



The Chalice and the Flame

Diverse people. Diverse beliefs. One community.

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

November 2021

UUCS Addresses Global Poverty One Household at a Time

In the last dozen years, UUCS has contributed to the well-being of many dozens of households in several impoverished communities in Laos, Peru, Zimbabwe, Nicaragua, and India. Aided by partner organizations, we have provided funding for small loans to poor households with good business ideas. The loans, once repaid, are loaned again and again. The Neo Fund, our current partner organization, provides microloans to the poorest of the poor. Attend or watch the live-stream of the November 7 Sunday service to learn how our past donations are helping poor women and their families in Nicaragua and India.

Live Concert! November 12

Enjoy songs of Mexico played on traditional instruments as Son Huitzilín takes the stage for the second of our 9-concert series "Celebrating Diversity". The concert will be live or live streamed at 7:00 pm on Friday, November 12.

Tickets for attending in person are \$20 or \$15 for students or seniors, with a discount for a series pass. Masks and proof of vaccination or exception will be required at the door. Purchase a single live-stream concert ticket for \$5, or become a season ticket holder for \$43, with the links to look back at any previously performed concert. Tickets and concert information are [available online here](#).



Gift Tags for Our Christmas Tree Support M.O.R.P.H.

The Mindful Organization for the Recovery of Psychological Health, M.O.R.P.H. once again is asking for your support this holiday season by providing gifts for people with significant mental health conditions who are lacking support from friends or family. Join us in reaching out to those who are so often alone and forgotten. You are invited to select gift tags which will be on a Christmas Tree in the entryway. **The gift items need to be returned no later than December 19 after the Sunday service.** The gift should be wrapped or placed in a holiday card with the tag attached. The tree will be available November 28 through December 19. We appreciate your caring and generosity. For questions contact Nina Donnelly at 503-949-6266.

Your Christmas Prayers for the World Are Needed

Halloween is over. You know what that means—Christmas decorations come out! Ahh, no! No, no! Not that. But the Worship Team does want you to know that it needs your Christmas Prayers with your name on it, to be read during the upcoming Christmas Eve Service. UUCS has reopened and the Worship Team hopes that Christmas Eve will be both in-person and live-streamed. In any event, it would be very helpful to have your Christmas Prayer for the World. You can do this as soon as you think of it, but don't wait until the last moment! Send it to sara@uusalem.org. More information about the service, including the return of the Candlelight Walk and recordings of lighting candles, will be announced in later communications. Stay tuned, and may your season be festive!

In-person Choir Rehearsals Have Resumed

Yay, in-person choir rehearsals are scheduled through at least December 16! Zoom will still be available for those who do not wish to join the in-person rehearsals, allowing them to listen and sing along. Those entering the building for rehearsals must comply with the guidelines referred to below. In addition, choir seating will be arranged with spaces between singers. Rehearsals are from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. on Thursdays, except for November 11, Veterans Day, and November 25, Thanksgiving Day. Join choir rehearsals on Zoom using [this link](#). Email questions to music@uusalem.org.

UUCS is Again Open for Worship and Other Activities

UUCS is now open to our congregation and the wider community. Those entering must show proof of vaccination or medical exception, and wear masks. Guidelines are [posted on the website](#).



Reverential Ramblings

~ Rev. Richard Davis, UUCS's minister

“Stranded at Death Crotch”

By the time you read this we will have been re-opened after a painfully long hiatus. Hopefully we'll be able to stay open so that we can be together to hug, laugh, cry, sing, dance, meditate and regain our communal strength and joy. The re-opening team (I'm not on it) has been tasked with making challenging decisions on our behalf, and I know they've had to deal with strong feedback from those anxious for us to re-open as well as from those who lean in the opposite direction.

Regardless of our views on this, everyone should remain a bit humble because we are all relatively ignorant; it's our human lot. Personally, I have been very anxious for us to re-gather because I believe there is increasing risk that the longer we stay shut, the more our congregational muscles atrophy. Yet, my ministerial perspective is skewed; I could be wrong. I know I have often been wrong about all sorts of things in the past. Thus, I take my cue from Socrates, who recognized the limitations of his knowledge, unlike those with less understanding of their limitations.

Likewise, those who urge continuing caution could be wrong. People need not only to be safe from contagious disease; we must be protected from the ravages of loneliness, despair and depression. In my opinion we all need vaccines. (I know several folks who disagree.) And we all need to feel the love and companionship of others. (I don't know of anyone who disagrees with that!) I fear the pandemic has taken a terrible psychological toll in that regard, especially on our children; I fear we will be learning of the tragic consequences for years to come.

If anyone thinks they are above the possibility of being wrong regarding such infinitely complex matters, then they have either had some profound, unprecedented-in-the-history-of-humankind religious experience that endows them with omniscience OR they are deluding themselves. I know there have been so many times in the past when I should have been humbler. However, I was so inordinately attached to my views as I rolled along that I ceased to be curious about opposing perspectives and soaked up new information and insight like a steel ball bearing soaks up water.

So, I continue to learn to be humble as I stumble and rumble down the path of life, thinking of pure, honest humility (and its close sibling, kindness) as the motor oil of the heart and mind, which I regularly need to add to the engine of my being. Without this soothing lubricant, my engine runs too hot since there's no “well, I could be wrong” humility flowing through the system to keep the friction from building up between me and folks who disagree with me. Then, too, simple humility better enables me to downshift into an empathetic frame of mind. (I do drive a stick shift.) That helps one steer around the spiritual error of despising those who disagree with one.

Many years ago, I forgot to put motor oil in an old VW Bug with a leaky engine I was driving across the country. The engine overheated and seized up just outside of Rawlins, Wyoming. The local sheriff there was renowned for arresting and cutting off the long hair of counter cultural youth, and my hair was down to my shoulders. Barely having bus fare, I had to hitchhike out at a fork in the road they called “death crotch”—in memory of the many hitchhikers who got stranded there. In short, I felt a bit vulnerable.

Indeed, as a nation we are in grave danger of our national engine seizing up from the heat of excessive strife and friction, leaving us all vulnerable in dangerous territory. I know I've been running a bit too hot lately. Yet, as I prepare to open my heart to humility, I am struck by a paradoxical realization. Being humble means being willing to readily admit when you are wrong, which makes you vulnerable, and that actually takes great courage. Do I really want to invite the spirit of true humility into my heart and make it an authentic spiritual practice? I guess that's a question we all must answer.

Love, Rick

Happenings and Highlights

The Auction Looms - Submit Your Donation!

UUCS will host an online auction in January. The auction will be held online, with bidding from January 19-23. If you have special services you can provide or you have things sitting in a closet pining for a new life, consider donating one or more items to the auction. Proceeds from the auction will benefit the UUCS operating fund. [Click here to submit your item](#). Send any questions to auction@uusalem.org.

Remembering Our Ancestors Continues!

Thank you, everyone who was able to attend, in-person or live stream, our Reopening "Appreciating Our Ancestors" service October 31. We are hoping that this type of service can become an annual one. A big thank you to the people who took the time to send in stories about people who were important to them as well as photos. We wound up with so many that we had to edit some of the stories. We still had a long service, as you know, and we appreciate your hanging in there with us until the end and doing the Monster Mash Parade. But we want to honor the full stories that were sent in, so we talked to the editors of The Chalice and the Flame and they kindly offered to publish for you a story a month. So, Appreciating Our Ancestors continues!

As a teaser, here is a snippet from Joan Erickson. Unfortunately, she was unable to complete the whole story before the October 31 service, but she promised she would write out the whole story so that we could read it. Here is a brief snapshot to hold us over: "My mother's name was Martha Knoch Brown. My mother was born to a middle-class family in Hamburg, Germany, in 1897. WW1 left a generation of marriage-eligible men dead. Although knowing no English, she accepted an offer to serve as an indentured servant to a family in San Francisco and left the world as she knew it." The photo is of Joan and her mother in mid-1936 in San Francisco. More to come next month about Joan's mother or another story, so stay tuned.



News of the Community

Joanne Manson wrote me that she had indeed connected with **Rev. Mary Gear** and the Olympia UU Congregation (OUUC) – virtually – for a special Autumn service. There were one hundred twenty virtual attendees at that service. Joanne writes further on her family and her job:

My offspring Evan and Breonna are respectively 25 and 23 years old now and living in the SF Bay Area, working, and trying to stay productive. I am in touch with them often, last visiting them down there in July. As my current position is actually based down there, I will eventually be travelling there when the 'fog' of COVID lifts, and my 3-D work office is actually in 'existence' again! There's transition there too, as the agency has to move out of its current leased area to another; this will likely not be until next spring!

But her "little homestead" will be the site of her retirement home. She was preparing an area organized and fenced for her Aussie Shepherd named Baylor. She concludes: "Hope all is well at UUCS and warm and loving regards to all."

Mako Hayashi-Mayfield and husband **Stan** recently spent two weeks in Honolulu, her birthplace, after a seven-year hiatus. This meant a lot of catch-up on the changes that have happened to once-familiar places such as the University of Hawaii campus, as well as to relatives and friends. She also made it her mission to eat as many ethnic foods as possible since that is the place where these cuisines do not become as "Westernized" as on the mainland. She enjoyed Hawaiian, Okinawan, Korean, Filipino, Japanese and, of course, the "local" foods. So much food, so little time! There were more tropical fruits and beautiful flowers than were around in her youth.

Mako *almost* saw the Unitarian Church on the Pali Highway, which is also known as "Embassy Row" due to the number of foreign consulates that are on that very wide highway that goes to the beautiful windward side of the island. Not being familiar with its location, she barely caught a glimpse of the church behind a very large "Black Lives Matter" sign fastened to the palm trees in front along the highway. She did not attend a service, since it is closed, as are most church services due to Covid.

Mako's daughter, Anjie Livengood was also there with her family, in part to celebrate younger grandson Jack's graduation from West Salem High. Four of his fellow graduates joined him on this "grad gift trip to Hawaii," the highlight of which was skydiving on the North Shore. A family highlight was a renewal of vows for Anjie and Dan

on their 27th anniversary. This happened at Ala Moana Beach Park at sunset, with older grandson Wyatt “officiating” the ceremony with his cellphone.

Chris and Daryl Vogel, now retired, have recently been to Alaska and have toured western National Parks. In 2022 (after three covid shots) they will be off to Europe and hope to live like locals internationally. You may still connect with them via vogelpack@gmail.com and ask for a Face Book connection to follow them.

Jane Maute told me of her recent phone visit with **Kathy Randall**. Kathy has been undergoing some medical tests and has lost weight and had not been feeling that well. She moved to a different apartment, which is larger but noisy. She is keeping fairly busy. Her doctors have been very good. She would appreciate your thoughts and prayers. If you wish to call her you can get her phone number from me or Jane Maute.

Jane also talked with **Sue Beale**, whom Jane describes as “nice and spunky.” Sue is still a member but does not come to church any more. She gets together occasionally with other Silverton UUs – the remnants of an “extended family,” one of several that our congregation spawned years ago, and now carried on mostly by the next generation! Sue remembers our old church at 19th and Breyman where, among other things, she taught in the church school.

I appreciate the news that Jane, the Vogels, Joanne, and Mako sent me. Others of you, please tell me your news too!

~George Struble

Behind the Chalice

November always brings thoughts of thankfulness. One person for whom we are definitely thankful is Barbara Stebbins-Boaz, whose musical, writing and relationship-building skills are appreciated by all. Here are some facts about her:

Sunday Service positions she holds: Celebrant, camera handler, occasional eliminator-of-confusion, singer.

What do you most like about your position/s: *Being useful and supportive buoys my spirit.*

What is one thing you would change: *Eliminate Covid from the earth and open the church doors wide for everyone to enter.*

What is your idea of perfect happiness: *A hike around Clear Lake with friends and my dog followed by ice cream.*

What is your greatest achievement: *Living long enough to bear witness to the recovery of a loved one.*

What do you regard as the lowest depths of despair: *When I fail to see that I have options including help from others.*

What is your greatest extravagance: *Accepting the invitation to ride someone else’s beautiful horse.*

Who or what is the greatest love of your life: *Impossible to answer for there are several.*

Who are your heroes in fiction: *Nancy Drew and Winnie the Pooh.*

Who are your heroes in real life: *Michelle Obama and Rachel Carson.*

What is a meaningful piece of music for you: *Aaron Copland’s Fanfare for the Common Man.*

Where do you like to go in nature to revive: *Nature can be found pretty much everywhere—weeds in an alley, the cool shade of a hemlock grove, everything in between. I’m revived by all of it.*

Anything else: *I’m only here for a short time and I aim to enjoy it!*

Until next time, we remain yours, from Behind the Chalice.

~Sara Pickett, Worship Team Chair



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.

Help Wanted and Appreciated!

Coffee Service - Part of Our Shared Ministry

As part of the shared ministry campaign, we are asking that each member of the congregation help with coffee service one or two times throughout the year, beginning November 7. We are hoping this will give everyone an opportunity to meet other members and to be part of service to our community. A schedule has already been created which includes all members. You can easily scroll [the alphabetized list online](#) to find your scheduled Sundays.

Thank you to the nine congregational Team Leaders who will be heading different teams throughout the year to provide the coffee service, complete with other drinks and treats! And then, most of all, thank you to **you**, who are willing to be on these teams and provide the coffee service!

Although many of you have helped with coffee services before, some of you haven't and that is okay. That is why we have a Team Leader and there are likely others on your team who can help you learn the ropes, or in this case, the coffee beans. Duties include everything from making the coffee, heating water for tea, setting out cups and treats, providing treats, washing dishes, and just being the kind friendly people you already are. Your team leader will be contacting you with a reminder the Monday prior to the Sunday that you will be helping. For example, those who will be serving on November 14 should be getting an email from their team leader on November 8. If you can't make that date, no worries, try and see if you can switch with someone, or have that be the day you help provide treats. Your team leader or Anna or Sara with the Connections Team, should be able to help you with this.

If you have any other questions or concerns, contact Anna or Sara at connectionsteam@uusalem.org. Don't see your name on the schedule? Let us know, we would love to include you – the more the merrier!

Thank you for being part of the UUCS community.

~Anna Tally and Sara Pickett

Social Justice Report

Homelessness has been a problem for several years and shows no signs of diminishing. Although the Salem community has recently provided some secure transitional housing and RV parking, it doesn't meet the demand. Some of Salem's homeless have found permanent housing, other homeless have found jobs and a lucky few have found both. Our community, including UUCS members, is proactively addressing the needs of the homeless. Stories on homelessness focus too often on homelessness's disruptive and negative aspects. When was the last time you saw a positive story about the homeless?

There are many social justice issues UUCS could address ranging from racism, misogyny, poverty, immigrant rights, LGBTQ rights, and environmental justice. Why address homelessness? It's a condition, not a problem, that eighty percent of those attending the special congregational meeting in February voted to direct the UUCS Board to pursue an agreement to with Habitat and Hope Village to develop transitional housing for low needs homeless women. The outcome of that meeting reflects a strong, significant congregational interest in addressing homelessness. A congregation the size of UUCS can address three to four social justice issues. Addressing homelessness is a start. The congregation should guide the selection of social justice initiatives. Ideally, the congregation would select which social justice initiatives to pursue.

In the past, the Social Justice team was asked to take on homelessness. Unfortunately, the committee was focused on addressing injustice, not providing social services. I feel a multitude of injustices contribute to homelessness. The injustices include lack of healthcare, full time jobs with poverty wages, lack of drug and alcohol treatment, inadequate mental health services, moving production offshore, unjustified rent increases, the need to post bail instead being released on personal recognizance for minor offences are just a few.

Stories about why people are homeless too often focus on mental illness and alcohol and drug addiction, not on a rent increase, a broken car, medical bills (the leading cause of personal bankruptcy) or losing a job. Ideally, UUCS could focus on helping the homeless and preventing homelessness. The [First](#), [Second](#), [Sixth](#) and [Seventh](#) Unitarian Universalist Principles guide our social justice efforts.

Efforts such as Habitat and Hope Village, conceived by UUCS members, is facing resistance from Marion County. Proposed locations for managed transitional housing are resisted by neighbors. Salem interprets its municipal code in a manner that prevents individuals and organizations from sponsoring porta potties for the

homeless. Then the homeless are issued citations for going to the bathroom in public. There is a lot of “not in my backyard” and “not in my community in Salem.” It appears that Salem merchants and individuals want homelessness to disappear but aren’t willing to act in a positive manner to provide transitional housing and support services that have worked elsewhere to reduce the number of homeless individuals.

UUCS can make a difference in the lives of the homeless. It might not be much, but it’s better than doing nothing. Addressing homelessness as a congregation amplifies our efforts, gives voice to them, and opens doors. In November members working to address homelessness will be consulted and their ideas on how to proceed will be shared with the congregation.

When attending Sunday Service you might notice wall mounted video cameras, theatrical lighting, and a change in Sanctuary lighting—the lights were upgraded to LEDs—all of which were done to support video streaming and recording. I’ll admit that much of my recent UUCS efforts have been spent installing video cameras, theatrical lighting and LED lights and not enough on social justice. Yet, the ability to stream and record video provides capabilities that allow UUCS to engage the community on social justice.

Let’s create positive stories about the homeless! Your ideas and efforts to make a difference in the lives of the homeless and engage the community will create those stories. I want to hear your ideas; send me an email at jproUU@gmail.com.

~John Prohodsky, Social Justice Chair

Splinters from the Board

Reports to the Board from teams and staff:

Membership Team reported more hosts are needed for UUCS reopening and that the Engagement Team has been calling members with update information.

Investment Team reported on our investments and their rate of return, stating that investments are earning around 8% per year. It was clarified that all funds are combined in one Vanguard Account and not invested separately.

Lifespan Religious Education reported there are two new parents on the LRE team. The RE Team announced two Sunday afternoon meet-ups at neighborhood playgrounds in Salem in October for anyone who wanted to attend, and the entire congregation is invited.

Facilities Team reported there were a couple of instances of the kitchen door not being latched. There were two instances of alarms going off. There won’t be a charge because law enforcement was notified before they responded. The sanctuary lights have not been installed. The new goal will be to have the lights in the sanctuary installed by October 23rd. The landscape team is working on leaf pick-up.

Board actions:

Adopted a Staff Covid Vaccination Policy

Accepted a donated tablet

Acknowledged the contributions from the Legacy Campaign: The board acknowledged the work of George Struble and the legacy campaign and voted to accept the donations that were made during the campaign. The current policy on Legacy Campaign donations was vague and the board requested the Finance Team review and revise the policy.

Board Reports:

Fundraising Committee: The Celebrating Cultural Diversity Concerts are underway and, while the building is closed, will be live-streamed. Because UUCS agreed to pay the musicians for the concerts that are planned, there is a concern that the \$5 fee for attending the online concert will not cover the costs. A bingo night fundraiser was planned but cancelled due to lack of participation. The committee is working on holding a virtual auction after the first of the year.

HHV Lease Agreement Update: Details of the land use lease with HHV continue to be worked out. A UUCS work group has submitted a draft lease to HHV and after revisions from both parties, the lease is currently with HHV awaiting their input. A meeting will be scheduled with HHV and the review team after HHV has completed its review.

~Christine Ertl, Board Chair

Worship Services and Religious Education

Sunday Services and LRE

10:30 am
(In-person and Live-streamed)

Fellowship Time

After Service
(In-person)

November Share the Plate Recipient: [Microfinance](#)

Sunday, November 7

Ron Hockley, Guest Speaker

**"How UUCS Micro-loans Lift the Poor and
Change the World Every Day "**

Celebrant: Gloria Holland
Music: Kit Abramson and Laura Christian
Special Music: Kit Abrahamson

Ron Hockley will tell stories that demonstrate the life-changing value of the micro-loans our congregation makes possible in Nicaragua and India.

Sunday, November 14

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

"Roger Williams: A Great American Soul for Our Times "

Celebrant: Barbara Stebbins-Boaz
Music: Laura Christian and Brother Finn

Special Music: Loriann Schmidt, Barbara Stebbins-Boaz, Laura Christian

In the 1600s, a Puritan Minister by the name of Roger Williams founded a place called Providence Plantations where the idea of religious freedom and "liberty of conscience" were fostered. Come find out what happened to him and how he connects to UU principles.

Sunday, November 21

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

"Dwelling in the Grumpy Zone"

Celebrant: Gloria Holland
Music: Kit Abramson and Laura Christian
Special Music: Marcia Christenson and Bryanna West

Are you familiar with the Grumpy Zone? Come explore - there are some interesting things to learn. Grumpiness ain't all bad and more.

Sunday, November 28

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

"Wells We Did Not Dig"

Celebrant: Janet Stevens
Music: Kit Abramson and Laura Christian
Special Music: Tom Ellis

If you ask UUs what they believe you will get many answers. If you ask us why we believe what we do you will get one answer. Yet that one answer leads us in many fruitful directions as we explore our sources. Please come join us - it'll be great to see YOU and it'll be meaningful to have this opportunity to reflect upon the deeper meanings and purposes of our lives.

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5090 Center St. NE, Salem, OR 97317

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Minister: The Rev. Richard R. Davis

rdavis@uuma.org

Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration:

Lily Walker dlre@uusalem.org

LRE Assistant: Open

Music: Laura Christian and
Kit Abrahamson

music@uusalem.org

Board Chair: Christine Ertl

boardchair@uusalem.org

Congregational Administrator: Emma Kreger

Office Administrator: Jo Sweeney

Office open Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Phone: 503-364-0932

E-mail: office@uusalem.org

UUCS Internet Links to:

Website: www.uusalem.org

Facebook: facebook.com/UUSalem

Newsletter Editors: editors@uusalem.org

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, **December 3, 2021**. **This Week** submissions are due by **Wed.** noon.