



The Chalice and the Flame

Diverse people. Diverse beliefs. One community.

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

June 2023

Firewood Available at Church!

The firewood that came from Bateman Woods has now migrated from the south parking lot to the north parking lot, thanks to nine pickup loads transported by the Landscape team. If you are interested in buying some or all, please contact Tom Lancefield at woodrat2@hotmail.com. If you know of low-income people who might need firewood, please contact Alan Holland at aholland49@comcast.net. This very special wood has been inspected and blessed by Reverend Rick!

Parents' Night Out June 9

Drop off your kiddos at the church by 6:30 pm, on Friday, June 9 for some dinner, popcorn, games, and a special screening of the new Super Mario Bros Movie!!

The cost per child is \$20, or \$30 for two, for 2.5 hours of childcare, dinner, popcorn, games and fun!



10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's Disease (Part 2) June 22



At 11 am on Thursday, June 22 at UUCS, Life Lines Lay Ministry will present Part 2 in the Alzheimer's Educational Series "10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's Disease." Attendees will gain an understanding of the difference between age-related memory loss and Alzheimer's and what to do if they or someone they know has signs of the disease. Topics covered will include risk factors, overview of Alzheimer's disease, and what is involved in getting a diagnosis and treatment. The event is free of charge and light snacks will be provided.

Jolly Diners Meet Again June 22

The May Jolly Diners get together was extremely Jolly! There were a couple of early unjolly moments but those were quickly forgiven. In fact, Jollity bubbled over! The June dinner is at 6 pm on Thursday, June 22, at Marco Polo Restaurant. Please inform Steve Rosen at sjr1948@gmail.com by noon on June 22 if you plan to "Co-Jolly" with us.



Sign Ups Coming for Connections Groups and Chalice Circles!

Get ready because your dream is about to come true! You will soon have a golden opportunity to enjoy meeting others and getting to know them as you get to know yourself. Again this fall, *two* types of groups will be meeting monthly: Connections Groups and Chalice Circles! **Connections Groups** may discuss topics like Welcome, Heritage, Generosity, Mystery, and more. **Chalice Circles** may discuss topics like Artificial Intelligence, Immigration, Climate Change, and more. *You are invited* to join us for one or both kinds of these groups and to join in their meaningful conversations. Sign-ups will begin in July, when we announce the registration link. So, stay tuned!



Reverential Ramblings

~ Rev. Richard Davis, UUCS's minister

You may remember a few years back when a group of UUCS members formed a separate non-profit organization called "Habitat and Hope Village" to spearhead an effort to have a transitional housing facility constructed on the east end of our overflow parking lot—to the north across Center Street from our building. This group worked very hard for a long time and was so flexible that its efforts met with success, just not in the way we expected.

It turned out there were insurmountable challenges to our building and operating such a facility for unsheltered members of the community, so Habitat and Hope Village, still dedicated to serving the needs of those without shelter, instead funded the building of mobile shower and laundry trailers, which are operated by the local organization Church at the Park. The funding for these two trailers came to almost \$100,000—a tidy sum!

Church at the Park partners with a number of local congregations and other organizations to provide services for the unsheltered members of our community, and DJ Vincent, Pastor of Church at the Park, is very grateful for the gift of these two trailers and also for some recent financial assistance from UUCS. That assistance helped three unsheltered families get into permanent housing.

There is such a dire need in our community. Recently, after taking a tour of the various sites of Church at the Park, I came away very impressed with the many creative ways they involve the wider community in addressing this humanitarian challenge.

That brings us back to our overflow parking lot. The leaders of our Social Justice Team—John Prohodsky and Joan Stembridge—and I have recently been exploring the possibility that we could participate in Church at the Park's "Safe Parking Program." This would allow some RVs or cars to park legally on our property while Church at the Park helps their owners move forward to permanent housing. (Several other local congregations already participate in this program.)

Please note the article in the Social Justice section of this newsletter that John and Joan wrote describing details about this program. We want to give you, the members and friends of the congregation, ample time to review this proposal because it won't move forward without your support. Later in the summer we will provide opportunities for you to meet with folks from Church at the Park after Sunday services so they can tell you more about this program and answer your questions.

Since its inception, we have been a host congregation for Family Promise, providing shelter for a week to families while they complete their journeys to permanent housing. Participating in the Safe Parking Program would be another way that UUCS can be a good neighbor in our community.

You may have noticed that Salem is really growing, especially near UUCS, where hundreds of houses and apartments are going in. Yet too many cannot take the first steps toward getting into housing without some neighborly help. So, I am grateful for the opportunity to partner with community organizations and to live out our values by befriending and supporting neighbors who do not have permanent addresses. May caring for our community always be a permanent feature of UUCS.

~Love, Rick



~Molly Brown, Director, Lifespan Religious Education~

Hello everyone!

June is here and it is a month *full* of fun! The theme in the LRE Program this month is “Delight”! We are going to have so much fun with bubbles and all things fun *all month long*! Your kids will get to decide what brings them joy and the LRE Team will help make those things happen each Sunday!

A few reminders:

Friday, June 9 is our next Parent’s Night Out Event! Spaces are limited so please RSVP to my email at DLRE@uusalem.org or to my cell phone at 971-239-7384! We will be having so much fun outside in the forest, on the beach and on the playgrounds and then we will go inside for dinner and to watch the *new Super Mario Brothers movie* that just came out! While your kids are at the movie event, feel free to join **Game Night** for a night of fun in the Fellowship Hall with friends and family!



The LRE Team is hosting a booth at the **Salem Pride celebration** in downtown Salem on June 17! Come by our booth for face paint, tattoos and more! Check out this [weblink to Salem Pride](#).

Join us for Donuts with Dads to celebrate **Father’s Day** on Sunday June 18th in the Fellowship Hall after the Sunday Service!

We have had a few people **sign up to volunteer** this summer and teach the LRE kids something about themselves! We need a few more people to sign up so please feel free to call or text me at 971-239-7384 or email me at DLRE@uusalem.org to pick which Sunday you want! This is a huge opportunity for the members of our congregation to get to know each other better and learn why they love being a UU!

We are also looking for two more volunteers who would be interested in becoming facilitators for the **Our Whole Lives Program**, which will be held in October and November this year! If you’ve had experience teaching or you think this is something you might be interested in (and can pass a background check), please contact me, my assistant Sara Gonzalez or LRE Team Chair Ben Cavaletto for more information!

On Sunday, **July 2** there will be **no LRE Program**. However, the Cozy Corner in the Fellowship Hall will be available for your kids to play in while you enjoy the service on the big screen TV there!

Cultural Gateways is partnering with **Fujimi High School in Japan** to bring 59 girls (ages 15 & 16) to our city this summer! This is a huge opportunity for your families to make new friends from around the world and have the adventure of a lifetime!

If you are interested in hosting an exchange student from Japan over the summer, please contact Host Coordinator Amberly Calabria at 541-409-0069!

We are going to have so much fun this month! See you soon!

~Molly Brown

Behind the Chalice

Welcome to our service; welcome to our community! One of the wonderful aspects of UU and UUCS is the exploration of your own spiritual journey and the opportunity for self-expression. One way you may have noticed in the last few years is the Welcome Slide at the beginning of the service. It displays different congregants' creative expressions, whether it be acrylic or watercolor paintings, detailed drawings, photographs, collages, mixed media and/or computer driven art. It may feel like a little bit of a risk, displaying something you have done and not knowing if you will get praise, criticism, or nothing. However, so far, all the participants have heard is praise. Once you have conquered the risk of offering your art, maybe there is another risk you could take in your life that would also end in a good result. So, please consider sending in a photo of your work. You know we haven't seen any of those great quilts that I keep hearing about, or those crocheted slippers, and what about that latest recipe you tried and your family raved about. If food isn't an expression of creativity, I don't know what is. Don't tell me you aren't creative. I know you are and here is an opportunity to share that gift, if not for yourself, for us, so that we may be inspired by your sharing. Please send your photos of whatever artwork you have done (yes, prize winning tomatoes also count) to Doc Hadley at hadleyd1981@gmail.com. One Sunday you might see *your* work up on the Welcome slide, truly saying we are a welcoming community. One more thing that happens – Behind the Chalice.

~Sara Pickett

Social Justice News

Discussions About Safe Parking for the Houseless at UUCS

UUCS has met with the Church at the Park leadership team in preliminary discussions about using our north parking lot for safe parking of recreational vehicles (RVs). UUCS is being asked to consider providing a location for safe parking of up to 5 RVs. Church at the Park screens guests and their RVs and provides case management and security. Any decision to host the RVs of the houseless will be made by the congregation. Church at the Park will provide a port-a-potty and a dumpster for trash.

Prior to any decision, there will be ample opportunity for UUCS to meet the Church at the Park leadership team and have questions answered and concerns discussed and resolved.

If the proposal is approved, UUCS's neighbors will be informed that it intends to allow safe parking on its property for individuals experiencing homelessness under the management of Church at the Park. Before UUCS hosts RVs, neighbors will have the opportunity to dialogue with Church at the Park leadership team and receive education about the program and have any questions answered and hopefully have neighbors supportive of the program.

Current Marion County zoning allows one occupied RV for no more than 120 days. Marion County has not updated its zoning code to reflect recent federal and state legislation that allows safe parking for up to 5 vehicles.

In 2021 UUCS hosted a couple who lost their home in the Beachie Creek fire. The couple did not cause any problems. However, a squatter who parked his trailer without permission caused problems. Church at the Park learned from that experience, and they now have a coordinated program of vetting all guests and security for each Safe Park site.

Church at the Park has established programs to help the houseless transition to being housed. We were impressed with what we learned about its programs. As we move forward, we will have an opportunity to learn more about the Safe Parking program and Church at the Park's case management and safety program.

~John Prohodsky, Social Justice Chair, and Joan Stembridge

Splinters from the Board

Minister's Report

Reverend Rick reported on discussions with Church at the Park, including possible UUCS support for Habitat and Hope Village in providing money for one of the shower trailers run by them. Rick will update the Board with more information on support for their work. Church at the Park will attend next month's Board meeting. Another issue Rick mentioned was working to recruit other churches to help support Family Promise. There was also a suggestion that UUCS host a celebratory event or open house at the end of the summer to make the Salem community aware of all UUCS has to offer. Also mentioned was the recognition given at the May 7 service to our large group of lay ministers.

April Strategic Plan Goals Progress Report

Sara Pickett reported as a priority the need to complete the organizational chart process started by Ben Cavaletto to provide clarification for teams and committees. The Art Works Team has requested to be one of the reporting teams. There still needs to be some clarification about the different roles between teams and committees. The Team Council will recommend a new Strategic Plan Coordinator to the Board in June. The plan for next year will be to continue with the existing Strategic Plan and to blend in the new mission and vision statements with the current team goals.

Interpreting Services

There was discussion about Ben Cavaletto's proposal to provide interpreting services. The proposal included a draft of a services agreement with Willamette Sign Language Interpretating Service, Inc. The current rate for this would be \$110 per hour for weekend services. Payment would be to the service and not to the individual, so there is no need for UUCS to prepare 1099 tax statements. It is preferable that at least 48 hours' notice be given for services. There was some discussion on how cancellations would be handled. There was discussion about funding for the interpreting services. For the current church year, contingency funds can be used for a pilot approach. UUCS will pursue fund-raising for this project in the future. The Board will work to establish a new fund for interpreter services. After the discussion the Board voted to approve a services agreement with Willamette Sign Language Interpretating Service, Inc., to provide interpreting services. The accessibility requestor will be the signer of the document. The vote was unanimous.

Annual Meeting Readiness

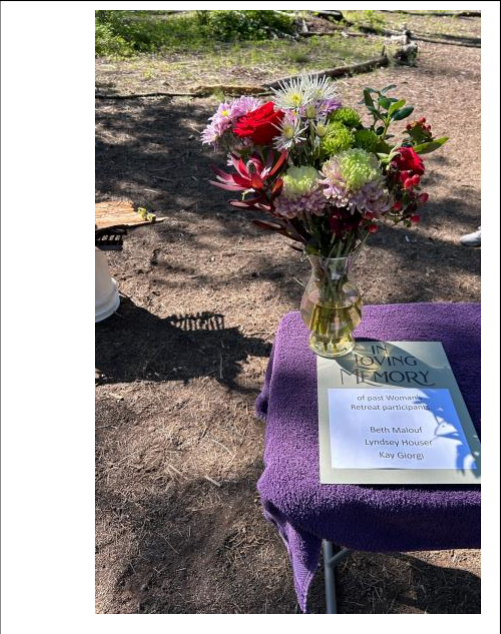
The organizers reported on the status of preparations. There was discussion about how to identify eligible voters. Eligible voters will sign up at a table in the foyer where they will receive a voting chit. Ben Cavaletto will help Lorna Youngs with voter sign in. The team annual reports will be available to read online and included in the Annual Meeting packet.

~Lynn Cardiff, Board Chair

Flower Communion



Women's Retreat at Suttle Lake



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: Thompson-Patch Scholarship Fund		

Sunday, June 11

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

"Finding Our Voices"

Our liberal free faith religious movement embraces the values of democracy - each of us has a vote and a voice in our congregation. Yet exercising your voice can be a daunting challenge for many of us.

Celebrant: Barbara Stebbins-Boaz
Music: UUCS Choir

Sunday, June 18

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

"What's On Your Mind"

It's been an annual tradition for three decades: you come with a question, write it down on a piece of paper, pass it up front, and I'll answer as many as I can in the time that we have available. So, what theological, philosophical, social, political, artistic, etc. type question comes to your mind? Bring it on, today is the day! Ideas? Beethoven is always good! As is Buddha, Jesus, the Upanishads, why Spumoni Ice cream is the best, whatever you want!

Celebrant: Janet Stevens
Music: Marcia Christenson

Sunday, June 25

Sara Pickett, Homilist and Storyteller

"At Peace with Myself and the World"

In the past, we have joked at times about it being Introvert Sunday, but today we are going to delve deeper into why being alone does not necessarily mean you are lonely. And how, more and more we need quiet space in this noisy world we live in.

Celebrant: Barbara Stebbins-Boaz
Music: Ramona Morris, voice
Loriann Schmidt, piano

Sunday, July 2

Barbara Stebbins-Boaz, Storyteller-Homilist

To be announced

Celebrant: Sara Pickett
Music: Stephanie Smith

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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, **June 30, 2023.**

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