more information, contact: Ann Hanus, Chair, UUCS Microfinance Committee at [ann.hanus@gmail.com](mailto:ann.hanus@gmail.com).





## Reverential Ramblings

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

You may be aware that the Rev. Todd Eklof, minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane, WA, recently wrote a book – “The Gadfly Papers: Three Inconvenient Essays by One Pesky Minister” – which critiques the dogmatic, authoritarian nature of the anti-racism, anti-oppression efforts currently being implemented by the Unitarian Universalist Association. Todd regards these efforts as counter-productive and counter to the non-creedal, democratic spirit of our liberal free faith tradition, as do I. Please note: he most decidedly does NOT oppose efforts to dismantle racism and social systems that oppress too many – he just wants this work to be genuinely effective and congruent with Unitarian Universalist processes of democratic discernment which allow for congregational input.

Many Unitarian Universalists have now read and appreciated Todd's reasoned arguments, yet his book was not well received by leaders in our Unitarian Universalist Association. Indeed, Todd was officially censured by the board of the UU Minister's Association - which I consider was a grave error on its part. (I'm far from alone in this view.) Freedom of conscience and expression constitutes the cornerstone of our free faith tradition. Remove this from our foundation and the house of our free faith will crumble, sooner or later.

I mean to do what I can to preserve this freedom and am currently serving in an elected position in the UU Minister's Association (UUMA) as a “Good Officer” that gives me a role to play here. The Good Officer's role entails promoting the spiritual health and integrity of UU Ministry. Particularly, in this case, I believe I am called to defend Todd's right to share his honest views.

Toward that end, last month I invited myself to speak from the pulpit at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane, which was uncharacteristically pushy for me. Fortunately, Todd agreed to this and warmly welcomed me, as did his congregation. I felt called to speak from the Spokane pulpit to address both his congregation and all Unitarian Universalists. My hope was and is that this sermon and the one I delivered here in Salem on September 22 will be read or listened to by many UU's because I have a message that I hope will make a positive difference during a challenging time for our movement. I'm not sure how much difference this will finally make, but there are certain moments in all our lives when we feel called by the spirit of honesty and love to speak our truth – that is the UU way. It is supremely ironic that now, when I feel that I am most faithfully embodying the true heart of our tradition, I am doing so by challenging authoritarian, dogmatic tendencies from within, not from outside, our movement.

I am grateful to the many of you who have offered me support in my efforts. More importantly, I am heartened that a significant number of you participated in discussions generated by Todd's book and that one significant outcome is that we realize that to fulfill the true promise of our free faith, we are called to do all we can to create a community where people of all races and classes can find a spiritual home. This will require an intentional and sustained effort – merely wishing for this to happen won't make it happen. Yet, when we consider the harm that has been and is being done to so many who are excluded, demeaned and diminished, whose inherent worth and dignity is not honored, we will find the resolve and the dedication required.

One thing I have discovered about myself through the last few months is how deeply grateful I am for our free faith tradition and to those who came before me to win this freedom. Now it is our turn to preserve it.

*Love,  
Rick*

## Lifespan Religious Exploration

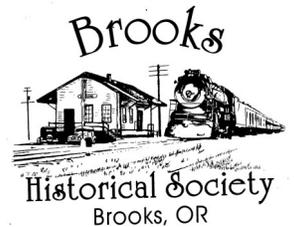
November is here and RE continues but is in transition. As many of you know, Christi Olsen left UUCS at the end of September to take a job with the Salem-Keizer School District. Currently, the Committee on Human Resources, the minister and the board president are updating the RE director's job description. Upon completion of the description and its approval by the board, the board will initiate the hiring process for a new RE director. In the meantime, Elsa McKinney and James Snowcarp have been employed to provide the RE program.

If you have a special interest in our RE program or wish to help, consider contacting or even joining the Religious Exploration Team or contact Julie Warncke at [juliewarnke@comcast.net](mailto:juliewarnke@comcast.net), Elsa McKinney at [McKinney.elsa@gmail.com](mailto:McKinney.elsa@gmail.com) or Lynn Cardiff at [lcardiff@comcast.net](mailto:lcardiff@comcast.net). Volunteers are an essential and welcome part of UUCS Religious Exploration.

## Happenings and Highlights

### Women's Alliance Meets November 12

Women's Alliance welcomes Vicki Cunningham of Brooks Historical Society at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, November 12. Vicki will introduce members to the 14 museums at Powerland Heritage Park in Brooks and give a short talk on ghost communities of the French Prairie area. All are invited to attend the presentation, enjoy refreshments and participate in the business meeting that follows a brief social time.



### Slide Show - "In the Footsteps of Jesus Christ" - November 12

On Tuesday, November 12, beginning at 6 pm, Dr. Pritam Rohilia will present a free slide show of his eight-day travels through Israel in December of 2006, when he visited many places associated with the life of Jesus. Dr. Rohilia was invited by Rev. Rick Davis to share his experiences with our congregation. He explains that he is not a Christian, but he respects all faith traditions and holds all great teachers in high esteem. Dr. Rohila has been internationally recognized for his work for peace. [More about Dr. Rohila on his webpage.](#)

### Next Men's Group Monthly Meeting is November 17

UU Men's Group meetings are on Sundays from 8:30 am to 10 am at the church. Members take turns providing a small breakfast (quiche/fruit). All identifying as men are welcome. This is an open group of men supporting each other, so give it a try! Meetings will typically be on the 3d or 4th Sunday, but not always! The next few meeting dates are: November 17, December 15, January 26 and February 23.

### Roy Zimmerman "RiZe Up" Concert November 17

On Sunday, November 17, Roy Zimmerman will perform in the UUCS sanctuary, beginning at 7 pm. Tickets at the door are \$22 or whatever you can afford.

Roy Zimmerman's signature blend of heart and hilarity has never been more necessary. RiZe Up is ninety minutes of Roy Zimmerman's original songs, a funny and forceful affirmation of Peace and Social Justice. It's laughter and encouragement for progressive-minded people who need a lot of both.



### Pie Day is November 24!

The leaves are falling and believe it or not, it's time to think about Thanksgiving pies! This year, UUCS will again run a fundraiser for the general fund, selling pies for your Thanksgiving table. Pre-order in the fellowship hall after service through November 16 (or as long as supplies last). Pies will be available for pickup on November 24. The cost is \$15 for one or \$40 for 3 pies.

The Board of Crust-eaz (aka Pie Day helpers) still need volunteers to make gluten free pies on November 22 and 200+ other pies on November 23. These events are full of conversation and camaraderie. Join us! [Sign up here](#)

### **Community Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner November 28**

On Thanksgiving (November 28) from 5-7 pm, join us at UUCS for the 5th annual Community Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner sponsored by the Salem Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (SCUUPs). We will provide the potatoes and dinner rolls. For each potluck dish, attach a label listing the ingredients so people with food allergies can make safe choices. Remember this is an alcohol-free event.

### **Women's Alliance Holiday Bazaar is Coming December 8 – Time to Plan Your Donations**

The Women's Alliance will be setting up for their annual Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, December 7, between 10 am and 2 pm. Plan to bring your donations for sale then or on the following morning. Everyone is encouraged to contribute jams and jellies, baked goods, craft items--and other things that someone will want to take home.

The Holiday Bazaar itself will be held on December 8. Stop by the bazaar after the service and find some wonderful gifts to share with friends and family.

Proceeds from the Bazaar help fund building needs, including, in recent years funding a new refrigerator and new curtains.

The tradition of a Unitarian women's group dates back to a previous Unitarian congregation that worshipped downtown but disbanded in 1939! The current bazaar is relatively recent but grew out of an earlier holiday auction for Alliance members, often with Jane Manning as the persuasive auctioneer.

## **Splinters from the Board**

At the October Board meeting the Committee on Human Resources (CHR) recommended position descriptions for the Music Director and Pianist positions. CHR also recommended Laura Christian be extended a job offer for the Director of Music position with some small modifications to the job description to accommodate Laura's work schedule. The Board voted unanimously to extend an offer Laura and approved the position descriptions.

After a lengthy search process, the interview team appointed by the Board recommended extending a job offer to Emma Kreger for the position of Congregational Administrator. The Board voted unanimously to do so. See elsewhere in the newsletter for a brief bio from Emma. She will be a valuable new staff member in this new position.

### ***A message from Benjahmin Boschee, Board Chair:***

I would like to inform the Congregation that, at the October Board Meeting, I announced my resignation from the Board of Directors of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem effective October 31, 2019. I am resigning from the Board due to time commitment issues that could only be resolved by stepping down from the Board. Christine Ertl as Vice Chair will be stepping into the role of Board Chair. I am not stepping away from UUCS and will still be an active volunteer in other areas of the congregation such as the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans and the Resource Center. I have made it clear that I will be available to help the Board in other ways.

I have greatly appreciated the trust and faith that were put in me by this congregation that allowed be to serve first as a member of the Board of Directors and again as your Board Chair these last few months. My time on the Board has taught me a great deal and I will carry these lessons with me.

*~Submitted by Benjahmin Boschee*

## **Reflections on Ministry and Belonging**

### **Committee on Ministry Update**

The four discussions following Rev. Rick's sermon on freedom of conscience and freedom of the pulpit "(n Defense of Liberal Religion) resulted in a request that our congregation adopt a public statement expressing where UUCS stands on issues such as institutional racism, freedom of speech and freedom of the pulpit. The Committee on Ministry is drafting a preliminary statement to be presented to the UUCS Board for discussion, possibly in the coming month. The ultimate decision to adopt such a statement will be up to the congregation.

*~Submitted by Eric Schuman, Committee on Ministry*

## On Choosing Unitarianism...

I'm going to tell you a little about my family, and why I oppose the suppression of free speech and freedom of the pulpit and a prescribed "this way only" approach to anti-racism.

56 years ago, I chose Unitarian Universalism at the age of 15. Rev. Jack Mendelsohn's "Why I am a Unitarian" appealed to me because of its espousal of freedom of conscience and social justice as fundamental UU beliefs and practices. At age 18, I decided I wanted to become a UU minister, and my intention was to attend Starr King School for the Ministry.



In 1968 my suburban Washington DC church refused to provide support to the Poor People's Campaign and in 1970 its staff and lay leaders torpedoed our efforts to raise money for the Black Affairs Council, instead funneling members' money to the "Black and White Alternative" group which opposed black empowerment efforts in the UUA. The church was populated by second tier officials in the State Department, the Department of Labor and the Pentagon. The church refused to take any stance opposing the Vietnam War. I was a delegate to the infamous 1969 Boston General Assembly and walked out with the black caucus and Fellowship for Renewal. As a result of my congregation's illiberal actions, I abandoned my interest in parish ministry.

I became a civil rights worker and community organizer in Mississippi and Illinois. My life was often in danger, and I was charged with various "crimes" in relation to my volunteer work. I faced years in state prison, but our side prevailed in each of the legal cases.

In the 1970s I moved to Topeka, Kansas, where I served as president of the local UU congregation and later became president of the Prairie Star District of the UUA. As an active member of the UULGC (LGBT national UU organization), I was the principal author and organizer of efforts to pass the Services of Union (gay marriage) resolution at the 1984 GA -- which affirmed the right of UU ministers to perform same sex unions despite prohibition by certain congregations in our Association. It passed overwhelmingly that year, following two previous years of defeat.

In 1982 I met my partner, Lorn, and we married in 2013. The Salem, Oregon congregation was one of the first to become an official Welcoming Congregation, and Lorn and I helped facilitate that program, in which over 75% of the congregation completed the curriculum.

As a retiree, I've attended a couple of classes at Starr King to enhance my work as a lay minister. I do animal assisted therapy for hospice clients, emotionally disturbed children at an elementary school and with seriously mentally ill patients (who have been charged with serious crimes) at Oregon State Hospital in Salem.

My UU values haven't changed during the past 56 years, but the leadership in my denomination has. I hold fast to my values of freedom of conscience, social justice, and a free and responsible search for truth and meaning not dictated by church hierarchy.

*~Submitted by Eric Schuman*

## Community Responses to the Covenant Theme "Belonging"

During the month of October, covenant groups discussed the theme "belonging". On the side, Steve Rosen asked several UUCS folks the question, "Where do you think you belong, in time, if not right now? Or where would you like to belong?!" Responses below...

I was at the top of my "game" in all the important ways I can think of between 1992 and 2012. I can't envision myself feeling or doing better at any other time in history (except maybe in the Garden of Eden before you know what). *~Jerry Nathan*

I would like to belong to the Portland Trailblazers, as a starting guard along with Dame and CJ. *~David Haber*

I might want to be aboard the HMS Beagle 1831-1836 as a colleague of Charles Darwin, or perhaps somewhere in Renaissance Italy as a merchant or book dealer in one of the northern city states because the era was so infected with curiosity and a dawning of critical thinking - but they regularly warred with one another, and the Vatican was a stifling influence on thought, so maybe not.

Ask me again after I visit the Adriatic and Aegean Seas next fall - I might then choose a sunny island somewhere in the Mediterranean with a garden, a goat, a sailboat, and lots of books.

The Harlem music scene in the 20s, w/reefer madness. *~Wes Johnson*

I would have liked to be Thoreau's roommate on Walden pond during the American romantic period of the mid 1800's. We would have discussed the thoughts of Emerson, read the novels of Hawthorne, visited the transcendentalism discussion groups at the Alcott home and explored the new radical religion...Unitarianism. *~Joel Woodman*

I would like to be working on the ranch in the Dakotas in the 1880s, with Teddy Roosevelt! *~Steve Rosen*

### Am I Still a Unitarian Universalist Minister?

Rev. Kate Braestrup has written an [open letter](#) to all UUs online here regarding this topic. It speaks directly to the discussions our congregation has been having during the past month on the Gadfly Papers.

Rev. Braestrup is the best-known UU minister in the United States and is the author of a wonderful and powerful book on chaplaincy which has been read and listened to by millions. She represents Unitarian Universalism to the wider world, and in this letter, she questions whether she can possibly represent UU ministry in light of the current illiberal discourse of the UU Ministers Association and the UUA leadership.

~Submitted by Eric Schuman, Committee on Ministry

## Help Needed and Appreciated!

### Cordon Road Clean Up Coordinator Needed



Service Opportunity: Volunteer Position currently open for Cordon Road Clean Up Coordinator in 2020. Time commitment of 4 - 5 hours twice yearly.

Organizational and coordination skills and love of outdoors helpful.

Must be able to follow safety directions for yourself and others. Benefits include some gentle exercise and the opportunity to support your community.

Please inquire at Social Justice Table after Sunday services.

### PFLAG Liaison Needed

UUCS is a Welcoming Congregation and has provided a meeting space for PFLAG meetings since February 2019.

There is a volunteer position currently open for a PFLAG liaison starting in January 2020. Time commitment of approximately 2 hours per month (6:30 pm - 8:30 pm) on the second Monday of every month. Must qualify to receive security clearance from Board of Directors.

Benefits include the opportunity to live your values of love and compassion. Inquire at Social Justice Table after Sunday services.



~Submitted by Patrice Pollard

### Landscape Team Wish List



The UUCS Landscape Team has a wish list and maybe you can help! They need a flatbed trailer, a couple of hoses and a deep wheelbarrow. Also, there are a few volunteer spots to fill. You can look at [the complete list on our website](#). If you can help with any of these things, advise the current chair, [Iris Sea](#).

### Good Samaritan Project Bags

After a summer hiatus, Good Samaritan Project bags assembly will again happen on the second Sunday of each month. Tables will be set up in the fellowship hall after the service for you to put together a bag or as many bags as you would like to put in your car to hand out to any unsheltered folks you may see. As usual, donations of protein bars, wrapped hard candy, individually wrapped snack crackers, raisins, nuts, chap stick, small Kleenex packs, personal hygiene items (trial sizes of soap, shampoo, deodorant, lotion, foot powder), socks, and shoelaces are welcome.

### MORPH Giving Tree

The Mindful Organization for the Recovery of Psychological Health, M.O.R.P.H. is again 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. Please join us in reaching out to those who are so often alone and forgotten.

You are invited to select gift tags from the Christmas Tree in the entryway. Attach the tag to your wrapped gift or holiday card and bring it to the tree no later than December 15. The tree will be available December 1, December 8 and December 15 (the last day for bringing the gifts). We appreciate your caring and generosity. For questions

**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.

# Social Justice News

## **SJAT October Report**

The UUCS Social Justice Team had another busy month. In early October Michael Pollard attended the Racial Justice Organizing Committee meeting and listened to CAUSA's presentation on the status of IP 43. Sarah Rohrs attended the One Oregon meeting to listen to another discussion on IP 43, the attempt to repeal HB 2015, the Equal Access to Roads Act. This bill will enable people to obtain a driver's license without proof of legal status. The first petition was ruled unconstitutional and a 2nd petition was filed on October 29. The team will work with our many allies to ensure that standard licenses are available to all Oregonians who can meet the requirements to drive, regardless of their legal status.

Team members have been working closely with the Immigrant Movement for Immigrant Justice (IMIrJ) to keep ICE out of our courthouses. On October 18, the Uniform Court Trial Rules Committee (UCTR) streamed a hearing that resulted in a recommendation to ban ICE officials from making arrests at Oregon courthouses without a judicial warrant. UUCS members and friends may contact Oregon Chief Justice Martha Walters to ask that she follow this recommendation. Please stop by the Social Justice Table to ask for her phone number and email address.

There will be a rally to support DACA recipients on Tuesday, November 12, at the State Capitol in Salem, from 3:15 to 5:30 pm. This rally is on the same day the Supreme Court will be holding hearings on DACA. Maricruz, a Salem teacher who spoke at UUCS on September 22 along with 27 other DACA recipients, will be testifying in a video Amicus Brief filed by United We Dream. These talented young Americans are representative of the 800,000 people who may be forced to leave this country if the Supreme Court refuses to uphold DACA.

The Barbara Ford Workshop on October 6, sponsored by 350 Salem and the Social Justice Team, offered participants the opportunity to connect and support one another in the struggle to cope with the almost non-stop demands of justice work. Of the 56 registered participants, 28 attended the four-hour workshop. Thank you to Sarah Rohrs, John Prohodsky, Tom Ellis, Michael Pollard and Laurie Dougherty of 350 Salem for all the needed and much appreciated assistance!

The team has been smaller lately. Five team members and one guest attended the monthly Social Justice meeting on October 13. Eleven people attended the monthly PFLAG meeting at UUCS on October 14. The annual Peace Lecture continues to be supported by the Social Justice Team budget funds. Bonnie Hummel agreed to be the liaison for Moms Demand Action, who will meet at UUCS while the Salem library is being renovated. Thank you, Bonnie!

On October 19, Michael Pollard, a team member and a board member of the Oregon Unitarian Universalists Voices for Justice (OUUVfJ) was the moderator of the Speakers Panel at the annual meeting at Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at Easton. Reverend Rick was the keynote speaker and spoke on Human Rights. You may read his speech on the OUUVfJ website. The meeting was considered successful by the board, over 50 people from 12 UU congregations and fellowships attended. Thank you, Reverend Rick for your words and your presence.

The Share the Plate Recipient for September, DACA Scholarships, received \$824. UUCS donated 97 lbs. of food and supplies to Marion/Polk Food Share in September. Thanks to Loraine for always delivering the needed items to the Food Share. Our team is grateful to have you as a member!

Michael and I are taking a leave of absence from UUCS in the year 2020. See the volunteer positions announced under Help Wanted and Appreciated. I wish to do as much as possible ahead of time, so the team is ready and confident. Thank you to all of you for all your help!

*~Submitted by Patrice Pollard*

**Find the UUCS Social Justice Page on Facebook**

# Calendar

## **Family Promise Through November 10**

### **Landscape Team Meeting**

**Tuesday, November 5, 10:00 am**

### **Membership Team Meeting**

**Tuesday, November 5, 6:00 pm**

### **Danza Azteca**

**Tuesday, November 5, 6:30 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.

### **Moms Demand Action**

**Tuesday, November 5, 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.

### **Choir Rehearsal**

**Every Thursday, 6:30 pm**

### **ArtWorks Team Meeting**

**Friday, November 8, 10:00 am**

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

### **Circle Suppers**

**Friday, November 8, 6:00 pm ([off-site](#))**

### **Recovery Dharma**

**Every Friday, 7:00 pm**

UUCS' Addiction Recovery Ministry and Support program is glad to sponsor the Recovery Dharma 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.

### **Landscape Work Party**

**Saturday, November 9, 9:00 am**

Come help beautify our landscape. Bring gloves and tools if you have them, otherwise they will be provided. No experience necessary.

### **VaLUUES Book Club**

**Saturday, November 9, 9:30 am**

Come join us on the third Saturday of every month to discuss topics from our current book "Serving with Grace". We have ordered extra copies of the book that are available for purchase in the Resource Center. Other copies will be available at the meeting for anyone is unable to purchase the book. We have also created a Google Classroom for the book club, each new book that we read will be a new "class". In the classroom you will be able to participate in forum postings, answer questions and complete homework. This way everyone can join the book club even if they can't attend any of the meetings.

### **Circle Suppers**

**Saturday, November 9, 6:00 pm ([off-site](#))**

### **Compassionate Connection**

**Sunday, November 10, 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 Team Meeting**

**Sunday, November 10, 12:30 pm**

The monthly SJT meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend!

### **Health and Aging**

**Monday, November 11, 1:00 pm**

If you missed the first three workshop series at the UUCS, this is a fourth--and final--opportunity to attend Health and Aging workshops on Mondays. The workshops and materials are free, with content from the 8th edition of Health Promotion and Aging (just published by Springer). The workshops are guaranteed to add a decade to your life expectancy, or your money back!

### **Board Meeting**

**Monday, November 11, 5:30 pm**

**All are welcome to attend!**

### **PFLAG Meeting**

**Monday, November 11, 7:00 pm**

PFLAG is the extended family of the LGBTQ community. We're made up of LGBTQ individuals, family members and allies. Because together, we're stronger.

### **"In the Footsteps of Jesus Christ" with Dr. Pritam Rohila**

**Tuesday, November 12, 6:30 pm**

See article.

### **Women's Alliance Meeting**

**Tuesday, November 12, 6:30 pm**

Monthly program and meeting

### **Habitat and Hope Meeting**

**Thursday, November 14, 12:30 pm**

Homeless Coalition partnership with other Interfaith groups

### **Finance Team Meeting**

**Friday, November 15, 10:30 am**

### **Workshop for Volunteers**

**Saturday, November 16, 9:30 am**

The Vision and Leadership UU Explorer Society will be hosting monthly workshops where we create training material and leadership documents for our own use. Our goal is to help volunteers define their roles within UUCS and facilitate healthy covenantal relationships. This month we will be working on leadership training material based on the PLUS program used for UU staff development and we will be working on creating a template for volunteer position descriptions. We meet on the fourth Saturday of each month.

### **Men's Group Meeting**

**Sunday, November 17, 8:30 am**

UU men will be meeting to connect with each other, continuing the spirit of the two retreats. All UUs identifying as men are welcome! Men attending will check in and there will be discussion. All that is discussed will be kept confidential unless the safety of a participant or someone else is at risk.

### **RE Team Meeting**

**Sunday, November 17, 12:15 pm**

### **Roy Zimmerman "RiZe Up" Concert**

**Sunday, November 17, 7:00 pm**

Roy Zimmerman's signature blend of heart and hilarity has never been more necessary. RiZe Up is ninety minutes of Roy Zimmerman's original songs, a funny and forceful affirmation of Peace and Social Justice. It's laughter and encouragement for

progressive-minded people who need a lot of both. \$22 or what you can pay.

### **Health and Aging**

**Monday, November 18, 1:00 pm**

(See November 11)

### **Worship Team Meeting**

**Monday, November 18, 5:30 pm**

The Worship Team meetings are not open to the general public, but if you are interested in serving on the committee or have information/concerns you want to present, please feel free to email [worshipteam@uusalem.org](mailto:worshipteam@uusalem.org).

### **Committee on Ministry Meeting**

**Tuesday, November 19, 10:30 am**

The Committee on Ministry meetings are not open to the general public, but if you are interested in serving on the committee or have information/concerns you wish to present, please email [rdavis@uuma.org](mailto:rdavis@uuma.org).

### **Danza Azteca**

**Tuesday, November 19, 6:30 pm**

(See November 5)

### **Executive Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday, November 20, 5:30 pm**

### **Music Team Meeting**

**Thursday, November 21, 5:00 pm**

### **Dances of Universal Peace**

**Thursday, November 21, 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.

### **GF Pie Making Day**

**Friday, November 22, 7:00 am**

**On this day, the UUCS Pie Day team will make gluten free pies. There can be no wheat flour or wheat products anywhere in the kitchen all day.**

### **ArtWorks Art Making**

**Friday, November 22, 10:00 am**

### **Pie Making Day!**

**Saturday, November 23, 9:00 am**

About 20 members and friends get together to assemble 200 or so fruit pies for sale/pick-up the following day. This is a fundraiser for the UUCS general fund.

### Workshop for Volunteers

Saturday, November 23, 9:30 am

The Vision and Leadership UU Explorer Society will be hosting monthly workshops where we create training material and leadership documents for our own use. Our goal is to help volunteers define their roles within UUCS and facilitate healthy covenantal relationships. This month we will be working on leadership training material based on the PLUS program used for UU staff development and we will be working on creating a template for volunteer position descriptions. We meet on the fourth Saturday of each month.

### Pie Day!

Saturday, November 23, 9:00 am

### Health and Aging

Monday, November 25, 1:00 pm

(See November 11)

### Communications Team Meeting

Monday, November 25, 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.

### Board Retreat

Monday, November 25, 5:30 pm

### Safer Congregation Committee Meeting

Tuesday, November 26, 5:00 pm

The Safer Congregation Committee meetings are not open to the general public, but if you would like to join the committee or have information/concerns to present, please email [rdavis@uuma.org](mailto:rdavis@uuma.org).

### Danza Azteca

Tuesday, November 26, 6:30 pm

(See November 5)

### Habitat and Hope Meeting

Thursday, November 28, 12:30 pm

Homeless Coalition partnership with other Interfaith groups

### Community Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner

Thursday, November 28, 5:00 pm

Please join us for the 5th annual Community Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner sponsored by the Salem Covenant of Unitarian Universalist pagans. SCUUPs will provide the potatoes and dinner rolls. Please bring labels of ingredients in your dish so people with food allergies can make safe choices

### Congregational Conversations

Sunday, December 1, 11:45 am

### Social Justice Team Meeting

Sunday, December 1, 12:30 pm

The monthly SJT meeting. Every is welcome to attend!

### Membership Team Meeting

Tuesday, December 3, 6:00 pm

### Danza Azteca

Tuesday, December 3, 6:30 pm

(See November 5)



*At the October 6 Animal Blessing, Rev. Rick blessing two pillbugs and a worm*

# Worship Services and Religious Exploration

November Share the Plate Recipient: [Microfinance](#)

Service Time: 10:30 am

**Sunday, November 10**

**The Committee and The Rev. Richard R. Davis  
Habit and Hope Village**

**Celebrant:** Janet Stevens; **Anchor:** Geoff Hutchinson  
**Music:** UUCS Choir

Homelessness in our community is a heartbreaking reality for too many. Our congregation plays a significant role in ameliorating this, but there is more some of us feel called to do. Please join us as we share our vision.

**Sunday, November 17**

**The Rev. Richard R. Davis**

**"What About God?"**

**Celebrant:** Lennie Martin; **Anchor:** David Gortner  
**Music:** Monica Belzer and Johnny Fang, violin; Linda Asbury, viola; George Struble, cello

As Unitarian Universalists we have no common understanding about matters of theological belief. Is there a God? Or not? Some of us say "yes", some say "no", some say "I don't know" and some say "what do you mean by God? Resolving this question is beyond the scope of this sermon but looking at this from various angles can be a good exercise in enlarging our understanding.

**Sunday, November 24**

**The Rev. Richard R. Davis**

**"Thanksgiving and its Evil Twin"**

**Celebrant:** Sara Pickett; **Anchor:** Tom Ellis  
**Music:** UUCS Choir

Throughout our national history there have been competing forces that have shaped us, for good and for ill. The true spirit of Thanksgiving embodies the best in our history. And the worst is embodied by the spirit of... Come find out. Let's share food today - bring a loaf of bread (some gluten free) or some cheese or a pie. We'll supply

**Sunday, December 1**

**UUCS Member Sara Pickett**

**"Freedom of the Pulpit"**

**Celebrant:** Lennie Martin; **Anchor:** David Gortner  
**Music:** Barbara Stebbins-Boaz

In today's age where freedom of speech is being questioned in different arenas, come explore the importance of maintaining one of the main principles of our religious faith—Freedom of the Pulpit.

## Unitarian Universalist Congregation Of Salem

5090 Center St. NE, Salem, OR 97317

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5090 Center St. NE, Salem, OR 97317

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**Facebook:** [facebook.com/UUSalem](https://facebook.com/UUSalem)

**Social Justice FB:** [facebook.com/UUCSSJAT](https://facebook.com/UUCSSJAT)

**Newsletter Editors:** [editors@uusalem.org](mailto:editors@uusalem.org)

This issue was edited by Bob Muir, edited and formatted by Sharon Pierson, and edited 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, **November 29**.  
**Sunday Announcements and This Week** submissions are due by noon, **Tuesday**.