



# The Chalice and the Flame

*Diverse people. Diverse beliefs. One community.*

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

## April 2022

### With Your Help, We Made It!

Many thanks to the congregation for their generous support for this year's pledge drive. We received a wonderful response from the congregation, resulting in exceeding our pledge goal of \$288,000. Our congregation is awesome!

~The Pledge Team

### VaLUUES Meeting April 10



Vision and Leadership UU Explorer Society (VaLUUES) will meet Sunday, April 10 at 12:30 pm to discuss the book we have been reading, "Serving with Grace". We will be exploring what it means to volunteer as a spiritual practice and how leadership can be a journey of self-discovery that honors our unique gifts. "Serving with Grace" is a great place to start exploring how the meetings we run or attend can be more rewarding and productive. We will also be discussing the word "spiritual" and what that term might mean from a more humanist understating. VaLUUES meetings will be held in person with the option to attend via Zoom. If you

have any questions, email [kraigpdx@gmail.com](mailto:kraigpdx@gmail.com).

### Masumi Timson in Concert April 15



Masumi Timson will perform on the traditional Japanese instrument, the koto, at 7:00 pm on Friday, April 15 at the church. She also sings Japanese classical songs with koto accompaniment. In this concert, she will be joined by our former staff pianist, Dr. Kit Abrahamson, on the cello for several selections in an Asian fusion "East meets West."

Masumi holds a master's degree in Koto from the Seiha Conservatory of Japanese Music in Tokyo and has participated in the recording of several Pink Martini albums and has performed with the band around the world, including in Carnegie Hall, the Hollywood Bowl, the Grand Rex in Paris, and the Blue Note Tokyo. She has also performed solo and with various other musical groups and artists both in Japan and the USA. She has released her own albums, **Picture Dreams** with violinist Fumino Ando and **Pacific Bridge, Confluence** with Richard Crandell on the Mbira, an African traditional instrument. Here in Salem, Masumi is the instructor of the Koto Club at Willamette University and in her private studio.

Since the fall of 2021 UUCS been celebrating the cultural diversity of the Salem area through a nine-concert series that was initiated by Dr. Abrahamson. Live tickets are \$20, or \$15 seniors and students. Online streaming tickets for individual concerts are \$5 each. [Purchase tickets online](#) or at the door. *Masks and proof of vaccination are required to attend.*

**Purchase Tickets in Advance**



## Reverential Ramblings

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

All too often, we don't fully appreciate something until we lose it...or nearly do. For some time now, democracy has been on its back foot while autocratic forces assert themselves. A historically unprecedented, disturbing dimension of this is the invention of surveillance technology no tyrant in former times even dreamed of having. Never have governments possessed such powerful tools to monitor and control people. The autocratic government of China is the major exporter of artificial intelligence surveillance technology which comes with instructions to other governments on how these new tools can be used to strengthen their repressive regimes. Big Brother's eyes and ears can see and hear more than ever before. There are concerns about even our own government's abuse of such technology in ways that further subvert our own flailing democracy.

American democracy has been flailing because we have been weakened by plutocratic interests who have subverted it to enrich themselves. Meanwhile, our body politic has been ripped apart by a polarized industrial complex, including a political party system that perversely benefits from our divisions, even as extremists on the right and the left are busy trying to take the wheels off the bus of democracy. As Jesus and Abraham Lincoln reminded us, "a house divided against itself cannot stand." Democracy is grounded on mutual respect and dialogue, not on mutual contempt and shouting matches. Lacking that social cohesion, things are falling apart.

As dreadful and tragic as is the war in Ukraine, one positive outcome is that we are witnessing how much democracy means to a people who are in real danger of losing it, and this may serve—let us hope—to awaken us to do all we can to preserve it, because the alternatives are dreadful.

For us as Unitarian Universalists this is a profoundly significant matter—we know that democracy is the only system of governance that truly allows for freedom of conscience, expression, and self-determination. When peoples' power to think, speak and act freely is usurped, something essential to a good life has been stolen. When such theft of people's freedom occurs, it is usually cloaked in deceit because even the autocrats must pay lip service to democracy by having sham elections. The lust for power and control is a perennial threat to democracy.

In this respect, it grieves me to note that key leaders of our own UUA, in their zeal to embrace certain changes, have embraced practices that only serve to diminish democracy's stature within our movement—practices such as stifling free and open discussion of important matters before us, as evidenced by their removal of "letters to the editor" from our association's magazine, *"The UU World."* We only get to read what they want us to read. This is happening even as we UUs actively and rightly oppose sustained efforts to suppress the vote in our nation. (I will address this concern more fully in the future.)

The great 20th century Unitarian minister A. Powell Davies can have the last word: *"What then, in spiritual terms, is the definition of democracy? It is the social and political expression of the religious principle that all people are sisters and brothers, and humankind is a family; democracy is a bond of equals unrestricted by nation, race or creed."*

Love, Rick



## Lifespan Religious Education

~ Molly Brown, Director, Lifespan Religious Education



Hello LRE families and friends!

I hope everyone is doing well! I'm excited to start off April with beautiful weather! We are excited to announce that the LRE Team is hosting a *Giant* Easter Egg Hunt for the Congregation and the Community on Sunday, April 17 from 11:30 am-12:30 pm!

We will be doing a lot of fun arts and crafts. There will also be a giant Egg Hunt in the forest of Bateman Woods behind our church building. All of the farm animals will be here for a petting zoo. Treats, as well as coffee and hot cocoa, will be available in the Fellowship Hall!

If anybody would like to donate small individually wrapped candies that can fit in Easter eggs that would be wonderful. We also are looking for gluten-free candy for children with allergies. If you would like to help stuff Easter eggs, we will be doing it next Sunday, April 10, 2022, after the Sunday service and the LRE program.

Please feel free to bring your friends and family, as it will be an awesome way to meet new people in the community and there will be plenty of eggs for everyone! We have a ton of fun things planned this month and we hope to see you all here!



Molly Brown  
Director of Lifespan Religious Education, UUCS  
(971) 239-7384

# More Happenings and Highlights

## Basha Sale Resumes April 10



The Basha sale, sponsored by the Microfinance Team, resumes April 10 at church after the service. Items for sale will include colorful, beautiful blankets of various sizes, scarves, place mats, kimonos, vests, table runners, napkins, cosmetic bags, and totes.

Basha helps women at risk, or survivors of trafficking. They offer mentoring, training, support, and encouragement while providing dignified work. Proceeds of the sale will benefit the women as well as our Microfinance projects in Nicaragua and India.

[Here is one woman's story](#). For more about Basha, and their products [visit their website](#).

## Monthly Art Works Meetings Resume

Art Works has resumed meeting on the fourth Friday of each month at 10 am to make art in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your own materials and enjoy creating and sharing with other UUs. Kids welcome if they bring an adult. We will try to set up a Zoom link for creatives to join in from home. Email Ann Moore at [anadonaldovna@gmail.com](mailto:anadonaldovna@gmail.com) for further assistance.

## Tai Chi Before Service Beginning April 10

Tai Chi is starting April 10, at 10:00 am, for 20 minutes prior to the start of Sunday service. We will meet in a corner of the Fellowship Hall if it's rainy, or outside on the patio if the weather is dry. You can do this seated or standing. A nice way to get your body, mind and spirit ready to experience the Sunday Service!. Email Sara Pickett at [sara@uusalem.org](mailto:sara@uusalem.org) if you have questions or know Tai Chi and would like to lead sometimes.

~Sara Pickett

## COVID Guidelines As Of March 12

With sensitivity to our vulnerable and immunocompromised friends, the Reopening Team established new COVID guidelines as of March 12. These guidelines are subject to change.



Masks are required while in the sanctuary for Sunday services so that singing can continue, and we can gather in closer quarters together safely. At all other times while in the building, masks are encouraged, but optional. Everyone inside the building must have had COVID vaccination or a medical exemption. Registration for Sunday services is not required but is recommended. Contact tracing has been eliminated. If someone tests positive within five days of attending Sunday service, inform the office, which will send an email notice to the entire congregation. If you need a

rapid test for COVID, contact the office.

As always, if you are sick, stay home until your symptoms have been gone for at least 24 hours. If you test positive for COVID, please quarantine for five days or until you are symptom free—whichever is longer.

~Christine Ertl for the Reopening Team

# Help Wanted and Appreciated!

## Help Feed Homeless Families April 17-23



UUCS is scheduled to cook for Family Promise the week beginning April 17. We will need to provide a complete dinner for 11 people on Sunday (April 17), Thursday (April 21) and Saturday (April 23). The meals are delivered to a single location. 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. Sign up during Fellowship Hour or [volunteer online](#) and check the [Family Promise website](#) for more information.

# News of the Community

## Appreciating Our Ancestors

Many of you will remember very gracious UUCS member Virginia Corrie-Cozart, who died in 2012. Here is her poem "Grandpa's Hands," published in her award-winning book of poetry, *A Mutable Place*.

Something in the Morning Chronicle  
recalls my grandpa's hands,  
aged and resting in his lap,  
fingers crooked like 7's  
across the rope of his palm.  
His fiddle in a wooden case lay  
under the parlor table.  
After his death, it was warped  
in a flood that breached the dike  
he built with wheelbarrow and shovel  
along a quarter mile of river.  
In the velvet album near the violin  
a picture of a boy, still in Denmark,  
posed with his hand light on the bow.  
Once he played for me a waltz,  
his fingers finding the positions,

body swaying back  
as if holding a partner.  
He soon stopped;  
his hands.....he said.  
I, curious child, leaned  
to see the tendon that pulled down  
his little finger, bent the others jackknifed to  
the strange ridge.  
Dr. Jensen in the newspaper says  
Dupuytren's Contracture cripples hands  
maybe from repeated minor injuries.  
I know the stories,  
how he swung the axe,  
reined in tough-mother work horses,  
grubbed tussocks to clear the land,  
put away his violin.

~The Worship Team

## Annual Meeting May 15

Our Annual UUCS Business Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 15 at 11:45 am. This will be a hybrid meeting; that is, you may attend in person in the Fellowship Hall or via Zoom. *Childcare will be available*, and a *light lunch* will be provided for all. On the agenda:

- Election of Board and Nominating Committee members
- Approval of the 2022-23 annual congregational budget

Information regarding the Nominating Committee's proposed candidates and the 2022-23 proposed budget will be posted in the May newsletter, included on the UUCS website and will also be sent in an email to all congregants two weeks prior to the meeting. The information packet will include registration information for joining the meeting via Zoom and for requesting childcare.

A quorum to conduct business is required, which is 25% of our February 2022 UUA Certified membership. Ideally, we will have over 65 members in attendance to vote. Proxy voting is an option if you cannot attend in person or via Zoom, however a proxy does not count towards the quorum. All proxy votes must be made by a member who is attending the meeting in person. Important issues or statements that rise to the level of a Congregational Resolutions are welcome. [Refer to the UUCS Bylaws online for information concerning conduct of the Annual Business Meeting.](#)

Membership verification is required to vote. Certified membership is defined by our bylaws: Members must

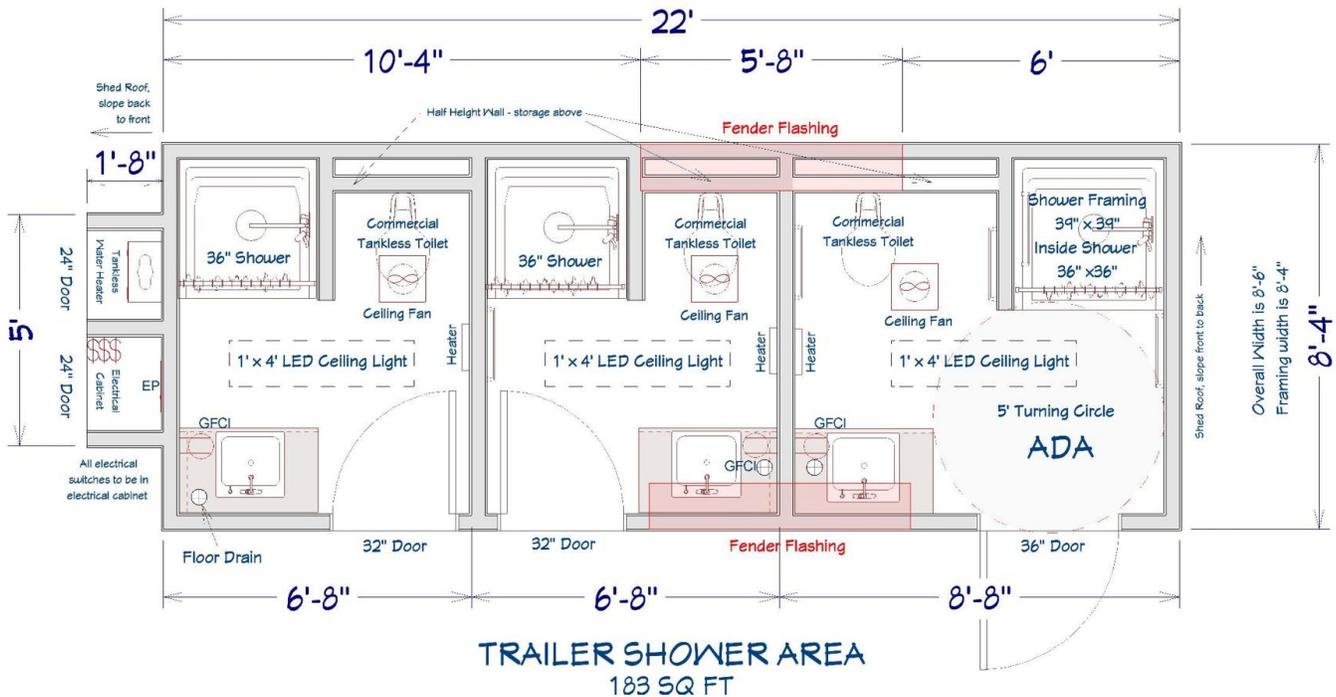
- be 16 years of age or over,
- have shown sympathy with the Congregation's purpose as stated in Article II by signing the membership book, and
- have within the last twelve months made a financial pledge, and
- an identifiable financial contribution.

A table will be in the foyer in the weeks leading up to the Annual UUCS Business Meeting. You can stop by and verify that your membership is current and certified, or contact the office at [office@uusalem.org](mailto:office@uusalem.org) or call 503-364-0932.

This will be a good opportunity for fellowship. We look forward to seeing all of you there.

# Social Justice News and Comments

## Shower Trailers for People Living in Micro-Shelters



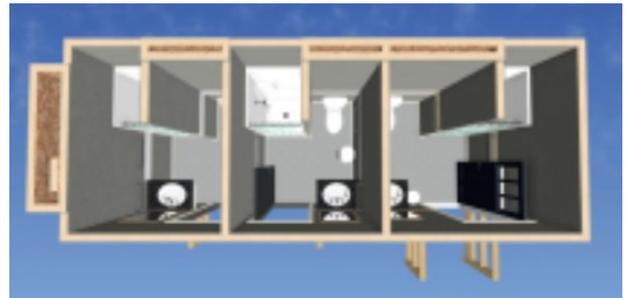
Yes! With financial contributions from UUCS congregants and friends from the wider Salem community and with design work by John Davenport in collaboration with representatives from Church at the Park (C@P), Habitat and Hope Village, Inc. (HHV) has agreed to purchase and donate to C@P its first movable shower trailer for people living in their supervised micro shelter communities in the Salem area.

Amenities include one Americans with Disability Act-accessible and two standard restroom facilities with showers, vanities, and toilets built on a 22-foot flatbed trailer. The unit is designed for hook up to city utilities so there will be no need to move it off-site to dispose of wastewater. That means more people can be served more conveniently than with traveling shower units currently in use at some locations.

Edomo, a Salem company specializing in small homes and micro shelters, will build the shower trailer. The down payment has been made and delivery is expected by mid-June.

Check out the Shower Trailer Number One design and “other possibilities” on our website: [habitatandhopevillage.org](http://habitatandhopevillage.org).

Together we will make a difference in the quality of life for our unsheltered neighbors.



~Paul Wilson, Habitat & Hope Village, Inc.

### The Noble Cause of Social Justice vs. Reality

Social justice is a just and noble cause that addresses human suffering and the causes of that suffering. In an ideal, rational world people would come together as they did in the late 1960s and 70s to reduce, if not eliminate, air and water pollution. The Clean Air and Clean Water Acts were passed to address the causes of acid rain and fog and burning rivers. Their passage was a major social justice victory that resulted in a reduction in the number of people with respiratory diseases and the return of wildlife and people to lakes and rivers. The major American social justice achievement of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century was the passage of the Civil Rights and Voting Rights Acts. They addressed discrimination against African Americans and others and gave them a voice by removing obstacles to voting. All these accomplishments required was for a few good people to create awareness of the injustices and Congress drafted and passed those bills. If only it had been that easy. In fact, there were strong, entrenched interests opposing all those bills. To pass them required people favoring their passage to acquire the power needed to pass them, i.e., to engage in political activity.

In the late 1960s and 70s businesses were seen as benefiting at the expense of Americans; so laws were passed to restore and protect the rights of citizens. The business community did not like this, and they resolved to restore and extend their lost influence and privilege. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, representing several Fortune 500 businesses, asked Lewis Powell to make recommendations on how to recover their lost influence. Powell, a corporate lawyer and future Supreme Court Justice, wrote what was to become known as the [Powell Memo](#). This memo outlined what the businesses and their owners needed to do recapture their power to create a future where their will prevailed. The Powell Memo initiated political activities resulting in increased inequity and reduced political power needed to address injustice and inequity.

Today social justice action typically takes the form of demonstrations and protests. Such actions create awareness and make those participating feel good. Demonstrations for police reform after the killing of George Floyd made people feel good but really didn't accomplish much. If they did accomplish anything, it was to rally pro-police forces to oppose any police reforms.

Social justice has two aspects: eliminating the causes of injustice and addressing the effects of injustice. [Marion Polk Food Share](#), [Family Promise](#), and [Habitat and Hope](#) are organizations that address the effects of injustice. Supporting them doesn't require acquiring power to influence legislation and laws-- eliminating the causes of poverty and homelessness that they address does.

UUCS has a choice to make, does the congregation want to only feel good about addressing the effects of social injustices or does it want to work at eliminating the causes of social injustices? Social justice is a congregational activity, and the congregation must choose social justice activities and commit to supporting them. The selection of social justice initiatives is a political process in which people advocate and build coalitions to convince the congregation to select their initiative. This internal politicking is a good thing, it builds support for social justice initiatives selected by the congregation and identifies leaders of a selected initiative. Many skills, including political skills, will be needed to develop coalitions of other UU congregations and faith communities to achieve social justice goals.

~John Prohodsky, Social Justice Team Chair

## Behind the Chalice

With April come showers and flowers popping up out of the ground and the Easter Bunny. Well, we couldn't catch the Easter Bunny, but we did catch up with Gil on why he likes helping with Sunday Services.

**Name:** *Gil Nicholson-Nelson*

**Position/s for Sunday Services:** *Sound and Camera and taking photos.*

**What do you most like about your position/s:** *Learning, always learning!*

**What is one thing you would change:** *Putin's mind*

**What is your idea of perfect happiness:** *No wants of any kind*

**What is your greatest achievement:** *Learning to listen*

**What do you regard as the lowest depths of despair:** *Corporate greed and war*

**What is your greatest extravagance:** *(hmm, we may never know!)*

**Who or what is the greatest love of your life:** *Diana*

**Who are your heroes in fiction:** *Jimmy Carter*

**Who are your heroes in real life:** *Jimmy Carter*

**What is a meaningful piece of music for you:** *Suite for flute and jazz piano*

**Where do you like to go in nature to revive:** *Pamelia Lake*

**Anything else:** *(Nope)*

See you all in May!

~Behind the Chalice

# Splinters from the Board

## Board Report for April, 2022

**Team reports:** All Teams submit a quarterly report and an annual Strategic Plan report. Specific Teams submit monthly reports.

Communications Team Quarterly Report highlighted the variety of communication, publicity and routine work of this committee.

Membership Team Strategic Plan Report identified beginning Starting Point classes, facilitating the Engagement team to keep congregants connected and proposing a plan to “court” visitors

Worship Team Strategic Plan Report highlighted a goal of holding “Appreciating Your Ancestors” as an annual event, collaborated on trainings in the Homiletics/Storyteller Guild and added two more celebrants, for a total of 7 celebrants.

Music Monthly Report mentioned support of LRE by the Music Team. Jon Chinburg has volunteered to play the guitar for the kids a couple of times a month. They will discuss additional support options at the Music Team meeting.

Lifespan Religious Education Monthly Report identified attendance at RE, which in February went up to 15.75 kids/week. They are planning a number of events including re-starting the OWL program this fall for kids in two age groups: grades 4-6 and 7-9. Sara Gonzalez was hired as LRE Assistant at 10 hours per week.

Facilities Team Report identified work on the lights in the women’s bathroom, replacing the linoleum in the LRE bathroom and possibly replacing a sprinkler valve, or replacing the sprinkler system.

**Board Action:** A Temporary Work Authorization was tabled until necessary information is supplied.

### General Information:

Building Reopening: Masks are still required for worship services but are optional for other events. Registration for Sunday services will be optional to record vaccination status. Proof of vaccinations is still required for anyone entering the building.

Pledge Drive: Pledges were not coming in as expected, so Board members were asked to make phone calls.

**New Agenda Item:** Rick discussed a process of engaging people in the shared ministry. This may be discussed with the Team Council and will be put on the agenda for the next Board meeting.

~Christine Ertl, Board Chair



*Some Spring colors at UUCS!*

# 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**

**April Share the Plate Recipient:** [Minister's Discretionary Fund](#)

**Sunday, April 10**

**"A Most Disturbing Memory"**

**The Rev. Richard R. Davis**

**Celebrant:** Barbara Stebbins-Boaz

**Sunday, April 17**

**"Unexpected"**

**The Rev. Richard R. Davis**

**Celebrant:** Brenna Norval  
**Music:** UUCS Choir

Easter Sunday

**Sunday, April 24**

**"Earth Day"**

**The Rev. Bonnie Tarwater**

**Celebrant:** Janet Stevens

**Sunday, May 1**

**"A Dialogue with Machiavelli"**

**The Rev. Richard R. Davis**

**Celebrant:** Brenna Norval



*Production Services  
at work during  
a recent service*

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation Of Salem**  
5090 Center St. NE, Salem, OR 97317

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5090 Center St. NE, Salem, OR 97317

**Minister:** The Rev. Richard R. Davis  
[rdavis@uuma.org](mailto:rdavis@uuma.org)

**Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration:**  
Molly Brown [dire@uusalem.org](mailto:dire@uusalem.org)

**LRE Assistant:** Sarah Gonzalez

**Music:** Dr. Robert Whalen  
[musicdirection@uusalem.org](mailto:musicdirection@uusalem.org)

**Board Chair:** Christine Ertl  
[boardchair@uusalem.org](mailto:boardchair@uusalem.org)

**Congregational Administrator:** Emma Kreger  
**Office Administrator:** Jo Sweeney  
**Office open Tuesday-Friday, 9 am to 1 pm**  
**Phone:** 503-364-0932  
**E-mail:** [office@uusalem.org](mailto:office@uusalem.org)

**UUCS Internet Links to:**  
**Website:** [www.uusalem.org](http://www.uusalem.org)  
**Facebook:** [facebook.com/UUSalem](https://facebook.com/UUSalem)

**Newsletter Editors:** [editors@uusalem.org](mailto:editors@uusalem.org)

This issue was edited by Bob Muir with help from Sharon Pierson, Vicki Cunningham, and Elsa Struble. Final formatting completed by S. Pierson.

**EVENT SCHEDULING:** use the [Event Scheduling Request](#) form on the UUCS website to add your event to the UUCS calendar and/or reserve a UUCS space.

**PUBLICITY and ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Fill out the [Publication Request](#) form on the UUCS website for any announcement, event or news item. This form is a one-stop place to put a notice in the monthly newsletter, the UUCS website, the *This Week* email and/or Facebook.

**DEADLINES:**  
**Newsletter:** The deadline for the **next** newsletter is 8:00 pm on Friday, **April 29, 2022**.  
**This Week** submissions are due by **Wed. noon**.