



The Chalice and the Flame

Diverse people. Diverse beliefs. One community.

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

July 2024

Rev. Monica Jacobson-Tennessen Selected for Contract Minister

The Board of Directors has offered the position of Contract Minister to Rev. Monica Jacobson-Tennessen, on a part-time basis for 2024-25. Some of you may remember Monica's time with us as Intern Minister from 2016-18 during her studies for ministry, and also remember that she was ordained in our congregation in May 2018. Since her time with us and her ordination, Monica has served congregations in Massachusetts, Washington, and Oregon. From 2018-2021 she was the minister of First Parish Church in Kingston, MA (a 300+-year-old congregation established during the colonial era), and from 2021 onward she has been the minister at Community UU Church in Pasco, WA (a 75-year-old congregation established during the Fellowship movement).

Additionally, Monica served as a consulting minister with the UU Fellowship of Corvallis, OR for two years and is now serving as the sabbatical minister with the Olympia UU Congregation in Washington's capital. She received the status of Full Fellowship as a UU minister in 2021.



Monica's denominational service has included time as Development Staff for the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists (2014-2016); leadership roles in her UUMA chapters as Vice President of the Ballou-Channing chapter in Massachusetts (2020-2021) and Treasurer of the Pacific Northwest chapter (2023-present) with an additional role in retreat planning and programming from 2021-2023; a year as the Board Chair of Oregon UU Voices for Justice (2017-2018); and participation as a supporting member of the Liberal Religious Educators' Association (LREDA) (2019-2021).

During her initial contract with us, Monica will remain the part-time contract minister in Pasco (yes, she commutes 4 hours each way to Pasco!). Monica and her family have put down roots in Vancouver, Washington, a reasonably central location from which to serve multiple congregations in the Pacific Northwest. She is, in addition to her part time ministry in Pasco, currently serving as Sabbatical Minister in Olympia until November. In light of that pre-existing commitment, we have planned for her to begin with us November 1st.

Rev. Monica will bring with her deep passion for Unitarian Universalism on the local, regional, national, and international levels. She has a long list of denominational and community activities within UUA and the various communities she's served which demonstrate her ongoing commitment to our denomination.

Monica very fondly remembers her time with us during her internship and recognizes that we have a good and beloved minister that she will follow. She expresses delight in the work that lies in front of us now. Watch for a welcome video message from her, and know that soon you will meet her in person. Remember, she's not officially 'ours' until November 1st! Until then, rest assured our beloved community will be in good hands.

July is Jelly Jar Month

Calling all empty jelly jars for recycling! Those who provide yummy jellies and jams for the Women's Alliance Bazaar are looking for more jars to fill. Let's reuse those empty jelly jars you have piling up in your kitchen. Bring them to the UUCS kitchen and put them (well-marked) on the counter by the door. When they accumulate, community jelly and jam makers are welcome to take them home to fill.



Reverential Ramblings

~ Rev. Richard Davis, UUCS's minister

In the beginning of my ministry in Southern California – almost four decades ago – the good folks I served (at Emerson Unitarian Church in Canoga Park for six years) put out a newsletter once a week, and I was given/assigned a full page to share my momentous, memorable ministerial musings. Ever the lover of alliteration and a lack of constraining structure, I chose to call my column “Reverential Ramblings.” Since that fit so well there was no need for me to change the name when I accepted a call to serve as your minister beginning in January 1993. Here’s my final edition, after which I will ramble on to the next stage of my life if I am able to break this habit of writing a regular column. I think I can do it.

The time is indeed ripe for this threshold moment which I have known was coming for many years now, and I have also known what this means in terms of our relationship.

In our country it’s a tradition that all newly elected presidents are asked to imagine their own funeral services so that they can have a hand in planning them. More than one newly elected US president has been taken aback by this – planning their own funeral before they have begun to serve!

Yet I knew, from my previous ministry how ministerial transitions go, and how they are definitive endings, clear transitions – I knew coming in that the accepted and recommended practice in our association is that a departing minister commit to separating from the congregation for a period of two years, and the board of directors and I have agreed upon this. An old African proverb notes that you can’t leap across a ten-foot ravine with two five foot jumps. The ending of a ministry is like this – leaping over into the next stage of life. It’s not a death, but this is an ending whose finality bears some resemblance.

There is a primary reason for this: it enables you, the congregation, to let go of the past and open your hearts to the future, a future in which I will be present only in your memories.

This also enables me to let go and cease my involvement in UUCS, change gears and focus on the next stage of my life. Over three decades ago I answered a call to serve as your minister and have offered you all I can, and now I am hearing the call of other voices drawing me onward.

This period of separation – which I was apprised of early in my ministry – may strike some as a stringent rule enforced by the board. Not so – they are merely following precedent and I recognize the wisdom of this practice and will honor it.

In a sense this is all moot since Gordana and I are going to be away travelling and eventually relocating to be closer to our son Zachary, so we probably won’t be around Salem nearly as much.

On June 23, our last Sunday together, the sanctuary was full, the overflow parking lot had to be used for the first time since the pandemic, and my heart overflowed with gratitude for all the ways you, the members and friends of UUCS, have enriched my life and ministry these many years. What a glorious Sunday full of beautiful music and words and the spirit of love. We marked the end of an era – a historic one for UUCS – and now a new chapter begins for you, as well as for me. In the words of the poet Wordsworth: “Thanks to the human heart by which we live/ Thanks to its tenderness, its joys, and fears,/ To me, the meanest flower that blows can give thoughts that do often lie too deep for tears.”

Love, Rick



~Molly Brown, Director, Lifespan Religious Education~

Dear Congregation Members,

We are excited to announce our Lifespan Religious Education (LRE) program for this summer! Here are some important details:

Program Schedule:

- The LRE program will run throughout the summer, with the exception of the week of August 11 through August 18, when we will be celebrating Family Promise Week.

Youth Group Excursions:

- We have planned a couple of youth group excursions to the beautiful river in Turner for some fun and fellowship.

Family Retreat:

- We are in the process of planning our end-of-summer LRE Family Retreat. If you have any suggestions for potential locations, please let us know. Your input is invaluable in making this retreat a memorable experience for everyone.

Water Play Days and Fun Activities:

- This summer, we will be having multiple water play days and other fun activities for the children. They can choose to either start their day in the sanctuary and return to the LRE wing after “Time for All Ages,” or they can begin their day in the LRE wing and not attend “Time for All Ages.” This schedule will continue through August until Water Communion in September.

Special Summer Event:

- We are thrilled to welcome back Arrhiannon Kirkpatrick, a member of our congregation, who will be offering a few special “Time for All Ages” this summer. More details will be shared soon, so stay tuned!

Thank you for your continued support and participation in our LRE program. We look forward to a fantastic summer filled with learning, community, and fun.

Warm regards and sunny days,

Molly Brown

DLRE UUCS

Happenings and Highlights

UUA GA Approves Revision of Article II and Other Matters

The all-virtual 2024 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association ended Sunday, June 23.

Delegates to the Assembly approved by a vote of 1809 for and 146 against a wording change to the Equity section of [the proposed revision of Article II of the UUA Bylaws](#), so that provision would read:

Equity. We declare that every person is inherently worthy and has the right to flourish with dignity, love, and compassion.

They voted to reject other amendments to the proposed revision. Subsequently, they approved by a vote of 2025 for and 499 against the proposed revision of Article II, as just amended. The revised Article II is the Association's statement of "values and beliefs," replacing the former statement of "principles and purposes." This decision concludes a process that began over two years ago, and which generated a lot of controversy concerning the need, wording and possible effects of the change.

Before the final vote on the revision of Article II, Adrienne Walker, Legal Counsel to the UUA and Parliamentarian of the General Assembly, delivered orally to the delegates her "[Opinion on the Legal Impact of Proposed Article II Changes](#)," concluding that it would have no legal effect on congregations or their members. This is recommended reading for those who have questions about the possible effects of the change, including whether UU congregations and individuals could continue to refer to the Seven Principles and 6 Sources. In [an article of the current UUWorld](#), UUA Executive Vice President Carey McDonald states: "[i]ndividual UUs and their congregations are welcome to continue to hold and value the Seven Principles and Six Sources, which were adopted in 1984, as a meaningful part of the faith."

The delegates also approved the uncontested elections of John Simmonds to position #3, Emily Koriah to position #6 and Rev. Sam Trumbore to position #8 of the Board of Trustees of the UUA. Likewise, Rachel A. Feltner was elected to the Commission on Appraisal, which consists of 9 members whose mission is "to provoke deep reflection and to evoke timely, creative transformation of Unitarian Universalism, our congregations, and the Unitarian Universalist Association." They also elected the sole candidate, Andreas Rivera Young, to the Nominating Committee, which nominates candidates for all positions elected by the General Assembly except for President and Moderator.

Delegates approved an amendment to the Assembly Rules of Procedure that gives sponsors of a motion 90 seconds at the end of discussions of the motion for final comments and turned down an amendment that would increase total discussion time. They approved an [amendment to Section 7.13 of the Bylaws](#) relating to the religious education accrediting committee giving the committee the option to increase the number of its members should the need arise to do so.

[Three Actions of Immediate Witness \(AIW\)](#) were proposed and approved by wide margins. An Action of Immediate Witness "is a statement about a significant action, event, or development in the world that necessitates immediate engagement and action among UU member congregations and groups." It is a call to engagement and action, not a legal requirement. The 3 AIWs were:

- A call for a declaration of Climate Emergency and commitment to work on this issue.
- A commitment to keep safe areas for persons still at high risk from COVID.
- A statement of UU solidarity with Palestinians in the present crisis.

Delegates also approved a separate [Responsive Resolution calling for support for and release of the remaining Israeli hostages of October 7](#).

Delegates adopted a Business Resolution entitled "[Embracing Transgender, Nonbinary and Intersex People is a Fundamental Expression of UU Religious Values](#)." A Business Resolution "directly involves the administration and structure of the Association. Any resolution submitted which, taken as a whole, has as its purpose the making of a statement of social concern or principle shall be deemed to be a Study/Action Issue for Social Justice."

The General Assembly will next convene on June 18-22, 2025 in Baltimore, Maryland.

Rev. Rick and Gordana Goodbye Fiesta

A sacred and festive time was had on June 23, 2024 at UUCS as we bid farewell to our beloved minister of 31+ years, Rev. Rick Davis, and to his beloved wife Gordana. 203 members and friends came to celebrate through religious service and celebratory food. There were accolades from friends and members including children from LRE, the Rev. Mark Gallagher, David Jeffers, Mandy Bray and Barbara Stebbins-Boaz among others. Rev. Craig Moro was present as was Tim Buckley of



Non-violent Communication and three members of the Salem Zen Center. By 4:00 pm on Sunday, 30 people had viewed the service on-line.



The Worship Team created and led the service, picking readings and quotes from some of Rick's favorite authors. The service included the choir singing Music Director Jon Chinburg's composition titled "The Story-Teller" a song created through descriptive words sent in by members of the congregation for Rick's 30th anniversary service in January 2023. Guy Hallman played piano by Rev. Rick's favorite composer, Beethoven, and then Guy and George Struble played a movement of a piano-cello sonata for an additional piece by Beethoven, bringing Rev. Rick to tears. Barbara Stebbins-Boaz presented a beautifully crafted homily connecting the nurturance and grounding that Rick showed the congregation for years with that of the Oregon White Oak tree. This year's Mighty Oak Award, an award which Rev. Rick created some years ago, was awarded to Rev.

Rick himself. The service ended with the congregation sending Rick and Gordana out of the sanctuary through a special Love Arch.

The Fellowship Hall was beautifully decorated with yellow tablecloths that Jo Bateman said were first used for George and Elsa Struble's 50th anniversary many years ago. Many people had brought hydrangeas and there were musical symbols on the tables as well. Three banners hung from the ceiling created by members, including Iris Sea who painted on at least one. There was a lotus denoting love and Buddhism, a lantern representing social justice, and another lantern celebrating the 31 years of Rick's ministry. Children from LRE presented Rick with a banner that read "we love you" and had decorated photos of him throughout the years. They also presented Rick with a hula-hoop, upon which he immediately doffed his suit jacket to demonstrate his skills. There were photo opportunities for people to take and share written comments for Rick, and Janet Stevens presented him with a remembrance book developed over the past few weeks, with a cover decorated by the LRE children.



This was truly a UUCS congregational event, with Barbara Stebbins-Boaz taking the lead in helping organize the entire day. Others helped make it all happen, besides the Worship Team, Production, Hosts, Communications, the Men's Group, Jon Chinburg and Choir, Loriann Schmidt, Terry Bray, Molly Brown and Sara Pickett with LRE, Women's Alliance, Michelle Blake, Doc Hadley, Guy Hallman and George Struble, Deanna Garcia and Tony Homer, Ginny Merriman, Dina Triest, Sara Shatto, Mako Hayashi-Mayfield, Carol Doolittle, and Anna Tally. There are many others whose names



are missing but who helped make this a heartfelt occasion. And, of course, all the people who attended in person and online.

At the end, Rev. Rick thanked everyone for this day and said that the congregation should be thanked as well for all they had done these many, many years and will continue to do as we move forward.

Anything you want to share about your summer experiences, please send to me, sara@uusalem.org by July 25. Thank you and take care.

News of the Community

Save the Date to Help Family Promise August 11-18

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

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](#).

Kids have LRE and TFAA this Summer

Arrhiannon Kirkpatrick, a cherished member of our congregation who has spent the last six years in Pasco, WA, has returned. Many of you may remember Arrhiannon for her significant contributions as a celebrant and board member before she and her husband moved to care for their grandchildren. We are delighted to welcome her back as a celebrant and homilist.

In even more exciting news, Arrhiannon has graciously agreed to lead the Time for All Ages (TFAA) program most Sundays this summer. This is a fantastic opportunity for our children and youth to engage in meaningful activities, followed by supervised playtime. They can choose to go into the sanctuary in the beginning of the service and then come back after TFAA or they can start their day in the LRE Wing with the LRE Team and friends!

Additionally, we will be offering the Lifespan Religious Education (LRE) program throughout the summer, with the exception of the Sundays during Family Promise Week (August 11th - August 18th).

A Summer Dose of Zimmerman

One of our favorite entertainers, Roy Zimmerman, is returning to UUCS, this time in the summer. He will be in our sanctuary starting at 7 pm on Friday, July 19.

With an important election season approaching we all need a dose of the “medicine” that Roy provides—stories and satirical political songs to boost our spirits.

Roy has brought the sting of satire to the struggle for social justice to stages, screens and airwaves for thirty-odd years. He adds that they’ve been thirty ODD years. Roy’s music is heartfelt and hilarious. It’s laughter and encouragement for progressive-minded people who need a lot of both.

So mark your calendars for Friday, July 19. Admission is \$25 or pay what you can. You can buy \$25 admissions at [this link](#). To pay what you can, show up at the concert.

Join us for a really good show!

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, with personal food optional, and on the 4th 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.

Thanks to John and Patty Davenport

Many of the beautiful structures that grace the exterior of the church are the handiwork of John and Patty Davenport. Longtime UU members, John, a retired graphic artist, and Patty, a retired medical technician, have been a hurricane force on the landscape committee, chairing it most recently. During this time, they have quietly designed, constructed and installed many of our handsome landscape structures including:

- The preschool door(s!) on the east side of the church;
- Rick's meditation benches along the eastern property line;
- The Heron Garden and bench behind the Memorial Wall
- The enormous Buddha head on the patio
- The Japanese shrine adjacent to the patio stair
- The patio fence
- The front entrance garden landscape, designed by Iris Sea
- Converted the chicken coop into a secure tractor shed.

These handsome and well-constructed structures make our church facility attractive and more us

able. Patty is passionate that to grow a church we need to create a respectable first impression. And this they have accomplished.

The Davenports are stepping down from this chapter of their lives to travel and care for children and grandchildren scattered across the country. John will also direct his energies to furniture making and Patty to painting.

Thank you, John and Patty, for sharing your talents and energies!

Spirit of Life Meditation Group Meets Tuesdays 6:00 pm

The Spirit of Life Meditation Group is a new UUCS Ministry established by our minister, Reverend Rick Davis. It will provide an opportunity for UUCS members and others from our larger community to practice weekly meditation together in an ecumenical setting.



Rooted in multiple traditions, including but not limited to Buddhism, Christianity, Native American spirituality and mindfulness practice, our Group is open, as is UUCS itself, to people from any or all spiritual backgrounds and traditions. We are currently meeting in the Sanctuary at 6:00 PM on Tuesday nights, though this time schedule is subject to change.

This group will practice a variety of silent (unstructured), guided, and walking meditation practices, while exploring contemplative traditions of various origins. Meditators of all skill levels are encouraged to join. There will be plenty of chairs available for those who prefer not to sit on floor cushions.

Help Wanted and Appreciated!

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 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.)

Splinters from the Board

Reports were received from Rev. Rick, Membership, Connections and LRE. They can be found with the minutes on the UUCS website.

The Delegates to General Assembly requested direction from the Board regarding the Article II revision and amendments. Considering information from the three meetings offered on this subject, the Board voted to direct the delegates to vote yes on the Article II revision and amendments.

The Spirit of Life Meditation group has formed and been accepted as a new group at UUCS. It was restarted by Rev. Rick and is now led by many UUCS members and friends. Tom Ellis is the official contact person. They meet Tuesday evenings at 6 pm in the sanctuary.

We are pleased to announce that we have hired Monica Jacobson-Tennessen as our part time minister beginning Nov 1. We will be sharing her with the Pasco UU Community Church until the end of the church year, June 30, 2025. Monica was an intern minister with us in 2016-18 and we are pleased to welcome her back.

The roof in Hanneman Hall will be repaired soon. The board approved spending what's left of the maintenance budget first and then using maintenance reserves to pay for the remainder of the repair.

The role of the Team Council and the status of the strategic plan were discussed. In the future a group will be formed to work on the plan with input from the teams which will continue reporting their activities to the board on a determined schedule.

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
Month Share the Plate Recipient: Oregon Black Pioneers		

Sunday, July 7

Sara Pickett, Homilist

"Lessons From the Accident"

Ever have a life changing event? Do you hold onto anger or compassion? That is the question for a lifetime.

Celebrant: Brenna Norval

Music: Loriann Schmidt and Marjory Lange

Sunday, July 14

Willan Cervantes

"The Titlakawan Aztec Dancers"

Please join us at UUCS on July 14, 2024 as the Aztec Dancers share their unique spiritual practices with our congregation. Willan Cervantes will explain the history of the Native American practice of dance to call upon our sources of spiritual life.

Celebrant: Gloria Holland

Sunday, July 21

Greg Gregg, Homilist

"Imagination Stew"

A shared spiritual exploration using guided imagery based on indigenous spirituality.

Celebrant: Sara Pickett

Music: Loriann Schmidt and Maeve

Sunday, July 28

Marcia Christenson, Homilist

"What is Spirituality? What is Faith?"

How do we know what our faith is? How can we come to understand each other better?

Celebrant: Janet Stevens

Music: Mark Levy

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

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, **August 2, 2024.**
This Week submissions are due by **Wed.** noon.