



The Chalice and the Flame

Diverse people. Diverse beliefs. One community.

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

October 2021

Train to Be a Speaker at Services Beginning October 9

Are you someone who finds creative fulfillment in using the written and spoken word to inform and inspire others? Do you have a spiritual yearning to share good news about life? Or do you like to tell stories that entertain and illuminate? Or do you feel called to be a “voice for the voiceless” – that is, speak on behalf of those who are marginalized, ignored, or oppressed? More specifically, might you be called to our newly forming “spoken word ministry,” but would like some training?

If the answer to any of these questions is “yes” then you are invited to explore further by joining **Rev. Rick** and UUCS Member **Cherie Ulmer** for a three-session workshop and orientation for UUCS members who want to learn the spiritual art of sharing your truth (aka “preaching”) at our *Kierkegaard Craddock Mulla Nasruddin School of Embodied Homiletics*.

All three classes begin at 10 AM on successive Saturdays: Oct. 9, 16, 23. [Click here to register.](#)

Cherie's many years of experience directing for Pentacle Theatre, Children's Educational Theatre, several Salem-Keizer high schools and our own Chalice Circle Players combined with her UU perspective will kindle each participant's unique style and strength. The power of your presentation is waiting to be ignited!

Our Shared Ministry: Social Justice, Membership, Connections and Buddhist Sangha

In September, Team Council began a 5-week focus on various teams and committees, disclosing opportunities for members of the congregation to become involved in one or more ministries that speak to one's soul, one's skills, or make a connection to the religious community of UUCS.

At recent services, we learned about the Finance and Life Lines Teams, the Facilities Team with Landscape and Art sub-committees, the Worship, Production and Music Teams, and the Lifespan Religious Education, Microfinance, Communications, Office and Homiletics Teams.

Watch the service on October 10 to learn about the Social Justice, Membership & Connections Teams and the Compassionate Mind Sangha affiliated ministry.

We hope that you see the possibilities before you and grab onto the opportunity to get involved. Your presence is what makes this congregation a community.

~The Team Council

Sarah Saul Jazz Tuesday October 12

Celebrate the cultural diversity of the Salem area through a nine-concert online music series this coming fall through spring! On Tuesday, October 12 at 7:00 pm, the Sarah Saul Combo will kick off the series with their own take on Jewish melodies and compositions, ranging from classic liturgical tunes to jazz standards written by Jewish composers. The group includes Oren Sreebny on bass, Joel Hoffman on guitar, Cliff Jetton on brass, and Sarah Saul on vocals. This is just the first in the concert series for Tuesdays or Fridays each month from October 2021, through June 2022. For tickets, and more information about the series and each concert, visit [this webpage](#).



Enjoy Roy Zimmerman Live Online October 16

Roy Zimmerman brings his original songs to a special online show for UUCS on Saturday, October 16 from 7:30 - 8:30 pm. It's a funny and forceful affirmation of peace and social justice in the post-insurrection era.

Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased online by [clicking here](#). Ticket buyers will get an immediate email confirming their purchase and giving them a URL, they can use to watch the Roy Zimmerman concert online at showtime. Roy will also email all ticket purchasers the day before the show and let them know that, if they happen to miss the live broadcast, they can access the recording of the show for a week thereafter. (*More on Page 4*)



Reverential Ramblings

~ Rev. Richard Davis, UUCS's minister

Recently, UUCS member Cherie Ulmer proposed a contest: that we both write a sermon and then you, the congregation, have to figure out which one came from me. You might not be able to figure this out. Why? Because there is no one else who has heard me speak from the pulpit as often as she has. Not only has Cherie heard scores of my sermons, she has interpreted in American Sign Language (ASL) each word countless times for the better part of three decades, very rarely missing a Sunday. So, I suppose you could say that she is somewhat familiar with the way I think and the way my sermons unfold. In fact, she can even detect the very subtle change in the rhythm of my delivery that alerts her to the fact that I'm about to pull everyone's legs for a laugh. She's onto me. Fortunately, you aren't.

Yet I'm also onto Cherie – at least a bit. A number of years ago, I officiated at her mom's memorial service, and I came to have a deeper appreciation of her passion for her own unique ministry in the world – connecting hearing and non-hearing folks in the common experience of meaning. Both Cherie's mom and dad were deaf, so she grew up signing to them and speaking for them. Doing this for others – especially young people – became her lifelong passion and she continues working as both counselor and teacher at Oregon School for the Deaf.

Two things stand out here: 1) Cherie deeply feels that our free liberal faith is something worth sharing with others and 2) She has a passion to include those who are so often left out.

Think of those many who are left out in one way or another. Recently, I read that the number of people who die with no one to claim their bodies has dramatically increased over the years. And I wonder how many are there, around us in our community, who are so isolated and friendless that this, too, will be their fate?

For me, spirituality has less to do with theology than with simple human connection – when we greet, befriend, support, encourage and love one another, it is a spiritual matter regardless of the theological label you might wear. What's important is the person and not the label, so we strive to welcome people – not just people who adopt a uniform theological label – into our congregational community.

Or at least we did during those times when we could meet in person. Since then, our doors have mostly been closed and congregational life now takes place via a computer screen. I'm grateful for this technology and all those who have labored mightily to ensure that we can keep things going during the pandemic. Yet, during this time we have effectively put an essential aspect of our ministry on hold. A few newcomers may check out our online services, but not many.

How I yearn for a return to meeting in person – not just so I can see and hug you and pull your leg (figuratively speaking), but also because I know there are so many disconnected folks in our community who would find us to be a good place for spiritual connection. So, my appeal to you is this – put together a list of those you want to invite and then do so when our doors open again. You'll be doing both them and UUCS a great favor.

It would not be accurate to characterize Cherie's signing service as a "favor", but rather as a passionate commitment. As she now retires from this position (and joins me in leading a class on preaching), I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to her for the great gift of her talents in so many services. It was a prolonged act of love, and we love you for this Cherie!

Love,
Rick



Lifespan Religious Education

~ Lily Walker, Director, Lifespan Religious Education

Hello to all of the families and children of the community! You are missed!

The decision not to hold online Children's Religious Education during the most recent building closure has left me missing many of you. I miss seeing all your sweet faces on Sunday morning and being able to check-in. Please know that I am thinking of you and hoping that you are all having a lot of fun this new school year.

Although we still aren't exactly sure when we will be able to gather at the church again, the parents and leaders on the Religious Education Committee have decided to host two Community Park meetups in October. The meetups are open to the entire congregation, and we would love to see you all in October at one of the following events:

October 17 from 2-4pm @ Let's All Play Park on Mission St.

October 24 from 2-4pm @ Bush Park, at the Lower Leffelle Picnic and Playground Area

These events are rain or shine; so, either bring your rain gear or come ready to sing and play in the rain! The church will provide light refreshments and a take home craft activity for the children. If you have questions, feel free to reach out to Lily Walker at dire@uusalem.org.

In the meantime, I hope you are all enjoying the fall colors, drizzly rain-puddles, and signs of Halloween beginning to pop up everywhere you look! After such a long, dry summer, isn't it wonderful to see the rainy days return? I bet the animals and trees are happy too.

Hoping to see you all soon--I send you my love and encouragements!

Lily



Happenings and Highlights

Enjoy Roy Zimmerman Live Online October 16 (Continued from Page 1)

Roy's "Vote Him Away (The Liar Tweets tonight)" videos garnered over 140 million views across all social media last year. He has recorded for Warner/Reprise Records and shared stages with Robin Williams, Arlo Guthrie, John Oliver, The Roches, Bill Maher, Ellen DeGeneres, Holly Near and George Carlin.

Register for Bingo October 23

On October 23, 2021, beginning at 7 pm, UUCS will host a virtual Bingo night. The event is a fundraiser to help cover building expenses. At the beginning of the event, you'll be asked to contribute \$5 using an online button. The primary goal is to meet with our UUCS friends and have some fun. Prizes will be awarded to the winners. [Click here to register](#) now to receive the link to the Zoom meeting and a reminder on October 23. Email fundraisingcom@uusalem.org if you have any questions. We hope to see you there!



Share Your Ancestor Tales to be Heard on October 31

How often do you stop and honor your ancestors? Have you ever noticed that spiritual leaders often describe how a family member influenced their spiritual path? Eknath Easwaran, Ram Dass, UU ministers Rev. David O Rankin and Rev. Kate Braestrup mention grandmothers, mothers, fathers, husbands whose imprint on their development was so strong that they remember and are still inspired by these people--these ancestors.

Many cultures have traditions of honoring ancestors, those who came before us and influenced whom we became. On October 31, you will have an opportunity to do so as well. During the service we will honor our ancestors, familial or friends, who influenced us spiritually or in other ways, as well as those who have influenced our congregation. This service is called "Tales of Our Ancestors" and for this to happen, we need your help. We plan to read aloud, during the service, the stories you have written about your ancestors and how they influenced you. Themes that you could write about might include love, humor, wisdom, nurturing, healing, compassion, and gratitude.

Send your stories, one-half to a page long, to sara@uusalem.org by October 15. Also, by October 15, send to productionteam@uusalem.org a picture of an ancestor, either the person you wrote about or another person whose memory you wish to honor, along with your name and the person's name. Also, add a one to two-line dedication. We plan to show the picture during the service.

Thank you for taking a moment to honor your ancestors and be grateful for their influence in your life. We look forward to getting those stories and pictures!
~Sara Pickett, Worship Team

Celebrate Diversity in Music: Buy Concert Tickets Now!

Celebrate the cultural diversity of the Salem area through a nine-concert series coming this fall through next spring! The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem's Music department is planning the concert series for Tuesdays or Fridays each month from October 12, 2021, to June 14, 2022. You can purchase tickets for individual concerts or purchase a subscription for all concerts. Online streaming tickets for individual concerts are \$5 each, with a discount for purchasing the whole series. For concert schedule and to purchase tickets, [click here](#).

Series planner Dr. Kit Abrahamson states, "We want to support the musical community in and around Salem. This varied lineup will help celebrate our community's cultural diversity with live-stream music." Here is our lineup:

Tuesday, October 12: Sarah Saul Jazz Combo (see page 1).

Friday, November 12: Son Huitzilín presents a mix of Afromestizo songs of Mexico played on traditional instruments, with dance.

Tuesday, December 14: Kit Abrahamson and Stephanie Lynn Smith play Oregon Art Songs composed by queer Oregon composers.

Tuesday, January 11: Julianne Jackson, a singer-songwriter, leads Black Joy Oregon.

Friday, February 11: Uhuru Youth Choir, made up of youth and young adults from Salem's refugee community, express God's love and joy through song.

Friday, March 11: Rich McCloud combines rap, soul, hip-hop, pop, blues-rock, folk, and poetry.

Friday, April 15: Masumi Timson plays the Koto, a traditional Japanese stringed instrument (accompanied by Dr. Kit Abrahamson).

Friday, May 13: Monmouth Taiko plays traditional and modern Japanese taiko drum compositions. Taiko is played on large drums with choreographed dance and movement.

Tuesday, June 14: Robin Gentlewolf plays a Native American Style flute.

Behind the Chalice

Tales from Behind the Chalice: The month of October we learn more about our own **Jon Chinburg**, who provides audio support and occasional special music for our Sunday services. “Koszonom” Jon, for all that you do!

What do you most like about your position/s? *I enjoy working with a committed group of folks to produce a quality streaming presentation.*

What is one thing you would change? *I would change the algorithms of social media that are polarizing the discourse and causing ever deeper fractions to our social fabric.*

What is your idea of perfect happiness: *My perfect happiness involves spending time with my grandchildren.*

What is your greatest achievement? *Somehow, I have managed to keep a small business afloat since 1996. It's a rock band called The FlexTones.*

What do you regard as the lowest depths of despair? *I sometimes get pretty down when I feel I'm not doing a good job as a schoolteacher.*

What is your greatest extravagance? *I own a beautiful motorcycle that I love to ride.*

Who or what is the greatest love of your life? *I love the wilderness of the Pacific Northwest like no other place I've ever been.*

Who are your heroes in fiction? *Does Underdog count? He always saved the day and I loved that!*

Who are your heroes in real life? *I admire Simone Biles's courage and commitment to excellence.*

What is a meaningful piece of music for you? *Dvorak cello concerto in B minor is such an emotional piece of music.*

Where do you like to go in nature to revive? *Prior to our tragic fire last year, I loved being in the Opal Creek wilderness area.*

Anything else? *I so appreciate the love and support I feel in our UUUCS congregation. I am honored to be a part of it.*

See who we will learn about in November! Until then, we remain yours in service from Behind the Chalice.

~Sara Pickett

Social Justice News

Anti-Racism Learning Circles

You are invited to join with other UUs for Anti-Racism Learning Circles sponsored by First Unitarian of Portland, which begin in early to mid-October. Since it's on Zoom, you can join from anywhere! Learning Circles are small discussion cohorts based on a book or podcast that provide important learning about white supremacy, racism, and our national history, including:

- The opportunity to build trust and go deep in small group discussions over time
- A safe place to have difficult discussions and deal with discomfort
- Creating and strengthening relationships with other UUs
- Connection, focus and purpose in a virtual setting.

How Do Learning Circles Work?

Each cohort, typically from 4 to 12 people, gathers for a series of from 4 to 10 sessions of facilitated Zoom discussions. Meeting dates & times vary. Everyone is given the opportunity to share reactions, then discuss as a group. Participants are asked to attend all sessions to help build bonds of trust and insight.

[Click here](#) for descriptions, schedules and to register for Antiracism Learning at the First Unitarian Portland website page.



News of the Community

In our September newsletter, I wrote about the dramatic moment when **Elizabeth Bogner** and **Aman** appeared at our Sunday service and explained how Aman was able to come with Elizabeth to the U.S. Immediately, **Eric Schuman** wrote me “There’s a very important piece missing to this story: what ever happened to him? Where is he? What is his life like now? Please enlighten us, George.” Eric was quite right. We need the rest of the story! I couldn’t get it for the September newsletter. When I wrote the story, it was already nearly a full day after the newsletter deadline. I couldn’t spring more stuff on our hard-working editors still later. But I wrote to Elizabeth, and she quickly replied.

As for **Aman**, since he returned to the United States: He studied 2 years at Chemeketa Community College and then transferred to Oregon State. He received a degree in economics from Oregon State University. He was an outstanding student maintaining a four-point his entire college career. After graduation he wanted to go to graduate school. Unfortunately, he was not able to extend his visa. He had been working at Mitsubishi in Salem in the crystal growing plant. Aman returned to Kazakhstan but found that he was way too American to continue to live there. He felt very alienated from the culture and the people. He then got a job in Krakow, Poland. He has been in Poland ever since. He is now married with two children. He married a very nice Lithuanian woman name Deanna. She is Jewish. Aman said it’s pretty funny. A Muslim married to a Jewish girl living in a Catholic country and they both consider themselves agnostics! Aman now works in human resources. Our family continues to visit him, although he has not been able to get a visa to the United States yet. We have not seen him since COVID. We are all very sad about that. Hopefully, travel will become easier in the next year and we can get together again. He has now moved to Warsaw for his job. He has dreams of moving back to Oregon, but so far, they’re only dreams. Aman and I speak at least once a week.

Elizabeth herself is battling stage 4 cancer. Her sister died of cancer last December, undiagnosed until too late. Elizabeth’s cancer was diagnosed in September, but she could not get surgery until December, by which time the cancer had spread to lymph nodes and her skull. Inoperable. Elizabeth is still working as a nurse in a prison in Eastern Oregon two days a week – about all she can handle. Let’s keep Elizabeth in our thoughts and hearts.

I had written to **Joanne Manson** asking for an update on her life. She replied in early September that she moved to Wilsonville for two years, then took a job for the US Department of Transportation (DoT) in the Bay area but is working from home. Earlier this year she secured a “little homestead” in Olympia, WA, still working for DoT. She asked me for a recommendation of a UU congregation in her area. I wrote back immediately that not only is there a UU congregation in Olympia, but *Joanne already knows the minister!* That’s where Mary Gear is minister. I reported this to Mary, who quickly invited Joanne to check out her congregation. I don’t know whether Joanne has.

Mandy Bray writes that her mother **Mary**—our member for a number of years—is now in assisted living in Georgia. Mary’s Alzheimer’s had progressed so she couldn’t live in Mandy’s apartment anymore. She is now less than two miles from her son’s, Mandy’s brother’s, home. Mary would love to hear from members of our congregation. Ask me for her address. By policy, we don’t put addresses or personal phone numbers in this newsletter. You could congratulate her on her recent 88th birthday!

Does it strike you that all my news this month is about former members? Are our current members not doing anything? I have confessed that I am often the last one to learn what’s going on; I need help. So, please tell me of noteworthy things in your life – or things you know about other members – that I can share with other congregation members. Thanks!

~George Struble

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.

Habitat and Hope Village Report

"The path to homelessness doesn't have to be another one-way street."

Habitat and Hope Village, Inc. is changing focus—to do what we can, with some of the funds we have now, to serve the immediate needs of people living on the streets, as we continue working to build **A Woman's Shelter of Hope** at UUCS. HHV will have an immediate positive effect on our homeless neighbors by supporting Church at the Park in an effort, described below, that is already making progress. Our vision for A Women's Shelter of Hope remains unchanged: A welcoming temporary shelter for newly homeless, low needs women. Here, they would be provided safe refuge while working to overcome their own specific barriers to sustainable housing. The program would be preventive -- helping people avoid the slow slide into street homelessness. That vision needs a location -- a small portion of UUCS property -- on which to become a reality.

The homelessness crisis deepens. Resources are short. Time is on no one's side. Only 2 or 3 people out of ten who become street homeless find a path back to sustainable housing. For the remainder, the path to homelessness becomes a one-way street.

Meanwhile, HHV and a team appointed by the UUCS Board are working through the complexities of a land use agreement. The agreement cannot go into effect until it is approved by congregational vote and HHV cannot begin serious fundraising to build and operate A Women's Shelter of Hope until it is in effect. Given the slow pace of this process, and steadily increasing cost estimates, a pessimistic reader might comment that our current plan places A Women's Shelter of Hope at the far end of a dead-end, one-way street.

Church at the Park, led by D.J. Vincent, has begun working with the City of Salem to provide and manage temporary shelter in the form of "pallet houses" at several locations throughout the city. The goal is to provide safe, secure, temporary micro-shelters in small, managed clusters, for folks who would otherwise be unhoused. --Yes, this is happening now in Salem!! There are currently about thirty of these structures at two sites in Northeast Salem, including property owned by Catholic Community Services. Salem City Council, on September 27, approved the use of a city-owned site in West Salem for 30 additional micro-shelters. More sites are needed since the plan is to have eighty units in place by January 1.

For \$5000 an individual, a group of friends, business, or congregation can sponsor the construction and placement of a weatherproof 64-square-foot structure designed to house two people. So far, Salem community members have raised approximately \$315,000 in pledges and cash.

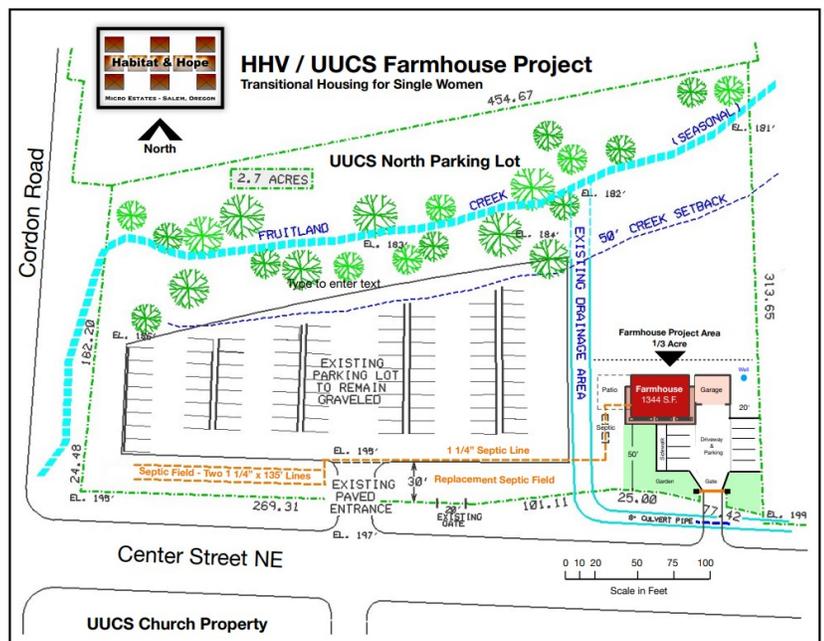
After inspecting model shelters, recently displayed at Riverfront Park, some UUCS supporters of A Women's Shelter of Hope asked the HHV board to channel a portion of their pledged donations to this effort. We have done that and will be asking other committed supporters to follow this lead. HHV board members have also agreed to contribute.

Going forward, HHV has three requests for the UUCS congregation: First, join us in supporting Church at The Park as they work to provide and manage temporary housing for the currently homeless population. You

can donate either through HHV or directly via their website, church-at-the-park.org. Then, when we can, vote *to approve* a land use agreement that enables Habitat and Hope Village, Inc. to commence, immediately, the construction of "A Women's Shelter of Hope" on UUCS property. Finally, after the land use agreement is approved, we will need your financial support and that of your contacts outside of UUCS. Donations in any amount are welcome. We need to raise \$300,000 to complete the structure and begin operations.

Why do it? *Because "the path to homelessness doesn't have to be another one-way street."*

Map of UUCS north parking lot showing planned placement of the HHV A Woman's Shelter of Hope building.



Splinters from the Board

Team Reports to the Board:

- The **Worship Team** reported on its work with the reopening team to provide the safest environment to provide services, both in-person and only live stream and with the Connections Team to develop a Coffee Service schedule for in-person fellowship times. They coordinated an outside service, a “Trim and Weed” service, with the Landscape Committee. They also worked with the Team Council to support Shared Ministry weeks during fall services.
- The **Committee on Ministry** reported that its main focus has been to familiarize themselves with the Strategic Plan and its expectations and purpose for this Committee. They have also discussed some additional ways to support all the ministries of the congregation.
- The **LRE Team** reported that regular Children’s RE will pause until the building re-opens. LRE hosted a game afternoon on September 19, giving families a chance to gather in person outside. Reverend Rick has scheduled a class to teach members of the congregation helpful skills for preaching and delivering a message from the pulpit.
- The **Facilities Team** reported a problem with closing the kitchen door, which triggered the building alarm. The AC and furnace in the RE/offices wing were replaced but there have been problems with getting the systems working. Installation of both the overhead and production lighting systems in the sanctuary was expected to be complete by October 2.

Board Discussion and Actions: Board members discussed the cost for responding to building alarms. There is a sliding scale of charges by the Marion County Sheriff to respond to these alarms ranging from \$50 for the first instance up to \$250 for a third and subsequent instances. The board recommended that the congregation be advised of the cost and to be careful when accessing the building. The Security Team was tasked with ideas to help eliminate unneeded visits from the Sheriff.

The Board recommended person(s) to be appointed to the Committee on Ministry. Reverend Rick will contact the appointee(s).

The Board discussed the donation and placement of a sculpture donated on behalf of Randy Herrin some months ago. It also discussed the stipulation in the bylaws to approve *all* donations *before* they are given. The consensus was that the Board acknowledge this donation but also take action to notify the congregation of donation requirements. The Board will continue to work on how to manage donations and acknowledgements.

~Robin Lamonte, Board Secretary

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY!

Monthly Concert Series

Presented by UUCS

Purchase Tickets

Worship Services and Religious Education

Sunday Services

10:30 am

(In-person and Live-streamed)

Fellowship Time

Noon

(via Zoom)

October Share the Plate Recipient: [Habitat and Hope Village](#)

Sunday, October 10

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

"The Borders of Your Being"

Celebrant: Janet Stevens

Music: Kit Abramson and Laura Christian

It's healthy to have good boundaries in relationships, but what about borders? There's a difference between the two. How can we think about this?

Sunday, October 17

Tom Ellis

"How We Reap What We Sow"

Celebrant: Brenna Norval

Music: Kit Abramson and Laura Christian

Is the "Mustard Seed" parable actually Ecology 101? Come join me while I compare the Parable of the Sower (Mark 4:26-29) with the Parable of the Mustard Seed (Mark 4:30-32). See how parables were used to describe ecological succession and the need to care for what you sow.

Sunday, October 24

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

"Safety, Suffering and Salvation"

Celebrant: Barbara Stebbins-Boaz

Music: Kit Abramson and Laura Christian

It's good to seek safety - right? Is it a good goal to have? What could possibly go wrong with seeking safety?

Sunday, October 31

Gloria, Sara, Jessie and All of You

"Tales of Our Ancestors"

Celebrants: Gloria Holland, Sara Pickett and Jessie Wilson

Music: Kit Abramson and Laura Christian

Many cultures have traditions of honoring their ancestors, those who came before you and who influenced who you became. Today, we share stories honoring our ancestors—familial and otherwise—those who influenced us spiritually, those who influenced our congregation. Take a moment to honor your ancestors and be grateful for their influence in your life.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation Of Salem

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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, **October 29, 2021**.
This Week submissions are due by **Wed. noon**.