



The Chalice and the Flame

Diverse people. Diverse beliefs. One community.

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

December 2019

Holiday Bazaar December 8

The date of our annual Holiday Bazaar, organized by the Women's Alliance, is Sunday, December 8. After the service, come to the fellowship hall not just for coffee hour but also to buy jams and jellies, baked goods and craft items, and to search for unexpected treasures. UUUCS will benefit from what you buy because the money raised will go toward improving our building, perhaps with a new kitchen floor.

Whether or not you're a regular at Alliance meetings, you can further benefit UUUCS by donating such items for the sale. Saturday, December 7, from 10 am to 2 pm is the best time to bring your contributions, but they are also very welcome before the service on December 8.

Good Samaritan Bag Project December 15

Since the Holiday Bazaar will be held on Dec 8 (the second Sunday of the month), the Good Samaritan Bag table will be set up on December 15 this month.

Women's Alliance Decorating Party December 17

The Women's Alliance will be decorating the sanctuary and Hanneman Hall for the holiday season on Tuesday, December 17, starting early at 6:00 pm. This work will be followed by refreshments and a short business meeting. All congregants are invited to help out with this activity and are welcome to bring greenery (and maybe clippers and work gloves).

New Year's Eve - 26th Annual Global Peace Dance (at UUFC)

Join us as we ring in the New Year with live music, devotional chanting and singing, raising peace within ourselves, our community and the world. This is a non-alcohol, drug free event! We'll share a simple potluck meal of mostly finger food. Bring a list of ingredients so people can make choices based on their dietary needs.

The Dance will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis, 2945 NW Circle Drive. The schedule is: 7:00 pm: set-up and meditation. 8:30 pm: Opening Dances. Midnight: welcome in the New Year!! Donations are gratefully received but not required. Your presence in the greatest gift! For information, email [Angela Gross](mailto:Angela.Gross@uuuc.org).

Donate Gifts for the MORPH Giving Tree

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 with 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 which will be on a Christmas Tree in the entryway. The gift items need to be returned wrapped or placed in a holiday card no later than December 15 with the tag attached. 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 contact [Nina Donnelly](mailto:Nina.Donnely@uuuc.org).

Second Annual Celebrating Creativity Art Show – Think About Your Submissions!

The second annual Celebrating Creativity art show will take place from March 22 to 28, 2020. All congregants are invited to submit artwork to the show. Work must be ready to hang, and ideally it will be available for purchase. 30% of sales will go to the Art Works team for care of the permanent collection. A detailed call for entries will be available soon. Questions should be directed to the Art Works team. ~Submitted by [Art Works Team](mailto:ArtWorks@uuuc.org)

Jolly Diners on Hiatus till January

Jolly Diners is on hiatus for November and December! There will be enough eating events for all of us during these two months without an additional one! But Jolly Diners will return after the New Year, so watch the publications and News of the Community to see when it returns. It could be helpful (and of course fun!) in those dark and rainy days of winter! ~Submitted by [Steve Rosen](mailto:Steve.Rosen@uuuc.org)



Reverential Ramblings

~ Rev. Richard Davis, UUCS's minister

Not long after the last presidential election our Social Justice Team realized that our values were calling us to become actively engaged in countering the federal government's cruel and unjust treatment of immigrants. With the exception of Native Americans, we are all either immigrants ourselves or the direct descendants of immigrants. Yet, we realized that there was not much we could do as a single congregation – we'd need to join with others. But who?

There are UU Social Justice programs that advocate for immigrant justice, but they proved to be too far away. We needed local partners in this work. Then we heard about an organization based in Portland – the Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice (IMIrJ) – and reached out. Even though they were overwhelmed by many such requests, they reached back to us. Once a month, staff members from IMIrJ drove down to meet with representatives from several congregations to help us organize in our community and join in statewide efforts. Since IMIrJ staff was willing to come this far, it seemed only fitting that we would commit to attending all the meetings, which we did. UUCS was more fully and regularly represented at these gatherings than any other church or congregation in our community.

During these meetings I quickly came to appreciate the staff members from IMIrJ. They are compassionate, spiritually grounded folks who are sincerely engaged in promoting immigrant and refugee justice, not to mention that they are smart, strategic and effective in that work. Perhaps I should say instead “we do” because our congregation is now part of the statewide IMIrJ community that is forming to advocate for immigrants and refugees who face such hardship, injustice, fear and distress.

Simply put, this is the work of love writ large. In our personal lives we have many opportunities to be compassionate and loving and this makes a difference. However, in our larger world something more is needed than our individual goodwill and actions. In the face of our government's unconscionable treatment of immigrants and refugees there is a dire need for organized, spiritually grounded action to effectively challenge and counter this injustice.

IMIrJ draws people from various faiths; yet the heart of all these faiths acknowledges the sacred worth of every person and our common call to protect those who are most vulnerable and at risk. During the relatively short period of time I've been involved with IMIrJ I have come to cherish the interfaith relationships that I have formed with Jews, Christians, and Moslems, as well as folks from the immigrant community. Then, too, it has been very heartening to see how our strategic efforts really do bear fruit in more ways than space allows me to share here. Suffice it to say here that IMIrJ helps us discover how to make a difference.

Last month I was invited to gather with members of IMIrJ at our first meeting (“encuentro”), and it was an enriching experience that will provide me with new opportunities to be more involved in this work.

My primary reason for telling you about my involvement with IMIrJ is that I do this on behalf of our congregation. Your support of my ministry enables me to advocate for our cherished values in a larger arena with others who share our values and are skilled in doing this work. Please know that your ongoing support is making a positive difference for many.

~Love, Rick

Splinters from the Board

At the November Board meeting, the Board formally acknowledged Christine Ertl as the new UUCS Board Chair, Benjahmin Boschee having stepped down in October. This leaves the Vice Chair position open. If anyone is interested in filling this position or being active in the Board or on Teams Council in the future, they should get in touch with the Nominating Committee. This includes the need for a Team Council chair.

Team leaders for the Social Justice Team have stepped down to focus on other interests for now. Board members John Prohodsky and Jack Tally have stepped in to serve as co-chairs in the interim. The Social Justice Team needs a new chair or co-chairs. If you are interested, please contact them. Because one of the team leaders was serving as a liaison to PFLAG, which meets in the building and was hosted by the Social Justice Team, a new liaison is needed in order for PFLAG (described in the Calendar, December 9) to be able to continue meeting at UUCS. If interested, please contact John or Jack.

Donations of items to UUCS need to be approved by the Board. The board gratefully accepted the donation of Aimee Larson-Amends' piano.

It has been brought to the attention of the staff and Board that neighbors of the congregation are concerned about our overflow parking lot being used for dumping and other activities and would like to see that lot be more secure. The Facilities Committee and UUCS staff have been asked to explore this further and come up with suggestions of how to address this issue.

~Submitted by Christine Ertl

Help Needed and Appreciated!

Help Homeless Families Jan 19-25

UUCS will be hosting homeless families January 19-25 through Family Promise. Volunteers are encouraged to sign up during the fellowship hours after services starting December 22 or online by clicking the Volunteer for Family Promise button.

It takes about 50 volunteers to set up for the week, prepare and serve dinner, entertain our guests in the evenings, stay overnight with them, and help pack up once the week is over. Your time commitment can be just a few hours or overnight, whatever fits your schedule. We thank you in advance for your participation. Every little bit helps. See the [Family Promise website](#) for more information about activities in support of this worthy cause.

~Submitted by Sara Shatto

Thanks for a Successful Pie Day

We had another successful Pie Day Fundraiser this year. On November 22 and 23, we made over 180 pies and 15 gluten free pies. And, we sold every single one of them! Pie Making would not be possible without the generous donations of time and fruit throughout the summer and fall.

Many thanks to everyone who helped, but particularly Tracy Boyle, Vicki Cunningham, Susan Farris-Gosser, Mako Hayashi-Mayfield, Deborah Emeny, Joel Woodman and about 20 others who picked/froze fruit, made pie dough and/or worked long hours on pie making days. Thanks to everyone who helped and to all of our pie buyers. We appreciate your support. The room is already reserved for next year!

~Submitted by Sharon Pierson



Social Justice News

Thanks to all who helped with the Cordon Road Clean Up on November 2. Sarah Rohrs, Elsa Struble, Joan Stembridge, Ingrid Stromberg, Wayne Harris, Phil Carver and Michael Pollard collected 13 bags of garbage and 2 large piles of debris.

Kathy Randall will continue to have a table set up in the Fellowship Hall after Sunday services to register new voters and explain the voter registration process to all who are interested. Thank you, Kathy!

The Healing Garden in the Oregon State Penitentiary held its grand opening on November 6. The Social Justice Team sponsored "*Making Music-Making Peace*", the August 2018 benefit fundraiser for the Healing Garden,.

On November 9, a group of 70 people, including a few Social Justice team members, showed up to exercise their right of free speech by voicing their objections to Mike Huckabee's speech at the Salem Convention Center. Mr. Huckabee was speaking at a private fund raiser for the anti-worker Freedom Foundation and he is known for his flagrant anti-LGBTQ views.

Seven people attended the Social Justice monthly meeting on November 10. The Nominating Committee will be contacted to seek two people to be co-chairs, with the understanding that Cecilia's Craig's position will be available to her when she is able to return.

Nine people attended the November 11 PFLAG meeting held at UUCS.

On November 12, approximately 250 people, including Michael Pollard, attended the DACA rally at the Salem State Capitol building in support of the DACA program. The Supreme Court's final decision may not be known until 2020.

The Social Justice Team has been actively supporting the *ICE Out of Our Courthouses Campaign* since early summer. On November 14, Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice (IMIrJ) notified its partner organizations that Chief Justice Martha Walters issued a ruling making Oregon the third state in the country to prohibit ICE arrests in and around courthouses without a warrant.

Sarah Rohrs and Michael Pollard attended the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) program "Coming to the Table: Healing the Wounds of Racism" on November 23. The program featured Tom DeWolf, executive director of "Coming to the Table", an organization that started at Eastern Mennonite University to bring the descendants of enslaved persons and the descendants of people who owned slaves into dialogue. Seventeen people attended the program. You may learn more by visiting the [Coming to the Table website](#).

All are welcome to attend the IMIrJ fall gathering at Salem Mennonite Church on December 5 from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm.

The Share the Plate recipient for October, (IMIrJ) received \$499.54. Also in October, UUCS donated 174 lbs. of food and supplies to the Marion/Polk Food Share.

Thank you to my friends and teammates on the Social Justice Team. I am grateful to have known you. I will truly miss you and the time we spent working together.

With peace, hope, and love to all,

~Patrice Pollard

Salem Speaks Up December 10

The 27th annual Salem Speaks Up! will be held Tuesday, December 10, at 7:00 pm at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 790 Marion St. NE. Doors open at 6:30, with time for people to look at displays by groups supporting the event. The date commemorates the 71st anniversary of the UN declaration of human rights. There will a brief remembrance of Rose Lewis, the founder and guiding light of Salem Speaks Up. A presentation by refugees new to Salem will follow, and there will be open microphone time for community members to speak about local human rights concerns.

Voter Registration

Kathy Randall will be in the Fellowship Hall on Sundays after services to explain the voter registration process. If you need to register or would like to learn how to register other new voters, check with Kathy.

[Find the UUCS Social Justice Page on Facebook](#)

Habitat and Hope Village Progress Report

Board members of Habitat and Hope Village (H&HV) made a presentation at the UUCS November 10 Sunday service. Habitat and Hope appreciates the interest our Congregation members showed in the project.

Last week H&HV submitted its application to the IRS for tax-exempt status. The IRS can take 3 to 18 months to approve. Meanwhile, H&HV is grateful to UUCS for the status of an Affiliated Ministry, under which UUCS can accept contributions to H&HV using UUCS's tax-exempt status (yes, that's a hint!).

Habitat and Hope is working toward a campaign to raise serious funds – or pledges – for construction of our “farmhouse” as well as exploring sources of operating funds. At the same time, H&HV is working toward determination by Marion County that the plans for the site – water, septic system, structure design – are viable. Toward that end, H&HV will ask the UUCS Board for a letter of intent, that will give H&HV status to work with the County.

H&HV welcomes interest from the Congregation; its meetings are open to UUCS members; see the calendar of events to see meeting times. Or contact Paul Wilson, the H&HV president, at sunspot461@outlook.com or 503-999-3090 to participate. Our next meeting is Thursday, December 5, at 12:30 p.m.

Calendar

Membership Team Meeting

Tuesday, December 3, 6:00 pm

Danza Azteca

Tuesday, December 3, 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.

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

Thursdays, December 5, 12, 19; January 9, 6:30pm

Habitat and Hope Meeting

Thursday, December 5, 12:30 pm

Homeless Coalition partnership with other Interfaith groups

Finance Team Meeting

Friday, December 6, 10:30 am

Microfinance Committee Meeting

Friday, December 6, 11:00 am

Dances of Universal Peace

Friday, December 6, 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.

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.

Life Lines Lay Ministry Meeting

Saturday, December 7, 9:30 am

Bazaar Set Up & Delivery of Donations

Saturday, December 7, 10 am - 2 pm

Danza Azteca

Saturday, December 7, 5:00 pm

See December 3.

Women's Alliance Bazaar

Sunday, December 8, 11:30 am

Compassionate Connection

Sunday, December 8, 11:30 am

Please join us, following the 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.

Team Council Meeting

Sunday, December 8, 12:30 pm

Board Meeting

Monday, December 9, 5:30 pm

PFLAG Meeting

Monday, December 9, 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.

Landscape Team Meeting

Tuesday, December 10, 10:00 am

Facilities Team Meeting

Tuesday, December 10, 6:00 pm

ArtWorks Team Meeting

Friday, December 13, 10:00 am

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

Landscape Work Party

Saturday, December 14, 9:00 am

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

Men's Group Meeting

Sunday, December 15, 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, December 15, 12:15 pm

Social Justice Team Meeting

Sunday, December 15, 12:30 pm

The monthly SJT meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Worship Team Meeting

Monday, December 16, 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 wish to present, please email worshipteam@uusalem.org.

Committee on Ministry Meeting

Tuesday, December 17, 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, email rdavis@uuma.org.

Danza Azteca

Tuesday, December 17, 6:30 pm

See December 3.

Women's Alliance Meeting

Tuesday, December 17, 6:00 pm

Decorating the Building. See article.

Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday, December 18, 5:30 pm

Music Team Meeting

Thursday, December 19, 5:00 pm

Dances of Universal Peace

Thursday, December 19, 7:00 pm

See December 6.

Finance Team Meeting

Friday, December 20, 10:30 am

sCUUPS: Winter Solstice Ritual

Saturday, Dec. 21, 6:00 pm – Sunday, Dec. 22, 6:00 am

Safer Congregation Committee Meeting

Tuesday, December 24, 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, email rdavis@uuma.org.

Christmas Eve Service

Tuesday, December 24, 7:00 pm

ArtWorks Art Making

Friday, December 27, 10:00 am

Hello, Farewell and Hello, Community Celebration

Sunday, December 29, 10:30 am

See Services page.

Communications Team Meeting

Monday, December 30, 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, December 30, 5:30 pm

Danza Azteca

Tuesday, December 31, 6:30 pm

See December 3.

Dances of Universal Peace

Friday, January 3, 7:00 pm

See December 6.

Life Lines Lay Ministry Meeting

Saturday, January 4, 9:30 am

Worship Services and Religious Exploration

December Share the Plate Recipient: [Congregations Helping People](#)

Service Time: 10:30 am

Sunday, December 8

The Rev. Richard R. Davis and Dr. GwenEllyn Anderson
"Consider Our Children"

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

What is it like to be a child or young person today? What struggles and sorrows do they face? What makes them truly happy? I wonder if there are some lessons for us to learn about what actually does and does not help young people.

Sunday, December 15

Tim Buckley

"Reflections on Non-Violent Communication "

Celebrant: Sara Pickett; **Anchor:** Becky Harrison
Music: Guy Hallman

It's not only important that we communicate, but how we communicate with one another. There are skillful ways to do this that get much better results. Tim Buckley, writer, social activist and community organizer has refined his understanding and skills in "Nonviolent Communication" and has much wisdom to share.

Sunday, December 22

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

"What is a Gift?"

Celebrant: Sara Pickett; **Anchor:** Geoff Hutchinson
Music: UUCS Choir

It is a season for gift giving, so it's good to pause and look more deeply into this matter. What is a gift? What isn't? What significance does this have for us?

Tuesday, December 24

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

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

Join us, one and all, for our Candlelight Christmas Eve service so we can be together on this high and holy night and consider the vast landscape of our lives.

Sunday, December 29

Sara Pickett and Janet Stevens

"Hello, Farewell and Hello - Celebrating Community"

Join in the saying farewell to the old year and rejoicing for the new year. A celebrating community brunch potluck and ritual will be held in the fellowship hall. Bring a tasty dish and yourselves. All ages are welcome; no childcare will be provided. Hope to see you there!

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.

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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, **January 3, 2020.**

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