



The Chalice and the Flame

Diverse people. Diverse beliefs. One community.

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

May 2021

Reopening to In-Person Services Paused by Re-opening Team

It is with a sad but conscientious heart that members of the Reopening Team have paused the return to live services. The steady rise in COVID numbers in Marion County prompted the pause. The Re-opening Team has closely monitored the COVID picture while planning for in-person services and has asked that congregants be flexible and patient as we work on the logistics of reopening. Now it is clear that congregants would be at a high risk of exposure if in-person services were held at this time. In-person services will not be scheduled until Marion County COVID cases are reduced to acceptable levels. Live-stream services at 10:30 and Children and Family Services at 9:45 will continue. Watch for announcements for in-person services update. Reservation and Building Use Guidelines will remain as planned when a date is set to re-open.

Please know this was not an easy decision for the Re-opening Team. All were looking forward to gathering in community once again. This day will come, but alas not yet.

2021 Annual Congregational Meeting Delayed

The 2021 Annual Congregational Meeting has been delayed to allow more time for review and negotiation of a proposed land lease between UUCS and Hope and Habitat Village. See articles in this newsletter. The board anticipates soon rescheduling the meeting. Watch for the announcement. In the meantime, see the Annual Congregation Meeting Information in this newsletter.

What is Happening in the UUA and Why You Should Care May 11

The UUA was founded on democratic principles. How did democratic process get lost in the operation and governance of the Unitarian Universalist Association? Why should it matter to us? Join Rick, Kate Rhode and UUA Board of Trustees candidate Jay Kiskel in a lively Zoom conversation about the loss of democracy and congregational participation in the governing of our UUA. The Zoom meeting will be at 6 pm on Tuesday, May 11.

Many of us are somewhat aware of what is going on. The Committee on Ministry has hosted several discussions about the way the UUA and the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association (UUMA) have treated Rev. Todd Eklof of the Spokane UU Church and our Reverend Rick. Join us to learn more and learn what you and we can do. [Click here to join.](#)

Join Women's Group Meetings via Zoom Beginning May 25

The new UUCS Women's Group invites all those who identify as women to join them on the fourth Tuesday of each month for community, discussion and support. Although we look forward to a time when we can meet in person, we plan to meet via Zoom at this time using a round robin format.

The discussion theme for Tuesday, May 25 will be books and the questions will be:

What genre of book do you most enjoy or read?

What book has stayed with you throughout your life?

We will also be reviewing the format of our group meetings and planning for upcoming discussions. If you are interested in attending and wish the link to the meeting or have questions, email Janet Stevens at uuwomensgroup@uusalem.org.

Fellowship Time via Zoom

If you're really missing coffee hour after the service, sign up to join the regular 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!](#)

Needing a Compassionate Connection?

If you need a compassionate connection with Reverend Rick and the members of Life Lines Lay Ministry, join us on the second Sunday of each month at noon. Although we meet online, we will do our best to create a safe and confidential space for you to share your concerns and in turn receive the support and compassion that is the foundation of our congregation. See [the post on our website](#) to join.



Reverential Ramblings

~ Rev. Richard Davis, UUCS's minister

Recently there was a remote possibility that an event hosted outside here might have drawn some armed protesters. (It never happened). Yet, the board (*of which I am "ex-officio" a member*) realized that we needed to have a policy forbidding weapons on our property, so we'd have the right to ask anyone who might show up visibly bearing arms to store their weapon in their vehicle or leave. That's why when you come here you will now see some small signs forbidding weapons on our premises. I think we're too small and far enough off the beaten track to attract this kind of trouble, but I commend the board on putting a policy in place so there's no confusion about this.

Even if such trouble might not reach out to where we are, it sure has reached our community. During the past year there has been significant armed presence by members of the alt-right (such as Proud Boys, Patriot Prayer) who have behaved in threatening, intimidating and sometimes violent ways.

Then, just a couple of weeks ago on the way home from Sunday service, I drove by the state capital and passed through a couple of hundred people, clad head-to-toe in black, who had assembled to confront members of the alt-right who were rumored to be coming to Salem, but who mostly didn't show up that day—thank goodness. Some of the black-clad folks had assault weapons slung around their shoulders. A couple of trucks with Trump supporters arrived and they were frantically backing up the wrong way to avoid the large leftist force surrounding them. I was not mistaken for a member of the alt-right and they waved me through. Unsettling sight and experience!

To be sure, I am no defender of the alt-right and the fearful, divisive, insidious messages they spread, but brandishing firearms at political rallies is playing with fire. That Sunday, the alt-right was driven away by a show of greater force, but such shows of raw power are not going to effect the social transformation we need to see in our country.

I lean pacifist here not only because I abhor violence, but I also recognize that nonviolent methods are more effective in countering hate. Our spiritual values call for us to work for the transformation of those who hate others, not for their extermination.

I am sorry that there is a need for these small signs on our congregation's property, but I've decided to put them to good spiritual use. Whenever I come to UUCS—fairly often since I work here—and see those signs I will take them as a further sign that I need to check whatever ill will, malice, anger, hatred that I might be harboring in my heart at that moment.

I remember that the first hymn we ever sang in a worship service in our sanctuary was also number 1 in our hymnal: "May Nothing Evil Cross This Door". The last verse reads: "With laughter drown the raucous shout, and though these sheltering walls are thin, may they be strong to keep hate out and hold love in."

May it be so!

Love,

Rick



Lifespan Religious Education

~ Lily Walker, Director, Lifespan Religious Education dlre@uusalem.org

This week in homeschool, my son Elijah was tasked with the following assignment: Henry Ford once said, "Whether you think you can, or you think you can't, you're right." Write an essay to explain the meaning of the quote, and how it applies to your own life.

Whereas it may be true that finding the enthusiasm to write a column introducing another month of Children and Family programming held online via Zoom, rather than live and in-person, is proving to be exactly as hard as I imagined it would be, in a larger sense, Henry Ford was wrong when he made this statement.

When it comes to COVID-19 and the responsibility of caring for our community and keeping everyone safe, what I think really doesn't matter. In the end, no amount of positive thinking is going to overrule the current science and the numbers in Marion County. For the time being, the church has to remain closed.

That fact has me a little bummed, but here's what I am able to think positively about: *Celebrating Mother's Day! Online Zoom games! Cats and dogs and Sweet smiling children in their PJs! Crafts and surprises left on your doorstep!* And dedicating the final stretch of our time together on Zoom to making *the most delicious and sweet lemonade!*

It may not be true that changing your attitude can change everything, but it can change how we feel inside, and the quality of the memories we make. So, let's give it our all, and make it the best month of Zoom RE ever! I think we can do it!

Thank you to everyone who came to the Easter Gathering. How lucky were we to have such beautiful weather and the joy of each other's company! Thank you to Sarah Rohrs for running the photo booth and for sharing these images with us.

See you soon. (Thinking positive!)

Lily



Behind the Chalice

You remember reading about the pioneers walking across the country to what became Oregon and settling into the Willamette Valley? You remember reading about all their adventures and how many different geographical challenges they came across, each one seemingly more daunting than the last.

Imagine what they thought when they came to the Rockies, and then crossed them, and sighed relief, thinking they were home free, and then to their surprise, so close to the end of their journey, came the Cascades. They had to pause, gather their strength, and trudge over one more mountain.

Well, that is what we are having to do with the reopening of in-person services. We got to the East side of Mt. Jefferson on May 2nd, only to discover it is little more than a hill (COVID numbers), and so we must pause, re-group, wait for that dreaded spring snowstorm to pass (COVID numbers going down) before we can safely pass over Mt. Jefferson and come into the valley of milk and honey (reopen). And anyone who has been in Oregon for any period of time knows the most dangerous time on the Cascades is actually in the spring, when it is starting to warm up, but those snowstorms can still come around the corner and surprise you.

So maybe it is good to pause, go get that stray cow that has wandered off (lighting and cameras) and be ready for everyone to safely get through the mountain pass when the storm has died down. Until then, you can still find us live streaming every Sunday at 10:30. See you -- not in the funny papers--- but on your screen of choice.

We remain yours in service - Behind the Chalice

~Submitted by Sara Pickett

More Happenings and Highlights

Connect with UUCSLIST



Sign up for our UUCSLIST, an email based "electronic bulletin board" for members and friends of the UUCS community. To sign up, please use [this online form](#).

It has been important to keep in touch during the pandemic while we have limited access to our building. We can have meaningful discussions among fellow UUs. Or you can use this 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!

Help Wanted and Appreciated!

Cordon Road Clean-up Help Needed June 5

UUCS will once again host the bi-annual Cordon Rd. clean-up day on June 5 from 9 am to noon. This a rain or shine event. Anyone interested in this fellowship-building activity is asked to [pre-register using this link](#) so that we can get safety vest sizes and participant numbers for the county. You will be asked to sign a waiver at the start of the clean-up. Gloves and tools will be provided. Email Jack Tally at jackottabox@yahoo.com if you have questions.

Habitat and Hope Village Volunteer Opportunity

Habitat and Hope Village is looking for a Bookkeeper familiar with Quickbooks. For more information, contact Patty Davenport at Habitatandhopevillage@gmail.com.



Annual Congregational Meeting Information

2021 Annual Meeting Agenda

The agenda of items to be discussed and voted on at the 2021 Annual Congregational Meeting are:

- The slate of Board Officers and Directors and Nominating Committee candidates
- The budget recommended by the Board
- The land lease agreement between UUCS and Habitat and Hope Village

Board Officers and Candidates

Other than the Treasurer, board officers are elected to one-year terms. Directors are elected to serve two-year terms unless elected to complete one year of a vacant Director seat. The Nominating Committee nominated the following candidates for the 2021-2022 congregational year.

- Chair: **Christine Ertl** (1 year term)
- Vice Chair: **Michelle Blake** (1 year term)
- Secretary: **Robin LaMonte** (1 year term)
- Director Seat #1: **Christine Keese-Ferguson**
- Director Seat #3: **Lisa Marcus**
- Director Seat #5 **Don Wolf**

Sharon Pierson will have two years remaining of her three-year term as Treasurer. Steven Ovens, Director (Seat #2); Lynn Cardiff, Director (Seat #4); and Janet Stevens, Director (Seat #6) will have one year remaining of their two-year terms. Jack Tally, Director (Seat #5) is retiring from the Board.

Nominating Committee Candidates

The Nominating Committee has presented the following candidates for the Nominating Committee:

- Juli Patton** (3-year term)
- Joel Woodman** (nominated to fill last year of 3-year term)

Barbara Stebbins-Boaz has two years remaining of her three-year term. Steve Rosen is retiring from the Nominating Committee.

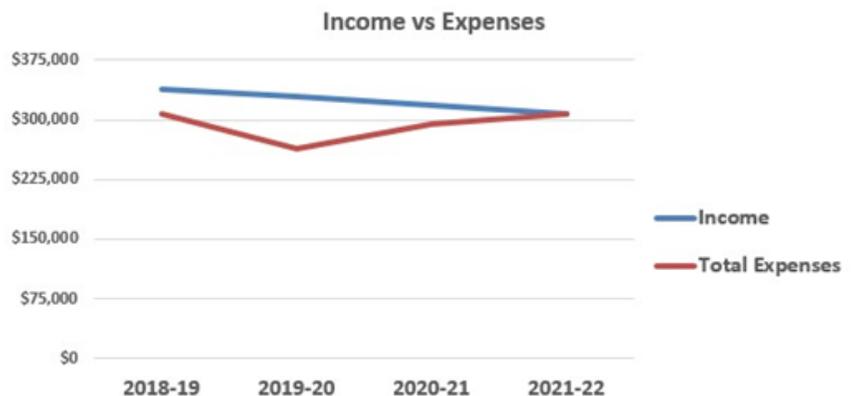
Land Lease Agreement

Since the special congregational meeting on February 8, a team representing UUCS has been working with a land use attorney to produce a land lease agreement. There is no problem, but this has required more time than expected as the attorney is busy and there have been long pauses waiting for documents. At this time, we do not have an agreement to share for review. We will publish the lease as soon as an agreement is reached between the UUCS team and HHV.

To meet the stipulation of the resolution passed on February 8, the board has decided to postpone the annual congregational meeting until we can share the proposed lease and ask the congregation to approve it. It's hoped that we can schedule the meeting in early June. Watch the website and other publications for details.

2021-22 Budget

The budget for fiscal year 2021-22 shows deep cuts that were necessary due to our declining income. Each year for the last 5 years, total income has declined, yet our expenses have grown. Our income comes from 3 sources: pledges and other contributions, building rental and fundraisers. This year, over half of our congregants heard the call to increase pledges—some significantly more than the suggested 9%. THANK YOU! Unfortunately, another quarter reduced their pledge and yet another quarter had reasons to not pledge at all. The result is that this year's pledge drive fell \$40,000 short of the goal.



2021-22 Proposed Budget

The budget recommended by the Board includes deep cuts to staff hours and benefits (our largest expense) as well as cuts for almost every single team. Teams having reserve funds will cover any expenses from their saved funds. Staff cuts include reduced hours for the office assistant and eliminating 20 out of 30 hours for RE assistants. Benefit cuts include halving the healthcare stipend for half-time employees, eliminating personal development funds for all but the minister and reducing the minister's personal development budget by 37%. In addition to these cuts, we've balanced our expenses to income by including \$20,000 of unspent, budgeted funds from the current fiscal year. Indirectly, this money is the result of the forgiven PPP loan. Normally, this surplus would be put into reserves or contingency. Instead, we are using it for operating expenses. (See the budget summary below. The summary is also [available on our website in PDF format](#).)

2021-22 Budgeting Worksheet

	2018-19 Actual	2019-20 Actual	2020-21 Budget	2021-22 Budget	2021-22 Changes
Income	\$337,557	\$329,673	\$327,335	\$308,200	Income down 9% from 2018-19, \$10K from last year
Expenses					
Minister and staff	\$205,742	\$184,097	\$222,600	\$212,300	2021-22 CUTS: Office Asst. cut to 16 hrs/week 2 RE Assistants eliminated. No COLA. Health Stipend cut 50%. Professional development cuts: Minister \$1500, DLRE \$500, Music Director \$500, CA \$500
Admin	\$41,876	\$32,891	\$46,091	\$46,111	Some Admin cuts; UUA dues discounted due to year 26 as a member
Teams					
Communications	\$1,812	\$1,778	\$3,270	\$2,250	Reduced advertising, website consulting
Connections	\$919	\$810	\$0	\$495	Fellowship removed. Rely on reserves.
Facilities Team	\$44,387	\$34,664	\$37,280	\$34,613	Reduced Landscape
Finance (Pledge Drive)	\$621	\$291	\$400	\$400	Reduced budget for events
Fundraising	\$1,262	\$1,541	\$300	\$550	Increased fundraising budget
Lifelines Lay Ministry	\$0	\$0	\$100	\$0	
Membership	\$538	\$346	\$1,000	\$400	Some items moved to other teams.
Music	\$1,875	\$1,117	\$1,325	\$1,300	Reduced guest musician; supplies
Religious Exploration	\$4,350	\$2,096	\$3,450	\$2,250	Reduced supplies, eliminate staff development, move background checks to admin
Social Justice	\$1,000	\$150	\$800	\$0	Must rely on reserve funds
Worship Team	\$3,049	\$3,419	\$5,350	\$5,950	Increases due to cost of streaming
Total Teams	\$59,814	\$46,210	\$53,275	\$48,208	
Contingency	\$5,902	\$1,276	\$2,295	\$1,581	VERY tight budget. This should be higher.
Total Expenses	\$308,351	\$264,474	\$324,261	\$308,200	

News of the Community

Cheryl Randall's husband, **Jim**, passed away April 5 after a battle with cancer. Fortunately, Cheryl had family around her. You can [read his obituary here](#). Jim was raised a Catholic, and the small graveside ceremony was conducted by Father Timothy Mockaitis. Rev. Rick Davis also attended the graveside service; Cheryl was grateful to Rick for that and said that Jim would have felt grateful and honored as well. When things open up this summer, there will be a celebration of life ceremony.

A while ago we were asked to contribute surplus vitamins to send to our sister church in Simenfalva, Transylvania, Romania. We did. **Rev. Sándor of the Simenfalva congregation** reports that the vitamins got there! He is very grateful; he says they will be given to old people to help with COVID-19 and wishes many blessings for our congregation.

David Haber wrote to the online Joys and Concerns book last week. We are sorry to hear about his cancer, and indeed wish him a speedy and full recovery. David wrote:

“On April Fool's Day, I had surgery for cranial nerve cancer. It was not as much fun as I thought it would be. On May 10, I begin cancer treatment for 6 or 7 weeks. “Well Wishes,” “Speedy Recoveries,” and similar sentiments will be appreciated by me (less so, if I do not know who you are, but I'll appreciate the effort).”

Last week **Roger and Millie Rochester** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Some of us got to participate in the celebration with the Rochester family by Zoom. The Rochesters contributed so much to our Congregation—Millie as our DRE and Roger in various roles including Board Chair – before Millie became a UU minister and served several other fortunate congregations. I still remember the time, soon after we moved into our new building in 1997, when we held a congregational meeting to decide whether to open our church and become part of the Salem Interfaith Hospitality Network – now Family Promise. I thought maybe Millie, who as DRE had made do in the dingy basement of our old church, would be protective of our bright spanking new RE space. But Millie spoke up in favor of joining the Network: “It's the Right Thing to Do!” After that, the Congregation's positive decision came easily. Thank you, Millie! We wish the Rochesters many more happy years together; they appeared well and happy at their Zoom celebration.

Michelle Blake was recently elected as Vice Chair of our UUCS Board of Directors. She wrote her news for this column:

“I'm happy to join the UUCS board of directors this spring. I've been a member of the congregation since the mid-90s and am glad to be able to serve in this capacity.

“On the career front, I've just joined Phoenix Zones Initiative, a national nonprofit, as their Director of Policy. I'll be working to promote legislation to advance human and animal wellness. We'll be promoting Senator Booker's bill to prevent the next pandemic by cracking down on wildlife trafficking, while also looking for any possible path to the long-overdue US ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (the US is the only UN member to not ratify this decades-old convention).

“On the family front, our 13-year-old pittie, Roxy, is happily recovering from a splenectomy and has a message for dog parents. Masses on the spleen are sadly common, and because 60% of them turn out to be aggressive cancer, many people assume the worst and decline surgery. Roxy's mass was NOT cancer, but it was making her desperately sick and in great pain. That mass is gone now, and the surgery gave us more time together as a family. We are grateful for this happily-ever-after outcome. Roxy says, “Let yourself be hopeful, even if the doctor gives you a doomsday statistic. It could all turn out great!”

And **Jerry Nathan** wrote “What a year – an entire year of sanctioned introversion—how fitting for nature-loving, recluse-minded me. Actually, I discovered I miss choir singing, live music, concerts, plays, and movie theaters way too much.”

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

Social Justice News

Social Justice Survey

UUCS's social justice efforts should reflect the congregation's interests and priorities. By participation in this [brief survey](#) you will help the Social Justice Team understand the congregation's priorities.

Cordon Road Clean-up June 5

UUCS will be picking up trash along Cordon Road Saturday, June 5 from 9 am to noon. This is a rain or shine event. Anyone interested in this fellowship building activity needs to [pre-register](#) to get a participant count and safety vest sizes. You will be asked to sign a waiver at the start of the clean-up. Gloves, tools and bags will be provided. For more information email Jack Tally at jackottabox@yahoo.com.

Helping Our Neighbors

Too often larger social justice issues, such as systemic racism, universal healthcare, global warming and immigration, crowd out the need to address local social injustices. UUCS's efforts have made a difference in the lives of many, and the Social Justice Team is working to continue making a difference. We have identified the following activities that can make a difference in the lives of our neighbors:

- ◆ Volunteer at Marion-Polk food share
- ◆ Participate in [Salem Harvest](#)
- ◆ Connect with agencies that have clothing closets and donate clothes to them.
- ◆ Build little libraries that will be placed in disadvantaged neighborhoods. Place books in them that can be read to children by parents.
- ◆ Engage the homeless as real people instead of outcasts – listen, be empathetic.
- ◆ Assemble pallet houses that provide housing for the homeless
- ◆ Volunteer for Habitat for Humanity
- ◆ Design secure mobile storage for the homeless.

These are not the only activities we can undertake that will make a difference. Your ideas are as good as, maybe even better than, our ideas. Please email your ideas on how UUCS can make a difference in the lives of those who need help to sjt@uusalem.org

Addressing local needs doesn't mean we won't address larger social injustices. We can make a difference locally and still work to eliminate major injustices such as systemic racism.

Habitat and Hope Begins Funding Campaign

Habitat and Hope Village reports that financial support for "A Women's Shelter of Hope" planned for UUCS property is receiving strong interest from others outside the UUCS community. Their pending commitments are contingent on completion of the memorandum of understanding with Arches and finalization of the land use agreement with UUCS for the building site. The Go Fund Me campaign has raised \$6,245 toward its goal of \$50,000. It is expected to gain momentum as soon as the land use agreement is in place. Work continues on all of these efforts as we seek preliminary bids for construction and additional supporters in the wider community. Please forward the web link to the [Go Fund Me campaign](#) to others who share your passion for alleviating homelessness in our area. Find more information about Habitat and Hope Village, Inc. and "A Women's Shelter of Hope" on the [HHV website](#).

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.

Splinters from the Board

Budget Update and Budget Options: The status of the UUCS budget was presented at the board meeting, outlining a \$48,000 shortfall. Even though a significant portion of pledges were higher than previous years, some pledges decreased, and some congregants did not pledge. Revenue has been stagnant for several years, while expenses have steadily increased and are now 9 percent higher than they were in 2018. The budget for the current year was balanced because of \$30,000 in one-time funds from a Federal loan—that subsequently became a grant—and a carryover of \$32,000 from prior year savings. These savings resulted from, among other things, staggered staff hires to open positions. This year, reducing staff hours and benefits, and significantly cutting team budgets were recommended because the other areas in the budget are fixed costs to keep the building running and cannot be reduced. These recommendations were further discussed at the board retreat and by electronic vote the board accepted the budget recommendations. (See elsewhere in this newsletter for a budget committee report.) The board clarified that there must be work towards increasing revenue in the next fiscal year and will create a Fundraising Committee.

Director of Lifelong Religious Exploration: DLRE Lily Walker provided an oral report on activities in preparation for when UUCS reopens. She is working with some teenagers to provide volunteer support. Lily has provided support for Adult RE classes and a training shared between UUCS and other congregations. (See elsewhere in this newsletter for the DLRE report.)

Facilities Team: Facilities team chair Lynn Cardiff reported that the team is working on multiple projects including identifying on-going energy needs and options, needs for re-opening the building including filters and fans, and LED lights, replacing flooring and restoring air conditioning to offices. The Landscape group has worked hard to clean up Bateman Woods after the ice storm and has repaired the chicken coop now to be used for storage.

Donor Recognition Plaques: The Board authorized the expenditure of up to \$700 out of the Contingency Fund for donor recognition plaques to acknowledge contributions.

Prohibitions of Weapons on UUCS Property Policy: The board voted to approve a Prohibition of Weapons Policy that will now be in place in advance of an event to be held in the North parking lot this month (see Rev. Rick's column). Statutory provisions were reviewed related to weapons and nothing could be found that prohibited UUCS from setting a no-weapons policy. The Security Committee is requested to revise the policy with further details.

Temporary Work Authorizations: Two Temporary Work Authorizations were accepted by the board. The first was a shift of 4 more hours of work responsibilities from Music Director Laura Christian to Pianist Kit Abrahamson. Laura requested this as she is unable to perform all duties in her role. She will continue directing the choir when the church re-opens and leading hymns for Sunday Services. There is no budget impact from this action which will be in effect through June.

The second Temporary Work Authorization added 5 hours per week to the DLRE position in order to prepare for re-opening and working 2 Sunday services. Funds will come from the 3 vacant RE Assistant positions through June.

Building Reopening: Plans were underway to re-open the building for in-person services on May 2. Lighting, cameras, RE program, registrations, hosts and ensuring protocols were all worked out. It was clarified that if Marion County is classified at high risk, these plans would change, and in fact did change as the month progressed. Re-opening is now paused until Marion County is safer. (see article elsewhere in this newsletter) The reopening team is creating standards to phase in safely re-opening for teams and outside groups.

HHV Lease Agreement Status: The lease agreement continues to be worked on with the UUCS attorney and Habitat and Hope Village.



Some participants in the Easter Gathering. More images are on Page 3

Wrapping Up Last Fall's Legacy Campaign

As we start to return from our severe COVID restrictions, it's time to "tie a celebratory ribbon" around our last fall's Legacy Campaign. That campaign did not reach its goals, partly because we were hunkered down in our COVID protections, but the Campaign was a significant success, and we must celebrate it.

There will soon be two plaques mounted in our foyer commemorating legacy contributions. One will record bequests—all that we know of, going back to the 1970s. The second will recognize significant donations outside our pledge payments. That plaque will have one plate appreciating the whole congregation for its dedication and generosity in 1994 to 2006 in paying for the construction of our building, both the original church in 1997 and the fellowship hall addition in 2003. Other plates will commemorate donations since 2006. Both plaques will be updated every January to include contributions received during the previous year.

I also want to thank two groups who made the Legacy Campaign a success. First is the Steering Group that carried out the campaign:

Diana Bodtker
Lynn Cardiff
Phil Carver
Phil Cogswell
Rick Davis
Susan Farris-Gosser
John Prohodsky
Rob Schiff

Second but still more important are the donors. Some of these made direct contributions to the campaign. Others made end-of-life commitments during the campaign. Still others had already made end-of-life commitments but first told us about them during the campaign. Some are in more than one category!

Anonymous (several)
Jo Bateman
Diana and Egon Bodtker
Lynn Cardiff
Phil Carver
Kay and Phil Cogswell
Deborah Cordis-Weaver
Carol Doolittle
Joan Erickson
Oddny Everson
Marge French
Ann and David Hanus
Ed Kramer
Tom Lancefield

Mike Markee
Bob Muir
Janet Neuburg
Sara Pickett
George and Karen Piter
Rob Schiff
Eric Schuman
Barbara Stebbins-Boaz
George and Elsa Struble
Loraine Stuart
Dina Triest
Kay Young
Lorna Youngs



Some of these contributions went directly, or are planned to go, to our Endowment Fund to safeguard our congregation's future. Others went, or are planned to go, into the Maintenance Reserve and our Emergency Reserve, where they can provide funds in the nearer term for crucial expenses not covered by our Operating Fund.

The total of all of these contributions and commitments is \$1,468,123. Most of that is commitments for the future, but over \$63,000 was current gifts.

Of course, further contributions and commitments are always welcome. Please contact me if you want to confer about a gift or commitment at gstruble@willamette.edu.

~Submitted by George Struble

Worship Services and Religious Education

Family Service

Sunday Service

Fellowship Time

9:45 am

10:30 am

Noon

May Share the Plate Recipient: [Salem Harvest](#)

Sunday, May 9

"A Promise to Our Children "

The Rev. Charles Busch

Celebrant: Janet Stevens

Music: Kit Abrahamson and Laura Christian

Rev. Busch will talk about the time may have come for Isaiah's words to come true: "Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore."

Rev. Busch is a graduate of Trinity and Harvard Universities and a former U.S. Marine. He is the founder of Peace Village Inc., and Director of Fields of Peace, a peace education/activist nonprofit headquartered on the Oregon Coast. Copies of his books *Soft as Water - 52 Meditations on Peace* and *A Field Guide to Peace* are available through [his website](#).

Sunday, May 16

"Weavers and Blessers "

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

Celebrant: Sara Pickett

Music: Kit Abrahamson and Laura Christian

What is the purpose of life? Yes, a hard question, but it's a good exercise to pause and ponder the opportunities and possibilities that lay before us.

Sunday, May 23

"The Courage to Be Wrong "

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

Celebrant: Brenna Norval

Music: Kit Abrahamson and Laura Christian

Have you ever been wrong about something? Me neither. It's nice to be right all the time, isn't it? However, it might be instructive to entertain the remote possibility that you could be wrong about something someday in the future. In fact, it's even possible that the fear of being wrong is playing more of a role than you might imagine.

Sunday, May 30

"This Too Shall Change "

Sara Pickett

Celebrant: Brenna Norval

Music: Kit Abrahamson and Laura Christian

People serving people with chronic mental illness seem to come back to two beliefs- healing and hope. How has working at Oregon State Hospital influenced my beliefs and how have my spiritual beliefs potentially influenced those I serve.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation Of Salem

5090 Center St. NE, Salem, OR 97317

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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, **May 28, 2021.**

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