



The Chalice and the Flame

Diverse people. Diverse beliefs. One community.

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

October 2024

Blessing of the Animals October 6

On October 6, bring your well-behaved furry, feathered, or 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. If your pet would not enjoy the service, you may send a photo by October 2 to productionteam@uusalem.org with the subject title, "Pets". Include your name and the name of the animal, with an optional one sentence comment. We look forward to meeting your "better half" or at least your "furry half."

The Rev. Monica Jacobson-Tennessen Visits October 13

Our new contract minister, the Rev. Monica Jacobson-Tennessen, will visit UUCS and speak on October 13. This will be an opportunity for us to meet and welcome her. Many of you will recall that Monica served UUCS as an intern minister just a few years ago. She will begin regular service at UUCS on second and fourth Sundays starting in November.



Robert Galloway Memorial Service October 19



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 such endeavors was highly valued and will be missed. A celebration of his life, open to all, will be 2 pm Saturday, October 19 at 2 pm at UUCS.

Microfinance Service November 3

Our service on November 3 will focus on our Microfinance program. UUCS has been addressing global poverty one family at a time since 2008 by establishing permanent revolving loan funds and making small loans to people living on the edge. The November 3 service will review our achievements in the last year and invite everyone's participation in the coming year. Our speaker will again be Ron Hockley, executive director of the Neo Fund, which manages microfinance loans to some of the poorest of the poor in Nicaragua, India and now Guatemala. You may remember that he is a wonderful speaker. His talk is entitled "Making a Positive and Tangible Impact Through Microfinance." Come listen as Ron tells us how that works and shares some of the success stories.

More important is the superb work he and the Neo Fund have done – with our help – in enabling poverty-stricken women and families not just to survive but to improve their housing, lift their standard of living, and educate their children. In the last year UUCS has sent \$6100 to the Neo Fund, which has put it to work! Remember that the women receive loans, and almost all of those loans are repaid so they can be loaned again. So, our contributions are used over and over again to help a series of women over the years! Thanks again for your support!

This year, besides making direct contributions which will go to the Neo Fund, you will have the opportunity after the service to buy handsome handmade wooden signs, whose sale proceeds will also go to the Neo Fund. Are you thinking of Christmas gifts, maybe? A photo of one of these wooden signs is to the right. Brian Biehl, Carol Doolittle's partner, has graciously offered to make these signs and donate the proceeds to our UUCS Microfinance project.



Roy Zimmerman October 11

Satiric songwriter Roy Zimmerman will entertain live on Friday, October 11 at 7 pm. Cost is \$25 or pay what you can at the door; buy \$25 admissions at [this weblink](#).

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 “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.



Help Register Voters Through October 14



Please consider joining Joan Stembridge in staffing a Voter Registration table outside the Salem Public Library. The table will have voter registration forms and information regarding who is eligible to vote. It 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 through October 14. Joan will supply necessary signs and forms. If interested, please contact the UUCS office.

Dance Lessons Fund Raiser Begins October 16

Join us for beginning Ballroom and Latin dancing classes, 7 to 8:30 pm, Wednesdays, October 16 through December 11, except November 27! The combined Ballroom/Latin class covers Waltz, Foxtrot, Swing, Tango, Cha-Cha, and Salsa. Our teacher is Donna Hurless. No partner is necessary. Youth are welcome. Childcare and ASL interpreting are available upon request. Classes will be in the UUCS Fellowship Hall.

The cost per person for eight 90-minute lessons is \$90, due at the first class on October 16. Ben Cavaletto and UUCS's Lifespan Religious Education program are organizing this LRE fundraiser. The LRE Fund will receive 25% of proceeds; the rest goes to pay the teacher. You can [register here](#).

UU Starting Point Begins October 20

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. Use [this form](#) to register.



For those who are new to our community, the group can help them decide if this congregation is the right fit for them. If it is, 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 join! Child care will be provided if requested two weeks in advance of the first meeting.

Meetings will be facilitated by the Membership Team. After the first session, the group will be closed to new attendees. The four sessions are:

1. Your Journey, Sharing Our Stories and Spiritual Roadmaps,
2. The Unitarian Universalist Journey & The Journey of Our Church,
3. Our Journey Together, The Three Paths of Unitarian Universalism, Part One, and
4. The Three Paths of Unitarian Universalism, Part Two & Finding Your Journey Group.

Spirit of Life Meditation Group Meets Tuesdays 6:30 pm

The Spirit of Life Meditation Group meets weekly to practice and teach approaches to formal silent and walking meditation, and to share and discuss such practices from a diversity of religious and cultural traditions. If you are curious about meditation, or wish to strengthen and share your own practice, you are welcome to join us!

Men Meet Second and Fourth Sundays Monthly

The UUCS Men's Group meets twice a month in the Green Room on the 2nd Sunday, from 12:30 to 2:30 pm, with personal food optional, and on the 4th Sunday from 8 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.



~Molly Brown, Director, Lifespan Religious Education~

Dear Parents and Members of the UUCS Congregation,

October is shaping up to be a month full of connection, fun, and meaningful exploration of our Unitarian Universalist values. I'm excited to share all the activities and learning opportunities we have planned!

October Events

October 6: *Multigenerational Service*: Join the Worship Team for a special multigenerational service. This is a wonderful opportunity for the whole family to worship together and experience our shared values in action.

October 18: *Parents Night Out*, 6 to 9 pm. Need a break? Drop the kids off for a night of fun activities while you enjoy a few hours to yourself. Space is limited, so please RSVP to secure your spot. Email me at dlre@uusalem.org or call/text 971-372-4614.

October 26: *Trunk or Treat*, 3 to 7 pm. Our annual Trunk or Treat event is back! The parking lot will be transformed into a festive and safe place for trick-or-treating. Families and friends decorate their cars and hand out candy, creating a fun-filled community experience. This event is open to everyone, but space is limited, so please sign up soon by emailing dlre@uusalem.org or calling or texting 971-372-4614.

October Curriculum: Deep Listening

This year, our Soul Matters Curriculum is exploring "The Practices of Our Faith," focusing on how Unitarian Universalism is a lived faith that calls us to embody our values through our actions. This October, we'll delve into the practice of Deep Listening, which encourages us to hear others without judgment and listen to the calls of our own hearts.

Our four sessions this month include:

1. Listening to Wisdom Within
2. Listening to the Un-Listened To
3. Listening to Nature
4. Listening to Those We Disagree With

Deep Listening is a powerful practice that helps us understand and empathize with others, fostering compassion and social justice. This month, we aim to show our children that true listening goes beyond what we do with our ears; it's about being present and putting others first. Through activities and discussions, we'll explore different ways of listening and help kids experience how listening can be a form of love and respect.

Get Involved! Whether you're joining us for our worship services, dropping off your kids for a fun evening, or decorating a car for Trunk or Treat, there are plenty of ways to get involved this month. I look forward to connecting with you all and building a vibrant, loving community together.

If you have any questions or would like to RSVP for an event, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at dlre@uusalem.org or call or text 971-372-4614.

Warmly,

Molly Brown

UUCS Director of Lifespan Religious Education

Pilgrimage to Romania Planning After First Sunday Services

There is movement afoot for a pilgrimage to our Partner Church in Simenfalva for the summer of 2025. All are welcome to participate in this trip, and several in our congregation have attended such trips in the past. Planning meetings for this pilgrimage are scheduled for the first Sunday of every month, immediately after services, in the Green Room. No firm plans have been made, but we are in discussion with the Unitarian minister in Romania who is now organizing the pilgrimage. Please feel free to drop into the meeting, or email Christine Ertl at ertlwalton@comcast.net if you plan to attend, so the room can be set up accordingly.

Getting to Know You

This Month We Get to Know Annie Joslin a Little Better

What brought you to UUCS? I had been to UUCS a couple times for memorial services for family members at my studio. The atmosphere here and listening to Rev Rick were always something that resonated with me, even at these hard events. Like all of us, I had some really hard times in my life. I needed to remember that there was still good in the world. I remembered UUCS, and knew the message here resonated with my personal values. In those dark times, it was a light in my life and continues to be a place where I can come and feel inspired and centered.

What groups/teams/activities are you involved in at UUCS? I am the chair of the Life Lines Lay Ministry committee and a regular volunteer with the kids in the Religious Education program.

What do you like about UUCS? The caring people, the beautiful space, the calming music. To me, the main message here is love. I believe love is the most important thing in the world, and that our world needs so much more of it.

What is one thing you would change at UUCS? I wish there were more kids and families involved!

What is your idea of happiness? Having fun with family and friends.

What is something you did that you are proud of? I am proud of my business, American Ballet Academy. It is a place where I feel like I can make a difference, both in the students that I teach and in the community in which we live. I've been teaching almost 20 years and have been able to touch thousands of kids' lives. Sharing something I love and bringing them joy and excitement gives me purpose. I feel ballet helps these kids grow into responsible, happy adults. Plus, we give back to the community through our semi-annual benefit performances at The Elsinore. We have donated more than \$200,000 to Marion Polk Food Share and other local, youth-based non-profits over the years. I feel very thankful to have career that doesn't feel like a job and gives me so much fulfillment.

What is your greatest extravagance? I love to explore. REI has so many things that let me dream of what my next adventure will be. Anyone want to backpack to a mountain lake with my inflatable kayak? And pointe shoes. Those things are over \$100 a pair, and, when worn regularly, only last a couple weeks.

What is something you do for self-care? Ballet. I have been dancing since I was 5. It is a part of my identity. It is always something that I can do and will make me feel better.

Who or what is the greatest love of your life? Hands down, my three kids: Avery, Alex, and Caleb. You are all growing up too fast! You are turning into such wonderful humans. It's been a joy watching you find yourselves. I'm excited to see what life in store for you. I am so proud of all three of you.

Who are your heroes in fiction? I'll admit that I'm a Harry Potter fan. His selflessness, bravery, and determination to always do what is right are things that our world needs more of. Plus, being able to fly a broomstick or cast spells with a wand? I'd be like Mrs. Weasley and have magic clean my house!

Who are your heroes in real life? My mom and dad. My parents are some of the best people alive. I can count on them for anything. They show everyone they meet generosity, kindness and love. They make the world a better place.

What is a meaningful piece of music for you? Mendelssohn's A Midsummer Night's Dream Scherzo. I love music and tell people I enjoy anything with a melody and a beat. I listen to classical music and pop music and



everything in between. I could listen to A Midsummer Night's Dream forever and never get tired of it. For my studio, we added Mendelssohn's Hebrides Overture to the ballet. I wish it was a permanent part in A Midsummer Night's Dream.

What is a book that you would recommend? As a mom of three kids, I read lots of children's books. Land of Stories is a newer series that I absolutely love, especially the first few books. It is fun and adventurous, and ties in tons of historical fairy tales and fiction characters. The messages are wonderful. I definitely recommend this series, especially to anyone with school age children.

What is a movie/TV show you would recommend? Spirited! It's a newer musical-comedy version of A Christmas Carol. It has me laughing and smiling the entire time. Ryan Reynolds and Will Ferrel are hilarious.

Where do you like to go in nature to revive? Backpacking in the Wallowa Mountains is my personal favorite. I love backpacking and being outside in general. The Wallowa's beauty is breathtaking.

To share something for Getting to Know You, send email to sara@uusalem.org or tell me some Sunday.

~Sara Pickett

Help Wanted and Appreciated!

Let Your Spirit Sing!

UUCS Choir is looking for folks excited about singing and sharing their voices to enhance our services! This fun group meets Thursday evenings from 7 to 8:30 in the Sanctuary. We sing at the Sunday service every 3 weeks and our Interim Music Director has planned some fantastic pieces. No choir experience is needed, though a love of music is a plus!

Communication Team Looking for Editors

Want to get all the UUCS news first? The Communication Team is looking for more editors to help with the weekly and monthly newsletters. The Team will provide training, and you can work from home. Contact editors@uusalem.org.

Landscape Work Parties October 12 and 26

Our next Landscape Work Party is scheduled for Saturday, October 12, from 9 to 11 am. The following Party will be on Saturday, October 26 at the same time. Please join us for as long as you like or can!

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 maintain and protect our spiritual home. Do you have any gardening tools in good working condition that you could donate to our team? We are looking for: **pruning tools and saws, wrenches, screwdrivers, power tools, rakes, brooms and wheelbarrows.**

Donations can be brought to Sunday services and placed by the sheds.

Thanks to all for helping your landscaping team.

Volunteer to Help Host Family Promise November 10 – 17

UUCS will host homeless families from Family Promise Sunday, November 10 through Sunday morning, November 17.

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 mid-October for questions and sign-ups. 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](#).



Splinters from the Board

These are “splinters” from the September 9 UUCS “board” meeting.

The Sparkle and Clean service and event on September 1 shone with volunteerism, making our building and grounds a clean and special place to be in. Thank you everyone who was able to come and help out!

Our Lifespan Religious Education (LRE) program is seeking volunteers to improve religious education programming. Contact Director of LRE Molly Brown if you are curious as to how you can help. LRE is also doing a great job being involved with the community via Punks in the Park and Salem Pride. Thank you, Molly!

Check out the video that Rev. Monica Jacobson-Tennessen sent us as a “hello.” The link to it is [on the website under Hot Topics](#). She will be in the pulpit on October 13. Be sure and welcome her during coffee hour.

Thank you to the Homilists who provided interesting and heart felt services this summer and are continuing into fall. Your service to this congregation is appreciated.

Every month the Board likes to thank UUCS members who reach out to support our community with their time and talents. But we need your help to learn about the great work that is going on! So, if you know of someone who should get a thank you card, please send their name (and mailing address if you have it) and the reason why they should be thanked to Hannah Batu, the Board Secretary, at secretary@uusalem.org

“October is the month of painted leaves. Their rich glow now flashes round the world.”

Henry David Thoreau, “Autumnal Tints”

~Sara Pickett, Board Chair



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
October Share the Plate Recipient: Salem for Refugees		

Sunday, October 6

Barbara Stebbins-Boaz, Homilist/Storyteller

"Bless the Animals Among Us"

We will bless the love and connection we feel with those animals we call our furry family members, our reptilian relations, our persnickety yet patient pets.

Celebrant: Sara Pickett

Music: UUCS Choir & Dave Yeakle, Pianist

Sunday, October 13

The Rev. Monica Jacobson-Tennessee

"Tools for the Revolution"

A revolution is a momentous change, and we're certainly in (at the very least) a season of flux in our country now. What spiritual tools do we need to live, and to work for a better world, in these times?

Celebrant: Janet Stevens

Music: Mike Mandrell

Sunday, October 20

Marcia Christensen, Homilist/Storyteller

"What is Spirituality?"

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

Celebrant: Brenna Norval

Sunday, October 27

Janet Stevens, Homilist/Storyteller

"Goodbyes Are Hard"

We often avoid saying good-bye. Perhaps because we think of good-byes as endings, as sad or painful. What if we practiced awareness that good-byes are also the start of something new, of opportunities, of opening ourselves to what comes next.

Celebrant: Barbara Stebbins-Boaz

Music: UUCS Choir & Dave Yeakle, Pianist

Sunday, November 3

Ron Hockley, The NEO Fund & Our Microfinance Team

"Making a Positive and Tangible Impact through Microfinance"

The UUCS Microfinance Team will present its annual update discussing what we are doing and what we can do.

Celebrant: Bob Muir

Unitarian Universalist Congregation Of Salem

5090 Center St. NE, Salem, OR 97317

Director of Lifespan Religious Education:

Molly Brown dlre@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 Bob Muir with help from Vicki Cunningham, Elsa Struble, Ross Patty and Kathleen McKinney.

EVENT SCHEDULING: use the [Event Scheduling Request](#) form on the UUCS website to add events 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, **November 1, 2023**. **This Week** submissions are due by **Wed.** noon.