



The Chalice and the Flame

Diverse people. Diverse beliefs. One community.

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

December 2022

Parents Night Out/Drive-in Movie December 9



Drop off your child at the UUCS RE at 5:30 on December 9, and for \$15 (\$25 for two children) enjoy three hours off.

Each child will bring a box to decorate and create their "car" for the Drive-in Movie! (We will also have extras.) This kids' event includes dinner, snacks, crafts, and art supplies for decorating!

Parents can go out on the town shopping or having fun and have 3 hours of childcare provided by Babysitter Certified Youth and Adult Volunteers (background check approval and CPR/first aid certified)! Please feel free to send kiddos in pajamas for best comfort and fun! (Plus, they'll be all ready for bed when you pick them up!) Please RSVP to DLRE@uusalem.org.

If you want to help, please contact me at DLRE@uusalem.org or phone (971) 239-7384.

~Molly Brown

Finding Our Future Input Needed by December 15!

What's important to you about UUCS, now and in the future? Creating new vision and mission statements to guide our congregational future means gathering ideas from as many of you as possible. We heard from some of you at the first Finding Our Future event in September, but we'd love to hear from everyone. If you didn't attend September's in-person event here's your chance! Please share your ideas by [answering our online questionnaire](#) by December 15.

Once all responses are in, a group of volunteers will organize our responses and use them write new vision and mission statements to be voted on at our Annual Congregational Meeting in May. If you would like to be a part of this group, please send an email with the subject "Vision Writer" to wolf2947@msn.com.

~Don Wolf

Upcoming Special Services

Some special services are coming up! Note, however, that there will be no RE on December 24, 25 and January 1. As it is every Sunday, the Cozy Corner will be available on December 25 and January 1 for little ones who need a coloring break while their parents are with them but still able to watch the service.

December 24 is our annual Christmas Eve Service, titled "Gifts," starting at 7:00 pm with the traditional candles being lit during Peace, Peace/Silent Night. Cookies and punch will be offered afterwards.

December 25 will be a Christmas Day Service at 10:30 am, titled "Your Presence," a shortened service with lots of singing followed by a Christmas breakfast of stollen and fruit and of course coffee. No Religious Education and no child care will be provided, but the Cozy Corner will be open.

January 1 will be a New Year's Day Service at 10:30 am, allowing a reflective peaceful time to notice the simple gifts that surround us as we bid farewell to the old year and welcome in the new one. Homilist Barbara Stebbins-Boaz will offer some thoughts from the pulpit. This will be followed by a continental breakfast featuring an egg casserole, sweet breads, fruit, juice and, dare I say it, coffee. Again, no RE and child care provided; Cozy Center open.

~The Worship Team



Reverential Ramblings

~ Rev. Richard Davis, UUCS's minister

Just imagine—it's been a quarter of a century since we held our building dedication on December 7, 1997, when luminaries from our larger association joined us. Our Hungarian speaking friends at our Partner Unitarian Church in Romania, founded in 1568, rang their church bells on the other side of the world during our dedication to celebrate with us the fruition of our dreams. It was a celebration heard round the world.

It took a lot of amazing generosity and “sweat equity” commitment (*for instance, volunteers showed up every day to clean behind the construction crew*) to bring us to that point, and those of us who were fortunate enough to be there have fond memories of many beloved and generous members who are no longer with us. But what they did for us remains and provides a light filled space for us to worship, sing, dance, laugh, mourn, meditate, and pray and care for one another, our community, and our world. Perhaps the most important thing we do in this space is care for one another and care for our community, including those in far off places (*through our amazing and effective micro-finance program that has connected us to friends around the world*).

This December we especially want you to be aware of two ways of participating in our shared ministry—one is an opportunity for reaching within and the other is an opportunity for reaching out to serve our community.

First, regarding reaching within, as we are re-gathering after the pandemic, we invite members and friends to consider whether serving as a **Life Lines Lay Minister** might be a good call for you. Look for the invitational pamphlet at the Life Lines table in the Fellowship Hall providing more information about our upcoming three session orientation in January or contact us at lifelinelayministry@uusalem.org to receive this pamphlet.

Next, regarding reaching out to the community, during the pandemic congregational participation in the **Family Promise Program** was limited as the guests of this program—families without housing—stayed in motels with emergency governmental funding. Now, congregations which have provided shelter in the past are once again being asked to recommit to being Host congregations. We must line up enough volunteers to make this viable. UUCS has served as a host congregation since the very beginning of this program in 1998, and during the month of December *please do help us continue to provide this essential service to our community*. Look for the Family Promise sign up table in the Fellowship Hall or contact Sara Shatto, Deborah Emeny, or Roberta Robinson, UUCS Family Promise Coordinators.

As we remember the generous contributions of those who helped make our spiritual home a reality, let us remember this: at the very first congregational meeting in our new building not long after our dedication we voted to serve as a host congregation for the Family Promise Program—due in no small measure to the steadfast advocacy and commitment of our beloved member Loraine Stuart, whom we honored in our Sunday Service on December 4 for her amazing and graceful service to us all. (She played “Amazing Grace” on the piano for us, while we sang or hummed.) Gandhi noted *“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in service of others.”* Let's keep this amazing grace flowing throughout our lives and throughout our world.

~Love, Rick

New Connections Group Starting in January!

Did you miss out on joining a connections group? Are you new to UUCS, have heard about the connections group and want to start building connections with others? Now is your chance to join! A new group will start on January 28. This group will meet on the fourth Saturday of each month in person at 10:00 a.m. Connections groups meet monthly to learn about ourselves and each other and to explore topics together in a supportive environment. Each month there will be a new topic to explore. There will be reading material for each topic for you to use as you like. [Use this link to sign up.](#)

~Anna Tally



Lifespan Religious Exploration

Happy Holidays to you all!

This month's theme in the LRE Program is "Wonder". We will be learning about all the wonderful holidays that the members of our congregation celebrate with their families. If you have something special you would like to teach the children about one of your family's traditions, please contact me during my office hours or send an email to: DLRE@uusalem.org.

The first tradition we will be learning about is Chalica. Chalica is a week-long celebration of our Unitarian Universalist Principles:

[1st Principle](#): The inherent worth and dignity of every person.

[2nd Principle](#): Justice, equity and compassion in human relations.

[3rd Principle](#): Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.

[4th Principle](#): A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.

[5th Principle](#): The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.

[6th Principle](#): The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.

[7th Principle](#): Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Chalica first emerged in 2005 out of a wish to have a holiday organized around Unitarian Universalist values. It begins on the first Monday in December, this year from the 5th to the 11th. Each day a chalice is lit, and the day is spent reflecting on the meaning of that day's principle and doing a good deed that honors that principle. Not all Unitarian Universalists celebrate Chalica, but it has a growing following. If you celebrate Chalica at home, below are some words you might say during chalice lighting. They are from "The Wonder All Around Us" by the Rev. Scott Tayler (permission secured by Soul Matters):

"Look friends, to the sky, to the stars that dance like fireworks overhead
this tiny globe on which we travel.
Look to the horizon, the tree line, the expanse of wide-open fields,
to this living, breathing earth that makes our living and breathing possible.
Look at the faces that surround you, and notice what a wonder it is
that we don't have to walk this world alone.
All of it is a miracle. All of it deserves our awe.
May this light we now kindle and this time we share,
Illuminate the astonishing preciousness of it all."

The LRE Program is open December 11 and 18. **The LRE Program will be closed** December 25 and January 1. The Cozy Corner will be open for your convenience with fun activities for the children during the Sunday Service. We will be sending home "Winter Bags" full of fun holiday crafts for the children to do at home that will teach them a little bit about holiday traditions from around the world!

Also, please note that the LRE Youth Group is putting on a **Gift-Wrapping Fundraiser** the next two Sundays. Details are in the next section of this newsletter.

~Molly

Happenings and Highlights

Gift Wrapping Fundraiser for LRE Youth

The LRE Youth Group is putting on a Gift-Wrapping Fundraiser this year. Bring your gifts to drop off in the LRE Wing before Sunday Service on December 11 and/or 18 and they will be wrapped beautifully for you to pick up on your way out. We will have a wonderful assortment of wrapping paper and bows to choose from or leave it up to us. Pay for it by Donations to the LRE Program. We will be using the funds earned to help plan fun events in the upcoming months.



Giving Tree for People with Mental Health Conditions



UUCS is supporting the Mindful Organization for the Recovery of Psychological Health (M.O.R.P.H.) in their efforts to reduce the stress of the Holidays on people with significant mental health conditions who are lacking support from friends or family. The giving tree in the entryway has tags which suggest a gift for an individual. The gift items need to be returned wrapped or placed in a holiday card no later than December 18 with the tag attached. These gifts mean a lot, often they are the only gift a person receives.

~John Prohodsky

The Houseless Need Warm Clothing

The houseless need socks, gloves, and hats to keep warm and healthy this winter. Through December there will be a collection box in the entry way for donated socks, gloves, and hats.

Buying them in bulk is much more cost effective. From Amazon we can buy 72 socks for \$80, 72 hats for \$133, and 60 gloves for \$111. If you want to donate money towards a bulk buy of these items, you can [make a donation through PayPal here](#).



~John Prohodsky

Arts and Crafts Classes Offered

Drawing Class January 14

A drawing class for all experience levels, 18 and above, is being offered Saturday, January 14, 2023, from 10 am to 2 pm. The \$100 fee covers instruction and all materials needed. Bring your own lunch. [Sign up here](#). Enrollment is limited.

Mardi Gras Mask Class February 11

A Mardi Gras mask making class is being offered to all levels, 18 and above on Saturday, February 11, 2023, from 10 am to 2 pm. The \$100 fee covers instruction and all materials needed. [Sign up here](#) or call the office at 503-364-0932. Enrollment is limited.

The instructor, Faith Rockenstein, is a professional artist and art educator. Participants will learn how to create a fabulous mask for Mardi Gras and other festive occasions.

~Faith Rockenstein

Join the Women's Retreat April 21-23

If you identify as a female, please join us for a relaxing, reflective, insightful and fun weekend at the UUCS Women's Retreat beginning 3 pm on Friday, April 21 and ending Sunday afternoon. The retreat will be held at the beautiful Oregon 4-H Center located near Salem. This is an opportunity for you to know other females, discover new things, or just have some "me time." We are in the early stages of planning and already have several ideas such as: Tai Chi, meditation, nature hikes, poetry and writing, art making, crafts, singing, fire ceremonies, games, and Sunday service.

The \$160 retreat fee includes all activities, food and lodging. Scholarships will be available, and donations are always welcome. More information and registration will be available in the coming months. If you have an idea for the retreat or just want to ask a question, contact Retreat Coordinator Faith Rockenstein, during coffee following services or via email at womensgroup@uusalem.org. Renew and relate at the 2023 Women's Retreat!

UUA Article II Revisions

We are preparing to offer some congregational learning opportunities and discussions in the New Year regarding the UUA Article II Study Commission's proposed revisions of Article II of the Unitarian Universalist Association's bylaws. This Article covers our Principles and Purposes, including the Seven Principles and Six Sources. There is a lot to think about and discern before you send your delegates off to the June 2023 UUA General Assembly to vote on the proposed changes.

Recently we received an email from UUA President Susan Frederick Gray about the Article II Study Commission which included these words:

“Another very significant change happening in Unitarian Universalism comes through the dedicated work of the UUA's Article II Study Commission (A2SC). Article II is the section in our UUA bylaws that contains the Purposes, 7 UU Principles [ed. note: principles are listed in DLRE Molly Brown's column] and our Sources. Charged to review Article II, the Commission has held thoughtful discussions online, at General Assemblies and with groups of leaders across our Association.

This fall, the A2SC incorporated the extensive input from individuals, groups and congregations and developed an initial draft of a new Article II. You are invited to [review the new draft text](#) and [share your feedback](#) with the Commission online.”

Some UUs have expressed concerns about the draft revisions to Article II. One source is the “[5th Principle Project website](#), which has just published an article by Ken Ing. Ken is a frequent contributor to the local UU Fellowship's adult learning program, creating 13 talks over the past three years, usually about history or politics. [Here is a link to his article on what he sees are concerns about Article II.](#)

Hopefully you have been doing some of your own education regarding this matter of Article II, including reading the newsletter articles we have published since June of 2022, going to the forums that were suggested, and keeping up with UUA news yourself. You may see that there are possibly two or more sides to this issue.

In the meantime, the UUCS GA Delegate Committee would like to remind you of some thoughts Irshad Manji mentioned when she spoke to us. When speaking of moral courage and doing the right thing despite your fears, she spoke of the bravery of thinking for oneself while also having the personal humility to cooperate within the community in which you exist. With that come trust and being trustworthy through your actions with others. To quote her on page 253 of her book *Don't Label Me* she writes, “Ask not how to change the Other's mind. Ask what you're missing about the Other.” That takes a lot of listening. A lot of deep listening.

~Sara Pickett, Joel Martin, Barbara Stebbins-Boaz, Bob Muir: GA Delegate Committee

Help Wanted and Appreciated!

Coffee Service Schedule Helpers and Leaders

For the second year, we are asking all members to help with Coffee Service one or two times each year. You can easily scroll down [the alphabetized list online](#) to find the Sundays for which you are scheduled and identify your team leader. Unlike the schedule in September, this schedule includes your team leader.

We are hoping this will give everyone an opportunity to meet other members and to be part of service to our community. Thank you to the Team Leaders who will be heading the different teams throughout the year to provide the coffee service. Most of all, thank you to YOU, who are willing to be on these teams and provide the coffee service!

Although many of you have helped with coffee services before, some of you haven't and that is OK. That is why we have a Team Leader and there are likely others on your team who can help you learn the ropes, or in this case, the coffee beans. Duties include everything from making the coffee, heating water for tea, setting out cups and treats, providing treats, washing dishes, and just



being the kind friendly people, you already really are. Your team leader will be contacting you with a reminder the Monday prior to the Sunday that you will be helping. For example, those who will be serving on December 18 should be getting an email from their team leader on December 12. If you can't make your assigned date, no worries, try and see if you can switch with someone, or help out by providing treats. Your team leader, or Anna or Sara with the Connections Team, should be able to help you with this as well. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Anna or Sara at connectionsteam@uusalem.org. You don't see your name on the schedule? Let us know, we would love to include you—the more the merrier! Thank you for being part of the UUCS community.

~Anna and Sara

Social Justice News and Commentary

Making a Difference with Microfinance

Our UUCS Microfinance Project began 14 years ago, and the UUCS Microfinance Committee is very proud to report that our UUCS Congregation has made a significant difference to the poorest and most vulnerable people in Laos, Peru, Kenya, Nicaragua and India. A copy of the NEO Fund report can be found on our [UUCS Microfinance webpage](#).

Working with the NEO Fund since 2016, we have invested \$40,153 in Microfinance loans which comprise 53% of the NEO Fund's Nicaragua capital pool and 5% of the pool in India. Over these past six years, the UUCS has enabled 412 loans. Because our investment revolves multiple times, our investment has totaled \$131,464. And the money continues to cycle, creating hope and opportunity in every family it touches.

On the date the NEO Fund compiled the numbers in October, UUCS was helping 120 active borrowers, 99 in Nicaragua and 21 in India.

The UUCS Microfinance Committee is very grateful for the strong support the Congregation has provided over the years.

These are a lot of figures, but Paola is an example of just one of the people we have helped. The village of Christopher Rey was formed by the Nicaraguan government for refugees from the flooding in 2009. Many destitute families were relocated there and given sheets of tin for building temporary shelters and a bag of rice for emergency sustenance. The NEO Fund has worked in Christopher Rey from the beginning, and Paola was one of the NEO Fund's first borrowers.

Paola has taken and repaid 12 NEO Fund loans over 10 years. Her first few loans helped her build a modest but functional cement block home. After that, she started a small store at her home to sell sundries to locals and build her business. Paola is very thankful for our years of help because her "life has improved so much".

If you would like to donate to the UUCS Microfinance Project, you can write a check to UUCS, noting on the memo line that the donation is for UUCS Microfinance and send it to the Church address. Or contribute on the [UUCS website at Donate/Make a one-time donation](#) and select Microfinance on the dropdown list.

~Carol Doolittle

Habitat and Hope Village Dissolves, Homeless Support Continues

The HHV Board of Directors has dissolved Habitat & Hope Village, Inc., effective December 31, 2022. As a local 501(c)3 non-profit, HHV has been worked for years to end homelessness in the Salem, Oregon area. Individual board members will continue to support Salem's unsheltered communities. Working together we will solve this problem.

The mission of HHV has been to provide transitional housing for people without shelter in the Salem area, each of whom is a spiritual person of worth and dignity and deserving of assistance. Our vision has been to set individuals and families free from homelessness, to help them become physically and spiritually healthy, and equip them to participate in society and sustain permanent housing. We will continue to help those who have been abused and neglected to find a better life.

Most recently HHV has constructed mobile shower & laundry trailers for residents in Salem's micro-shelter communities. Those trailers have been donated to Church at the Park, a local 501(c)3 non-profit with a history of serving the unsheltered in Salem, and currently managing micro-shelter communities. Its website statement



reflects that its activities fit well with HHV's mission and vision: "Church at the Park (C@P) has been serving our unsheltered neighbors since 2007. C@P seeks the mutual transformation of unsheltered people, our staff, and our volunteers through relationships, agency partnerships, and tangible resources. As the capital of Oregon, Salem is a central hub in the state for those experiencing homelessness, incarceration, and mental illness. C@P seeks to be a peacemaker in our city through the provision of low barrier shelter, person-centered navigation services, and workforce development." Please support [Church at the Park online here](#).

A big "Thank You" to everyone that has supported HHV over the years. You have made a positive difference in the lives of some of our most vulnerable neighbors.

~HHV Executive Board of Directors

The Conservative Turn in America is a Call to Grow UUCS

American culture isn't what it was. In the 1960's and 1970's landmark civil rights and environmental legislation was passed by Congress. Since the 1960s American society has become socially more liberal with increasing opportunities and visibility for women, minorities and the LGBTQT community. These changes reflect Unitarian Universalist values.

In response to these liberal changes, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce commissioned [Lewis Powell in 1971 to write a memo](#) describing actions that it and the broader business community should take in response to fierce criticism in the media, campus-based protests, and new consumer and environmental laws.

Since then, the "culture wars" and divisive wedge issues have created an "us versus them" mentality in which facts are irrelevant and what one feels or believes matters more. Liberals, immigrants, non-white, and non-Christian Americans are being attacked. Militia violence is expected to increase. Civil war is openly discussed.

The conservative turn of American culture is an opportunity to grow UUCS and our social justice program. We can and must address injustice in our community and world.

~John Prohodsky, Chair, Social Justice Team

Behind the Chalice

For the month of December, "Behind the Chalice" learns more about **Margrethe Gregg**, who not only is Host/Greeter on Sundays, but is a Connections Group Facilitator for the 4th year in a row, a grandmother who supports LRE and is always willing to help with Coffee Service! Without further ado, here's Margrethe!

What positions do you serve for Sunday Services? *Host and greeter.*

What do you most like about your positions? *I love greeting everyone who comes to gather on Sunday mornings. So many people and so many happy hellos to receive and hand out. Welcoming the tribe as we gather—it's wonderful.*

What is one thing you would change? *Global politics. Is that too big an ask?! In that case a better choice of chocolate ice cream at our local Safeway.*

What is your idea of perfect happiness? *A long hot tub at the end of a pottery day—topped up with a nice rum and egg nog.*

What is your greatest achievement? (Behind the Chalice observes it may have been her bringing up talented, resourceful, and resilient children and grandchildren, having a huge heart and welcoming in everyone into her family, helping people thrive at all ages and being a talented artist.)

What do you regard as the lowest depths of despair? *I have had moments that "felt" like despair, but they never lasted long, and I realized afterwards **that** was not despair—it was being very uncomfortable with **change**.*

What is your greatest extravagance? (BTC suggests perhaps it was the aforementioned chocolate ice cream?)

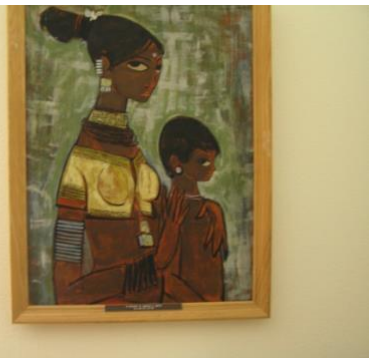
Who or what is the greatest love of your life? *Greg and all my grandchildren—not always in that order!*

Who are your heroes in real life? *Ruth Bader Ginsberg, Liz Cheney.*

What is a meaningful piece of music for you? *Anything that Guy Hallman is willing to play on the piano. (BTC note – can't argue there) If he played "Bolero" I would be in heaven.*

Where do you like to go in nature to revive? *To the ocean—agate hunting and hopefully to lose my phone in a rogue wave.*

Celebrating 25 Years in Our Building!



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
Month Share the Plate Recipient: Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice		

Sunday, December 11

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

"How Thick is Your Skin?"

Are you thick skinned? Thin skinned? All skinned-up? Let's reflect on life in a world where tough things happen.

Celebrant: Sara Pickett
Music and Cantor: Marcia Christenson

Sunday, December 18

Bob Muir, Homilist & Story Teller

"Wishin' and Hopin' and Thinkin' and Prayin'"

When I was young, I did a lot of wishing around Christmas time. As I became older, I became aware that hope is profoundly more important than wishes.

Celebrant: Janet Stevens
Music: Jon Chinburg, Marcia Christenson, Cheryl Randall, Barbara Stebbins-Boaz
Cantor: Barbara Stebbins-Boaz

Saturday, Christmas Eve at 7 pm

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

"Gifts"

At this time of year there is a lot of gift-giving. It's predictable and traditional, which when you think about the true nature of a gift tends to subvert the magic. Really, what are gifts? Who gives them and why? What purpose do they serve?

Celebrants: Gloria Holland, Janet Stevens, Brenna Norval
Music: Jon Chinburg, director, Loriann Schmidt, pianist, UUCS Choir

Sunday, December 25

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

"Your Presence"

On this day, your presence will be gift enough. We invite you to describe how this time of year stirs you, brings meaning into your life, and asks you to reflect. Let us be gifts to each other by sharing words and listening, singing songs and carols, and enjoying delicious treats together after the service in the fellowship hall.

Celebrant: Bob Muir
Music: Jon Chinburg
Cantor: Barbara Stebbins-Boaz

Sunday, January 1

Barbara Stebbins-Boaz

"Gifts of the New Year"

Join Barbara and others for a short service reflecting on the simple gifts we have in our lives and how they can support us in the new year. Please join us in the fellowship hall afterwards for a Continental Breakfast.

Celebrant: Sara Pickett

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 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 30, 2022.**

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