



The Chalice and the Flame

Diverse people. Diverse beliefs. One community.

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

July 2022

Enjoy a Very Special Concert on July 10!

Our church is hosting a very special concert at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 10. And it's free. Hekun Wu will play two solo Bach Cello Suites as part of his preparation to play all six Bach Suites at the Thomaskirche in Leipzig, Johann Sebastian Bach's own church!

You may remember Hekun as a music department faculty member at Willamette University; I also remember him as the best cellist ever to have lived in Salem. After Willamette University, he took a position at a new university in China; he now shares time between Lake Oswego and China.

One of my friends quoted to me that Bach is the only composer who deserves to be played in the presence of God. That's bad musicology, and even worse theology, but Bach's music is special. Come listen!

~George Struble

Sign-ups for Connections Coming Soon!



Get ready to join our new Connections Groups because We Want YOU! These UUCS groups meet once a month to connect, to learn about ourselves and each other, and to explore topics together in a supportive environment. It's a gift you can give yourself to spend ninety minutes each month with a wonderful group of people who are just like you, only different. The groups will meet monthly from September through June. Registration will be from July 18-August 19, and the sign-up link will be coming soon.

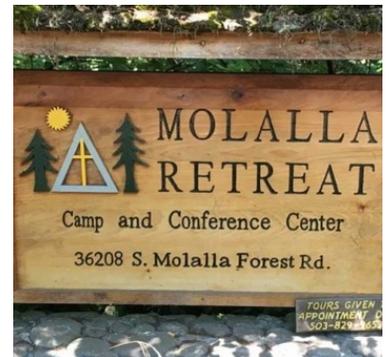
Meanwhile, consider which of these time slots will best fit your calendar: 2nd Tues. 10:30 am in person at UUCS, 2nd Tues. 6:30 pm in person at UUCS, 2nd Wed. 6:00 pm on Zoom, 2nd Thur. 10:30 am in person at UUCS, or 3rd Wed. 10:30 am starting on Zoom, and then hopefully in person at UUCS.

~Lisa Liermo

Interested in Joining Men's Retreat on October 14-16?

Dear UU Brothers, we are preparing to reserve the retreat center in Molalla for October 14-16 for the fall men's retreat! Explore their [website](#) for info about the retreat center. Please let Steven Rosen know by email, sjr1948@gmail.com as soon as possible if you think it is likely that you would attend. No money is needed at this time. We just need an approximate number to know how much of the facility to rent.

The cost for the retreat is \$64 per person for the lodging, and additional sum for one's share of the food. We will buy and prepare the food ourselves -- that cost should be very reasonable. There will certainly be carpooling! There is money available to subsidize anyone who would appreciate assistance -- that would go through Reverend Rick.



~Steve Rosen & Ben Cavaletto for Reverend Rick



Reverential Ramblings

~ Rev. Richard Davis, UUCS's minister

July is here and I'm out of here (*except in case of emergency*) for some vacation during which time I will strive to vacate my mind of all the useless mental stress and clutter that can accrue over a year. If spring is a time for housecleaning, perhaps summer is a good time for soul cleaning. Or, as the poet Walt Whitman put it: "to loaf and invite my soul."

One thing I'll be doing to help myself along this path will be to re-read the Buddhist Classic "The Way of the Bodhisattva" by the eighth century scholar/monk Shantideva—it's one of the great spiritual classics. (A Bodhisattva is one who seeks to awaken and save others from suffering).

Why Shantideva and why now? Recently I was invited to join a small group of volunteers who have offered weekly meditation sessions at Oregon State Correctional Institute (OSCI) for over twenty years, and I agreed. A few years ago, I facilitated a UU Spiritual Dialogue group at Oregon State Prison. Having found that to be eye-opening and enriching, I anticipate this will be the case at OSCI.

In addition to leading the meditation sessions, each facilitator provides some teaching to support this practice. I quickly realized that re-reading this classic along with the adults in custody would be an ideal way to explore together. In an expansive way this ancient sage invites us to look at our lives *sub specie aeternitatis*, that is "from the aspect of eternity," which enables us to recognize how precious are the opportunities for us to live in a way that we bless and do not curse the world.

Shantideva draws our attention particularly to the perennial pitfall of anger—how it clouds our minds and harms us as much, if not more, as those to whom our anger might be directed. He employs great psychological and spiritual insight to help us recognize the skewed, ego driven narratives that lead us down into the toxic realms of perpetual rage. His imagery and metaphors are creative and memorable and liberating.

In all likelihood, the incarcerated men with whom I'll be interacting are not unfamiliar with this trap. Who isn't? In our increasingly polarized world vitriol and venom appear to be in greater supply than the milk of human kindness. Then, too, life feels unstable now as war, climate change, political instability, culture wars, and social media create great fear and uncertainty—the perfect breeding ground for anger.

In response to the uncertainties of our age too many are finding refuge in the false certainties of political and ideological extremisms, right and left, which issue adherents licenses to hate and despise those who challenge the supremacy of their views. In response to such thinking, Shantideva gives us the most expansive view imaginable, revealing how simplistic and misleading it is to try to separate the good from the bad. We have all done some harm to others and we have all been harmed. Trying to sort out who is right and who is wrong, who is good and who is bad, is a fool's errand. He reminds us that the Bodhisattva's errand is "to soothe the suffering of living beings."

The beloved Sufi poet Rumi recognized the same truths when he sent this invitation out to us all: "Out beyond our ideas of wrongdoing and right doing, there is a field. I'll meet you there."

And I'll meet you here again in August (but return to the pulpit in September), so we can continue our journeys together toward that field in the precious time we have together.

Love, Rick



Lifespan Religious Exploration

Dear LRE Families,

Happy Summer to you all! As you may have heard, all summer long from July 26 to August 28, each Sunday from 10:30 am-12:00 pm the LRE Team will be hosting **mini day camps** during the Sunday Service!! Each week will be a different theme, including Sports Camp (*this week*), 7 Principles Week, UUCS History Week, Dance Week, DIY Week, and more!! The more, the merrier at these events so please feel free to bring friends and family to enjoy the festivities!



Would you like to try **ballroom dancing**, but don't know how or feel a bit rusty? Six Wednesday classes will run from 6:30 to 8:30 pm July 13 to August 24, except July 20. Lessons may cover the Waltz, Foxtrot, Swing, Tango, Cha Cha, Salsa. No partner is necessary. Youth are welcome. Childcare can be arranged. ASL interpreting available upon request. You're all out of excuses!

We need at least 5 couples to meet at the UUCS church. If fewer, we will meet at Donna's Dance Studio in Keizer. (Ben Cavaletto and the UUCS's Lifespan Religious Education program are organizing this, but our teacher will be Donna Hurless.)

Proof of vaccination may be required if we meet at UUCS. Masks are welcome, but not required. Predicted cost will be: \$60-\$72 per person for the 6 lessons, depending on the total number enrolled (10 participants pay \$72 each, but 17+ participants pay \$60 each). Payment is due at the first class (July 13). [Sign up online here.](#)

P.S. Feel free to drop your kids off at the LRE wing (left side of the building, near playground) before Sunday Service starts! (**Time For All Ages** is over for the Summer.) Also, remember to send a water bottle with your kids each Sunday so they stay hydrated!

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



UUA General Assembly Report

Big Changes Ahead?



The 2022 General Assembly (GA) of UUA ended on Sunday, June 26. In two respects this meeting was deceptively calm, a calm that did not fully reveal deep stirrings currently present within Unitarian Universalism and the UUA itself.

First, there were again contested elections for the UUA Board of Trustees. Although there had been virtually no contested elections to the Board of Trustees in over a decade, that trend ended at the 2021 GA. Jay Kiskel qualified by petition to run against the UUA's Nominating Committee's nominee, Rev. Sam Trumbore. Kiskel is a supporter of [the Fifth Principle Project: Every Voice](#)

[Deserves a Vote](#). Rev. Trumbore is a longtime advocate for racial justice and a supporter of UUA's approach to diversity, equity, and inclusion within Unitarian Universalism. Rev. Trumbore soundly defeated Kiskel. That pattern was repeated this year, when two candidates supporting the Fifth Principle Project, the Rev. Beverly Seese and Rebecca Mattis, were qualified by petition to run in opposition to the [nominees of the UUA Nominating Committee](#), respectively the Rev. Suzanne Fast (incumbent) and the Rev. Justine Sullivan. Again, GA delegates voted overwhelmingly to support the Nominating Committee candidates. The background of these contested elections is Fifth Principle Project criticism of what its supporters perceive as disregard of the right of conscience and anti-democratic attitudes and practices within the UUA. Despite the controversy, the opposing candidates spoke courteously toward each other and discussed their respective goals for UUA without attacking those of their opponents.

Another action at the 2022 General Assembly may prove far more significant. The delegates voted overwhelmingly to support the Article II Study Commission's Proposed Business Resolution 1, entitled "Renewing UUA Bylaws for Theologically Grounded and Mission-Focused Governance," which "calls on the UUA Board of Trustees to conduct a thorough [review and rewrite of the UUA Bylaws](#)." The background of this resolution is the requirement, within the UUA Bylaws, of a bylaw review at least every fifteen years and the 2021 GA Responsive Resolution requesting the Article II Study Commission and the Board "to ensure proposed changes in Article II include in the [UU] Principles a clear and direct statement that accountable systemic anti-racist and anti-oppressive action to build Beloved Community are part of what it means to be Unitarian Universalist." This references the draft [Eighth Principle of Unitarian Universalism](#), which has not yet been adopted by UUA. See [more here](#). Having passed, Business Resolution No. 1 will be the subject of intense study and work in the next 6 to 8 months. Look for further notices in UUCS publications concerning the dates and times when committees and the board will be meeting to discuss this work. Proposals for revisions of the UUA Bylaws will be submitted at the 2023 and/or 2024 General Assemblies.

The following individuals were elected to the UUA Board of Trustees: the Rev. Suzanne Fast, the Rev. Justine Sullivan, the Rev. Sherman Logan and the Rev. Dr. Adam Robersmith. The following were elected to the Nominating Committee, without contest: Rev. Xolani Kacela, Courtney McKenny and Debra Gray Boyd. Elected to the Presidential Search Committee, again without contest, were Marva Williams, the Rev. Jaimie Dingus, Cathy Seggel, Denise Rimes and James Snell. In addition to Business Resolution 1, discussed above, delegates approved "Business Resolution: General Assembly Planning Committee and UUA Rule Amendment G-9.13.10". The Actions of Immediate Witness that were affirmed are AIW 1: We Do Not Consent: Rejecting Legal Challenges to Abortion; AIW 2: Anti-Racism and Reparations; and AIW 3: Stop Privatization of Medicare. See [text of Final Agenda](#). Ibram X. Kendi, author of "How to be an Antiracist," gave the Ware Lecture in the form of a thought-provoking and inspiring conversation with UUA President, the Rev. Susan Gray.

Watch for articles to follow about the Article II Study Commission, what "Normal" Ministry looks like now, and other related topics.

We, Ben Cavaletto, Barbara Stebbins-Boaz, Bob Muir, Joel Martin and Sara Pickett, are honored to have been your member delegates to this UUA General Assembly and would like to thank the board for giving us this opportunity to serve and to learn.

~Bob Muir and Sara Pickett

News of the Community

Homilists and Storytellers Confirmed



In the fall of 2021, Rev. Rick announced the formation of a new shared ministry at the UUCS – Homilists and Storytellers. On June 12, Rev. Rick confirmed Marcia Christensen, Greg Gregg, Gloria Holland, Makenzie Kleutsch, Bob Muir, Sara Pickett, Barbara Stebbins-Boaz, Janet Stevens, Paul Wilson, Don Wolf and Bonnie Tarwater as members of the new Homilists and Storytellers ministry. They completed a four-week orientation in the “School of Embodied Homiletics” and are committed to processes of ongoing learning and growth in this role.

Each one has made a two-year commitment to this ministry and will share with our settled minister the responsibility, the honor, and the privilege of speaking from this Unitarian Universalist pulpit during our Worship Services. This new ministry is a validation of our theological understanding of ministry in which we affirm that lay members and clergy are full and equal partners.

The congregation was asked to support them and this new ministry by attending services when they speak and listening with open hearts and minds. The new homilists and storytellers were presented with stoles to wear as a symbol of their commitment to offering their stories to bring joy and to lead the congregation to walk the paths of courage and compassion with hearts full of gratitude.

~Janet Stevens

Behind the Chalice

The month of July has us catching up with **Doc Hadley**, better known fondly as “Slide Guy”. You will be reading this after seeing his latest masterpiece with the Flower Communion slides. Each year he does a beautiful job of bringing the colorful diversity of flowers into our view. So, without further ado.....

What are your position/s for Sunday Services: Slide Guy

What do you most like about your position? I very much enjoy learning to use new software tools and figuring out new ways to use old tools. My responsibilities have required me to stretch my abilities numerous times throughout the roughly 131 weeks I’ve been creating our Sunday service slides. Sorry, still working on mastering the humble brag.

What is one thing you would change? I fret a lot about climate change. Every time I fill my car with gasoline, I wish I were driving an electric car, specifically a Tesla Model Y dual motor with 4680 structural battery pack and mega-cast front and rear chassis. Oh no, am I having a midlife crisis at my advanced age?!

What is your idea of perfect happiness? Bwahahahahaha. Good luck with that endeavor. Okay, if pushed to answer I’ll say it has something to do with falling into a vat of chocolate.

What is your greatest achievement? I’ve paid bills online so many times that I’ve memorized my debit card information totaling 23 characters. Order counts. They’d better never make me change it.

What do you regard as the lowest depths of despair? The long slow process of becoming a widower punctuated with periods of false hope just might qualify.

What is your greatest extravagance? I eat a plant-based diet. When I want to feel extravagant, I stroll down to Winco's organic produce section and buy a big crown of organic broccoli and set it in my cart right next to the chemically drenched kale I bought in the regular section.

Who or what is the greatest love of your life? My life has had more than one phase and a different love of my life (LML) in each phase. I want to believe that my previous LML, lost to death, forgives me for having another. That's what I want to believe but I'm a little nervous.

Who are your heroes in fiction? In SciFi, writer Larry Niven's "Known Space" theme runs through his many stories. It includes a character named Nessus who comes from an alien species known as Puppeteers. Nessus can pal around with humans only because he is considered to be an insane risk taker by Puppeteer standards. Sane Puppeteers are far too cautious to go on crazy space adventures with humans. I'm both proud of Nessus for expanding his boundaries and I have a lot of empathy for the sane Puppeteers. You won't catch me rocketing around in a hard vacuum.

Who are your heroes in real life? Carl Sagan is a hero to me. Among his thoughts on skeptical thinking he said, "It is precisely the mix of ... two modes of thought [skeptical scrutiny and openness to new ideas] that is central to the success of science."

What is a meaningful piece of music for you? Oh, thank goodness. At first, I thought you asked for my *most* meaningful piece of music. I would have never had time to finish this questionnaire. At this moment I'm voting for "In My Life" by John Lennon. Of course, Beethoven's Ode to Joy is so wonderful. But then there's the upbeat, "make you smile" feeling when listening to boogie woogie piano. Stop, stop, there is no logical end point.

Where do you like to go in nature to revive? It took me a few moves to get here, but I'm convinced that I now live in the best part of the world, western Oregon. Just visit any Willamette Valley park, the Columbia Gorge, Three Sisters mountains area, or take in the view literally anywhere along the Oregon coast. I feel so lucky to have all of these within easy driving distance.

Anything else? Thanks for entrusting me with making our UUCS slides

~Until August, we remain yours in service, from – Behind the Chalice

Help Wanted and Appreciated!

UUCS Is Seeking a New Music Director



Only a short time after hiring a director for our music program and choir, UUCS is on the hunt again. Dr. Robert Whalen has left to assume a full-time position at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in New York State.

The Music Director's primary role is to provide inspiring, diverse, multi-cultural and theme-enhancing choral and instrumental music for the Sunday worship experience. They are charged with nurturing the presence of music throughout all areas of congregational life, including directing our

very talented adult choir.

Our Committee on Human Resources (CHR) is spearheading the recruitment effort. It has posted the announcement on Craig's List and with the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). The notice will also appear on our Facebook page. We are exploring other ways to find candidates for the position. If you have any ideas, either for recruiting candidates or you know of someone interested in the position, email the Committee on Human Resources at chr@uusalem.org. Anyone interested in learning more about the position can read the job description [online here](#).

~ Joel Martin, Music Team and Craig Rowland, CHR

Social Justice News

Social Justice Team Report:

Social Justice in Unitarian Universalist congregations addresses many issues which reflect the interests of the congregation. UUUCS can and should work to identify social actions which are supported by the congregation. There will be an online social justice meeting 7 to 8:30 Thursday, July 7 to discuss social justice actions. The meeting will be held on Zoom via this [Zoom meeting link](#).

Here are examples of social justice action groups in the First Unitarian (Portland), Corvallis, Eugene and Vancouver, WA congregations. [First Unitarian](#): Mental Health, Immigrant Justice, LGBTQIA+ Pride, Economic Justice, [Advancing Racial Justice](#), [Antiracism Learning Circles](#), Immigrant Justice. [Unitarian Universalist Church in Eugene](#): [Economic Justice](#), [Environmental Justice](#), [Racial Justice](#). [Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis](#): Climate Action, Corvallis Sustainability Coalition Connection, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, Gender and Sexual Diversity, Health Care for All, Immigrant and Refugee Support Team, Indigenous Connection Team, Secure Housing for All. [Unitarian Universalist Church of Vancouver](#), [Environmental Action](#), [LGBTQ Justice](#), [Homelessness: Winter Hospitality Overflow Shelter](#) (WHO). Take a look, especially at those with web links. Which interest you the most?

~John Prohodsky

Habitat and Hope Village Inc. Update

Completion of Shower Trailer Number 1 is slightly behind schedule due to "supply chain" delays. The critical need for shower facilities at existing micro-shelter communities managed by Church@thePark means that the unit will be put into service as soon as it's available. Location and times for public viewing after installation will be published as soon as they are available.

In our effort to support the immediate needs of our currently unsheltered neighbors, Habitat and Hope Village, Inc. (HHV) is raising funds to build an additional portable shower trailer and up to three portable laundry facilities. While no longer actively seeking a zoning change required to build the Women's Shelter of Hope at UUUCS, HHV's original concept remains alive and in search of a location. We will soon contact financial supporters of the Women's Shelter of Hope asking them to allow formal re-allocation of their contributions and pledged donations.

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

~Paul Wilson

Afghan Refugee Families Update

Our Good Neighbor Team is continuing to support the Afghan refugee family of 9 that arrived in January. Besides making friendly visits and drinking copious amounts of tea, we have provided rides for shopping and appointments. Along with their English instructor, the team has helped with yard work, and in providing support as they navigate their new environment.

The family is doing well. The older children are in school and have summer activities planned. The father is employed but would like additional work. All are working on their English skills both at school and at home. Their house is small, but they have made it into a warm and welcoming home.

If you would like more information on how to help refugee families, visit the [Salem for Refugees website here](#).

~Roberta Robinson

Board Splinters

LRE provided a monthly report on attendance and registration for trainers in the OWL program, both of which are successful. Christine Ertl noted the accomplishments of Molly Brown and her team in growing the program.

The May Treasurer's report identified several teams that are over budget. Treasurer Sharon Pierson will notify these teams of this fact. The report also reflects that the overall budget is still in balance but will be tight. Sharon will discuss the team budgets at the next Team Council meeting.

Tom Lancefield is working on removing the poison hemlock in Bateman Woods. The discussion on replacing the coffee maker has been delayed until fall. The new stoves have been anchored to the wall and Lynn Cardiff discussed how efficient the ovens are on the new stoves.

In Music, cantor training went well, and cantors are scheduled for most of the services during the summer. Recruitment for a new Music Director is underway, the recruitment announcements will go out soon.

It may be time to retire one of the upright pianos. The Music Team is requested to get an estimate of the cost of tuning the upright pianos, and to determine if all the pianos should be tuned.

Loriann Schmidt worked the sound board for all the Celebrating Diversity concerts for a fee of \$375. She has requested that the fee be treated as an in-kind donation to the Fundraising Committee, which was accepted.

Leslie Zeigen created stoles for the members of the Homilists and Storytellers ministry and asked that her cost of \$133 for materials be treated as a donation to the Worship Team, which was accepted.

An additional cost of \$30 for the Mighty Oak volunteer acknowledgement plaque was approved to be paid out of the Memorial Fund. Lynn Cardiff noted that it is the responsibility of the Facilities Team to maintain the plaque.

Among the issues discussed with Kaleidoscope, when the lease agreement was updated recently, was the school's use of the main kitchen and fellowship hall and the use of supplies. Rick suggested that UUCS use a committee to negotiate future lease agreements to ensure that the agreements are fair to both parties.

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>
10:30 am	10:30 am	Noon
July Share the Plate Recipient: Oregon Black Pioneers		

Sunday, July 10

Barbara Stebbins-Boaz

"Friendship-The Glue That Holds Us Together"

Celebrant: Bob Muir

Music: Marcia Christenson, guitar and Loriann Schmidt, piano

Cantor: Marcia Christenson

I'm too busy for friends and besides the world is burning! Friendship can't save us... or can it? Together we will explore our memories of friends and discover the essential spiritual uplift of friendship.

Sunday, July 17

Bob Muir

"Just Be Reasonable!"

Celebrant: Sara Pickett

Music: Loriann Schmidt, piano

Cantor: Cheryl Randall

Facing others with whom we disagree, we may be tempted to invoke "reason," demanding they use logic and proof to justify their beliefs. It might be more productive to use observation, listening, compassion and imagination.

Sunday, July 24

Marcia Christensen

"May I Never Ask, Who is My Neighbor?"

Celebrant: Janet Stevens

Music: Loriann Schmidt, piano

Cantor: Larry Loomis-Price

Many faiths ask us to love our neighbors as ourselves. Yet in this time of division and strife, sometimes we may find ourselves asking what this means and wondering who is my neighbor?

Sunday, July 31

Greg Gregg

"A Congregation of Hope in an Ocean of Hopelessness"

Celebrant: Gloria Holland

Music: Loriann Schmidt, piano

Cantor: Marcia Christenson

This is a story about finding safety in a snowstorm. And hope in a world gone mad.

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This issue was edited by Bob Muir with help from Sharon Pierson, Vicki Cunningham, and Elsa Struble. Final formatting 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, **July 29, 2022.**

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