



The Chalice and the Flame

Diverse people. Diverse beliefs. One community.

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

November 2022

25th Anniversary in This Church!

Twenty-five years ago, we held our first services in this church building. The construction started in the spring, and we were ready for our first service on November 2. That day we started in our old church at 19th and Breyman, with the members of Friends Meeting, who were buying that building from us. There was standing room only in that small church. Then we caravanned to our new church, which took quite a while because we didn't have nearly enough parking space. We lost so much time that Rick had to skip his sermon. After the service we adjourned to a party at, I think, Houck Middle School, where some doors were locked so we had to have our party in the hallway. But that couldn't spoil our celebration.

Five years ago, *The Chalice and the Flame* included a report every month commemorating the building progress that month twenty years earlier. We have had no such commemoration in the 25th anniversary year. Maybe in December we will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the building dedication.

And next year we can honor the 20th anniversary of the construction of our fellowship hall addition.

~George Struble

Choir Resumes, Seeking More Singers!

Our UU choir will resume singing during services in November under the leadership of our new Music Director, Jon Chinburg. Rehearsals at church will start on Wednesday, November 2 at 6:30 pm. *And we need more singers!* If you like to sing or even want to just try it out, please come or contact Jon at musicdirection@uusalem.org to let him know or to ask questions.



Weaving Class offered November 5



Join professional artist and art educator (and member of UUCS) Faith Rockenstein for a weaving class for all levels, ages 18 or over, on Saturday, November 5 at 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Participants of all experience levels will discover a variety of techniques to use when creating their artwork. Enrollment is limited.

Weaving materials are provided. Bring your lunch. The cost is \$100 for each class. To sign up [click here](#), or call the office during open hours.

Parents Social Luncheon November 6

Dear families, plan on staying for lunch on November 6 at 12:00 pm after the service. Join us in the Fellowship Hall for a Parents Social Luncheon. Get to know the LRE Team, volunteers and build/rebuild friendships with other UUCS Families with games and food. Free! Child care provided. Questions? Contact Molly Brown at DLRE@uusalem.org.



Ballroom Dance Classes Return!



Join us for beginning ballroom dancing classes this Fall, beginning November 2. Possible dances we may cover: Waltz, Foxtrot, Swing, Tango, Cha Cha, Salsa. No partner necessary. Youth are welcome. Unfortunately, we cannot offer childcare for this series of classes.

Ben Cavaletto and the UUCS's Lifespan Religious Education program are organizing, but our teacher is Donna Hurless. The location will be Donna's Dance Studio in Keizer. The cost is \$60 per person for 6 weekly 90-minute lessons. Payment due at first class. Masks are welcome, not required. [Sign up online here](#).



Reverential Ramblings

~ Rev. Richard Davis, UUCS's minister

At the conclusion of our service on Sunday October 23 we successfully replaced the 300-plus pound Buddha head statue back up on its pedestal in the southeast corner of the patio (*Special thanks to John Davenport's ingenuity!*) The Buddha's calm, compassionate gaze once again graces the space.

A few years ago, a young man suffering from delusions pushed this piece off its pedestal. He later returned and apologized and wanted to make things right, but there was no way he could put the Buddha back up. Wherever this young man is now, we do wish him well and hope that he can now know that as far as this matter is concerned, all is well.

During the past few years, I would look at the fallen Buddha head and lament that plans to put it back up never quite materialized. This was exacerbated by the fact that few members were here during the pandemic and there were fewer folks who noticed Buddha in distress. Yet now, as we return to full congregational life the Buddha has once again been restored—may the great sage bless our shared ministry!

Indeed, I think the restoration of the Buddha head is apt symbolism for our congregational life as we gather together more and more in person. It's been heartening to see attendance creep back up from week to week and you can sense that it's doing so because we hunger for community and the pandemic has made us ravenous.

The opportunity and challenge I have always faced as your called, full time minister (*that is, I was called by a congregational vote*) is to best harness my energies toward the creation of a vital spiritual community. There is potentially more to do than any one minister can or should do—and it would be foolish to try—so I am grateful to the many of you who responded to the survey our Committee on the Ministry recently conducted.

The survey asked you to help me discern which areas of possible focus are most important and which are somewhat less important. I must confess I felt relief when the results—carefully tabulated by the Committee—named “Inspiring and Challenging Sermons,” “Pastoral Care,” and “Leading the Overall Ministry of the Congregation” as the areas where most of you think I should put most of my energy. I felt reassured because I believe these play to my strengths and passions in the ministry, whereas the other things that were listed are not things I would tout as my strengths, although they are important, too.

Over the years I've read organizational literature for congregations and one common theme is that congregations are wise to encourage clergy and other leaders to play upon their strengths and make sure the other matters that are important get addressed in other ways. In other words, asking leaders to focus on what they are not inclined nor especially equipped to do is not a recipe for success. This survey empowers me to offer my gifts in the best ways possible.

There is much more to say on each of these areas than space allows here. Suffice it to say for now that ministry is a heavy lift; no one can do it alone. It took a number of folks to raise the Buddha head and it takes a congregation to help do the heavy lifting of this our shared ministry. It's meaningful, joyful work that requires commitment and dedication and I'm so grateful that we can share this!

Love,

Rick

Raising the Buddha Head October 23

Many hands made light work of lifting and re-placing the 300 lb. Buddha head after the service on October 23. John Davenport prepared the pedestal and devised a frame for the lifting. Thanks to all!



More Happenings and Highlights

Microfinance Sells Crafts, Seeks Donations November 6



For nearly 14 years the UUCS Microfinance Project has confronted global poverty by providing money for small loans to very poor people with good business ideas. Most of our borrowers are women and all of them live in poor countries.

Our November 6 service will update the congregation on our current microcredit borrowers in Nicaragua and India. To raise money for microfinance loans, we ask for your donations and offer for your purchase beautiful craft items. The items this year are lovely wood items made by recent refugees now living in Salem.

Jess Bashoum, Executive Director of Sparrow Furniture and Home Goods, will tell stories of how some of these refugees made their way to Salem and to Sparrow, a training and tutoring program. Join us at the November 6 service to learn more about this continuing project and about programs to resettle recent refugees from poor countries here in Salem. There will be singing!

~Carol Doolittle

Roy Zimmerman At UUCS 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.

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.

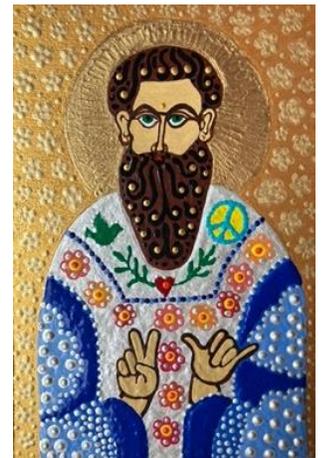
For anyone not familiar with Roy, [here is a link to a YouTube video](#) of his very popular parody "Vote Him Away/The Liar Tweets Tonight" that was viewed 140 million times, mostly during the runup to the 2020 election. Pass on this information to others. Let's generate a large audience for Roy!

Icon Making Class Beginning November 20

Make your own icon in a class led by Faith Rockenstein on three Sundays right after the fellowship hour on November 20, December 11, and December 18, from 12:30 to 3 pm. This class is for all levels ages 18 and older. Pay \$15 for materials at the door.

Icons began with the early Greeks in Ancient Egypt; were developed in the Middle Ages by Catholics in Europe and Africa; and in contemporary times they provide anything from religious meditation to secular artistic interpretations. Participants will discover symbolic iconic elements to create their own icons.

Faith Rockenstein is a professional artist and art educator with over 20 years' experience as Saint Louis Art Museum's Museum Educator, St. Petersburg, Florida's Museum of Fine Director of Education and at the Museum of Wisconsin Art.



Shop the Women's Alliance Bazaar December 4



Enjoy some holiday shopping after the service December 4 at the Women's Alliance Bazaar. Yummy baked goods, poinsettias, gift baskets of all descriptions, and homemade items will be available for sale, so, plan your gift giving accordingly. If you have jars you would like to recycle, jelly jars or pints or quarts, bring them to the UUCS kitchen for use by contributors to the Bazaar.

The Women's Alliance is an affiliated ministry of UUCS. They have funded many projects for the UUCS congregation. Contact Ruth Larson or Lynn Cardiff for questions.

Celebrating the Life of Rich Ford November 12

Join family and friends in celebrating the life of member Rich Ford, beginning at 11 am November 12 at UUCS.

Will UUA Change UU Principles & Purposes?

UUA Seeks Feedback About Possible Changes to Article II

As noted in the August 2022 newsletter, the UUA Article II Study Commission is considering significant changes to Article II of the UUA Bylaws and Rules, which states the Principles and Purposes of Unitarian Universalism. The Study Commission now has published a [webpage entitled "Article II Study Commission Draft Feedback Sessions"](#). On the website you can find a link to its proposed changes, entitled "[Article II Purposes and Covenant](#)." The Study Commission is seeking feedback from UU members and hosting a number of sessions on Zoom during the first half of November.



To participate by Zoom in a Feedback Session you must register online. Register by clicking on the date links on the webpage. However, the website also states that "[i]t will be ideal if you can hold suggestions until the online form is available so that they can be more easily gathered and read. But do feel free to direct questions to changemanager@uua.org." Apparently both methods of providing feedback are acceptable.

The Study Commission will present its final draft to the Board in January for inclusion on the agenda for General Assembly 2023. It will then be the subject of mini-Assemblies before the initial vote at GA 2023. If it passes that delegate vote by a majority, it will require a two-thirds majority vote at GA 2024 to become the new Article II of the Bylaws.

The Study Commission invites you to read the draft revisions to Article II thoughtfully using one of the practices its members have started following in their work: 1. Read it the first time to observe how it makes you feel. 2. Read a second time, observe what it makes you think. 3. Finally read it a third time before thinking about any suggestions.

Behind the Chalice

November has become the month of gratitude for many people, (although as Rev. Rick likes to remind us, we are on the path of compassion and gratitude daily in our lives). Nevertheless, as we prepare to gather for Thanksgiving with our friends and families this month, I am reminded of the importance of being grateful for things in my life that have just developed over time without much forethought. One of those things is this column, Behind the Chalice, which came about from a need to communicate during COVID times and has developed into a nice way of connecting our congregation and community.

This past year, that connection has been through learning about many of the people who provided different services each week to bring the Sunday worship service to you, in-person or via live stream. I have sent further requests out to people in hope that you will be able to continue meeting and learning about the various people you see milling about on a Sunday.

The time has also come to turn to you, the people before the chalice and learn about you. If you would like to answer a questionnaire similar to the ones you have been seeing this past year, send me an email at sara@uusalem.org and I would be happy to send you the list of questions. It would be fun to get to know the people Before the Chalice as well as those behind.

I leave you with these thoughts, by John O'Donohue, about gratitude:

"Blessed be the gifts you never notice,
Your health, eyes to behold the world,
Thoughts to countenance the unknown,
Memory to harvest vanished days,
Your heart to feel the world's waves,
Your breath to breathe the nourishment
Of distance made intimate by earth."

~In gratitude, we who serve Behind the Chalice

Help Wanted and Appreciated!

Family Promise Needs Volunteers, Meals to Continue



UUCS has supported Family Promise since its beginning many years ago, providing shelter and meals on a rotating basis with other faith communities. During the COVID pandemic, Family Promise changed to meet the needs of both the families and the host churches. Families stayed at houses provided by Family Promise and, sometimes, in hotels. UUCS met its commitment by providing evening meals four days during our scheduled week. The Quaker community has provided one of those meals – leaving UU with only three meals to deliver.

Prior to the pandemic, UU was able to host families in the building. Many people volunteered their time and talents to make that happen. However, since the pandemic, it has been a struggle to get volunteers to cook and deliver three meals – four times a year.

Family Promise is moving back to sheltering families in participating churches during the warming center months, November to March. They understand that congregations are moving out of lock down on their own timetable. So, they have proposed several options:

- Continue providing 4 meals for our scheduled week
- Provide meals for the entire week (7 days)
- Open the church for sleep only (Volunteers will come from other churches and FP staff)
- Provide volunteers to staff a sleep only church
- As before the pandemic, provide shelter, meals, and volunteers

Based on the experience of the last two pandemic years, the UUCS Family Promise coordinators have elected to continue providing four meals for our scheduled week.

Our next Family Promise rotation is from November 27 through December 3. Starting after the service on November 6, and for the next two Sundays, we will have a volunteer sign up table in the Fellowship Hall. We can also discuss options at that time with anyone who is interested.

If UUCS is going to continue being a participant with Family Promise, *we NEED people to volunteer!*

~Sara Shatto, Deborah Emeny, Roberta Robinson,

Your UUCS Family Promise Coordinators

Thanks to All Who Help to Beautify Our Grounds!

Here is a photo of those participating in the October 23 “work party.” It really *can be* fun, and it is always rewarding. But we could use more volunteers. Just a few hours of your time, on your terms, can make a big difference! *Won't you join us next time?* Look for notices of scheduled cleanups in the ***The Chalice and the Flame***, in “This Week at UUCS,” and on our website.



Social Justice News and Comments

Meeting Notice

There will be a Social Justice meeting on Zoom Thursday, November 3 at 7 pm. [Click here to link to Zoom](#). All are welcome to attend.

Commentary: We can do more, with your help.

What's wrong with social justice? Nothing and everything. Anything that we do to address an injustice is worthwhile. Yet, whatever we do to address social injustice can seem futile. For example, efforts to end racial discrimination against African Americans have made a difference, but terrorizing and discrimination against them

is increasing. One voice, one congregation can make a difference, but the collective voices of many UU congregations is much more effective.

Often it seems that a particular injustice is the flavor of the day. During the Trump Presidency it was discrimination and violence towards Hispanic illegal immigrants and unjustified police killings. The death of George Floyd rallied people to protest and show that any unjustified police killing is not acceptable. The police response to the non-violent protests was the focus of the news, not what was being protested. Today it is protecting abortion rights, discrimination, and violence against LGBTQ persons, and making democrats and liberals into the enemy of conservatives. They do like to distract us from addressing the causes of injustice.

While we react to the injustices that are in the news, economic injustice steadily increases and the real threat to humanity, global warming and how it is affecting society, is ignored. As the snowpack steadily decreases, water needed to grow our food diminishes. Drought and flooding destroy crops; floods destroy homes and livelihoods, and weather extremes cause havoc. However, profit must not be sacrificed to save humanity. As a result, the human causes of global warming are not addressed.

The emphasis in the 1970s on increasing shareholder value at the expense of other stakeholders was started by Milton Friedman's New York Times article, "*The Social Responsibility of Business Is to Increase Its Profits.*" How to get government to do business's bidding was described in Lewis Powell's memo, "*Attack on American Free Enterprise System,*" commissioned by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Together they emboldened the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and others to influence governments to prioritize profits before people and society. Their decades-long efforts included distracting us from what is really happening.

We have not exercised our power, the power of people coming together to do what is right and just. With your help we can address both specific injustices and the causes of injustice. We need your help. Please attend our social justice meetings.

~John Prohodsky -UUCS Social Justice Chair

You Get the Pictures!



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 |
| November Share the Plate Recipient: The Microfinance Project | | |

Sunday, November 6

Jess Bashioum

" Inspiring Diverse Community Through Refugee Employment"

Celebrant: Gloria Holland

Music: Uhuru Choir

Cantor: Jean Logan

Microfinance Service: Jess Bashioum, Executive Director of Sparrow Furniture in Salem, will talk about how her business invests in the lives of refugees and inspires the community by crafting sustainable materials into timeless furniture and home goods.

Sunday, November 13

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

" I Know My Day Will Come"

Celebrant: Janet Stevens

Piano: Loriann Schmidt

Cantor: Marcia Christenson

There is a line in the Psalms that goes "so teach us to number our days that we might get a heart of wisdom." It can be enlightening to reflect upon the number of one's days and realize your place in the circle of love.

Sunday, November 20

Homilist, Marcia Christenson

"Silence: Noble and Ignoble"

Celebrant: Brenna Norval

Music: UUCS Choir

Sometimes we need to be in silence to know ourselves, to hear God's still small voice, to rest our minds and our hearts, to listen to others' stories. But sometimes silence is not the right way. Sometimes we need to speak up, say things that need to be said, talk things through. How do we know?

Sunday, November 27

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

"Lefty Lamentations"

Cantor: Faith Rockenstein

In recent years we have gained new understanding and awareness of how our brains and bodies are affected by trauma, repetitive stress, abuse, and poverty. From this new perspective can come healing, understanding and acceptance.

Sunday, December 4

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

"Buddha and Me"

It's been many a year since I first heard the story of the ancient sage known to us as "The Buddha." In the Zen Buddhist tradition this is a time to reflect upon his great enlightenment 25 centuries ago and rededicate oneself to this goal. It's also a good time to share reflections on the role of this ancient one in my spiritual imagination.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation Of Salem

5090 Center St. NE, Salem, OR 97317

Minister: The Rev. Richard R. Davis

revrick@uusalem.org

Director of Lifespan Religious Education:

Molly Brown dire@uusalem.org

RE Sunday Assistant: Open

Director of Music: Jon Chinburg

musicdirection@uusalem.org

Board Chair: Lynn Cardiff

boardchair@uusalem.org

Congregational Administrator: Emma Kreger

Office Assistant: Jo Sweeney

Office open Tuesday-Friday, 9 am to 1 pm

Phone: 503-364-0932

E-mail: office@uusalem.org

UUCS Internet Links to:

Website: www.uusalem.org

Facebook: facebook.com/uusalem

Newsletter Editors: editors@uusalem.org

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 an 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, **December 2, 2022**. **This Week** submissions are due by **Wed. noon**.