



The Chalice and the Flame

Diverse people. Diverse beliefs. One community.

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

December 2021

Women's Alliance Poinsettia and Bake Sale December 12



Women's Alliance will be selling baked items after the service on December 12. We will have our usual beautiful poinsettias. Baked goods will be sold individually to enjoy after the service and also in batches that can be taken home for further enjoyment. Cheesecakes will also be available.

Oregon Art Song with Dr. Kit and Stephanie Lynne Smith December 14

Enjoy Oregon Art song composed by queer Oregon Composers, live in concert **December 14 at 7:00 pm** at the church. Art songs are vocal music compositions, usually for one voice accompanied by piano.

The performance will be by **Dr. Kit Abrahamson**, baritone, and **Stephanie Lynne Smith**, piano. Abrahamson presents his debut vocal recital singing music by 21st Century Oregon queer composers. The centerpiece is "I Am He" a ten-song cycle by Evan C. Paul, originally for tenor, but transposed at Dr. Abrahamson's request.

Dr. Kit Abrahamson is a queer trans musician now living in Salem. While his multiple music degrees are in composition and music theory, he also teaches cello and piano, sings in choir, conducts school orchestras, and performs on cello and piano.

Smith was Cantor and Worship Designer for Grace Cathedral in San Francisco and toured with Bugs Bunny at the Symphony as pianist/slide guitarist, performing with the New York Philharmonic in Avery Fisher Hall and the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl. In January 2012, she was invited to tour with Broadway veteran Cavaliere Franc D'Ambrosio (The Godfather III/ Phantom of the Opera) and they've been touring together ever since. Currently, Stephanie is an active performance coach and producer in the San Francisco Bay Area and Oregon's Willamette Valley. Her *Miss Smith Presents* livestreams through her company, SLS Artist LLC, have raised over \$20,000 for non-profits.



Tickets for attending in person are \$20 (\$15 for students and seniors), with a discount for a series pass. Masks and proof of vaccination or OHA medical exemption will be required at the door. IF you prefer to live-stream, single concert tickets are \$5 and a season ticket costs \$43, with the links to look back at any previously performed concert.

Purchase Concert Tickets

This is the third in a nine-concert series held at 7:00 pm Tuesdays or Fridays each month from October 12, 2021 to June 14, 2022. The performances range from Native American flute to Taiko drums, Jewish influenced Jazz and much more.

Prayers for the World and Videos of Candle Lighting Needed by December 15

Now that K103FM is playing Christmas music, we can talk about some of the details about our Christmas Eve Service. Thank you to those who have sent in your *Christmas Prayers for the World* to sara@uusalem.org. Please continue to do so, it is very helpful.

To participate in the Christmas Eve service, you can also send in a short video of yourself or loved ones lighting a candle and passing it from your left to your right. After recording the video, send it to this website: <https://tinyurl.com/UUSalemDrop> by **December 15**. The videos will be incorporated into the annual candle lighting ritual. Thank you so much and see you on Christmas Eve, if not before!

~ The Worship Team.



Reverential Ramblings

~ Rev. Richard Davis, UUCS's minister

When I officiate at memorial services the most challenging part for me comes near the beginning when I announce the death of someone we knew and loved. At that moment – when I publicly acknowledge this loss from the pulpit to our gathered community – it really hits me, and I choke up. It's OK, I'm human and I know how to take a breath and regain my composure and continue, just as I did on November 22 when I had to announce the passing of our good friend John Tom Maluski, and as I probably will when we say goodbye to our dear friend [Carol Manka](#) early next year (date TBA soon).

Some years ago, an hour or so before the rural graveside service of a young fellow I knew and loved I realized there was no way I could officiate in my grieving condition. It was such a senseless and tragic death. Grief weighed like a cannon ball in my chest. Unless I did something, I knew that my own uncontrollable weeping was going to detract from this sacred ritual – I had an important responsibility to fulfill so others could grieve. Since I had arrived early; I had time to do what I needed to do. A few folks had already gathered by the graveside, but I paid them little heed. I stood by my young friend's casket and looked into the open ground and freely wept and wept without restraint. I did not hold back and why should I have? This really hurt.

After I wept, I returned to my car to collect my notes and prepare to officiate while others arrived to grieve, and I was able to fulfill this sad duty while the young man's father did his own grieving in front of me. This loss of life was so heartbreaking for everyone.

Yet his mother, who loved him as dearly as anyone, was not there. People naturally wondered, "where was she?" Then we learned that at this same moment their daughter was in labor, giving birth to her first child, and she needed her mom to be present to offer support. What a day that was for the family – a mixture of grief and joy.

This new birth did not take away the pain of loss, but it was a reminder not to get lost in the realms of grief because there is always new life to welcome and celebrate.

I think of UUCS where we mourn the deaths (and celebrate the lives) of such wonderful people. It's also a place where we nurture young life with love. Have you noticed that on the past several Sunday mornings there's a lovely, lively number of children here? What a joy to watch them play after the service in the expanded outdoor area where there are three large Mongolian yurts, animal shelters with cute, small critters, an outdoor fort, and a trail. Come hear their joyful shouts resound here at this lovely spiritual home we continue to create. (Also, look for opportunities to volunteer with our young ones – it's a joyful way to participate in our shared ministry).

December is a great time of year to celebrate new life and light as we pass through Hanukkah and Solstice on to Christmas Eve when we have our special celebration of the birth of light and love in our world. (Join us at 6:30 for the candle light walk and at 7 for the service).

These are hard times for many and dark times for all of us as clouds of division and discord block out spiritual light. Yet the light always breaks through such clouds – somewhere, somehow, often in the least expected places, a pure light of love breaks through. May clear shafts of this heavenly light appear unto you and may you be a light to others wherever you go.

Happy holidays!

Love,
Rick



Lifespan Religious Education

~ Molly Brown, Director, Lifespan Religious Education

Hello everyone!

My name is Molly Brown and I am so excited to be joining the RE team! I met so many wonderful new people at the last couple of services and I look forward to meeting you all in the weeks to come!

I would like to introduce myself and tell you a little bit about myself and my experiences that have led me to this new position. I am a 37-year-old, single mother of two kiddos (Joey, 6 and Emilee, 4) that moved up to Oregon from Northern California 11 years ago to attend OSU. I have my Child Development Associate (CDA) and my degree in Early Childhood Education. I have over 20 years of Early Childhood Education experience, including 3 years as the Director/Lead Pedagogista at Kaleidoscope Preschool that shares the RE classrooms and the UU Principles here at UUCS.

I have been thinking of ways to combine the two programs, using the Reggio Emilia Approach, in a collaboration that will grow both programs exponentially and offer a safe, fun place for children of all ages to come to for support and understanding. Not only are we working together inside, but the playground, the Ninja Obstacle Course, the farm with animals (two ducks, a bunny and our pig Dotty) and the beach in the field next door to the church will be available for the RE kids to play in each Sunday!

As a Reggio teacher, I use the Emergent Curriculum, which recognizes that children learn best when they are motivated by the opportunity to explore the things that interest them. This gives them the self-confidence to ask questions, get excited about learning and doesn't limit them to learning about just one thing at a time. I'm a firm believer in this process and believe (and have seen proof) that it can work with children of all ages.

The RE team will be hosting a parents' night soon to meet everyone and ask you and your children what you would like to see in your RE Program. The children in RE are also planning a special surprise for the congregation in the beginning of the year, so stay tuned for more information about both of those! We also plan on Co-Hosting the Candlelight Walk on Christmas Eve, so bring a candle and enjoy a stroll around the church with us before the service!

This Sunday, we will be talking about what we believe in here at UUCS and working on Creating Joy by celebrating the "power of silly" and the "work of whimsy"!

If anyone is interested in volunteering for the RE Program, please feel free to email me at dlre@uusalem.org or the RE Team at re.team@uusalem.org!

Thanks so much and I'll see you on Sunday!

Molly Brown
Director of Lifespan Religious Education

More News and Events

Online Auction Needs YOU!



We need YOU! You can boost the UUCS Operating Fund by donating an item, a service, or an adventure/experience to the Online Auction, scheduled for January 16 - 23, 2022. **Donations are needed right away so we can build the catalog!**

We have received some interesting donations so far, and we will be putting together an online catalog for you to browse in the near future. Some of the items we've received so far are antiques, artwork, audio visual equipment, food, jewelry, and wine.

Do you need some ideas?

Do you have a Time Share or vacation rental that you'd be willing to make available?

Maybe you are downsizing or redecorating and need to find a home for those lovely, but no longer needed, pieces of furniture.

Can you provide a membership to a gym or museum?

How about providing/leading an adventure?

Thank you for considering supporting us in this endeavor. Together we can make this a successful event. Auctions are fun!!

Gift Tags for Our Christmas Tree Support M.O.R.P.H. by December 19

The Mindful Organization for the Recovery of Psychological Health, M.O.R.P.H. (formerly the Mental Health Association of Marion County) once again is asking for your support this holiday season with 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 from the Christmas Tree in the entryway. The gift items need to be returned wrapped or placed in a holiday card **no later than December 19 with the tag attached**. We appreciate your caring and generosity. For questions contact Nina Donnelly at 503-949-6266.

Join the LRE Team!

If you are interested in supporting the Lifespan Religious Education (LRE) program at UUCS, join us for our monthly meeting on the third Sunday of each month, beginning at 12:15 pm. The LRE Team supports the Lifespan Religious Education Program by providing input for the Director of LRE and arranging activities for parents and families. Contact RE.Team@uusalem.org if you're interested in joining us. [Click here for more information about the LRE team.](#)



In Person Meetings REQUIRE Scheduling and Current Codes

It's been quite a long while since we have all used the building regularly. Here are some reminders about how to properly plan for holding a meeting in the church. The UUCS office coordinates all scheduling for church spaces, including required janitorial services and heat! If you're planning to meet at the church, you must reserve your meeting room space, even if it's at a table in the fellowship hall. Click here to submit the [Event Scheduling Request](#).

Building codes changed last June. If your meeting is in the evening or on the weekend, someone in the group will need codes to lock and unlock the building. To obtain the new codes, visit or contact the office for the form. ****Remember, do not share key codes or passwords!**

If you represent an affiliated ministry and you haven't filled out a new building use/rental agreement since reopening – contact the office. You must complete a new form as guidelines have changed!

If you have questions or concerns contact the office via office@uusalem.org.

2022 General Assembly in Portland, June 22-26

General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists for conducting business of the Association, exploring the theological underpinnings of our faith, and leaning fully into our mission and principles.

The UUA website has all the information at <https://www.uua.org/ga> about how to attend, either live or virtually, how to volunteer and how to submit program proposals. Anyone can attend GA as a participant. In addition, congregations send delegates who will participate in voting on the issues put forward by the UUA. There is no current information on what these issues will be, but this will be distributed to our congregation once the issues are announced.

News of the Community

Neither her age of 98 nor the pandemic prevented Marge French from flying to Santa Maria, CA to visit her daughter Suzy and three grandchildren. She attended the baby shower for her great-granddaughter, who is due January 1. Every day was busy; Marge enjoyed her three great grandkids, ages 9, 6, and 4. A bonus was the 80-degree weather and the bright sunshine. Marge has been a member of this congregation for over forty years!

You may know that there is a UUCS contingent residing at Capital Manor Retirement Community in West Salem. The longest-time resident is Jo Bateman (16 years). Others who joined her in more recent years are Phil and Kay Cogswell (2018), LeRoy and Sylvia Kline (2019), and Mako Hayashi-Mayfield (2020). Newest residents are Leslie and Bob Zeigen (2021). John and Glee Kerns, were longtime members of UUCS and also resided at CM for many years; now their daughter, Kathie Leffler, lives there. Lately added to the wait list are George and Elsa Struble.

In retirement communities, there is always interest in forming groups of people with interests in common, and, led by Mako and Rev. Rick, these residents have started a monthly Capital Manor UU Lunch Bunch. This has already had several meetings in the 10th floor lounge, which affords a lovely view of the Willamette River. Rev Rick is always in attendance to give guidance when needed, and also to get to know the members. Residents who are not UUCS members but share a liberal view of religion are welcome too. The group will consider using the Soul Matters program for their gatherings. Rev Rick is checking into whether the Sunday Service can be streamed into the TV in the 10th floor lounge.

From the Joys and Concerns posted on our webpage we learned of Alan and Gloria Holland's joy that: "We are proud to report that our granddaughter, Fiona, who is now 12 and in the 6th grade, was selected as a Student of the Month at Walker Middle School."

Deborah Cordis-Weaver wrote in "Joys and Concerns": "I am retiring after 25 years of self-employment. I am ready for another adventure. I am open for your suggestions." I suggest that Deborah consider joining one of the UUCS teams/committees that enrich the UUCS experience for all of us. Also, she might check into the fantastic variety of trips by Road Scholar! And maybe hikes or other outings with the Chemeketans outdoor club? Congratulations on your retirement, Deborah. I wish you as much enjoyment and satisfaction as I have had for my first 24 years of retirement!

I appreciate Marge French and Mako Hayashi-Mayfield for their contributions to this column. The rest of you, please tell me your news too!

~Submitted by George Struble

Splinters from the Board

Facilities Report: The Board authorized \$4,306 of funds remaining in the "reopening fund" to pay the estimated cost of installing outdoor parking lot lights. The Facilities Team reports the LED bulbs will be much brighter, and use less electricity.

The board gratefully acknowledged the other work of the Facilities Team, including installing lighting in the sanctuary, and checking on the seals on all of the doors, to prevent future security alarms. The Board asked the team to ensure safety when cleaning the gutters by using longer ladders and a spotter whenever a ladder is in use.

Building Reopening: The building reopened, to great support, for Sunday services and use by all teams and community groups. Guidelines are posted on the website. The Sunday Hosts Team is working on how to keep a record of who is vaccinated so that the congregation doesn't have to show their cards each time they attend services.

HHV Lease Agreement Update: HHV changed their focus. (See HHV Update elsewhere in this newsletter.) Thus, no shelter project is being planned for the north lot and the lease agreement is not being pursued. HHV will continue to keep the board advised of their next steps.

Fundraising Committee: The Celebrating Diversity concert series fundraiser is now live and livestreamed after 2 wonderful concerts. Thanks to Dr. Kit Abrahamson for organizing this series. A process has been established to apply the cost of already purchased tickets for the livestream concerts to the cost of in person tickets. Other planned fundraisers include a virtual auction in January coordinated by Sharon Pierson, and a spring dance coordinated by Gloria Holland-Smith.

Committee on the Ministry Report: Members of the Committee on the Ministry met with the board to review their role “to provide supervision, support and advocacy for the ministerial staff and serve to mediate conflict.” There was discussion about the process for resolving issues and conflicts and consensus that no clear process is in place. The Personnel Policies and the Restorative Communications Policy do not apply to the senior minister. The Committee on the Ministry will work on policies and procedures and work with the Board on finalizing the information.

Executive Session: The Board approved Molly Brown as the Director of Lifespan Religious Education, accepted the resignation of Laura Christian, Music Director and approved a committee and recruitment process for the Music Director

GA delegates: The delegates to last year’s General Assembly met with the board at their retreat and presented a report and suggestions on moving forward with UUCS delegates in the future. They will bring recommendations back to the board.

Social Justice News

The increasingly conservative, violent and fascist American culture makes our social justice efforts needed while creating a culture that is hostile to social justice. This hostility is a reaction to legislation protecting rights and the environment.

American culture isn’t what it was. In the 1960’s and 1970’s landmark civil rights and environmental legislation was passed by Congress. Since the 1960s American society has become socially more liberal with increasing opportunities and visibility for women, minorities and the LGBTQT community. These changes reflect Unitarian Universalist values.

In the 1960’s several groups who had minimal, if any, civil rights, compared to white men, received civil rights or started advocating openly for civil rights. The 1964 Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibited discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 outlawed discriminatory voting practices. Women advocated to be more than wives who took care of the house and raised children. The 1969 Stone Wall Inn Riots galvanized LGBTQ political activism.

In the 1970’s abuse of the environment was recognized, and Congress passed two landmark environmental acts, The Clean Air Act of 1970 and The Clean Water Act of 1972. The Environmental Protection Agency was created in 1970 to protect the environment by reducing pollution. These were Congress’s response to rivers catching fire, air pollution, and pesticides killing animals.

In response the U.S. Chamber of Commerce commissioned Lewis Powell in 1971 to write a memo describing actions that the Chamber and the broader business community should take in response to fierce criticism in the media, campus-based protests, and new consumer and environmental laws. The Powell Memo galvanized large corporations and wealthy individuals to create institutions that provided the philosophical underpinnings of corporate activism, create a judiciary that would rule in favor of businesses, and encourage creation of foundations funding pro-business initiatives. Campaign finance regulations were gutted by the Citizens United Supreme Court decision and the non-enforcement of non-profit laws.

Culture Wars and the creation of wedge issues that divide America have created an us vs. them mentality. Facts are irrelevant: what one feels or believes matters more. Conservatives have increasingly focused on “owning the libs” to invoke a response and humiliate liberals while making conservatives feel good about themselves. Conservatives are increasingly driven by hatred of liberals. Disinformation spread by social media has created opinions that are not supported by facts. Regardless of overflowing hospital ICUs, science, and experience with COVID-19 vaccines there are people who don’t believe COVID-19 is real or believe COVID-19 vaccines are harmful. Efforts to increase equity in schools have been described by conservatives as portraying white America as evil and making white Americans feel bad about themselves. Liberals, immigrants, non-white, and non-Christian Americans are being attacked. Violence from militias is expected to increase. Civil war is openly talked about.

The conservative turn of American culture is an opportunity to grow UUCS and our social justice program. We can and will address injustice in our community and world.

~Submitted by John Prohodsky

A Call to Support our Newest Neighbors

Dear UUCS,

Our newest neighbors are refugee families who have fled their countries due to persecution, war, or violence.

My husband and I have been involved with 5 families over the past 5 years who have fled Iraq, Syria, or the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Our lives have been immeasurably enriched by walking alongside each of these families as they enter schools, work, and community life in Salem. The Salem community is stronger and richer due to these families who are now part of the fabric of Salem.

Since 2016, refugees coming to Salem have been supported by a grass-roots community organization called Salem For Refugees. Salem For Refugees is composed of individual volunteers, faith communities, businesses, non-profits, government organizations, and civic groups.

Salem will soon become home to 20 Afghan families, and that is why I am writing this open letter to UUCS. We have all watched in anguish as the United States ended its role in the War in Afghanistan and saw so many of the Afghan people at the airport hoping to flee to a safe country.

One of the ways UUCS members can welcome these courageous and hopeful people to Salem is by forming a "Good Neighbor Team". Each new family resettling in Salem needs to have a "Good Neighbor Team" to offer friendship, support and help with acculturation to life in Salem, Oregon.

Each Good Neighbor Team is composed of 4 to 10 individuals who undergo training by Salem For Refugees staff before being assigned to a refugee family. Each Good Neighbor Team makes a commitment to have a team member visit their assigned family once a week for a period of a year. The needs of each family will vary, and the training from Salem for Refugees provides each Good Neighbor Team with the skills and support needed to be helpful, respectful, and welcoming.

By joining a Good Neighbor Team, you demonstrate that you value diversity, you value and respect other cultures, and you want to participate in proving that love is alive and stronger than fear. I can promise you that you will be enriched by the opportunity to befriend our newest neighbors. I can promise you that you will grow and learn and be strengthened as you become friends with people who are restarting their lives in Salem.

If I have touched your heart, I am grateful and I thank you.

~ Joan Stembridge

Contact the office if you have questions or you'd like Joan to connect you with Salem for Refugees training to become a Good Neighbor Team member.

Habitat and Hope Village Report

With much help from the UUCS congregation, Habitat and Hope Village, Inc. has contributed \$10,000 to the fund-raising effort of Church@ThePark. These funds, not previously dedicated to building a shelter at UUCS, will be used to purchase two of the micro shelters C@P will be operating for the benefit of our homeless neighbors. This community wide effort has raised over \$300,000 in cash and pledges.

HHV recently learned that the Women's Shelter of Hope planned for UUCS Property needs to house at least ten clients in order to have an existing social service organization provide case support and on-site management. Ways to increase capacity include building the planned 5-person permanent structure and adding portable micro shelters to the site. Another approach – which could be done more rapidly and at less cost – would be to develop the site for ten or more micro shelters surrounding a portable kitchen, restroom and laundry facility. By using portable clean and waste water services, a village of small cabins would not require a permanent well and septic system needed for the permanent shelter building.

The only way Marion County could permit the increased number of clients or the use of non-permanent structures on this site would be for the State of Oregon to change a law that limits the use of the property. Under current law (ORS 215.441) the county can only allow a religious organization to provide "...housing or space for housing in a building or buildings that are detached from the place of worship...." with restrictions, including one that says: "The real property [must be] in an area zoned for residential use that is located within the urban growth boundary... "

While UUCS property is zoned "acreage-residential," it lies outside the Salem urban growth boundary. Therefore, on Nov. 18, the HHV board decided to officially pause further development on the UUCS property while we investigate a change to state law. The proposed change would allow establishment of portable transitional housing for homeless people on property that is within county jurisdiction outside the urban growth boundary. This strategy will be re-evaluated in six months.

We are looking for additional volunteers to help with governmental and legislative issues. And, because it will probably take several months to change the law, we are also looking for suitable property inside the urban growth boundary.

As always, HHV welcomes your ideas and suggestions. [Click here to contact us.](#)

Behind the Chalice

For the month of December, we learn about Loriann Schmidt. Loriann stepped up in August of 2020 and has steered UUCS through the deep waters of live-streaming services, including development of the Production Team. The Production Team handles video, sound, and lighting for Sunday Services and also consults with community people renting our building. She also guided us moving from handheld cameras to remote computer-controlled cameras and, along with Jon Chinburg, has helped to create the videos seen during various services. So here is a little more about Loriann Schmidt.

Position/s for Sunday Services: Video Engineer, Guest Musician, Chair of Production Team.

What do you most like about your position/s: I like to be behind the scenes and challenge my inner and outer “geek”.

One thing you would change: Nothing.

Your idea of perfect happiness: Getting people, kids, excited about science.

Your greatest achievement: Having worked in so many different fields (I like variety).

Your greatest extravagance: Paying someone to clean my house.

Greatest love of your life: My family.

Your heroes in fiction: I don't read that much fiction.

Your heroes in real life: Women scientists, teachers, and mentors.

A meaningful piece of music for you: I like it all.

Where you like to go in nature to revive: The mountains in Colorado.

Anything else: If you have an inner geek, come join the Production Team!

Until next time, we remain yours in service, From Behind the Chalice

Honoring our Ancestors

My Mother is My Heroine, Part Two, By Joan Erickson

Recently, I wrote of my mother's arrival on Ellis Island from her birth home in Hamburg, Germany. The year was 1921. The First World War had ravaged the greater part of Europe and the Spanish Flu, a pandemic virus of mass killing proportions, had struck those who'd survived the bombings. She hadn't been spared: the man to whom she'd become engaged to marry had been killed in the War, and the flu had devastating effects on her body. For a period of time one side of her body was paralyzed, and after healing she'd lost both the sight of one eye and the hearing of the damaged side's ear.

Eager to encourage her, my grandparents sent her to Paris to learn fashion design and dressmaking; in the long run, it was a good choice, but instead of beginning in that trade, she opted to accept work as an indentured servant to a family in San Francisco in exchange for passage from Hamburg. She knew no English and carried only modest baggage when the ship docked. Good fortune came to her in the form of an American Rabbi who spoke several languages and as one of his 'good works' volunteered to meet immigrants. Sensing her need for directions in taking step two, he showed her the train station and explained the details of the cross-country trip facing her. Before they parted, he gave her his business card on which he wrote the name and San Francisco address of members of his wife's family, assuring her that they would welcome her if her servitude didn't work out.

The servitude was disastrous and it wasn't long before she sought help, arriving penniless at the home of those who, fourteen years later, became my family as well. Like her German Protestant birth family, this new family was Jewish. The father's first wife had died of cancer. He had no option but to take his two young children to his mother's home at the same time my mother arrived at their door. She took over the rearing of the children and over time their father and she fell in love. They married, and in 1935 I was born.

Worship Services and Religious Education

Religious Education

In person, during service

10:30 am

Sunday Service

In-person and Live-streamed

10:30 am

Fellowship Time

In-person

Noon

December Share the Plate Recipient: [Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice \(IMirJ\)](#)

Sunday, December 12

"The Journey to Best Self"

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

Celebrant: Barbara Stebbins- Boaz

Music: Kit Abrahamson and Laura Christian

Special Music: Cheryl Randall

We're often counseled to "be your best self" - yet in order to do that it might help to be aware of your worst self. Let's explore what this might mean.

Sunday, December 19

"Humblest Guy in the Coffee Shop and Proud of It"

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

Celebrant: Janet Stevens

Music: Kit Abrahamson and Laura Christian

Special Music: Ezra Alexander

Humility - what's that all about? Isn't it the opposite of pride? Having a low opinion of yourself? Maybe not. Let's see how it looks in real life.

Christmas Eve, December 24

7 pm

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

"Love Never Fails"

Celebrant: Brenna Norval

Music: Kit Abrahamson and Laura Christian

Join us at 6:30 pm for the Annual Candlelight Walk before the service. Join others in the community as we stroll down the lighted pathway around UUCS grounds together.

The Christmas Eve Service begins at 7 pm. We'll celebrate the incarnation of love throughout the ages and around the world. To attend in person, make a reservation and bring your vaccination or medical exemption document. The service will also be live-streamed.

Following the service, you are welcome to stay for light refreshments in the fellowship hall.

[Click here to register to attend in person.](#)

[Click here to watch the live stream.](#)

Sunday, December 26

"Peace for the Past Year and Blessings for the New Year"

Sara Pickett, Robert Muir

Music: Loriann Schmidt and Barbara Stebbins-Boaz

Let us say a peaceful farewell to the past year and bless the new year that is approaching while finding inspiration within each of us.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation Of Salem

5090 Center St. NE, Salem, OR 97317

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Minister: The Rev. Richard R. Davis

revrick@uusalem.org

Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration:

Molly Brown dire@uusalem.org

LRE Assistant: Sarah Rohrs

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 Sharon Pierson with help from 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 31, 2021.**

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