



The Chalice and the Flame

Diverse people. Diverse beliefs. One community.

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

January 2021

HHV Informational Presentations Each Wednesday in January

Habitat and Hope Village, (HHV) invites all members and friends of UUCS to take part in on-line Zoom Informational Meetings taking place each Wednesday evening in January—6, 13, 20 and 27—beginning at 6:30 pm. During the meetings, you will learn about HHV plans to construct and operate a new transitional housing facility on UUCS property. [Click Here to Join Meeting](#) These meetings are intended to help inform the congregation concerning the issue to be decided at the **February 7 special congregational meeting**. See the article on Page 4 for details.

The program will assure that only low needs adult female clients will occupy the facility. In order to join and remain in the program, they will have to be actively working to overcome individual barriers to traditional housing.

While not capable of solving the entire Marion County homelessness crisis, this program is designed to help stop what Jimmy Jones, head of MWVCAA calls “the slow slide to street homelessness” for clients who qualify.

An affirmative vote by the congregation is expected to be the culmination of nearly three years of research and planning, and the beginning of a county-wide fundraising effort. More importantly, it will put UUCS among a growing number of faith-based organizations actively coming to the aid of our roughly 1800 homeless neighbors.

For more information check the [website here](#) or email habitatandhopevillage@gmail.com.

Attend Live-streamed Concert January 9

On January 9 at 3 pm PST, tune in to the [live-streamed event](#) to hear Dr. Kit. Abrahamson perform solo cello music written in the last year. The concert is a benefit for the UUCS Music Fund. During the concert, make an online donation on the [UUCS Donation Page](#). In the PayPal window, select "Other" as the reason. Then, on the next screen, enter "Music Fund" in the note field. [Click here to watch at 3 pm January 9](#). If you do not have the newsletter handy, you can find the link on the front of our website in a [Hot Topic](#).

Family Promise Needs Your Help January 17 – 23

Family Promise of the Mid-Willamette Valley, originally the Salem Interfaith Hospitality Network, is a consortium of 35 local churches that assists homeless families in the greater Salem community by providing food and shelter. Hosting rotates weekly among 17 host congregations in the network, with support congregations assisting.

Family Promise helps empower families to help themselves by offering rent subsidies, household donations and life skills classes for up to seven months while they work toward finding their own homes. These services are especially important during the pandemic and the aftermath of the recent fires. Because of these issues, Family Promise has found resources to help more families. While families are no longer staying with host congregations, hosts still provide meals and groceries during their host week.

UUCS is scheduled to host four times in 2021. Our first week will begin January 17. Additional weeks begin April 4, August 22, and December 5. Until the church can host the families, we will need to provide meals on Sunday, Thursday, and Saturday for up to 20 people. The meals are delivered to two places. The UUCS Family Promise Team is ready and able to assist you with cooking and meal delivery. It is also possible for several volunteers to work on one meal. The more volunteers we have, the lighter the load for each person. [Click here](#) to volunteer and check the [Family Promise website](#) for more information.

Join in on an Inauguration Day Fellowship Gathering January 20

Come join us via Zoom at 7:00 pm on January 20, 2021 to connect and support one another as the new year and new events emerge, including a new administration in our government. Come share your thoughts, hopes and dreams as we enter this new era with grace and healing for all. We will have a Chalice lighting, a check-in, thoughts from Rev. Rick Davis, short discussion and then end our time together with a positive word for the upcoming year. We hope to see you there. [Click here to join the gathering!](#)



Reverential Ramblings

~ Rev. Richard Davis, UUCS's minister

I'm here alone at UUCS on a beautiful, quiet Sunday afternoon as I begin this column. Out the office window I see a giant native White Oak tree on our property, estimated to be over 150 years old—its mighty branch arms, clothed in emerald-hued moss that gleams in the slanting afternoon sunlight, are reaching up as if to praise the Sun. I cannot see but know that there are also a deep taproot and well-developed lateral roots that have sustained this majestic tree in Bateman Woods for so many years. (I'm happy to note here that White Oaks can live for up to 500 years!) What a poignant thing it is to sit in this office all alone during this pandemic—this empty place is so full of memories. I feel a mixture of grief and gratitude, grief for the irretrievable times together we have lost during the past year and gratitude for the times we have had and will have in the future.

When we gather in person again this coming year (I'm hopeful that we will) we'll have a renewed appreciation for the great value of our relationships and will be inspired to create new ones. I believe we will. It's fairly simple—when older people are asked what was most important in their lives, the answer is always the same—it's relationships. Even as I cherish solitude, I also cherish being with loved ones and friends and am profoundly grateful to share my precious life with you, the members and friends of UUCS.

As our congregation continues to serve this great life-affirming purpose, helping one another find meaningful connections for friendship and spiritual support and finding meaningful ways to bless our surrounding community, then one day we will prove to be like the mighty White Oak that has taken deep root and risen to such majestic heights. At present, we are a promising 71-year-old tree putting down deeper roots while our branches reach a bit higher and higher through the years. May it continue to grow and thrive.

God forbid that it suffer the fate that the 30-foot tall cedar tree in my backyard nearly met. It sits right outside the window next to the cubby hole home office. I subconsciously noted that the needles seemed to be turning brown. It took Gordana to point out that some invasive English ivy had wound its way around the trunk and climbed about 20 feet upward and was killing the tree. I absorbed this information. Some time elapsed. I looked out at the brown needles and felt bad. A bit more time elapsed. Finally, the trip from the head to the heart was complete and I pulled out the ladder and have been very successfully removing the English Ivy that was choking this tree. I can almost hear the freed limbs breathing huge sighs of relief as the cool air now wafts through and the sunlight falls onto places long hidden in dank darkness. It's good work to save a tree.

And good work to save yourself. Periodically in my life I have recognized when certain invasive things had wound themselves around me: bad attitudes, bad habits, fear, anger, anxiety. It happens. The light of love and the fresh air of hope are choked off. Hopefully, you notice this and realize that there are ways to disentangle yourself—to let go.

May this coming year be one in which we can let go of those things that choke off life so that we might grow to our full potential, individually and collectively.

When you return to UUCS, go out and pay homage to this White Oak. May it remind us of who we are called to be.

Love,
Rick



Lifespan Religious Education

There was a time in my life when I was more outspoken about my beliefs, philosophies and religious convictions. I say that with some jest, because it's kind of a growing sentiment in our current moment—many people are suddenly beginning to feel afraid to speak “their truth” for fear of being ridiculed, lit-into, and attacked, as well as the loss of friendship, livelihood, and joy that accompanies this confrontation in our current climate of Cancel Culture.

Nevertheless, there was a time when I was more outspoken. During this time, I remember being confronted by my cousin on the subject of the Dharma. As in many of your families, I imagine, there are large portions of my family that are convinced that, because I am not a traditional Christian, I am a lost sheep. I am not sure what aspect of my salvation was on the table in this particular confrontation, but my cousin gave me a little plaque after it was over. I still have it up in my room, because I love my cousin, but more because the words and the sentiment are true. The plaque says, “And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”

This is a message that is easily accepted. Whatever ideas, thoughts, concepts, beliefs, words we have to get at this—when it comes to Upaya, the skillful means that help to bring an end to the suffering we face as part of this human experience—the greatest of these is love.

Perhaps Ziggy Marley said it in a way that was more accessible when he sang, “Love is My Religion”, but the message is the same—there's something about this human experience that we just can't get at from the mind—we must reach out for it with our hearts.

The great Sufi mystic Avicenna taught there are two windows in the heart—reason and imagination. In a similar vein, the Buddhists teach that enlightenment flies on two wings—wisdom and compassion. And in the combination of these two illustrations, we are able to realize that it is by way of looking through the “window of imagination” that we develop the skillful means of compassion and love without labels, contextualizations or reason. In other words, it is by way of imagination that we tap into love that is unconditioned/unconditional.

The learning theme in the Soul Matters curriculum for January is Imagination. The various lessons this month focus on using our imagination to envision a New Year, a “new us,” and a “new world.” When we approach faith development and religious education from the angle of imagination, we have a better than average chance at learning to tap into a source of vitality, power and resonance that can offer healing to our hurting world by transcending labels, preconceived beliefs, and the rigidity that cuts people off, damages relationships, and leaves people who were once our friends out in the cold. By way of imagination, we find ourselves freed to love.

I look forward to exploring these lessons in the various RE meeting times in January, for I feel, given the growing climate of fear, to share and shine our authentic heart-light, that the timing couldn't be better.

By way of imagination, may we be given pause, and turn to remember that we value the freedom to share and to shine, and how it feels so much more empowering to appreciate and see the good, than to condemn and close-off by way of reasonable judgment.

It takes all “colors,” and all of the “notes” to make “the beauty of the world.” For how are we to paint a vista-point landscape or compose a Beethoven-beautiful melody with less than every voice, color or note?

Continued on Page 5

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.

Congregational Meeting on Habitat & Hope Project

The UUCS Board is calling a Special Congregational Meeting to vote on a resolution to enter into a land use agreement with Habitat and Hope Village (HHV.) This meeting is scheduled for **February 7 at noon**. Watch for future emails regarding this meeting. [Read the full resolution.](#)

UUCS is being asked to consider focusing our energy and resources on providing a portion of its property to HHV to build a house for five high-functioning women having access to an independent means of transportation (not necessarily owning a car). A congregational vote on this issue is required because the proposed land use agreement would encumber UUCS and UUCS by-laws provide that a "special meeting shall be held for any congregational vote on the encumbrance, sale or transfer of any real property of the Congregation."

The UUCS Board of Directors has been working for over two years with the Habitat and Hope Village (HHV) board of directors on their vision of reducing the crisis of homelessness in Salem. HHV is asking to negotiate a land use agreement with UUCS for the purpose of allowing HHV to use part of UUCS land to construct a transitional housing facility. Over this time, the Board has reviewed HHV plans, and has asked for and received clarifying information. The focus of these exchanges has been to ascertain what is the best way for UUCS to effectively use its energy and resources to reduce the problem of homelessness in our community.

The Board recognizes that HHV is deeply concerned about the problem of homelessness and has worked for years looking for ways to improve the lives of those living so precariously. We owe these members a debt of gratitude for their efforts and their commitment in bringing this issue before the congregation now.

The Board notes three very important facts related to the HHV request: 1. HHV is not proposing that UUCS be a partner in the operation of its housing program. HHV is simply requesting that UUCS allow HHV to use a part of UUCS property for the program. 2. HHV plans to raise the funds for construction and operations through donations and grants to HHV. Operation and oversight of the housing program will rest solely with HHV. 3. The responsibility of UUCS and its Board of Directors is to ensure that the negotiated Land Use Agreement clearly defines the legal responsibilities and liabilities of HHV in the operation of their program on UUCS land.

Concerns about this proposal have been expressed by multiple members of the UUCS congregation and several board members. A few of the concerns raised about use of such a building on UUCS property are the following:

- The women would be expected to get themselves into town for grocery shopping, counseling, health care, and job search/employment. Since there is no public transportation servicing the UUCS site, what would happen if the HHV client's car broke down? Not having public transportation available is a glaring concern.
- If and when the HHV transitional housing project ends, HHV intends to give this "farmhouse" to UUCS. There is concern that this would be a liability rather than an asset for the congregation.
- The HHV housing program will have no on-site supervision of the HHV clients. The clients will be responsible for making sure the farmhouse and UUCS property are well managed and maintained.
- As owner of the land under the farmhouse, UUCS could be held liable for any injury or accident at the farmhouse. The lack of on-site supervision raises this concern.

Other concerns unrelated to UUCS liability include:

- The Oregon Statewide Shelter Study recommends Salem focus first on emergency shelter rather than transitional shelter.
- Best practice advises permanent housing with Rapid Rehousing assistance.
- UUCS and HHV could easily partner with existing homeless projects, rather than create a new program.

Letters addressing these and other issues concerning can be found on the website on the [In My Opinion page](#).

Over the many months of considering HHV's proposal, the Board determined that the operation of the housing program rests solely with HHV. The Board's role in negotiating a land use agreement is to ensure that the agreement spells out all of the land use issues involved in placing this encumbrance on UUCS. Many of these issues are listed in an addendum to the resolution to be voted on by the UUCS congregation on February 7.

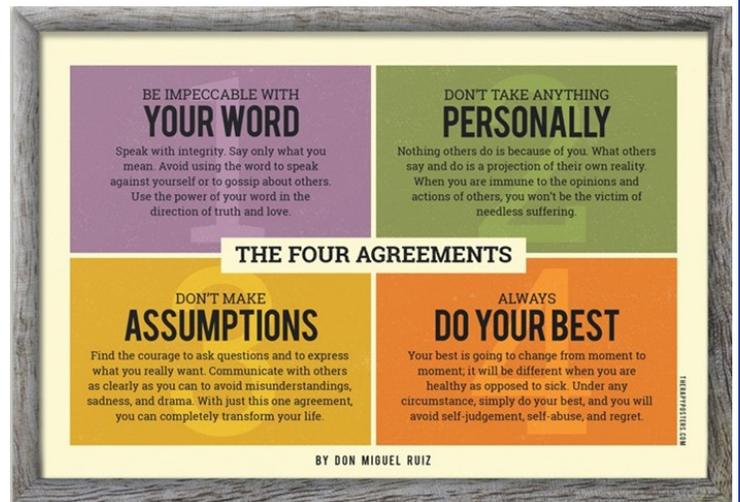
The Board encourages you to learn and understand both sides of this proposed resolution. Read the resolution and the addendum and attend an information session on Wednesday evenings in January. Submit your questions or comments to either Christine Ertl, UUCS Board Chair, boardchair@uusalem.org or Paul Wilson, HHV Board Chair, habitatandhopevillage@gmail.com.

~Submitted by Christine Ertl, UUCS Board Chair

~Message from Lily Walker, continued from Page 3

In closing, as I contemplate the dawning of a New Year—a year that feels “new”—novel, in fact—in so many ways—and the task of leading a program of faith development and religious education built to serve all ages and stages of development, perhaps the most helpful New Year’s Resolutions I can share with you as we enter into 2021 together are The Four Agreements suggested by Don Miguel Ruiz. Maybe you will also find in them something helpful to the task of meeting the challenges we all face, both personally and collectively, as we step out into this “new normal” New Year.

Bright Blessings, Well-Wishes, and May Happiness be Yours in 2021,
Lily Walker



Happenings and Highlights

Fellowship Time via Zoom

If you're really missing coffee hour after the service, sign up to join Fellowship Time via Zoom. The meeting will last about 30 minutes. You'll begin together and then be put into small "break-out rooms" for discussion. Bring your coffee and [click to join!](#)

Sign Up to Make a Prayer Flag Soon

Sign up to make your own contribution to the UUCS Prayer Flags for Our Hopes and Dreams Project! Sign up for a time to make your flag in the sanctuary from Saturday, December 19 through Saturday, February 6. The Sanctuary will be open by appointment only on Saturday, Sunday and Wednesday evenings for members and friends to visit in safe groups while participating in the UUCS Prayer Flags for Our Hopes and Dreams project.

[Click here to schedule your appointment](#)

Everyone is encouraged to participate in the UUCS Prayer Flags for Our Hopes and Dreams Project! If you are not comfortable visiting the sanctuary at this time, we are happy to mail a blank prayer flag canvas and instructions to your home! You may create your flag at home and return to the church by February 6, 2021. Email Lily Walker at dlre@uusalem.org to make arrangements.

The UUCS Prayer Flags for Our Hopes and Dreams will be hung in the sanctuary on February 13, and be featured in the February 14 pledge drive sermon, and February 20 pledge drive event.

Take some time to meditate upon Hopes and Dreams for yourself and our congregation for the upcoming year. Consider arriving at your appointment or starting your flag at home with an image, theme, guiding metaphor or quote in mind. Doing so will make the creative process much easier!

For those making their flags in the sanctuary, note these details:

Appointments will be monitored by an employee of the church and staged with a one-hour break between visitors to allow time for the area to be sanitized, and the HVAC system to recirculate the air in the Sanctuary between groups. Masks are required, and a temperature check will be conducted before participants are allowed access to the Sanctuary.

Prayer Flag canvasses, fabric paint, fabric markers, and a variety of stencils will be available in the sanctuary for community use.

If you experience cold or flu like symptoms within a 72-hour window of your appointment, contact Lily Walker at dlre@uusalem.org to reschedule.

Invitation to Join the UUCS List Electronic Bulletin Board

We are in the midst of revitalizing the UUCSLIST into an "Electronic Bulletin Board." We are offering signups to members and friends of the UUCS community. [Fill out this form to join.](#)

We envision the UUCSLIST as our electronic bulletin board, especially now that we have limited access to our building at Center Street & Cordon Road. You can use this new email group to post such notices as: rooms for rent, rides to share or needed, a friend needing a place to stay, upcoming poetry readings, concerts, relevant community events, your new book --- all those things that might go on a community bulletin board. But without any colorful Post-It notes!

~Gary Klein, UUCSLIST Moderator

News of the Community

We hope everyone had a heartwarming Christmas. Separated from other family members by virus restrictions, this wasn't quite the Christmas we wanted, but we were able to connect with our families by Zoom or phone. I marvel at the courage of our ancestors—those who left their families in their homelands for a new life in America knowing that they would never see them again and others who did similar leave-takings before migrations to Oregon or other places! Many had no further contact even by letter.

The "Joys and Concerns" posts this month have been mostly concerns. Our former member **Quentin Smith** writes that his wife **Barbara** died from multiple myeloma in early December. **Denise Connor** asks for positive thoughts for **Charlotte**, in stage five liver disease after catching Covid, and **Vicki**, who is recovering at home from Covid. We note sadly the passing of **Terry Canning-Stelzer**, daughter of **Donna Canning** and sister of **Elizabeth. Ann Hanus'** 95-year-old mother has been hospitalized in Cleveland with Covid. But a happier event: **Megan Roller** celebrated the one-year anniversary of her marriage to Chris, at which Rev. Rick officiated.

Steve Rosen has been researching, teaching, and using a variety of wellness "tools" for many years. He was given an "assignment" by his daughter Kate to share those ideas through "Helpful Stories." Here's a story that demonstrates two of the tools: the Goal Alternative System and Positive Reappraisal.

"March, 2020, Covid struck. The gyms shut down. My opportunity to swim was interrupted. Using the Goal Alternative System (GAS!) I thought about the underlying goal of swimming: to get good exercise! My alternative has been to increase my walking and to use my rowing machine. And with "positive reappraisal" (the silver lining) I can listen to music and podcasts!"

Eric Schuman says he's thrilled with the results of bilateral cataract surgery he had last month. Eric's certified therapy dogs, Riki and Sophie, have been unemployed since March but remain hopeful they can resume volunteering at Oregon State Hospital later this year when it's safe. Eric and his golden retrievers also provide comfort for clients of Willamette Valley Hospice. Eric told the Men's Group how his and Sophie's first visit to the Oregon State Hospital had been life-changing *for him*.

And some of you may not know that **George Piter** does similar missions with his therapy cats.

I am happy to report that **Janet Neuburg** is continuing her recovery from her accident. Some aspects will take twelve months, but she is doing normal activities again.

We were pleased to see **Rick's son Zachary** at our candle-light walk on Christmas Eve. He was here until just after Christmas and is now back in Jersey City. Rick wrote me:

"The pandemic has been hard on musicians. Last year the Curtis Institute of Music chose his string quartet to premier in Hong Kong at a joint program Curtis has with the Hong Kong Institute of Technology; this got cancelled, as well as a few other things he was working on. Hopefully that string quartet will still be played later. But, in the meantime, Zach has just finished recording his second string quartet and it's being edited now. He's able to teach some online and stays busy composing and private teaching (music theory and composition). He has a few other irons in the fire and stays busy, but he's tired of Zoom meetings and can't wait to get back to meeting in person."

I invite you all to tell me about things in your life that could be of interest to other congregation members; for instance, you may have found an Alternative Goal! Also, tell me about things you know about others who might not think to tell me themselves. I'm usually one of the last to know of developments, so I need your help!

~George Struble

Thanks from the Staff

The UUCS staff wanted to start the New Year by letting you know how grateful we are to be a part of UUCS. Thanks, everyone, for being so incredibly wonderful. This has been a strange and challenging year for all and each moment has been filled with kindness, encouragement and graciousness from everyone. We also wanted to make special thanks for the kind, generous and beautiful gift so many teams and individuals contributed to. I know I was stunned beyond words and can't begin to express how grateful I am. I know each one of us were deeply touched by your gift. Thank you all.

~ Emma Kreger on behalf of Lily Walker, Laura Christian, Kit Abrahamson, Jo Sweeny, Megan Roller & Roger McInnis and herself

Social Justice News

Poverty has been in the background and occasionally is discussed when food insecurity, homelessness, or welfare is mentioned. The extent of poverty was brought home by the article "[Operation Santa is a Horror Story About American Poverty](#)." The article describes letters to Santa that the Post Office received through its [Operation Santa Claus](#). A few of the letters:

"Santa, I hope you can bring me a remote-control car if it isn't the matter get me a cool one please. Because my family can't afford it because we need food, and we need to pay bills. Sorry I did with pen please forgive me."

"Dear Santa, I want one thing. (sic) I been a good girl and I want to ask you if you please get me a power wheelchair. My wheelchair is very old, and it does not want to work. I am very sad. Please Santa, bring me a power wheelchair. I don't want nothing else."

"Dear Santa, how are you and your reindeer? It must be cool riding a sled in the sky.... this year for Christmas I would really like a couch that is also a bed. The reason I would like a couch with a bed is because I have a[n] apartment that only has one room. My parents sleep in the living room on the couch and they always wake up with back pain. My dad works a lot, so his back pain stresses him out."

Not all kids who write to Santa live in poverty. A lot of the letters to Santa asked for PlayStations and cell phones.

The article piqued my curiosity about poverty in America and I found the most recent information on global poverty rates on the OECD website. Of the countries listed only two, Hungary and Costa Rica, have a higher rate of total poverty than the United States. The United States has a total poverty rate of 17.8%, Mexico 16.6% and Canada 11.9%.

For those 17 and under, the average poverty rates are 21.2% in the United States, 19.8% in Mexico and 11.8% in Canada. From 18 to 65, the poverty rates are 15.4% in the United States, 13.8% in Mexico and 11.8% in Canada. Finally, the poverty rates for those 65 and older are 23.1% in the United States, 24.7% in Mexico and 11.9% in Canada. Imagine what the poverty rate for senior citizens would be if we didn't have Social Security.

Many years ago, Eleanor Miller, who worked in Marion County's poverty program, told me a story of a child who asked her for a blanket. Eleanor, remembering that the child had been given a blanket, asked what happened to it. The child replied that she slept on the blanket and wanted another one to keep her warm.

Some consider that addressing poverty does not address a social injustice but is only a social service—that we could eliminate all injustices and still have poverty and the problems caused by poverty. Stresses caused by poverty often result in children experiencing one or more [adverse childhood experiences](#) (ACEs). The more ACEs a child experiences the more likely the child will experience trauma that changes the physical structure of the brain. The CDC says "ACEs have a tremendous impact on future violence victimization and perpetration, and lifelong health and opportunity. Working together, we can help create neighborhoods, communities, and a world in which every child can thrive."

If experiences in childhood can traumatize a child, what about experiences later in life caused by social injustices? If the violence of war can cause PTSD, an adult trauma, I am guessing that violence caused by social injustices can also traumatize those experiencing that violence.

It could be that social injustices contribute to becoming impoverished. What do you think?

~Submitted by John Prohodsky and Jack Tally

Help Needed and Appreciated!

Communications Searching for a Good Rookie

Do you install new apps and brave through figuring them out? Congratulations! You might be just the right person to help us out with some critical, but repetitive tasks related to sharing information about our services and Zoom links for meetings. The time commitment is a few minutes a week, maybe 2 hours a month. We will train and support you with any questions you have. Email us: communications@uusalem.org.

Membership Team Seeking Your Opinion

The Membership Team of UUCS needs input about the interest level for our Building Sacred Ground program.

Building Sacred Ground is a 4-week experiential group. It occurs from 12-2 pm on 4 consecutive Sundays. The series covers the historical and theological roots of Unitarian Universalism, involves the participants personally through the sharing of their spiritual journeys and provides guidance on how to get involved in the life of the congregation. For those who are new to the community, the group can help them decide if this congregation is the right fit for them. If it is, there will be an opportunity to sign the Membership Book at the end of the last session. For established members, the series is a great way to refresh their personal search of truth and meaning and an opportunity to get to know new friends. All are welcome to join. The group will be facilitated by the Membership Team.

At this time the team is thinking of holding the next session of classes via Zoom in March. We need to know who is possibly interested in attending this program. Email membership@uusalem.org with any questions or to let us know that you are considering participating in this program.

Splinters from the Board

Legacy Campaign: George Struble provided an overview of the Legacy Campaign. Commitments received during this campaign included cash or stock gifts totaling \$55,123. Several members made new annual or end-of-life commitments. UUCS will recognize persons who contribute with a plaque and other recognition. There was discussion about the role of the Finance Team in overseeing endowments.

Habitat and Hope Village: The draft resolution drawn up and approved by the Board, to be voted on at a special congregational meeting, continued to be discussed. After initial rejection by HHV for being too complex, the resolution was simplified, and accepted by both the Board and HHV. See the related article on Page 4 in this newsletter or visit the [February 7 Special Congregational Meeting page](#) on our website.

Reopening Task Force: The Task Force was created when opening the building was being requested by several groups. The Task Force drew up Building Use Guidelines for 3 phases of re-opening that identifies building use requirements and sanitation. First Phase (current): Keeping the building closed to all but staff and Worship Team. Also, Kaleidoscope Community School continues to use the building, and follows guidelines required by the Oregon Department of Education. Second Phase (when metrics are lower and following Marion County and Oregon State requirements): opening the building to teams and committees, and Third Phase: opening the building for lease. These guidelines will be sent to all team and committee chairs.

Security Committee: The committee was requested in response to a heightened variety of safety and security concerns on and around the UUCS property. It is tasked with identifying risks and ways to mitigate those risks. Steve Ovens (Facilities Team), board member Janet Stevens and Congregational Administrator Emma Kreger will form the committee.

Board Action - Fire Evacuees use of the North Parking Lot: The board voted to extend the invitation to our invited guests from the fire evacuee program to stay until Jan 11, 2021 which is the end of the 120-day period allowed by Marion County zoning. There are also currently uninvited guest RVs, not registered with the Fire Evacuee program, who have been asked to vacate the lot. It was agreed it would not be charitable to make them move during the holidays, but they will be advised to vacate after the first of the year.

~Christine Ertl, Board Chair

Behind the Chalice

On the 12th Month of Sunday Services in 2020, The Sacred Mystery gave to us:

- Twelve people weekly creating services
- Eleven guest speakers (probably more)
- Ten Behind the Chalice reports
- Nine months of recorded services
- Eight lanterns lighted (during Christmas Eve walk)
- Seven prayer Flags of Hope (need more)
- Six radios received (walkie-talkies for tech)
- Five Rev. Rick puns
- Four months Zoom Fellowship Gatherings
- Three new tech people
- Two new celebrants
- And the hope of a congregation seen soon!!!!!! (like sometime in 2021)

~Sara Pickett

Worship Services

Family Service

Sunday Service

Fellowship Time

9:45 am

10:30 am

Noon

January Share the Plate Recipient: [Family Promise](#)

Sunday, January 10

Sara Pickett

"Am I My Father's Daughter?"

Celebrant: Barbara Stebbins-Boaz

Music: Kit Abrahamson and Laura Christian

We often look for spiritual guides for transformation or for mentors who will nurture and support us. But what about people closer to us, (like fathers)? How do they influence us, how much is ingrained into our DNA and how much do we have choice over their influence?

Need to talk to someone? [Join Compassionate Connections](#) at noon. (Meeting link will also be found on the front of the UUCS website with this service.)

Sunday, January 17

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

"Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Full Image"

Celebrant: Janet Stevens

Music: Kit Abrahamson and Laura Christian

Each year we remember MLK, Jr. and yet the memories that are generally celebrated only tell a partial story. Too much is left out by too many on both sides of the political spectrum. It's vital to consider the breadth and depth of Dr. King's life and ministry, for it can shed light for us today.

Sunday, January 24

The Rev. Craig Moro

"The Strange True Story of the 7th Day Unitarians of Transylvania"

Celebrant: Sara Pickett

Music: Kit Abrahamson and Laura Christian

The title says it all! Join us this Sunday morning for another story from the early days of the Unitarian movement and a time when some churches met on Sunday and others on Saturday. Remember: join us on Sunday, not Saturday!

Sunday, January 31

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

"Shelter From the Storm"

Celebrant: Janet Stevens

Music: Kit Abrahamson and Laura Christian

One week from this Sunday, February 7, we will hold a congregational meeting to vote on whether to approve leasing of a portion of our overflow parking lot so transitional housing for women in need of temporary shelter can be built. It's an important vote. Let's explore this together so we'll be prepared to vote as we find best.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation Of Salem

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Unitarian Universalist Congregation Of Salem

5090 Center St. NE, Salem, OR 97317

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Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration:

Lily Walker dlre@uusalem.org

DLRE Assistant: Open

Music Director: Laura Christian

music@uusalem.org

Pianist: Kit Abrahamson

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EVENT SCHEDULING: 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 monthly 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 29, 2021**. **This Week** submissions are due by **Wed.** noon.