



# *The Chalice and the Flame*

*Diverse people. Diverse beliefs. One community.*

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

## February 2023

### **RSVPs Are Needed Before February 10 for Women's Retreat**

To help us lock in our reservations at Suttle Lake Camp, we need your RSVP with your intent to go by emailing [womensgroup@uusalem.org](mailto:womensgroup@uusalem.org) before February 10. If you identify as female, join us for a relaxing, reflective, insightful, and fun weekend at the UUCS Women's Retreat beginning on Friday, June 2 and ending in the afternoon on Sunday, June 4.

~Submitted by Faith Rockenstein



### **"Tending our Flame" Pledge Drive Begins February 19**



At UUCS we tend our individual and collective flames as long-ago fires in ancient temples were tended, with prayer, intention, and reverence. Today, "Tending our Flame" symbolizes nurturing our spiritual growth and that of our congregation, as well as our compassionate service to the greater community.

Tending our flame helps us keep our center amidst the chaos of our everchanging world. UUCS provides a safe place to blossom and grow spiritually, which in turn allows us to pay it forward to the larger community. As UUCS has regained its normalcy following the pandemic, we are better able to provide programming for

our congregation, rebuild our infrastructure and reach beyond in the spirit of service.

Our congregation stepped up last year and met our budget goal of \$282,000, for which we are extremely grateful. However, this year we are looking at about 9% in higher expenses. These include inflation in the costs of utilities and all other goods and services, and planned staff cost-of-living pay increases to match the federal inflation rate. Our target for the 2023-24 year is \$308,000 just to maintain the status quo with no "extras." "Tending our Flame," this year's Pledge Drive, kicks off on Celebration Sunday, February 19. All members and friends of our congregation are invited to join in.

UUCS needs financial support from all of us to maintain regular functions and to continue serving our community. Annual pledges are crucial for creating our congregation's budget and for fiscal planning concerning our building, staff, and program operations. Members and friends, please give as generously as you are able! Every pledge, large or small, makes a difference.

Pledging will again be online. After February 19, you can find a weblink to the pledge form in the weekly email, "This Week at UUCS," and on the UUCS website. Pledge Team members with laptops will be in the Fellowship Hall on the 19th to assist you with submitting pledge forms. Those without computers or who cannot attend services may call Pledge Team member Mary Beth Hustoles, 503-580-3348, after February 19 for help completing your form. Further details about the Drive will appear in "This Week at UUCS".

### **Board Game Nights Start this Month**

Lifespan Religious Education (LRE) will be sponsoring board game nights in the Fellowship Hall from 6:30 to 8:30 pm on the second Friday of each month; so, put February 9 on your calendar. People may bring their own games and set up at a table or pick from one of the games we have on offer. There will be some snacks available. Kids are welcome if accompanied by an authorized adult; no childcare is available.

### **Chalice Circle Groups Postponed to March**

The start of new "Chalice Circle" groups has been delayed until the first week of March. As [described on our website](#) and previously reported in this monthly newsletter and in "This Week at UUCS", they are like Connections groups, but focus on societal issues. There is still time to [register online here](#). Registration closes February 20.





## Reverential Ramblings

~ Rev. Richard Davis, UUCS's minister

Resilience—that's what I think of during our fellowship hour after Sunday service when I look at everyone doing exactly what gives my heart pleasure to see: people connecting, making new relationships, and restoring older ones, children running around having fun, people finding and creating community.

How starkly different is this scene from recent times when our services were remote and Hanneman Hall would be empty...and feel so empty! Naturally, I was concerned because the longer we were socially distanced the greater was the possibility that our connections would atrophy and even wither away. Would we bounce back from this adversity?

One thing about resilience is that you generally don't know you have it until you need it, and then you discover it. Such is the discovery we are making now as we regather and rebuild and begin to exercise our congregational muscles.

One aspect of this has been to welcome several new folks into our Life Lines Lay Ministry program. We'll be introducing them soon during a worship service so you can get to know them. I'm so grateful to them for offering to join in this ministry of compassionate presence.

Yet another essential ministry is our Religious Education (RE) program, which is more important than ever. Why? Because of how the pandemic has impacted young people across the country: their isolation has led to a mental health crisis that is extensive, tragic, and heartbreaking.

As for us, it's great to see young ones running around here being part of the community. Recently, I loved seeing the emerging youth group sitting at a table in the center of the fellowship hall, and I loved seeing the youngsters serving coffee from their carts to elders. Intergenerational mixing and mingling are good.

There is lots of good energy and that bodes well for our RE program, but it needs to be harnessed and coordinated and this is where YOU might come in.

Studies have shown that children are far more likely to be resilient if they have stable relationships with older people who truly care for them. As a Harvard study concluded, "the single most common factor for children who develop resilience is at least one stable and committed relationship with a supportive parent, care giver, or other adult."

Are you one of those other adults who might be involved in our RE program in one capacity or another? Would you like to help make this a place where our young ones come and find some stability and support?

Whether you have children in the program or not, this could be a place where you could help make a real difference for young ones who are just beginning to find their ways down the path of life.

I'm grateful to those who are now working so hard to enhance the resilience of our Religious Education program, and I know they'll be thrilled to hear from some of you asking how you can be involved. Your first step is to contact RE Director Molly Brown or RE Team Chair Ben Cavaletto. Email Molly at [dlre@uusalem.org](mailto:dlre@uusalem.org) or phone her at (971) 239-738

Love,

Rick. (aka "Ranger Rick" or "Rev Rick")



## Lifespan Religious Exploration

Happy February everyone!

So much is happening this month!

To start with, we are hosting a Hamilton Movie Night Sleepover Event for our Youth Group and Youth Groups from the surrounding areas!

Here are some of this month's religious and UU dates to remember:

### **Interfaith:**

- Jews celebrate *Tu BiShevat* on February 5 and 6
- Nirvana Day or *Parinirvana* Day, Buddha's entry into nirvana, is celebrated by some Buddhists on the 8<sup>th</sup>, but by most on the 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Christians recognize Ash Wednesday this year on February 22.
- The Christian season of Lent will be from February 22 through April 26.

### **Unitarian Universalist:**

- Fannie Barrier Williams was born on February 12, 1855.
- Susan B. Anthony was born on February 15, 1820.
- The "Thirty Days of Love" Side with Love campaign runs from January 15 through February 14.
- The Edict of Torda was issued February 18, 1568.

Also, here are some of the national and cultural holidays and celebrations this month:

- Black History Month
- Season for Nonviolence: January 30 through April 4
- Rosa Parks' birth day: February 4, 1930
- National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day: February 7
- Freedom to Marry Day: February 12
- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was founded February 12, 1909
- Don't Cry Over Spilled Milk Day: April 11
- International Darwin Day (Darwin's Birthday): April 12
- Random Acts of Kindness Day: February 17

There are many, many more—too many to list here; so, look them up! As you can see, we have a **ton** to celebrate this month! I'm so looking forward to all of it!!

In RE this month, we will explore the challenges and paths of.... "LOVE"! Here are the lessons for each week:

- Love for Self
- Love for Family and Friends; Valentine's Day
- Love for Community
- Your Favorite Things: What do you really LOVE? This will be a "show-n-tell" class.

We have a new team of Youth Group Advisors (YGAs)—parents and volunteers who are helping establish classroom and weekly lessons for our new Youth Group Program. If you would like to join the fun and offer your opinion about what you want your children's YG Program to be, contact me or Ben Cavaletto to learn the date and time of the next meeting. Thanks so much for all your hard work, YGA's! The new YG Program will provide endless opportunities for our youth to build relationships and self-esteem, as well as learn about their UU faith together as friends!

Best wishes to you all! Molly Brown, DLRE

# Happenings and Highlights

## Congregation Joins to Celebrate Rev. Rick's 30th Year as Minister



On January 15 the congregation joined in honoring Reverend Rick's 30 years as minister at UUCS. There was a musical slide show featuring images past and present, commemorative sculpture, and many hugs and well wishes. Additionally, the UU Choir sang a song, "The Storyteller," dedicated to Rev. Rick. The song was written by our Music Director, Jon Chinburg, and arranged by choir member Dave Yeakle using words and phrases contributed by members to describe Rick and his unique approach to ministering. The lyrics to "The Storyteller" [are online, here](#).

Thank you all who helped to make January 15 a special Sunday for our own Ranger Rev. Rick Davis and all of us who are part of the UUCS Community as we celebrated thirty years together. Unbeknownst to some of us, at least one of those "Behind the Chalice" was watching our own Tabby cat that morning discover love in our community. For the full (and amusing) scoop on the adventures of Tabby that day, [check out our website](#).

## Learn About Work of UU/IWC Women March 8

You are invited to attend a presentation at 2 pm on Wednesday, March 8 in Hanneman Hall on the exciting work of the UU International Women's Convocation (IWC) around the world. IWC projects include Ukrainian refugee relief through its Transylvanian Unitarian Women partners, leadership training for indigenous women working on domestic violence, COVID education and reproductive health in northeast India, violence prevention against women and children living on Negros Island in the Philippines and supporting schools in Uganda for children orphaned by AIDS.

Eric Schuman will host this exciting program, which will be presented live via Zoom to those attending the Women's Alliance meeting. Presenters will include IWC president, Karen Kortsch, and other IWC board members. All are welcome.

## Safer Congregation Committee Adds New Members

The Safer Congregation Committee is pleased to announce a new addition to our group, Jack Tally. Other members are Reverend Rick, Stephanie Jernstedt, Christine Ertl, Ginny Merriman, Gil Nicholson Nelson, Molly Brown, and Cheryl Randall. Stephanie is our Chair. We would like to add a few more members. If you are interested and want to know more about what we do, the information is on our church website at the [Safer Congregation Committee webpage](#).

During the past year we have developed a document called Restorative Communication Policy and Procedures that outlines steps that can be taken in dealing with conflict as it may arise among members, church staff, or those in leadership positions. Currently, we are looking at planning training for church leadership and others who would like to take part in dealing with destructive and/or inappropriate behavior that may occur at UUCS.

# Article II Revisions Proposed

Significant changes to Article II of our [Unitarian Universalist Association \(UUA\) Bylaws](#) will be proposed at the 2023 General Assembly (GA). Article II states the "Principles and Purposes" of the UUA, which includes the "Seven Principles." To prepare for GA, our UUCS Board created the General Assembly Committee, consisting of four members who agreed to serve as your delegates to the 2023 GA in June. The Board has charged the Committee with educating the congregation concerning General Assembly and matters that may come before it, in part because the congregation may direct its member delegates on how to vote on matters before GA. Since last summer, the Committee been submitting articles on changes to Article II in this newsletter and in the weekly email. More articles will follow. In the meantime, if you have questions about the proposed revisions to Article II or other General Convention matters, email the GA Committee at [genassemblycom@uusalem.org](mailto:genassemblycom@uusalem.org).

At the January 2023 meeting of the UUA Board of Trustees, the Article II Study Commission submitted its [Article II Study Report 2021-2023](#), which includes proposed revisions to Article II. The UUA board has not acted on the proposal and as noted during the meeting there are likely to be proposed amendments to it. Nevertheless, we recommend study of the current proposal and the process by which it will be considered.



The UUA Bylaws, including Article II, have been amended several times since the UUA was formed on May 15, 1961. Compare, for example, [the original six principles](#) with [our current seven](#). UUA Bylaws Article XV, Section C-15.1 (6) requires a study, with possible revision, of Article II at least every 15 years.

The Commission explains the whole process in [its Report](#). On pages 6-9, it states the board's Charge to the Commission, identifying several matters that the Board wanted the Commission to address in its review and recommendations. As noted on page 11, the Commission sought and obtained further direction from the 2021 General Assembly. Approval of this direction required a vote of at least two-thirds of those voting. Then, on page 13, the Commission explains how it approached its review. The current Article II appears on pages 17-18 of the Report. Finally, the proposed revisions are found on pages 19-22.

The entire Report should be studied and considered thoughtfully and is only summarized here. One basic change would be the replacement of seven "principles" with seven "values," illustrated in a diagram on page 20. At the center of the diagram is the image of the chalice with **Love** in the flame. Around the center are interweaving lines like six flower petals. In each petal is one of the following: **Independence, Equity, Transformation, Pluralism, Generosity and Justice**. Each value is explained in the proposed revision. Here is an example from Section C-2.2 Values and Covenant.

As Unitarian Universalists, we covenant, congregation-to-congregation and through our association, to support and assist one another in our ministries. We draw from our heritages of freedom, reason, hope and courage building on the foundation of love.

Love is the power that holds us together and is at the center of our shared values. We are accountable to one another for doing the work of living our shared values through the spiritual discipline of Love.

Section C-2.5 affirms individual freedom of belief and congregational autonomy. The section on **Justice** affirms support of "inclusive democratic processes to make decisions." These and other topics will be in later articles.

~Bob Muir, Chair GA Committee

## Help Wanted and Appreciated!

### Consider Serving on Our Board!

Have you been a member of UUCS at least a year? Are you looking for ways to contribute your time and thoughtfulness to our congregation? Why not consider serving on the Board of Directors? If you are interested or have any questions, email Barbara Stebbins-Boaz, Nominating Committee chair: [bstebbin@willamette.edu](mailto:bstebbin@willamette.edu).

### Feedback Requested on Share the Plate Recipients for 2023-24

The Fundraising Committee is responsible for selecting "Share the Plate" recipients for each year, according to Finance Team Policies and Procedures, and asks you to provide feedback at [fundraisingcom@uusalem.org](mailto:fundraisingcom@uusalem.org).

Here is our proposed list for July 2023 through June 2024; those with an asterisk would be new this year: [Oregon Black Pioneers](#); [Planned Parenthood Columbia Willamette\\*](#); [HOME Youth and Resource Center](#); [Salem for Refugees\\*](#); [Microfinance](#); [IMIrJ Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice](#); [Family Promise](#); [Marion Polk Food Share](#); [Partner Church](#); [Minister's Discretionary Fund](#); [Salem Harvest](#); [Nellie Thompson-Dorothy Patch Scholarship Fund](#).

### Microfinance Thanks You for Your Support

Thank you for Making a Difference in the Lives of the Poorest of the Poor! The UUCS Microfinance Committee is grateful for the continuing support of the UUCS Congregation for microfinance projects that benefit the poorest of the poor in Nicaragua and India. Our fundraising efforts raised \$5,570 which we will be donating to our partner non-profit organization, The NEO Fund. See [www.theneofund.org](http://www.theneofund.org). To learn more about us, check out our web page at: <https://uusalem.org/connection/affiliated-ministries/microfinance/>

### Family Promise Week at UUCS a Success

The UUCS Family Promise Team is deeply grateful to members of the congregation and Kaleidoscope School who chose to help us with hosting Family Promise for the first time in three years. Because of you, we were able to house and feed four lovely families, consisting of six adults and nine children. It was a lively bunch! Thank you for stepping up to cook, sleep over, provide company, set up, and clean up. You made a difference.



# Social Justice News

## Point-In-Time Homeless Census

I participated in the well-organized Point-In-Time homeless census with my wife. Participating provides a safe way to talk with the houseless and to see how they live. I strongly urge anyone and everyone to volunteer for the Point-In-Time organized by [the Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance](#). When you sign up online you have a choice of when and where to volunteer. Where you volunteer is where you meet to be assigned to an area to survey and get goodies to hand out to the houseless. Volunteers do not go to unsafe areas such as large camps; those areas are counted by outreach workers. Volunteers never go out by themselves. The census data was captured using a cellphone app, Counting Us. We had a positive experience interviewing 7 people.

## Seeking Laws that Allow Income-adjusted Traffic Fines and Fees

The Social Justice Team is considering asking the Oregon Legislature for legislation which would allow judges to consider a person's ability to pay traffic fines and fees. We feel this will help prevent houselessness. An unexpected expense for people living paycheck to paycheck might be a traffic ticket of \$260 for running a red light, \$265 for failure to yield, and \$315 for improper passing. If a payday or car title loan is used to pay the fine, it's much more expensive and that expense can also result in houselessness. Twelve states consider a person's ability to pay traffic fines and fees; so, why can't Oregon?

## Oregon Interfaith Earth Summit

This year's Oregon Interfaith Earth Summit, sponsored by Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon and Oregon Interfaith Power and Light, is the first to have in-person gatherings distributed across the state. The February 5 summit's Salem location was the Micah Center of the First Methodist Church. John Prohodsky gave a brief presentation on UUCS's sustainable practices and investments to reduce our energy use. The summit's organizers are following up with discussions to create a Salem "**green church interfaith group**" to promote "green" churches.

## Health Care for All Oregon

Health Care for All Oregon has expressed interest in giving a presentation at UUCS after a Sunday Service. More information will be forthcoming.

## After Service Social Justice Discussion

A social justice discussion will follow service on February 19. What are your social justice priorities and ideas?  
~John Prohodsky, Chair, Social Justice Team

# Splinters from the Board

## Minister's Report

Rick reported that the congregation seems happy to be back in communication after the COVID isolation. Lifelines Lay Ministry has new energy and several new volunteers, and the Connections Groups are thriving. Led by new member Theresa, UUCS will soon test the concept of a Chalice Circle Connections-type group.

## Lifespan Religious Education Monthly Report

UUCS youth and the Corvallis youth have connected. The ballroom dance class filled immediately. It is hoped that the class can be held at UUCS in the future to allow for more participants. UUCS youth will continue to assist with coffee service, and this will be evaluated in a few weeks. Attendance numbers are very encouraging. Ben reported that as part of leadership development, the RE Director will be visiting other congregations.

## Music Team Monthly Report

The Music Team is working to reestablish the diversity concert series and is working with Rick and Barbara Stebbins-Boaz to include more diversity in hymn selection. The Team is also working on expanding membership in the choir as folks return after the pandemic hiatus. As part of his leadership development, the Music Director will be reaching out to music directors at other congregations.

## Strategic Plan Goals Update

The Team Council adopted four 2022-23 Strategic Plan goals at its November meeting. Sara provided a brief update on the work with the council.

~Linn Cardiff, UUCS Board Chair

# 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>February Share the Plate Recipient:</b> <a href="#">Marion Polk Food Share</a>		

**Sunday, February 12**

**The Rev. Richard R. Davis**

**" Do You Love? Are You Loved?"**

The Soul Matters Theme for February is "Love," a topic that we humans have cherished since our beginning. Join Rev. Rick as he shares his thoughts about the many and varied ways love can be important to our spiritual practice and then join others after the service for some soup and rolls in the fellowship hall.

**Celebrant:** Sara Pickett  
**Cantor:** Marcia Christenson

**Sunday, February 19**

**Janet Stevens, Homilist**

**"Tending Our Flame"**

This is "Celebration Sunday", the start of UCCS Annual Pledge Drive. Come hear Homilist Janet Stevens and others tell their stories of how they have "Tended the Flame" of UUCS.

**Celebrant:** Bob Muir  
**Music:** UUCS Choir

**Sunday, February 26**

**The Rev. Richard R. Davis**

**" Do I Have Free Will? Or Was This Sermon Pre-Determined?"**

One of the perennial questions that philosophers and theologians have grappled with is whether we have free will or not. Modern science has weighed in on this and has largely concluded that we do not; so, what can we make of this?

**Celebrant:** Brenna Norval  
**Cantor:** Faith Rockenstein

**Sunday, March 5**

**The Rev. Richard R. Davis**

**"Edify"**

The quaint old word "edify" can be a useful litmus test to help you discern what helps or hinders you in your life.

**Celebrant:** Sara Pickett  
**Music:** UUCS Choir  
**Cantor:** Connie Anderson

# Unitarian Universalist Congregation Of Salem

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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 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, **March 3, 2023.**

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