



Olympia Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Please Note: Deadline for submitting announcements is 11:00 am Tuesday mornings.
We are trying a new weekly update format, thank you for your patience!



Sunday Worship July 6, 9:00 am and 10:45 am

Our Whole Lives with Rev. Linda Hart

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the release of the Our Whole Lives comprehensive sexuality education program developed by the UUA and the United Church of Christ. As the program was being developed, the UUA announced a contest for the best sermon introducing the new program. In this service, Rev. Linda Hart will share the sermon that she wrote that won that contest exploring the role of sexuality in our lives and the importance of ongoing education about it. She'll share an updated version of it with us.

There will be no more After-Service Forums until September – Happy Summer!

Join us in-person at 9:00am and 10:45 am, or virtually at 10:45 am

Join us on Zoom at 10:45 am

Join us on YouTube at 10:45 am



Zoom
Meeting ID:
873 210 124
Passcode:
2306



For Telephone:
Dial +1
(253) 205-0468

Last Sunday's Service



JUNE 29: "Critiquing Independence"
with Rev. Michael Walker

As we approach the Fourth of July, Rev. Mike looks at the concept of independence through the lens of UU



faith, and especially our UU Principle regarding interdependence.

[Watch The Service Here](#)

[Find Order Of Service Here](#)

OUUC NEWS

Tiny Little News Show



This is the last Tiny Little News before summer break, learn what is and isn't happening this summer and the save the dates for early September

OUUC Cyclists Bike Almost 1,000 miles in May

Twelve bicyclists joined the OUUCyclist Team for the annual May Bicycle Challenge sponsored by Intercity Transit. The team accumulated 957 miles over 107 days reducing their CO2 footprint by 358 kg (compared to driving an average gas-powered car).

Congratulations to Ann Kohlbry, Josie Solseng, Wim Verhof, Joe Joy, C. Powers, Susan Southwick, John Eliasson, Maggie Post, Rev. Sara Lewis, Darlene Sarkela, Dale Armstrong, and Leslie Romer!

Congregational Feedback on Two Services

Thanks to all who participated in the May 18 forum and survey about how adding a second service is going at OUUC. We had about 25 people attend the forum and 43 people responded to the survey.

The overwhelming sentiment expressed was gratitude to the volunteers and staff who help make Sunday happen. Many were grateful for the online option, and many said they like to watch the services and forums later on YouTube. Many were grateful for the choir's presence at both services and appreciate that it is a long day for them. The responses along with recent attendance helped us recognize and decide that we will continue having two services on Sunday morning using the current schedule. Based on Sunday attendance last year, we have no reason to think this will change over the Summer, and we'll monitor it again this year. While there are some challenges, the current schedule meets most needs of most people who gave feedback. Most people in the survey responded that they attend the service that works best for their schedule that Sunday. Others favor one service with those who love the early and the later services.

Several said having food and coffee in the sanctuary would help forum attendance. We don't allow this now due to carpet and cloth chairs in the sanctuary. Crowding in the parking lot and in the Commons during coffee was mentioned by several people. One person said that the sanctuary remains too crowded for them. For the next church year, we will likely try offering space in the classrooms for those who would like

a quieter space for coffee and conversation.

One person asked if the early service could be Zoomed. We live stream the second service because of staffing. We bring in more volunteers or staff for streaming and recording than we need for onsite only, so we need to have the service that is streamed right before the forum.

Thank you again for your feedback. If you have any further questions or comments, please feel free to me at minister@ouuc.org

Thank you for opening our doors for all who wish to be part of our community.

Rev. Mary

Pastoral Care Team

The Pastoral Care Team members serve as an extension of Rev. Mary's care of the congregation, which is especially important and needed as we grow. Rev. Mary invites team members based on their professional and life experience, as well as their caring heart and presence. The team members also continue their learning and growth together as they serve.

Ours is a ministry of loving presence, as we listen to the words that need to be spoken. We provide short or long term social/emotional, one-to-one care to members and friends. We work as a team, with a lead member assigned to each request to ensure consistency.

If you would like support from the Pastoral Care Team, you can identify members on Sunday mornings or at other church events by looking for the green Pastoral Care stoles they wear. If you are not physically at church, you can reach out via email at pastoralcare@ouuc.org, and a team member will get back to you shortly to see how they can be of service.

Your Pastoral Care Team,
Debra Dohrmann, Susan Joy, Bobbe Murray, Polly Taylor, and Woody Woodson.

OUUC ACTIVITIES

This Week's Events

July 3rd
6:00 pm



Parent Group at Percival Landing Playground

This Thursday, parents and caregivers of kids of any age are invited to attend the parent group for community building and mutual support. This month we meet at Percival Landing Playground.

July 6th
12:15 pm



No One Deserves to Go Hungry Postcard Writing Party

This Sunday, join Rev. Sara to write postcards which will be delivered to the Secretary of Agriculture, reminding them of the truth that no one deserves to go hungry. A light lunch will be served as we work together to write postcards. Bring a favorite writing pen if you like.

Future Events

July 12th
10:00 am



Help remove invasive plants on the grounds

Join the Environmental Action Team for invasive plant removal on the OUUC grounds. We will meet on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays from 10am-noon, starting June 28 through September. Bring water, sunscreen, garden gloves and weeding utensils. Contact John Crutcher for more information

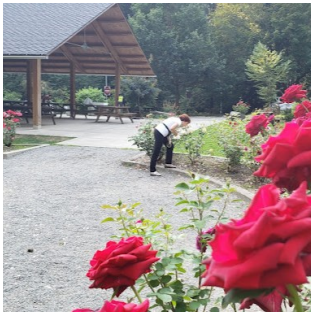
July 14th
9:00 am



Chalice Camp: Democracy Kids for ages 5 – 11

Monday July 14 – Friday July 18
9:00 am – 3:00 pm
We will explore how we can live in community based on shared values of mutual care, inclusion, and democratic decision making. Each day in camp there will be opportunities for: arts and crafts, movement and music, snacks, meditation, stories and outdoor play. Pay what you can program, Registration is Open Now: [Click Here To Register!](#)

Sept.
13th
12:00 pm



Save the Date: Annual Picnic

Save the date for the OUUC annual picnic at the Rose Garden on Saturday September 13th, at noon

Calls to Action



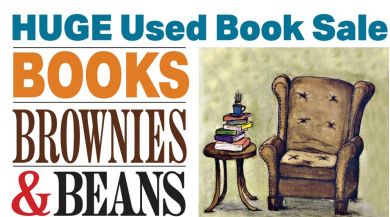
July Faith in Action Digest

There are so many ways to show up, speak out, or lend support for our values in the world this month, find many of them organized here: [Faith in Action Digest July 2025](#)



Quick Faith in Actions

Quick Faith in Actions you can do from home for the week of June 29th: [Week of June 29th 2025](#)



Join the Books Brownies and Beans Team!

Book Sale Team, plans and puts on the annual Books,

Benefiting Local Non-Profits

Brownies & Beans fundraiser event scheduled this year on October 24 and 25.
Contact Pam Davidson to join the team!
Seeking a brigade of people for a wide variety of tasks:

- ✓ Weekly planning meetings beginning in July
- ✓ Book sorters & haulers several weeks before the sale
- ✓ A larger cadre of book lovers to set up the sale
- ✓ An army of amazing volunteers to launch and manage the two-day sale, including cashiers, coffee and brownie purveyors, book organizers, music providers and other important positions
- ✓ A group of unsung heroes to "tear down" the entire book sale set-up and prepare the church for Sunday morning service.



Seeking Co-coordinators for the OUUC Book Group

OUUC has had a book group for reading mostly fiction for many years. Coordinator Frances Tanaka is seeking one or two co-coordinators to work with her to renew this book group. Currently on break for summer, meetings will resume in September, and will be held every 2nd Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm. Please contact Frances if you would like to help.



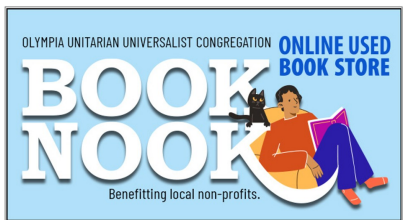
Seeking Facilitators for Soul Matters Groups Next Year

Soul Matters groups are small groups of about 10 who meet monthly to explore the spiritual theme of the month through discussion questions. We are seeking facilitators for the new groups that will form and run September-June. Please contact Rev Sara at dcfd@ouuc.org if you are interested in leading a group.



Help with Coffee Crew!

Our coffee hours are only possible through the help of volunteers who make the coffee, set everything up, and wash the dishes after. [Please sign up here to help!](#)



Help Book Nook Fight Food Insecurity

Book Nook, OUUC’s new online used book store for all Olympia-area shoppers is **now open 24/7, 365 days** a year at www.books-ouuc.com. Shop & pay online, then pick up your paid orders in Olympia. All proceeds will be lovingly passed on to the Thurston County Food Bank, where our support is needed to keep the shelves stocked and the lights on! New items are added to Book Nook frequently, as community book donations are received. Visit Book Nook often for great reading, viewing, gift ideas, AND help feed families! For more info about shopping or donating, check out the [Book Nook OUUC webpage](#) or [Book Nook's FAQ page](#)



OUUC Side with Love Shirt

Get ready to represent OUUC and Side with Love at gatherings and justice events by ordering your yellow



T-Shirt ahead of time! [Click Here To Order Now.](#)

[Donate to OUUC online](#)

IN THE COMMUNITY

Every Friday
4:30 pm



Reconciliation Vigil for Peace

The Rachel Corrie Foundation for Peace and Justice invites you to show your support for Palestine each Friday from 4:30 pm-6:00 pm at the Fellowship of Reconciliation Vigil for Peace, Percival Landing in Downtown Olympia, located at 4th & Water Street.

ABOUT US

Sunday Worship Services

9:00 am (in-person only)

10:45 am (in-person and online)

Office Hours

Tuesdays 10:00 am - 12:00 pm,

1:00pm - 4:00pm

Thursdays 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Sundays 8:00 am - 2:00 pm

(360) 634-2005

Staff Contacts

[Rev. Mary Gear](#), Minister

[Rev. Sara Lewis](#), Director of Community and Faith Development

[Troy Fisher](#), Music Director

[Isaac Ezra Jennings](#), Business Manager

[Ian Stephan](#), Office and Facilities Manager

[Victoria Ridgway](#), Office and Communications Specialist

[Teresa Madsen](#), Tech Coordinator

[Marie Arensmeyer](#), Sexton

[Anissa Bentlemsani](#), Religious Education Assistant

[Carbon Marshall](#), Tech Specialist



**Olympia Unitarian
Universalist Congregation**

A loving, just, and healthy world.



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