



The Chalice and the Flame

Diverse people. Diverse beliefs. One community.

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

March 2024

UUCS Zoom Discussion March 6 at 7 PM on Proposed Article 2 Revision

The final vote on the revision of the UUA's Article II of the Bylaws is coming up this June at the General Assembly (GA). Your delegates would like your assistance in determining how to vote. UUCS Board will guide as well, however we feel it is important to represent the whole congregation as much as possible. You can help.

First, read the latest revision of Article II by [clicking here](#). Find more links to "Article II" on the [Unitarian Universalist Association | UUA.org website](#). Second, [attend a Zoom discussion](#) March 6 from 7 pm to 8 pm.

Be on the lookout for an in-person discussion in April and a chance to provide your "yea" or "nay" in May.

In brief, they are suggesting the UUA remove the 7 Principles and 6 Sources that are found in our hymnal and on the back of every Order of Service you get each Sunday, and replace them with 6 Values supporting the centering value of Love. Those 6 Values are interdependence, equity, transformation, pluralism, generosity, and justice. In addition, there are ideas of inspiration, inclusion and freedom of belief. It's a bit more complicated than summarized here, which is why it would be so helpful for you to read it yourself and then join the chat on March 6.

Thank you ahead of time for your support in our decision-making process.

~Hannah Batu, Joel Martin, Sara Pickett and Barbara Stebbins-Boaz, your 2024 GA Delegates

Team Council Meeting

There will be a Team Council Meeting March 10 at 12 pm in the Blue Room (in the LRE wing).

The Team Council is tasked with coordination of all UUCS-recognized teams and affiliated ministries. It serves as a collective conduit for communication with the UUCS Board under the coordination of the UUCS Board Vice-Chair. This Council allows for cross-communication between teams to share ideas and reduce duplication of effort or working at cross-purposes as we work toward our common goal of creating a welcoming, compassionate and engaged spiritual community.

All Team Leaders are asked to attend the Team Council meeting, and any committee, group or Affiliated Ministry is welcome to attend. Bring your snacks and coffee from the Fellowship Hall. On the agenda will be a final report on the Strategic Plan that all teams have worked diligently on, the Interim Minister search and fundraising specifically for the Stewardship Campaign.

[Contact Christine Ertl](#), Board Vice Chair, for further information.

A Very Beethoven Afternoon March 16

On Saturday, March 16 at 3 pm a program of chamber music by Ludwig Van Beethoven will be performed in honor and celebration of our minister, Rick Davis, who has been known to appreciate this great composer. On the program will be the Piano Trio Opus 1, No. 1 performed by Anita King, piano, Dan Rouslin, violin and Georgienne Young, cello. The Deepwood String Quartet with members Julie Rundquist and Laura Owens playing violin, Cathy Heithaus, viola and Georgienne Young, cello will perform the String Quartet Opus 18, No. 2. Donations accepted at the door.



Reverential Ramblings

~ Rev. Richard Davis, UUCS's minister

Ministry bears some resemblance to gardening – it's a useful metaphor. When I was beginning my first ministry in Southern California long ago it only took me a short time to see what I thought needed fixing so that the congregation I was serving could fulfill its potential. So I came up with a Swiss watch-like plan that, in my mind, would have the place running smoothly and effectively.

To share my organizational revelations with key leaders I convened a general meeting and presented my plan for them to implement - it met with no visible resistance. Yet when I later checked in to see how various groups were doing I quickly realized that they weren't doing what I had advised them to be doing. They were doing their own thing, as they always had, and my illusions were shaken.

Still, not knowing what else to do, I persisted in trying to control what lay beyond my control until I finally realized I needed to change my method of ministerial gardening – thus I became a permaculture minister. Very briefly, permaculture strives to minimize human intervention in food cultivation and maximize natural processes in order to promote sustainable agricultural systems and protect the environment.

In ministry a permacultural approach entails observing and respecting what is already thriving and then discerning ways that you can enhance this as opportunities naturally arise.

Contrast this with a monocultural approach wherein one crop is planted on huge plots of land. Farmers who use this technique generally rotate their crop from year to year so that the soil does not get depleted, but when the same crop covers the land from year to year – monocropping - the yield diminishes and the soil is depleted.

Institutional observers note that a monocultural mindset can take hold within organizations such that only one perspective, one narrative, is implicitly allowed.

As I have reflected on the proposed changes to the heart of our UUA Bylaws (Article 2) to be voted on in June at our UU General Assembly it strikes me that this is the product of a monocultural mindset – there is no awareness of or appreciation for the amazingly diverse ways congregations embody UU values in our local settings – there is just one uniform perspective and approach that the UUA seeks to impose upon us in a top-down hierarchical fashion.

As I reflect upon my own earlier practices of ministry, I understand the well-intentioned impulse to make our congregations and the world correspond to one's ideal vision a.s.a.p., yet when, in our zeal to move forward, we push our revolutionary agendas we are in danger of running roughshod over others. It's good when we can learn to respect the infinite complexity of life and learn to trust the deeper, truer rhythms through which loving change more naturally occurs. When you push too hard, it is ineffective. Worse than that, it often backfires.

Since there's no space here to register my concerns about these proposed changes to our UUA bylaws I direct your attention to two trustworthy but unofficial UU websites – [Savethe7Principles](#) and [The Fifth Principle Project](#) – which provide essential information and in depth reflection on these proposed changes. Remember: we all have a voice in this – given our congregational size UUCS has five delegate votes (as a UU Minister I also have a vote.). The delegates have been and will continue to reach out to hear your perspectives on these proposed changes in order that their votes represent you. I urge you to learn more and then let your voice be heard. Love, Rick



Lifespan Religious Education

Molly Brown, Director, Lifespan Religious Education

Dear Members of the Congregation,

I hope this message finds you well and filled with the spirit of community and gratitude. Our recent Multigenerational Service on February 25 was a beautiful testament to the strength and vibrancy of our congregation. I extend my deepest appreciation to all the volunteers and children who contributed their time, energy, and enthusiasm to make the service a memorable occasion. Your dedication truly embodies the essence of our community, where every member, regardless of age, plays an invaluable role in shaping our collective journey.

As we reflect on the Multigenerational Service, it serves as a poignant reminder of the significance of our children in the life of our congregation. They are not only the future but also the heart and soul of our community. Their presence, energy, and unique perspectives infuse our gatherings with vitality and promise. It is through events like these that we nurture and celebrate the inherent gifts and potential within each child.

Looking forward, I am excited to share with you our plans for the Lifespan Religious Education (LRE) Program this March. Throughout the month, we will embark on a journey of exploration and transformation. Our program will delve into the concept of transformation, encouraging our children to embrace the power of change and growth. With five engaging sessions lined up, we will explore various spring religious holidays through the lens of transformation, igniting curiosity and understanding in our young minds.

Here's a glimpse of what to expect in our upcoming sessions:

1. Transformation - Change Happens
2. Ramadan - Changing Our Attention
3. Spring Equinox - The Changing Seasons Grow New Things. So Can We!
4. Holi (A Hindu holiday) - Changing Ignorance into Knowledge
5. Easter - The Change from Sad Hearts to Hopeful Hearts; Remembering that Bad Times Won't Last Forever

Furthermore, mark your calendars for the LRE Luncheon scheduled for April 28 from 12 - 2 pm. This gathering presents an opportunity for us to collectively envision the future of our Lifespan Religious Education Program. Your insights and contributions are vital as we strive to create enriching experiences for our children and families. To RSVP, please email DLRE@uusalem.org or [fill out the form here](#).

As we gear up for the weeks ahead, let us also remember our commitment to service and compassion. Family Promise Week is approaching from March 31 to April 7, during which we will not be holding LRE Program sessions. If you wish to volunteer and support this meaningful initiative, please reach out to Sara Shatto at 503-910-3547.

We are exploring the possibility of organizing a summer vacation for the families of our Lifespan Religious Education (LRE) Program. It's a chance for us to foster deeper connections, create lasting memories, and bask in the beauty of nature together.

If any of you have a lake house, rental property, or a cozy retreat by the coast that you would be willing to donate or offer at a discounted rate, we would be immensely grateful. Your generosity will enable us to provide our

families with a rejuvenating and enriching experience while strengthening the bonds of fellowship within our community.

Lastly, Easter is on the horizon, and our annual Community Egg Hunt awaits! Join us on Easter Sunday, March 31, at 12:30 pm for a joyous celebration. We kindly request your assistance in ensuring we have enough stuffed eggs for the entire community. You can drop off filled plastic eggs at the DLRE's office or with the Office Manager, Emma, before the Easter Sunday Service. For businesses interested in contributing to the event, please contact me directly at DLRE@uusalem.org.

Thank you for your unwavering support, dedication, and generosity. Together, we continue to build a vibrant and inclusive community where all are welcome and cherished.

Warm regards,

Molly Brown
DLRE UUCS
(971)239-7384

Pledge Drive Update

Hello UUCS Community,

I hope this email finds you in good spirits. As we journey through our "Building our Legacy" pledge drive, I wanted to share an update on our progress.

Our goal for this year's pledge drive is to reach \$330,000. Your generous contributions are vital to sustaining our vibrant community, and I'm thrilled to announce that so far, we've raised an impressive \$101,070.04.

However, only 27% of our pledging members have responded so far. Your participation is crucial to achieving our collective goal. Every pledge, whether large or small, contributes to the legacy we are building together.

As a reminder, an anonymous consortium has pledged to match every \$5,000 increase in pledges with an additional \$1,000, up to \$20,000. This means your pledge not only helps us reach our goal but also unlocks additional support for our community.

Please take a moment to reflect on the impact your pledge can have and join us in making a commitment to our beloved church. Visit our website or stop by during the next three Sundays, where we will have laptops available for assistance and paper forms for those who prefer them. Your pledge matters, and your timely response will make a significant difference. Let's work together to achieve our goal and continue building a legacy that sustains and enriches our community.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Warm regards,

Craig Rowland kraigpdx@gmail.com

[2024 - 2025 Pledge Form](#)

Happenings and Highlights

Board Forum March 17

Another Congregational Input meeting to discuss our transition to an Interim Minister will be held on March 17. A facilitated discussion beginning at noon in the Sanctuary will focus on our congregation's shared ministry and our hopes, dreams and roles for our Interim Minister. All are invited to attend. If you attended the February 18 session, this will be a repeat.

Jolly Diners Meet Next in March

The January dinner found about 18 of us being Jolly at Marco Polo Restaurant. So many, it got too loud! We are skipping February, because the host will be out of town. Next dinner will be March 20, 2024 at 6 pm at Marco Polo. For the March dinner we will separate the tables, if necessary, in order to keep the sound level more Jolly! We hope to see you there.

Women's Retreat 2024

All people who identify as female are warmly invited to the Women's Retreat 2024, June 28-30. This year's theme is "Be here, now". Come, refresh your body and spirit. Restore your connections with nature and other women at beautiful Suttle Lake just east of the Cascades.

The registration fee is \$200, which includes lodging for two nights and 6 meals, Friday dinner through Sunday lunch. A relaxing variety of activities will be offered for you to enjoy as you feel inclined; art, writing, storytelling, hiking, tai chi, and singing around the campfire among others.

You will be able to access an [on-line registration form](#) or alternatively obtain a hard copy during fellowship hour after Sunday service. Payment may be made by credit card [on-line](#). Or you can write a check to UUCS with "Women's Retreat 2024" on the memo line. If you are unable to pay the full amount, please pay as much as you are able. Limited scholarships will be available. The deadline for registration is April 1 (no foolin'!). Payments are non-refundable after April 15.

Please send any questions to Barbara or Sara at womensretreat@uusalem.org.

Here are the links for [registration](#), [payment](#), or to [donate toward a scholarship](#).

Help Homeless Families Easter Sunday through April 7

UUCS will host homeless families from Family Promise from Sunday, March 31, through Sunday morning, April 7. We will need volunteers to provide and serve meals, be evening hosts, and to spend the night as overnight hosts. Please consider finding time to help. It takes nearly 50 volunteers to make this work. The Family Promise team will be in the Fellowship Hall after services during March. If you know now that you would like to help, contact the team at familypromise@uusalem.org.

For more information on Family Promise, [visit their website](#).

Save the Date June 23 to Celebrate Rev. Rick and Gordana

We hope you will join us June 23 for a celebration of the 30+ years of love, wisdom, dedication and leadership our beloved Rev. Rick and Gordana Davis brought to our congregation. More information to come.

Contribute to Book for Rick and Gordana

We are accepting contributions for a commemorative book which will be presented to Rick and Gordana. Submissions may be no more than 1 page, size 8.5 x 11 inches, per person. Submissions may be testimonials, reflections, memories or other prose, poetry, printable artwork, photographs, or similar. Items will be bound in book form so please do not submit textured, raised or bulky items however photos of such items are great. Electronic submission is preferred for text. DEADLINE IS MAY 1, 2024. Please contact Janet Stevens, 503-949-2457, for more information or submit to stevens.janet.kay@gmail.com. Be sure to include your name and contact information.

An Evening with David Roth April 13

Award-winning songwriter David Roth will perform Saturday, April 17 at 7 pm at UUCS. The suggested cover cost is \$20, but no one will be turned away. Enjoy an evening of unique original music, replete with hilarity, poignancy, spontaneity, and inspiration.

David is a singer, songwriter, recording artist, speaker, and music educator who has taken his songs, experience, and expertise to a wide variety of venues in this and other countries full-time for more than three decades. His songs have found their way to Carnegie Hall, the United Nations, several Chicken Soup for the Soul books, the Kennedy Center, Peter, Paul, & Mary and Kingston Trio CDs, the Kerrville and Falcon Ridge Folk Festivals, NASA's Goddard Space Center (his song "Rocket Science" sailed on the space shuttle Atlantis in 2009), the Rise Up Singing and Rise Again (sequel) songbooks, and 15 CDs on the Wind River and Stockfish (Germany) labels.

The former artist-in-residence at New York's Omega Institute has also taught singing, songwriting, and performance at SummerSongs (NY, where he serves as Executive Director), the Augusta Heritage workshops (WV), Common Ground on the Hill (MD), the Woods Dance & Music Camp (Ontario), WUMB's Summer Acoustic Music Week (NH), Moab Folk Camp (UT), Rowe Center (MA), Pendle Hill (PA), Lamb's Retreat (MI), the National Wellness Institute (WI), the Swannanoa Gathering (NC), and for many other songwriting groups around North America.

David is also creator of the Cape Cod Songwriters Retreats and organizer/host of the Cape's Full Moon Open Mic which for the past 15 years has provided a forum for musicians to connect and be heard while at the same time collecting donations (cumulatively over \$16,000 to date) for local non-profits to help neighbors in need.

"David has reached our hearts. With voices like his still singing, there's a certainty that the candle will remain lit, the hope reasserted, and the dream still sung..." Peter Yarrow of Peter, Paul, & Mary

UU Meditation Group Tuesdays 7 pm

Tuesdays at 7 pm everyone is welcome to join us in our sanctuary for guided and silent meditation followed by tea and discussion. The first text for our discussion will be Buddhist teacher Pema Chodron's *When Things Fall Apart: Heart Advice for Difficult Times*.

Note: If you meditate on a cushion, please bring one until we restore our supply.

Men's Group Second and Fourth Sundays

Men's Group will be meeting twice a month in the Green Room. Meetings will be on the 2nd Sunday, 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm (personal food optional) and on the 4th Sunday, 8 am - 10 am (breakfast pot luck).

Format: Leadership will be rotating. Meetings will start and end with brief check-ins. Topics may be initiated by the leader, or emerge during check-in. Contact Steve Rosen if you have questions.

News of the Community

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

Georgienne Young is delighted to be rehearsing with her Piano Trio (Anita King, piano; Dan Rouslin, violin; herself on cello) and her string quartet, The Deepwood String Quartet (violins: Julie Rundquist and Laura Owens; Cathy Heithaus, viola and Georgienne on cello) in preparation on the All-Beethoven concert Saturday, March 16 at 3 pm in our sanctuary. This concert will honor and celebrate our minister, Rick Davis, who has a well-known appreciation for the music of Beethoven.



March is Partner Church month. Be sure to come to the March 17 Service and hear about the importance of this program as well as stories of UUCS members' travels to Simenfalva. For our partner church, March 3-10 is Prayer Week, a time to strengthen and recharge their spiritual faith.

Mandy Bray would love to come up and be here for Rev. Rick's Fiesta being held June 23. If you have a room she could use, please email her at therealmandybray@gmail.com.

Do you have something you want to share for the March Newsletter? Email me at sara@uusalem.org by March 23 or catch me some Sunday and tell me! - Sara P.

Help Wanted and Appreciated!

Landscaping Work Party

Landscaping Work Parties will start March 9th, 2024 and will be held twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month, 9 am until noon until the end of summer. We need help with cleanup around the property including weed pulling, lawn mowing, planting plants, trimming bushes and cleaning/repairing furniture. Please consider coming out and working with us. (You may want to bring gloves and wear a hat.)

Social Justice News

Rites of Spring

With the coming of warmer and longer days thumbs begin to green and thoughts of fresh garden produce abound. Yep, it's time to think about gardening. In our garden we have candy on the vine, aka sugar snap peas and cherry tomatoes, lettuce, artichokes, peppers, hops, brussels sprouts, broccoli, and more.

Over the years productivity has fallen and mildew has attacked a few plants. Hopefully, testing the soil will provide guidance on how to reinvigorate the soil. Yes, I should have mulched the garden or planted a cover crop to nurture the soil and prevent weeds and grass from sprouting. Getting rid of unwanted plants is not one of the joys of spring.

I have heard that biodynamics and permaculture restore soil which is damaged when Roundup is used. I want to learn more about biodynamics and permaculture. Biodynamics and permaculture might seem to be fads however they were used to grow a significant percentage of food in an island nation after it lost its source of petroleum and fertilizer. Without them industrial farming that produced cash crops for export was not possible. The island is Cuba. After the Soviet Union disintegrated, Cuba lost the oil, fertilizer, and other agricultural chemicals provided by the Soviet Union, so they could not do industrial farming. Small scale, mostly organic

farms replaced industrial farming. These farms were small 5-, 10-, or 20-acre plots carved out from defunct sugar plantations. Industrial farming depleted the soil's nutrients and minerals. The soil was sick and needed to be healed to be productive. Applying biodynamics and permaculture principles restored the soil's health and productivity.

Why is restoring soil health important? Small family farms where they cared for the soil have been replaced by large industrial farms that use fertilizers and chemicals to grow crops and the farm equipment uses lots of petroleum. If, for instance, potash mine output declined, (potash is a source of potassium used on fertilizers), food production would be severely curtailed, and prices would increase. Permaculture and biodynamic farming would require the application of less potassium, if any, and produce healthier food. If potash production declines, we will need to farm without fertilizer and adopt biodynamics and permaculture-based farming.

Environmental justice is much more than preventing pollution, environmentally caused diseases, loss of habitat, and loss of species. It encompasses taking care of our world created by God so that the world can take care of us.

John Prohodsky
Social Justice Chair

Splinters from the Board

GA Delegates

[Next Zoom meeting](#) to discuss Article II question is March 6th.

This meeting is for members to find out about the Article II changes to the UUA By-laws that have been discussed for the last 2 years. There will be a vote at GA (General Assembly) in June and our delegates want to have a sense of what our congregation thinks about these changes. Also, we welcome Hannah Batu as a new GA delegate. Thank you, Hannah.

Strategic Plan

The summary of progress on the 2018 UUCS Strategic Plan revision has been completed and can be seen on the website under [Strategic Plan](#). Anyone with questions can contact Sara Pickett.

The board continues to work on the search for our Interim Minister, working up a contract and creating our search profile for interested ministers. Also, a Board Forum was planned, and then held, on February 18, where congregants were invited to collect their thoughts about the incoming interim minister and our shared ministry. 28 people attended, with robust conversation. A similar meeting will be held on March 17 at 12 noon in the sanctuary.

Masquerade Ball

The board fundraiser Masquerade Ball was held on February 10, to great financial and social success. \$1,500 was raised and the response from attendees was the request to make this an annual event.



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
March Share the Plate Recipient: Our Partner Church		

Sunday, March 10

Nadene LeCheminant, Homilist

"Holding Grief"

Sorrow comes in different forms, with different faces, for each of us. How can we become resilient enough to hold our grief and find healing?

Celebrant: Sara Pickett

Music: Uhuru Choir

Spring Forward! Daylight Savings Time Begins

Sunday, March 17

Sara Pickett, Homilist

"A Look Back and Forward to Simenfalva"

Connecting to our UU heritage is important. One way is through the Partner Church organization and our Partner Church in Simenfalva, Romania where our Unitarian roots lie. Come hear about UUCS pilgrimages there and how that affected the travelers spiritually, as well as updates on the congregation in Simenfalva.

Celebrant: Brenna Norval

Music: UUCS Choir

Sunday, March 24

The Rev. Todd Eklof

"Beyond the Cuckoo's Nest: Where Our Liberal Religion Must Go from Here"

Somehow, over the past few decades, Unitarians and Universalists have lost our way, often demonstrating the very opposite of our purposes and principles. Now, whatever we are about must include regaining our place as an influential liberal religious voice in the world. It is not to correct others, including the UUA, nor to exist in opposition to anyone. We are here to benefit others by promoting and demonstrating who we are and what we are about. In this sermon, we'll consider more precisely what this means.

Celebrant: Nadene LeCheminant

Music: Loriann Schmidt

Sunday, March 31

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

"It's a Mystery"

For many Easter is the celebration of a resurrection, a literal triumph over death. For me, this is a time to celebrate the mysteries of life and love.

Celebrant: Barbara Stebbins-Boaz

Music: UUCS Choir

Unitarian Universalist Congregation Of Salem

5090 Center St. NE, Salem, OR 97317

Minister: The Rev. Richard R. Davis

revrick@uusalem.org

Director of Lifespan Religious Education:

Molly Brown dlre@uusalem.org

RE Sunday Assistant: Sara Gonzalez

Director of Music: Jon Chinburg

musicdirection@uusalem.org

Board Chair: Lynn Cardiff

boardchair@uusalem.org

Congregational Administrator: Emma Kreger

Office Assistant: Jo Sweeney

Office open Tuesday-Friday, 9 am to 1 pm

Phone: 503-364-0932

E-mail: office@uusalem.org

UUCS Internet Links to:

Website: www.uusalem.org

Facebook: facebook.com/uusalem

Newsletter Editors: editors@uusalem.org

This issue was edited by Ross Patty with help from Vicki Cunningham, Elsa Struble and Kathleen McKinney.

EVENT SCHEDULING: use the [Event Scheduling Request](#) form on the UUCS website to add event to the UUCS calendar and/or reserve a UUCS space.

PUBLICITY and ANNOUNCEMENTS: Fill out the [Publication Request](#) form on the UUCS website for any announcement, event or news item. This form is a one-stop place to put a notice in the monthly newsletter, the UUCS website, the *This Week* email and/or Facebook.

DEADLINES:

Newsletter: The deadline for the **next** newsletter is 8:00 pm on Friday, **March 29, 2023.**

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