



The Chalice and the Flame

Diverse people. Diverse beliefs. One community.

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

June 2024

Rick and Gordana's Farewell Fiesta June 23

All are invited to join the **potluck** farewell fiesta/luncheon following the service on June 23, honoring and saying goodbyes to our beloved minister and his beloved wife.

Update on Hiring an Interim Minister

Our Interim Minister Committee has been working with the UUA to recruit and hire an Interim Minister. Additionally, you contributed information about your hopes and dreams for our future during committee meetings with you. The committee incorporated this information with other information in our Congregation Profile and interview questions. We thank you for your contributions.

However, despite your hard work and the committee's, we were not able to find the right match for our congregation. Because we were not able to offer an Interim Minister position to anyone, we are pivoting to hire a Contract Minister.

A Contract Minister would partner with us in the usual ways, being in the pulpit, providing staff support and pastoral care. However, a Contract Minister may lack training to support a congregation in their specific transition work to a new settled minister. In contrast to the hiring process for an Interim, the process for a Contract Minister has no timeline and those interested in the position can contact our committee directly.

We have no idea how long it will take us to hire a Contract Minister but will update you as we proceed. In the meantime, the Board will be preparing for our future without an Interim Minister. Feel free to contact committee members, Lynn Cardiff, Robert Galloway or Christine Ertl with questions, input, reactions, etc.

Pancake and Landscapes June 29

Join us for a pancake breakfast (with GF, DF, and Vegan options) and a speaker or two from OSU, Marion County Master Gardeners,™ or a similar organization. Following the breakfast program we will give tour(s) of the grounds, then conduct some necessary grounds maintenance (as you are able). Feel free to bring a potluck side dish and don't forget your work gloves. It's a family friendly event though no childcare is available.

Men's Group Meets Second and Fourth Sundays

The UUCS Men's Group meets twice a month in the Green Room on the second Sunday, from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm, with personal food optional, and on the fourth Sunday from 8 am to 10 am, with a breakfast potluck. 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 if you have questions.

Capitol Manor UUs Will Miss Rev. Rick

Rev. Rick has been coming to eat lunch with UU's at Capitol Manor the last Friday of the month. Mako Hayashi-Mayfield makes the arrangements. The group includes current residents and those on the waiting list. The group is going to miss Rev. Rick.



Submitted by Jo Bateman



Reverential Ramblings

~ Rev. Richard Davis, UUCS's minister

Some Pre-Retirement Ramblings

More than once, you'll not be surprised to hear, I've been asked "what are you going to do when you retire?" More than once, I've responded, "read my June newsletter article." So here goes.

Instead of "doing," my initial thoughts are more inclined toward "being." The word "decompress" comes to mind. It's been a great honor and privilege to serve as your minister, yet it's also been demanding and challenging, full of ongoing, never-ending deadlines to be met, plans and projects to be juggled, pastoral care needs to attend to, etc., etc. So, making the shift from having to "do" and having the option to just "be" will take some time since I'm so conditioned by 38 years (*the combined years of my two ministries*) of going at it full tilt, full time. It'll be good to explore who I am and what life will be like when that pressure is gone.

To provide some structure to my days I know I'll continue my daily practice of meditation and I will have more time for this. It's a very helpful and practical thing to do, motivated by my deep spiritual yearnings. Even as you "sit and do nothing" but focus the mind on the breath (or a prayer or mantra) you enter upon a path of ongoing exploration of the fathomless heights and depths of awareness. This gentle discipline takes you ever onward toward a calmer, compassionate, more joyful state of mind. It's my rock.

Even as I will continue to explore inwardly through meditation, there are many beautiful places in the PNW and beyond that Gordana and I have not yet seen, so we intend to explore this glorious land freely and widely.

Lately, I've found great pleasure in tooling along on my relatively new road bike – light, sturdy, responsive – and I hope to roll along many more miles on those two wheels. And I wouldn't mind some time on gentle flowing waters in a kayak or underwater with a snorkel and fins.

I like to putter around in the yard and garden and on projects around the house and there's much to do, but I can do this in a leisurely "do-be, do-be, do" kind of way, not feeling rushed.

And books! There'll be time to read whatever books or articles strike my fancy.

And classical music! I'm always making friends with new compositions and there are many masterpieces awaiting my listening ear. I'm convinced way more people would love this great music and that it could use a few more effective evangelists. Toward that end, I have some thoughts on how to introduce new listeners to the sublime sounds that mean so much to me – ways that I haven't seen done before. Perhaps a community college course, tentatively called "Rev. Rick's Heavy Classical Picks"? Or some other venue? Who knows?

Our family plans are still evolving, but our goal is to live closer to our son Zach and daughter in law Emily who are now in Ohio. In the next year we'll be visiting as often as we can and travelling elsewhere as well and we'll firm up our plans along the way.

Of course, all plans are contingent upon the span of my days – the average lifespan of a white American male is 76.33, and I'll soon be 74! Since both my parents lived into their mid-eighties, I have hopes for a good period of time to savor the final stage of my one precious life in this amazing world; but nothing is ever certain, there is always the unexpected.

For example, I never, ever expected that we would have so many wonderful years together and create so many beautiful memories for me to savor. What a blessing!

Love,
Rick



~Molly Brown, Director, Lifespan Religious Education~

Hello from the DLRE,

As we wrap up our fabulous year and gear up for an exciting summer, I'm thrilled to share our plans for June with all of you!

This year, our theme has been "The Gifts of Our Faith." We've been diving into ten beloved UU values, discovering how they shape us and how we can shape the world. For June, we're focusing on the gift of renewal with five awesome sessions, each guiding us towards a renewal of spirit:

Session One, Reclaim: Let's reclaim the joy in our lives! (Pride and Flower Service)

Session Two, Re-Embody: Connecting with nature and our physical selves.

Session Three, Refresh: Finding gratitude and joy (Father's Day).

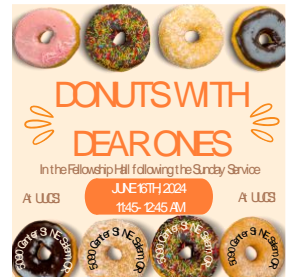
Session Four, Reconnect: Celebrating community together (GA and Juneteenth).

Session Five, Refresh-ment: Because who doesn't love ice cream?!

Mark your calendars for some special events:

June 14, Parents Night Out: Don't miss our next Parents Night Out event! It's an end-of-school-year party with fun water activities for kids of all ages!

June 16, Donuts for Dear Ones (Father's Day): Join us for a donut extravaganza! Bring the special people in your life for a day of sweet treats and fun activities. Everyone's invited!



Recent Events

2024 UUCS Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of UUCS convened a few minutes after noon on Sunday, May 19, 2024, after a delicious potato bar prepared by board members Tracy Boyle and Chris Keese-Ferguson. Seventy-two people were present at the meeting and 9 members attended by Zoom. The board would like to thank Jo Sweeney and Loriann Schmidt for their fine work with the Zoom voting and slide presentation respectively.

The chalice lighting by Barbara Stebbins-Boaz and Sara Shatto began the meeting. Eric Schuman honored the members who had died during the 2023-24 church year.

After the Chair's annual review of the year, Treasurer Steve Ovens presented the board recommended budget for the 2024-25 church year. This budget was possible because of the generosity of this community during the annual pledge drive that was chaired by Craig Rowland and Ben Cavaletto. The budget was approved by the congregation present and online.

Sara Shatto and Barbara Stebbins-Boaz presented the slate of officers for the Board of Directors for 2024-25. Chair Sara Pickett, Vice-Chair Dell Ford, Secretary Hannah Batu were nominated and approved. Steve Ovens continues as Treasurer for two more years.

There are 3 Director's positions and this year we had 4 people interested in serving our community. We thank all 4 for being willing to serve. Tracy Boyle, Craig Rowland and Teresa Farnum were elected.

Nominations for two members for the Nominating Committee were presented and elected. The Nominating Committee will consist of Sara Shatto, Barbara Stebbins-Boaz and Christine Ertl for 2024-25.

Congratulations to all members elected to serve our congregation in the coming 2024-25 church year. Thank you for your willingness to serve.

After Chair-elect Sara Pickett shared her hopes for the coming year, Sara Shatto and Barbara gave us closing words and the meeting ended. Thanks to everyone for their interest in our community and its governance.

Getting to Know You

Talking with Eric Schuman

What brought you to UUCS: I've been UU since I was a teen; so, it was only natural that I'd want to be a part of this vibrant, caring congregation.

What UUCS roles or activities are you involved in? Lifelines Lay Ministry. Once or twice a year I'm in the pulpit; most recently I presented a service on the history of acceptance of LGBTQ in the denomination and how the UUA pioneered in recognition of same sex marriage. I've served on the Committee on Ministry. About a year ago I started bringing my certified therapy dogs to the Fellowship Hour and to LRE.

What do you like about UUCS? Camaraderie, shared UU values, commitment to compassion and justice and people I'm blessed to call friends.

What would you change at UUCS? The challenge of raising money to support the church's infrastructure.

What is your idea of happiness? It's the same definition I have for retirement, being able to do what you want with each day.

What personal action are you are proud of? I helped the UUA become the first denomination in the country to embrace same sex marriage.

What is your greatest extravagance? The international travel my husband Lorn and I have been able to do.

What do you do for self-care? I practice yoga and ride my bike almost every day in good weather.

Who or what is the greatest love of your life? Lorn Folsom, my husband.

Who are your heroes in fiction? I don't read fiction. (And I don't like popcorn or cereal—so I'm odd that way.)

Who are your heroes in real life? Nelson Mandela, Dr. Helen Caldicott.

What music is meaningful for you? (Rev. Rick, skip this answer.) Most anything by Mozart.

What book would you recommend? "Reversing the Rivers—A Memoir of History, Hope and Human Rights" by Rev. William F. Schulz, past president of Amnesty International and the Unitarian Universalist Association.

What movie or TV show would you recommend? The British TV series "Call the Midwife," (Netflix) is one of the best productions I've ever seen addressing poverty and the social issues of the 20th century.

Where do you go in nature to revive? Oregon has so many choices! Jefferson Park and the Three Sisters Wilderness are jaw dropping, but I'm calmed every day during our walks through the forest at Minto Brown Park.

Do you have something you want to share for the July Newsletter? Email me, Sara Pickett, at sara@uusalem.org by June 20 or catch me some Sunday and tell me!

Help Wanted and Appreciated!

Plan to Help Family Promise in August

UUCS will host homeless Family Promise families from Sunday, August 11 through Sunday morning, August 18.

UUCS was a founding congregation of Family Promise over 20 years ago. It has been a vital part of our social justice commitment to the community. We know that summer is a busy time for many people. Unfortunately, homelessness does not take a vacation. The families will still need us to show up.

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 beginning in July. 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](#).

Landscape Cleanup Parties 2nd and 4th Saturdays

Landscaping Work Parties will be held twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month, 9 am until noon. We need the 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

Share the Plate Recipients for 2024-25

At each Sunday service, during what UUCS calls “A Time for Generosity”, a basket is passed around to collect money. This money, which has been voluntarily given, is then shared with organizations from the local community which have goals that align with Unitarian Universalist principles. In consultation with the minister and the Social Justice Team, the fundraising committee has kept the same recipients as last year for Share the Plate offerings for 2024-25:

- July, 2024 – Oregon Black Pioneers
- August, 2024 – Planned Parenthood Columbia Willamette
- September, 2024 – HOME Youth and Resource Center
- October, 2024 – Salem for Refugees *
- November, 2024 – Microfinance
- December, 2024 – IMIrJ Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice
- January, 2025 – Family Promise
- February, 2025 – Marion Polk Food Share
- March, 2025 – Partner Church
- April, 2025 – Minister’s Discretionary Fund
- May, 2025 – Salem Harvest
- June, 2025 – Nellie Thompson-Dorothy Patch Scholarship Fund

Splinters from the Board

The Board discussed our search for a Transition Minister. See the article on the first page of this newsletter.

A meditation group has formed with help from Rev. Rick and meets on Tuesday evenings. They hope soon to become an official group of UUCS.

The Board voted to approve the Revision of the Team Meeting Policy. This revision describes the circumstances under which a team can gain permission to meet away from UUCS. The policy is or soon will be on the website. If you are unable to find it, please call or email the UUCS office for help.

The Board unanimously approved Bob Muir to be our 5th delegate to General Assembly, known as GA. He joins Barbara Stebbins-Boaz, Hannah Batu, Joel Martin and Sara Pickett. This is the national UUA business meeting held each year at the end of June. One of the main topics this year will be the vote on the revision of Article II of the UUA by-laws. There have been at least 3 opportunities for UUCS members to learn about this issue. Article II is a Hot Topic that is on [the home page of our website](#). If you are interested, please read this material. Our delegates may be able to answer your questions.

At the April retreat, the Board voted to recommend the budget as prepared by the Budget Committee to the congregation at the annual meeting. Time was spent at the May board meeting discussing the details of the Annual Meeting. Also, there was information given about the service and the fiesta planned for Rick’s retirement. It will be held on June 23 during and after the service. Plan on attending and bring a potluck dish if you can stay for the fiesta. See the article and poster image on the first page of this newsletter.

Thank You Rick and Gordana!



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
June Share the Plate Recipient: Nellie Thompson-Dorothy Patch Scholarship Fund		

Sunday, June 9

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

"Thanks for the Memories"

Before I move on into retirement, I'd like to share my thoughts and feelings about the significance of our shared ministry and where the future leads. It's been a historic journey and it's time to appreciate what has been and anticipate what will be.

Celebrant: Nadene Le Cheminant
Music: UUCS Choir

Sunday, June 16

The Rev. Richard R. Davis

"What Questions Burn"

For all the years of my two ministries I have followed the tradition of UU ministers before me who, at least one Sunday a year, do not prepare a message (aka "sermon") to share, but respond to questions submitted by the congregation. So, please think of some question you would like me to entertain on my last Sunday – questions about life, love, the world, politics, religion, our congregation, our shared ministry, and our shared dreams.

Celebrant: Janet Stevens
Music: Kara Quello

Sunday, June 23

The Worship Team

"Nurturing the Seed"

Today is bittersweet as we say farewell to our beloved minister of 31+ years, Rev. Rick Davis, and remind ourselves that we as a congregational community will continue. Stay for the Fiesta afterwards!

Celebrant: The Worship Team
Music: UUCS Choir
Special Music: Guy Hallman, George Struble

Sunday, June 30

Greg Gregg, Homilist/Storyteller

"The Magnet of Destruction"

One of our greatest strengths and greatest challenges is working together for a common goal. Collaborative work creates many opportunities for either fellowship and accomplishment or resentment and failure. The difference is often in how we view the roles we each play.

Celebrant: Bob Muir
Music: Stephanie Lynn Smith

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 dire@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 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, **June 28, 2023.**

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