



The Chalice and the Flame

Diverse people. Diverse beliefs. One community.

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

March 2023

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. Their projects include Ukrainian refugee relief with Transylvanian Unitarian Women partners, leadership training to 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 AIDS-orphaned children.

Eric Schuman hosts this exciting program. The presenters, IWC president Karen Kortsch and other IWC board members, will be speaking live via Zoom video to those attending the meeting.

Hear Zachary Gulaboff-Davis Music at Free Concert March 9

Reverend Richard Davis and Mrs. Gordana Gulaboff-Davis would like to you know that Zachary Gulaboff-Davis' music will be performed at Sprague High School Auditorium on March 9 at 7 pm. The concert is free.

UUCS Art Exhibition "Celebrating Creativity" March 12-19

The UUCS Art Works Team invites congregants of all ages and artistic experience to submit one piece of their original art work for exhibition at the church from March 12 - 19.

Participants are encouraged to offer their work for sale. 60% of the sale price will go to the artist and 40% will go to the UUCS Art Works Team. Each participant should read the requirements and [fill out and sign the entry form available here](#). Submit the form when you bring your artwork between noon and 6 pm on Wednesday, March 8, or by making special arrangements. A \$5 entry fee should accompany each entry. (Checks should be made payable to UUCS.) This is to help cover the costs of hanging the show. Sales will help raise funds to support the arts at the church.



Enjoy March Madness During Coffee Time After Services

March 12

- The congregation is encouraged to attend a class on *Proposed Changes to Article II of the UUA Bylaws*, which includes changes to the present "7 Principles."
- The *Art Works Spring Art Show* will display works by your UUCS friends which you may purchase.

March 19

- It's *Soup Day*.
- The *Partner Church Team* offers items for purchase to help support our partner church in Simenfalva.
- The *Art Works Spring Art Show* will again be offering works by our UUCS friends for purchase.

March 26

- The congregation is offered a second class on *Proposed Changes to Article II*, including the "7 Principles."

Youth, Go Bowling Spring Break!

Middle and High schoolers are invited to join the youth group for bowling at the REC, 3500 River Rd N, Keizer, Oregon. RSVP by March 21 to LRE.team@uusalem.org.



Reverential Ramblings

~ Rev. Richard Davis, UUCS's minister

You might have heard that former President Jimmy Carter—at 98 years the oldest surviving president in US history—is now on hospice. I was living in Washington D.C. when he was elected in 1976 and remember watching him walk, instead of ride, down Pennsylvania Avenue during his inauguration. Carter was the first president elected from the deep South since the Civil War, and for me—a native Georgian—and many others, this symbolized a healing moment in our nation's history, especially considering Carter's strong support for Civil Rights for all Americans.

The next time I saw President Carter in person was a decade later after his presidency when he spoke to my class in systematic theology at Emory University's Candler School of Theology in Atlanta. He served on the faculty as a "University Distinguished Professor," which meant that he could drop in on any class if he felt he had something to offer various students.

Carter was familiar with the works of earlier major 20th century Christian theologians who had been public intellectuals, e.g., Reinhold Niebuhr, and he told us that we needed to reclaim that public role—that the abstract, academic jargon of much contemporary theology was not helpful to regular people trying to figure out how to live in our modern times.

It's a struggle Carter knew well. He was raised in the Southern Baptist tradition. But during the time he was in office, the Southern Baptist leadership fell into the hands of fundamentalists who opposed the liberal direction of the movement. Hitherto, Southern Baptists supported the autonomy of local churches and the notion that each person has access to the sacred and no church officials are empowered to infringe upon each member's "soul liberty" (known as "soul competency"). That is, no one has the right to push your conscience around or bully you into believing something that does not seem true to you. Yet, the fundamentalists now insisted that every member affirm the literal inerrancy of scripture.

By the time that President Carter visited us, he and many others had left the Southern Baptist Church to form the moderate Cooperative Baptist Fellowship that preserved the original spiritual prerogatives of members. Whereas the fundamentalist leaders of his former church were interested in promoting firm adherence to a strict interpretation of the bible, Carter knew that his faith called him to promote strict adherence to the call to love one's neighbors through practical actions. And he considered the entire world to be his neighborhood.

Pretty soon, I expect we'll be reading this great soul's obituary and learn more about his unrelenting efforts to bring peace to the Middle East (for which he won the Nobel Peace Prize), his vast and tireless humanitarian endeavors to eradicate disease, build houses, and monitor human rights. He stands alone among ex-presidents for having sealed his reputation and stature by virtue of what he accomplished after he left office.

Some years ago, one of my ministerial colleagues told me about visiting the church in Plains, Georgia, where Carter taught Sunday School. When he learned that she was a Unitarian Universalist minister he asked her to lead the prayer that day—something a fundamentalist Southern Baptist would not have done. His understanding of Christianity led him to build bridges, not burn them.

So, my prayer is that when the time of President Carter's passing comes our divided nation will pause in gratitude and then find inspiration to emulate his shining example, which will remind us of "the better angels of our natures" (as Lincoln put it) that are calling us all to find common loving ground in this world.

Love, Rick



Lifespan Religious Exploration

Welcome to March everyone!

I can't believe it's already the third month of the year and it's still snowing one day and sunny the next! I was so happy to get to enjoy a snow day with my kids, sipping hot cocoa and watching them have a snow ball fight! I hope your families enjoyed the snow as well!

This month in Lifespan Religious Exploration (LRE) we will explore the challenges and paths of vulnerability. Each path includes an exploration of a moment of vulnerability. Our aim is to explore four key moments when life asks us to be vulnerable. Each path includes a statement that expresses how we are being asked to be vulnerable. Life asks us to be vulnerable...

- Lesson A: When We Seek Friendship (On the ability to say, "I like you.")
- Lesson B: When We Can't Do It on Our Own (On the ability to say "I need help.")
- Lesson C: When We Hope (On the ability to say "I trust it will happen.")
- Lesson D: When We Show Our True Selves (On the ability to say "This is me.")

This month, we're excited about introducing "vulnerability" as a "leap of faith."

Updates this month:

The LRE kids will have a special guest on March 12 to teach us a new song! On March 17, St Patrick's Day we will have another Parents' Night Out event! The cost is \$20 for one child and \$35 for 2 children which will include 3 hours of childcare supervised by teachers and volunteers approved by the Central Background Registry and recipients of CPR/First Aid Certification, dinner, a movie, and fun St Patrick's Day activities! Enjoy a night out! 5 pm to 8 pm! RSVP by emailing me at dlre@uusalem.org! Reverend Rick will present a special story during TFAA on March 26 and Easter Sunday! We love Reverend Ricks stories! Can't wait!

Kaleidoscope has two open house events in the Fellowship Hall on March 26 and April 22, if you're interested in learning more about our Reggio Emilia-Influenced Nature Farm School for preschool through fifth grade! Feel free to phone 971-239-7384 to let me know you're coming. Members of the church receive a 10% discount on tuition, and we accept ERDC from DHS! [Check online.](#)

Kaleidoscope also has openings for kids in the Salem/Keizer School District to attend school during Spring Break for those parents that still work! Let me know if you're interested!

With Easter coming up, the LRE Team is already starting to plan so that we have more than enough eggs for the kids this year! If you came last year, you probably remember how many families showed up! It was an amazing turnout, and we want this year to be even more fun! If you'd like to volunteer to fill some eggs in your free time, please let a member of the LRE Team know!

If you're available to volunteer in LRE with the kids and/or Youth Group, please talk to me, Sara, Lynn or Ben about signing up to volunteer!

Thanks so much and we hope to see you Sunday.

Molly Brown,
DLRE UUCS
(971) 239-7384

More Happenings and Highlights

American Sign Language Classes Resume in March

ASL classes will resume on Saturday mornings from 10:30 to 11:30, beginning March 25 and continuing on April 1, 15, 29 and May 6. Classes may continue depending on the interest level. You can join anytime, but it is best to join at the start, so everyone is on the same lesson plan.

Salem realtor Koli Cutler has worked as an ASL interpreter for many years. He is passionate about continuing to teach people how to sign and kindly offers his services free of charge. Any age is welcome to come and learn with us. Celeste Lizanich and the LRE program are organizers.

Be a Part of the 2023 Women's Retreat

Don't forget to register and pay for the Women's Retreat being held at Suttle Lake in one of their lodges, from June 2 to June 4. The \$170 cost covers all activities, food, and lodging. A non-refundable deposit of \$50 is required to reserve your space by April 1. For more info, pictures, and to reserve a spot and pay, see the UUCS website, or contact Faith Rockenstein at womensgroup@uusalem.org.

Pledge Drive Underway!

The UUCS annual pledge drive "Tending our Flame" has begun! It's exciting to see that pledges are already coming in. We are optimistic we will reach our goal of \$308,000, which is 9% over last year's goal due to inflation and cost of living increases for staff but reflects what we need to maintain our annual budget at current levels. This will enable us to maintain our capacities to provide programming for our congregation, rebuild our infrastructure and reach beyond our walls in service. The following information hopefully answers questions you may have about pledging to support UUCS.



What is the Pledge Drive? UUCS's annual operating budget is based

primarily on the Annual Pledge Drive. The **Estimate of Giving** forms we provide, and you fill out during the Pledge Drive, enable our Finance Team and Board to assess our ability to provide program and services in the coming church year and to plan accordingly. Only pledging members may vote at congregational meetings. At the annual meeting in May, members can check their pledging status and make corrections if needed.

Who does UUCS ask to pledge or donate? UUCS asks all members to pledge. Members cannot vote at congregational meetings without pledging. Friends of the congregation who attend services or programs are encouraged to join us in financial support of our community. We are a community of about two hundred families, so each gift is important. Other income sources, such as share-the-plate, building rentals and fundraising events, are still recovering from COVID-19 restrictions. So, donations by members and friends are needed even more.

How much should I pledge? We are asking all our members and friends to increase current pledges by 9%. For example, a \$100 monthly pledge would increase to \$109 per month. Of course, the amount you pledge depends on your household's financial situation. Large or small, every pledge helps our community.

When do I fulfill my pledge? Pledges made in February or March 2023 should be paid during the next church year: July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024.

How do I pay a pledge? Most members and friends contribute once or twice each month. Many authorize UUCS to automatically receive regular payments through their bank's "bill pay" feature. Others place their checks in the plate on Sunday or mail them to UUCS. A monthly donation can be set up at no cost through PayPal Giving. Some make payments when they can. Some contribute a lump sum to cover the entire year.

What if my financial circumstances change during the year and I can't keep up with my pledge? Should a change occur in your financial status, and you are unable to meet your pledge, it is possible to adjust your pledge during the fiscal year by sending in a revised pledge form through the web site, or by contacting the office.

Your pledge contributes to the success not only of the Pledge Drive but to our congregation's ability to maintain our worship and music experiences, pastoral care, child and adult religious education, and to increase the impact of our community outreach. Every contribution helps! Fill out your **Estimate of Giving** form online by clicking on the Make Your Pledge button.

[Make Your Pledge](#)

“Starting Point” for Newcomers and Current Members Begins April 2

Starting Point is a four-session experiential group facilitated by the Membership Team. Participants will learn about the historical and theological roots of Unitarian Universalism, have a chance to share their spiritual journeys, and receive suggestions on how they can become more involved in the life of the congregation. Its purpose is to help newcomers decide if this congregation is the right fit for them. (There will be an opportunity to sign the membership book at the end of the last session if that is their decision.) It will also be a great way for established members to refresh their personal search for truth and meaning and to make new friends. All are welcome to join this group!

The titles of the four sessions are:

- Your Journey—Sharing Our Stories and Spiritual Roadmaps,
- The Unitarian Universalist Journey & The Journey of Our Church,
- Our Journey Together: The Three Paths of Unitarian Universalism, Part 1, and
- Our Journey Together: The Three Paths of Unitarian Universalism, Part 2 and Finding Your Journey Group.

Behind the Chalice

For the month of March, we focus on **Carelynn Patterson**, who you likely greet on Sundays at the door of the Sanctuary as she hands you the printed order of service. She has also taken over Loraine Stuart’s job of delivering the weekly food donations to Marion Polk Food Share. Let’s learn a little more about Carelynn.

Positions I hold at UUCS include being a Host, Marion Polk Food Share deliverer, and new Life Lines Lay Ministry member.

What I like is getting to greet longtime and newcomer friends. Especially the older people that I have known most all my life. I’m new to Life Lines Lay Ministry and am excited about this new chapter in my life.

One thing I would change would be to bring back printed announcements.

My greatest achievement is being a teacher, coach, friend, and mother.

The greatest love of my life would be my grandmother (my mom’s mother).

My favorite place to be is the beach. I also love Ankeny Hill Wildlife Refuge.

My favorite book is **The Giving Tree**.

My favorite movie is **Rocky Horror Picture Show**.

The most important thing I do is work with the homeless.

One thing I struggle with is technology.

I would most like to see more peace and love in this world and the community at large.

I live with two cats, and am a mother of a twenty-two-year-old son.

One of my newer focuses is my darling little great niece, Amillya.

~Until next month, we remain yours – from Behind the Chalice

Help Wanted and Appreciated!

Volunteers Needed for End-of-Life Choices

The Salem volunteers for End-of-Life Choices of Oregon (EOLCOR) are seeking more volunteers. Many of our current volunteers are members of UUCS. EOLCOR helps people to understand Oregon's Death with Dignity law, helps people to navigate the application process if they choose to go that route, and can help people with a planned death if necessary. If you think you want to help, email Steve Rosen at sjr1948@gmail.com or Margrethe Gregg at mudroom23@yahoo.com.



You Can Be a "Treasurer" to UUCS!

Are you comfortable reviewing accounts of income, expenses and financial assets that are maintained by a bookkeeper and reporting that information to a board? If so, you could help support our congregation by serving as Treasurer of the UUCS Board of Trustees. For further details, contact our interim Treasurer, Lorna Youngs at lyoungs@comcast.net, or Barbara Stebbins-Boaz, Nominating Committee chair at bstebbin@willamette.edu.



We Need a Custodian

UUCS is seeking to hire a new custodian who can work independently and prioritize cleaning responsibilities throughout the week. This position is part time, 10 hours a week. Pay starts at \$14.00, depending on experience.

The job requires the ability to walk or stand for prolonged periods, bending, stooping, reaching up, and lifting up to 50 pounds, the ability to use motorized equipment, identify and prioritize cleaning tasks and self-led work, and ability to read, comprehend and follow safety material and facility and other required documents.

The UUCS Office will be accepting applications until 11:59 pm on March 17, 2023. Contact the office for more information via email at office@uusalem.org or leave a message at 503-364-0932. Applicants should submit their resume and cover letter, in pdf format, to UUCS via email or mail to 5090 Center St NE, Salem, OR 97317.

Help Needed with UUCS EarthWISE Recertification

The Facilities Team needs someone to lead our EarthWISE re-certification effort. Marion County recognizes UUCS conservation practices with an EarthWISE certificate. Those practices include energy conservation, water conservation, recycling, waste reduction, purchasing, and conservation culture. To obtain recertification, we will need to obtain a copy of the last EarthWISE assessment, do a walk-through with a Marion County EarthWISE representative, fill out the application, and then do a certification walk-through. Our recertification leader will work with the facilities team and staff to assess whether our practices are adequate. Deficiencies will be corrected by the facilities team and staff. Because we currently are EarthWISE certified, we do not anticipate many corrections will be needed. If you can help, contact John Prohodsky at jprouu@gmail.com.

Social Justice News

Social Justice Survey

You can help the Social Justice Team understand UUCS's social justice priorities by taking [a brief 3-minute survey online here](#). It asks about how you spend your time and money on social justice activities. It also asks whether our social justice program should focus on local or national issues, and whether to emphasize direct citizen action or legislation in addressing social justice issues. The results will appear in the April newsletter.

Splinters from the Board

Minister's Report

Rick reported that Lifelines Lay Ministry now has more than double the number of lay ministers. He suggested reopening the parking lot across the street for additional parking to be used by those able to walk that distance safely. The Chalice Circles program is about to start in March. Starting Point classes are scheduled for April. Rick made several suggestions on how to improve the visibility of congregational leaders.

Treasurer Report and Pledge Drive Update

Teams and committees are urged to purchase needed items before the end of the fiscal year. The revenue needs for the next fiscal year will be significantly higher than the current fiscal year. The Board has set a Pledge Drive target sufficient to fund staff cost of living adjustments at the Federal 8.7% rate and fund the inflation increases in operating costs. It is unlikely that there will be funding to add new program activities or new staff.

Facilities Team Report

The Team is recommending replacing the current sanctuary carpet with 2-foot x 2-foot carpet squares in a color scheme compatible with the existing carpet base, which is used for the molding strips that will stay along the walls. These squares can be easily removed and replaced if needed. The Board will discuss final approval of this project at its February retreat. There was an inquiry as to the status of purchasing air conditioning units. The Board will review proposals for this project after the carpeting project is approved.

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
March Share the Plate Recipient: Our Simenfalva Partner Church		

Sunday, March 12

The Rev. Craig Moro

" In Praise of Eggs and Oysters "

There are very important reasons why eggs and oysters have shells, and why brains have skulls. We could also say there are reasons why shells "have" eggs or oysters, why skulls "have" brains, why nails have fingers and teeth have tongues and lips! The Dr. Seuss classic Scrambled Eggs Super sets up this morning's meditation on hard and soft, and why we need both to support our lives.

Celebrant: Bob Muir
Music: Marcia Christenson

Sunday, March 19

Gloria Holland, Homilist and Story Teller

" Notable UU Women in History: Celebrating Women's History Month "

Much is often made of UU's male forbearers. As we celebrate Women's History Month, we will examine the stories of many UU women who have contributed to our history. Some of these names - and their accomplishments - may surprise you!

Celebrant: Brenna Norval
Music: UUCS Choir

Sunday, March 26

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

"What is Evil"

Is there such a thing as evil? If there is, what leads it to arise and how can we respond?

Celebrant: Janet Stevens
Music: Faith Rockenstein

Sunday, April 2

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

"The Courage to Speak Your Truth"

We will also honor a UUCS "Mighty Oak" recipient.

Celebrant: Barbara Stebbins-Boaz
Music: UUCS Choir

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 31, 2023.**
This Week submissions are due by **Wed.** noon.