



The Chalice and the Flame

Diverse people. Diverse beliefs. One community.

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

August, 2022

Sign-ups for Connections Are Here!



Connections study/social groups will again meet monthly from September through June. Registration will be from July 18 through August 19. [Sign up online here.](#)

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

3rd Wed. 10:30 am starting on Zoom, and then hopefully in person at UUCS

~Anna Tally

You're Invited! Help Us Find Out Who "We" Are

There have been so many changes in the last three years, both individually and as a congregation. It is time to find out who, as a congregation, we are now, what we value, and our shared goals for the future. Please join us and tell us what about UUCS is most important to you, and what you dream we could become! Together we'll craft our vision and mission to guide our future program and budget priorities.

Who: All members of our UUCS family. We want to hear from everyone!

What: Join us for light lunch after church and get to know more of your UUCS neighbors and help us identify what is most important to us as a community. Childcare will be provided.

When: First event: September 25; Second event, October 2

These events are reservation only. Watch for how to sign up in the September newsletter. If you can't make one of these, there will be more events over the coming year.

~Don Wolf

A Homilist's Note on Sharing

I think one of the reasons Unitarianism is so limited in its spread is a persistent lack of ministers. It seems to me Reverend Rick is ensuring this congregation is not hostage to that scarcity.

It is also his confidence in us as a community that we are enlightened enough to provide spiritual guidance from within. I have come to see UUCS under Rev. Rick's guidance becoming more of a school of philosophy analogous to the impressionist movement in Art. They produced many interpretations, learning from each other yet retaining their unique perspective. Each of us is like an artist in our own right. The impressionists were inspired by the play of light on their world. We are inspired by the principles of the Unitarian Universalist movement.

Most of us have been thinking about the nature of spirituality and the concept of God for much of our lives. Our unique perspectives provide us with ideas—and sometimes epiphanies or visions—worth sharing. Our open minds and hearts allow us to hear and give thought to the ideas of others in our community, knowing they stem from the earnest search for meaning and truth.

Sometimes our ideas may be based on flawed thinking, and here we have the opportunity to debate and refine them. But first, we have to share them. When I stand up to speak, I am also asking for the use of your brain to improve my perception. Rest assured ego is not involved. I will defend my logic but if yours is better, I will change my mind because truth is our common goal. Thank you.

~ Greg Gregg

Reverend Rick is on Vacation and will Return Next Month



Lifespan Religious Exploration

I hope this newsletter finds you all well and enjoying the summer. This week has been extreme with the heat, (which usually I'm a fan of) but as I get older, I've noticed I can handle it less and less. However, my kids are worth washing an extra load of towels and clothes each day!



As some of you may have heard already, the LRE Team and I have decided to host Mini Day Camps each Sunday during the service from 10:30-12:00pm. So far, we have had a BLAST with Space Camp, DIY Trash to Treasure Camp, Sports Camp, Baking Camp and Star Wars Camp! Next will be Dance till you Drop Camp, followed by Treasure Hunt Camp, Broadway Bound Camp, Hogwarts Camp and Arts in the Forest Camp! We have special activities, crafts, snacks and something special for kids to take home each week! If your child would like to bring a friend to camp, feel free; there's plenty for everyone!

Here are some of my favorite pictures from Mini Day Camp so far:



Happenings and Highlights

Habitat and Hope Village, Inc. Report

Imagine not being able to take a shower, put on clean clothes, and head off to work with the knowledge that your belongings will be safe when you return. Imagine not being able to lock your door and go to sleep when you need to. Those are some of the realities our un-sheltered neighbors deal with every day. Those are also some of the realities being addressed by Church@thePark (C@tP) as it provides safe secure transitional shelter to people in Salem's micro-shelter communities.

Shower Trailer Number 1 (ST1), funded mainly by UUCS congregants and donated by Habitat and Hope Village, Inc., is now being used by about eighty residents at the Village of Hope in northeast Salem. Church@thePark, which manages the site, picked ST1 up from the manufacturer in West Salem on July 8 and immediately put into service. It is scheduled to be moved and reinstalled in a few weeks when Village of Hope moves to its new site at 1210 Center St. *Save the date:* The public grand opening is set for Sunday Sept. 11!

As ST1 neared completion, two local faith-based organizations not affiliated with UUCS agreed to purchase and donate the remaining two shower trailers requested by C@tP. It's great to see increasing community support of the micro-shelter communities! And it means HHV is now able to move ahead with plans to purchase and donate up to three portable laundry facilities.

Preliminary cost estimates are in the area of \$50,000 per unit for trailers with multiple washers and dryers plus folding tables, water heater and supply storage. Final design will result from collaboration between C@tP and Cozy Home (formerly Edomo), the local company that built ST1.

Fundraising for the first laundry trailer (LT1) is moving ahead as HHV seeks sponsors in the greater Salem area to match funds already collected or pledged. As noted in the July UUCS newsletter, 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 are also running a GoFundMe campaign which can be accessed through [the HHV website](#).

We look forward to your comments and continued support as we work with community partners to make a difference in the quality of life for our un-sheltered neighbors.

Reporting Back from UUA General Assembly

UUA Considering Big Changes

We in UUCS regularly affirm our desire for respectful relationships with each other, our local community, and the wider world. One such relationship is with our Unitarian Universalist Association, where big things are happening!

I was one of the 5 delegates representing UUCS at the UUA General Assembly (GA) in June. There the delegates approved a resolution which may be of interest to you and call for your involvement.

The delegates approved, by a margin of 95.5 percent of those voting, a Business Resolution entitled "[Renewing UUA Bylaws for Theologically Grounded and Mission-Focused Governance](#)." This tasks the UUA Board with a comprehensive review and possible rewrite of the UUA bylaws to remove overly complicated and inefficient governance provisions. As stated in the above link to the resolution: "...the time to reimagine our bylaws to create a dynamic, accountable, flexible and responsive governance system is now." The resolution concludes expressing "the hope of the 2022 General Assembly that substantial bylaw replacement will be brought to the General Assembly for consideration at the 2023 and/or 2024 General Assembly."

Among the UUA Bylaws that may be affected by the 2022 Business Resolution are the Principles and Purposes found in Article II, which were last revised in 1987. At the 2017 GA, delegates discussed amending the Principles to add an 8th Principle, addressing racism, and an amended 1st Principle, addressing non-human life. The 5th Principle was the subject of a report in 2009, which dealt with the ways in which GA and other Unitarian Universalist (UU) gatherings do and don't embody an inclusive democratic process. The 7th Principle has also been the subject of discussions about possible amendments.

In response to these issues, the UUA Board established the Article II Study Commission to "review Article II of the UUA Bylaws, and propose any revisions that will enable our UUA, our member congregations, and our

covenanted communities to be a relevant and powerful force for spiritual and moral growth, healing, and justice.” The Study Commission is seeking input from all member congregations regarding this work. [Learn more online](#).

If you are interested in monitoring or becoming involved in the work of UUA bylaw revision, you are encouraged to attend virtually UUUCS Board Meetings as well as Board Open Houses. Board Meeting Dates may be [found here](#). Monthly Open House meeting dates may be [found here](#). Contact administration@uua.org to obtain registration or other information.

~Barbara Stebbins-Boaz, GA 2022 Delegate

Learning About the "New Normal" in Ministry

One workshop that I got to go to at GA this June was about what is the new “normal” in ministry these days as the pandemic becomes an endemic and all our lives are being altered in ways we couldn’t have foreseen.

The workshop was led by two ministers and included representatives of various congregations from across the nation. Every congregation had some sort of virtual service these days, whether by Zoom or recording or live stream. Some hadn’t gotten back to the in-person stage yet.

We started off thinking about churches pre-pandemic. Then there was an almost magical feeling as the congregation would come together—the energy of all those people together lifting each other up. There were so many spontaneous moments of deep meaning between individuals. And these were easier to notice because it was all in-person.

Now it seems everything takes longer, there aren’t as many opportunities for spontaneous get-togethers. Almost always there is some type of technology that is involved, from Zoom meetings, chat rooms to live streaming services. We find ourselves asking, is the time this project is going to take worth it? Is it necessary or can it wait?

More and more administrative work is being asked of ministers at a time when more people need pastoral care. Let’s face it, most ministers did not go to seminary to become administrators and certainly not tech or production experts. Yet, in these past few years, that is what has been asked of them. In addition, there is a current shortage of ministers. To always be all things to all people and to always maintain all projects often is not sustainable for one person, or even two.

The ministerial need of the church is growing to the point where the ordained minister is not the only person doing ministerial work. More is being asked of the congregation. Ultimately, a congregation exists to help people engage the world from where they are in their lives. For the individual, nothing is trivial; whatever the issue, it is important to them. So, how can all the needs of the congregation be met? Participants were asked: *What is meaningful to you? Individual spirituality or life needs? Connections with others? Social Justice needs of the community?*

Suggestions followed the questions: Congregational members should realize that they are part of the ministry. Lay member involvement in the work of a congregation keeps it alive and thriving. Ministers should realize and accept that they can’t do everything. They should decide where their passion lies and work with their congregations in setting realistic ministerial priorities.

Our Rev. Rick Davis is coming up to his 30th year as UUUCS settled minister. That is amazing! Something must have been going right all these years with the Congregation and Minister collaboratively doing the ministerial work of this community. More on all of this might come up in a homily sometime. In the meantime, thanks for reading and take care.

~Sara Pickett, GA 2022 Delegate

Help Wanted and Appreciated!

Would You Consider Serving UUUCS As Treasurer?

If you are comfortable with spreadsheets, reliable, and willing to learn, then serving our congregation as Treasurer may be your calling. The opening is for the final year of a 3-year term. The Treasurer is an officer of the board, who produces monthly reports based on information from the bookkeeper, maintains the list of pledges and donations and answers questions from congregants about their pledges and donations. The Treasurer also uses the Breeze database to send out pledge statements in January for the previous calendar year and, in July, for the current fiscal year. It's a valuable service that offers insight into the finances of UUUCS.

The Nominating Committee is inviting any person who has been a member of UUCS for at least one year to consider applying. If you are interested or have questions, contact Barbara Stebbins-Boaz at bstebbin@willamette.edu.

Family Promise Needs Cooks August 14-20

UUCS is scheduled to cook for Family Promise the week beginning August 14. We will need to provide a complete dinner for nine to fifteen people, depending on the size of a fourth family, on Sunday, August 14, and Saturday, August 20. 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 [online here to volunteer](#). Check the [Family Promise website](#) for more information.

Summer Coffee Service Needs You!

It's summertime and the living is easy! This means that there is no list of people to help prepare for coffee hour and clean up each Sunday. However, if you feel inclined to jump in and help out, you will receive the gratitude of 1,000 UUs--well, at least 50-100. No need to sign up, just show up and help out! Regular coffee service will start again with the Water Communion, September 11. Thank you to all who helped with the coffee service this past year, as well as the last few Sundays! We hope you have felt that you contributed to the community and also made a new friend! Take care,

~Anna Tally and Sara Pickett.

How is Your Garden?



How is your garden? I mean your garden at church? Yes, it needs a bit of your time too. Just 2 hours every other week or even once a month would be very welcome. We have a volunteer working on Tuesdays at 10 in the morning in the front Welcoming Garden and she could show you what's needed. Take a trowel and gloves and we will schedule you and be grateful for your commitment.

Check in at the front garden or e-mail Irisbillsea@hotmail.com with questions. For heavier work, contact Steve Rosen at sjr1948@gmail.com and let him know you are available. Our garden needs some

help from everyone that is able and can find that 2 hours. Thanks, Iris and Steve.

~ Iris Sea

Be a Friendly Greeter!

The Membership Team is recruiting hosts to join our host teams for the upcoming year. Hosts are the smiling faces that greet you on Sunday mornings. If you are a friendly person who enjoys talking with others, this may be for you. This is a once-a-month commitment from September 18 through June 25. Other duties include collecting and counting the offering, welcoming, and having newcomers sign the visitor book and joining visitors at the welcome table during fellowship time. If you think this may be for you, you can [simply fill out this form](#) (choose first, second, third, fourth or fifth Sunday of the month) or email Anna Tally at membership@uusalem.org. There will be a host training on September 11 at 12:00 pm, following the service.

Thanks for Helping Clean Cordon Road!

Thanks to Joan Stembridge's organization and "get-to" attitude the area of Cordon Road that UUCS sponsors is all cleaned up and free of trash. Merrit Albert, James and Joan Stembridge, Bob Muir, Barbara Stebbins-Boaz, Greg Gregg and Sara Pickett met Saturday July 16 and spent close to 2 hours picking up trash along the east side of Cordon Road. Joan also spent about 7 hours on Thursday and Friday working on the west side of the road. A total of seventeen bags of trash were accumulated. Joan provided water, green vests, yellow garbage bags and "reachers" to help pick up items. It was a pleasant day and traffic stayed out of the way.

One neighbor who was doing some weed whacking came out and thanked the crew, and one traveler along the road found a marble and commented on the fact. A New



Year's hat was also found, making you wonder if it had really been lying there for 7 months. Joan swears the natural flora is already breathing easier now that it is not drowning in plastic and rubber. She will give everyone a heads up when the next clean update will be, likely in March of 2023. What a nice, easy way to give back to the community of Salem and support UUCS as well as be out with friends for a little while. Hope to see you next time.

~Sara, Connections Team.

Social Justice News and Comments

Social Justice Meeting on August 4

There will be a Social Justice meeting on Zoom at 7 pm on Thursday, August 4. The Zoom link is [here](#). All are welcome to attend.

Gun Safety Initiative Makes It onto the Ballot

We *did it!* Lift Every Voice Oregon was *successful* in getting the initiative on Gun Safety onto the November ballot. This is great news! UUCS members actively participated in collecting signatures for this initiative. Thank you so much! There will be a strong effort, led by Lift Every Voice Oregon, to get this ballot measure passed in November. Let's be ready to coordinate with Lift Every Voice Oregon and support this crucial safety measure. Our children are depending on us.

~Sincerely, Joan Stembridge

Working on a Political Campaign Can be a Social Justice Action

Politics cannot be divorced from social justice. Politics influences which social justice issues are prioritized and the approach to addressing an issue. It is how decisions are made relating to the governance of an organization. A little congregational politics in social justice is good. The other side of politics is electoral politics, choosing whom we want to represent us and head our government.

Electoral politics is what we refer to as politics. It's the candidate ads, issue ads, door to door canvassing, and mailers that occur before elections. However, it has embraced emotional wedge issues which are often based upon false information and misleading statements. Often wedge issues—homelessness, immigrants taking American jobs, welfare fraud, LGBTQIA persons grooming youth, "evil black people"—are issues which exacerbate or create injustices. A great example is how homelessness is being used in the Oregon governor's race.

Being active in politics can be a good social justice investment. For example, who is elected can determine whether homelessness will be criminalized, or the homeless will be provided with services that enable them to find housing. You might not think your efforts working to elect a candidate will make a difference, but it can. Especially, if it leads to the vote that wins the election.

Working on a political campaign is not generally viewed as a social justice activity. However, it is if electing a candidate reduces—or prevents an increase in—social injustices.

~John Prohodsky

Behind the Chalice

In the heat of the summer:

Hi all, it has been almost two years for Behind the Chalice. The column started out during the pandemic as a way to keep us all connected while we were apart and having to watch services virtually. It was a way to let you all know what was going on to bring you the recordings, live streams and now gratefully the in-person worship services. The pandemic brought the need for flexibility and creativity and so many people stepped up to learn new skills and keep UUCS afloat and then to keep moving forward. Now we have a nice multi-platform, as they call it these days, both live stream and in-person. With two hundred thirty-three subscribers on our YouTube channel and between fifty and one hundred people coming on Sundays, we are doing okay. From the little bit I gathered at GA this June, our congregation has weathered the pandemic well. In part this is because of the people Behind the Chalice who keep showing up every week to fulfill the mission of: "create a welcoming, compassionate, and inspiring spiritual community."

This past year, we have been learning a little about the different folks from Behind the Chalice, and I hope we can continue to learn about new people who have joined in creating the weekly Sunday Worship Service, such as the Homilist/Storytellers and a new addition to the Production Committee. For August, we hear from **Janet Stevens**:

My position: I am a celebrant

What I enjoy: I am grateful that the members of our congregation for allowing me the opportunity to share my thoughts and to offer my ideas during the service.

Where I go to revive: Into the forest and up mountains.

We all hope you are enjoying the summer, both the cool and the heat we have had and we hope to see you soon on a Sunday morning. Until then, we remain, yours in service,

Behind the Chalice.

Splinters from the Board

The UUCS Board met via Zoom on July 11, 2022, and addressed the following issues:

Strategic Plan Update

The Strategic Plan is scheduled to be updated at year 5 of its adoption, which is October 2023. The Board discussed the process for updating the Plan and the need to have the Mission, Vision and By-Law process be completed before the Strategic Plan update process begins. Don Wolf and Christine Ertl will develop a proposed schedule for this work. Robin LaMonte and Sara Pickett will discuss the process and team involvement at the next Team Council meeting.

Share the Plate

One of the UUCS Share-the-Plate recipients has been the immigration support group, CAUSA. However, CAUSA has determined that it will not continue operations. The Board was requested to identify a replacement for CAUSA and to approve the continuation of the recipients for the 2022-23 fiscal year. The Board approved a motion to use the last year's Share-the-Plate list for 2022-2023 and substitute Columbia Willamette Planned Parenthood for CAUSA. This action is subject to approval by the minister.

Learning Opportunities and Affinity Groups

There was discussion about learning opportunities and the involvement of affinity groups. Christine noted that there are a variety of learning opportunities at UUCS under many different teams and it would be good to have a place on the UUCS website where all these opportunities are identified. There was also discussion about where affinity groups should be placed. One suggestion was to place them with the Connections groups.



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
August Share the Plate Recipient: LUS: Latinos Unidos Siempre		

Sunday, August 7

"Becalm Thyself"

The Rev. Mark Gallagher

Celebrant: Sara Pickett

Piano: Loriann Schmidt

Cantor: Marcia Christenson

When we get caught up in the pervasive anxiety of our age, we become less wise and more reactive. Plus, it feels terrible. We cannot fix all the situations we may fret about, but we can take steps to calm our anxiety, and give our better selves a chance.

Sunday, August 14

Homilist/Storyteller McKenzie Hodges-French
"Alchemy of the Creative Heart"

Celebrant: Janet Stevens

Piano: Loriann Schmidt

Cantor: Barbara Stebbins-Boaz

It takes responsible creative risks for us to know the borders of our agency and diversity of life possibilities.

Sunday, August 21

"The Journey Home"

The Rev. Mark Gallagher

Celebrant: Brenna Norval

Piano: Loriann Schmidt

Cantor: Marcia Christenson

How common it is to feel that, on one level or another, we are in a foreign land. Consciously or unconsciously, we are trying to find our way to the place where we deeply and truly belong -- home.

Sunday, August 28

Homilist/Storyteller Janet Stevens

" Growing up UU or Why Can't I Get an Easy Answer to my Questions?"

Celebrant: Gloria Holland

Piano: Loriann Schmidt

Cantor: Cheryl Randall

Janet will explore how growing up in the Unitarian Universalist tradition has influenced her thinking and how she questions the world around her.

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

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

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

DEADLINES:

Newsletter: The **next** newsletter deadline is 8:00 pm on Friday, **September 2, 2022**.
This Week submissions are due by **Wed.** noon.