



# *The Chalice and the Flame*

*Diverse people. Diverse beliefs. One community.*

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

## August 2024

### What Will Be Happening in Sunday Services

The new liturgical year is fast approaching and the folks that do Sunday Services (Celebrants, Homilists, Music, Production) want you to know what's coming up!

- September 1 – Annual Sparkle and Clean, a short service followed by Facilities Team letting us know what inside the building and possibly outside the building could do with a little love in terms of cleaning. Bring gloves.
- September 8 – Annual Water Communion service and the start of our liturgical year. The Choir will be back so contact [musicdirection@uusalem.org](mailto:musicdirection@uusalem.org). If you would like to join. If you think of it, bring a small vial of water representing somewhere you have traveled or the importance of water in your life. Don't worry if you forget, there will be representative water available for you to use as well. Together we will blend our water and our connections to each other as we begin our new year.
- October 6 – Annual Animal Blessing service. As has become our practice lately, we will bless both photos of animals as well as live well-behaved animals who choose to join their human friends in the service. Be on the lookout in September for when to send a photo with your name and animal's name to [productionteam@uusalem.org](mailto:productionteam@uusalem.org).
- October 13 – Rev. Monica Jacobson-Tennison joins us for a welcoming service before her official start in November.
- October 27 – Annual Appreciating Our Ancestors service. The theme this year will be looking at how different cultures have their creation stories. What are their similarities and differences and how have they fostered connections between us throughout time. It is hoped that Dances for Universal Peace leader Pam Pritchard will be able to join us.
- November 3 – Annual Microfinance Team service. Ron Hockley returns to give us the latest update on how our contributions to different small business owners throughout the world have helped move people a little out of poverty and into doing something meaningful and purposeful in their lives.
- November 10 – Rev. Monica starts her first official Sunday Service. Right after the election too. Hmmm. This happened when she started her internship with us as well. Wonder what the outcome will be this time around.

Rev. Monica will do Sunday services on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month and the Homilist group will do the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays, with a couple of exceptions.

After that, it is pretty much regular Sundays, with the addition of Christmas Eve Service.

Look for a service focused on Animal Therapy in January of 2025.

Thanks for joining us on Sundays! – The Worship Team

### LGBTQIA+ Movies

Now that Pride is well under way, UUCS is hosting movie night beginning July 31 and continuing through the month of August, every Wednesday evening from 8 pm to approximately 10:30. The movies will be FREE!

Upcoming movies include *Transamerica* (Aug 14), *Confessions of a Prodigal Son* (Aug 21) and *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* (Aug 28).



~Molly Brown, Director, Lifespan Religious Education~

Hello UUCS Community,

I hope this message finds you well and enjoying a wonderful summer! As we embrace the warmth and leisure of this season, I wanted to take a moment to remind everyone of the core values that guide us: our Seven Principles. These principles form the foundation of our shared beliefs and commitments:

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

As we reflect on these principles, I hope they continue to inspire and guide you in your daily lives and interactions.

I also want to let you know about a couple of upcoming events. Family Promise Week is from August 11 through 18. During this week, we will not have the Lifespan Religious Education (LRE) program on either Sunday. Families are welcome to stay in the sanctuary or use the cozy corner for a break during the Sunday Service.

Additionally, we have a Parents Night Out scheduled for August 16 from 6 to 9 PM. It's a great opportunity for parents to enjoy an evening to themselves while their children are cared for in a fun and supportive environment.

As a final note, here is a little poem to celebrate the summer and the joy of spending time with family:

In summer's gentle, golden light,  
We gather close, our hearts take flight.  
With every laugh and shared embrace,  
Our principles find a sacred space.  
For in each moment spent as one,  
We honor truths and values spun,  
And in the warmth of summer's grace,  
We cherish family's loving face.

Wishing you a joyful and restful summer!

Warm regards,

Molly Brown  
DLRE UUCS

# Happenings and Highlights

## **Kids Have LRE and TFAA this Summer**

Molly Brown, Director of Lifelong Religious Education has some wonderful news! 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).

## **Connections Groups and Chalice Circles Register Now**

YOU are INVITED to a new year of CONNECTIONS GROUPS and CHALICE CIRCLES! If you've ever found yourself wishing you could have a deeper discussion and wanting ways to know yourself and others better, these groups are for YOU. Groups meet monthly and start with everyone's brief check-in. Then the conversation expands to focus on the monthly topic, and each person's unique experiences and insights relating to that topic.

These are not counseling groups, but they are groups where we practice listening, encouraging, and opening ourselves to others' views. Connections Group topics include: Invitation, Deep Listening, Repair, Presence, and more. Chalice Circle topics reflect current events and ways to consider those current events with new perspectives. Register for your preferred group (Connections or Chalice), your preferred meeting day and time with these links. Meetings are 90 minutes long once each month from September through June. Registration ends on August 18.

[Connections Group Registration](#)

[Chalice Circles Registration](#)

## **Help Homeless Families August 11 - 18**

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

We still have volunteer opportunities open:

Dinner host - Saturday

Evening host: Friday - 1, Saturday - 1,

Overnight host: Saturday - 2

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 following the Sunday service. If you know now that 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](#).

## **Spirit of Life Meditation Group Meets Tuesdays 6:30 pm**

The Spirit of Life Meditation Group is an ecumenical group, open to all UUCS members and friends and to the larger community. The group's mission is to meet weekly in order to practice and teach various approaches to formal silent and walking meditation, and to share and discuss meditation practices from a diversity of religious and cultural traditions throughout the world. If you are curious about meditation, or wish to strengthen and share your own practice, you are welcome to join us!

## 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](mailto:sjr1948@gmail.com) if you have questions.

## News of the Community

The UUCS Women's Retreat joyfully happened at the end of June at the Suttle Lake campsite for the second year in a row. With the theme of *Be Here Now*, it was a restful and restorative time under the trees and stars. Margrethe Gregg and Gloria Holland organized a delightful range of voluntary activities for the weekend, including the all-important socializing and rest. In other words, *Be Here Now*. After arriving Friday late afternoon and settling into assigned rooms known by the drawing and name listing done by Barbara Stebbins- Boaz, a yummy Moroccan dinner was served and then a sing-along led by Marcia Christenson by a campfire concluded the evening. Saturday's activities started off with Tai Chi under the trees offered by Sara Pickett, and then various options were available including arts and crafts led by Stephanie Jernstedt, a shamanic workshop by Morgan Grey, memoir writing with Gloria Holland, hiking around the lake led by Meryl McKean, and reiki led by Meryl's daughter Ty Criteser. A few brave souls attempted to kayak in the lake only to be met with choppy waters. Talk about being here now. After a cheery social hour and another yummy dinner, (if you want to lose weight, this is not the place to go) a campfire indigenous story was portrayed by Carole Groobman with singing and sharing of stories afterwards. The all-important s'mores were brought out and then stars were looked at or cards were played before going to bed. Sunday



morning was relaxed with a proper Sunday breakfast of carbohydrates (crepes) and an outdoor spiritual service led by Meryl, Morgan and Marcia. Everyone seemed to have had meaningful and renewing experiences, whether it was with the arts and crafts, learning more about themselves, socializing or just being away from the routine and at one with nature and the universe. Then it was time to pack up, clean up, have lunch and say farewell until next year. Hope you join then!

Anything you want to share about your summer experiences, please send to me, [sara@uusalem.org](mailto:sara@uusalem.org) by August 25. Thank you and take care.

## Our History with Pioneer Trust Bank

by George Struble

*The Salem Landmark*, newsletter of Salem's Historic Landmarks Commission, tells us that this year marks the centenary of Pioneer Trust Bank. This seems a good time to remember that Pioneer Trust helped to finance construction of our church and celebrate with them.

Longtime UU Barbara Hanneman was a friend of Bill Meier, president of Pioneer Trust Bank. When we were getting ready to build in 1997, she arranged for our building committee to meet with him. It was a love-in! I thought to myself, "These are bankers; when is the other shoe going to drop?" It never happened! We owned the land, and had cash to pay for most of the construction. When it was time to arrange for the mortgage, the UUCS Board wanted me to get three quotes. I made an appointment with Bill Meier, and brought with me about 16 pages (no nice folder, just a paper clip). He and I had a nice chat, and since we had so much of the cash up front, he was willing to work with us. It helped that I could hand him a cash flow projection when he asked, showing that we were planning responsibly!

I dutifully talked to two other banks; one was a branch of a regional chain, and was reluctantly willing to give us a mortgage but at not very good terms. The second turned out to have a strong affiliation with a religious

denomination that, shall we say, does not appreciate UUs! So I was grateful to Pioneer Trust for good terms and a good working relationship. One of its requirements was that we move the UUCS checking account to Pioneer Trust. OK, gladly!

Not long after our church was built, Laura Wells died and left a handsome bequest to UUCS. How should we use it? No-brainer: we paid off our mortgage so we could start raising money for the fellowship hall addition! In 2003, we were ready to build that addition, and of course went to Pioneer Trust for that mortgage. This time our contact was John Wilburn, who was also very gracious and helpful, including when we discovered that there was a lien on our church. What?! Well, we had applied for a grant from the UUA, and with it came a mortgage guarantee —which we didn't need, though that could have been crucial to other congregations. With the mortgage guarantee came a lien on the property, to protect the UUA. Yes, yes; now I remembered. John Wilburn very helpfully worked with me to prepare a "Satisfaction of Lien" form, which the UUA gladly and promptly signed.

Let us be grateful for a very helpful community bank! Happy Anniversary, Pioneer Trust Bank!

## Help Wanted and Appreciated!

### **Be Part of the Host Team**

The Membership Team is recruiting hosts for this coming fall. An important part of every Sunday service is the friendly hosts that greet people as they enter. If you are a friendly person who enjoys talking with others, this may be for you. This is also an easy way to start getting involved in the UU community. It is only a once a month commitment starting September 15th. Other duties include handing out programs, collecting and counting the offering, welcoming and having newcomers sign the visitor book and helping visitors feel welcome during fellowship time. Our teams always have a good time and enjoy each other's company as we take care of the Sunday morning hosting. If you think this may be for you, fill out [this form](#). If you have any questions before making a commitment email [membership@uusalem.org](mailto:membership@uusalem.org). There will be a host training on September 15th following the service (about 11:45 am).

Thank you for your service!

### **Join Us for Our Annual Sparkle and Clean**

Join the facilities team after a brief service on September 1st for our annual church cleaning event. We want to spruce up our space before our fall Water Communion service on Sept 8th. This event will take 1-1/2 hours. Any time you can give will be appreciated. Refreshments will be served.

Activities will include vacuuming and dusting the sanctuary and foyer, washing windows in the sanctuary and fellowship hall, straightening the cozy corner and cleaning the kitchen. You can choose your preference on the day of the event. Children are welcome.

We welcome all to help make our community space clean and welcoming.

### **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 work gloves and wear a sun hat.)

## Social Justice Newsletter

### **An Oregon Environmental Constitutional Amendment**

The Oregon Coalition for an Environmental Rights Amendment (OCERA) is working to put a constitutional amendment on the ballot in November 2026. The amendment would provide the highest level of protection in Oregon's legal system for every person's right to a healthy environment, e.g. clean air and water. It would allow the people to hold the government accountable and ensure that our laws and policies support a healthy environment.

This movement is national. Several states already have environmental rights in their constitutions. There are efforts to amend their constitution in more than a dozen states. There have been successful suits in Pennsylvania, Montana and Hawaii.

On June 20, 2024, young climate defenders (mostly Native Hawaiians) reached a groundbreaking legal settlement with the governor of Hawaii. Supervised by the court, Hawaii's department of Transportation must reach zero emissions in land, sea and inter-island air transportation by 2045. Because transportation is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the US, this win provides an historic role model for climate action.

Lawyers from [Earthjustice](#) (including Native Hawaiian attorneys) and Oregon-based [Our Children's Trust](#) won this victory using rights enshrined in Hawaii's constitution to "live healthful lives in Hawaii now and into the future." News about *Navahine v. Hawaii DOT*, appears in [Grist](#) and the UK's [Guardian](#).

OCERA's legal team is circulating a draft of an environmental constitutional amendment for Oregon. We're honored to have the advice of winning lawyers from Our Children's Trust.

### **Why a Constitutional Amendment?**

A state constitution is the state's highest body of law. It cannot be overridden, and it cannot be amended without the people's consent. Fundamental rights are housed in constitutions because they are considered so essential to life and liberty that they must be protected from political interference. Because the people's right to a healthy environment with clean air, clean water and a stable climate is essential to life and liberty, it is a fundamental right that requires constitutional protection.

Having environmental rights in the constitution would break the legislative logjam that is allowing new methane heated houses and buildings to be built and blocking changes to Oregon's transportation system.

### **Petition Signings in September**

We are planning on having initial signature sheets for the OCERA Constitutional Amendment at the Social Justice table in Hanneman Hall for a few Sundays in September. After we have submitted 2,000 signatures to the Secretary of State, we will work with the Attorney General on getting a ballot title. We hope you will come over and sign the petition.

Phil Carver

## Splinters from the Board

Lynn reports that the roof repair appears to be completed. Steve reports there is no dry rot. The siding splintered when removed and so there is new siding installed that may add to cost.

Work continues on new flooring in the main restroom by front door and by the RE classrooms. There will be new faucets in the main restroom. There are two new members of the team. Landscape Team is continuing twice-monthly work parties. The A/C is working well in the sanctuary. We will not want to leave doors open due to the new air-conditioning

Jon Chinburg is taking a four-month sabbatical from being Music Director. Lorian Schmidt is taking his place.

The Board thanked Christine Ertl for her many years of help and support while she has served on the Board. Also thanked were Robert Galloway, for service on the board and the search committee, Greg Gregg for service on the board and Barbara Stebbins-Boaz for Rick's Retirement Fiesta organization.

The Article II revision with one amendment regarding inherent worth and dignity passed 80.2% yea to 19.8% nay. It was mentioned during GA and through the Pacific Western Regional Lead that these revisions do not state that congregations have to adopt them officially or stop using the 7 Principles and 6 Sources. The revision is how the UUA (Boston) focuses on topics. Delegates Hannah Batu and Bob Muir would like to continue to be on the UUA Group and delegates for the 2024-25 year. Sara Pickett and Barbara Stebbins-Boaz are stepping down. Barbara, as part of the Nominating Committee will work with the Board and Minister to identify other UUA Group/delegate members. Focus for the 2024-25 year will be around the revision of Article III which looks at the working relationship of the UUA and

congregations.

## 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 person</i>
<b>10:30 am</b>	<b>10:30 am</b>	<b>After Service</b>
<b><i>This Month's Share the Plate Recipient:</i></b> <a href="#">Planned Parenthood Columbia Willamette</a>		

**Sunday, August 11**

**Sara Pickett, Homilist**

### "The Ghosts Among Us"

We are all influenced by each other, some more than others and some whom we have never met. How does this influence us and how do we distinguish ourselves from others?

**Celebrant:** Nadene LeCheminant

**Music:** Marcia Christenson

**Sunday, August 18**

**Janet Stevens, Homilist**

### "Spreading the Good News"

Is there a place for Evangelism in Unitarian Universalism? We have much to offer a troubled world. Shouldn't we be getting the word out?

**Celebrant:** Brenna Norval

**Music:** Queertet

**Sunday, August 25**

**Gloria Holland, Homilist**

### "Why We Create"

Why do humans take up dance, theater, music, or art? Are those activities silly hobbies, or a driving force? Is creativity necessary, or just a way to fill time? Gloria Holland will explore these questions and share some fun personal experiences involving creativity.

**Celebrant:** Sara Pickett

**Music:** Loriann Schmidt and Maeve

**Sunday, September 1**

**Gloria Holland, Homilist**

### "Sparkle 'n Clean"

It's that Time again! Time to join together in community to clean our space. After a brief service, UU members will grab a dust cloth, a broom, or a vacuum, etc. and share in the task of getting the grime and dirt out of our beautiful building. Do what you are able. Cleaning supplies will be provided.

**Celebrant:** Janet Stevens

# Unitarian Universalist Congregation Of Salem

5090 Center St. NE, Salem, OR 97317

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**Minister:** Rev. Monica Jacobson-Tennison arrives in November

**Director of Lifespan Religious Education:**

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

**RE Sunday Assistant:** Sara Gonzalez

**Director of Music:** Jon Chinburg

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

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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 30, 2024**. **This Week** submissions are due by **Wed.** noon.