



Sunday, August 31, 2025
"We Who Believe in Freedom"

with Rev. Carol McKinley

This weekend we celebrate Labor Day, a time to honor workers who provide the goods and services needed to keep our homes and communities functioning. Many of those who were part of efforts for workers' rights in the Pacific Northwest became an integral part of the larger struggle to ensure rights and freedom for all.

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, onsite and online.

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

Prelude

Troy Fisher (he/him)

Morning Song

Congregation

"We Shall Not Be Moved"

Songwriters: Mavis Staples & Ryland Peter Cooder

Welcome

Anne Kohlbray (she/her)

Chalice Lighting

Anne Kohlbray

adapted from the words of Rev. Florence Caplow

Opening Words

Rev. Carol McKinley

by Rev. Megan Visser

(she/her)

Opening Hymn

Congregation

Hymn #1028 "The Fire of Commitment"

Words: Mary Katherine Morn & Jason Shelton

Music: Jason Shelton

Story for All “Brave Girl” by Michelle Markel	<i>Rev. Sara Lewis (she/her)</i>
Musical Interlude	<i>Troy Fisher</i>
Share the Plate Offering	<i>Anne Kohlbray</i>
Offertory	<i>Troy Fisher</i>
Ritual of Sharing from the Heart	<i>Rev. Carol McKinley</i>
Prayerful Practice	<i>Rev. Carol McKinley</i>
Musical Response “Bread and Roses” Words: James Oppenheim / Music: Mimi Farina	<i>Congregation</i>
Reading 1 from a speech by Elizabeth Gurley Flynn	<i>Anne Kohlbray</i>
Part 1: Elizabeth Gurley Flynn and Worker Justice	<i>Rev. Carol McKinley</i>
Musical Interlude	<i>Troy Fisher</i>
Reading 2 from <u>On Freedom</u> by Timothy Snyder	<i>Anne Kohlbray</i>
Part 2: We Who Believe in Freedom	<i>Rev. Carol McKinley</i>
Closing Hymn Hymn #157 “Step by Step the Longest March” Words: from the preamble to the Constitution of the United Mine Workers of America / Music: Irish folk song, adapt. & arr. by Waldemar Hille	<i>Congregation</i>
Closing Words & Extinguishing the Chalice with the words of Frederick Douglass	<i>Rev. Carol McKinley</i>
Postlude	<i>Troy Fisher</i>

Reflection Questions:

- What work have you found to be the most fulfilling?
 - What made that experience rewarding for you?
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**Next Sunday, Sept. 7, 2025, at 9 am (onsite only) & 10:45 am (online & onsite)
“River of Life” with Rev. Mary Gear & Rev. Sara Lewis**

We gather to begin another congregational year with our traditional water communion service. Bring water from a place of importance to you, which could be close or far. We'll have water for everyone. We also recognize the beginning of a new school year for students of all ages. If you are a student, bring your backpack or briefcase, or whatever you have to carry a token of our love for you.

Share the Plate Offering: Our Share the Plate organization for July and August is GRUB's Growing Home Collective:

Garden-Raised Bounty (GRuB)'s program, Growing Home Collective, centers the reality that Black people's huge contribution of genius, highly skilled, and stolen labor was crucial in creating the United States. Including a reparations-based approach, Growing Home Collective reduces barriers for Black people to access GRuB programs, resources, and leadership opportunities. Led by an advisory group with Black staff & community members, this group co-creates affinity programming by, with and for Black people, to center Black self-determination, creativity and lived experience.

If you write a check, please note "PLEDGE" if it is a pledge payment. All other donations in the basket will benefit the Share the Plate program.

- Checks can be mailed to: 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.

Our Thursday night community dinners resume this week! All are welcome to share food and fellowship in the Commons at 5:30 pm on Thursday.

Next Sunday will be our annual water communion and backpack blessing service. Please bring water to share in the ritual, and if you are a student of any kind please bring your backpack, briefcase, or bookbag to be blessed.

The Annual OUUC Potluck Picnic is on Saturday, September 13th at noon, at the Rose Garden Shelter of Squaxin Park. Carpooling is encouraged. Contact Rev. Sara (DCFD@ouuc.org) for more information.

Find more details on these and other announcements in the Weekly Update:
<https://www.ouuc.org/weekly-update/>