

MARCH 10, 2022

THE OUUC

Spark!

WEEKLY WISDOM AND INSPIRATION
FROM THE OLYMPIA UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

HUMAN RIGHTS. AGAIN AND AGAIN AND AGAIN. REV. MARY GEAR

Perhaps your heart is heavy, too, with all the ways human rights are under attack right now. Of course, protecting human rights is an on-going struggle, but lately it seems to be especially so.

The news from Ukraine is grim and dire. So many lives have been lost and so many people have been forced to flee their homes. The refugee crisis is extreme with women and children leading the way out of their homeland.

And in this country, some continue to try to control the bodies of others as 150 anti-transgender bills move through state legislatures. An anti-LGBTQ+ bill in Florida would prohibit any classroom discussion about sexual orientation or gender identity in the state's primary schools. LGBTQ+ advocates call it the "Don't say Gay" bill. Texas has tried to criminalizing support for trans-youth by defining as child abuse allowing your child to be who they are.

Continued on Page 2. [Or click here to read this on OUUC.org.](#)

HUMAN RIGHTS (CONT.)

Rev. Ashley Horan, Organizing Strategy Director of the Unitarian Universalist Association Side With Love, wrote, “Both the invasion of Ukraine and this latest attack on trans children stem from legacies of imperialism and colonization, rooted in the belief that one group of people should have authority over the decisions and freedoms of another.” We are living with the effects of supremacy culture that says some are more worthy than others, and those few can decide what is best for all.

You can support human rights efforts in Ukraine by financially supporting the [UU Service Committee](#). You can help support LGBTQ+ rights by joining the [Side with Love training about combating anti-trans legislation](#).

Our shared values of dignity and worth, connection and interconnection, make these struggles our religious struggle. All of us.

We say gay. We say democracy. We say all are worthy. We side with love.

Blessings on your week,
Rev. Mary

For more information:

<https://www.uua.org/pressroom/press-releases/supporting-ukraine>

<https://www.uua.org/pressroom/press-releases/diversity-sexuality-and-gender-gift>

<https://sidewithlove.org/ourstories/ukraine-texas-statement>



OUUC AGREEMENT FOR TIMES OF PANDEMIC

OUUC HEALTH AND SAFETY TASK FORCE

As we work our way through this time of transition – from pandemic lockdown through changing restrictions to whatever lies ahead – it is helpful to review our OUUC Agreement for Times of Pandemic. In the OUUC Pandemic Manual. This document reminds us why and how we choose to be in this community and what obligations accompany that choice.

Thank you for taking care of yourself and each other.

OUUC Health & Safety Task Force



OUUC AGREEMENT FOR TIMES OF PANDEMIC

Unitarian Universalism is a covenantal faith grounded in the belief that we are all connected and the practice that we make explicit agreements about how to be together. We affirm that our covenants are guided by science and our values.

We, the members, friends and staff of the Olympia Unitarian Universalist Congregation do affirm that extraordinary times, such as the era of the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic, call for an explicit and extraordinary agreement as to appropriate behavior among us.

We recognize that our actions directly impact the health and well-being of others. We acknowledge that COVID-19 disproportionately affects people with disabilities, Black people, Indigenous communities, Latinx people, the elderly, and essential workers, a majority of whom are women and women of color. We know that as a religious community, we have a moral responsibility to do all we can to reduce risks for those already at such high risk.

For that purpose, we agree that:

Because our preeminent concern is for the health and safety of the community...

we will follow the guidance provided by the minister and staff regarding use of the building and grounds that reflects the known science and best practices to promote health and safety as gathered by congregational advisory groups, such as the Capacity Task Force. Such practices include, but are not limited to, use of masks, social distancing guidelines, room and group capacities, and symptom monitoring. In the absence of such guidance, we will follow that provided by the State of Washington's governor and Department of Health.

[This document continues on OUUC.org. Click here to read the full text.](#)

FAITH IN ACTION CORNER

MAR-APR SHARE THE PLATE: OLYMPIA MUTUAL AID PARTNERS

ANNE HUNDLEY

The mission of Olympia Mutual Aid Partners (OlyMAP) is to support the right of all people to have a safe and warm place to call home. They center the voices of unhoused and marginalized peoples and challenge systems of oppression. They build bridges between housed and unhoused community members through engagement and education. And they offer health, safety, self-management, self-advocacy, and survival support to our neighbors living outdoors.

Our region's crisis of homelessness, particularly unsheltered homelessness, is a priority issue that continues to harm and divide communities across the region. Forced displacement, or sweeps, without the provision of alternative locations for people to relocate to, has been the historical response to the rise in unsheltered homelessness and existence of unsanctioned camp communities. Approaches such as these have not proven to be effective strategies for ending homelessness or reducing the harms associated with homelessness. Thurston County, especially the City of Olympia, has come a long way in recognizing the ineffectiveness of such approaches. A continued challenge has been developing and gaining support for alternative responses.

OlyMAP was the first local organization to develop and practice a "scattered site approach" to supporting unsanctioned camp communities. In June of 2021, OlyMAP contracted with Thurston County to provide intensive case management and site support services to specific camp communities in Olympia, as part of Thurston County's 1-year Scattered Site Pilot Project (the pilot). The purpose of this pilot project is to determine the effectiveness of an approach to unsheltered homelessness that does not rely on displacement or criminalization. Instead, it addresses safety, health concerns, and community impacts through connection to services and site support.

This alternative model responds to unsanctioned camp communities as temporary, designated locations. On a basic level, OlyMAP provides essential services (like garbage removal, bathrooms, running and potable water), and survival supplies for warming, shelter, cooking, and safety. OlyMAP also connects these sites to services and case management. Further, they develop and facilitate self-governance systems, including conflict mediation and resolution support for both residents and neighbors of camp communities.

Providing access to shelter and warmth, regardless of the reason for a person's circumstance, is a means of practicing acceptance of one another. It demonstrates to our unhoused neighbors that their community believes in their inherent worth as a human being and in the value of their lives. Support from Share the Plate will bring relief, safety, and stability to many members of our community.

Thank you for your attention and other needed contributions!

[Click here to read this on OUUC.org.](#)

SAVE THE DATE: STEWARDSHIP SOIREE!

Saturday, March 19 at 4 pm

Join Troy and OUUC Musicians for the Spring Stewardship Soiree. See you online or in person at OUUC. No reservations required.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89861897992?pwd=L2xaV3NFRytLN1NnQVBBbVAvK1ZCQT09>

Meeting ID: 898 6189 7992

Passcode: 298501



SPRING FORWARD!
REMEMBER TO SET
YOUR CLOCKS
AHEAD ONE HOUR
THIS SUNDAY



A PUBLIC EXPRESSION
FOR PEACE AND
HEALING
WITH CONCERNED
CLERGY OF OLYMPIA
AND FELLOWSHIP OF
RECONCILIATION

A Public Expression for

peace & healing

Friday, March 11

5 - 6 pm

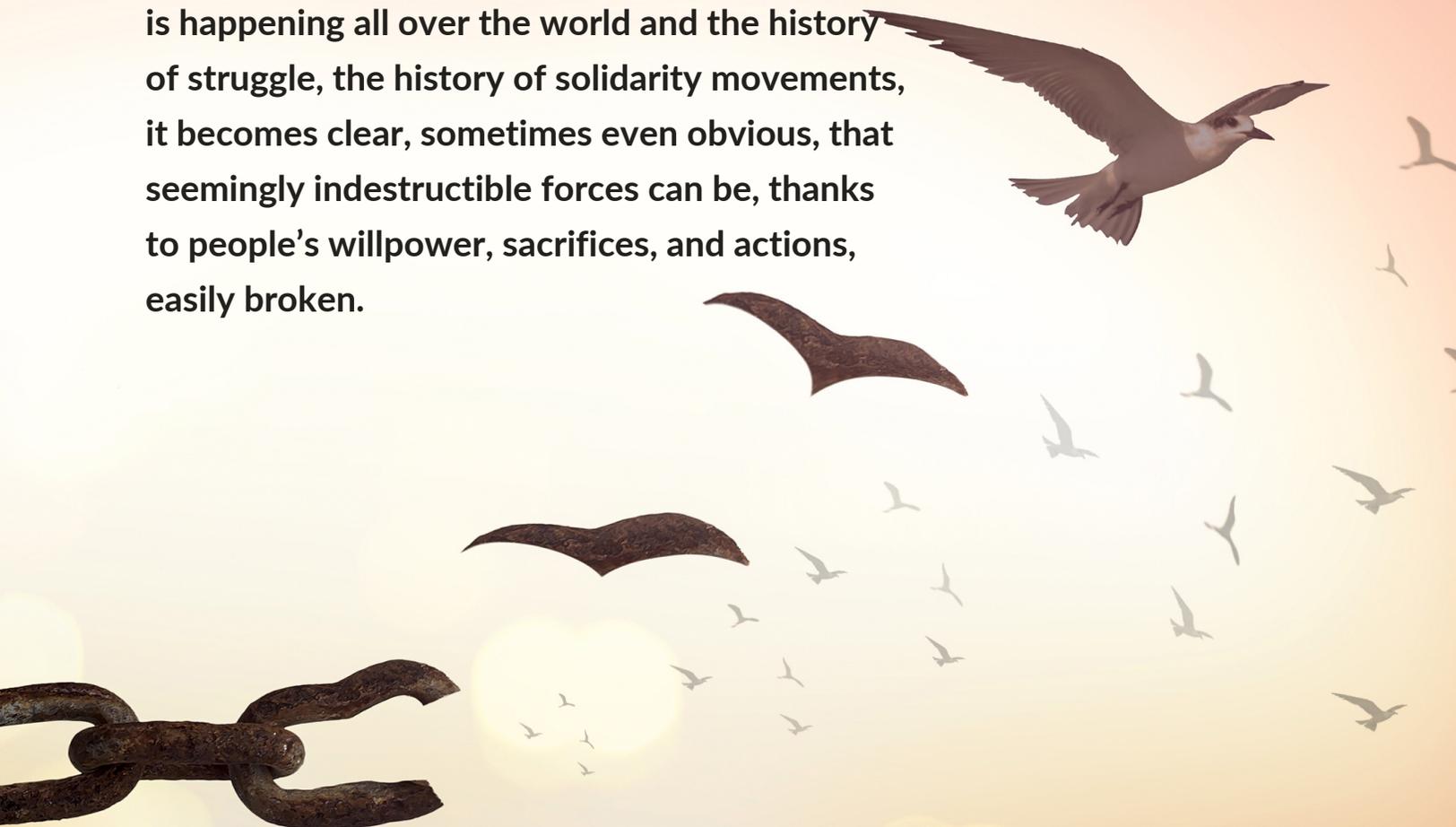
4th Ave & Water St NW

Bring signs for peace

Concerned Clergy of Olympia joins with
Fellowship of Reconciliation in a presence of
peace and healing for our community and world.

SOME WORDS BY ANGELA DAVIS

It is easy to feel discouraged and simply let go. There is no shame in that. We are, after all, engaged in a struggle that seems, if we look at it using a mainstream political framework and through a mass media prism, unwinnable. On the other hand, if we take a step back, look at things from a broader angle, reflecting on what is happening all over the world and the history of struggle, the history of solidarity movements, it becomes clear, sometimes even obvious, that seemingly indestructible forces can be, thanks to people's willpower, sacrifices, and actions, easily broken.



This is a reading included in the March 6, 2022 worship service.
You can view the [full service on YouTube here \(link\)](#).