



# The Chalice and the Flame

*Diverse people. Diverse beliefs. One community.*

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

## January 2022

### Julianne Jackson Concert January 11



Join us Tuesday, January 11 at 7:00 pm at UUCS for Julianne Jackson in concert. Julianne has smoky vocals, acoustic soul, and a lot of heart. With a solid mix of originals and covers she will leave the biggest skeptic a believer. This is a fundraiser for UUCS, so enjoy the music, and help our congregation!

Julianne is a mom, survivor, and racial justice advocate who uses her voice to speak up for change. She is the founder of Black Joy Oregon, a grassroots advocacy group that promotes Black joy, female leadership development, and culture throughout Oregon.

Tickets and concert information are available at the door or [online at this link](#).

Tickets for attending in person are \$20/\$15 students or seniors, with a discount for a series pass. Masks and proof of vaccination or OHA exemption will be required at the door.

[Purchase Concert Tickets](#)

### Online Auction Is Just Around the Corner January 16-23

Bidding opens on January 16 at noon and closes on January 23. There will be a closing celebration after service on the 23rd in the Fellowship Hall. We will have refreshments, and an emcee for our program.

Money raised through the Online Auction will support the UUCS Operating Fund. So, get online, browse, bid, and then join us at UUCS on January 23 in the Fellowship Hall to celebrate a successful auction, and to see who won what!

The auction catalog will be available on January 7. Among the donations received thus far there is plenty of "wow!" We have art, antiques, trips/vacation spots, furniture, services, donations from local businesses, food and wine, jewelry, audio/visual equipment, memberships, and classes. The list goes on!

What to expect:

- Everything is done online, including payments.
- Look for the link to the online catalog in the upcoming email, "This Week at UUCS" coming out on Friday, January 7. Browse the catalog at your leisure.
- Registration is recommended if you want to bid. Detailed bidding instructions can be [found on the UUCS website](#).
- No payment is taken until, and unless, you win. Payment information is not stored.
- The item/service donor will keep the item and contact you to arrange for delivery of the item you won.





## Reverential Ramblings

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

Back in pre-pandemic days, before political and cultural divisions had gotten so out of whack in our struggling democracy, I used to imagine that a new year would be a somewhat predictable continuation of the old. Although I was aware that no one can infallibly predict the future because our knowledge is limited, we can use the knowledge we do have to help us foresee what lies ahead.

In the intervening years I, and countless pundits, have repeatedly experienced the limitations of our knowledge and how we failed to foresee so much that has happened. While it's good to prepare for the future as best one can, I declare myself to be out of the prediction business, where I never had any business being in the first place. There are an infinite number of variables that will shape our future—a few are known but most are unknown to us, and the past few years have reinforced that fact for me. It has been a humbling experience, but a good one because it has brought me closer to the truth of how to live and love, day by day.

In theology school I spent my last semester studying the apocalyptic Book of Revelations, where we learned of the many times in history that people fully imagined that the apocalyptic predictions of that ancient text applied to *their* era – that their troubled times were “the end times.” And yet, here we still are.

Who's to say that these are not “end times” but “beginning times” for humankind on earth? Clouds of doom hang over us now, and it all feels overwhelming. There are indeed huge challenges and crises we're facing – it's a time of great transition and it feels ugly and messy. Yet, I have learned to not trust my feelings of fear completely, for they can paralyze me. We *don't* know how the future will unfold. This I *do* know: We underestimate both our resiliency and humankind's inherent goodness.

I see that goodness and help bring it out in others best when I am calm, not filled with fear, anger, bitterness, or resentment. And we can recognize humankind's inherent goodness best when we are not seduced by divisive visions falsely framed for us by “the polarization industrial complex” (i.e., all those who fuel and profit from our divisiveness). We are increasingly divided into mutually hostile camps, casting our conflicts in apocalyptic rhetoric, ratcheting up the tension. In truth, social science research clearly shows that Americans have skewed perspectives regarding what those on the “other side” believe and that we all have more in common than most imagine.

We need spiritual pioneers whose primary motivation is to help us get out of the well-worn ruts leading us asunder, those who instead seek inclusive, diverse community instead of conflict across our political and cultural divides.

So, instead of a New Year's Resolution (they tend not to last), I have decided that it's more effective to have an Each Moment Resolution. We are always on the cusp of a new moment, and I resolve to live fully in the present, without obsessing about things over which I have no control. I resolve to stay calm and grounded because then I am best positioned to serve others and be trustworthy.

Of course, I will fail to uphold my Each Moment Resolution, but I will not fail to renew my resolve to begin again and again and again and again and get a bit better over time. That's my path and it leads to good places. May the path you freely choose in this New Year do the same for you.

Love, Rick



## Lifespan Religious Education

### ~ Molly Brown, Director, Lifespan Religious Education

Happy New Year everyone!!

I hope you all enjoyed the snowy week we just had! I know my kids did! We got all geared up in our snow gear, just to stop at a rest stop off the highway and play in the snow! J It got dark so fast, we decided to turn around and head home! It was worth it for sure. ;-)

Here's a favorite poem by Mary Oliver that I like to remember at the beginning of each year:

Who made the world?  
Who made the swan, and the black bear?  
Who made the grasshopper?  
This grasshopper, I mean -  
the one who has flung herself out of the grass,  
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,  
who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down -  
who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.  
Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.  
Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.  
I don't know exactly what a prayer is.  
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down  
into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,  
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,  
which is what I have been doing all day.  
Tell me, what else should I have done?  
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?  
Tell me, what is it you plan to do  
with your one wild and precious life?

Every year is a reminder to take time for yourself, not to reinvent, but to love yourself more than ever before!

If you would like to sign up to volunteer for the LRE Team, please contact me directly via email at [mollykaleidoscopesalem@gmail.com](mailto:mollykaleidoscopesalem@gmail.com), or text or phone, at 971-239-7384!

A big **thank you** to those of you that have already filled out our registration forms and turned them back in! We love how many new families have signed up! The more children we have, the more classes we can have, allowing us to separate the children into their own age group! We will be using the Yurt Classrooms in the field next to the church as LRE Classrooms and the kids are very excited for that to start! Feel free to bring friends, neighbors, and extended family's kiddos! The more the merrier, I always say!

Exciting news! We will be having an LRE Parents Night on Friday, January 7 at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall! We will provide dinner, drinks, activities, and volunteer opportunities; information will be discussed about the LRE Program! I've talked to most of you about our goals for the program. This will give us the opportunity to discuss your expectations about and preferences for your child's religious education experience in the years to come!

I look forward to talking with you all soon!

*Molly Brown, Director of Lifespan Religious Education, UUCS*

# News of the Community

I trust that you all had a joyous, heartwarming Christmas. We needed a respite from all the turmoil in the world!

**Elsa and I** did have a wonderful Christmas in Indiana with our family. We brought normal Oregon weather with us and sent Indiana weather back to you in its place (Amazon will ship anything!); I hope you liked it!

The Christmas season started as early as December 1 for **Bob Muir** and **Barbara Stebbins-Boaz** when they flew to Chicago and played for a week in and around Millennium Park. Barbara's brother Peter flew from New Hampshire. They celebrated life together reveling in the offerings of the Art Institute, Shedd Aquarium, Field Museum of Natural History, a Cirque du Soleil performance, and the many delicious restaurant menus. Back home in Oregon, Bob and Barbara celebrated a chilly Christmas day with son Chris and grandson Ethan while daughter Laurel and family were visiting aunts, uncles and cousins in balmy North Carolina (Davidson and Asheville). Grandchildren Elliot and Maren are so hoping to return to Salem before the snow melts.

Longtime member **Kay Young** enjoyed a busy Christmas with her family. First was a visit to Bonaventure by grandson Scott and his family including Kay's youngest great grandchild, Fischer. On Christmas Eve, Kay, grandson Tim and his family, including Kay's great grandchildren Declan and Cora, traveled to Jane Manning's house for the festivities. And Christmas morning, Jane and husband Gene took the traditional Christmas breakfast to Kay at Bonaventure where Santa had visited bringing goodies in their stockings. Of course, there were food and fun at all the celebrations. Jane continued to visit daily despite the weather, but Kay is waiting for less snow before venturing out in the Grannie Van for pie. Kay also had a visit from youngest daughter Sally, husband Bob and their whole family during their August visit to the beach. In 2021 Kay visited and partied with daughters, their spouses, all four grandchildren, their spouses and six great grandchildren.

**Erik and Ruth Larson** celebrated with their entire family in San Diego, home to their daughter Rachael and husband Justin. It was exciting because Rachael and her sister-in-law Giannina (son David's wife) are both very pregnant. The Larsons are expecting their first grandchildren late January and mid-February. The snow cancelled their flights back; the rescheduling gave them four bonus vacation days.

Email me – [gstruble@willamette.edu](mailto:gstruble@willamette.edu) – your news, and your plans and hopes for 2022.

## Appreciating Ancestors

**This month, Jerry Nathan talks about one of his ancestors:**

My most talked-about ancestor was a great grandfather (grandfather to my mother), who was no longer living when I was born. In the early 1860s, he joined a merchant sailing ship crew to avoid being drafted into the Prussian army. He was shipwrecked once, ending up in a lifeboat and rescued by another ship that was luckily in the area. Another time, he fell into the ocean in heavy seas while on a crossbeam halfway up a mast trying to untangle sails. The ship's cook saw it and threw him a rope. Years later, his wife would have reason (apparently more than once) to say, "She's the one you should have married." After 7 years, he jumped ship in Virginia and made his way first to St. Louis where he courted and married my great grandmother and then to northeastern Nebraska to homestead a one hundred sixty-acre farm ("formerly" Native American land), which is still in the family. He was known for his skill at splicing ropes ("you couldn't tell where") and tying knots, also less known for causing the hired girl (most every farm family had one for kitchen help) to become pregnant and "disappear" from the community.

# Behind the Chalice

## As we start the new year, let us read about Brenna Norval.

*What is your position for Sunday services?* Celebrant.

*What do you like most about your position?* I've always liked standing in front of people and reading and sharing.

*What is one thing you would change?* I don't think there's anything I would change about being celebrant, I really enjoy it!

*What is your idea of perfect happiness?* Being at the beach, in any weather— listening, feeling and seeing the ocean and sky.

*What is your greatest achievement?* Being a wife and mother.

*What do you regard as the lowest depths of despair?* What we as a society have experienced during the pandemic— isolation from the people in our lives.

*Who or what is the greatest love of your life?* My husband, Doug.

*Who are your heroes in fiction?* Laura Ingalls Wilder— I loved reading about her adventures and the depth of spirit and character — which she most definitely had — that was required to survive through those times.

*Who are your heroes in real life?* My friend Dana, an extremely medically fragile 14-year-old that has a smile that lights up the room, and the depth of spirit and character and perseverance to go on living, even though she struggles daily.

*What is a meaningful piece of music for you?* I don't think there is one piece of music that I enjoy over all others. I like most music, but quiet classical music would be among my favorites.

*Where do you like to go in nature to revive?* The beach.

## Help Wanted and Appreciated!

### Help Feed Homeless Families January 16-22



UUCS is a founding member of [Family Promise](#)—a multi-congregational consortium that provides shelter and food to homeless families. The first of our four assigned weeks this year will begin January 16. We will need to provide meals for homeless families on Sunday, Thursday, and Saturday for 12 people, including 3 vegans. The meals are delivered to

a single location. The UUCS Family Promise Team is ready and able to assist you with cooking and meal delivery. It is also possible for several volunteers to work on one meal. The more volunteers we have, the lighter the load for each person. You can sign up to volunteer after services in the Fellowship Hall or [click here to volunteer](#). Check the Family Promise website for more information.

### Interested in supporting End of Life Choices?

[End of Life Choices Oregon](#) is seeking volunteers for its Salem team, co-led by UUCS members Steve Rosen and Margarethe Gregg. If you can commit to time, a willingness to learn and an interest in supporting individuals interested in utilizing Oregon's Death with Dignity Law, contact us at [sjr1948@gmail.com](mailto:sjr1948@gmail.com).



# Social Justice News and Commentary

## New UUCS Good Neighbor Teams Support Refugees

I would like to announce to the congregation that UUCS has formed two Good Neighbor Teams to support refugee families arriving from Afghanistan! These Good Neighbor Teams are being trained by our local refugee resettlement agency, Salem for Refugees, and each team will be assigned to support one refugee family.

This is a wonderful response from our church, and I am so grateful to those who have made the decision to participate in this community-wide support for our "newest neighbors". A huge "Thank You!!" to Ron Speck, Meera Krietzner, Rev. Rick, Christine Ertl, Karen Halliday, Kathy Seubert, Roberta Robinson, Camille Lee, Mako Hayashi-Mayfield, Marie Brown, Cora Clark, and Katy Bayless.

Joan Stembridge

## Habitat and Hope Village Update



Habitat and Hope Village, Inc. (HHV) is currently investigating ways to supply mobile shower and laundry facilities to serve people in existing and planned "micro-shelter communities" within the Salem Urban Growth Boundary. These communities, managed by Church at the Park, are designed to provide safe, secure, temporary shelters in small, managed clusters, for folks who would otherwise be unhoused.

According to its 2021 annual report, "*Church at the Park (C@P) serves our unsheltered neighbors in the Salem area. It began in 2007 as a meal shared in the park, open to any who wished to join the table. Today, we seek to interact in a*

*deeply relational way—inviting people who begin as guests, to become volunteers, and eventually our staff... C@P has three functioning priorities: Collaborative Navigation, Emergency Sheltering, and Workforce Development.*"

Between April 18 and November 30, C@P provided temporary shelter for 191 people in two "micro-shelter communities" in northeast Salem. One, on property owned by Catholic Community Services (CCS), contains 30 shelters for women and families. Eighty-seven people were served at that location. Thirteen (72% of those who left the program) moved to "more stable housing." The other micro-shelter community is on state property near the corner of Portland and Silverton roads and contains 20 shelters for adults. There, 104 people were served. Eighteen (37% of those who left) found more stable housing. C@P continues to serve about 300 unsheltered people per month at its original Turner Road site.

While the CCS location has a shower tent on-site, the other two locations share a portable shower that visits once per week. The ability to move facilities between sites spreads the benefit to more people. But having to move hygiene-related facilities frequently makes it difficult to serve folks who need more than an occasional shower and change of clothes. The issue of personal cleanliness is vital to their health and well-being. It must be addressed so that they can move into more stable housing and possibly employment.

A recent city-wide funding campaign raised \$600,000 to purchase 125 micro shelters. As more micro-shelters—at more locations—come online, the need for shower and laundry facilities will increase. Since all of the micro-shelters are designed to be portable, and shelter communities are to be temporary, the next city-wide funding campaign may be one to provide a set of portable laundry and shower facilities for each micro-shelter community. Contact [habitatandhopevillage@gmail.com](mailto:habitatandhopevillage@gmail.com) to learn how you can get involved.

Paul Wilson

## The Value of Small Actions

Too often we get caught up in the cultural and political battles and forget about why the battles are happening or what caused them. Often it seems that social justice activists feel winning the battle is more important than winning the war. How long can one fight a battle before they become discouraged and feel that continued fighting is not worth it? That's the point. The backers of the status quo want people to give up.

The backers of the status quo also want us to feel that government is worthless, can't accomplish anything, and voting won't change anything. They want us to feel hopeless. They want us to believe that addressing an injustice or making a difference will not make a difference. They are so wrong. Many small victories have made what was once considered impossible, possible. Small victories such as giving those at the margins of society a voice, providing support for a family, being an ally, or advocating for those in need might not seem that important. Their importance is that they provide a foundation for other actions to address social injustice.

It appears that what was seen as possible a few months ago—universal preschool, a higher minimal wage, police accountability, reducing greenhouse gasses, universal healthcare, and a free junior college education, is increasingly seen as impossible at a national level. That doesn't mean we should stop trying. Any injustice whose impact we can reduce and any communities we build to better the lives of others can inspire others to act. The more people we encourage to fight against injustices, the more likely we are to eliminate them.

Supporters of the status quo do not want people working together to address injustices or the conditions that negatively impact some lives. They want people to feel addressing injustice and improving the lives of people is hopeless and to give up. Overwhelmed and exhausted activists are less likely to fight for justice.

Isn't government supposed to enable us to work collectively to make our lives better? Yes, but the status quo wants government to be seen as ineffective and working against your interests. Supposedly FDR said to labor and civil rights activist A. Philip Randolph:

*"You know, Mr. Randolph, I've heard everything you've said tonight, and I couldn't agree with you more. I agree with everything that you've said, including my capacity to be able to right many of these wrongs and to use my power and the bully pulpit. ... But I would ask one thing of you, Mr. Randolph, and that is go out and make me do it."*

That quote describes the role of social justice activists; our successes show what is possible, make the unacceptable acceptable, and create the power to right a social injustice.

If we want to address social injustice successfully, we need to cherish our small victories and build upon them.

John Prohodsky, Social Justice Committee Chair

## Things are happening at the church!



*Left: Rev. Rick is in the pulpit.*



*Right: Women's Alliance resumed the tradition of decorating the sanctuary for Christmas.*

On December 19, Ezra Alexander and Tundë Herman performed a dance during the service.

[Watch the service here](#)



# Splinters from the Board

## Monthly Reports

**Worship Team's Strategic Plan Report** was submitted by Sara Pickett. It includes notice that there are two new members on the team and that both the live and live-streamed attendance is rising at Sunday services.

**Music Monthly Report:** Board member Lisa Marcus discussed the resignation of the pianist, who has taken a full-time job. The board acknowledged the excellent work that Kit Abrahamson and Laura Christian have done as the Pianist and Music Director until their positions ended December 24. The new Music Director will hire the new pianist, but until then Loriann Schmidt has volunteered for this responsibility.

**Lifespan Religious Education (LRE) Monthly Report** was submitted by Ben Cavaletto, LRE Chair. He reported that the LRE program attendance in recent weeks has been in the teens, with enough middle school youth to break into a separate class, starting December 12. They have explored using the Kaleidoscope yurt for RE classes. The team has added two new members and is planning on having "LRE Hosts", greeting families at the door to the church to increase engagement. LRE is hoping to revive the OWL program and may need funds for training. Treasurer Sharon Pierson noted that LRE training was reduced in the 2021-22 budget. She will work with LRE on identifying additional costs and funding sources.

**Facilities Report:** Past Board President Lynn Cardiff reported that the parking lot lighting was moving forward and by this writing the lights will have been installed. We received approval from Energy Trust to reduce our costs. Rick is in discussion with the Bocce Ball League to use the overflow parking lot.

## Board Actions

**Policy on Policies:** The Finance Team created a process for a single on-line source for adopted policies. This replaces the existing undocumented process that relied on paper storage.

**Gift Acceptance:** The Finance Team reviewed both the bylaws and the requirements for Board acceptance of gifts and proposed a policy that identifies how gifts to the congregation will be recognized.

**Hiring a Music Director:** The Committee on Human Resources (CHR) recommended offering the Music Director position to Robert Whalen, PhD, who has an extensive background in directing musicians. The Board accepted the recommendation and delegated authority to CHR to negotiate the details of salary and position requirements.

## Information

**Building Reopening:** The current system for using the building under COVID restrictions is going well. It was clarified that current requirements for building rentals state that all rentals must comply with UUCS building use guidelines.

**Fundraising:** There are currently three congregational fundraisers. The Celebrating Diversity concert series, which hosts a monthly musical performance by diverse local musicians, is not generating the revenue expected and may end up costing UUCS for hosting the series. They have been well publicized, but attendance has been poor. The Fundraising Committee is exploring ways to improve attendance. The virtual silent auction to be held from January 16 through the 23 is under construction. UUCS has received donations from businesses, congregants, and friends with the goal of one hundred items for auction. A live event to celebrate and close the auction is planned for January 23 immediately after services. A "fun-raising" dance has been proposed for the spring. Details are pending.

Christine Ertl, Board Chair

# 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**

**January Share the Plate Recipient:** [Family Promise](#)

**Sunday, January 9**

**The Rev. Richard R. Davis**

**"Memories of Rockwell"**

**Celebrant:** Sara Pickett

During my student days in theology school, I preached - rather poorly, I confess - at a small old Universalist Church north of Atlanta and thus I have a personal connection to this branch of our Unitarian Universalist tradition as well as a personal leaning toward this branch of our tradition.

**Sunday, January 16**

**The Rev. Richard R. Davis**

**"King's Words to Us"**

**Celebrant:** Brenna Norval

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. had a long, fruitful, and fulfilling relationship with Unitarian Universalists. He had a special affection for UU's and some important messages to share when he spoke to us in 1966 at our General Assembly. What do you imagine he would say to us today?

**Sunday, January 23**

**The Rev. Bonnie Tarwater**

**"An Ecological Theme"**

**Celebrant:** Janet Stevens

**Sunday, January 30**

**Bob Muir**

**"I'm afraid...so?"**

**Celebrant:** Barbara Stebbins-Boaz :

Some have said that our "god" is whatever fundamental belief we have that governs our lives—how we live and what our life means. Some have also suggested that fear can undermine reason, compassion, hope and even action. If pervasive "fear" can govern our lives in such ways, what alternatives to do we have in a world that truly seems filled with dangers?

## 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, **January 28, 2022.**

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