



# The Chalice and the Flame

*Diverse people. Diverse beliefs. One community.*

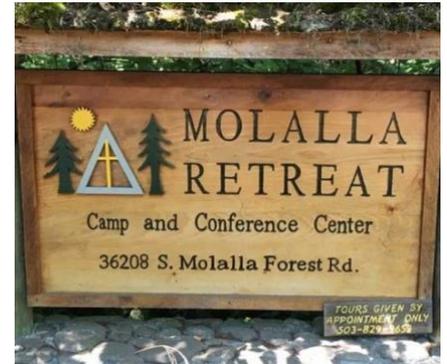
*A Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem, OR*

## October 2022

### Men's Retreat Begins October 14 - Register now!

Heads up! Just two weeks till our UUCS Men's Retreat at Molalla Retreat Lodge beginning late afternoon October 14 and ending Sunday October 16 around noon. Register now by emailing me at [revrick@uusalem.org](mailto:revrick@uusalem.org). The cost of the retreat is \$70, but partial and complete funding is available, so register even if you are unsure if you can afford it. We want to make sure that money is not a barrier for anyone. Once registration is complete someone will contact you about carpooling and food. Registration closes on October 7.

Please do join us! After all, it's good to get away and gain a new perspective (especially in the companionship of supportive souls). It's good to get out of the routine and out into nature (right on the banks of the Molalla River, with wooded paths). It's good to play and have a unique opportunity reflect on our lives.



~Rev. Rick

### Revitalize Yourself with Music, Song and Movement

Join the Dances of Universal Peace in the UUCS Fellowship Hall October 7 and 20 at 7:00 pm. This activity has four levels of participation. One can sit and enjoy the activity, sit and sing, sit and sing and participate in seated movement, or participate in group singing and movement. [[Full details on our website.](#)] Dances of Universal Peace will continue on first Fridays and third Thursdays of every month.



~Pam Prichard

### Join the Membership Team for Starting Point



Starting Point is a 4-week experiential group running Sundays, October 23, and 30 and November 6 and 13, from 12:00 to 2:00 pm at the church. The series covers the historical and theological roots of Unitarian Universalism. It involves the participants personally through the sharing of their spiritual journeys and provides guidance on how to get involved in the life of the congregation. The four sessions are entitled 1. "Your Journey, Sharing Our Stories and Spiritual Roadmaps," 2. "The Unitarian Universalist Journey and The Journey of Our Church," 3. "Our Journey Together, The Three Paths of Unitarian Universalism, Part One" and 4. "The Three Paths of Unitarian Universalism, Part Two and Finding Your Journey Group."

For those who are new to our community, the group can help them decide if this congregation is the right fit for them. If it is, there will be an opportunity to sign the membership book at the end of the last session. For established members, the series is a great way to refresh their personal search for truth and meaning and an opportunity to get to know new friends. All are welcome!

Childcare will be provided upon request two weeks in advance of first meeting. The group will be facilitated by the Membership Team. After the first session, the group will be closed to new attendees. [Use this form to register.](#)



## Reverential Ramblings

~ Rev. Richard Davis, UUCS's minister

Ours really is a "Shared Ministry." I spoke of this at some length during the recent worship service where we recognized our newly formed "Homilists and Storytellers," who share with me the role of speaking from the pulpit. I know of no other program quite like this. (In case this interests you, we plan on offering another training in fall of 2023).

There are practical reasons for sharing our ministry, but more importantly, there is a spiritual rationale. We live in an age when we are conditioned to rely upon "experts" and "professionals" to do certain things because they have the training, wisdom, and expertise that regular folks lack. Sometimes that is true. And many times, it is not true, and when people rely upon the experts and professionals to do what they could do themselves they effectively become disempowered; this is notably true in a religious community.

In our free faith tradition, we promote those things which lead to personal spiritual empowerment—you are encouraged to discern the truths and values that can guide your life without being told what you must believe or which path you must take—spiritual encouragement, not coercion, is our way.

With shared ministry, as we practice it here, we take this a step further and affirm that our members are called to practice all forms of ministry in partnership with the called minister.

Simply put, ministry is service to the greater whole for the greater good. Which begs the question: What constitutes the greater good for our congregation? Well, that's a big subject, but one of the essential aspects is that members know and truly care for one another. To promote such interpersonal connections, we offer our "Soul Matters Connections Groups" that meet monthly and to promote such caring we have our "Life Lines Lay Ministry" whose members meet with me monthly where we share the responsibility of checking up on folks, particularly those who are ill, isolated, or experiencing some distress in their lives.

Due to the challenges posed by the pandemic we have not been able to welcome new members onto the Life Lines Lay Ministry Team for several years, but now we can do so for the benefit of our congregational community.

Do you sense a call to our caring ministry? Are you someone who naturally reaches out to care for others, who finds fulfillment in being a comfort? Are you good at being present and simply listening?

If the answer to these queries is "yes" (and you have been engaged in congregational life for at least a year), I hope you will attend an orientation for potential new members of Life Lines so you can decide if this is a good way for you to share in our ministry. Dates for this session will soon to be announced—please stay tuned

Our Life Lines ministry always reminds me of one of my favorite hymns "What Wondrous Love" which has the lines "When I was sinking down, beneath my sorrows ground, friends to me gathered round...What wondrous love is this, O My Soul?"

And that is the goal of Life Lines—for our members to feel wondrously loved and connected, especially when any one of us is "sinking down, beneath our sorrows ground."

Since our Life Lines program began, over sixty members have served at one time or another, including centenarian Jo Bateman, our oldest and longest time member, who we honored with our Mighty Oak Recognition. Please give this your serious consideration!

Love, Rick

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A few free tickets are available for Delgani String Quartet's October 15 Saturday Concert at 7:30 pm, featuring Beethoven's great 8<sup>th</sup> String Quartet, and quartets by Haydn and Bartok. Contact me at [revrick@usalem.org](mailto:revrick@usalem.org).



## Lifespan Religious Exploration

*“There is a Superhero in all of us. We just need the courage to put on the cape.” – Superman*

### Happy October UUCS Families!

For this month’s theme in LRE, we will explore the challenges and paths of “Courage.” Here are the five ways we will explore:

Week 1: Exploring the Many Paths of Courage

Week 2: Wholehearted Courage: Exploring the Path of Being Yourself

Week 3: Personal Courage: Exploring the Path of Doing Hard Things

Week 4: Social Courage: Exploring the Path of Taking Action

Week 5: Halloween Courage: Exploring the Path of Facing Fear

After Sunday Service on October 30, please join us for “Trunk or Treat” in the parking lot at 3:00 pm! We will all have our cars lined up around the parking lot with decorations or activities and each car will hand out candy to the kiddos! They’ll have a blast and get lots of candy! Please keep in mind our children that have allergies and dietary restrictions, so that everyone can be included in the fun! The more people that volunteer to have their car included, the more fun the kids will have!

We will also be discussing different national and cultural Holidays this month, such as: Hispanic Heritage Month—September 15 to October 15, ADHD Awareness Month, Diwali Hindu Festival of Lights starting October 24, and LGBTQ History Month. We will also be learning about events on the Unitarian Universalist calendar in October such as:

- Birthday of e. e. cummings—October 14
- Michael Servetus burned at the stake in Geneva—October 27, 1553
- UU Merger Vote: Unitarians and Universalists, meeting separately in Syracuse, NY, voted to proceed with consolidation—October 31, 1959

As we talk about courage this month, I encourage your children to dress up as their favorite hero! This could be a super hero—someone they look up to in their daily lives or someone they respect from another time in history! So many people to choose from!

For those of you who have children in a school within the Salem/Keizer School District and need to work on days that schools are closed this month, October 14 and 26-28, I want to personally invite you to bring your children to Kaleidoscope for the day at a discounted price of \$35 per day for each student. Please email me at [DLRE@uusalem.org](mailto:DLRE@uusalem.org) for the registration form and let me know which days your child/children will be attending! It’ll be so much fun!

Kaleidoscope would also like to offer Before School Care from 7:30 am to 9:00 am, Monday through Friday and After School Care from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm Monday through Friday for all our UUCS students! If you’d like more information about that, please email, call, or text me at any time at 971-239-7384 and I’ll fill you in!



# Happenings and Highlights

## Watercolor Class Offered October 22

Join professional artist and art educator, Faith Rockenstein for a three-hour watercolor class on Saturday, October 22 from 10 am to 1 pm. All materials are included but bring your own lunch. Participants must be 18 years or older. Fee is \$100, a portion to be donated to UUCS.

Participants of all watercolor experience levels will discover a variety of techniques to use when creating their artwork. Limit of 6 participants. [Sign up here.](#)



## Art Works Fourth Friday Art Session

Art Works continues to meet on the fourth Friday of each month in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 am. Bring your favorite art making materials and join us to spend up to two hours making art together and sharing ideas about our respective creative journeys. Kids are welcome to bring their favorite adult art maker to help them participate. Contact Ann Moore if you need more information.

## Roy Zimmerman Performs Live Again at UUCS on November 11!

Progressive musician, Roy Zimmerman, one our favorite performers, will be back live in the sanctuary starting at 7 pm on Friday, November 11. He has brought his creative talents to UUCS several times. He was scheduled to appear a year ago, but the performance was cancelled due to a church closure.

Tickets are \$25 or pay what you can. [Click here to buy \\$25 tickets online.](#) Ask for the pay- what-you-can when you come on November 11.

For anyone not familiar with Roy, [here is a link to a YouTube video](#) of his very popular parody "Vote Him Away/The Liar Tweets Tonight" that was viewed 140 million times, mostly during the runup to the 2020 election. Other versions of the parody are also [on YouTube by searching for "vote him away"](#).

Pass on this information. We would like to generate a large audience for Roy.



## Women's Alliance Bazaar December 4



The Women's Alliance is planning a Holiday Bazaar for Sunday, December 4 after the service. Poinsettias, gift baskets, and homemade items will be available for sale, so plan your gift giving accordingly. Contributions to the Bazaar are also welcome. Contact Ruth Larson or Lynn Cardiff with questions. If you have jars you would like to recycle, jelly jars, or pints or quarts, please bring them to the UUCS kitchen for use by contributors to the Bazaar.

## Free Garden Produce

Leave cleaned fresh fruits and veggies from your garden or take some from the table in the Fellowship Hall.



For our first two veggie exchanges, folks left some tomatoes, onions, plums, and squash. All items were taken home by others at our church. I heard some very positive responses to our veggie exchange, so let's run it until at least the first Sunday in November. I will have the table with a little cloth area set up around 10 am.

After the coffee hour, anything is left over will go to our Kaleidoscope Community School.

~ Becky Harrison

## COVID Requirements Lifted!

The Reopening Team worked diligently over the past 2 years to keep our congregants healthy and safe during the COVID pandemic. We are now in a new phase of living with the virus, so we are eliminating all prior COVID restrictions: No more no mask mandates, no more proof of vaccination requirement, and no more contact tracing.

# Help Wanted and Appreciated!

## Jo Bateman Receives “Mighty Oak” Recognition

Longtime member Jo Bateman was recognized as a “Mighty Oak” of UUCS on September 25, 2022. The presentation was made during the time for all ages as Rev Rick told Jo's story of her continued service and dedication to our congregation. The presentation concluded with the children each presenting Jo with a red or yellow rose. The congregation enjoyed two cakes at the fellowship hour after the service.



## “Appreciating Our Ancestors” Stories Needed

Please send your stories of how your family got to the US for the Appreciating Our Ancestors Service on October 30. Send your stories to [sara@uusalem.org](mailto:sara@uusalem.org) by October 21. Send a picture too if you want. We want to honor the folks who walked here from the North or South, those who traveled by one of the Mayflowers as well as those brought over in chains. We want to remember those who were escaping from war-torn countries or religious persecution as well as those who had or wound up with money to travel back to the old country in style. Part of coming together is listening and honoring all our stories, without judgment, critique, or praise. Just listen and respect how our past can affect our present and possibly our future. All are welcome. Thank you for participating.

~The Worship Team

# Social Justice News and Commentary

## Social Justice Committee Report

**The Impossible and the Doable:** Ending white supremacy is seen as impossible; it has been part of American culture since before America's founding. The doable is helping neighbors in need. The social justice team will be addressing both in 2023. We want your ideas and suggestions which you can provide by attending the October Social Justice Zoom meeting on October 6 at 7 pm. [Click here for the Zoom link](#). Attending a social justice meeting doesn't mean you must be a member of the social justice team. It says you are concerned about social justice and want to learn more about UUCS's social justice efforts.

**White Supremacy:** It has been said that white supremacy is America's original sin. White supremacy is cultural; it has been part of America for over 300 years. I made a mistake, It's not white supremacy, it's white *male* supremacy. Until the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century women were discriminated against along with not-whites. In this century a Supreme Court decision eliminating abortion as a constitutional right has reduced the rights of women. Some want to remove a woman's right to vote. White supremacy has been reinvigorated by replacement theory proponents, people attacking K-12 schools for teaching critical race theory (which isn't taught), and anti-immigrant organizations. Although UUCS can't end it by itself, we can learn about anti-racism and white supremacy and work with others to eliminate it. Let me know your ideas on how to end white supremacy by sending an email to me at [slt@uusalem.org](mailto:slt@uusalem.org).

**Helping others in our Community:** In addition to supporting Marion-Polk Food Share, Family Promise, providing Christmas gifts for the mentally ill, and Share the Plate, UUCS can help others in our community. Many non-profits in Salem are looking for donations to help their clients. Each month we can collect donations for a non-profit. If you have a suggestion for a non-profit, we can collect donations for, send it in an email to [slt@uusalem.org](mailto:slt@uusalem.org).

**Salem Pride in the Park:** Saturday, September 24 was a gorgeous day at Riverfront Park for Salem Pride in the Park. Booths went along the sidewalk from the Gerry Frank Amphitheater to Tom McCall's statue and were along the back of the Park's original amphitheater where there was entertainment. The number of exhibitors and the size of the crowd was a testament to the increasing acceptance of LGBTQ people. UUCS planned to have a booth but due to a miscommunication did not exhibit.

~John Prohodsky

## Habitat and Hope October Update

The Habitat and Hope Village Board appreciates all that the UUCS congregation has done for us since our organization's birth in April 2018. It became clear a year ago that our vision of developing a transitional shelter on UUCS property would not be allowed under current zoning rules. Those who had pledged funds for A

Women's Shelter of Hope supported HHV's decision to change course and supply portable shower and laundry facilities to Church at the Park for use in local micro-shelter communities they manage.

The first shower trailer was delivered in July 2022 and the first laundry trailer is now under construction. HHV has raised roughly half of the \$40,000 required to complete that project. October Share the Plate funds will be applied toward that goal. Thank you again for helping some of our most vulnerable neighbors make their way toward sustainable housing.

~Paul Wilson

## Behind the Chalice

This month we get to learn a little more about **Sara Pickett**, who happens to be the author of this column—at least usually! The editors of this newsletter wonder who asked her the following questions!

*What positions do you fill for Sunday Services?* Lots of different ones, Celebrant, Homilist, Video Engineer, Sound (still learning), Production Coordinator, Worship Team Chair.

*What do you most like about your positions?* They are all creative in different ways, all connect with each other and with others that help with the Sunday Service, and all allow for spiritual growth as well as helping to inspire others.

*What is one thing you would change?* More people learn how to be video engineers and sound engineers.

*What is your idea of perfect happiness?* Inner sense of connection to the love of the universe.

*What is your greatest achievement?* Different ones at different times, but at UUCS, practicing the art of being a homilist.

*What do you regard as the lowest depths of despair?* Loss of a loved one.

*What is your greatest extravagance?* Door Dash, Amazon, Britbox, Paramount Plus.

*Who or what is the greatest love of your life?* Evelyn Skye – my great-niece who will be one year old in January. Also, all the people in my life who have loved, honored, and nurtured me and I them. Also, my kitty Missie.

*Who are your heroes in fiction?* Many of the noble and moral characters in Star Trek, or Harry Potter, Miss Marple, the characters in Louisa May Alcott books, Meg in Wrinkle in Time, the snail in A. A. Milne's poem, The Four Friends. There are others, I'm sure.

*Who are your heroes in real life?* People who are authentic and have integrity, who love unconditionally, who can experience appreciative joy, who are courageous enough to share their creativity, who are willing to be vulnerable so that new learning can always occur.

*What is a meaningful piece of music for you?* Beethoven's 7<sup>th</sup> Symphony, Brubeck's Take Five, Chopin's Les Sylphides, Beatles Let it Be, anything Segovia.

*Where do you like to go in nature to revive?* Used to be only the ocean, but more and more it is being under the leaves of trees, sometimes in my own back yard looking at the sky.

*Anything else?* Thank you for your presence here today.

## Splinters from the Board

### September 12 Board Meeting:

**Hiring UUCS Members:** The Board adopted a policy in 2019 to restrict the hiring of current UUCS members. After a discussion of the issues, Board voted unanimously to rescind this policy, for the following reasons: The Human Resources Committee reported that the objectives of this policy were to broaden the UUCS pool of candidates for positions and to minimize internal disruptions if one member was selected over another. However, given the current difficulty in finding employees for UUCS positions, the Board has had to waive the policy in recent hires. UUA is also updating its hiring guidelines, and this action is consistent with the updates. The Human Resources Committee will revise the personnel manual to provide clearer procedure guidelines for selection committees during the hiring process to ensure that hiring remains equitable.

**Music Director Position Hire:** The UUCS Board voted unanimously to concur with the Music Director Selection Committee recommendation to hire Jon Chinburg as Music Director. There was discussion about the many volunteer services that Jon Chinburg is currently providing, including technical support for the UUCS audio/visual system, and sharing music with the children in Religious Education. Concern was expressed about labor law requirements involving volunteering by employees. The Human Resources Committee will report back to the Board next month regarding the various issues raised at this meeting.

**Temporary Treasurer Position Appointment:** The Board voted unanimously to approve the interim appointment of Lorna Youngs to serve as Treasurer until the end of December 2022. The Nominating Committee will continue to seek someone to fill the Treasurer position through the end of the current term.

**Funds for New Coffee Maker:** As anyone who has provided coffee service after church can attest, the current coffee maker no longer works. The cost of an institutional coffee maker is significant. The Board voted to approve the capital expenditure of up to \$1200 from the Memorial Fund for the purchase of the new coffee maker.

## Animal Blessing Day



## Sunday Services and Religious Education

<b>Religious Education</b> <i>In person, during service</i>	<b>Sunday Service</b> <i>In-person and Live-streamed</i>	<b>Fellowship Time</b> <i>In person</i>
<b>10:30 am</b>	<b>10:30 am</b>	<b>Noon</b>
<b>October Share the Plate Recipient:</b> <a href="#">Habitat and Hope Village</a>		

**Sunday, October 9**

**"Building a Memorial to False Belief"**

**Homilist Greg Gregg**

**Celebrant:** Janet Stevens  
**Music:** Marcia Christenson

The path to free and responsible search for truth and meaning is littered with memorials to false beliefs.

**Sunday, October 16**

**"My Passions"**

**The Rev. Bonnie Tarwater**

**Celebrant:** Barbara Stebbins-Boaz  
**Cantor:** Faith Rockenstein  
**Music:** Ramona Morris

Reverend Tarwater will share her thoughts on what she is passionate about.

**Sunday, October 23**

**"Ancestral Stories"**

**The Rev. Richard R. Davis**

**Celebrant:** Bob Muir  
**Music:** UUCS Choir, directed by Laura Christian

What do you know about your ancestors? In many cases in our society, the answer is "precious little." Could learning more expand your awareness and appreciation?

**Sunday, October 30**

**Sara Pickett, Gloria Holland,  
Barbara Stebbins-Boaz and Brenna Norval**

**"Immigration Stories"**

**Cantor:** Connie Anderson

For our second annual Appreciating Our Ancestors, join Sara, Gloria, Barbara, and Brenna to hear stories from you about your family immigration stories and how they have influenced your life now.

# Unitarian Universalist Congregation Of Salem

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This issue was edited by Bob Muir with help from Vicki Cunningham and Elsa Struble.

**EVENT SCHEDULING:** use the [Event Scheduling Request](#) form on the UUCS website to add 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, **October 28, 2022.**

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