



The Chalice and the Flame

Diverse people. Diverse beliefs. One community.

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

September 2024

A Hello Video from Our New Minister

Rev. Monica Jacobson-Tennessen announced she will be out of the country and away from her email while she attends the International UU Women's Convocation in Romania. She will be back on September 9 and looks forward to starting her ministry with us. Check out the ["Hello" video](#) she made to share with the congregation, hoping to bridge the spaces between now and when she speaks from the pulpit on October 13, and when she starts her position as half time minister at UUCS on November 1.

Kaleidoscope School is Closing

Kaleidoscope has had to make the hard decision to close by the end of August.

This is not only a huge loss for Ashley and the Kaleidoscope kids and their families, but a huge loss for us here at UUCS. Ashley and Kaleidoscope have done so much to promote knowledge about UU to families who have asked, and have encouraged them to come on Sunday to check UU out. Kaleidoscope has also been a tremendous help answering the door, accepting packages, meeting with or providing access to techs and repair persons as well as UU teams and meetings outside of our limited staffing hours - and during those times where both office staff were out. It will be difficult to cover and coordinate these things moving forward. It also means a sadly empty and locked building for much more of the time.

If you are on a team or in a group that meets at UUCS between 7 am and 5 pm during the week and have previously relied on the building being open/occupied by Kaleidoscope or UU staff, you will need to set up a time to fill out key code forms and train on unlocking, disarming and resealing the building for your meeting. If your meeting is during office hours, we would still ask you to have someone come in to train, in case we have a situation where staff is out ill.

Water Communion Sunday is September 8

September 8 is our annual Water Communion service and the start of our 2024-25 year. 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.



Appreciating Our Ancestors

Appreciating our Ancestors is coming a little early this year. Instead of the end of October, we are going to celebrate our connections in September. Please join us on September 15 for "Where do we come from?" Sara Pickett will be the Homilist.

Throughout human history, people have looked to creation stories to help explain our reason for existence and connection to the universe. Let's explore some of those stories from around the world and see if we can find our common humanity and connection. If you like, please bring a small item to represent your background, or a connection to the Earth and other people. We will have an Appreciation Altar and after the homily, you will have a chance to place your item on the altar with what others have brought. There will also be items available to pick from as you walk into the sanctuary if you prefer or forget. "Since the beginning of time they have remained truthful, honest, peaceful people who have never doubted their connection with the universe." -Marlo Morgan. We hope to see you there. Your presence will make a difference.



~Molly Brown, Director, Lifespan Religious Education~

Dear UUCS Family,

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer, filled with relaxation, adventure, and meaningful moments. As we transition back from vacations and into our fall routines, I am excited to welcome everyone back to our congregation and our Lifespan Religious Education (LRE) program!

We have an exciting lineup of events this September, and I wanted to share some of the highlights with you:

September 8: Water Communion/Multigenerational Service

This special service marks the beginning of our new church year. During this multigenerational service, all LRE kids will stay in the sanctuary as we celebrate Water Communion together. For those who may be new to our congregation, Water Communion is a beloved UU tradition where we gather and symbolically unite through the sharing of water brought from our various summer travels or simply from places of significance. Please note there will be no LRE program on this day but we will have a special "Time for All Ages" (TFAA) that will engage everyone in the sanctuary with activities to get us all involved and moving!

September 14: Punx in the Park Event (Saturday)

Join us for a meaningful day of outreach and community at the Punx in the Park Event, which supports homeless youth in Salem. The leaders of the event are looking for volunteers to help out at booths, set up or lead groups and make a positive impact. It's a wonderful opportunity to connect and give back. To sign up to volunteer, check out the groups on the Facebook/Instagram page and/or website!

September 21: Salem Pride Event (Saturday)

We invite everyone to come and celebrate at the Salem Pride event! The LRE Team and UUCS will have a fabulous Face Painting Booth and we would love Youth Group volunteers to help with face painting and engage with the community. It is SO MUCH FUN; we hope to see you all there!

September 27: Parent's Night Out, 6-9 pm (Friday)

Parents, take a break and enjoy an evening out while we take care of the kids! We will have a fun-filled evening planned for them, so mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details.

\$25 per child/ \$40 for 2 - Dinner, snacks, crafts and fun included!

Additionally, we are thrilled to welcome to our LRE program several new friends who joined us over the summer. We are eager to get to know them better and integrate them into our wonderful community. We also have a couple of new volunteers joining us and I encourage anyone interested in getting involved with the LRE program to come and check us out any Sunday! It's a great way to connect with our youngest members and see if it might be a fit for you!

We have many exciting events and programs planned for this year, and our annual calendar will be coming out soon. Stay tuned for more information and feel free to reach out if you have any questions or ideas. I look forward to seeing all of you soon and am excited about the year ahead!

Happenings and Highlights

Coffee Service Schedule

If you are a member, you are probably on the schedule, please read. We are asking all members to help with Coffee Service – [see the schedule](#) for the days you are assigned to help.

Once again, as part of the shared ministry campaign, we are asking that all members of the congregation help with coffee service one or two times throughout the year. We are hoping this will give everyone an opportunity to meet other members and to be part of service to our community. Many members have voiced that they appreciate the opportunity to work with a new set of people and to contribute to one of our most important rituals. A [schedule](#) has already been created and includes most members. You can easily scroll down the alphabetized list to find which



Sundays you are scheduled for. Thank you to the Coffee Service Leaders who will be heading the teams throughout the year to provide the coffee service. Most of all, thank you to YOU, who are willing to be on these teams and provide the coffee service!

Although many of you have helped with coffee services before, some of you haven't and that is ok. That is why we have a Leader and there are likely others on your team who can help you learn the ropes, or in this case, the coffee beans. Duties include everything from making the coffee, heating water for tea, setting out cups and treats, providing treats, washing dishes, and just being the kind, friendly people you already are. Your team leader will be contacting you with a reminder the Monday prior to the Sunday that you will be helping. For example, those who will be serving on November 17 should be getting an email from their team leader on November 11. It would help if you added these dates to your calendar now – the dates can sneak up on you otherwise. If you can't make that date, no worries, try and see if you can switch days with someone, or help out by providing treats. Your team leader or Anna or Sara with the Connections Team should be able to help you with this as well. If you have any other questions or concerns, please contact Anna or Sara at connectionsteam@uusalem.org. You don't see your name on the schedule? Let us know, we would love to include you – the more the merrier!

Looking for More Coffee Service Leaders

We are still in need of a couple more leads. If you helped with coffee service last year and feel like helping out as a lead is something you can do, please reach out to Anna or Sara at connectionsteam@uusalem.org.

Thank you for being part of the UUCS community!

Help Register Voters Through October 15

Please consider joining me (Joan Stenbridge) in staffing a Voter Registration table outside of the Salem Public Library. The table will have voter registration forms and information regarding who is eligible to vote. The table will be absolutely non-partisan in nature: the only goal is to encourage active citizenship; no UUCS information will be displayed. The table will be set up during the month of September and through October 14, 2024. I will have all necessary signs and forms. For those interested, please contact the UUCS office.

Starting Point Is for Visitors, New, and Established Members

Starting Point is a 4-week experiential group running Sundays: October 20 and 27, and November 3 and 10 from 12 to 2 at the church. Lunch will be provided. The series covers the historical and theological roots of Unitarian Universalism. It involves the participants personally through the sharing of their spiritual journeys, and provides guidance on how to get involved in the life of the congregation.

For those who are new to our community, the group can help them decide if this congregation is the right fit for them. There will be an opportunity to sign the membership book at the end of the last session. For established members, the series is a great way to refresh their personal search for truth and meaning and an opportunity to

get to know new friends. All are welcome to attend! Child care will be provided if requested two weeks in advance of the first meeting.

The group will be facilitated by the Membership Team. After the first session, the group will be closed to new attendees. Use [this form](#) to register.

Session One: Your Journey, Sharing Our Stories and Spiritual Roadmaps;

Session Two: The Unitarian Universalist Journey; The Journey of Our Church;

Session Three: Our Journey Together; The Three Paths of Unitarian Universalism, Part One;

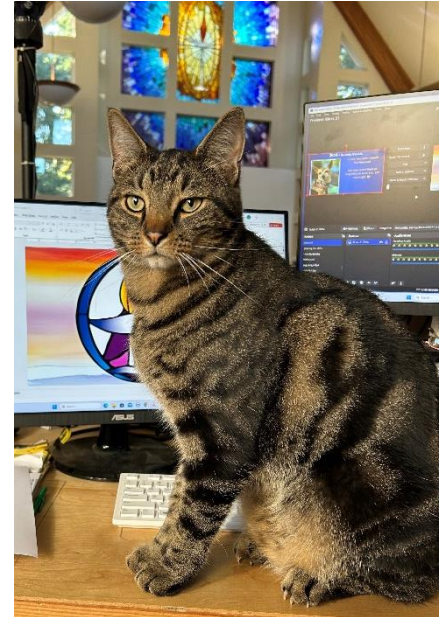
Session Four: The Three Paths of Unitarian Universalism, Part Two & Finding Your Journey Group.

Animal Blessing Service

“Everyone is taught that angels have wings. The lucky ones of us find that they have 4 paws” – Jury Nel. They may have wings too, scales, hooves, hair or fur. In other words, animals bless us in more ways than we can count. So, for one day, let us in turn bless them. On October 6, please bring your well-behaved furry, feathered, reptile friends to this service for our annual Blessing of the Animals. Let us bless the love and connection we feel between ourselves and those we call our furry family members, our reptilian relations, our persnickety yet patient pets. A photo may also be sent to productionteam@uusalem.org with the subject title, “Pets”. Include your name and name of animal, with an optional one sentence comment. Deadline for photos is October 2. Thank you and we look forward to meeting your “better half” or at least potentially your “furry half.”



– The Worship Team.



Roy Zimmerman Summer Show Moved to Fall

One of our favorite entertainers, Roy Zimmerman, is returning to UUCS but the event has been moved to the fall, at Roy’s request. Originally scheduled for Friday, July 19, it is now scheduled for Friday, October 11 with a 7 pm start time.

With an important election only a few weeks later, we will 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.

Mark your calendars for Friday, October 11. Admission is \$25 or pay what you can.

You can [pay online now](#), or you can pay at the door using cash, check, or credit/debit card. Join us for a really good show!

In the meantime, [here is a link](#) to see and hear one of Roy’s recent creations.



Tea with Joko

Tea with Joko is a 45 minute meeting on Zoom every Wednesday at 6:30 am beginning on September 4. We will gather online, drink coffee/tea and read from Joko Beck's books, starting with Everyday Zen. After we read a section, we will have some time for discussion of the text.

[Meeting link](#)

Meeting ID: 880 6522 0398

Passcode: Vu7eY4

Contact Kathy if you have questions or want more information: katrowellpa@yahoo.com.

Scenes from the Sparkle and Clean Service

Some scenes from last Sunday's annual "Sparkle and Clean" service, refreshing the church for another year.



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.

Spirit of Life Meditation Group Meets Tuesdays 6:30 pm

Would you like to explore meditation practice with fellow UUs? The Spirit of Life Meditation Group meets every Tuesday night in the UUCS Sanctuary at 6:30 pm. Founded as an optional "ministry" within the Church by Reverend Rick Davis before he retired, our meditation group is ecumenical, drawing on diverse contemplative traditions around the world.

Our practice consists of two sessions of silent sitting meditation—breathing, observing, and letting go—followed by a brief walking meditation, inside or outside the church (depending on the weather), and then another sitting session. Then we pass a "talking stick" to share (or not) our thoughts and insights about our practice, and finally, we may have a discussion, hosted by the facilitator or others, on various meditative practices from diverse traditions (including possible video clips by various teachers). Cushions (zafus) are entirely optional; most of us just sit in chairs! Hope to see you there!

News of the Community

For the September edition of News of the Community, we take the time to pause and remember a dear member of our community who passed away..

UUCS member Robert Galloway passed away July 19, 2024, six weeks after being diagnosed with stage 4 melanoma. Robert was active with UUCS since moving to Keizer from the Seattle area in 2018. He served on the landscaping team and was finishing the first year of a 2-year term as a member of the board. He put in many hours with Christine Ertl and Lynn Cardiff on the interim minister search team. He also participated in Connections/Soul Matters groups and the Men's Group. His presence in all his UUCS endeavors was highly valued and will be missed.



Before moving to Keizer, Robert lived in the Seattle area where he was very active in the Woodinville UU congregation, including helping in the efforts to build a new church. Robert was a school teacher for 30 years most recently teaching middle school earth science before he retired. He loved the outdoors, especially cycling, hiking, and camping and was an avid gardener.

He leaves behind four siblings who live in California and Texas and two stepdaughters and a grandson who live in the Seattle area, as well as numerous friends who were touched by his kindness. An obituary can be found [online](#).

There will be a celebration of life open to all on Saturday, October 19 at 2 pm at UUCS.

This was submitted by Beth Anne Huffine and other friends

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

Help Wanted and Appreciated!

Calling all Helpers—Events Coordinator Needed

Want to be a big help? There are plenty of opportunities to join our UUCS ministry and serve on a team or committee, or just show up for specific tasks. But here's one that has been lying dormant since the pandemic. Our administrative staff, Emma and Jo, are overwhelmed with the tasks of organizing our building rentals. The

good news is, we have lots of rentals. Yay! The bad news is, it takes a big chunk of their already full work week to put the rental pieces in place. So we are looking for a volunteer Events Coordinator.

This is a trial position, in anticipation of hiring someone. The Events Coordinator will determine, with the renter, what their needs are, from AV to piano to kitchen access, will be savvy in using the UUCS calendar, will know and explain UUCS policies and will ensure the day/time of the event is well in place. Does this sound like something you could give 5 hours/week to? The work can be off-site, or in the Administration office—your choice.

If interested, please contact Christine Ertl, member of our Committee on Human Resources, at ertlwalton@comcast.net.

Landscape Team Needs Tools

The landscape team works hard to make our property a welcoming home to recharge our nature spirits. Our team needs your help to properly maintain and protect our spiritual home. Do you have any gardening tools in good working condition you could donate to our team?

We are looking for:

- pruning tools and saws
- wrenches, screwdrivers
- power tools
- rakes
- brooms
- wheelbarrows

Donations can be brought to Sunday services and placed by the sheds. Thanks to all for helping your landscaping team.

Be Part of the Host Team

The Membership Team is recruiting hosts for this fall. An important part of every Sunday service are the friendly hosts who 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 15. Other duties include handing out programs, collecting and counting the offering, welcoming newcomers and having them 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. There will be a host training on September 15 following the service (about 11:45 am).

Thank you for your service!

Landscape Cleanup Parties 2nd and 4th Saturdays

Landscaping Work Parties will be held 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

Social Justice as a Personal Value

Before we can discuss social justice as a personal value, we need to know what it is. The two definitions below do a good job of capturing what social justice is.

From Dictionary.com:

Fair treatment of all people in a society, including respect for the rights of minorities and equitable distribution of resources among members of a community.

From [Human Rights Careers](#):

Social justice examines the fairness of a society's wealth distribution, as well as the distribution of privileges and opportunities. Discrimination based on traits like race or gender goes against the principles of social justice, which include human rights, access, participation, and equity.

There are many ways to make society more just, including charitable giving, donating, passing legislation, creating policy, protests, volunteering, and informal aid. There is tension between actions that change society and benefit people. It's nice to have legislation that makes it possible for nonprofits and governments to address homelessness. On the other hand, individuals donating to and helping the homeless can make just as big a difference in the life of an individual.

An article in Vox, [Why I changed my mind about volunteering](#), does a much better job of explaining than I can on how volunteering makes a difference in the lives of others as well as the life of the volunteer. We can act collectively, which allows us to do things we can't do individually, but there is no guarantee that there will be a social justice group that matches your social justice interests. Or that participation in a social justice group will be personally satisfying.

Anyone can donate or volunteer and make a difference in the lives of others. It could be as simple as buying a homeless person a meal or donating gloves, socks, hygiene products, etc. Small caring acts can make a big difference.

We need both collective action and individual effort to address social injustices. One is not better than the other, just different. I encourage you to live the first and second UUA principles, the inherent worth and dignity of every person. and justice, equity and compassion in human relations, respectively, and make a difference in someone's life.

- John Prohodsky, UUCS Social Justice Chair

Splinters from the Board

The treasurer's report for fiscal year of 2023-2024 shows that we ended up \$10,000 below budget! Which meant we only needed to take out \$20,000 in reserves. Thank you everyone for contributing fully on your pledges and thank you teams for spending responsibly.

The piano in the Sanctuary is getting a needed and well-deserved tune-up. Please don't move the current loaner piano if you are using the Sanctuary space.

No one showed up for the August Board Forum, so the board figures people didn't have concerns. September forum will be September 22. Topic TBA.

The group that is revising UUCS Bylaws met with the board in a special meeting to start reviewing proposed revisions. Stay tuned.

Transition Group met and reviewed the goals of the group in helping the board and congregation transition to a new settled minister. Plan is to meet with Rev. Monica on October 13 when she comes and speaks from the pulpit as an introduction or reintroduction to UUCS.

Kaleidoscope School has unfortunately had to close and will no longer be a tenant of UUCS. Please contact the office if you need building access. The board will work with the Facilities Team on general building maintenance and then the board will look at potential future renters of our space. This will likely take a few months.

Sunday service attendance, combining in-person and on-line is averaging the same in July for 2023 and 2024. Several members have expressed appreciation to the Homilists and whole Worship Team for presenting meaningful services this summer.

Thank you cards were sent to Bonnie Heitsch for plant donations to the memorial garden, and to Kaleidoscope for their years being with us and especially through contributing to the church by being a presence during the day, talking to new comers about UUCS who might stop by, and allowing packages to be safely delivered.

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
September Share the Plate Recipient: HOME Youth Services		

Sunday, September 8

Sara Pickett, Homilist

"A River Flowing Through Me"

This is our annual Water Communion Service and the beginning of the liturgical year. Bring your vial of water representing somewhere you have traveled or how water is integral to your life. We will pour our water together representing how we connected and engaged with one another, supporting each other through all life's experiences.

Celebrant: Janet Stevens

Sunday, September 15

Sara Pickett, Homilist

"Where Do We Come From?"

Throughout human history, people have looked to creation stories to help explain our reason for existence and connection to the universe. Let's explore some of those stories from around the world and see if we can find our common humanity and connection.

Celebrant: Arrhiannon Kirkpatrick
Music: David Yeakle

Sunday, September 22

James Schmidt, UUCS Member

"Creating Safe Spaces: The Gears Behind the Magic"

Caring for a community can come with challenges and gifts. James will share his experiences in helping build spaces where people feel safe and loved.

Celebrant: Brenna Norval

Sunday, September 29

Nadene LeCheminant, Homilist

"Spiritual But Not Religious "

Many UUs identify themselves as "spiritual but not religious." Expressions of spirituality are individual and diverse. What does it mean to be on a spiritual journey? And why does it matter?

Celebrant: Barbara Stebbins-Boaz
Music: Tom Ellis

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem

5090 Center St. NE, Salem, OR 97317

Minister: Rev. Monica Jacobson-Tennison arrives in November

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: Sara Pickett

boardchair@uusalem.org

Congregational Administrator: Emma Kreger

Office Assistant: Jo Sweeney

Office open Tuesday-Friday, 9 am to 1 pm

Phone: 503-364-0932

E-mail: office@uusalem.org

UUCS Internet Links to:

Website: www.uusalem.org

Facebook: facebook.com/uusalem

Newsletter Editors: editors@uusalem.org

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

EVENT SCHEDULING: use the [Event Scheduling Request](#) form on the UUCS website to add an 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, **September 27, 2024.**

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