



The Chalice and the Flame

Diverse people. Diverse beliefs. One community.

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

May 2022

Monmouth Taiko at UUCS May 13

Enjoy the powerful and charismatic sound of taiko drums on Friday, May 13, 2022, at 7:00 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem. Monmouth Taiko will play traditional and modern compositions of the Japanese drumming music called taiko, with the Japanese flute called fue. Taiko is played on large drums with choreographed dance and movement.

Monmouth Taiko is based in the Willamette Valley area of Oregon. They travel around the Pacific Northwest sharing their joyful and powerful sound. [Check out their Facebook page.](#)

Tickets at the door or online, \$20/\$15 students or seniors. Masks and proof of vaccination or OHA exemption will be required at the door. If you prefer to live-stream, single concert tickets are \$5.

[Purchase tickets on our website.](#)



Annual Congregational Meeting May 15

The Annual UUCS Business Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 15, at noon in the fellowship hall. Everyone is invited to attend, even if they are not eligible to vote. This will be a hybrid meeting; you may attend in person or by Zoom. In person attendance requires proof of vaccination or OHA exemption.



On the agenda:

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

A light lunch will be provided immediately following the service, before the meeting starts. Childcare will be provided. [Fill out the Childcare Request Form by May 12.](#)

Joining by Zoom: If you prefer, you can attend the meeting by Zoom. When you join the meeting, the moderator will validate your voting status to see if your attendance counts towards the quorum. Up to 2 votes are allowed per connected device. No proxy votes will be taken from Zoom attendees. For more information and the links to the meeting, visit the [2022 Annual Meeting Page](#) on our website.

To conduct business, a quorum is required, which is 25% of our eligible voters. Ideally, we will have over 65 voting members in attendance.

Proxy voting is an option if you cannot attend in person or by 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. Proxy voting instructions are found on the [2022 Annual Meeting Page](#).

Membership verification is required to vote. You can stop by the table in the foyer on May 8 to verify that your membership is current and certified, or contact the treasurer at treasurer@uusalem.org. 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.



Reverential Ramblings

~ Rev. Richard Davis, UUCS's minister

For the better part of the past decade, I have been invited to deliver the invocation at the annual Worker's Memorial Day observance at the Capital Mall every April 28. This is an international observance of all workers who have died or been injured on the job during the past year. Before the ceremony begins, I have greeted the family members whose loved ones were killed on the job and offer my condolences. Most of those who died—sixty-nine in Oregon during the past year—worked in construction, transportation, agriculture, law enforcement, or manufacturing, doing hard and dangerous jobs to support their families, and now that they are gone their families are heartbroken. Such unnatural and unexpected losses are especially hard to bear.

It's easy for those of us who do not work in such dangerous and demanding circumstances to be oblivious to the hardships that many regularly face for our material benefit. Before I entered the ministry, I had a few jobs where I saw how worker safety was routinely ignored by employers whose main concern was not safety but profitability – and that was but a faint glimpse at the harsh conditions too many workers around the world face daily.

Sometimes I try to imagine all the human labor that supports my life—how many there are who harvest, prepare and transport the food that I consume, who work in the factories that make the clothes I wear, who work in mining and manufacturing who produce the products I use, who build the roads I drive, the bridges I cross, and the buildings I inhabit. Not to mention all those who work in service industries and all whose ideas and innovations benefit us.

There are the untold benefits we derive from these and those who have gone before us.

Near the end of May we observe Memorial Day to honor those who served in the military and sacrificed their lives for our country. This has often led me to regret that all those whose service and whose sacrifices are as meaningful are overlooked. This is why I have been glad to participate in the Worker's Memorial service.

Closer to home, during these past winter months we have said sorrowful goodbyes to some dear members here whose lives benefitted and blessed us, and I'm glad we had the chance to grieve their deaths and celebrate their lives and say "thanks, we couldn't have done it without you!" *At our annual meeting on May 15, we will read their names aloud, as is our custom.* In truth, we wouldn't exist as a congregation had not many who came before us laid the foundation upon which we depend.

Sometimes I think about something I've accomplished in my life, but then I look deeper and realize there should be a good dose of humility mixed in, because whatever I may have accomplished could never have been accomplished by myself alone. There is no such thing as a self-made person because, as the naturalist John Muir put it, "*When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe.*"

I am especially mindful of this as I think about congregational life—different ones of us may have a few solos to sing or play, but we live and work in concert with one another in our great congregational orchestra—we produce such beautiful music, figuratively and literally speaking. In days to come, may our names be fondly remembered for the beautiful music we created and played, even as we fondly recall the loving strains of those before us who showed us the way to make music.

Love,
Rick



Lifespan Religious Education

~ Molly Brown, Director, Lifespan Religious Education

Hello LRE Families!

Spring is here and it is beautiful! The trees and the flowers around the UUCS campus are in full bloom! I can hear the hummingbirds and the bees buzzing as I'm typing this in my office, and I am so excited for the sunny days to be a daily occurrence! I grew up in the desert of Southern California and no matter what kind of a mood I am in, the sun ALWAYS makes me smile! A popsicle and some Vitamin D are my go-tos when I need some self-care!

Speaking of self-care, Mother's Day is coming up and I am so excited to celebrate it with everyone who can come to the Sunday Service on May 8! We have something special in mind for all of you who deserve to be celebrated this week and we hope that you will come to join in on the fun!

Our theme this month is "Nurturing Beauty." In this month's lessons, we reflect on how important it is to understand and celebrate that we are all different, including the way our bodies and brains work. Our first lesson is about Celebrating Beauty in Others. The second week we will learn about Celebrating Our Power to Bring Beauty into the World. The 3rd week we will learn about Honoring All the Ways We Take Beauty In. The 4th week will teach us about Celebrating the Beauty that is Us and the final week in May, we will learn about Honoring how we Share of Ourselves/Memorial Day! We have so many fun arts and crafts for each lesson this month!



Our UU faith reminds us, when it comes to nurturing beauty, we need to "Appreciate It" in all its many forms and realize that celebrating the beauty of others comes from understanding, awareness, and empathy.

This month, we thought it would be fun to dress in SPRING colors (whatever that means to you!) Wear a straw hat, sandals, Pastel Colors, Flowers, Purple Hair, etc... Just wear something to celebrate the beautiful weather. We plan on taking full advantage of the forecasted sunshine on Sunday!

This is one of the wonderful things about the Reggio Emilia Approach (for those of you that are new to the LRE Program, this is an Italian approach to teaching/learning that gives the children the choice to decide what they want to learn and how they want to learn about it; the teacher is the co-learner with the child and the environment is the 3rd teacher). Basically, we can learn all about beauty by swinging in the trees outside, learn acceptance by playing soccer in the field, learn respect and responsibility by tending to the bunnies and the ducks... The possibilities are endless, and this is what the UUCS LRE Program is all about!

If you came to the May 1 Sunday Service, you got to hear an announcement about this year's OWL (Our Whole Lives) Program! If you don't know what that is, it is a developmentally appropriate human sexuality course offered for children from K-1st grades, 4th-6th grades, 7th-9th grades and 10th-12th grades. For the younger friends, it's about body boundaries, knowing what is appropriate and what's not, how and whom to ask for help, etc... For the middle ages it's about helping them learn about their bodies, about consent, about how to talk to their parents, etc... for the older group it's about all the rest! I've spoken with several people whose children have finished this program and they are SO grateful for it years later! It made them feel comfortable that their children had the answers to all the questions that they were too embarrassed to ask! The goal of this is to prepare children for their future, to help parents communicate with their children and to answer unanswered questions that kids don't know to ask after watching things like YouTube/movies/etc... If you want more information, or would like to ask about becoming an OWL Trainer, please feel free to ask me or any member of the LRE Team or send an email to dlre@uusalem.org.

Thanks so much and we look forward to seeing you all soon!
Molly Brown

More Happenings and Highlights

Flower Communion is Coming June 5

On June 5 we will have our traditional Flower Communion Service, reminding us of both our uniqueness and our connection as human beings in this world. In addition, we will have a special guest speaker, Professor Ruben L. F. Habito from SMU Perkins School of Theology. Habito's teachings focus on world religions, East Asian Buddhism, theology of religions and comparative theology, and interreligious perspectives in spirituality and mysticism. He has researched Japanese medieval Buddhism, themes in comparative theology, spirituality, and socio-ecological engagement.

There are two ways to participate:

- 1) Before May 23, send a picture of flowers to productionteam@uusalem.org. The pictures will be used as a slide show during the service.
- 2) On June 5, bring a flower to church to put into the common Congregational Bouquet that will be created by your gifts of the flowers you bring.

Thank you ahead of time for making this year's Flower Communion Service special.

The Worship Team



Women's One-Day Retreat Planning

The UUCS Women's Retreat, the annual tradition which brings women together for a day, or a weekend, of companionship, sisterhood, sharing and growing has been on hiatus due to the pandemic. Although we are not ready to return to a full weekend retreat, we are considering a one-day event in the fall of 2022 if there is sufficient interest. If you would like to attend such an event, email uuwomensgroup@uusalem.org. Input regarding suggested dates, events or offers to volunteer are welcome.

Reopening Guidelines Drop RSVP for Sunday Service

With sensitivity to our vulnerable and immuno-compromised friends, the Reopening Team has determined guidelines to be in place as of April 13, 2022. 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 in the building masks are encouraged, but optional.
- Vaccination or medical exemption is required to be in the building.
- Contact tracing is eliminated. If someone tests positive within five days of being in the building, let the office know and an email notice will go out to the entire congregation. If you need a rapid test, 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 longest.

Note: Though no RSVP is required for the service, Religious Education Staff ask that you [RSVP for LRE each Sunday](#), so that they can plan and have adequate supplies for all.

Results of Basha Sale. Thank You!



The UUCS Microfinance Committee held a successful sale of items made by Basha women in Bangladesh on April 3 and 10. We partnered with Basha, which is a non-profit organization that provides a sustainable livelihood for women at risk and survivors of trafficking.

As a result of your support and purchase of Basha items, we will be sending \$787 to The NEO Fund for our microfinance projects in Nicaragua and India. We also learned that The NEO Fund is having a challenge campaign so our fundraising dollars will be matched and double the amount that will benefit poor women and families!

If you are interested in ordering any more Basha products, please let us know at microfinance@uusalem.org. You can check out the good work of Basha and their products at www.bashaboutique.com.

Help Needed and Appreciated!

Looking for GA Delegates for June GA in Portland

As a member of the UUA, our congregation is entitled to have 5 voting delegates at the UUA General Assembly (GA). GA will be hybrid this year, both online with video streaming and in person in Portland, June 22-25 2022. Now is the time to request to be a delegate from our congregation. **The UUCS Board of Directors is charged with appointing these delegates and will do so at the upcoming board meeting on May 9.** There is no current information on what the issues will be, but this will be distributed to our congregation once these are announced. If you are interested in attending as a delegate contact Christine Ertl at boardchair@uusalem.org. If you are unable to afford the \$200 registration fee, let Christine know.

Looking for a Video Engineer

Do you see what I see? If you do during the Sunday Service, that is because our incredible Video Engineer, Ezra Alexander, is showing you both the slides in-person, as well as controlling the live streaming so that those who are watching virtually can also be part of the experience every Sunday. Unfortunately for us, he is going off to university to study both ballet and math. Alexander will be with us through June 5, then goes off for travel and an intensive dance workshop in Boston before returning the end of July. He has agreed to come and do August 7, before he heads out of town for his new adventure as a college man.

That leaves us in need of a video engineer. If you would like more specific information or are interested in the position, email the Production Team at productionteam@uusalem.org and we can set up a Sunday when you shadow Ezra to see if this is something you could learn how to do. Please also recommend people if you know of anyone.. ~The Worship Team

Collecting Cans for Retreat Scholarships

Returnable bottles and cans are still being collected for the scholarship fund for the Women's Retreat to be held next fall or spring. Bottle Drop bags are available on the credenza in the foyer. Just fill the bag with your returnables and drop off at any Bottle Drop location. If you have questions, you can contact Janet Stevens at uuwomens-group@uusalem.org.

Lots of Firewood Available

The Facilities team needs to find a home for the 2021 ice-storm firewood stacked in Bateman Woods, before next winter. If you are or might be interested in receiving some not later than this September, contact Tom Lancefield via email (woodrat2@hotmail.com) or phone (971-218-6459) by June 1. We originally thought of selling it and would accept donations. It is mostly oak and is probably not well seasoned until summer's end. We can deliver, though it might take multiple trips.

Behind the Chalice

For the month of May, we learn about our incredible Video Engineer, Ezra Alexander. He is leaving us soon for the bright lights of Utah to go to college. We wish him the best, thank him for his time and talent, and hope to see him back amongst us when he is visiting home. (See article about needing a new Video Engineer!) As ever, we remain yours in service from – Behind the Chalice

Name: Ezra

Position/s for Sunday Services: Dude who runs the livestream and in-person slides (video engineer).

What do you most like about your position/s: I like how there's an audience, it almost feels like a performance. Also, the fast-paced nature and the thrill of figuring stuff out live during the service if I make a mistake.

What is one thing you would change: I'd give myself a salary.

What is your idea of perfect happiness: When the way you live your life is congruent with your personal values.

What is your greatest achievement: I interviewed for and got offered a full-ride scholarship to University of Utah where I will study ballet and math.

What do you regard as the lowest depths of despair: When you realize you wasted time you will never get back.

What is your greatest extravagance: Cryptocurrency.

Who or what is the greatest love of your life: Ballet.

Who are your heroes in fiction: Don't have any.

Who are your heroes in real life: Magnus Carlsen, World Chess Champion.

What is a meaningful piece of music for you: Hard to pick, I'll go with the Grande Pas de Deux from The Nutcracker Suite.

Where do you like to go in nature to revive: I don't like nature.

Anything else: I'm an atheist but open to having my mind changed.

2022 Board and Nominating Committee Slate of Candidates

Board Officers and Directors

Other than the Treasurer, board officers are elected to one-year terms. Directors are elected to serve two-year terms unless elected to complete one year of a vacant Director seat. Returning members do not require a vote.

2022 Nominees:

- **Chair: Lynn Cardiff** (1 year term)
- **Vice Chair: Robin LaMonte** (1 year term)
- **Secretary: Lisa Marcus** (1 year term)
- **Director Seat #2: Sara Pickett** (2 year term)
- **Director Seat #3: Ben Cavaletto** (1 year remains)
- **Director Seat #4: TBA** (2 year term)
- **Director Seat #6: Tracy Boyle** (2 year term)

Returning Board members: *(no vote required)*

- **Past Chair: Christine Ertl** (1 year term)
- **Treasurer: Sharon Pierson** (1 year remains)
- **Director Seat #1: Christine Keese-Ferguson** (1 year remains)
- **Director Seat #5 Don Wolf** (1 year remains)

Retiring from Board

- Janet Stevens, Director Seat #6
- Steve Ovens, Director Seat #3

Nominating Committee Candidates 2022

The Nominating Committee presented the following candidate for the Nominating Committee:

- **Sara Shatto** (3 year term)

Returning Nominating Committee members:

- **Barbara Stebbins-Boaz** (1 year remaining)
- **Julianne Patton** (2 years remaining)

Retiring from the Nominating Committee:

- Joel Woodman

[Download Meeting Packet
and
Team Reports](#)

Social Justice News

Social Justice Report

The Social Justice Team has two ongoing tasks, building a culture of social justice and engaging the congregation in the selection of social justice initiatives and working on those initiatives. If social justice is a core value of UUCS, we must live that value, but what does that mean? To me it means the congregation has a culture that supports social action by actively working to end oppression and social injustices.

What social action(s) should the congregation pursue? There are so many oppressed groups and injustices to be addressed plus the need to help those who have suffered because of them. A primary consideration is the scope of social action. Do we want to address a national issue such as racism, transphobia, inequity, or global warming? Or do we want to address local issues such as homelessness, domestic violence, child abuse, or food insecurity?

A fair, transparent process is needed for the congregation to select social actions. The UUA provides several resources to help develop a selection process. For details on those processes and the full letter from the Chair of the Social Justice Team, see the full [May 2022 Social Justice Report on our website](#).

~ John Prohodsky, Social Justice Team

Lift Every Voice

I want to share with you an opportunity to reduce gun violence and make Oregon schools and community spaces safer.

Lift Every Voice Oregon has drafted two Initiative Petitions that present common sense gun safety measures.

Initiative Petition (IP) 17: Safe Owners and Less Lethal Ammunition

- Requires a permit to purchase all firearms

- Requires a purchaser to pass a background check, and no sale of a gun can be completed before the background check is completed

- Requires a purchaser to complete a safety training program

- Requires improvement in the database to track guns that are lost, stolen or used to commit crimes

- Bans the future sale of large capacity magazines

- Prohibits manufacture, sale, transfer, and possession of magazines over 10 rounds

- Previously owned magazines may be retained with limited use

- Exception for duty-only use by military and law enforcement

As you can see from the components of IP 17 above, passing this initiative will increase responsible gun ownership. Requiring permits to purchase firearms reduces homicides, suicides, gun trafficking and shootings of police. Requiring passing a background check is well supported by a majority of Oregonians.

In mass shooting situations, it is well known that large-capacity magazines (meaning large number of bullets) result in higher death tolls. Reducing the number of rounds (bullets) that a shooter can fire before pausing to reload allows more children and adults to escape and survive an attack. Reducing the number of rounds that a shooter can fire before reloading also allows more opportunity for intervention by law enforcement.

IP 17 is worthy of our support!

Initiative Petition (IP) 18: Stops Proliferation of Assault Weapons

- Prohibits future manufacture, import, purchase, transfer, possession or use of semiautomatic assault firearms with limited exceptions.

- The exceptions are for those weapons that are owned at the time of passage of this measure, IF the weapons are then registered with the State, and IF the use of the weapons is limited to owner's property, shooting ranges and hunting (if allowed by OR regulations).

- IP18 covers homemade and 3-D printed "Ghost guns"

- Exception to this IP:* duty-only use by military and law enforcement

States without laws limiting assault weapons have significantly more high-fatality mass shootings and significantly higher death rates from such incidents.

Gun policy experts have rated a ban on assault weapons (and large capacity magazines) as one of the most effective measures to reduce deaths.

IP 18 is well worthy of our support!

I hope everyone can agree that the above 2 initiatives are well worth signing and having on the November 2022 Ballot. In order for IP 17 and IP 18 to be on Oregon's November Ballot, there need to be 140,000 active registered voters signing the petitions. There is a very simple way to sign these petitions: go to the website of Lift Every Voice Oregon at lifteveryvoiceoregon.com and sign the petitions online!

For those who are passionate about supporting common sense gun safety laws and want to become petition circulators; you can take the training online at the Lift Every Voice Oregon website and then you can head out to obtain signatures!

And, lastly, if you support these initiatives, please consider sending this message on to at least 10 of your Oregon registered voter friends!

Let's get these initiatives onto the November 2022 ballot and passed into law!

Our children deserve nothing less. Thank you for your consideration.

~Joan Stenbridge

HHV Donates Shower Unit for Micro Shelter Community

Habitat and Hope Village, Inc. (HHV) has agreed to purchase and donate its first new movable shower trailer to Church at the Park (C@P) for use by people living in their supervised micro shelter communities in the Salem area. Parts are arriving and being stored with assembly scheduled to begin as soon as the trailer chassis is delivered. Mid-June completion is expected. So, what happens next?

Consultation with C@P shows a community-wide need for two more shower trailers and three laundry trailers. HHV plans to hold off building the next shower trailer until the first one has been in use for a few weeks. That will allow time for design modifications based on feedback from operators and the people using the facilities.

Meanwhile, the laundry trailer design is ready for review. It includes four stackable washer/dryer units, a utility sink, folding tables and supply storage built on a sixteen-foot trailer. As with the shower trailers, the planned laundry trailers will hook up to municipal water, sewer and electrical utilities.

We look forward to your comments and continued support. Check out the Shower Trailer Number One design and "other possibilities" on [our website](#). Together we will make a difference in the quality of life for our unsheltered neighbors.

~ Paul Wilson

Splinters from the Board

Board Recommends Adoption of the Proposed 2022-23 UUCS Budget

Prior to adopting the Finance Team's budget recommendations, the board discussed increasing the budgeted hours of the current RE Assistant, funding training for volunteers of the OWL program and the UUA annual dues.

- The Board feels that the RE Assistant needs are not clear at this point and requested that the RE Director provide a report at the September 2022 Board meeting on ongoing staffing needs. The RE Assistant remains at 4 hours per week in the 22-23 budget until then.
- Ben Cavaletto, LRE Team chair, presented a request for \$3,000 out of the 2022-23 budget for training OWL volunteers. This was declined as it was determined that there are available 2021-22 funds to pay to train a couple of people. Participants may be asked to contribute to some of the training costs. Ben also requested referrals from the congregation and the Board for people who would be willing and are qualified to teach the OWL program.
- Sharon Pierson, Treasurer, reviewed the annual payment to the UUA which allows UUCS to pay 75% of the amount owed. The Board approved this action, which will not change the total budget.

A copy of the detailed budget to review was requested so the vote on the budget was deferred until 12 pm on April 14 to provide time for review. At that meeting, the board voted to adopt the recommendations of the budget proposed by the Finance Team.

Adoption of the Fund Type and Uses Policy

The board adopted a policy that defines types of UUCS funds and authorized use of funds.

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

Month Share the Plate Recipient: [Salem Harvest](#)

Sunday, May 8

Janet Stevens

"Mothers, Women, Sisters"

Celebrant: Sara Picket

Women hold up half the sky and are the mothers of future generations. It takes a sisterhood of women to do this daunting task.

Sunday, May 15

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

"Finding Our Voices"

Celebrant: Janet Stevens

It's hard to speak up sometimes, yet if you don't something important will be missing. Our liberal religious tradition encourages us to be true to ourselves and our own experiences and share our honest perspectives.

NOTE: Annual meeting follows the service in the fellowship hall. See Page 1 for more information.

Sunday, May 22

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

"Gladiators Then and Now"

Celebrant: Barbara Stebbins-Boaz

Gladiators long ago were thought of as trained men who fought for public entertainment, sometimes to the death. Who today will stand up and fight in public controversy for truth and justice?

Sunday, May 29

Gloria Holland

"Spirituality: Is It Just a Walk in the Park?"

Celebrant: Janet Stevens

Spirituality is a word used quite casually in our culture. But what is it? What practices can we bring to our journey that might enrich our daily lives?

Sunday, June 5

Ruben Habito

"Flower Communion"

Celebrant: Sara Picket

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This issue was edited by Sharon Pierson with help from Bob Muir, 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, **June 3, 2022**.
This Week submissions are due by **Wed. noon**.