



April Theme: Interdependence

“You carry Mother Earth within you. She is not outside of you. Mother Earth is not just your environment. In that insight of inter-being, it is possible to have real communication with the Earth, which is the highest form of prayer.”

~ Thich Nhat Hanh

Sunday, April 14, 2024

“Freedom and Connection”

with Rev. Monica Jacobson-Tennessee

Author Mia Birdsong writes, “Being free is, in part, achieved through being connected.” This framing has much to offer us, as covenantal people of a free faith. Come explore the life-giving possibilities and power held in freedom paired with connection and interdependence.

Flowers provided by Tami Black in memory of Nanda.

Prelude *Troy Fisher (he/him)*

Morning Song *Troy Fisher*

Hymn #155 “Circle ‘Round for Freedom”

Words & Music: Linda Hirschhorn

Welcome *Curt Hill (he/him)*

Lighting the Chalice *Curt Hill*

with the words of George Kimmich Beach

Opening Words *Rev. Monica Jacobson- Tennessee*

from Rev. Erik Walker Wikstrom *(she/her)*

Opening Hymn *Troy Fisher*

Hymn #317 “We Are Not Our Own”

Words: Brian Wren / Music: David Hurd

Stewardship Testimonial *Whitney Godby (she/her)*

Musical Interlude *Troy Fisher*

Share the Plate Offering *Curt Hill*

Offertory *OUUC Choir*

“In time of daffodils”

Poem: e.e. cummings / Music: David Dickau

Ritual of Sharing From the Heart *Rev. Mary Gear (she/her)*

Prayerful Practice *Rev. Mary Gear*

Musical Response *OUUC Choir*

“Can You Hear”

Words & Music: Jim Papoulis,
arranged with Francisco J. Nunez

Reading *Curt Hill*

from Thomas Merton

Sermon: “Freedom and Connection” *Rev. Monica Jacobson-Tennessee*

Closing Hymn *Troy Fisher*

Hymn #325 “Love Makes a Bridge”

Words: Brian Wren / Music: Gerald Wheeler

Closing Words and Extinguishing the Chalice *Rev. Monica Jacobson-Tennessee*

from Bets Wienecke

Postlude *Troy Fisher*

At OUUC, masks are welcome and optional. Please join us online if you don't feel well.

Kindly put your cell phones into Airplane Mode to help us ensure a meaningful experience for all in attendance online and in-person.

Hearing assistance devices are available in the sanctuary at the tech desk.

Reflection questions:

- In what ways do you understand the word “free,” and how do you balance the different aspects of those understandings?
- What does it mean to you to be accountable to your “best self” or your vision of a life that fully expresses your values?

Curt Hill will lead a reflection circle right after the service — grab a cup of coffee and meet him in classroom 3.

Today’s After-Service Forum (11:30 am): Faith in Action with the Estuarium

Paris McClusky, Executive Director of the Puget Sound Estuarium, will cover its history, programs for the public and K-12 youth, growth, and future plans. Discover how the Estuarium promotes understanding of the South Sound ecosystem, fostering ecological conservation, stewardship, and resilience to climate change.

Next Sunday, April 21, 2024: “Spring Contemplation” with Rylee Uhrich

Spring is a time of softer rain, milder temperatures, warming soils, and sprouting seeds. For this week’s Earth Day service we will go on a spring time journey together with the seeds. We will explore what it takes to become ready to sprout, to put down roots, and to send up leaves.

Guest Speaker Bio: Rylee is a social worker at Community Youth Services. She is also a UU ministry student and remains curious about where her call to ministry will lead her next. Rylee lives in Olympia and is a member of OUUC.

April 21 After-Service Forum (11:30 am): Faith in Action Annual Review

Find more details on these and other announcements in the Weekly Update:

<https://www.ouuc.org/who-we-are/publications/weekly-update/>

Share the Plate Offering: Our Share the Plate organization for March and April is the Hawk Foundation.

The Hawk Foundation for Research and Education in African Culture dedicates itself to the promotion of education, holistic health and trauma healing in the African American community, with recognition that when one is healed it touches those around them. The Hawk provides African and African American music and history education for their various Thurston County School partners. Also, they provide evidence based African drum facilitation with juvenile detention centers.

If you write a check, please note "pledge" if it is a pledge payment. Other donations will benefit the Share the Plate program.

- Checks can be mailed to OUUC at: 2306 East End St NW
Olympia, WA 98502
 - Donate online at <https://onrealm.org/OUUC/give/offering>
 - Donate by text: Text "OUUC offering" to 73256 to give using your mobile device. Messages and data rates may apply. Message frequency varies. Text HELP to 73256 for help. Text STOP to 73256 to cancel.
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We’re looking to finish up the stewardship drive soon so we can prepare a budget for the congregational meeting and get ready for next year. As of yesterday, there are 218 pledges committing to \$465,950. While this is great news, we are still far short of our goal of \$571,446. Thank you to those who have pledged so far! If you have not pledged yet or if you have questions, visit the Stewardship table in the Commons after the service, or visit the website: <https://www.ouuc.org/giving/pledging/>

OUUC’s annual auction is just around the corner! Everyone is invited to participate in this important fundraiser and community event. The live auction and Indian-inspired dinner will be held at ASHHO Cultural Community Center May 4th. Purchase tickets online on a pay-what-you-can basis. Register to bid on our online auction catalog April 27-May 5. We need your donations, too — just complete the form online before April 21. Together we’ll *Reach the Sky* to support OUUC and the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. May the Fourth be with us! <https://www.ouuc.org/giving/fundraising-events/auction/>

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