



The Chalice and the Flame

Diverse people. Diverse beliefs. One community.

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

November 2023

Jolly Diners Meet November 9

Jolly Diners is a gathering of folks committed to taking a break from negativity! This month is a big one for Jolliness! Thursday, November 9 happens to be Geriatric Tooth Fairy Day, Chaos Never Dies Day, **and** World Freedom Day! Join us at 6 pm at Marco Polo Restaurant where there is food for every palate. Come celebrate and laugh with us! Please RSVP to Steve at sjr1948@gmail.com so we can notify the restaurant about numbers.

"Helping to Lift the Poorest Out of Poverty" November 12



On November 12, 2023, our guest speaker will be Ron Hockley, Executive Director of the NEO Fund speaking on "Helping to Lift the Poorest Out of Poverty." He will highlight our successes and challenges and how we, the UUCS Microfinance Team and the NEO Fund, have affected the lives of the poor, especially in Nicaragua. Ron is a very dynamic and compelling speaker and is focused on helping some of the most impoverished communities of the developing world. [Click here](#) for the NEO Fund webpage.

Since 2008, our UUCS Congregation has been addressing global poverty one family at a time by establishing permanent revolving loan funds and making small loans to people living on the edge. We

have partnered with the non-profit NEO Fund to make small loans so people can earn a sustainable living. This has resulted in the ability to improve their housing, lift their standard of living, and educate their children.

UUCS Benefit Concert November 12

Pianist Greg Lief and the Cherry City Quartet will provide a Musical Journey through Chopin and Ravel on Sunday, November 12 at 2 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem, (UUCS), 5090 Center Street NE, Salem 97317. This is a benefit concert for UUCS. The suggested donation is \$20 per person.

For more info on the pianist and quartet, [click here to see the web post](#).



Fundraiser for Microfinance November 12-19



UUCS's Microfinance project is selling exquisite quilts, pins, pendants, and fridge magnets to raise money to contribute to the NEO Fund, which assists the poor in Nicaragua and India with micro-loans. For information or to view quilts, [click here](#).

Magnets and pendants will be available for immediate sale while on display in Hanneman Hall November 12 and 19. Quilts, all lovingly crafted by Lorna Youngs, will be sold by auction or for a posted Buy-It-Now price. Auction bidding ends at 12:30 pm on November 19. Email auction bids or Buy-It-Now orders for quilts to George Struble at gstruble@willamette.edu, or phone (do *not* text) him at 503-364-3929, *except from November 9 through 12*. During those four days send Buy-It-Now orders for quilts by phone or text to Ann Hanus at 503-871-9764.

All proceeds will go toward our microfinance projects. A donor to the NEO Fund will match up to \$5000 of the total of proceeds from the fundraiser sales and direct donations for the UUCS Microfinance projects.



Reverential Ramblings

~ Rev. Richard Davis, UUCS's minister

What beautiful fall days we've had lately—this season reminds me of one reason I wanted to move away from the climate of the San Fernando Valley, adjacent to LA, where I spent the first six years of my ministry. My soul yearned to experience again the four distinct seasonal changes I had always known living on the east coast and in Germany. I especially missed the beauty of fall—the season that most reminds me of the march of time, the transitory nature of life.

As many of you know by now, next fall I will be entering a different season of my life when I retire.

This stirs up poignant feelings of gratitude and grief (and yes, some relief). I wouldn't have it any other way.

Time flows on and even as it's a time for endings, it's also a time of exciting new beginnings: Later this month, during the Thanksgiving break, Gordana and I will travel to Ohio where I will officiate at our son Zachary's marriage to Emily. Many of you know Zach, having watched him grow up at UUCS, and you will have the chance to meet our wonderful new daughter in law sometime early next year when we'll have a reception at UUCS. Stay tuned for more details.

So, in regard to these two interwoven aspects of my identity—father and congregational minister—I'll be shifting into lower gear as I enter a new phase of life. Of course, I will always be a parent and a minister. Many warn that if you are so firmly identified with your vocational role then you will flounder when you no longer have that role. Yet ministry, as I understand and practice it, is a universal calling to serve the common good in whatever ways you can, according to your gifts and the opportunities that lie before you. Ministry has a unique dual quality: it entails acting on behalf of some greater authority than oneself and also entails acting as a servant for others. That's the high and low of it. The higher authority that empowers my ministry is "agape" love—a love that transcends narrow self-interest and seeks the wellbeing of all. Everyone is called to that ministry.

Even as I'll always seek to minister in various ways, my role as congregational minister will end next summer and that will be quite a change after having been in this role for two years shy of four decades.

All the transitions in our lives can make it feel as though nothing is stable, nothing stays the same, everything changes. Yet that doesn't quite capture the deeper truth of things. They say, "you can't put your foot in the same river twice" (because it flows, and it'll be different water). Yet it is still water—that doesn't change.

And so, it is with the flowing river of life. The earth's gravity is always pulling the water in all the rivers and streams forward to the sea. With us, it is the inexorable gravity of time that draws us forward down the river of life. It's always flowing, changing. Yet beyond that change is the constant presence of the love in which we live and move and have our being.

Love,
Rick





~Molly Brown, Director, Lifespan Religious Education~

Dear UUCS Families and Friends,

Thanks to all those who attended the Trunk or Treat event last Saturday! We had a full parking lot with volunteers wrapped all the way around and trick-or-treaters for the entire three hours of the event! Thank you to those who decorated your cars, who passed out candy and who came and had a great time! I honestly wasn't sure how it was going to go this year, but it was a wonderful turn out and I plan to do it again next year!

The weekly LRE themes this month focus on generosity! We will explore how generosity is connected to "The Gift of Widening Our Love," "The Gift of Connection," "The Gift of Gratitude," and "The Gift of Hope"!

Wendell Berry's poem "Wild Geese" paints a colorful image of Earth's bounty, inspiring the beloved poet and farmer to be thankful that all we need is around us:

Horseback on Sunday morning,
harvest over, we taste persimmon
and wild grape, sharp sweet
of summer's end. In time's maze
over fall fields, we name names
that went west from here, names
that rest on graves. We open
a persimmon seed to find the tree
that stands in promise,
pale, in the seed's marrow.
Geese appear high over us,
pass, and the sky closes. Abandon,
as in love or sleep, holds
them to their way, clear,
in the ancient faith: what we need
is here. And we pray, not
for new earth or heaven, but to be
quiet in heart, and in eye
clear. What we need is here.

Reminders for this month: On **November 12** we will learn about poverty in Nicaragua and Central America, and about the UUCS micro finance program that helps families there start new businesses and get out of poverty. The LRE children will create letters and pictures for the children of those families to receive! If you can't come and want to help out, make something at home and drop it off at the church before the end of the month! On **November 19** will be the Youth Collective Friendsgiving Event at St Paul's Episcopal Church at 1444 Liberty Street SE in Salem from 12:30 to 3:30 pm! To sign up, email me at DLRE@uusalem.org and I will send you the sign-up link! **November 19 – 26** is Family Promise Week! If you would like to volunteer, please send me an email; I will pass it on to the volunteers in charge of running the program. There will be **no LRE program November 19 and 26**, but there will be an awesome Multigenerational Service on November 19, with a Thanksgiving Communion in the Fellowship Hall and a special performance by the Dancers of Universal Peace! Come check it out!



Have a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends. Gobble, Gobble! With thanks and gratitude,
Molly Brown (she/hers) (971)239-7384

More Happenings and Highlights

Women's Alliance Bazaar December 10

Sunday, December 10 is the day and Hanneman Hall is the place for the annual Women's Alliance Holiday Bazaar. As always it will feature homemade goodies, poinsettias, handmade jewelry and crafts, holiday items, and themed gift baskets. Sales will start immediately after the Sunday service.

This popular event is one of Women's Alliance's major sources of income for the coming year. Funds raised from the bazaar go toward purchasing or maintaining items not covered in the church's general budget. This year WA helped purchase new ovens and paid for redoing the kitchen floor. Possible projects for 2024 include interior painting and/or the professional cleaning of chairs.



In addition to your attendance, we welcome your homemade, handmade, and/or holiday themed items to add to the bazaar. They can be brought to Hanneman Hall on Saturday, December 9 between 10 and 12 or December 10 starting at 10 am. Questions: Becky Hickox, bhickox@gmail.com, 503-393-3841 (no texts).

O.W.L. Sexuality Education for Youth Offered

With our kids living in a world of YouTube and TikTok, it's important that they are educated about the things they are seeing and hearing. UUCS is offering the Our Whole Lives (OWL) sexuality education program for youth in grades 7 and 8. Classes will be Tuesdays, 7 to 9 pm, from January 9 through April 23, 2024, at UUCS, 5090 Center Street NE. Salem, OR 97317.

Learn more at the Parent Orientation meetings on December 5 and 12 from 7 to 9 pm. Parents are **required** to attend both meetings. RSVP for the Parent Orientation by [clicking here](#).

While Our Whole Lives was developed by two progressive religious denominations, Unitarian Universalists and Congregationalists, this curriculum is secular, free of specific religious doctrine, and reflects inclusive and justice-oriented values. While the program equips youth with knowledge, attitudes, and skills to avoid unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, it has the more proactive goal of helping youth to become sexually healthy people who feel good about themselves and their bodies, remain healthy and build positive, equitable loving relationships. The curriculum is inclusive, developmentally appropriate, and comprehensive in the topics that it covers.

Men Meet Monthly on Sundays or Wednesdays

All who identify as men are welcome to join the Men's Group. The next potluck dinner is from 6 to 8 pm on Wednesday, November 8 in Rev. Rick's office. The next potluck breakfast is from 8 to 10 am on Sunday November 26 in Hanneman Hall. Each meeting occurs once every four weeks.

Health Precautions Recommended

As we know, COVID cases are on the rise, here and in the larger community. Also flu and other respiratory diseases historically are more common in winter months. Please be thoughtful of others, mindful of your own health, take precautions, but know we welcome you to join us in community at each Sunday service.

News of the Community

Hey, have you heard the exciting news? Well, here are things people have been doing or will be doing soon:

Look at what **Sarah Rohrs** did! She contributed her poem, "Interlude Under the Sky" to the Save the Salem Peace Mosaic's latest anthology, "Salem Means Peace." This anthology of poems about peace and paths to achieve it is a fundraiser for the Save the Salem Peace Mosaic, an organization dedicated to saving the Salem Peace Mosaic. The mosaic covered the now-demolished Salem Family YMCA building. It was moved in sections and put in storage with plans to reinstall at the Salem Riverfront Carousel.

Sarah is a long-time poet and drawn to art and to poetry as a way to deepen life and to express longing, wisdom, beauty, and divine order. Here is her poem:

Interlude Under the Sky

There is peace even in the storm. --Vincent van Gogh

Charged air like waves
roll over the fields.
Flowers and grass flap and
touch me, tug on my coat as
I walk on the road and pick
up a broken rock from
the clotted ground. The
clouds undulate above as
the sun races down the sky,
arresting this blue and green.
Such immaculate white to
find aglow in the fields, to see
rising from the maze of wind,
sky and rain.

In the distant roar and clap,
the wild birds circle, a dove
struggles on her nest and coos.
Let my head soak when the clouds
break, let my feet leave pavement
and roll through softly waving
golden grass. In a stiff wind, I know
all good-byes will end in glad hymns,
will return in earth. Black hills, trees,
indistinct in the distance, are my
witness.

That old weight in my arms.
Why continue to measure?
Let everything fall to the kind ground.

Contact Sarah at sarahjrohrs@gmail.com or go to Amazon if you are interested in buying a copy. All proceeds benefit the Save the Salem Peace Mosaic efforts. A public poetry reading will take place 7 pm, Thursday, November 30 at the Bush Barn Center Annex, 600 Mission St. SE.

Jack Simmons has a new love in his life. On October 10, his goddaughter in Seattle gave birth to a beautiful baby girl! She is a blessing to her parents and godfather! Here is her picture.

Do you have something you want to share for the December Newsletter? Email me, Sara Pickett, at sara@uusalem.org by November 24 or catch me some Sunday and tell me!



Help Wanted and Appreciated!

Help Homeless Families Thanksgiving Week

UUCS will host homeless families from Family Promise Sunday, November 19 through Sunday morning, November 26. Many people have already offered to help but we still need to fill the following jobs: Evening Hosts are needed on Sunday (2), Wednesday (1), and Saturday (1). Overnight Hosts are needed on Monday (1), Wednesday (2), Friday (2), and Saturday (1).



The Family Promise team will be in the Fellowship Hall after services. If you know now that you would like to help, contact the team at familypromise@uusalem.org. For more information, [visit the Family Promise website](#).

Help with UUCS Facebook Page Wanted

Love to Facebook? Want to help UUCS for about 2-5 hours per month, all from home? We need a Facebook editor, familiar with Facebook, very comfortable with email, and willing to be trained on Trello, our workspace organizer (it's easy!). We write the words, usually provide a picture, and you just post it. Contact the Communications Team on facebook@uusalem.org



Social Justice News

What I Learned from a Tour of the Church at the Park's Family Village

The goals of the Ministry of the Church at the Park (C@P) are to provide supportive housing sites that are safe, sanitary and provide services that help residents transition to permanent housing. To do this it focuses on:

1. Undoing the damage caused by the trauma of homelessness. Homelessness impacts people differently, but one constant is that relationships are broken. The staff at a C@P managed micro-shelter village works with residents to restore and create relationships that help residents find permanent housing.
2. Stability by providing emergency shelter. When an individual or family becomes homeless, they go into survival mode. Providing shelter and supportive services enables them to work towards finding permanent housing.
3. Workforce development. If homelessness results from losing a job, finding work supports having housing.

The C@P micro-shelter family village, behind Catholic Community Services on Portland Road, provides secure housing, an evening meal, and case management as do all of C@P's sites. Showers and laundry facilities are provided as are sheets and towels. Stability is not only provided by transitional housing but the security of living in a gated community where residents and visitors check in and out.

Families are recommended by the outreach team and agencies who get to know them in the field. C@P accepts families after they go through an intake process which includes agreeing to the rules of the micro-shelter village.

Once a family is accepted, it doesn't mean they will stay until they find housing. Residents are recertified monthly, have a weekly health check, and a monthly deep clean that checks for moisture, bad food, and habits such as hoarding food and other stuff. These checks insure they are following policies and procedures, needs are being met, and helps them stay connected. Habits that risk loss of permanent housing are identified and corrected.

C@P provides case managers and peers (individuals who have experienced homelessness) to help them find permanent housing. A typical case load for a case manager is 20 people. Case managers help families create a plan to become permanently housed. Peers help them execute the plan.

Almost weekly, families move from the micro-shelter village to permanent housing. The impact of micro-shelter villages is significant. From 60 to 70 percent of residents, maybe more, find permanent housing. The "Point in Time Count" showed that in the previous year over 800 homeless found housing. The number of homeless counted stayed about the same. Without C@P and ARCHES, the homeless population would be much greater.

~John Prohodsky, Social Justice Chair

Giving Tree for the Mentally III

The Mindful Organization for the Recovery of Psychological Health, M.O.R.P.H. asks for your support this holiday season by providing gifts for people with significant mental health conditions who are without support from friends or family. Please join us in reaching out to those who are so often alone and forgotten. You are invited to select gift tags which will be on a Christmas Tree in the entryway. The gifts should be returned wrapped or placed in a holiday card no later than December 17 with the tag attached. The tree will be available November 26, December 3, December 10, and December 17. The last time for returning the gifts is after the service on December 17.

We appreciate your caring and generosity. For questions contact Nina Donnelly at 503-949-6266.

MLP Women's Farm Worker Co-op Christmas Wreaths

The women of this farm workers cooperative, Mujeres Luchadores Progresistas (Women Striving for Progress), are selling 24-inch wreaths made of noble fir, pine cones, and holly for \$40. They can be purchased in Hanneman

Hall after Sunday Service on November 12, 19, and 26. Checks should be made out to MLP with “wreath” in the memo line. If you do not need a wreath and wish to donate, you may write out a check for any amount to MLP.

The wreaths will help the women buy food and clothing for their families, support workshops for immigrant women, such as parenting and health classes, and business skills.

The wreaths will be available for pick up in Hanneman Hall on December 3rd. Thank you for supporting our farmworker neighbors.

Splinters from the Board

Ministerial Transition

A board committee consisting of Christine Ertl, Robert Galloway and Lynn Cardiff continue to work on the process for choosing an interim minister. The board has agreed to follow the UUA recommended transition procedures for hiring a UUA Accredited Transition Minister, who will begin in August of 2024. The committee is reading the transition handbook, formulating questions, and establishing a timeline and list of tasks. The formal transition process does not begin until January 2024.

Team Council

Team Council has been meeting monthly and working on the UUCS Strategic Plan. Team and committee reporting to the board has changed from monthly to quarterly. The Council has also worked on finalizing the organizational chart for UUCS. Ben Cavaletto began this process last year and the team and the board have been making suggestions. We appreciate Ben’s work and all the input we have received.

Use of Trello

Several teams and committees use the information “boards” in the Trello application to organize their activities. If your group is going to use Trello, contact Jo in the office 9 am to 1 pm Tuesday through Friday. All church groups must use Trello through the UUCS office. No Trello use can be on private accounts.

Declared Emergency Pay Policy Adopted

The Committee on Human Resources (CHR) has presented a Declared Emergency Pay Policy to replace the COVID Pay Policy that was approved in 2020. The policy will be formatted for a vote at our next board meeting.

Shed Break-in and Theft and November 19 Board Forum Discussion on Congregant Safety

Last month, the UUCS’s large garden shed was again broken into. Close to \$1000 worth of tools were stolen. The next day two members of our Landscape Group, John Davenport and Robert Galloway heavily reinforced the shed door. Facilities has discussed having a camera inside the shed and an alarm, as the shed is now wired for electricity. These ideas will be discussed at Board Forum on “safety” on November 19 at 12 pm in the sanctuary. Most churches are looking into how to keep its congregants safe in the climate in which we live. Please plan on joining us for as long as you can stay. So far, Board Forums have lasted about 40 minutes.

~Lynn Cardiff, Board Chair

Sara Pickett, To Reach the Peak, acrylic



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
November Share the Plate Recipient: Microfinance		

Sunday, November 12

Ron Hockley

"How UUCS Micro-Loans Change the World Every Day"

Ron Hockley, Executive Director of our partner non-profit organization, The NEO Fund, will share with us the stories and images of the people we are helping to raise out of poverty through microfinancing.

Celebrant: Gloria Holland
Special Music: Greg Lief
Piano: Terry Bay
Cantor: Tom Ellis

Sunday, November 19

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

"The Longest Sermon in the World"

A few years back I had my eye on the Guinness Book of World Records for "the longest sermon ever preached." I've since come to my senses, and yet, there might be something here to explore ...

Celebrant: Janet Stevens
Music: UUCS Choir

Sunday, November 26

Sara Pickett, Homilist/Storyteller

"Centering Yourself in the Dance of Life"

How do we keep our center in the ever-changing chaos of life? Does growth come from maintaining a center, core values, or from veering off?

Celebrant: Brenna Norval
Music: Barbara Stebbins-Boaz
Piano: Loriann Schmidt

Sunday, December 3

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

"All Together Now"

Everything is interconnected and we never really accomplish even the simplest task entirely on our own. How do we live and work in concert with one another and the greater whole?

Celebrant: Nadene LeCheminant
Music: UUCS Choir

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This issue was edited by Bob Muir with help from Vicki Cunningham, 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 8:00 pm on Friday, **December 1, 2023.**

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