



The Chalice and the Flame

Diverse people. Diverse beliefs. One community.

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

June 2022

General Assembly Issues and Candidates

The UUA General Assembly for 2022 is meeting in Portland June 22-26. This will be a “multi-platform” meeting: delegates and other interested people may attend in-person or online, as [explained on the UUA website](#). The issues before the assembly, including resolutions, elections of candidates and other matters, [may also be found online](#), via this link or the one in Hot Topics on the UUCS website.

UUCS will be sending Sara Pickett, Ben Cavaletto, Barbara Stebbins-Boaz, Bob Muir, and Joel Martin as “member delegates” to the assembly, in addition to Rev. Rick and Molly Brown, DLRE, who are ex officio delegates. All are excited about this opportunity to participate and vote on the issues on the docket.

Kaleidoscope Has Sign-in Sheet for Visitors



Kaleidoscope asks everyone who visits the UUCS grounds during the weekdays when Kaleidoscope is in session to sign in on the new Sign-in Sheets posted on the south side of the RE Shed. This includes the landscaping crew and people that come to garden/walk around the grounds. This new precaution is in response to the most recent gun violence in an elementary school. We need to take every possible measure to keep our kids safe. If you have a question,

contact Molly Brown, dlre@uusalem.org.

Men's Retreat

There is a lot of interest, including from Reverend Rick, in a UUCS men's retreat! We are starting to investigate locations. The retreat will probably happen over a weekend, within an hour of Salem, hopefully this Fall. But first, we need an idea of how many MIGHT go. So, email Rev. Rick at revrick@uusalem.org if you are interested. No firm commitment is needed at this time.

~Steve Rosen

Social Justice News

Habitat & Hope Village, Inc. Report



The first movable shower trailer for use by people living in their supervised micro-shelter communities in the Salem area, “Shower Trailer Number One,” is nearing completion with roll-out now scheduled for late June. The movable shower trailer was purchased by Habitat and Hope Village, Inc. and built-in Salem by Edomo, Inc., and will be donated to Church at the Park.

Some materials have been delayed, but assembly continues as parts arrive. Featuring one ADA accessible and two standard restroom facilities with showers, vanities, and toilets, the trailer is designed for hook-up to city utilities. So, there will be no need to move it off-site for wastewater disposal. That means more people can be served conveniently than with traveling shower units now in use at some locations.

We look forward to your comments and continued support as we work to design and purchase additional portable service units. Check out the Shower Trailer Number One design and “other possibilities” on our website: habitatandhopevillage.org

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

~Paul Wilson



Reverential Ramblings

~ Rev. Richard Davis, UUCS's minister

It will be years before we'll have a clear perspective on the impact that the pandemic has had upon us as individuals and also on our institutions. The good news...the great news...is that we have kept our congregational ship afloat, and, barring the unforeseen, we're primed to sail into a new congregational year and fully engage in the fall.

One disturbing aspect of the pandemic is the impact this has had upon the education of our children and youth: tests are revealing they are far behind where they would normally be, and it will be very challenging to make up the difference. Then, too, there are the mental health costs of their prolonged social isolation from their peers.

As a remedy, educators are working hard to extend school throughout the summer, offering students some of the extra boost they will need to regain ground.

Even as students have suffered such losses during the pandemic, so, too, have members of religious communities. Studies consistently show that being an active member of a religious community enhances a person's mental and physical well-being. Being without this has inflicted a toll on all of us.

I will always remember the pandemic as a drab stretch of my ministry when I was too often separated from the people I love to be around and need to be around...in person. As we have returned, my spirits have lifted, and this has made me conscious of what I was missing—being in community.

All of which shows that ***we have some serious catching up to do. I suggest that a great way for you to begin is to ramp up your commitment to attending our own version of Summer School: Sunday services.*** Consider making it a point to come every Sunday you can, for your own benefit and the benefit of our entire congregational community. Simply put, the gift of your presence is precious.

Our Sunday worship this Summer will largely feature members of our newly formed ministry, our "Homilists and Storytellers." Last fall, these folks attended our four-week-long "School of Embodied Homiletics" where we learned about the craft and art of sharing a message from a Unitarian Universalist pulpit. This created a significant expansion of our shared ministry; one I hope will become an integral part of who we are as a congregation. I know of no other program quite like it.

Our homilists and storytellers will pour their hearts and souls into sharing their messages with you, and your attendance will be an encouraging show of support.

In our next Sunday Service on June 12, we will officially introduce our homilists and storytellers and present them with uniquely designed stoles. Then we will all be invited to affirm this new ministry in a simple ritual of consecration. I'm so grateful to our new homilists and storytellers who are making a two-year commitment to serve in this way.

In the Fall of 2023, we will open the doors and invite other folks who might sense a call to join this ministry.

This Fall we will be opening our doors even wider as we invite everyone into some aspect of our shared ministry so that we can all thrive and achieve the promise of our potential. Stay tuned for more details.

Love,
Rick



Lifespan Religious Education

~ Molly Brown, Director, Lifespan Religious Education

How the Flower Ceremony Began

In the city of Prague, in the land of Czechoslovakia, in the year nineteen hundred and twenty-three, there was a church. But the building did not look much like a church. It had no bells, no spires, no stained-glass windows. It had no organ to make beautiful music. It didn't even have a piano. It had no carvings of wood or statues of stone. It had no candles or chalices. It had no flowers.

The church did have some things. It had four walls and a ceiling and a floor. It had a door and a few windows. It had some wooden chairs. But that was all, plain and simple.

Except... the church also had people who came to it every Sunday. It had a minister, and his name was Norbert Capek (pronounced CHAH-peck). He had been the minister at the plain and simple church for two years. Every Sunday, Minister Capek went to church, and he spoke to the people while they listened, sitting quietly and still in those hard wooden chairs. When he was done speaking, the people talked a little bit among themselves, and then they went home. And that was all—no music, no candles, no food. Not even coffee or doughnuts.

Springtime came to the city of Prague and Norbert Capek went out for a stroll. The rains had come, the birds were singing, and flowers were blooming all over the land. The world was beautiful.

Then an idea came to him, simple and clear,

and plain as day. The next Sunday, he asked all the people in the church to bring a flower or a budding branch, or even a twig. Each person was to bring one kind.

"What kind?" they asked. "What color? What size?"

"You choose," he said. "Each of you choose what you like."

And so, on the next Sunday, which was the first day of summer, the people came with flowers of all different colors and sizes and kinds. There were yellow daisies and red roses. There were white lilies and blue asters, dark-eyed pansies, and light green leaves. Pink and purple, orange and gold—there were all those colors and more. Flowers filled all the vases, and the church wasn't so plain and simple anymore.

Minister Capek spoke to the people while they listened, sitting quiet and still in those hard wooden chairs. "These flowers are like ourselves," he said. "Different colors and different shapes, and different sizes, each needing different kinds of care—but each beautiful, each important and special, in its own way."

When he was done speaking, the people talked a little bit among themselves, and then they each chose a different flower from the vases before they went home. And that was all—and it was beautiful, plain, and simple as the day.

(Adapted from a story by Janeen K. Grohsmeyer in her book *Lamp in Every Corner: Our UU Storybook* (Boston: Unitarian Universalist Association, 2004). Used with permission.)



Help Wanted and Appreciated!

Is Gardening Your Happy Place?



Now that our front entry garden has been re-landscaped, it needs a loving, caring hand to keep it at its best. It has recently been tucked under bark dust to discourage the spring weeds and is in good shape. As summer approaches it will need tweaking and watering and will always be open to your creative touch.

Would you consider making time to be its top green thumb? We have several people that will step in to help or it might be more fun sharing the sunshine with a gardening buddy.

If you would like to know more about how you can help, please contact Iris Sea at irisbillsea@hotmail.com.

Splinters from the Board

Board Actions:

General Assembly Committee The board created a committee that will advise our congregation regarding proposed actions of the GA of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and will prepare UUCS delegates for participation in GA. Members will make a commitment to understand GA issues, participate in the GA, and ensure that UUCS speaks with one voice on issues affecting the congregation.

GA Delegates to the 2022 General Assembly The board, following our by-laws, appointed as delegates to the General Assembly Bob Muir, Barbara Stebbins-Boaz, Joel Martin, Ben Canaletto and Sara Pickett.

Interpreter Services were identified as a ministry to be provided by the congregation for deaf and hard of hearing participants in Sunday services. The production team has identified an electronic interpreter application that is low or no cost. The Board requested that the Production Team investigate the interpreter application and report back to the Board.

It also granted authorization to Rev. Bonnie Tarwater to list UUCS as a "sponsoring congregation" on a wedding license she needed to officiate at an upcoming wedding, noting that this authorization is for the specific service

Other Matters:

The board gratefully accepted a donation from Steve Ovens of \$557.69 for a light fixture.

Kaleidoscope has been informed that their lease will be amended to increase rent and specific costs by 2% beginning July 1.

With financial help from Women's Alliance and others the Facilities Team purchased and installed new ovens with induction cooktops. The stoves will require some electrical adaptation and use of specific pots and pans. Instructions will be posted in the kitchen and non-usable cookware will be discarded.

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION: to subscribe to *The Chalice and the Flame* monthly newsletter, email your request to the UUCS office at office@uusalem.org and include your full name and email address. If you are a pledging member and want to receive a printed copy of the newsletter in the mail, also include a physical address.

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: [Nellie Thompson-Dorothy Patch Scholarship](#)

Sunday, June 12

"Ask Rev. Rick Anything!"

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

Celebrant: Janet Stevens
Piano Music: Loriann Schmidt
Cantor: Jean Logan

Come with your questions, great and small, to the annual, "Ask Rev. Rick Anything" service. Remember questions about Beethoven are always allowed. A special ceremony acknowledging the new Homilists and Storytellers ministry and its members will also occur.

Sunday, June 19

"The Example of Samuel May"

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

Celebrant: Sara Pickett
Piano Music: Loriann Schmidt
Conductor: Laura Christian
Chorus: UUCS Choir

Hear how this Unitarian Minister and Abolitionist influenced Rev. Rick through his life examples.

Sunday, June 26

"The Boss Man"

Greg Gregg

Celebrant: Brenna Norval
Piano Music: Loriann Schmidt
Cantor: Marcia Christenson

UUCS member and homilist Greg Gregg will tell the story about one of his most important spiritual lessons and his encounter with an unlikely teacher.

Sunday, July 3

"Be Careful, I am Handing You His Soul"

Sara Pickett

Celebrant: Janet Stevens
Piano Music: Loriann Schmidt
Cantor: Tom Ellis

Explore the concept of nurturance and the role it plays in seeking truth and meaning.

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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 24, 2022**.
This Week submissions are due by **Wed. noon**.