



The Chalice and the Flame

Diverse people. Diverse beliefs. One community.

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

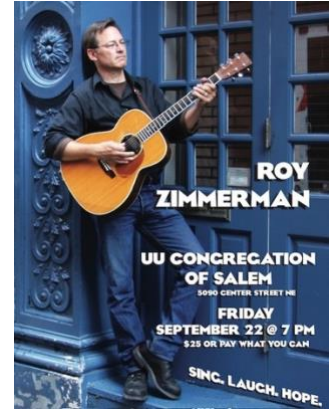
September 2023

Water Communion this Sunday, September 10!

Bring to the service some water symbolizing something important in your life.

Roy Zimmerman Is Returning September 22!

Mark your calendars. Roy Zimmerman is coming back to UUCS Friday, September 22! 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." [Click here](#) to see his YouTube spoof entitled "Hannity Tonight." Join us for a really good show! The concert will begin at 7 pm in the UUCS Sanctuary. You can buy \$25 admissions [at this weblink](#) or pay what you can at the door.



Oregon UU Voices for Justice Meets October 14



The OUUVfJ Annual meeting is being hosted this year by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Eugene. It will be multiplatform. The theme is Connecting Communities for Justice. Speakers: 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 at the [OUUVfJ website by clicking here](#).

Join Men's Group on Sundays or Wednesdays

All who identify as men are welcome to join the Men's Group twice a month.

On Wednesday evening, September 13, from 6 to 8 pm meet for a pot luck in Rev. Rick's office. These meetings happen every 4 weeks. The subsequent meeting will be October 11.

On Sunday morning, from 8 to 10 am on September 24, join the men's group for breakfast in Hanneman Hall. These breakfasts are also held every 4 weeks. The next Sunday meeting will be on October 22.

Men attending will check-in and there will be discussion. All that is discussed will be kept confidential unless the safety of a participant or someone else is at risk.

Banned Book Library

You are invited to participate in our new Banned Book Library! Here's how:

1. **Find** the Banned Book Library bookcase in the Fellowship Hall.
2. **Borrow** books using the sign-up sheet.
3. **Donate** books that have been banned anywhere in America. There's a list on the bookcase, or you can google any book to find out if it has been banned.
4. **Read** to enjoy, learn, and grow!
5. **Repeat**.



~Lisa Liermo



Reverential Ramblings

~ Rev. Richard Davis, UUCS's minister

A new congregational year is upon us and there's an empty chair waiting for **you** in our lovely sanctuary—it's here. The question is, will you be? Over the years I've heard more than a few folks say that one of the things they enjoy about being a Unitarian Universalist is that "you don't have to feel guilty about not coming to Sunday worship."

That sentiment says something important and also leaves other things unsaid.

No authentic religion is motivated by guilt but rather by love, by the infinite yearnings of the human spirit for beauty, truth, wisdom, joy. So, for us it doesn't really work when guilt is a primary motivator in your religious life—or any life—it flies in the face of our entire liberal theological tradition which affirms that each individual must freely, without coercion, discern and decide which steps you will take on your spiritual path.

As far as physically attending Sunday worship is concerned, some of us have no choice—infirmity or mobility issues precludes attendance. For many years I regretted that there were so many who would truly benefit from community connection but could not get here on Sundays. So, it's wonderful that we now have the technology that enables those of you who are homebound to view our services online—it's one of the few blessings that came from the pandemic. Then, too, I know of others who work on Sunday mornings or have obligations they cannot evade—it simply doesn't work. I'm glad those of you in this category can also tune in online during the week when you do have time.

Then there are the rest of us who do have a choice—most of the time—and you do decide to come or not to come. There are quite a few factors that might determine whether you may or may not decide to show up on a particular Sunday morning. It's not my role to officiate over your decision-making process or ever judge you for your choices, but here are a couple of important things to consider.

First, if your decision is solely based upon whether you "feel" like coming at the moment, then your feelings are in the driver's seat. In my experience feelings are often not the best ones to put behind the wheel. For instance, when I wake, I never really feel like meditating. Yet I don't base my decision on whether I feel like it or not but rather if I am I physically well enough to sit up and meditate for a good period of time—if I am, then I will meditate. And every time afterwards I am glad that I did not allow my feelings to dictate to me.

It's important to make commitments to yourself and also to your congregational community that support our well-being. It's good to have some gentle disciplines that you practice with regularity, not just when you feel like it.

Then there is this subtle but significant reflection: I do not call it "an observation" because this is not something a person can directly observe—namely, the negative impact of your absence. An empty chair that could have been filled on Sunday makes me aware of lost opportunities for community connection. This is why you will so often hear me thank you for the positive "gift of your presence" on Sundays. It's the finest gift you can regularly offer your congregational community, especially during our times of widespread estrangement and alienation.

Simply put, the more we can gather in strength, the stronger we become. See you on Sunday!

Love,
Rick



~Molly Brown, Director, Lifespan Religious Education~

Hello, everyone! Welcome back to Lifespan Religious Education. Here are two special events to watch for:

We hope to see you there.



And here is something **new!**



Sexuality Education for Grades 7-8

Beginning this fall, UUCS is offering Our Whole Lives (OWL) Sexuality Education for children in grades 7, 8 and 9. OWL is a series of comprehensive sexuality curricula developed for children, teenagers, and young adults. The Unitarian Universalist Association and the United Church of Christ worked together for seven years to prepare material that addresses sexuality throughout life in age-appropriate ways.

[The Unitarian Universalist Association website](#) describes OWL this way: "Honest, accurate information about [how] sexuality changes lives. It dismantles stereotypes and assumptions, builds self-acceptance and self-esteem, fosters healthy relationships, improves decision making, and

has the potential to save lives. For these reasons and more, we are proud to offer Our Whole Lives (OWL), a [set of] comprehensive, lifespan sexuality education curricula for use in both secular settings and faith communities.

"Interactive workshops and activities engage participants, while step-by-step instructions for program planners and facilitators help ensure success. Seven curricula speak to participants' needs, by age groups.

"Our Whole Lives helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their relationships, sexual health, and behavior. With a holistic approach, Our Whole Lives provides accurate, developmentally appropriate information about a range of topics, including relationships, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, sexual health, and cultural influences on sexuality."

The course for grades 7, 8 and 9 will consist of fifteen classes held on Sundays at 12:30 at UUCS, 5090 Center Street NE, Salem, on these dates: October 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, November 5, 12 and 19, January 7, 14, 21 and 28, February 4, 11 and 18.

Parents are expected to attend an orientation program on Sunday, September 17 from 2 to 3 p.m. at UUCS. [To register click here](#). For more information, contact me by email: DLRE@uusalem.org.

Molly Brown, Director of Lifespan Religious Education



More Happenings and Highlights

Admire Our New Benches in Bateman Woods

Before the pandemic, UUCS hired a tree service company to remove some Douglas firs in Bateman Woods that had grown along the barbed wire fence on the east property line. The trees were getting too tall for the site and starting to shade out some lower branches on a nearby, old white oak tree. Previously, topping the firs had been a pain, but we had done it for a few years to accommodate the preferences of some lovers of fir trees and buy some time.

Rick Davis suggested, after the trees had been cut down about 5 years ago: "How about building a **bench** where fir stumps now stood?"

I sawed the stumps to roughly the same height above the ground, as best I could. But I had trouble visualizing a 60 or so foot long bench looking good, or being used much, there.

Action stage: **John Davenport** just constructed a beautiful, 3-part bench, with Trex-type lumber for the seating. The benches are in the sun during morning and mid-day, so would get warm/hot by mid-day in summer. But even in summer heat, the new benches are comfortable by mid-afternoon, when they're in some shade. Current access to the benches is "rustic," but plans are afoot to build all-weather steps down the slope below.

So...a visionary idea, followed by masterly execution. Check it out!

~Tom Lancefield



All You Wanted to Know About UUCS Name Badges

Our finely honed system of making and distributing name badges at UUCS still remains a mystery to many people. Here is the management's attempt to clear up the fog.

Who can request a name badge? Anyone who regularly attends UUCS may request a badge. You do not have to be a member to have a badge. The only difference between members' and nonmembers' badges is that the members' badges include the date of becoming a member.

How can I request a badge? To the left of the badge rack is a notepad for making requests. Simply write your name legibly on the notepad, using the name you want on the badge. If you currently have a badge and are requesting a replacement, indicate your badge number if you remember it. We can look it up if you don't.

What happens next? (This part is the big secret we have been keeping. All will be revealed except the names of the workers to avoid harassment when we mess up. The board chair will take all the flack.) Usually once a week, the badge maker comes in to check the list for names of people requesting badges. Then the template is made, and badges are produced. The badges are next given to the recorder who assigns each badge a number and records it on the master list and in Breeze in our data system. Finally, the badges are placed on the table under the badge rack to the right of the trays of children's badges, within a week or two of your request.

What do I do with the badge? Guard it with your life! Just kidding... The badge rack is there for you to store your badge from week to week without having to remember to bring it from home. The number of your badge is on the back. The number tells you which slot in the badge rack to store your badge in at the end of the service or coffee hour. The badge goes into the slot **under** the number. If your badge seems to have disappeared, please check the slots around yours and on the table underneath the rack. Sometimes the gremlins knock them out of your slot. If you forget your badge number, there is an alphabetical list to the right of the badge rack which states your name and badge number. If your name is not on the list and your badge has been made recently, you will find a list at the bottom of badge numbers and names. This new badge list is not usually alphabetical.

I hope this has been useful...and accurate. If you have any questions or complaints, see me, Lynn Cardiff. I will answer your concerns or make up something that will sound reasonable.

News of the Community

Hey, have you heard the exciting news? Well, you will hear some of it here. Here are some fun things people have been doing or will be doing soon.

Steven Ovens and **Tracy Boyle** had a great trip to the coast recently where their cute little furry child ran around so much in the sand and surf that she had to collapse in front of the fireplace in the evening. Ahh, the life! May we all have so much fun that we have to collapse in the evening feeling good about our day!

Christine Ertl and **Jon Walton** are off on an extensive Scotland, Ireland, England trip. Be sure to ask Christine about it, her accent changes as she talks about each country.

Barbara Stebbins-Boaz and **Bob Muir** had a delightful August due to a visit from Bob's daughter and family, the Whitfields, who live in the Netherlands! Apparently, grandchildren still grow, even if you don't see them for months!

Hannah Batu is looking forward to visiting her granddaughter, Lavinia, in Idaho for her 2nd birthday! Be sure and ask Hannah if her granddaughter blew out the candles herself.

What are you doing Sunday September 17 after the service? Well, **the UUCS Board** is going to be waiting for you in the Sanctuary, their coffee cups in hand, to chat about various things. Maybe start off—who is on the Board anyway? Update on the **Ministerial Search** process (no we aren't kicking Rev. Rick out early!) and any general Board type questions you may have. The Board Forum will happen every 3rd Sunday of the month, after the service—around 12:00, in the Sanctuary, for no more than an hour. The topic for the Forum will be listed here, in the News of the Community! Imagine that! So come September 17 and then look in the October newsletter for the October topic. See ya there!

Don't forget **Water Communion Sunday**, September 10. It is the official start of the liturgical year, so bring a small vessel of water to symbolize what the gift of water means to you. It could represent some place you have been recently, or the gratitude for the recent brief sprinkling from the sky, or just gliding on this beautiful Blue Boat Home. Don't shed tears if you forget, there will also be water in small vessels at the service, so you can still participate in the Water Communion.

And we received this message from **Mandy Bray**:

Mom's birthday (**Mary Bray**) is Sept. 23, and we'll be up there in Roanoke, Virginia Sept. 21 - 28. At UUCS, Mom was on the 'Caring Committee,' Mom and Dad used to sing in the choir, Dad was the treasurer there for a couple of years, and they were both very social and welcoming members. Anyone interested in sending Mom a card may send it to: Mary Bray c/o The Moodys, 2138 Sorrel Ln SW, Roanoke, VA 24018-2246. Anyone sending a card should specify how they knew Mom (and/or Dad), as she will enjoy reading cards, but may be foggy on how she knows someone, even long-time friends.

For more contact information for Mary, contact the UUCS Lifelines team.

Do you have something you want to share for the October Newsletter? Email me at sara@uusalem.org by September 25 or catch me some Sunday and tell me!

~Sara Pickett and Vicki Cunningham

Help Wanted and Appreciated!

Coffee Service Schedule for All Members

Once again, as part of the shared ministry campaign, we are asking that all members of the congregation help with coffee service one or two times throughout the year. [See the schedule on the website](#) for the days you are assigned to help. We hope this will give everyone an opportunity to meet other members and to be part of service to our community.

The schedule includes most members. You can easily scroll down the alphabetized list to find which Sundays you are scheduled for. Thank you to the Team Leaders who will be heading the different teams throughout the year to provide the coffee service. Most of all, thank you to **you**, who are willing to be on these teams and provide the coffee service!



Although many of you have helped with coffee services before, some of you haven't and that is ok. That is why we have a Team Leader and there are likely others on your team who can help you learn the ropes, or in this case, the coffee beans. Duties include everything from making the coffee, heating water for tea, setting out cups and treats, providing treats, washing dishes, and just being the kind friendly people, you already are.

Your team leader will be contacting you with a reminder the Monday prior to the Sunday that you will be helping. For example, those who will be serving on November 26th should be getting an email from their team leader on November 20th. If you can't make

that date, no worries, try and see if you can switch with someone, or help out by providing treats. Your team leader or Anna or Sara with the Connections Team, should be able to help you with this as well. If you have any questions or concerns, contact Anna or Sara at connectionsteam@uusalem.org. You don't see your name on the schedule? Let us know, we would love to include you—the more the merrier!

Looking for More Coffee Service Team Leads

You can see that there are some "?????" under some of the team leads. We are still in need of a couple more team leads. If you helped with coffee service last year and feel like helping out as a lead is something you can do, please reach out to Anna or Sara. Thank you for being part of the UUCS community,

~Anna Tally and Sara Pickett, Connections Team.

Volunteers Needed as Hosts

The Membership Team is recruiting hosts for this coming fall. An important part of every Sunday service is 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 [the form on this webpage](#).

If you have any questions email membership@uusalem.org. There will be a host training on September 10th following the service (about 11:45 pm). Thank you for your service!



Communications Team Looking for New Members

Are you curious about how our UUCS WordPress website works? If you are reasonably comfortable with email and writing, the Communications Team can train you to do simple posts on our website. You would work from home on your own computer, about 3 to 6 hours a month. We will train. If you are already familiar with WordPress, our behind-the-scenes web team could use your help.

We can also use another proofreader/editor to give our volunteers some relief. And, a back-up publicity person would be very helpful, to post news online, and to write press releases and design posters for events. The workload is flexible and you would work from home on your own computer. If these activities interest you, contact Vicki Cunningham at editors@uusalem.org for more information or to volunteer.

2024 General Assembly Delegates Needed

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) where congregation delegates conduct UUA business by voting on issues presented. At GA 2023 delegates gave preliminary approval to amend Article II of the UUA Bylaws. This important matter will be up for a final vote at next year's GA, which will be solely virtual, so there will be no travel expenses.

Our congregation is qualified to have 5 member delegates. Those delegates are appointed by our board and vote at GA on behalf of UUCS consistent with board instructions. Member delegates comprise the GA Team which serves to monitor and vote on activities of UUA, report to our board and inform our congregation. Current delegates are Sara Pickett, Barbara Stebbins-Boaz and Joel Martin. That leaves 2 openings for new delegates. There are a number of experienced UUCS delegates who can answer questions you have about delegate duties.

We can help maintain the strength and viability of our liberal religious tradition by being active participants in this important process. The board will host an information meeting with the current delegates sometime this year to review UUA issues. For questions or to volunteer for these open positions, contact any current delegate, or Board Chair Lynn Cardiff boardchair@uusalem.org.

Splinters from the Board

Ministerial Search

The board discussed the timeline and expectations of the board with regard to the ministerial search. We will be filling out a packet from UUA soon. Most search activities will not begin until the first part of 2024, when a board-appointed committee will begin the search for an interim minister who will serve for 2 years. The search for a settled minister will begin in early 2026 (about a year and a half after Rev. Rick retires). The board will provide updates for this process whenever it has new information.

Fundraising

We were reminded that \$35,000 in restricted funds were used to balance this year's budget. The board discussed the need for more fundraising outside of pledges. The fundraising committee, part of the finance team, is being revitalized and looking for 2 to 3 more members. If you are interested, please speak with Lynn Cardiff or Christine Ertl. Teams and committees will be encouraged to hold fundraisers and share a part of the funds with UUCS.

2024 General Assembly Delegates Needed

The UUCS board was informed that UUCS would need 2 to 3 more people to be delegates at the 2024 UUA General Assembly (GA). It decided to publish a request for volunteers in UUCS news sources.

Board Sundays

The board agreed to begin hosting an hour or less discussion after coffee hour several months this church year. Topics vital to the congregation will be discussed and questions answered. There will also be time for other questions that congregants might have. The first Board Sunday will be September 17 around noon in the sanctuary. It will include an opportunity to meet the board members, hear an update on the ministerial search and ask questions.

~Lynn Cardiff, Board Chair

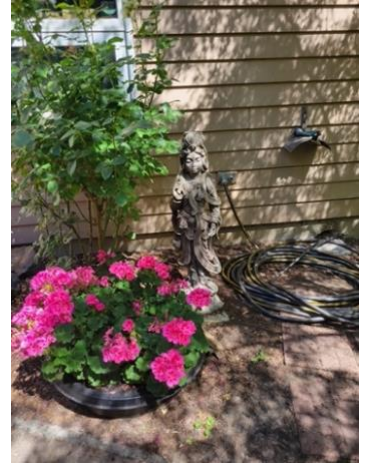
20th Anniversary of our Fellowship Hall – Part 2

The August newsletter included the first part of the story of construction of our fellowship hall in 2003. This issue continues the story.

Part of the project was graveling our north parking lot. We were surprised to learn that the County preferred that we not pave the lot with asphalt: gravel permits rain to soak through instead of run off into the creek.

Mary Sohlstrom recalled that at the Michael Servetus fellowship in Vancouver, WA, the congregation signed the walls of their church during construction. The signatures were covered by wallboard when the project was finished. So, on September 7, our congregation did the same thing. Over a hundred of us used felt-tip pens to sign the insides of our walls. You don't see those signatures, but those of us who signed know they're there!

In October, when the fellowship hall interior walls were ready to paint, we advertised a work party. About twenty-one people came, ready to paint! We found enough equipment so almost everyone got to paint. We did the first coat before lunch, took a lunch break, then did the second coat. Job done! Painting the exterior, the kitchen, rest rooms, and storage closet, were done more quietly, day by day.



We had a number of work parties throughout the construction, as well as members painting almost every day. Landscaping took a great deal of work when we had to move plants and even some trees that were in the way.

The daily cleanup by our congregation members had three benefits. First, our members got to feel that this church was theirs in a very personal way. Second, the construction workers could continue working until quitting time instead of stopping earlier to do the site cleanup. Third, the construction workers saw that we cared. I believe they put in extra care themselves to ensure that the job was done to the best of their ability.

Somewhat late in the construction, we decided that instead of a grass area south of the fellowship hall, we would have a concrete patio, with a fence both for privacy and, hopefully, to cut down on the traffic noise. A good deal of the expense was covered by funds donated in memory of Keith Bateman, who for twenty years had lovingly maintained the lot on which our church was built. He had also participated in the construction in 1997.



Among the things you probably didn't know: the fellowship hall flooring was recycled from a gym in a high school in Scappoose! When the boards were laid down without regard to where they had been in Scappoose, the lines from the basketball court made an interesting pattern. Some members thought we should leave the pattern, but no, we had to sand all the boards down to make the floor properly level.

A time capsule was planted in the east wall of Hanneman Hall. This is in addition to the capsule placed in the north wall of our sanctuary in 1997. The directions are to open each capsule fifty years after it was planted, with the idea that a few of the younger members when the capsules were planted can be present for the opening.

As I wrote in the December 17, 2003, newsletter, "We feel closer to each other, have increased respect for each other, and have greater confidence that together we can accomplish much. We are ecstatic about our new Hanneman Hall, and we should be at least as excited that we have built an even better congregation!"

~George Struble

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	After Service
September Share the Plate Recipient: HOME Youth and Resource Center		

Sunday, September 10

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

"The Great Cycle" Water Communion Service

Everyone please join us for our annual Water Communion Service -a participatory ritual. If you can, bring a small container of water symbolizing something important in your life (we'll have extra containers available). This is a time to acknowledge the commitments we share.

Celebrant: Janet Stevens
Music: UUCS Choir

Sunday, September 17

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

"Who do You Hate?"

These days a lot of attention is focused on "hate groups." Perhaps it's good to slow down and look with gentle honesty at the world around us and also within to gain a deeper understanding of this very strong emotion that lies within all of us.

Celebrant: Brenna Norval
Music: Jon Chinburg and Terry Bay

Sunday, September 24

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

"Mugs and Bugs"

Join me in planning a jailbreak. The boys, Mugs and Bugs, and I are going to try to tunnel our way out of the prison of hypocrisy. Since the kind of prison that we want to bust out of is one of the mind, you will only need to bring your mental picks and shovels.

Celebrant: Gloria Holland
Music: UUCS Choir

Sunday, October 1

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

"Who Are Your Animal Friends?"

This is our annual Animal Blessing Sunday. Let us bring them, show them, and bless them.

Celebrant: Barbara Stebbins-Boaz

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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 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: Submissions for the **October** newsletter are due by 8 pm Friday, **September 29.**

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