



# The Chalice and the Flame

*Diverse people. Diverse beliefs. One community.*

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

April 2021

## Sanctuary Services Resume May 2, Following Guidelines

Our sanctuary is reopening! After a year of patience, adaptation and flexibility, I am happy to announce that live Sunday Services will re-commence beginning May 2. This is a joyous day for all, one we've been anxiously anticipating.

Our Re-opening Task Force has been planning since last November how to welcome congregants and friends back into our building. The group has designed three building use phases. First, we will open to our congregants for Sunday Services. Next, when Marion County risk levels fall to moderate, per Oregon Health Authority and our governor, we will open the building to our congregant members, teams and Affiliated Ministries to convene their on-site meetings. And the third phase will be opening to those folks who want to rent the facilities. Building Use Guidelines for all three phases will be posted when the building is open for that use. Today, I'm happy to post Building Use Guidelines for Sunday services!

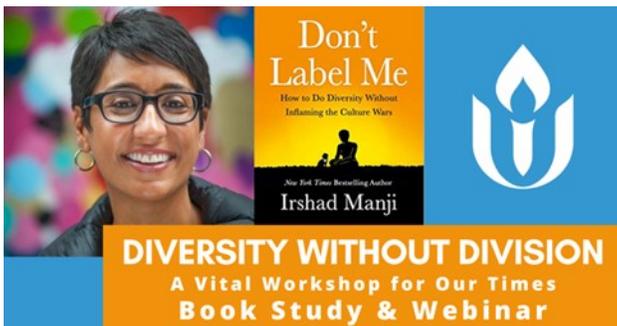
The re-opening task force realizes that the guidelines suggested below will not be adequate for all individuals; some people may feel safer worshiping from home until a later time. We will continue offering live stream online services for all who prefer that option. For the rest of the congregation, we are assuming you are willing to accept the personal risk of being together inside.

See the Building Use Guidelines for Services Beginning May 2 in this newsletter. As we begin to reopen for the first time in over a year, this plan will be continually adjusted. Thank you for your adaptability and patience.

~Christine Ertl, UUCS Board Chair representative of the Re-opening Task Force

*See Page 6 for Re-opening Building Use Guidelines*

## Diversity Without Division Workshop



Join us for a six-week directed exploration of Irshad Manji's acclaimed book *Don't Label Me: How to do Diversity Without Inflaming the Culture Wars*. (The alternate title is *Don't Label Me, An Incredible Conversation for Divided Times*.) This workshop, which is sponsored by the UU Congregation of Salem and the UU Church of Spokane, will provide opportunities to explore practices of Moral Courage that enable us to enter into authentic, life affirming dialogue with a diversity of others.

The book study discussion will be on the following Wednesdays: April 14, 21, 28; May 5, 12, 19 at 6:00 to 7:30 pm. The May 26

Webinar will be at 6:00 to 8:00 pm.

Registration is free. To [register online click here](#). Irshad Manji's book is available on Amazon or from your local bookseller. For more information see the [Spokane UU website](#).

## 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 here to join](#)! After May 2, Fellowship Time will continue, with possible changes. Stay tuned!



## Reverential Ramblings

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

In 1974 the German political scientist Elisabeth Noelle-Neumann coined the term “spirals of silence” to describe the phenomenon wherein social pressure to remain silent regarding certain matters spirals and grows to oppressive, totalitarian levels. The spiral begins when people believe that they hold a minority view (which may actually be majority opinion) do not speak up, because they are afraid that they will be criticized or even ostracized. Then, ongoing silence strengthens the perception that speaking up may have negative consequences and others who have something to say also fearfully remain silent. The more who remain silent, the harder it is to break that silence. There are times when certain views and opinions are so hurtful and offensive that it's good that social convention prevents them from being expressed, but the greater peril is that spirals of silence form around matters that do warrant honest debate, discussion and dialogue. This is absolutely essential in a democracy.

A couple of years ago I was caught in a spiral of silence at a minister's retreat. All of us were gathered in one room for a workshop that was turning into more of an indoctrination by the UU Minister's Association. When one minister gently questioned some of the ideas and practices being introduced (as a prelude to their being enforced upon all of us) she was instantly brought to heel and none of us dared further question any of this. I knew then in my heart that things in our larger religious association had taken a bad turn – one I had never even imagined could occur.

Afterwards, if someone had given us the opportunity to honestly express our opinions without fear of recourse, I am confident that quite a few others would have expressed some misgivings about what we were being told. Indeed, since that time several of my ministerial colleagues have confidentially expressed to me their fear of speaking out. As it was, this spiral of silence had been building for some time and thus the pressure to stay quiet that day was considerable.

Then, one of my good colleagues, the Reverend Todd Eklof of the UU Church in Spokane, broke the silence with his book *The Gadfly Papers: Three Inconvenient Essays By One Pesky Minister*. Todd's book asserts that illiberal and intolerant forces are taking control of our association's leadership and they quickly proved his point by condemning him and removing him from ministerial fellowship. (Todd continues to serve his supportive congregation in Spokane since in our tradition it is congregations who ordain and call ministers).

In the meantime, other UU's who share these concerns launched “The Fifth Principle Project” (I am a member) to advocate for the restoration of our fifth UU principle – use of the democratic process in our association. The Fifth Principle Project has just published a profoundly significant book that is going to rock the UU World if it gets into the hands of enough people. This book, *Used to Be UU: The Systematic Attack on UU Liberalism/ What You Need to Know/ What You Need To Do*, is very well researched and documented with historical accuracy and it provides a helpful roadmap for restoring our association. I was asked to contribute a chapter to this book because I served as Reverend Eklof's advocate and supporter in an official role I held at the time – Good Officer.

You can purchase this book online or, if you like, arrange to drop by to pick up one of ten free copies I will have available. There is much more to say, but I've run out of space. Stay tuned.

Love,  
Rick



# Lifespan Religious Education

## ~ Lily Walker, Director, Lifespan Religious Education

Someday, when I am *old and gray*—or “*old and in the way*” as bluegrass singer Carter Stanley wrote it—I will be telling my grand babies about 2020 and my experiences during the COVID pandemic.

Although I have great empathy for the profound suffering many experienced during this time, as I look back over my personal experience during 2020, my story will be one of a year of happy blessings, gratitude and joy!

That story will be one of meeting all of you, and the exciting journey of working for the Children’s RE program at UUCS. It will be a story of playing Zoom Games, watching story books on YouTube, and driving around to children’s houses to deliver colorful craft materials and toys. It will be a story of meeting everyone’s pets (even at Board Meetings!) and everyone’s children and great-grandchildren too. It will be a story of meditations and songs and science experiments—of Lynn teaching all of us the Opening and Closing Words, and of Lily and Reed Cavaletto helping us to learn the Chalice Lighting Song. It will be a story of playing Never Have I Ever, sharing art and our favorite songs with teenagers who have their cameras on! (Laughing, I love y’all even when you won’t turn your cameras on!)

In the end, the story I will tell many years from now will be of a happy adventure, where we made the best of the situation. It will be a story where although we sometimes thought it wasn’t, it actually was enough all along. It was enough because we were in it together. Thanks be to all of the children and families, church leaders and friends, who made my first year at UUCS and my story of the 2020 COVID pandemic, such a good one.

The theme for the month of April is New Beginnings. That theme feels especially appropriate as we transition from “stay home and save lives” into “safely socially-distanced in-person” services.

It’s interesting that for our final month of online RE we have the best Soul-Matters packet for online Children’s RE that I have seen come off the press. I am actually so excited about this packet that I am grateful that we will still be online for April, so we will get the chance to watch the YouTube story books the curriculum chose for us this month together.

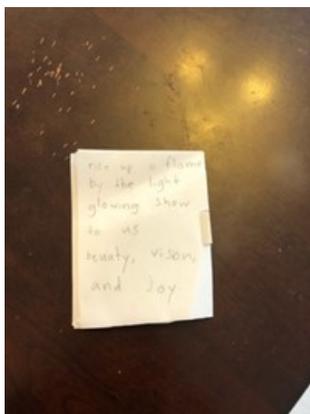
If you would like to sign up to receive craft supplies and materials to accompany our lessons in April, email Lily Walker at [dlre@uusalem.org](mailto:dlre@uusalem.org). I will be delivering the next round of crafts on Saturday, April 10.

Beginning May 2, Children’s RE will be held in person at both the 9:30 and 11:15 am services. A health check, maintaining a safe social distance, and masks will be required.

In addition, I hope to have Supervised Playground Time between services. In order for that to work though, **I am in need of volunteers**.. Volunteers between the ages of fifteen and eighteen are especially encouraged to apply. To volunteer for one, or both services, email Lily Walker at [dlre@uusalem.org](mailto:dlre@uusalem.org).

I also thank two of my students for providing artwork for the column. The artist who did the chalice lighting song piece imaged on the left would prefer to remain anonymous. Thank you, little one. I love this! (You know who you are!).

The rainbow chalice digital art was submitted by a young artist, Riley Jones, age 8. She practices both digital and traditional mediums of art and has been brave enough to share quite a few masterful pieces with us during our Sunday Zoom meetings. She is not only talented but inspired and really enjoys talking about art. It’s a joy to hear her share on the topic.



How wonderful is it that these two students, independently and without being asked, submitted artwork this month that fit together so perfectly: a rainbow chalice and a chalice lighting song.

To New Beginnings! Thanks be and may all beings be happy!

~Lily Walker DLRE — UUCS

# Happenings and Highlights

## Circle Cocktails

Looking for some conversation and connection with fellow UUsers? Come join us for the new "Circle Cocktails & Conversation" via Zoom. A chance to get to know one another, share our thoughts and visit. The hosts are listed below with the dates and times. Some suggestions for topics are listed below. The topic of discussion will be decided when you meet up. There will be 5 slots available for each group. [To sign up, fill out this form](#). Zoom links will be sent after you fill out the form.

4/16 Friday 5:00 - 6:00 pm Sara Pickett  
4/16 Friday 6:00 - 7:00 pm Margrethe Gregg  
4/16 Friday 7:00 - 8:00 pm Beth Anne Huffine  
4/17 Saturday 10:30 - 11:30 am Jessie Wilson  
4/17 Saturday 5:30 - 6:30 pm Ben Cavelletto  
4/17 Saturday 7:00 - 8:00 pm Juli Patton  
4/18 Sunday 3:00 - 4:00 pm Ed Kramer  
4/18 Sunday 4:00 - 5:00 pm Joel Woodman  
4/18 Sunday 5:30 - 6:30 pm Lynn Cardiff



## Suggested Topics:

Silver linings - what has surprised you the most about how the pandemic has affected you, and will it be a lasting change?

Pandemic-induced bingeing - what books, movies, or shows have you lost yourself in? What guilty pleasures have gotten you through this last year?

President Biden spoke of an uncivil civil war in his Inaugural Address. What is civility and why is it important? How can it be cultivated?

"Socialization amongst a pandemic" – This will be an opportunity to talk about our worries regarding how the pandemic has affected our children's social and emotional development. Along with our hopes, fears, and a positive "swing" on things.

"Coping and caring with an empty cup" - How we can offer our all when we have so little left to give and how to fill our cup when our options are limited?

Given our love of conversation, discourse and potlucks, we are hoping this provides a platform for some of these things. So, pour yourself a beverage and let's spend some time together!  
~The Connections Team

## Roger is Retiring and We Will Need To Replace Him!

Our fantastic custodian extraordinaire, Roger McInnis, is retiring this month! Roger has been with us almost 2 ½ years and those who have had the pleasure to meet him, know what a wonderful soul he is. Even if you haven't had the pleasure of meeting Roger, we have all benefited from his hard, considerate work. His efforts and attention to detail have not gone unnoticed. *Thank you, Roger, and congratulations on your retirement!*

With Roger's retirement, we find ourselves in need of a new custodian and short on applicants! If you know someone, have them email us a resume! If you have recommendations for a cleaner or cleaning service while we search for a permanent replacement, let us know! Email [admin@uusalem.org](mailto:admin@uusalem.org) or call the office at 503-364-0932 and leave us a message.  
~Submitted by Emma Kreger

# Habitat and Hope Village Report

Thank you to all who have contributed to the Habitat and Hope Village, Inc. community-wide Go Fund Me campaign for "A Women's Shelter of Hope." As of this writing we have raised approximately \$4,000 toward our goal of \$50,000. Here's a link to the campaign. Pass it along to others who are passionate about alleviating the issue of homelessness in our area.

Other outreach efforts include Paul Wilson's scheduled April 13 broadcast interview with KMUZ radio host Melanie Zermer, and an April 14 HHV board presentation of our current plans to County commissioner Danielle Bethell.

While the UUCS board and contract advisory committee are working on a draft land use agreement, the HHV board is developing a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to be negotiated with the Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency and its ARCHES housing program.

As a vital component of the program-based operation planned for the UUCS property, the MOU will provide rules for referral of clients and define functional responsibilities of both ARCHES and HHV.

[Click here for further information online.](#)

~Submitted by Paul Wilson

# News of the Community

We are grateful that with the help of our careful precautions, there have been few COVID cases among our members. More and more of us are getting our COVID vaccinations. Hooray! We don't know enough to discard all anti-virus precautions, but we can relax some of them. And look forward to getting together in a church service *in person, all of us!* And look forward to social gatherings too. Celebrations are coming! So be careful and hang in there!

We extend our sympathy to **LeRoy and Sylvia Kline**. Sylvia's brother Charles Schubert passed away recently after a long illness.

**John Chinburg** is "over the moon" happy that he has a new grandson.

**Neil and Sharon Pierson** recently became grandparents of a granddaughter, their first grandchild – in Beirut! The Piersons just returned from several weeks in California, where they escaped winter – and our ice storm! They were near San Luis Obispo, with lots of great hiking, walking the beach and enjoying the outdoors (usually in coats – it wasn't *that* warm).

**Eric Schuman and Lorne Folsom** took a trip to Pismo Beach, CA a few weeks ago. It felt good to "get out of Dodge!" Eric has been volunteering at the homeless encampment at the Fairgrounds. COVID restrictions are still keeping him and his therapy dogs from doing as much as they would like, but he has started teaching an online class on diagnosis and management of headache disorders for the Yale University School of Medicine! Lorne is doing genealogical research, including some related to France, where his family came from. And when virus restrictions lift, Eric and Lorne are hoping for a trip to Cornwall, England!

**John Maluski and Pam Ruona** have bought some property at the coast and go over there as often as they can. They enjoy good views there.

**Peggy Burton** has been participating in Buddhist retreats on Zoom. When we come out of COVID, she looks forward to her group of friends again going to the movies together on Tuesday evenings (when there's free popcorn!).

**Carol Doolittle** wrote "Recently, I was delighted to go on a waterfall hike with three other fully vaccinated friends. We were thrilled to be able to ride together in the same car for the first time in more than a year!"

**Annie Thorp** and her husband **Mike** love being volunteers at Newport's Hatfield Marine Science Center, part of Oregon State University. They helped plan and assist with the Marine Science Day open house for many years and missed volunteering there this past year. They are delighted that this year's Marine Science Day will be held—virtually, of course—on April 10, from 10:00 am- 2:00 pm. Many of the talks, tours and presentations will be available online for a year! [Click here](#) for more information.

**Annie** also wrote "After COVID we long to travel again, go camping, and see beloved family and friends! Our biggest joy, so far, was when we were able to hug our grandkids and daughter for the first time in over a year. We all had tears in our eyes!"

I invite you all to tell me about things in your life that could be of interest to other congregation members. Also, tell me about things you know about others who might not think to tell me themselves. News about newcomers as well as of "old timers" is welcome. I'm usually one of the last to know what's going on, so I need your help!

~Submitted by *George Struble*

## Help Needed and Appreciated!

### Can You Help Host During UUCS's Reopening?

UUCS is opening back up in May! An important part of every service is the friendly hosts who greet people as they enter. As we reopen our doors, this position will be even more important. For each service, we will need hosts to monitor the line of people entering, check in people who have pre-registered to attend, do a COVID site entrance survey including a temperature check and then seat people in the sanctuary. Oh, and let's not forget to greet people with a friendly welcome! This effort will require at least 5 hosts for each service with 2 services each Sunday, one at 9:30 and the other at 11:15 am. At this point, I am only looking for hosts for May and June. As the protocol will be more involved than in the past, I'm asking that volunteers be generous and choose multiple Sundays they are willing to host. You may want to consider staying for both services on a single Sunday. You can [fill out this form](#) to choose the Sundays and services you are interested in. If you have any questions email Anna at [annastally@gmail.com](mailto:annastally@gmail.com). Thank you for your service!

~Anna Tally, Membership Team Leader

### Sing With Our Virtual Choir!

The UUCS choir is collaborating for some virtual singing! All levels of musicians are welcome. If you are interested in joining us, email Kit at [kit.abrahamson@gmail.com](mailto:kit.abrahamson@gmail.com).

# Building Use Guidelines for Services Beginning May 2

## *Guidelines are Subject to Change*

**SERVICE TIMES:** There will be two services each Sunday at 9:30 and 11:15. Seating at each service will be available for 42 participants. The 9:30 service will continue to be live streamed. ASL interpretation is going to occur at the 9:30 service only. Closed captioning will continue to be available on the recorded service mid-week.

**MAKE A RESERVATION WEEKLY TO ATTEND A SERVICE:** Pre-registration to attend services for the following Sunday will be required for each week, beginning Monday of the week before the service. To register online look for the registration link on the website or call the church Monday thru Friday at 503-364-0932. When registering for the first service, indicate if you require ASL interpretation.

**CHILDREN:** Religious Exploration will be offered for all children at both services. Children will need to be registered with their family. Children will be greeted by an LRE volunteer and escorted to the LRE wing. Parents should pick up children from the LRE wing at the east side door after services. Read more about children and the Religious Exploration program in this newsletter, or email Lily Walker at [dire@uucs.org](mailto:dire@uucs.org) to be placed on the Children & Family Religious Education email list.

**ARRIVAL AND ENTERING THE BUILDING:** Please arrive no more than 20 minutes before worship to avoid socializing and do not to attend if you are not feeling well. Everyone must keep a mask on at all times and should observe social distancing within the church.

**HOSTS:** When you enter, a Host will offer a mask if you do not have one, take your temperature, check the Covid Site Entrance Survey and check you off the registration list. Hand sanitizer will be available and used by everyone coming in the building. Hosts will direct participants to the sanctuary.

**ENTERING THE SANCTUARY:** Hosts will guide people to a seat, seating participants from the front to the back of the sanctuary leaving 6 feet between parties or such greater distance that you feel needed for your safety. Participants are asked to stay seated, not physically greet others and not move chairs.

**NAME TAGS:** Name tags will not be used.

**ORDER OF SERVICE:** There will be no Order of Service leaflet. The order will be projected during the service.

**SHARE THE PLATE:** An offering box will be at the entrance to the sanctuary for offerings before or after the service.

**MUSIC:** Congregational singing will not be allowed but congregants will be encouraged to hum to the music, which will be projected during service.

**LEAVING THE SERVICE:** After the service, a host will ask participants to exit the sanctuary promptly.

**RESTROOMS:** The restrooms in the main hallway and in the fellowship hall will be open and include spray disinfectant and disinfectant wipes for use as needed.

**SOCIALIZING:** Attendees should refrain from socializing inside the church building. There will be no Fellowship Hour. All socializing must be done outside the building in the fresh air. Our goal is to keep everyone safe.

# Social Justice Report

Social Justice is a work in progress. The social justice meeting on March 1 featured Joan Stembidge talking about opportunities to help Salem's homeless. We appreciate her historical and empathetic perspective. Later in March, we attended a UUA national social justice meeting, *Witness, Connect, Act*. The meeting provided a broader view of UUA social justice actions and interests. In the first breakout session, during self-introductions, attendees were asked to name the indigenous people on whose land their church is sited. I didn't know which indigenous people occupied the land which the church sits on. A little research discovered it was the land of the [Kalapuya](#). The [Oregon Encyclopedia article](#) on the Kalapuya provides additional information on their culture. The moderator said western colonialism is genocide, George Washington was a land speculator and Thomas Jefferson held deeds to property west of the Appalachian Mountains. In the meeting, local congregations were encouraged to connect with indigenous people to defeat white racism. We were asked to reflect on the names of towns and geographic features that are of native origin. We then heard statements of immediate action from "immediate witnesses" (AIW), [defined by UUA](#) as those statements that call for immediate and effective social action and are specific, grounded in UUA theology and practice and do not duplicate other recent AIW statements.

The first immediate witness statement was entitled "a Vision of Prison Abolition," which noted among other things that prisons didn't exist until colonists arrived. The second was entitled "Police Killing Black People," in which transformative actions were encouraged to change the justice system through defunding the police, considered a first step towards abolishing policing as we know it. The desired outcome is to have police act in ways that are not rooted in anti-blackness. Emergency and public services at \$106.1 M (24% of Salem's budget) is the largest single item in Salem's \$434.6 M budget. Salem has 1.1 police officers per 1000 people. Salem's Police Chief wants to increase the number of police officers. According to a recent [Statesman Journal article](#), "In 2018, the average ratio in a Pacific Northwest city similar in size to Salem was 1.6 officers per 1,000 people." The third statement was entitled "Undoing Intersectional White Supremacy." It included a discussion of the proposed [8<sup>th</sup> Principle of Unitarian Universalism](#):

"We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions."

Attendees were encouraged to read the report [Widening the Circle of Concern](#) produced by [The Commission on Institutional Change](#). A copy with embedded audio reading links is [here](#). The report is an examination of the perception that the UUA is a white supremacist organization and makes recommendations on how to address that perception.

At the 2019 UUA General Assembly Rev. Dr. Todd Eklof of the Spokane UU Church was censured for his book *The Gladfly Papers: Three Inconvenient Essays by One Pesky Minister*. On March 1, 2020 the UUCS Congregation approved a [resolution](#) supporting Rev. Eklof. The resolution concluded:

"We call on the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association to rescind its censure of Rev. Todd Eklof, to cease referring to the UU movement as a white supremacy movement, and to encourage discussion and action to counter oppression and injustice wherever they are found."

Americans are becoming increasingly aware of racism and white supremacy. The 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Unitarian Universalist Principles collectively and implicitly oppose racism caused by white supremacy. The proposed 8<sup>th</sup> Principle explicitly says UUA and its members oppose and work towards dismantling racism. The Social Justice Team will be discussing anti-racism at its 7 pm meeting on April 8. [Click here to join](#).

There will be an anti-white supremacist rally later this month. The data and location will be announced in a future weekly update.

~Submitted by John Prohodsky and Jack Tally, Social Justice Team Co-chairs

# Splinters from the Board

## **Board Vice-Chair Seat Filled**

Michelle Blake volunteered to fill the vacant Vice Chair seat on the board through the end of the year. Michelle submitted this information to the board at the March meeting: "I've been a member of UUCS since 1996, first serving as an RE teacher, celebrant/anchor, and greeter. More recently, I've served as coordinator of the Addictions Ministry. In 2013, my husband and I exchanged wedding vows under the beautiful stained glass in our UUCS sanctuary, with Rev. Rick officiating and our elderly 3-legged dog serving as ring-bearer. I am honored to serve on the board of this congregation that has been such a valued part of my life." The board voted unanimously to accept the motion to have Michelle fill this position.

## **Pledge Drive Update**

The Stewardship Campaign kickoff on February 27 was a huge success. Pledges initially trickled in and the board made follow-up calls to those congregants who hadn't completed their Estimate of Giving Form by March 15. At the time of the board meeting, about 70% of pledges that typically are made every year were completed so pledges were on schedule. After the March 15 deadline, phone calls were made to a small group of congregants who were happy to have their Estimate of Giving form completed online. Final outcome as of this writing: pledges have fallen short of the goal. The Finance Team is looking at ways to trim the budget.

## **Building Reopening**

Look elsewhere in this newsletter for The Big Announcement about re-opening. A Re-opening Task Force has been meeting to determine actions needed to meet COVID safety requirements and recommendations, including air circulation and production needs, in order to re-open the building for Sunday services. Many teams are involved in this endeavor. The Worship Team and Music Team are organizing needs of the sanctuary for their participation. The Facilities Team will be working with the office identifying filters and fans for air circulation issues. The Production Team identified equipment and lighting options in the sanctuary to meet the needs for livestreamed services without disturbing the worshipful space of the sanctuary. They recommended new lights and new remote cameras. The Arts Committee has been consulted about how to retain the sanctity of the sanctuary if certain platforms need to be built for cameras, instead of mounting them on the walls. These issues were addressed at the March Board retreat and it was agreed to use remote cameras that can be mounted, and therefore won't need special platforms to be built, which would have required input from the Arts Committee. Facilities Team identified other needs in the sanctuary that could and should be addressed as part of the re-opening budget. The Finance Team recommended that approximately \$25,000 was needed to meet facility and re-opening costs, using Maintenance and Emergency reserve funds. The board voted to approve use of these funds.

## **HHV Lease Agreement Status**

Members of the board have met with a land use attorney, and an "oversight group" was convened to review the lease agreement. This group includes Christine Ertl, Robin LaMonte and Steve Ovens from the Board and Sunny Summers, Bob Muir and Susan Farris-Gosser from the congregation. Progress has been made and the lease may be finalized in April.

## **Worship Team Annual Strategic Plan Report**

The Worship Team Annual Strategic Plan was presented at the board meeting. The Team has focused on anticipating requirements for when the church reopens, while maintaining live stream Sunday Services. The Strategic Plan called for the Worship Team to focus on technology, which the COVID crisis proved to be correct. The tremendous amount of work that the Team has done over the past year to adjust to electronic services was lauded.

*~Respectfully submitted by Christine Ertl, UUCS Board Chair*

**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.

# Behind the Chalice

## Reopening the Building for Services

April Showers bring May Flowers, so what does May bring? Well, dare we say it? The slow reopening of the UUCS building for Sunday Services! No! Never say it! Ah, but I do say it! So, what are we Behind the Chalice doing to prepare for this grand event? Well, once again we are scurrying around like little church mice arranging the Sanctuary so that you may sit safely distanced. Getting involved in this are several UUCS Teams, including Facilities for providing air filters and lights, Membership which is helping guide the process of coming to a service including the return of hosts—for which volunteers are needed—and of course the Production Team and Worship Team with LRE and Music ever planning and adapting equipment and structure for the service. You may have read in other articles that there will be two services for the moment, but never fear, Live Streaming will also still occur, so if you want you can come to the service and then listen to Rick again in the middle of the week to jog your memory of what was said. There are exciting times ahead and may we all continue to stay healthy, getting vaccinated if possible, and keep adapting to the new ways to have spiritual services and to build community. Until next time, we remain yours in service, from - Behind the Chalice

~Submitted by Sara Pickett

## Worship Services and Religious Education

### Family Service

(via Zoom)

9:45 am

### Sunday Service

(Live-streamed)

10:30 am

### Fellowship Time

(via Zoom)

Noon

April Share the Plate Recipient: [Ministers Discretionary Fund](#)

Sunday, April 11

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

"Running Away in Circles"

**Celebrant:** Sara Pickett

**Music:** Kit Abrahamson and Laura Christian

**Special Music:** Kit Abrahamson and Barbara Stebbins-Boaz

I first ran away from home when I was five or six. I believe it was the beginning of my spiritual journey.

Sunday, April 18

Ed and Jackie Klimowicz

"CASA From The Trenches: How This Experience Has Affected Our Lives "

**Celebrant:** Brenna Norval

**Music:** Kit Abrahamson and Laura Christian

**Special Music:** Guy Hallman

Jackie and Ed Klimowicz have been Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) in Polk County for the past seven years. In this capacity, they have represented in court the best interests of children who are wards of the state. While they've always found this work satisfying, it has taken on a deeper meaning and purpose over time. This message explores how it has contributed to a more meaningful life for them.

Sunday, April 25

The Rev. Charles Busch

"TBD"

**Celebrant:** Janet Stevens

**Music:** Kit Abrahamson and Laura Christian

## Unitarian Universalist Congregation Of Salem

5090 Center St. NE, Salem, OR 97317

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**Minister:** The Rev. Richard R. Davis

[rdavis@uuma.org](mailto:rdavis@uuma.org)

**Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration:**

Lily Walker [dlre@uusalem.org](mailto:dlre@uusalem.org)

**LRE Assistant:** Open

**Music Director:** Laura Christian

[music@uusalem.org](mailto:music@uusalem.org)

**Pianist:** Kit Abrahamson

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This issue was edited by Bob Muir with help from Sharon Pierson, Vicki Cunningham, and Elsa Struble. Final formatting completed by S. Pierson.

**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, **April 30, 2021.**

**This Week** submissions are due by **Wed.** noon.