

# OUUC WEEKLY UPDATE

## August 5<sup>th</sup> 2025

Announcement deadline: 11:00 am Tuesday mornings

### Sunday Worship August 10th

#### "If We Can Keep It" with Rev. Linda Hart

At the Continental Congress as the final vote was taken, Elizabeth Willing Powel asked Benjamin Franklin, "Well, Doctor, what have we got, a republic or a monarchy?" He famously replied, "A republic, if we can keep it!" We'll reflect on the state of the republic, using some famous words from a Unitarian forefather, found in a surprising place.

**9:00 AM In- Person  
Only**

**10:45 AM In-person  
& Online**

**Join Us Online with  
Zoom**

[Click Here for Youtube  
Live Stream](#)

Meeting ID: 873 210 124  
Passcode: 2306

#### Last Sunday's Service

Spirit of Life with Rev. Mary Gear

*"Spirit of Life" is a much loved hymn by beloved Unitarian Universalist musician Carolyn McDade. What does this song tell us about how to live in these times?*

[Watch Last Sunday's Service Here](#)

[Find Last Week Order of Service Here](#)

### Important Community Updates

August is Make-a-Will Month

According to a recent study, nearly two-thirds of Americans recognize the importance of creating a will, yet just 32 percent have one. August is national Make-a-Will month, and it's a great time to take this important step. You can hire a professional or you can create a will for free at [www.freewill.com](http://www.freewill.com). It really is 100% free and according to the FreeWill organization, takes about 20 minutes to complete.

The organization lists three primary reasons to make a will:

1. It's an important legal document that everyone should have
2. It provides peace of mind to you and your family
3. It lets you create a legacy that lasts beyond your lifetime

If you have complex needs, seeking legal counsel is recommended. On October 2, OUUC's Legacy Giving Committee will host a free one-hour estate planning presentation with attorney Lauren Pitman, from 6:30-7:30 pm at OUUC. Every adult, regardless of age or income, can benefit from basic estate planning.

For information about including OUUC in your will or estate plan, please visit [www.ouuc.org/give/legacy-giving](http://www.ouuc.org/give/legacy-giving). And if you've already included OUUC in your plans, thank you! Please let us know so we can invite you to OUUC's first Legacy Circle event with Reverend Mary on October 19 from 4:30 – 6:30 pm. (For info, please email me at [pam.toal@gmail.com](mailto:pam.toal@gmail.com).)

The logistical benefits of having a will are important. But above all else, having a will creates peace of mind for you and the people and organizations you love.

- Pam Toal

Chair, OUUC Legacy Giving Committee



### Peanut-free facility

One of our young ones has a severe peanut allergy and we are moving to become a peanut-free facility in response. This is one of the ways we take care of each other! Please do not bring any peanuts, peanut butter, or products that contain peanuts (including peanut oil) to OUUC. Thank you for helping keep our community safe for all.



### Heads Up: Roof Maintenance Begins

Our roof will be getting long-needed maintenance and repair starting this Wednesday and extending up to a couple of weeks. The first step is power-washing, so if you're visiting the grounds during the week, watch your step—and your head!

# Buildings and Grounds

## MONTHLY UPDATE!

The last month was a busy one for our volunteer Buildings and Grounds Team!

Our thanks go to Bob Brennand and Jerald Dodson for re-stripping some of our handicapped parking spaces to make them larger and adding energy monitoring equipment to our electrical panels so we can save money and help to protect our planet by being as energy-efficient as possible; to Joe Joy and Marie Arensmeyer for putting sealer on our masonry walls to keep them protected; to Frank Turner, Wendy Steffenson, Dorothy Gist, and John Crutcher for pulling invasive weeds from the property; to John Cox for mowing the lawn area; and to Kent Canny, Jerald Dodson, Joe Joy, Jim Lengenfelder, and John Crutcher for cutting up a tree that fell into our pond and moving all of the furniture back into the Sanctuary!



## This Week's Gatherings

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
**VOICE**  
FOR JUSTICE

### Quick Faith in Actions From Home

Put your faith into action!  
Check out these quick  
impactful actions you can  
take from home to make  
change in our community,  
updated every week.

[Click here to get started!](#)



### Parent Group at Lion's Park Thu Aug 7, 6pm

Parents and caregivers of  
kids of any age are invited for  
community building and  
mutual support at Lion's Park



### Help Remove Invasive Plants Sat Aug 8, 10am

Help the Environmental  
Action Team remove invasive  
plants on the OUUC grounds!  
B.Y.O. water, sunscreen,  
garden gloves and weeding  
utensils.



## Up Coming Events

**Generation X**  
1965 and 1980



**Generation Y**  
1981-1995



**Generation Z**  
1996 – our time



### Generation XYZ Lunch

Sun Aug 17, 12:15pm

Parents and caregivers of kids of any age are invited for community building and mutual support at Lion's Park playground.

### Hiroya Tsukamoto Concert

Sun Aug 17, 7pm

*"...chops, passion and warmth. Zealously recommended!"*

One of a kind composer, guitarist, and singer-songwriter from Kyoto, Japan Hiroya Tsukamoto returns to Olympia.



### Nature Group at Burfoot Park

Sat Aug 23, 10am

All ages welcome to join Anissa at Burfoot Park for nature and beach combing. RSVP: Anissa at [reassistent@ouuc.org](mailto:reassistent@ouuc.org)



### Water Communion In-gathering

Sun Sep 7

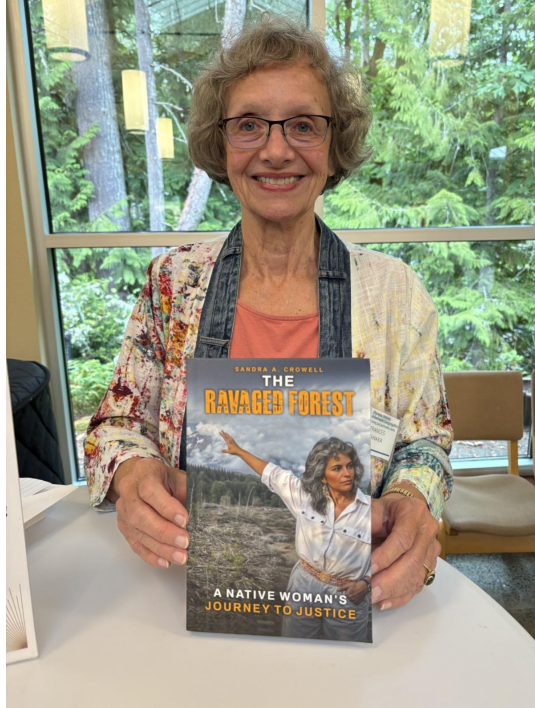
Remember to gather a bit of water over the summer for our Water Communion In-gathering service!



### OUUC Annual Picnic

Sat Sep 13, 12pm

Save the date for the OUUC annual picnic at the Rose Garden.



## OUUC Book Group

Thu September 11, 6:30pm

The group will be meeting on the 2nd Thursday at OUUC at 6:30 (following the community dinner) beginning in September (skipping December). The meeting will also be multiplatform on zoom.

Our first book will be *The Ravished Forest* by Sandra Crowell which tells the story of Helen Mitchell Sanders of the Chehalis tribe and her fight for justice for Native Americans who had been cheated out of receiving the full value of their forest land from the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The author will be meeting with us in September to answer any questions you have.

Please share any book recommendations you have for October or November with Frances Tanaka.

Copies of *The Ravaged Forest* will be available to borrow or for purchase for \$20, contact Frances to get a copy.



“Given everything our world faces today,  
having faith in love is no small thing.” -  
Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt

Unitarian Universalists as a progressive religious community hold a humbling expectation to periodically re-evaluate the freely chosen covenant that holds us together. While this work impacts the bylaws that define our governance structures, it also gives life to the values we express in common cause. We do this work to live into the Unitarian Universalism of the future.

In response to the Article II Study Commission and the final adopted language of Article II outlining our shared values, it is clear that the value most describe as central to their faith, to their living, and to the mission of their congregations is love itself. We are a people guided by, and centered in, our engagement with all that love requires.

Our pressing task now is to ask ourselves and each other how this understanding calls us forward, individually and collectively. We may agree that love is central, but what does that mean to us and what does it require of us? It is in that spirit that we asked more than two dozen leaders in our movement the question of what it means to put love at the center of our faith.

In these pages, you'll find personal testimony to love's power, reminders of the centrality of love throughout the long histories of Universalism and Unitarianism, and theologies of love drawn from many different expressions of Unitarian Universalism—from the natural world to the justice rally, to a loved one's deathbed, to the quiet moment before a worship service begins. May Love at the

[Click Here to Register](#)

Center serve as an invitation to deepen your own understanding and practices of love.

Our group will meet monthly to discuss 3 essays from the book each month.

[Click Here to Register](#)

## Ways to Get Involved



*A Neighbor's  
Independence  
Depends On You*

**FAITH**  
IN ACTION

### August 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 August 2025](#)



### 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 your shirt](#)



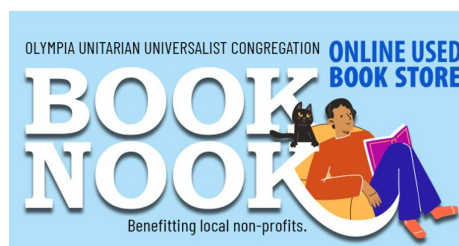
### Faith in Action

Did you know that for many years the third and fourth Wednesday of the month, volunteer cooks from our congregation have provided the evening meal for the 53 adult residents at the Interfaith Works Unity Commons Shelter? New Volunteers are always welcome to be a part of this Faith in Action Opportunity.

For more information about joining this team please contact Jo Ann Young by text or email.



### Coffee Hour Volunteers Needed



### OUUC Book Nook

Book Nook, OUUC's new online used book store for all Olympia-area shoppers is



### Soul Matters Group Facilitators

Soul Matters groups are small groups of about 10 who meet monthly to explore the spiritual theme of the month through discussion questions.



Our coffee hours are only possible through the help of volunteers who make the coffee, set everything up, and wash the dishes after.

[Sign Up Here To Help](#)

now open 24/7 365 days a year! Shop/pay online and pick up 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!

[Shop Now Here](#)  
[Learn More Here](#)

We are seeking facilitators for the new groups that will form and run September-June. Please contact Rev Sara at [dcfd@ouuc.org](mailto:dcfd@ouuc.org) if you are interested in leading a group.

## Community Connections



### First Salmon Ceremony Thur August 7, 10am

As salmon begin to return to the waters of South Puget Sound in late July / early August, the Squaxin Island Tribe invites the public to join in celebrating their return in sacred ceremony. In addition to hundreds of pounds of alder-smoked salmon, the Tribe serves other traditional delicacies, including clams, mussels and fry bread.

This year the Tribe's annual First Salmon Ceremony takes place at the Arcadia Boat Launch, 10 SE Arkada Court, at the head of Totten and Hammersley Inlets at 10 AM on Thursday, August 7. There is no charge for attending the traditional



### Fellowship of Reconciliation Vigil for Peace Fri Aug 8, 4:30

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



### Hiroshima- Nagasaki: Never Again! Sat Aug 9, 6:30pm

This Saturday at Percival Landing Park, at the main Percival pavilion join us in remembering the atomic bombings after 80 years.

Program featuring:  
Jim Thomas, Author of the Memoir Atomic Pilgrim.  
Sally Shawl, Jewish Voices for Peace/Tacoma; Ground Zero.

Mustafa Mohamedali, PASS/Islamic Center of Olympia.  
Nikhil Lonberg/Zho Regan, UW Students Resist US Wars/Seattle.  
Music by Tom Rawson and The Raging Grannies.  
Candlelight Vigil at sunset

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN

event, but guests are asked to refrain from taking photographs while the salmon's spirit is being released.

Parking space is limited, so carpool if you can, or even better use the shuttle service provided by the Tribe. For more information contact Tim Ransom.



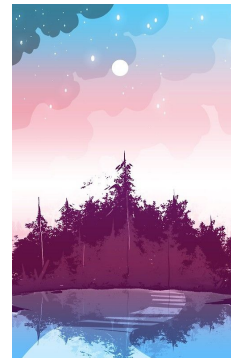
## UU Ministry for Earth Common Read Sun Sep 7

The UU Ministry for Earth 2025-26 Common Read begins in September! We will be reading "What if We Get it Right?" by Ayana Elizabeth Johnson. We can't wait to look toward an imaginative future for climate justice with you! We will be sending general reminders in our monthly newsletter and opportunities to connect with each other as we read along.

[Sign up here to join the Common Read group email list.](#)

SEATING

Sponsored by Olympia  
Coalition to Abolish Nuclear  
Weapons  
For more information please  
contact Joanne Dufour at  
206-550-1841



## The Woodlands: A Virtual Pastoral Care Program For Trans People Of All Ages Sun Sep 7

The Woodlands is a new monthly virtual pastoral care program for trans people and their families, launching September 7, 2025. Open to all ages, each gathering includes a shared grounding ritual, identity-affirming breakout rooms, and a closing reflection. With spaces for trans adults, youth, and caregivers, The Woodlands offers a sacred, supportive environment to process grief, share joy, and build resilient community. Sessions are chaplain-led and will take place on the first Sunday of each month through May 2026.

[Learn more here](#)



## Fort Worden Camping Trip



## UU's Ministry For Earth Seeks Board Members

UU Ministry For Earth has OPEN POSITIONS on our Board of Directors! These are individuals who help steer the organization forward and ensure the strategic outlook is sound. We need all sorts of expertise, such as general non-profit or business management, climate justice experience and know-how, HR experience, finance or bookkeeping backgrounds! [Here is a link to learn more](#), and feel free to reach out to Board Chair Rev. Lauren Lewwood even if you are unsure.

Serving on a Board is a great way to incorporate UU values into your life, including meeting UUs from across the country. Plus, it always feels good to learn new skills that you can use to contribute to your community!

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Let's go camping! Make connections in the congregation by sharing our love of nature, engaging in meaningful conversations, walking the trails and sitting around the campfire. Bring your tent, car, or RV- all are welcome! Sometimes we even rent cabins or yurts. Hike, bike, play board games, roast marshmallows, engage in other outdoor activities, or just hang-out. Join us on our next trip to Fort Worden on September 22nd. Sites are limited, so make your reservations soon! Contact Rich Kalman for more information,

## Contact & Hours

Sunday Worship:  
9:00 am (in-person only)  
10:45 am (in-person and online)

Office Hours:  
Tuesdays 10:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Thursdays 10:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Sundays 8:00 am - 2:00 pm

Phone: (360) 634-2005

Address:  
2306 East End St NW  
Olympia, WA 98502

Website: <http://www.ouuc.org>

## Our Staff Team

Rev. Mary Gear,  
Minister  
[minister@ouuc.org](mailto:minister@ouuc.org) | ext. 101

Rev. Sara Lewis,  
Director of Community  
and Faith Development  
[DCFD@ouuc.org](mailto:DCFD@ouuc.org) | ext. 102

Troy Fisher,  
Music Director  
[musicdirector@ouuc.org](mailto:musicdirector@ouuc.org)

Isaac Ezra Jennings,  
Business Manager  
[BusinessManager@ouuc.org](mailto:BusinessManager@ouuc.org)

Ian Stephan,  
Office and Facilities Manager  
[OfficeManager@ouuc.org](mailto:OfficeManager@ouuc.org) | ext. 103

Chloe Meyer,  
Member Engagement Specialist  
[MemberEngagement@ouuc.org](mailto:MemberEngagement@ouuc.org) | ext. 104

Marie Arensmeyer,  
Sexton

Sexton@ouuc.org | ext. 105

Victoria Ridgway,  
Office Assistant  
Office@ouuc.org | ext. 100

Anissa Bentlemsani,  
Religious Education Assistant  
REassistant@ouuc.org

Teresa Madsen,  
Tech Coordinator  
TechCoordinator@ouuc.org | ext. 106

Carbon Marshall,  
Tech Specialist  
TechSpecialist@ouuc.org

Olympia Unitarian Universalist Congregation | 2306 Division St NW | Olympia, WA 98502-4231 US

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