



Chalice Lighting for the theme of Belonging

Belonging is a promise... *
Rev. Rali Weaver

As we light this chalice, we remember that belonging is not a place, but a promise—a promise to see one another as worthy, to offer space for each soul to be its full self.

In the words of William Ellery Channing, “The great end of life is not happiness, but to feel worthy of happiness.” May this flame remind us that belonging comes out of our feelings of being worthy—and seeing the worth in each person, worth in each moment we share, and worth in the community we build together.

As the light grows, may we nurture a space where all are seen, heard, and valued, and may we continue the work of building a beloved and inclusive community.



Check in question: What is your favorite memory of childhood belonging? How does that moment still live in you today?

WELCOME TO OUR NEW NEWSLETTER

A new resource for volunteers and leaders at OUUC

This monthly newsletter is intended to be part of how we equip and support volunteers and leaders within OUUC. Questions, comments, and requests can go to Rev Sara Lewis



DCFD@ouuc.org

September's theme is “building belonging”

Our spiritual theme for the month will be explored in worship, children's religious education, small groups, and it can be brought into your team meetings as well! Consider using the chalice lighting and check in question provided here.

More Resources for Volunteers

Besides this newsletter, you can find more resources for volunteers on the website at:



<https://www.ouuc.org/learn/volunteer-training/>

IMPORTANT SEPTEMBER DATES AT OUUC

- 9/4 5:30pm Thursday Dinners Resume
- 9/7 Water Communion Worship Service
- 9/13 noon Congregational Picnic
- 9/14 12:15 forums resume
- 9/21 12:15 Volunteer Skill Builder On How to Create a Covenant

ANNUAL VISION OF MINISTRY

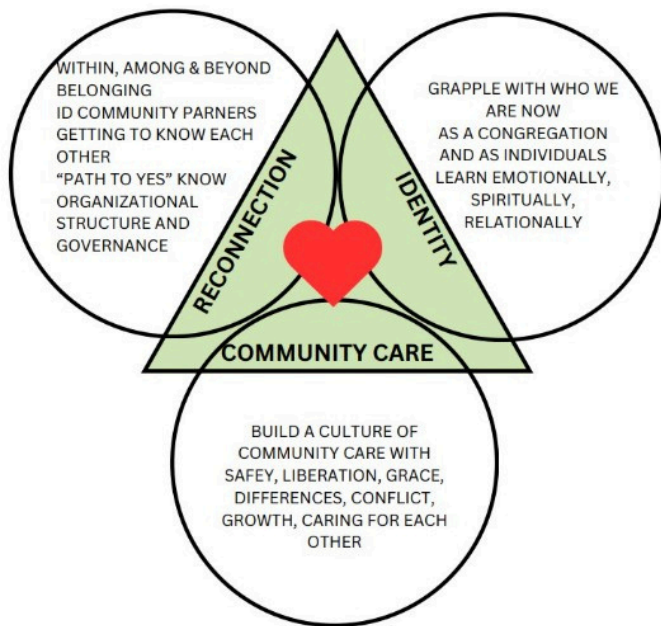
The Board set a vision of ministry for the next church year (Sept-June) that is shown in the illustration below. The main areas of focus from the Board are:

Connection, Identity, and Community Care

Using this vision, Rev Mary and Rev Sara then created some focus goals for programming for this year:

Storytelling, Gathering and Joy as acts of resistance.

How can your team's work contribute to these focus areas? Please discuss and share your ideas!



VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH



Our volunteer of the month for September will be Liz Clement! Liz is on many teams and helps in so many ways at OUUC, if you have anything to say about Liz as a volunteer that could be shared in the Spark please send it to Rev Sara at dcfd@ouuc.org by September 8th.



Have another volunteer in mind who would make a great volunteer of the month? Nominate them by emailing Rev Sara!

HOW TO BRING SPIRITUALITY AND UU IDENTITY INTO YOUR BUSINESSY MEETING

It can be easy to get right down to business, to the Doing of things, but in a faith community like a congregation it's important to remember that we are here to shape and find our Why and How and Who With as much as our What, and that how we do anything is ultimately part of our mission.

Gathering to do the work of the congregation is a sacred task and an opportunity to be in deeper meaningful relationship with the others who also give their time for this work. So how can you bring more intention and take time for deeper meaning in the midst of business?

Does your team have a covenant with one another? How often do you review it or remind yourselves of that covenant? Does your team have a mission or purpose statement or a statement of values? How often do you review that or remind yourself of your purpose?

Do you take some time for a chalice lighting or opening words or other centering practice before you begin your meeting? Do you take time to check in and share what is happening in your lives so you can know each other better?

Do you hold retreats or other opportunities to just be together as a team and build community outside of business and work?

If you answered no to any of those questions, there is your opportunity to bring greater depth to your team. There will be a Skill Builder on how to create a covenant on Sunday the 21st at 12:15. If you cannot attend the recording will be available afterward on the OUUC youtube channel.

And if you'd like to chat about spiritual practice and your team, feel free to reach out to Rev Sara at dcfd@ouuc.org

IS YOUR INFO UP TO DATE?

As we start a new church year it's a great time to check your group info and make sure it's up to date.

If you've changed your meeting date or time, did you update Victoria so the OUUC calendar could be updated?

Do you need a new zoom link set up? Contact Victoria to see if the OUUC zoom account is available and get set up.

Did you have a change in leadership or membership and is your Realm group updated? If you need help contact Chloe for help with Realm.



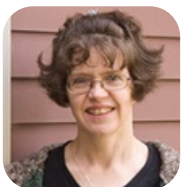
OTHER STAFF CONTACT INFO



Rev Carol McKinley
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Isaac Jennings
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Marie Arensmeyer
Sexton@ouuc.org



Teresa Madsen
techcoordinator@ouuc.org



Troy Fisher
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Carbon Marshall
techspecialist@ouuc.org

WHO SHOULD I CONTACT?

There have been many changes in our staff and organization this year, here is who you should contact for common needs.



Rev Mary Gear

Pastoral Care, Worship and Spiritual Life, to get anything added to Board agenda, healthy congregations or safer congregations concerns, supervision of staff
minister@ouuc.org



Rev Sara Lewis

Faith in Action, Faith Development, or Community Life, help getting the word out about your event, volunteer and leadership support and training
dcfd@ouuc.org



Ian Stephan

Office and Facilities Manager, getting a keycard, expense reimbursements, facility concerns
officemanager@ouuc.org



Victoria Ridgeway

Office Assistant, reserving a room or tech equipment, calendar management, Tues announcements
office@ouuc.org



Chloe Meyer

Member Engagement Specialist, displays in the Commons, Realm issues, newcomers, connecting people to opportunities
memberengagement@ouuc.org



Anissa Benthlemsani

Religious Education Assistant, children and youth programs, requesting childcare for your event
reassistant@ouuc.org

WE WANT TO TELL YOUR STORY

One of our goals this year is to capture and share the stories of who we are and what we are doing more. We have a new Storyfinders team, but all of us can be story tellers and photo takers!

Get the story of your team and its work out in these ways:

Take photos and share them! Be sure and include a caption of who is in the photo and what they are doing.

Share about your work on the Tiny Little News Show, either by being interviewed or making your own short video.

Write a short article and submit it for sharing in The Spark.

It's even possible your story would make a good testimonial or homily in a worship service!

To explore all of these options email Rev Sara at dcfd@ouuc.org



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OPPORTUNITY OF THE WEEK PLANNED

This year we plan to share a opportunity to engage and volunteer at OUUC each week with a short announcement in the worship service and the chance to table or have information in the Commons and in the announcements that week as well. This will highlight all the many ways that people can share their time and talents at OUUC.

What this means for your team: a staff member will be in touch about scheduling your team for a week and then you'll want to:

1. Identify what opportunities your group or team currently has for new people to engage.
2. Consider how to share that information in the Commons and in announcements. Do you have job descriptions? Sign Up forms? Application forms? Brochures? Trifold boards? Photos of people doing these activities?
3. Can team members be present to table in the Commons and chat with people who are interested? Line up your volunteers for that week.
4. Would you consider making a short video for the Tiny Little News that week?

Does this sound intimidating or you're not sure how to go about one of these steps? There is help available: contact Chloe at memberengagement@ouuc.org

THANK YOU!

Thank you for all you do at OUUC, and all the ways you share the gift of who you are with this community! And thank you for engaging with this new resource.