



The Chalice and the Flame

Diverse people. Diverse beliefs. One community.

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

February 2022

Julianne Jackson Live! February 11

Enjoy Julianne Jackson live in concert on Friday, February 11, 2022, at 7:00 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem, or online. 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.

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 at the door or online, for \$20, or \$15 for students and seniors. If you prefer to live-stream, single concert tickets are \$5. Tickets and concert information are available [on our website, here](#).

Masks and proof of vaccination or OHA exemption are required at the door.



Memorial for Carol Manka February 12

You are invited to come honor and remember Carol Manka on February 12, 2022, at 11 am in the sanctuary at UUCS. Reverend Rick will officiate as we gather to remember Carol and show our compassion and support to her husband, Paul. The reception afterward will be hosted by the Women's Alliance.

Carol Jean Manka was born in Santa Monica, California on February 7, 1943, to John Thomas Naylor and Ruth Tissot Naylor and passed in Salem on November 20, 2021. She moved to the Philippines with her parents in 1950. Subsequently she taught in the American School in the Philippines before returning to the United States to pursue her education at Michigan State University. While pursuing a graduate degree in English Literature at MSU in 1968 she met Paul Manka. They were married on September 13, 1969. In 1972 they moved to the Washington, DC area where they worked for the U.S. Census Bureau until their retirement in 2005. Carol and Paul had no children. However, they have had many cats in their family during their marriage. Carol is survived by her sister Joan Crosby in Winnipeg, Canada, and her husband Paul Manka.

The couple were active supporters of UUCS. They helped by providing the ramp and sidewalk which made the memorial garden more accessible, by trimming trees in Bateman Woods, and by painting the entire church building with the highest quality paint.

Paul will appreciate seeing you and sharing memories of Carol.

Help Us Find Out Who "We" Are!

You're invited to help us find out who "we" are!

Who: All members of our UUCS family, no matter what the age. We want to hear from everyone!

When: Our first event, coming in April, will be a chance to have your say and enjoy a meal together after church! It will be reservation only. There will be more events, of several types, over the coming year.

What: Get to know more of your UUCS neighbors and help us identify what is most important to us as a community. This will guide our future program and budget priorities.

The simple truth is that we are not the same congregation we were before COVID. There have been so many changes for us individually and as a congregational family. It is time to begin to rediscover who we are and what we value. Please join us in telling what you cherish here and what you dream we could become! More soon!

~Don Wolf, Board Member



Reverential Ramblings

~ Rev. Richard Davis, UUCS's minister

When driving on mountain roads I tend to go slower (i.e., I drive the speed limit) than many motorists who seem to have less fear of losing control and plunging into an abyss. In other circumstances, however, I seem to experience less fear than some. For example, even though I now count as an “elderly” person I have not worried about COVID since I got my vaccinations (and later, my booster). I am conscious and careful, but I feel at ease when I am out. I know others, whose health is more fragile or whose sense of mortality is more pronounced, who are still hunkering down. There is a good likelihood that many of us will get COVID, yet I think the vaccines provide good protection from *serious* health consequences.

Our perceptions of risk are usually skewed one way or another, and I respect each person's sensibilities and needs. Yet, we can also encourage one another so that our fear doesn't keep us from living fully.

So, is it time for you to come back to attending Sunday services? It's your choice and I respect those whose health is compromised who will choose to join remotely—and I'm so happy that we do live stream our services and record them so you can do this. Yet, I do hope to start seeing fewer empty chairs on Sunday morning. *If you haven't yet returned after a long hiatus perhaps now is the time to jump back into the stream of communal life.* We do all we can here at UUCS to promote safety, and I've been glad to see folks of all ages (from young children to nonagenarians) joining us on Sundays. So, maybe it's time for YOU to join us.

Sometimes I don't feel like getting out, especially in the winter, but once I do, I feel refreshed and renewed and I realize that that was exactly what I needed. If it's been a while since you came to a Worship service, you may have forgotten what it can do for your spirit.

In his essay “Why I Come to Church” the 20th century Unitarian Minister A. Powell Davies reminds me of the vital role of congregational life:

Let me tell you why I come to church. I come to church – and would whether I was a preacher or not – because I fall below my own standards and need to be constantly brought back to them. I am afraid of becoming selfish and indulgent, and my church – my church of the free spirit – brings me back to what I want to be. I could easily despair; doubt and dismay could overwhelm me. My church renews my courage and my hope. It is not enough that I should think about the world and its problems at the level of a newspaper report or a magazine discussion. It could too soon become too low a level. I must have my conscience sharpened – sharpened until it goads me to the most thorough and responsible thinking of which I am capable. I must feel again the love I owe to others. I must not only hear about it but feel it. In church, I do. I am brought toward my best, in every way toward my best.

I come to church, too, to be refreshed and comforted – not in a cheap or easy way, far from it – but by feeling once again that in the mystery of human life with all its perils, pains, and fears, something answers the cry in our hearts. I doubt whether I could stand the thought of the cruelty and misery of the present world – its agony and torment – unless I could know, through an experience that renewed itself over and over again, that at the heart of life, there is assurance, that I can hold an ultimate belief that all is well.

Love,
Rick



Lifespan Religious Exploration

Hello everyone! Happy February! I hope this finds you all happy and well. As we enter into the second month of 2022, I am thrilled to share with you some of the exciting new things that the LRE Team has planned for this month!

This year our monthly themes invite us to think about not only what values our UU faith calls us to, but also the actions and skills that our times require of us. Pandemic time, along with our racial, political and environmental challenges, exposes the need for humanity to change and adjust in key ways. So, each month we will explore a different skill that we need to lean into so that we don't just return to normal after the pandemic is over, but also bring about a "new normal."

As you know, January was all about Living with Intentions. We learned about empathy, passion, persistence, accepting mistakes and taking pause to replenish and sort out the things that are most important to us. We learned about being the best versions of ourselves and being proud of who we are.

This month (coincidentally Black History Month) we will explore the ways in which our times call us to "Widen the Circle." There are four ways we will explore this idea. The first is Widening the Way We Accept Ourselves (Understanding our Outsides and Insides). The second will be Widening the Love We Share (Celebrating all Kinds of Love). The third week will be about Widening the History We Tell and the fourth will be about Widening the Principles We Live By. Our younger groups will continue to separate into two groups: 8 years and under in one room and 9 years and up in another.

We are so excited that our LRE Program is growing each week! We have so many great new ideas planned for the kids (of all ages) and need more volunteers to be able to turn our ideas into reality! If you'd like to volunteer, for one day a month or even one day a year!, please contact me directly at DLRE@uusalem.org or ask any member of the LRE Team at Sunday Service and they can give you a Volunteer Registration Packet to fill out.

On another note, if you aren't aware already, the Reopening Committee has decided to extend the new COVID Protocols until at least the middle of February. So, children will be heading straight to LRE and there will be no coffee service for now. We will let you know as soon as this changes! Also, this month we will be sending out a survey to see what dates and times work best for everyone to be able to attend Parents Night!

We are so happy to be able to provide a safe place for all our children to play each Sunday, especially during such crazy times. Places we feel comfortable taking our children to are so few and far between. So, if you have any suggestions or feedback about the changes in the program so far, please feel free to reach out to me at any time!! I'd love to hear from you!

I hope to see you on Sundays!

Molly Brown,
Director of Lifespan Religious Education

It takes a UU village to raise UU children!



Happenings and Highlights

Our Afghan Refugees

As you may know UUCS has two "Good Neighbor Teams" supporting Afghan refugees. It is a rewarding and positive journey. This update is to let you know the "journey" it took for the Abasin family to get to Salem.

Their journey began when they left their home for a two-hour car ride to Kabul. Upon arrival in Kabul eight members of the family (6 boys, 1 girl, and the mom) stayed with a relative while the father went to the airport. The father was away from his family for seven days trying to get papers and authorization to leave. I have no idea where he slept and ate but he finally received authorization to leave for Qatar, where they spent two days.

From Qatar they went to Bahrain for seven days, then off to Washington DC for two days, and then to Fort McCoy in Wisconsin for four months and four days before coming to Salem. Upon arrival in Salem they stayed for one week in a house owned by Our Saviors Lutheran Church before being moved to a small house on Broadway St. NE. What a journey! They are now taking Cultural classes and five of the children are now enrolled in school.

Our team of seven has been such a great support for the Abasins with transportation, food support, driving them and becoming part of their family. Good Neighbor Teams will continue to provide you with updates in the future and how the church may help if necessary.

~Ronald Speck

Growing Our Community" Pledge Drive Starts February 27

Our cherished UUCS community is not a given. Just as a verdant garden needs tending with water and nourishment to maintain its health, our UUCS congregation needs time, talent, and dollars to thrive.

The fruits of our garden are many: A place to be safe and accepted in our liberal faith. A community to fulfill our need for social connection in a world where safety still feels tenuous in an ongoing pandemic. Sunday services and programming to inspire us. The opportunity to get involved in the important work our teams and groups do for our congregation and the wider community.

In the last few years, UUCS has received significantly less income from most of our revenue sources, including pledge donations, due in part to members moving or passing away, or being unable to give as generously as in the past. When COVID-19 hit, our budget was hit even harder, with building rentals, fundraising and share-the-plate donations all nosediving. We had a nearly \$30,000 shortfall for this year's budget, resulting in drastic cutbacks in areas such as staff time, team resources, and a one-time \$20,000 carryover from the previous year to balance the books.

We see a glimmer of hope with our building re-opening to welcome us. Out of the challenges presented by the pandemic we have new opportunities to grow into our future. "Growing our Community," this year's Pledge Drive, kicks off Sunday, February 27. Our target for the 2022/2023 year is \$282,000 to maintain the status quo with no "extras."

UUCS cannot function without our financial support. Making your pledge for the year is crucial in creating a budget and for fiscal planning for building, staff, and program operations. All members and friends are asked to please give as generously as you are able. Every pledge, large or small, makes a difference.

We will not be mailing pledge forms to reduce cost. After February 27, there will be a link to fill out the pledge form online in the weekly email, "This Week at UUCS," and on the UUCS website. Pledge Team members also will have laptops in the Fellowship Hall at the February 27 kickoff to assist with submitting pledge forms, as well as paper forms. Those who do not use computers or who cannot attend services may call Pledge Team Member Mary Beth Hustoles, 503-580-3348, after February 27 for assistance in completing your form.

Look for further details about the Pledge Drive kickoff in the weekly email.

2021 Giving Statements Now Available

The 2021 calendar year giving statements were sent by email on January 24. Statements for givers who do not have an email address were mailed on January 26. If you did not receive your statement, you can either contact the office or you can click here and [follow these instructions](#) to re-generate your own statement using Breeze. If you have other questions, feel free to email treasurer@uusalem.org.

Use the Publication Request Form to Communicate

The Worship Team encourages UUCS Teams, Committees and Members to use the Publication Request form to communicate information about groups and activities to our UUCS community. The Communications Team does a good job of putting this information in This Week emails sent every Friday, on Facebook and in the monthly newsletter, "The Chalice & The Flame" and on the website. These resources are a wonderful way to stay connected and build a stronger community. If you think you aren't getting the Friday emails or the monthly newsletter, contact the UUCS office, at 503-364-0932 or email: office@uusalem.org. Thank you and see you Sunday.

~Sara Pickett, the Worship Team

And Check Our Online Calendar

For information on what is going on this week and this month, consult our UUCS website calendar by [clicking here](#). Team leaders are asked to enter their events, meetings and activities on the calendar using the [Event Scheduling Request](#).

~The Communications Team



Appreciating Our Ancestors Continues

I thought my grandfather strange when I was young. His name was Homer, to my knowledge then, a name shared with no one. Only later did I learn of the ancient Greek who authored the Iliad and the Odyssey. Granddaddy was deaf and I could sign only a few ASL words and the alphabet—much too little and too slow to really talk. He wore suspenders and I thought that odd, too, having seen few men wearing them before him. Granddaddy was not tall, like my six-foot father—maybe only five-seven or eight. Barrel-chested, he walked (boy did he love to walk!) with a strong, mechanical stride, arms pumping, legs driving, one speed, fast, never pausing or letting up. Maybe he was strong because he walked everywhere and had been a stone cutter, cutting and carving gravestones. I admired him for that good hard work. Having been shown some of his carvings, I was proud, too, for he was a skilled artisan. I collected samples of marble and granite fragments where he had worked. I noticed the fine colors of the stone, the grain of the crystals. Rock has fascinated me ever since. I also remember how much he fancied apple butter on toast. I tried it to discover that he was right. It is good!

When I was about sixteen, granddaddy came to live with us. His bedroom was between the kitchen and living room and the bedroom that I shared with my brothers. So, we passed his room coming and going and, as I did, I began to notice his pattern of life and would stop from time to time, either because he waved me in or out of courtesy or curiosity.

Granddaddy had a large magnifying glass on his card table where he would spread out his large, black Bible. He was often seen reading and making notes on a scrap of paper with a pencil that he sharpened with his pocketknife. One time, he or I gestured toward his Bible. He smiled, then showed me his notes. He was clearly moved by what he had read. I could read the notes, but they made no real sense. I nodded, indicating appreciation, but could not sign well enough to say more. Still, I was impressed how important Bible study was to him. Ironically, I was learning to appreciate his faith even as doubts about my own faith were growing too. Granddaddy's belief moved me, even so. His joy was real!

After many years of restless agnosticism, I found myself back in the church, a conventional Christian. Yet, my journey did not end there. In time, my questioning resumed. Yet, what my grandfather taught me remains: Careful study and curiosity can be fruitful. Joy of discovery is a thing to be shared. Faith, though enriched by study, lies deeper than words—in the heart. Yes—and the sincere beliefs of others can be respected even if one does not share their beliefs. Thank you, granddad!

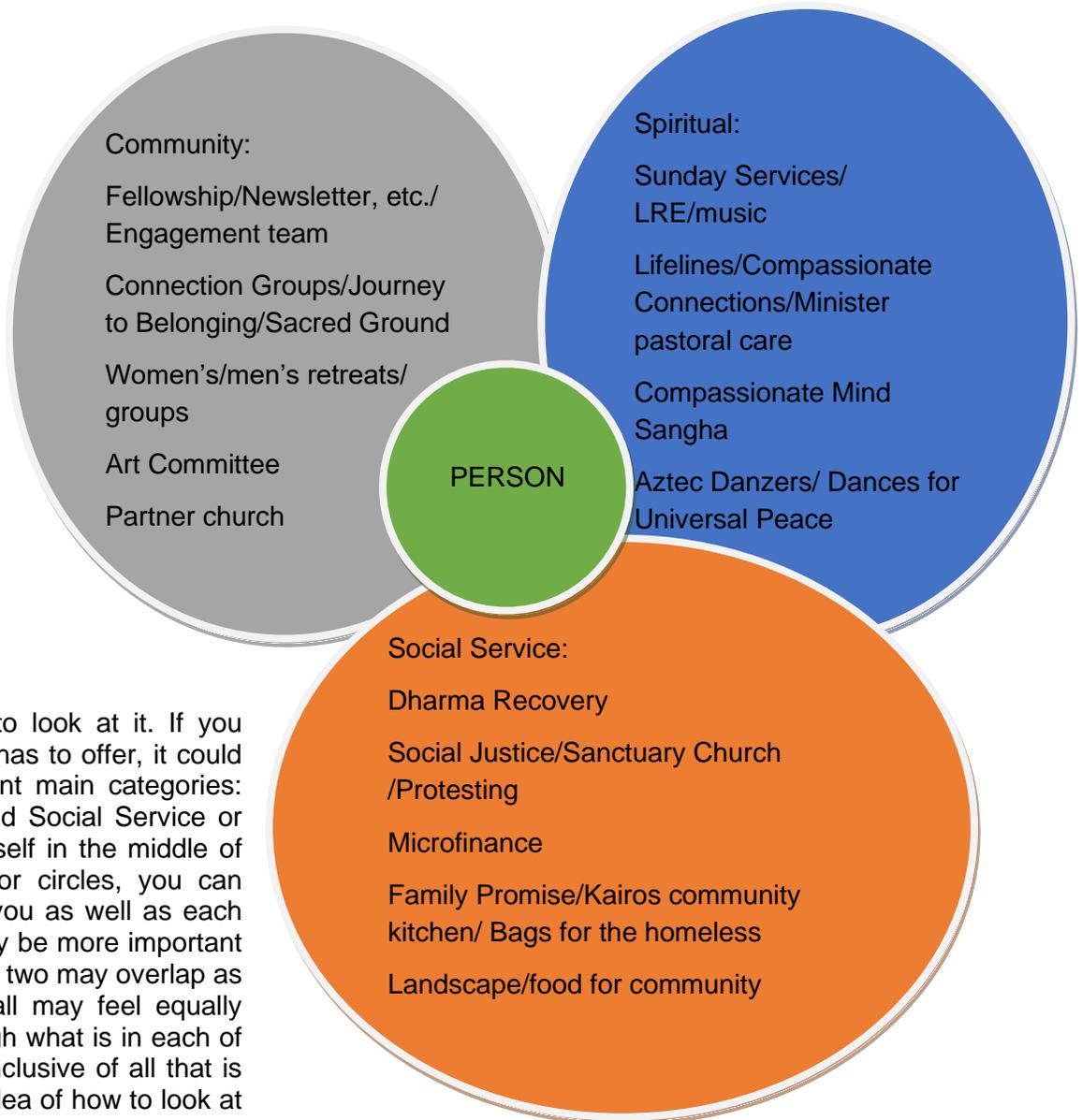
~Bob Muir

Behind the Chalice

Why do you belong to UUCS? During these twenty-three months of the pandemic, when we have been unable to come to the UUCS building and grounds the way we would like, to see people face to face the way we would like and to worship the way we would like. We might start to wonder why we stick around. Why do we still value our membership with UUCS and why do we push to get everyone back together? What do you value or get out of the community of UUCS?

Well, here is one way to look at it. If you divide up all that UUCS has to offer, it could be put into three different main categories: Spiritual, Community, and Social Service or Justice. If you put yourself in the middle of these three categories or circles, you can see how they all touch you as well as each other. But, one circle may be more important to you than the others, or two may overlap as to importance, or they all may feel equally important to you. Although what is in each of the three circles is not inclusive of all that is offered, it gives you an idea of how to look at the UUCS community. You can see how

what might be vital to one person may not take on that same importance for another yet put together they make up the sense of community, the reason why you are sticking around and waiting to come back inside the building, waiting to get involved, waiting to see old friends and meet new ones. What do your three circles look like and what is there in another circle that you would like to explore? Until next time, we remain yours, Behind the Chalice



~Sara Pickett

News of the Community

We are a month into 2022. So far, 2022 doesn't look much different from 2021, but we have hopes for it. The Omicron variant should play itself out, and we can hope that it will not be superseded by widespread infections by yet another variant. We hope that within a few months we can loosen our virus protocols, enjoy coffee together after Sunday services again, and enjoy getting together in many types of gatherings.

In the meantime, let's recognize and savor the superb job done by our auction committee in carrying out a very successful auction! Even though we could not have the excitement of an in-person auction in a festive

fellowship hall, we pulled together and accomplished something good for our congregation. Let's hear it for the "Magnificent Seven" committee members; see their names elsewhere in this newsletter.

What has happened in January? For starters, several of us had deeply satisfying family time around Christmas. **Elsa and I** greatly enjoyed our two weeks in Indianapolis with our kids. And didn't catch COVID in airports or planes, though one daughter apparently did while returning to Portland.

Jean Sherbeck's husband Stu passed away on January 12 after a two-year-long illness. Their children were able to come for the final days and were a great help to Jean. Jean wrote that her family is so grateful for the kind and professional care for Stu at Salem Health Hospital.

Jon Chinburg and his longtime partner **Julie** took a winter trip to Mexico and got married! Jon wrote in Joys and Concerns: "Yahoo!" Our congratulations and best wishes to both of them.

Dell and Rich Ford are managing to do some international travel. They had a wonderful trip to Ireland in October and are planning a three-week cruise to Istanbul in May. Both trips are with Road Scholar, which is a good idea, especially in COVID times: all you must do is show up, and Road Scholar takes care of everything from there! Rich has stayed busy as a real estate broker, plus overseeing some rental property renovations and a few home improvements. He and Dell are active in their book group, even though the meetings are now by Zoom. Rich just started a second round of chemotherapy for prostate cancer. He feels fine, just with less energy and stamina.

Michelle Blake told me of a traumatic medical emergency. She has been in treatment for stage 3 breast cancer since June. Her lowered immunity from chemo made her vulnerable to a skin infection, which caused a high fever. Because of COVID, there was a shortage of hospital beds, so she had to camp in the Emergency Room for eight hours until a bed opened up. But the Emergency Room staff did start her IV antibiotics. She wrote her appreciation for the medical workers: "Reflecting on my time in the hospital, I'm remembering the early months of the pandemic when we had news coverage and daily rituals of appreciation for our front-line workers. The attention has faded but the pressures have not. Thank you, medical workers. You are doing the impossible, and sometimes even doing it with a smile."

Jon Walton had a "widow-maker" heart attack in October, and came out of it just fine, with 4 stents. He did not need surgery, stayed in the hospital only 2 nights, recovered quite nicely, has completed his cardio-rehab and is back to normal. Jon continues to work for Business Oregon and has been extremely busy there writing contracts for different COVID-related funds.

Christine Ertl tells me, "I retired during COVID and fill my days with volunteer work, walks and books. What a luxury! I'm on a Good Neighbor Team through Salem for Refugees, with other UUCS folks. These teams are welcoming Afghan refugees recently brought here. Our team is supporting a family of nine: seven children and parents! We get along with a Google phone translator and a little English—no Pashtun on my part!"

Jerry and Jo Nathan have been spending the winter in Los Gallardos, Spain, visiting their daughter, English son-in-law, and two cute bi-lingual grandchildren who unfairly tease Jerry and Jo in Spanish. The Mediterranean Sea keeps the weather mild. Walks in the surrounding mountains are both breathtaking and breath exhausting. They plan to return in February if COVID allows.

Jo Bateman celebrated her 100th birthday last weekend; she is a marvel! Family gathered for a very happy party. The family had planned a bigger party with Women's Alliance, but COVID prevented that party.

These are just a few of our stories – and of course there would not be space for all our stories in one issue. Please send me some of your news at gstruble@willamette.edu for my March column!

~George Struble

Support Needed and Appreciated!

Legacy Campaign Update

In 2020 we had a Legacy Campaign to encourage bequests and other end-of-life gifts to our Congregation, and special contributions to our endowment fund, maintenance reserve, and emergency reserve. During the first COVID year was a terrible time to do such a campaign. But we went ahead with it because it was long overdue.

That campaign raised over \$55,000 for our Endowment and reserve funds, and our members pledged \$190,000 in end-of life commitment – joining over \$1,100,000 of commitments already made.

We installed two plaques on the north wall of the foyer as part of our 2020 Legacy campaign and ask you to honor the names on those plaques. One, titled Keepers of the Flame, lists donors of end-of-life gifts to our Congregation, starting with Josephine Odom, whose 1977 bequest was used for the down payment on the land on which our church was built. The other plaque, titled Stewards for our Future, honors significant gifts beyond our annual pledges by living members; that plaque starts with a plate commemorating the whole congregation from the years 1994 to 2006 for their gifts, totaling over \$1,000,000, to build our church and then the fellowship hall. Since then, members have made significant gifts to our endowment fund, maintenance reserve, emergency reserve, and other funds.

We said that we would update these plaques every January. I know of no bequests received in 2021. But we did have substantial contributions from Joan Erickson, Rob Schiff, and Lorna Youngs. Rob and Lorna are added to the "Stewards for Our Future" plaque; Joan was already listed there. Their contributions went to the Endowment Fund and the Maintenance Reserve Fund, where they are very welcome. Thank you, Joan, Rob, and Lorna!

So please, in your hearts, honor these contributors, past and present, who have contributed to make this Congregation what it is now and paved the way for our future. And I invite you to consider making your own extra contribution and/or end-of-life provision. Our General Fund, based on the annual budget approved by the Congregation each May and supported mostly by our pledge payments, does not provide for the extras or emergency needs. For these needs we rely on your additional donations! Thank you!

~George Struble, Endowment Chair

Thank You for Helping the Poorest of the Poor

I'm very pleased to report that due to your generous support for the UUCS Microfinance project, we will be able to send \$4,807 to The New Entrepreneurs Opportunity Fund for Microfinance projects in Nicaragua and India.

Your donations will help women like Rebecca, here, who started cooking traditional Nicaraguan dishes and selling them out of her home four years ago. She has taken three micro-loans, totaling \$370 to grow her business and now she is applying for a fourth loan. When asked if the loans helped her family, she smiled and said, "Of course! They helped me increase my income and allowed me to buy a refrigerator and to convert a wood fire to propane. Now all my children and I can eat better. We even get to have meat, like chicken and fish. And I can pay for my children's education."



For more information about our partner, [The NEO Fund, click here.](#)

~Ann Hanus, Chair, UUCS Microfinance Committee

Auction Thanks to All

We simply could not have done it without you! After a week of online bidding, and a fun closing event, we are happy to report that the funds raised by the online auction exceeded the goal we had set. We had 133 auction items, 111 of those were won. There were 88 registered bidders. The total raised, after fees, was \$6,234. The proceeds will go to the Operating Fund.

Vicki Cunningham won the raffle at the closing. She won a basket that contained three bottles of champagne, two hand-thrown pottery goblets, cheese and crackers, and chocolate truffles! Another lucky bidder will be able to spend a week in Mexico at a lovely resort! Some fabulous art pieces will adorn new walls, and the gorgeous quilts will be keeping some congregants cozy and warm.

We are tremendously grateful to everyone who helped make it a great success. We especially want to thank everyone who so generously donated an item for auction. And to each of you who participated in the event. Gloria Holland and Joel Woodman provided wonderful running commentary throughout the ZOOM closing event. We thank them for bringing the "fun" to our fundraiser!! The Auction Team consisted of Christine Ertl, Sharon Pierson, Bonnie Hummel, Tracey Boyle, Margrethe and Greg Gregg, and Deborah Emeny. Sharon and Bonnie worked tirelessly behind the scenes to get it all organized and going. A special congratulations to all who placed a winning bid. We hope you all had as much fun as we did!

Thank You for the Gifts!

The Giving Tree Event that provided gifts for individuals with significant mental health conditions and limited social support was a huge success! Every gift request was filled and returned on time with holiday cards and festive wrappings. We members of Mindful Organization for Recovery of Psychological Health (M.O.R.P.H.) express our sincere appreciation for the congregation's generosity and kindness, during these difficult times. We also want to thank the Social Justice Team for their sponsorship and participation.

~ Nina Donnelly, M.O.R.P.H. Treasurer

Social Justice News

Homelessness, poverty, and trauma have a negative impact on individuals which results in a high societal cost. These conditions are invisible to most people. The closest most people get to these issues is a story in a newspaper, online, or in the TV news. The typical response is something should be done about what the story reports on and, by the way, someone else should do it. At UUCS an affiliated ministry, [Habitat and Hope](#), is working to provide and support transitional housing for the homeless. Our congregation also supports [Family Promise](#) which provides shelter and meals for homeless working families allowing them to save money needed for the upfront costs of renting. Here is more news about actions being taken in our area.

The Church at the Park

The [Church at the Park](#) (C@P) is an example of how people can make a difference. Dave Maceria, the former site manager of C@P provided a brief history of the C@P:

Originally Church @ the Park (C@P) began as a small group of unsheltered people having Bible studies in Cascade Gateway Park.

From what history I'm aware of in 2007 there were three founding couples that started bringing sandwiches and then later breakfast to the park to fellowship with and feed the unhoused. They were Mark & Kathy Walker, Dave & Cathy Nuss and Bob & Lilly Donnelly.

As time went by other church groups and local businesses began partnering with C@P and helped provide food or complete meals, clothing, shoes etc. at various times during the week. Those partnerships were with gateway Foursquare Church, First Presbyterian Church, Peoples Church, Church on a Hill, the Tap Root lounge and others.

Along the way the church grew and started providing food boxes. The food of course came from Marion Polk food share. At that time the Salem Jaycees (junior chamber of commerce) owned the building adjacent to the park. There was a partnership formed where the Jaycees allowed the church to use their building, which had been sitting vacant for some time, to package Foodshare bags.

When I first became involved with the church it was as volunteer for the food share. We were serving approximately 20 to 25 households feeding 30 to 45 people. Of course, this gradually grew every year. I had taken over managing the food share and the church site at this time. Little did I know the population would grow to more than 150 households with 250 to 300 household members or more during the height of COVID-19, the canyon fires, and the economic downturn due to COVID.

The church had advanced to a point where it was time to seek funding to purchase the property. It had become evident that the property being adjacent to the park made a tremendous difference in the services it could provide. Although there had been talk of doing so in the past it never really got traction until now. So, the church began seeking crowd funded sources of money as well as private funds and grants. As you may know the church was successful in raising the funds and now owns the property on Turner Road.

C@P's future are to raise funds for more pallet shelters and convert the building into a navigation center. They plan on having full time employees providing wrap around services to assist guests with health, wellness, and housing.

Habitat and Hope Update



Habitat and Hope was hoping to construct managed transitional housing on the east end of UUCS's north parking lot. They have a predicament. C@P will provide management services for ten or more people in transitional housing. However, Marion County and state law prevents more than 5 unrelated people living together. While that issue is being addressed, Habitat and Hope is working to build a mobile shower and laundry trailer which will support villages of pallet houses or similar transitional housing.

Impacts of Trauma, Poverty and Homelessness

Too often discussion about homelessness focuses on their behaviors and its impact. What is not considered is the impact of homelessness on the individual. Being homeless can impact a person's physical and mental health and be traumatic. What is not obvious or discussed is its impact on a person's brain, especially children's. There is significant research on the impact of trauma on children, defined by [adverse childhood experiences](#) (ACEs), and poverty's impact on children. Poverty's impact is [especially pronounced in early childhood development](#) and can have [long term consequences](#).

We might not have seen the impact of trauma, poverty, and homelessness on the community, but the Salem-Keizer school district has. In 2019 the Salem-Keizer school district started to map churches and their physical relationship to schools. The school district wanted a church to adopt a school close to the church and help students in that school by volunteering and donating clothes or food. The pandemic cut short that effort. South Salem High School has a clothes locker, food pantry and gift cards, all donations, that they give to students and their families to help eliminate obstacles to learning. Christy Perry, the superintendent, said this is done at many schools. For the school district to reach out to churches to help students and their families, poverty must be pronounced in Salem and Keizer!

~John Prohodsky, Social Justice Team Chair

Splinters from the Board

Monthly Reports

The Nominating Committee's Strategic Planning report was submitted by Barbara Stebbins-Boaz. In addition to ascertaining vacancies and potential nominees to the board, leadership development has been a focus. The committee is working to collaborate with the Membership Team, RE, and past facilitators of leadership development. Craig Rowland is willing to reactivate in March the "*Vision and Leadership UU Explorer Society*" (ValUUES) learning group that was launched in 2019 before COVID suspended activities. The group will use the book, ***Serving with Grace***, as the basis for discussions.

The LRE team report was submitted by Ben Cavaletto. Soul Matters curriculum continues for weekly RE where attendance continues to be in the teens, with enough middle schoolers to sustain two separate classes. LRE was asked to organize the Candlelight Walk for the 2021 Christmas Eve Service. This was done, but attendance was poor. A group of at least fifteen volunteers is needed to adequately staff RE programming on Sundays, and last month four new volunteers signed on. A retreat during February or March is planned. For Outreach, LRE planned to host a Parents' Night January 21, gathering parents and families for food, activities, and information. Molly Brown, Director of LRE, is sending email updates to families on a weekly basis to inform about upcoming programming for Sunday services. She is also emailing volunteers for the week to provide prep materials and remind them of their commitment.

Information

The Reopening Team continues to work on mitigating COVID during the Omicron surge and has posted guidelines to mitigate risk; these have been extended to February 13. See those guidelines [online by clicking here](#).

Fundraising Committee reported on the on-line auction. Sharon Pierson organized the auction team, and all worked hard to solicit donations and organize the catalogue. The concert series has been affected by COVID but a rescheduled concert is anticipated in February. Planning continues for a "friend-raiser" dance in the spring.

Board Actions

None this month.

~Christine Ertl, Board Chair

Sunday Services and Religious Education

Religious Education <i>In person, during service</i>	Sunday Service <i>In-person and Live-streamed</i>	Fellowship Time <i>In person**</i> <i>(No coffee Service until 2/20)</i>
10:30 am	10:30 am	Noon
February Share the Plate Recipient: Marion-Polk Food Share		

Sunday, February 6

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

"Actions Have Consequences"

Celebrant: Sara Pickett and Bob Muir

Actions have consequences and in society the consequence of breaking laws is punishment of one sort or another. This impulse to punish deserves closer inspection. Let's take a closer and a broader look at how this plays out in our world.

Sunday, February 13

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

"Discovering Your Spiritual Identity"

Celebrant: Janet Stevens

It took a long time for me to grasp my spiritual identity because...well, because it can take a while to put the pieces of life's puzzles together before you recognize the patterns, and you realize who you are. The Hindu tradition has a helpful overview of the four basic types of yogis - wonder which one you are?

Sunday, February 20

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

"Crumbs From the Table"

Celebrant: Barbara Stebbins-Boaz

Generosity is esteemed by all the wisdom traditions. Yet it's easy for this virtue to be practiced in superficial ways that amount to little. In truth, we are naturally generous when we have a clearer view of our places in our shared lives together.

Sunday, February 27

Rev. Craig Morrow

"My Thoughts"

Celebrant: Brenna Norval

Come hear Rev. Craig Moro's entertaining words of wisdom as we kick off our annual Pledge Drive that supports this congregational community.

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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, **February 25, 2022**.
This Week submissions are due by **Wed.** noon.