



# *The Chalice and the Flame*

*Diverse people. Diverse beliefs. One community.*

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

## April 2024

### **Family Promise Needs Overnight Hosts April 6**

UUCS is hosting homeless families from Family Promise this week through Sunday morning, April 7. Thanks to those who have volunteered. We still need 2 volunteers to be Overnight Hosts on Saturday, April 6. If you would like to help, contact the team at [familypromise@uusalem.org](mailto:familypromise@uusalem.org). For more information on Family Promise, visit [their website](#).

### **Women's Alliance Meeting April 10**

The monthly meeting of Women's Alliance will be April 10, from 2:00 to 3:30 in the Fellowship Hall. The guest speaker this month is Tania Wilson Moran, Volunteer Coordinator for Salem for Refugees. All are welcome to attend Women Alliance meetings! Food and beverage are always served.

Salem for Refugees is a refugee resettlement agency providing services to refugees in the Salem area. They have Good Neighbor Teams that walk with newly arrived refugee families to support them in their resettlement. Our congregation has a team that has supported 2 families in the past several years, a family of 9 from Afghanistan and a family of 3 from Venezuela, and we have congregants that support the families with rental homes. Our congregation also supports Salem for Refugees with Share the Plate donations.

Questions? Contact Lynn Cardiff at [boardchair@uusalem.org](mailto:boardchair@uusalem.org).

### **An Evening with David Roth April 13**

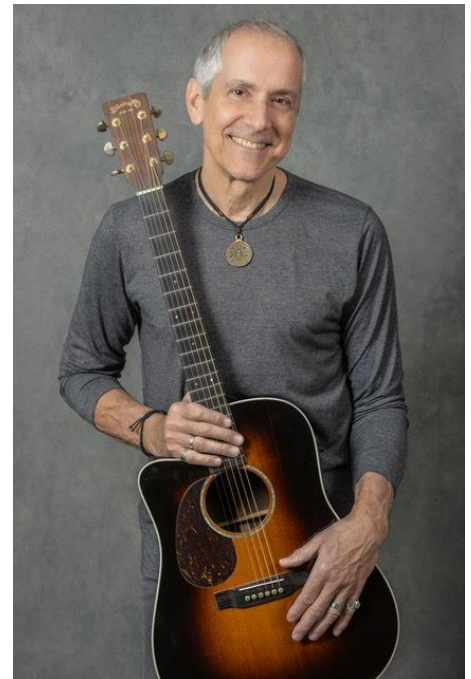
Award-winning songwriter David Roth will perform Saturday, April 13 at 7 pm at UUCS. The suggested cover cost is \$20, but no one will be turned away. Enjoy an evening of unique original music, replete with hilarity, poignancy, spontaneity, and inspiration.

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), Rise Up Singing and Rise Again songbooks, and 15 CDs on the Wind River and Stockfisch (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





## Reverential Ramblings

~ Rev. Richard Davis, UUCS's minister

Don't get me wrong...I loved the beauty of Southern California where I served my first seven years of ministry (one as an intern minister in San Diego and the other six in the San Fernando Valley, part of greater Los Angeles), but there was a part of me that always felt disoriented by the lack of four distinct seasons. For most of my life back east I had always known and loved the four seasons of the year. In Southern California it was hard to tell when one season ended and another began, and my soul felt adrift from the seasonal rhythms.

So, when I came to Oregon, I came back to something I had experienced back east – the four seasons, each with its own deep beauty and unique resonance.

As we enter this beautiful Spring season, I am acutely aware that I am soon to enter a different season of life... retirement. It feels a bit disorienting, unsettling, to be in this liminal zone wherein my focus is not on planning future congregational activities but on the next stage of my life.

Perhaps, you, the members and friends of UUCS, might also feel somewhat disoriented as you begin to enter a time of transition from the known to the unknown.

Even when change is expected and for the good it can be disorienting for individuals and institutions.

Welcome, all of us, to the world of change. Today so many things feel uncertain and unsettled in our world, and it's hard to escape the feeling that we are in the midst of some tectonic shifts in the social and political realms.

Yet even in the midst of change there are also stabilizing factors in our lives that can help us stay grounded.

One key stabilizing factor is strong, enduring congregational community. A few years ago, I preached at the installation of a colleague as minister in a lovely old New England UU Church, founded in 1642 by nonconformists from England! I marveled at the ongoing longevity of this small congregation and reflected on all that had transpired in the centuries since its founding. Many ministers have served them over the years for widely varying lengths of time. The congregations met during the Revolutionary War, the Civil War and World Wars One and Two and the other conflicts that came after that. They met through times of prosperity and times of great travail. They met through times of painful and divisive theological conflicts.

Through all of these changes, through all the years, this congregation continued to gather as a community, up to the present day.

Our congregation in its current form is just about three-quarters of a century old, and it's impossible to predict whether UUCS will be meeting four centuries from now. Yet maybe it will be! One thing that will hold steady in all days to come is people's deep yearnings for meaning and purpose, for loving community, and for opportunities to be of service to others.

If the congregation remembers to continue addressing these spiritual needs during these times of transition, then you will do well. Above all, stay grounded in love and never allow anger and discord to overrule it.

Every Sunday at the beginning of our Worship Services we say the words of our affirmation: "Love is our doctrine; Compassion is our way. Here we seek to create a joyful home for free religious exploration where we nurture the hopes and serve the needs of our world." Keep saying those words and heeding them and you will have fulfilled your promise.

Love, Rick



~Molly Brown, Director, Lifespan Religious Education~

Dear Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem,

Welcome to April in our Lifespan Religious Education Program! This month, we embark on an exciting journey exploring the gifts of Interdependence. Through four engaging sessions, we'll delve into the interconnectedness of community, creatures, and creations, and how these relationships shape our lives.

**Session One:** We kick off by defining Interdependence and understanding that we are not alone in this world. Through interactive games, we'll highlight the beauty of collaboration and mutual support.

**Session Two:** Here, we focus on the Web of Community, exploring how our church community nurtures us and how we, in turn, nurture it. It's a chance for our children to appreciate the unique bonds we share within our congregation.

**Sessions Three and Four:** These sessions revolve around caring for the Web of Creation. We'll learn how to steward the Earth and all its inhabitants, while also recognizing the ways in which nature, animals, and the environment enrich our lives.

Our goal this month is to foster a sense of unity and connection among our young Unitarian Universalists, emphasizing the importance of interdependence in our faith.

A heartfelt *thank you* to all who joined us for the Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt! With generous contributions from Costco, Starbucks, and EZ Orchards, and all of our fantastic volunteers, we were able to create a memorable event for hundreds of children in Salem. Your support and participation made it a truly joyous occasion!

**Reminders for April:**

- April 12: Parent's Night Out Event from 6:00 to 8:30 pm. Treat your children to an evening of fun activities, dinner, and a movie for just \$25 per child or \$40 for two.
- April 21: Join us for a Multigenerational Service with Rev. Rick. Note that there will be no LRE Program on this day.
- April 28: Don't miss our LRE Luncheon from 12 to 2 pm. It's a wonderful opportunity to connect and share with fellow members of our community.

Thank you all for your continued support and involvement. If you're interested in volunteering or have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at [DLRE@uusalem.org](mailto:DLRE@uusalem.org) or call/text me at 971-239-7384. Wishing you a month filled with growth, connection, and the beauty of interdependence.

Warm regards,

Molly Brown

Director of Lifespan Religious Education, UUCS

## More Happenings and Highlights

### LRE Luncheon April 28

Join us for a Lifespan Religious Education (LRE) luncheon on April 28 at 12:30 pm. We'll enjoy fellowship, food, and discuss the future of the LRE Program! We would love to hear your thoughts and suggestions about how our congregation wants the future of the LRE Program to look like! You don't need to have children in the program to come... we want to hear from all of you! Every single person in our congregation has something special to bring to the conversation; so, I hope we get to hear from you all! It's going to be a Smörgåsbord of cool ideas and everyone's famous dishes! Please RSVP and/or volunteer [using this link](#).



### Seeking Input for Transforming Hearts Service May 5

The theme of the May 5 service is "Transforming Hearts: Supporting the Trans Folks in our Lives." Our speakers from Basic Rights Oregon are asking for your questions and concerns so that they can address them during the service. Please email questions and concerns about trans issues to Eric Schuman at [ericpa3@comcast.net](mailto:ericpa3@comcast.net).

### Men's Group Meets Second and Fourth Sundays

The UUCS Men's Group meets twice a month in the Green Room on the 2nd Sunday, from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm (personal food is optional), and on the 4th Sunday from 8 am to 10 am (a breakfast potluck will be shared). Leadership rotates among members. Meetings start and end with brief check-ins. Topics may be initiated by the leader, or emerge during check-in. Contact Steve Rosen at [sjr1948@gmail.com](mailto:sjr1948@gmail.com) if you have questions.

## Cultivating Hope: Navigating Transition with Purpose

Dear Beloved Community,

As the warmth of spring breathes new life into the world around us, our congregation finds itself at a pivotal moment of transition. In just three months, our cherished minister of 31 years will embark on a well-deserved retirement, leaving behind a rich legacy of compassion and service. Simultaneously, the outcome of our recent annual pledge drive has fallen short of our financial goals, underscoring the pressing need for collective action.

Like diligent gardeners, we understand the importance of investing in the future, even amidst uncertainty. Just as a garden requires nurturing and care to flourish, so does our congregation. Through this period of change, we'll need renewed dedication and generosity to tend the roots of our community and sow the seeds of possibility.

We cannot ignore the stark reality of our current situation. At present, we have collectively pledged \$265,000, with a target of \$306,000 to sustain our operations. Not meeting this target means letting staff go and/or raiding our Memorial Fund or Endowment Fund, which will significantly hamper our ability to invest in the future growth and vitality of our congregation. This could potentially jeopardize the vital work and programs that sustain our community, with repercussions felt deeply by each and every one of us. Such actions threaten the very fabric of our congregation, impeding our capacity to thrive and serve both now and in the years to come.

Therefore, I urge each member of our beloved community to consider increasing their pledge for the 2024-2025 year, if you are able. Fully half of this year's pledges show an increase over the previous year, raising the average pledge to \$2,138, and yet the need for additional support is clear. Your contribution, not its size, is an investment in our congregation's future, ensuring that we can continue to thrive and serve both within our walls and beyond.

In the spirit of solidarity and shared responsibility, let us rise to meet this challenge together. Just as the flowers of spring emerge from the darkness of winter, so too can we emerge from this period of transition with renewed strength and purpose. Let us sow the seeds of hope, knowing that with each act of generosity, we nourish the roots of our community and cultivate a brighter tomorrow for generations to come.

**Exciting Update!** I am thrilled to share some exciting news with you all. George and Elsa Struble have made an amazing offer to our congregation. If we can reach a pledge total of \$296,000, they will pledge an additional \$10,000 to help us reach our ultimate goal of \$306,000. This generous gesture brings us one step closer to ensuring the continuation of our services and the welcoming of a new minister. This is a remarkable opportunity for our congregation, and the pledge team is energized by this development, full of gratitude and hope,

~Craig Rowland, Stewardship Committee

# Article II Revision Proposed for 2024 General Assembly

You likely have heard that the delegates to the June 2024 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) will vote on a proposed revision of Article II of the UUA Bylaws. The process of review of the current bylaws and drafting of proposed changes has been complicated. So, you may find it hard to keep track of what is potentially changing. Never fear, your UUCS General Assembly Delegates are here for you!

One general change would be the elimination of the term “principles” from Article II, which currently refers to “Principles and Purposes.” The current “7 Principles” are on the back of each Sunday’s Order of Service and inside the front of our gray hymnals. The Principles come from the UUA Bylaws, which reads in part:

## **Section C-2.1. Principles.**

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

You may have heard that, if the proposed revision of Article II is adopted, the 7 Principles will disappear. Well, it isn’t true! Yea! Although no longer called “principles,” the same or similar ideas appear in the proposed revision. However, it may take more effort to locate them in the proposed revised Article II, which reads in part:

## **Section C-2.2. Values and Covenant**

**Interdependence.** We honor the interdependent web of all existence. With reverence for the great web of life and with humility, we acknowledge our place in it. (Here is Principle #7.) We covenant to protect Earth and all beings from exploitation. We will create and nurture sustainable relationships of care and respect, mutuality and justice. (Similar to Principle #2) We will work to repair harm and damaged relationships.

**Pluralism.** We celebrate that we are all sacred beings, diverse in culture, experience, and theology. We covenant to learn from one another in our free and responsible search for truth and meaning. (Here is Principle #4) We embrace our differences and commonalities with Love, curiosity, and respect. (Similar to Principle #6)

**Justice.** We work to be diverse multicultural Beloved Communities where all thrive. We covenant to dismantle racism and all forms of systemic oppression. (Very similar to Section C-2.3 Inclusion in the current Article II.) We support the use of inclusive democratic processes to make decisions within our congregations, our Association, and society at large. (Includes the “democratic processes” part of #5)

**Transformation.** We adapt to the changing world. We covenant to collectively transform and grow spiritually and ethically. Openness to change is fundamental to our Unitarian and Universalist heritages, never complete and never perfect. (Very similar to Principle #3)

**Generosity.** We cultivate a spirit of gratitude and hope. We covenant to freely and compassionately share our faith, presence, and resources. Our generosity connects us to one another in relationships of interdependence and mutuality. (Similar to Principles # 2, 3 and 7)

**Equity.** We declare that every person has the right to flourish with inherent dignity and worthiness. (Essentially the same as Principle #1) We covenant to use our time, wisdom, attention, and money to build and sustain fully accessible and inclusive communities. (Very similar to Section C-2.3. Inclusion in the current Article II.)

### Section C-2.5. Freedom of belief

Congregational freedom and the individual's right of conscience are central to our Unitarian Universalist heritage. Congregations may establish statements of purpose, covenants, and bonds of union so long as they do not require that members adhere to a particular creed.

Here is the cheat sheet to help you find the 7 principles in the proposed revision of Article II:

Proposed Revision of Article II	Current Article II
Interdependence under C-2.2 Values and Covenant	Principle #2,7
Pluralism under C-2.2 Values and Covenant	Principle #4, 6
Justice under C-2.2 Values and Covenant	Principle #2,5
Transformation under C-2.2 Values and Covenant	Principle #3
Generosity under C-2.2 Values and Covenant	Principle #2
Equity under C-2.2 Values and Covenant	Principle #1,6
Section C-2.5 Freedom of Belief	Principle #4 (right of conscience) and Section C-2.4 Freedom of Belief

Be on the lookout for a date near the end of April or the beginning of May where you can meet with your GA Delegates, answer your questions about Article II and give your opinion on voting that we will do during the June General Assembly.

Take care. Your delegates,

~Sara Pickett, Hannah Batu, Barbara Stebbins-Boaz, Joel Martin

## Social Justice Comments and News

### Let's worship the "market!"

Since the 1980's we have been told that the "market," i.e., buyers and sellers negotiating a price for a good or service, is more efficient and produces better outcomes than government policy and regulations. Markets assume that all participants have perfect knowledge of the market, i.e. no one has an advantage. For example, let's say you are buying a house. The seller knows the problems that, if the buyer knew of them, would reduce the price of the house. To prevent this the seller is required by law to disclose known problems to the buyer. If a "market" without government interference is more efficient than one which is regulated by the government, why is disclosure of a home's problems required by law? To create a more perfect market.

Markets are amoral. They are transactional and don't have a spiritual component. Oops! I forgot about the selling of indulgences by the Catholic Church. If you think that spiritual wellbeing would not be subject to market forces, you would be wrong. Spiritual wellbeing for sinners, obtained by doing penance as punishment for sinning, could be obtained by buying indulgences. Indulgences were purchased to reduce punishment on earth or time spent in purgatory. Martin Luther split from the Catholic Church in 1517 over the selling of indulgences to raise money to rebuild St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

If everyone practiced the Golden Rule, a social justice program would not be needed. ("In everything, do to others what you would have them do to you." Matthew 7:12) However, the more widely practiced Golden Rule, i.e., "those that have the gold make the rules," creates social injustices that need to be addressed. Privilege, a person's position in society determined by class or position, also creates injustices.

If markets worked as the pro-market folks say they do there would be a market-based solution for homelessness. There is a problem, the homeless don't have an economic value, therefore markets don't work for them.

Not transactional buying and selling markets, but the marketplace of ideas tempered by experience can devise ways to reduce or eliminate injustices. Stop by the Social Justice table in the fellowship hall after the service and let us hear your ideas, especially on what we can do to help the homeless.

### Safe Parking for the Homeless

UUCS and the Church at the Park have been discussing UUCS providing a safe parking site for people living in their cars. The county doesn't allow people to camp in their vehicle except in RV parks.

~John Prohodsky, Social Justice Chair

## Help Wanted and Appreciated

### Contributions to Book for Rick and Gordana End May 1

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. **The deadline for offering contributions is May 1.** Please contact Janet Stevens, 503-949-2457 for more information and submit contributions (with your name and contact information) to [stevens.janet.kay@gmail.com](mailto:stevens.janet.kay@gmail.com).

### Supporting Death with Dignity

Volunteers are needed to join four UUs and others in the End-of-Life Choices Oregon Salem team. We help people considering Oregon's Death with Dignity law with education and with family support. We work with hospices and include health care professionals and lay persons who support choice at the end of life. Contact Margrethe Gregg [mudroom23@yahoo.com](mailto:mudroom23@yahoo.com) or Steve Rosen [sjr1948@gmail.com](mailto:sjr1948@gmail.com) if interested.

### Landscape Work Party

Landscaping Work Parties will be held from 9 am until noon on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month 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.)

## News of the Community

I recently heard Curtis Stewart and the Oregon Symphony Orchestra in Beaverton at the Reser Auditorium. It was a stunning and inspiring performance. At one point we did an "audience participation" thing. You can imagine and feel the collective eye roll. But slowly more and more people joined in as the conductor switched between the orchestra and the audience, until you could not only hear but feel the sound connecting us, making us one, making us a community. You could still hear the individual instruments and a more trained ear might hear the individual voices. I was aware of when I was and was not making a sound and in tune with the others. The cool thing was, it didn't matter if we had perfect pitch, we respected each other and nurtured the connection we felt between musicians and audience. The collective energy of our sounds was a beautiful bonding experience.

Spring is a transition of nature and UUCS is transitioning to say farewell to our beloved minister, Rev. Rick, and step into the unknowns of who will replace him and our future as a congregational community. The other day someone mentioned what a loving, nurturing, respectful experience they were having being on this team/committee and that they really felt connected to the congregation and community. What a wonderful and inspiring thing to hear! It would be so easy to pull back from involvement during this time. It's scary to put time and money into something when you don't know the outcome. Yet, ironically, if you don't support it, there will be no future at all. It was so uplifting to hear a member say they wanted to support our community. May we be aware of our unique voice as we experience the magic of harmonizing together in our congregational community.

If you want to share something for the May newsletter, email me at [sara@uusalem.org](mailto:sara@uusalem.org) by April 23 or catch me some Sunday and tell me!

~Sara Pickett

# Splinters from the Board

## Annual Meeting

The board discussed the upcoming Annual Congregational Meeting that will be held this year on May 19, 2024 at 12 noon in the Fellowship Hall. There are many parts to preparing for this meeting and all board members will be a part of this preparation. Please let Lynn Cardiff know if you are willing to help with any part of the preparations. Any member or friend of our congregation can attend this meeting. However, only a member of the congregation as described in our by-laws can vote on such items as the budget, new board members, and other issues that may arise. The by-laws definition of a member is someone who has signed the membership book, made a pledge for the current year, and paid something on that pledge. Two weeks before the meeting there will be information in the foyer for members to check their voting status. Please put this date on your calendars and plan to attend.

## Interim Minister Search

The interim minister search committee has held two congregational input sessions now. See the summary of this input below. This information will be used as a part of the UUCS profile that will be posted on the UUA search portion of their website for prospective candidates to view. The committee continues to work on our profile.

## Group Policy

The board voted to accept a revision of the current group policy. This policy has procedures that are to be used to create new groups in the UUCS community. The policy will be posted on the website in the near future. If anyone wishes to start a new group, please look for the policy and/or contact the office for more information.

## Pledge Drive

All members of the board have helped contact UUCS members regarding pledges for next fiscal year, from July 1, 2024, through June 2025. If you have not made your pledge for next year, please do so. The budget committee needs that monetary information in order to prepare a budget for approval by the congregation at the annual meeting. Every year each member who is making a pledge should fill out the pledge form so the budget committee will have accurate information even if you are continuing to pay your pledge year after year. We thank all of our members who have made their pledges, many of whom have increased their pledge from last year. At this time, we are behind in the money needed to be competitive in hiring an interim minister.

## LGBTQ+ Welcoming Congregation Designation

Our congregation has had this designation for over twenty-five years. We need to update our status in the coming year. The board will be looking into the requirements. Please let Lynn Cardiff or Sara Pickett know if you are interested in being part of this renewal.

## Starting Point/New members

The board welcomes 7 new members from the Starting Point classes held in February. They include Jen Baye, Mel Franklin, Annabelle Gomez, Margaret Hubler, Rob Jackson, Susie Lundston and Kate Patty. Many of our new members are already active in our community at UUCS. Please welcome them when you see them.

~Lynn Cardiff, Board Chair

## Congregants Discuss Priorities for Interim Minister

About 40 folks participated with robust and thoughtful input in two forums in February and March 2024, at which we discussed our hopes for in an Interim Minister. Here is a summary of those conversations.

The top 4 choices of what we want the roles of our Interim Minister to be are:

- Prophetic Role – help us imagine our future and inspire us
- Present inspiring and challenging Sunday services
- Develop volunteers and lay leaders
- Foster a sense of community

For the complete list of questions asked of participants and their summarized answers, see [our website](#).

~Christine Ertl, Board Member, Interim Minister Search Committee



# Sunday Services and Religious Education

<b>Religious Education</b> <i>In person, during service</i>	<b>Sunday Service</b> <i>In person and live-streamed</i>	<b>Fellowship Time</b> <i>In Hanneman Hall</i>
<b>10:30 am</b>	<b>10:30 am</b>	<b>After Service</b>
<b>April Share the Plate Recipient:</b> <a href="#">Minister's Discretionary Fund</a>		

**Sunday, April 7**

**The Rev. Richard R. Davis**

## "Transitions"

As I ponder the next steps in my own life as I end one phase of life (ministry) and enter another (retirement) I am acutely aware of how we all face major transitions of one kind or another throughout our lives. What wisdom can guide us through these changes?

**Celebrant:** Janet Stevens

**Music:** Marcia Christenson and Jon Chinburg

**Sunday, April 14**

**The Rev. Richard R. Davis**

## "Don't Get Swept Away"

If a flash flood came upon you somewhere you'd quickly need to figure out how to survive, if you could, by finding dry ground. Then, too, there are other types of flash floods that can suddenly come upon us and threaten to cause us to lose our footing and get swept away from our better selves. How can you stay spiritually grounded?

**Celebrant:** Gloria Holland

**Music:** Eli Cozart and Marjorie Lange

**Sunday, April 21**

**The Rev. Marilyn Sewell**

## "The Meaning of Life"

From the time we emerge from the safety of the mother's womb, we all look for answers: who will keep us safe?, who will show us the way? What is the meaning of my existence? This Sunday Marilyn Sewell, Minister Emerita of the First Unitarian Church of Portland, will speak on what she calls "this really ridiculous topic."

**Celebrant:** Janet Stevens

**Music:** UUCS Choir

**Sunday, April 28**

**The Rev. Richard R. Davis**

## "My Life Flows on in Endless Song"

Sometimes worship services are called "sermon sandwiches"—sermons placed between two or more hymns. On this Sunday we'll serve up a multi-layered offering that weaves music and words into one fabric.

**Celebrant:** Nadene LeCheminant

**Music:** Loriann Schmidt

**Sunday, May 5**

**The Rev. Richard R. Davis**

## "Transforming Hearts: Supporting the Trans Folks in our Lives"

Eric Schuman will introduce Mikki Gillette, Karen Krajcer and Seth Johnstone of Basic Rights Oregon, who will lead us on the journeys of trans women, men and youth living in our state. Mikki is an acclaimed Portland based playwright. Seth is the Trans Justice Program Manager for Basic Rights Oregon. Karen is a writer and advocate for transgender youth.

**Celebrant:** Nadene LeCheminant

**Music:** UUCS Choir

# Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem

5090 Center St. NE, Salem, OR 97317

---

**Minister:** The Rev. Richard R. Davis

[revrick@uusalem.org](mailto:revrick@uusalem.org)

**Director of Lifespan Religious Education:**

Molly Brown [dire@uusalem.org](mailto:dire@uusalem.org)

**RE Sunday Assistant:** Sara Gonzalez

**Director of Music:** Jon Chinburg

[musicdirection@uusalem.org](mailto:musicdirection@uusalem.org)

**Board Chair:** Lynn Cardiff

[boardchair@uusalem.org](mailto: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](mailto:office@uusalem.org)

**UUCS Internet Links to:**

**Website:** [www.uusalem.org](http://www.uusalem.org)

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/uusalem](https://facebook.com/uusalem)

**Newsletter Editors:** [editors@uusalem.org](mailto:editors@uusalem.org)

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, **May 3, 2023.**

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