



The Chalice and the Flame

Diverse people. Diverse beliefs. One community.

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

August 2023

Banned Book Library Grand Opening August 13

On Sunday, August 13, we will open our very own Banned Book Library; the books will live on a beautiful bookcase in the Fellowship Hall.

You can participate by donating books that have been banned anywhere in the United States. Before you add a book to the bookcase, Google it to find out if it has been banned. You can also participate by borrowing and reading any of the donated banned books. We hope to see you with coffee or tea in one hand and a banned book in the other as we feel gratitude for this opportunity to stay curious.

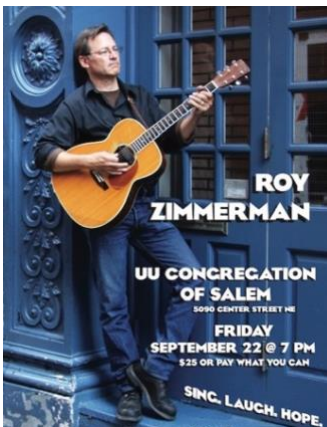
~Lisa Leirmo

Register by August 20 for Connections Groups and Chalice Circles Starting This Fall

It's time to register for Connections Groups and Chalice Circles! These are two *different* kinds of groups that will meet for 90 minutes each month from September through June. Groups will discuss a new topic each month, and that's where the groups differ. Connections Group topics may include Heritage, Renewal, Transformation, and more. Chalice Circle topics might be Artificial Intelligence, Education, Discrimination, and more. Both types of groups offer golden opportunities get to know ourselves and each other on meaningful, deeper levels. They are also fun gatherings to anticipate each month!

Registration is open now through August 20. Register online for [Chalice Circles by clicking here](#) and for [Connections Groups here](#). Group dates and times will be listed on the registration page for each type of group, so you will be able to choose which type of group you prefer, and which days and times will work for your schedule. You can register online from your own device, or you can use the laptops and tablets we'll have available in the Fellowship Hall after Sunday services. Group facilitators will be happy to answer any questions.

Roy Zimmerman Is Coming Back to UUCS in September!



He shows up here regularly like a "good penny" with his progressive take on our times. He'll have several new songs and stories to tell. In a recent message to us Roy said, "Melanie and I are working on a new album of classic social justice songs. Meanwhile, we'll keep doing funny videos, making fun while we try to make sense of many and various affronts to our human values." Watch his "Hannity Tonight" by [clicking here](#).

Mark your calendars for Friday, September 22, a day before this year's Autumnal Equinox. The concert will begin at 7 pm in the UUCS Sanctuary. Admission is \$25 or pay what you can. You can buy \$25 admissions [online by clicking here](#).

To pay what you can, show up at the concert. Join us for a really good show!

Partner Church Update

The kids in Simenfalva are having camps and doing fun stuff, including face-painting, games, and crafts, just like we are doing here during LRE. It is so cool that, no matter where you are in the world, there is nothing quite so fun as putting paint on your face! Here is a picture to prove it!

~Sara Pickett and the Partner Church Committee

Rev. Rick is on vacation and will return in September.





Lifespan Religious Education

~Molly Brown, Director, Lifespan Religious Education~

Happy Summer UUCS!

I hope you're having fun in the sun with your family and friends! Right now, I'm running our new puppy with my kiddos (Joey and Emilee) around the block a few times before sunset, so he gets all of his wiggles out before bedtime. He's a purebred yellow lab and his name is Murphy. He's the cutest, sweetest, nocturnal piranha baby tooth, most *giant* puppy you've ever seen! My kids have been begging me for years for a puppy and I finally caved. When Murphy gets a little bit older (and barks less), I plan on bringing him in to the LRE Program for the children to meet and play with. Most mornings these days, I'm exhausted from being up all night with a newborn that barks and bites; but then I see him lying with my kids and licking their beautiful faces and I wouldn't trade him or that moment for the world.

I hope your summers are filled with beautiful moments like these. If you'd like to share a story that means something to you with the children of your congregation, please pick a Sunday this summer to sign up to volunteer in LRE and share your story. Knowing why you chose to become a member of UUCS would be a wonderfully meaningful thing for the kids to know. They *are* the future of the congregation. Find me on Sunday or email me at DLRE@uusalem.org to sign up.

Most Sundays this summer will be spent learning about the 7 Principles, doing fun art projects, having volunteer guests, and having fun outside with their friends! We will be hosting an **Ice Cream Social** this month on August 19 from 1-4 pm and a "**fUUn**" **barbeque event** for everyone to meet at the end of the summer on September 10 (Water Communion Sunday).

Family Promise Week is this month from August 13 - 20! We will not be hosting an LRE Program those two Sundays. However, if you'd like to volunteer to help set up for Family Promise Week by moving stuff out of the LRE Classrooms, please let me know and I will connect you with the people hosting the event. The Cozy Corner will be available for you and your kids to hang out in during the Sunday Service.

The **Our Whole Lives** (OWL) Program for grades 4-6 and 7-9 will be starting in October every Sunday after the service at 12:30 pm. We have only limited spots available so if you want to sign your kids up, please send me a text at (971)239-7384 or email! Feel free to find me or email me for a flyer! The OWL Program Parent Orientation will be September 17 at 2 pm!

I emailed everyone copies of the LRE Program Annual Calendar, but if you need a hard copy (larger version), there will be some in the front entrance on the table under the alarm system.

Have a wonderful summer everyone! Take the time to enjoy your beautiful moments and come share your stories with us any time!

Thanks,
Molly Brown

Memorial Service for Caroline Bridges

There will be a memorial service for Caroline Bridges next Saturday, August 5, 2023, at 4 pm at Chandler Estates Community Room, 2615 Ellen Lane NW Salem, OR 97304. Caroline was an active member of the Social Justice Team for many years. She and her cousin Cecilia Craig staffed the SJT table every Sunday.

Help Wanted and Appreciated!

Help Still Needed for Family Promise August 13-19

UUCS is hosting Family Promise families August 13-20. We still need volunteers for these slots:

Sunday, August 13: Evening host

Monday, August 14: Dinner Host, Evening Host, Overnight Host

Wednesday, August 16: Overnight Host

Thursday, August 17: Dinner Host, Evening Host

Friday, August 18: Dinner Host, Evening Host, Overnight Host

Saturday, August 19: Dinner Host, Evening Host, Overnight Host

If you can help, please contact us at familypromise@uusalem.org or after services in the Fellowship Hall.

Family Promise is providing optional volunteer training on using best practices with the families at 6:30 pm Friday, August 11 at Salem First Presbyterian Church.

~Roberta Robinson

Volunteers Needed on the Host Team

The Membership Team is recruiting hosts for this coming fall. An important part of every Sunday service are the friendly hosts that greet people as they enter. If you are a friendly person who enjoys talking with others, this may be for you. This is also an easy way to start getting involved in the UU community. It is only a once-a-month commitment starting September 10. Other duties include handing out programs, collecting and counting the offering, welcoming, and having newcomers sign the visitor book and helping visitors feel welcome during fellowship time. Our teams always have a good time and enjoy each other's company as we take care of the Sunday morning hosting. If you think this may be for you, [fill out this online form](#). If you have any questions before making a commitment email membership@uusalem.org. There will be a host training about 11:45 on September 10th following the service. Thank you for your service!



~Anna Tally

Help Is Needed to Provide Coffee and Treats This Summer

There are no volunteers lined up to provide coffee service during the summer. If you are attending a service, consider bringing in a treat or helping with setting up coffee and tea for fellowship time or cleaning up afterwards. The Connections Team thanks everyone who helped with coffee service during the year and who will be offering service or treats this summer.



Second and Fourth Saturday Landscape Work Days

Look at all the land our congregation has. Now, who takes care of this beautiful space? Not a landscape firm, nor master gardeners, nor one alone.



You and I can share that task Saturday mornings. It's amazing what 10 volunteers can accomplish one or two times a month.

It's not all heavy lifting, mostly its weeding, trimming, raking, planting or just watering. Mark your calendar right now for 9 am on the 2nd and/or 4th Saturday of the month and join us for exercise, making new friends and caring for this beautiful piece of land. Let's surprise and relieve the few who have carried this heavy burden. Thanks, and see you Saturday at 9!

Before the Chalice

Hi all, here is the first “Before the Chalice” submission, which will be about us in the congregation. So, you don’t know everyone at UUCS? Wow, that is great, because I don’t either! Yet, I would love to know more about you. I wonder whether it would help if we answered these questions, and our answers were published in the Newsletter. Let’s give it a try! I’ll begin.

Name? Sara Pickett

What brought you to UUCS? The election of Trump.

What groups/teams/activities are you involved in at UUCS? Let’s see, Worship Team, Production, Homilists, Connections Groups, Partner Church, Board, GA Delegate, Women’s Retreat, Jolly Diners, Family Promise (not as much as I used to), memorials, Dances of Universal Peace (not lately), Aztec Dancers (ok, just once), cleaned up Cordon Road, Coffee Service (well, technically we all are), and Salem Zen Center Sangha.

What do you like about UUCS? The warm connections and friends I have made, the opportunities to explore and grow spiritually, as a leader, and feeling part of a helping community. Oh, also got to go to Simenfalva in Romania and see our partner church!

What is one thing you would change at UUCS? Hmm, I don’t know, I just sort of adapt to what is going on. I’d like it to keep going, be fiscally sound, and have more members create cool social activities like Steve Rosen did with Jolly Diners. Also, a grief support group would be nice.

What is your idea of happiness? Feeling at peace with myself, the world, and the universe.

What is something you did that you are proud of? You know, it was a really big deal to write that first sermon and then be able to write more and find out how important writing is to me.

What is your greatest extravagance? DoorDash online food ordering and food delivery.

What is something you do for self-care? Weekly massages. Simply Bliss. You should try it.

Who or what is the greatest love of your life? Oh, Evelyn, my 18-month-old great-niece—so precious! Also, Missie, my cat! She is doing so much better now!

Who are your heroes in fiction? Louisa May Alcott’s characters, Star Trek characters; you’ve got to see Captain Pike in *Strange New Worlds*! I know there are others.

Who are your heroes in real life? The clients I work with. What they go through on a daily basis and the patience they have to learn to deal with the people who are trying to help them.

What is a meaningful piece of music for you? Chopin’s Prelude E Minor, Prelude in A Major, anything by Segovia, and a collection by Peter Nero.

What is a book that you would recommend? Awestruck: *How Embracing Wonder Can Make You Happier, Healthier and More Connected*, Jonah Paquette, PsyD.

What movie/TV show do you recommend? Well, at the moment I have to say *Star Trek: Strange New Worlds*.

Where do you like to go in nature to revive? To the ocean.

Anything else? What about you? If you are willing, send me an email at sara@uusalem.org and I will send you the questions you may answer as you wish. It would be awesome to get to know you a little more.

Oregon UU Voices for Justice Annual Meeting October 14



The Oregon UU Voices for Justice (OUUVfJ) annual meeting is being hosted by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Eugene on October 14, 2023. It will be multiplatform. The theme this year is “Connecting Communities for Justice.” Speakers will include the Rev. Allison Miller, First Unitarian Church, Portland and Brenda Smith, Executive Director of High Desert Partnership. Come join with other UUs from around the state to learn and discuss these issues. More information can be found [online by clicking here](#).

20th Anniversary of our Fellowship Hall

Our fellowship hall addition was built in 2003, so it is worthy of a celebration this year. And it makes a good story.

When we built our church in 1997, the plans included a fellowship hall, but we didn't have the money at the time. Instead, we included a small kitchen where the southeast corner of the current Hanneman Hall is, with access from the sanctuary. We were indeed happy with our new church, but we did see that we should add a fellowship hall as soon as we could.

That time came sooner than it might have. We had a mortgage on our building, and needed to pay it off before we could start thinking of new construction. When Laura Wells died in 1999, she left \$150,000 to UUCS. We used that to pay off the mortgage early, which meant that we could start raising money for the fellowship hall addition. When our second three-year capital campaign ended in 2000, we started a third, to raise money toward this project. Our dedicated members loyally pledged handsomely.

It became clear that sometime soon we would be able to build the fellowship hall, and we reconstituted the building committee. I so enjoyed the 1997 building project that I volunteered to chair the building committee again and was grateful that the Congregation appointed me as well as Steve Ovens, whose job at Willamette University meant that he knew much more about construction than any of the rest of us ever would. Of course, Barbara Hanneman, our remaining charter member from 1949 and beloved by all, was on the committee, and sometime in 2002 our Board voted to name the addition Hanneman Hall in her honor. We reengaged Craig Carlson, whose architectural work on the original church was such a success. We built essentially what had been on his plan in 1996, with one exception: we had found that we wanted a larger foyer, so we moved its front wall north to enlarge the foyer. Yes, the front wall was lifted by crane, placed on new footings, and floor, foyer walls and ceiling were extended to meet the wall!

We had a fourth capital campaign in February and March of 2003. Our congregation was growing weary with nine years of contributing toward the two phases of the building, and now we needed a "boost-up" campaign after the regular campaign finished. We had a strong and dedicated congregation, who came through. All the supporters from those years should feel very proud of their participation, both financially and with their labor; I believe they do!

We had had such a good experience in 1997 with our contractor, Elliott-Sheets, that asking for bids on the addition did not make sense. We knew who our contractor should be! So, Joe Sheets worked with us as we got ready to build. Our partnership with them worked just as well as it had in 1997. Even better because we didn't have to feel our way into it. Elliott-Sheets assigned the same foreman, Bob Palmer, who had worked so well with us in 1997.

The groundbreaking was April 20 – Easter! The project was finished in November, and dedicated December 7. As in 1997, our congregation had done all the painting, the *daily* cleanup, and the landscaping. Not only did that save money; the building belonged to each of us in a very personal way! Steve Ovens and I acted together as "owners' representative" to the architect and contractor; Steve had the expertise, but I had the time and did spend most of the day every day on site. I even got to lug wheelbarrows of concrete.

~George Struble

Social Justice News and Comments

One Stop Donating

Every month a percentage of each Sunday's service offering is shared with a local nonprofit, which is commendable. However, those nonprofits touch a fraction of those in need of help. I feel UUCS can and should do better than sharing a percentage of the Sunday service collection. But how can UUCS be better at helping those in need? The choices as I see them are congregational projects helping the needy, empowering individuals, or doing both. Common to all is identifying needs. Talking with social service organizations about the needs of their clients and identifying needy individuals and families is time consuming. If there was only a single point of contact...

There is! It is the Marion County Community Resource Network, of which I became aware as I was writing this month's social justice newsletter article. Working through them will provide UUCS many opportunities to help those in need. Network members include schools, churches, businesses, Ford Family Foundation, Salem Health, several Marion County government departments, courts, several Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency programs including ARCHES, and many more organizations. When our application is approved UUCS congregants can sign up to become members of the Marion County Resource Network as members of UUCS. After it is approved, "This Week at UUCS" will mention that we are members.

Hopefully, UUCS's website will say something about our membership in the Community Resource Network. I'd like to hear your ideas on how we can use the Community Resource Network to help the needy. Send me an email at slt@uusalem.org.

~John Prohodsky, Social Justice Chair

Choir? Check It Out!

If you are interested in the UUCS Choir (or simply curious), our season begins with a rehearsal on Thursday, August 24 at 6:30 pm. We will gather in the sanctuary at UU and connect or reconnect. Hope to see you there!

~Jon Chinburg, Music Director

Splinters from the Board

At the July meeting, the UUCS board received a report on the UUA General Assembly (GA) that occurred at the end of June. There is much more information on this subject in past Chalice and Flame newsletters. The Article 2 revisions received preliminary approval for the first round. There will be a further binding vote at the 2024 GA.

The board approved the creation of a new position: AV Lead Technician. This position will coordinate our AV services on Sundays and other events. It will be supervised by the music director.

Barbara Stebbins-Boaz was approved as the new chair of the Worship Team.

The board approved extending the current Strategic Plan from 2023 to 2025 to allow for the incorporation of the new Mission and Vision statements.

The board approved the spending of \$170,000 for installation of AC throughout the building using a heat pump system. It will be paid for from donations specifically dedicated to this project and other reserve funds as needed.

The board discussed the possible use of the north parking lot for up to 5 recreational vehicles managed by Church in the Park (homeless housing). As new information is gathered, the board will continue the discussion. The congregation will be advised as plans continue.

A new five-year lease was negotiated with Kaleidoscope Community School.

Tracy Boyle and Kimber "Pet Therapy"



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
August Share the Plate Recipient: Planned Parenthood Columbia Willamette		

Sunday, August 6

The Rev. Craig Moro

"You're Not What You Once Were"

A year of retirement without regular work and the framework it provides has me thinking about who I am now, who I have been, and who I still might become. Are we "less" now than we were in our younger days, or "more"? Neither? Or both? King Solomon is revered for his wisdom by three great religious traditions. Let's spend some time with him in both his youth and his old age to see how he dealt with these life-cycle questions.

Celebrant: Barbara Stebbins-Boaz

Music: Stephanie Smith

Sunday, August 13

Gloria Holland, Homilist/Storyteller

"Confessions of an Imposter"

What kinds of things might we have faith in? Turns out to be a really good question when you think about it! And how far might we go with our doubting?

Celebrant: Sara Pickett

Music: Ezra Alexander

Sunday, August 20

Marcia Christenson, Homilist/Storyteller

"Spirituality in the Second Half of Life"

Recent study and reflections have given me new awareness about how my spiritual life has changed since younger days.

Celebrant: Janet Stevens

Music: Loriann Schmidt, piano; Kara Quello, voice

Sunday, August 27

Sara Pickett, Homilist/Storyteller

"I Found Salvation in a Vulcan Hand Salute"

Embodying our seven principles into our daily lives sometimes may seem like a utopian world view. Explore how a "wagon wheels to the stars" approach may have incorporated UU values weekly into the lives of millions without them knowing.

Celebrant: Brenna Norval

Music: Stephanie Smith

Sunday, September 3

Barbara Stebbins-Boaz and Sara Pickett, Homilists

"Fresh Thoughts for the Fall"

Come to our annual Sparkle and Clean service, where we celebrate the fresh start that fall brings to our hearts and minds. After a short service, there will be an opportunity to help spiffy up both the inside and outside of our beautiful building and property.

Celebrants: Barbara Stebbins-Boaz and Sara Pickett

Music: Ezra Alexander

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This issue was edited by Bob Muir with help from Roberta Robinson, Elsa Struble, Kathleen McKinney, and Ross Patty.

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 pm on Friday, **September 1, 2023.**

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