



The Chalice and the Flame

Diverse people. Diverse beliefs. One community.

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

January 2023

New & Special Traditions Begin in January

Watch a new tradition begin and honor our wonderful relationship with Rev. Rick in these January services:

January 8 will initiate a new tradition at UUCS. The sermon on the second Sunday of the month will focus on the Soul Matters theme which the Connections Groups study and discuss during that month. January's theme is Finding Our Center. Following the service will be a light luncheon of soup and rolls hosted by the facilitators of the Connections Groups. This will be an opportunity to connect with new and old friends, as well as learn about a theme that your soul might enjoy for the month.

January 15, besides honoring Martin Luther King, we will celebrate the wonderful 30-year relationship with our Minister, Rev. Rick Davis. There are many stories that can be told of the growing pains as well as joys we have shared, supporting one another, helping one another grow, caring and loving one another. Come for the fun-filled service, entitled, "Thirty Years of Memories," and stay for a light lunch and cake, celebrating you, the congregational members, who choose to accept and encourage the well-intended soul who experienced a call to serve the greater good for all these years.

~The Worship Team

Art Classes Offered January 14 and February 11

A drawing class for all experience levels, aged 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](#) or call the office at 503-364-0932.

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

Instructor Faith Rockenstein is a professional artist and art educator. Participants will discover various techniques to use in creating their artwork.

More Ballroom Dancing Classes Begin January 18

Our LRE program and Ben Cavaletto are again sponsoring a Ballroom Dancing Class, running 6:30 pm to 8 pm Wednesdays from January 18 through February 22 at Donna's Dance Studio 4907 River Road North in Keizer. Possible dances to be covered: Waltz, Foxtrot, Swing, Tango, Cha Cha, Salsa. No partner is necessary. Youth are welcome, but unfortunately, child care is not available for this series. American Sign Language interpreting is available upon request. Masks are welcome, but not required. The cost is \$60 per person for 6 lessons. Payment is due at the first class, January 18. [Sign up here](#) or contact Ben.



New Connections Group Starts Saturday, January 28!

Do you want to join a Connections group? Maybe you couldn't during the week? Maybe you will be inspired by the January 8 service? Now is your chance! A new group will start on January 28 and continue every fourth Saturday of the month, meeting in the "Blue Room" in the educational wing of our building. The first meeting will start at 9:30 am; subsequent times will be determined by the group.

Connections groups meet in a supportive environment to learn about ourselves and each other, form relationships and explore topics together. 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 and Bob Muir



Reverential Ramblings

~ Rev. Richard Davis, UUCS's minister

Some of you may remember the winter storm of January 1993—exactly 30 years ago—that dumped a load of snow and ice that took weeks to thaw out. This is frozen in my memory because this was when I first rolled into Salem on snow chains to begin serving as your minister. (My family had flown up here ahead of me.)

Naturally, I wondered how my ministry would fare in this Pacific Northwest setting. My hopeful intention was to stay put for the duration of my ministry unless circumstances dictated otherwise. I wanted to put down some roots and didn't consider Salem a stepping stone to something beyond. Rather, I saw this as an opportunity to stay in one place and help one congregation fulfill its potential.

It's akin to my core spiritual practice—sitting meditation. As Buddhist teacher Jack Kornfield advises, “take the one seat.” That is, when you do this style of meditation (*there are many types*) you sit in one place, stop moving, evading; you let go of the restlessness and impatience that pulls you away—you return, again and again, to the present, simply by focusing on the breath. It's a practice—a daily practice—I've stuck with my entire ministry. Sometimes it's good to make a solid choice and stick with it, even if there are times when the practice doesn't seem particularly rewarding. You stick with it because you can tell that it is transformative—it works. Even as I have struggled with my sitting posture over the years, it definitely has improved, and I have great faith in and gratitude for a practice so integral to my path.

Which is to say, when I find something that's worth my devotion and commitment, I stick with it. In my UU history studies I came across the advice the 19th Century Unitarian minister William Greenleaf Eliot gave to his son, Thomas Lamb Eliot, as he headed out West to begin his ministry in Portland, Oregon: “Stick to your post and let your effect be cumulative.” I thought that was good advice for me, too. Contrast this with the warning often given to ministers, “keep your bags packed,” because it might not work out. Such tentativeness seems unstable, and I unpacked all my bags.

And now—suddenly—it's thirty years later.

From the bottom of my heart, I thank you, again and again, for welcoming me into our shared ministry, loving and supporting me in more ways than can be mentioned. Even as I have stuck with you, so have you stuck with me in this most unique of relationships.

We have stuck together so that we might do great and good things together, not only for ourselves but for the larger community—things it takes time to build. I speak not only of the beautiful spiritual home we brought into being through our generosity and steadfast commitment but also of the many connections that strengthen our community.

Poet Denise Levertov noted that

“connections are made slowly, sometimes they grow underground.
You cannot tell always what is happening.
More than half the tree is spread out under your feet...”

So, our community has grown, visibly and invisibly. Our probing roots intertwine so that we might steady and nurture one another, even as our branches reach heavenward. Sometimes, from my office window I look out at the Struble Mighty Oak down in Bateman Woods. It took root generations ago. Then I think about what we have planted here and how it will grow and flourish and bless future generations. May it be so! Happy New Year Everyone!

Love,
Rick



Lifespan Religious Exploration

I hope you are all enjoying this holiday season with your family and friends!

This year was full of so many wonderful times that we got to spend together as a community and I'm so thankful to have been given the privilege of watching over your kids and getting to know you & your family.

This New Year will bring so many fun events and time for togetherness at UUCS!

So far this year we have planned a Valentine's Day 50's Sock Hop on February 11 at 5:30 pm & Silent Auction, a Hamilton Movie Night for our Youth Group on February 19 from 3 pm to 8 pm (also inviting several local churches' Youth Groups), an Easter Egg Hunt (with plenty of eggs this time!), more Parent's Night Out events, a Paint and Wine Night (with free childcare), Trunk or Treat, and more!

We also have so much fun planned during the LRE Program! Not only do we have new monthly themes, but we have new activities and lessons that go along with them! We will be learning about our UU history, the 7 Principles and what it means to really be a community! In January we will be learning about Finding Our Center and in the Fall the Our Whole Lives program will be held.

You will also see the LRE Program children helping during coffee hour, spending time connecting with their elders and learning the wonderful feeling of serving their community!

As your DLRE, I will be spending time visiting other UU congregations, learning from other DLRE's, and expanding our community by inviting them to our future events!

To be able to do all of this, *the LRE Program will need more volunteers to help the LRE Team during Sunday Services and events!* If you would like to help, please check your calendars, and let me know any Sundays you might be available to help. There are *fifty-three Sundays* in 2023. So, by volunteering for 3 or 4 Sundays per year, we will have enough volunteers to offer a class for each age group! If you'd like, send me a quick email with which Sundays you'd like to sign up for or events you'd like to be a part of in 2023.

Thanks so much! Happy New Year to all of you!

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



Help Wanted and Appreciated!

Help Host Family Promise, January 15-22

UUCS will be hosting Family Promise January 15 through January 22. Because of the enthusiastic response from the congregation, we hope to fill all of the volunteer slots. Many have already indicated interest in helping—now, we need you to pick a specific day and job. Please contact Deborah Emeny at deborah.emeny@gmail.com to volunteer. We will also be in the Fellowship Hall after services on January 1 and 8.

More Happenings and Highlights

Join Women's Retreat

If you identify as a female, please join us for a relaxing, reflective, insightful and fun weekend at the UUCS Women's Retreat planned for this spring.

This can be an opportunity for you to get acquainted with other UUCS women, 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.

There will be a retreat fee, but 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 Faith Rockenstein, our Retreat Coordinator, during coffee after services or email at womensgroup@uusalem.org. Come renew and relate at the 2023 Women's Retreat!

UUA General Assembly News

Review of Proposed Changes to Article II

In 2022, UUA President Susan Frederick-Gray talked about the mandate incorporated in UUA bylaws that calls for periodic review of our Principles and Purposes. Instead of minor revisions, the Article II Study Commission is proposing a wholesale rewrite of Article II.

To provide context for the proposed changes, we suggest that you review the current Principles and Purposes and recent discussions of changes. The current Principles and Purposes are found in Article II, section C of the Bylaws of the Unitarian Universalist Association, which may be [reached through this weblink](#).

The Principles and Purposes were last revised in 1987. 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. At General Assembly in 2017, there was discussion of adding an 8th Principle addressing racism and amending the 1st Principle to address the sanctity of non-human life.

The Article II Study Commission has proposed rewriting all of Article II. [Go to this link to see its initial draft](#). This past fall the UUA hosted a number of Zoom forums for UUA members and clergy to provide feedback. A lot of feedback was provided to UUA, and the forums planned for December were postponed. After the end of the feedback period in January 2023, the Article II Study Commission will submit its recommendation to the Board of Trustees for a new Article II.

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

UUCS to Discuss Proposed Changes to UUA Article II

For several years now there have been discussions, research, actions, and proposals for changes to the UUA Bylaws and Principles and Purposes. Votes have been conducted at recent General Assemblies (GA) that seem to be leading to elimination of some of our Seven Principles and rewriting others.

UUCS sends several official delegates to General Assemblies. Two "ex officio" delegates are our minister and religious education director. We will also have four or five "member" delegates depending on the certified size of our UUCS congregation. At the 2023 General Assembly delegates will vote on proposed changes. Your Committee on Ministry (CoM) has followed discussions and wants members and friends of UUCS to be informed. At our Annual Meeting members may be asked to vote directing how our delegates should vote at the 2023 GA.

The proposed changes to Article II have been the subject of much discussion, if not controversy. You might read and consider [Rebecca Pace's op-ed piece about the direction of proposed changes](#). A lengthy analysis of changes to the UUA Principles and Purposes can be found [on this Fifth Principle Project web link](#).



Reverend Rick also has some concerns about the proposed changes and will address these issues in his sermon on January 22. The GA Committee and the CoM plan to facilitate discussions after some Sunday Services. As part of this educational process, they hope to have a speaker who favors the proposed changes so that members and friends of UUCS will have a balanced understanding of the proposed changes.

General Assembly in Pittsburg, June 21-25



The annual UUA General Assembly will be in Pittsburg, June 21-25, 2023. Over a 5-day immersive experience that can be either in-person or virtual, attendees will participate in inspirational worship services and informative workshops, reconvene with friends and colleagues, and experience the vibrant exhibit hall. GA is an unforgettable experience for the thousands of UUs who attend. Join General Assembly in Pittsburgh or online, and you'll leave with renewed energy and innovative ideas to share with your congregation and community-at-large.

[Here is a link to the General Assembly flyer](#) with more information.

Behind the Chalice

Behind the Chalice January 2023

For January from Behind the Chalice we have for you—Greg Gregg. You have greeted him at the door and have heard his thoughts on the state of humankind, so you already know him at least a little.

What positions do you serve for Sunday Services? *Greeter and Homilist.*

What do you most like about your position/s? *It is a pleasure to greet folks on Sunday. So many smiles, and more hugs than I can count. It is a privilege to share stories from my spiritual journey with the Unitarian Universalist community.*

What is one thing you would change? *I would add more people to the congregation.*

What is your idea of perfect happiness? *Being useful and making a positive difference in the Community and at home.*

What is your greatest achievement? *Being married and surviving to 76.*

What do you regard as the lowest depths of despair? *Considering suicide before I realized that I had the power to change my life.*

Who or what is the greatest love of your life? *The incredible Ms. Gregg.*

Who are your heroes in fiction? *Doc Ricketts from "Cannery Row", Atticus Finch from "To Kill a Mockingbird", and Granny Weatherwax from Terry Pratchett's Diskworld series.*

Who are your heroes in real life? *Bernie Sanders, Konrad Lorenz, Gandhi, Henry David Thoreau, Harriet Tubman, Liz Cheney, and more.*

What is a meaningful piece of music for you? *Concerto For Piano and Orchestra No. 2 In F Minor, Op.21 by Chopin; "Under the Boardwalk" – The Drifters 1964.*

Where do you like to go in nature to revive? *Usually, the Willamette River or the Oregon Coast.*

Social Justice News and Commentary

Kindness

I have watched several "Kindness 101" segments with Steve Hartman on the CBS Morning Show. I was impressed with all the ways kindness can be expressed and how kindness made a difference. If you have not seen any of the segments watch ["A Lesson in Gratitude"](#), a fascinating 6-minute example of gratitude. Kindness and social justice? Yes, kindness can be an act of social justice. In the broadest sense social justice is about how we treat each other. I've found that even small act of kindness can make a difference in a person's life, and, from personal experience, big acts of kindness made a profound difference.

The Wednesday evening before New Year's Day CBS broadcast ["The Gift: Kindness Goes Viral"](#) with Steve Hartman. It's 44 minutes long and worth watching. CBS described the broadcast as follows:

“It examines how one simple act of kindness creates a ripple effect. Giving a haircut to a homeless man, helping pay for an adoption. Steve calculates a formula with an MIT professor on what it takes for an act of kindness to spread. The boy who says his bus driver was the dad he always wanted. Ordinary people commit extraordinary acts, changing lives, and inspiring others.”

The theme of “The Gift” is how to make kindness go viral. It’s very simple to make kindness go viral; all one needs to do is if you experience kindness pay it forward by being kind to more than one person. Better yet, don’t wait to experience an act of kindness, show kindness to others. Kindness should be a habit, a habit that makes a difference in people’s lives. I’ve experienced acts of kindness several times and they did make a difference in my life. Let’s make kindness a core personal value.

Sock, Hat, and Glove Drive—A Success!

The Sock, Hat, and Glove drive for the homeless is a success. We collected over 200 socks, hats, and gloves. Bob Francis distributed them in conjunction with Cindy’s Room Service where coffee is provided to the homeless along with other things they need.

Next Social Justice Meeting January 5

All are welcome to attend the next social justice meeting on Thursday, January 5 at 7 pm. The Zoom link for the meeting is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86589283789>.

~John Prohodsky, Social Justice Team Chair

Splinters from the Board

Committee on Human Resources Report

Craig Rowland reported on the new salary guidelines that the Unitarian Universalist Association has published. The UUCS congregation size and budget places it in between the UUA steps in the salary guidelines. The Board will review its salary structure when the 2023-24 budget is proposed.

UUCS Article II Study Commission

Bob Muir reported that the Board’s General Assembly Committee has been reviewing the changes proposed to UUA Article II. The Group participated in the online forums that were held last month. The Group and the Board will work with Reverend Rick and the Committee on the Ministry to inform the congregation about the proposed changes and the potential UUCS response.

Building Security

As reported in the November Splinters, there have been ongoing problems with break-ins in the Kaleidoscope yurts. Kaleidoscope has hired a security company to address this problem. The police have been involved. Kaleidoscope has installed 7 cameras.

A Security Team is being formed to deal with general building security issues. Because this issue also involves church property, there is a question about UUCS responsibility for some of the security costs. This issue will be discussed at the January Board retreat.

Strategic Plan Goals Update

The Team Council adopted four 2022-23 Strategic Plan goals at its November meeting. At its December 11 meeting, the Council discussed the four long-term goals and the need for teams to have related short-term goals which may vary between teams. Team Council members will develop ideas which will be discussed in January. Each of the goals will have documentable outcomes that can be reported to the Board.

Use of Bequests and Other Funds for Facilities Maintenance

There are some available resources, including recent bequests, to address some of the deferred maintenance projects. The Facilities Team has prepared preliminary estimates for carpeting and for air-conditioning. Once the Board has firm cost estimates, the Finance Team will be requested to explore the funds available to finance projects.

~Lynn Cardiff, Board Chair

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
January Share the Plate Recipient: <u>Family Promise</u>		

Sunday, January 8

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

"Finding Our Center"

The Soul Matters Theme for January is Finding Our Center, a good way to reflect on the new year and what it might bring us. Join Rev. Rick as he shares his thoughts on how finding our center can be important to our spiritual practice and then join others after the service for some soup and rolls in the fellowship hall.

Celebrant: Janet Stevens

Music: Greg Lief

Sunday, January 15

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

"Thirty Years of Memories"

There aren't many congregations able to sustain a long-term relationship with a minister in these unsettled times. No UU congregation in the Pacific Northwest and few continent-wide have had the same minister for as long as UUCS has had—30 years. This speaks volumes about the goodness and tolerance of the members and the core strength of the congregation. Too many congregations expect perfect ministers and few congregations learn to accept and encourage the flawed but well-intentioned souls who experience a call to serve the greater good.

Celebrant: Sara Pickett

Music: Jon Chinburg, Music Director, Loriann Schmidt, pianist

Cantor: Marcia Christenson

Sunday, January 22

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

"Freedom of Conscience"

A look at the UU Principles of democracy and freedom of conscience in contrast to changes at the UUA level that may be too radical to be truly helpful to the growth of UU.

Celebrant: Brenna Norval

Music: Loriann Schmidt, pianist

Sunday, January 29

Sara Pickett, Homilist

"All I Ask of You is..."

As we travel along in life, we encounter many teachers on the way. Some may even become what we might call mentors. On our journeys in the search for truth and meaning, how much is already within ourselves and how much do others influence us, and should they?

Celebrant: Gloria Holland

Music: Loriann Schmidt, pianist

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, Elsa Struble and Kathleen McKinney.

EVENT SCHEDULING: use the [Event Scheduling Request](#) form on the UUCS website to add events 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, **February 3, 2023.**

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