



***We have much to celebrate and much to look forward to.....***

Thanks to the hard work of many, OUUC has weathered the Covid years and emerged as a strong and vibrant community, both onsite and online.

**Onsite, our Sunday worship services** are full and sometimes overflowing, welcoming active congregants and new visitors. Engagement with our worship themes is inspiring, providing opportunities for spiritual growth. Each Sunday, we have engaging after-service forums that build connections to each other and the wider world.

**This is the second year of our Thursday Evening Community Dinners, the most multigenerational part of our congregational life**, with a mix of elders, young adults, and families with young children, all gathering to share a meal. Dinner is followed by regular programming, including gatherings of UU Buddhists, UU Pagans, and UU Christians. On other Thursday evenings you'll find the Justice Book Group, an all-ages games night, a Parents' Group, and Prayers from the Heart led by Rev. Sara. New this legislative session is Action Hour, a weekly opportunity to engage with faithful advocacy in the company of others. **Thursday evenings showcase the pluralism of our community as people of different ages, beliefs, and practices come together in fellowship.**

In a world that needs our hands and hearts so very much, **our advocacy connections continue to grow**. Our Faith in Action work includes anti-racism, environmental and economic justice workgroups, and our partnerships with JUJustice WA and the Faith Action Network (FAN), both statewide advocacy organizations. **Even our building is part of our justice work**. In November 2023, OUUC joined with Olympia Trans Family to host a service to honor the Transgender Day of Remembrance. As attendees thanked Rev. Mary, *several shared that they never thought they would be welcome in a church again.*

We have had successful events raising funds for social service and social justice organizations through Books, Brownies, and Beans, as well as food and gift card drives. We continue to share our plate with community partners, knowing that **our value of interdependence leads us to support and celebrate a community where everyone thrives.**

**Let's keep the momentum going!** The stewardship amount of \$571,446 will allow us to:

- add a second service starting in January 2025
- continue funding our Thursday Community Dinners
- increase administrative support for effective communication and outreach
- invest in robust program support for worship, faith formation, music, outreach and engagement, and Faith in Action
- offer a 3% cost of living increase to our valued OUUC staff and reinstate full professional development expenses for Rev. Mary and Rev. Sara.

**Please consider making a personally significant pledge in March during OUUC's 2024/2025 Pledge Drive!**

For more information and to pledge online, go to <https://www.ouuc.org/giving/pledging/>