



Our spiritual practice for September is **Building Belonging**.

*“One of the most important things you can do on this earth
is to let people know they are not alone.”*

~ Shannon L. Alder

Sunday, September 14, 2025
“Reconnection and Meaning”

with Rev. Mary Gear

At this time in history, how do we reconnect to our values and what is important to us? How do we make meaning from what is happening to us, to others, and to the world? We explore these themes, and send the Transylvania pilgrims on their way with our blessing.

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 Be Known”

Words & Music: Karisha Longaker

Welcome

Curtis Tanner (he/him)

Chalice Lighting

Curtis Tanner

with the words of Janet Parsons

Opening Words

“A Spacious Welcome” by Rev. Shari Woodbury

*Rev. Mary Gear (she/her),
Rev. Sara Lewis (she/her),
& Troy Fisher*

Opening Hymn

Congregation

“Draw The Circle Wide”

Words: Gordon Light / Music: Mark A. Miller

Story For All

Rev. Sara Lewis

“Butterfly Boy” based on the book by Virginia Kroll

Musical Interlude

Troy Fisher

On Belonging

Curtis Tanner

Blessing for Transylvania Pilgrims

Rev. Mary Gear

an affirmation by the Rev. Eric Williams

Musical Interlude

Congregation

Hymn #1057 “Go Lifted Up”

Words & Music: Mortimer B. Barron

Share the Plate Offering

Curtis Tanner

Offertory

Troy Fisher

Ritual of Sharing from the Heart

Rev. Mary Gear

Prayerful Practice

Rev. Mary Gear

Musical Response

Congregation

“Be Still and Breathe”

Words: Gabe Perbieri

Music: Loretta K. Notareschi

Reading 1

Curtis Tanner

from How to Live In a Chaotic Climate: 10 Steps to
Reconnect With Ourselves, Our Communities, and
Our Planet by LaUra Schmidt

Part 1: Reconnection and Meaning

Rev. Sara Lewis

Musical Interlude

Troy Fisher

Reading 2

Curtis Tanner

excerpts from Active Hope: How To Face the Mess We're in with Unexpected Resilience and Creative Power by Joanna Macy and Chris Johnstone

Part 2: Reconnection and Meaning

Rev. Mary Gear

Closing Hymn

Congregation

"We Shall Be Known"

Words & Music: Karisha Longaker

Closing Words & Extinguishing the Chalice

Rev. Mary Gear

"Only one thing required of us"

by Kendyl L. R. Gibbons

Postlude

Troy Fisher

After the first service, we will take a photo of those present and willing to share with the people of our partner church in Kissolymos. Please join us on the front steps of the church if you are interested.

Reflection Questions:

- What meaning do you give to this time in history?
 - What helps you reconnect and to what are you reconnecting?
 - What are you grieving now?
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Today's After-Service Forum (12:15 pm, onsite and online): "Hope and Grief"

Join Rev. Mary & Rev. Sara for an overview of OUUC offerings this year to help us be together in challenging times.

Share the Plate Offering: Our Share the Plate organization for September and October is South Puget Sound Habitat for Humanity:

South Puget Sound Habitat for Humanity envisions a world where everyone has a decent place to live. Through community collaboration and a variety of programs and classes, they work to bring sustainable, affordable homeownership to those who need it. Seeking to put God's love into action, they bring people together to build homes, communities, and hope.

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.
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Next Sunday, Sept. 21, 2025, at 9 am (onsite only) & 10:45 am (online & onsite)
"Harm Reduction" with Rev. Sara Lewis

Our Unitarian Universalist tradition affirms that all are worthy now, which is counter-cultural in a society soaked in the Christian cultural urge to punish sin. How can we reduce harm without punishment? What do all deserve if we are worthy now?

After-Service Forum on Sept. 21, at 12:15 pm (onsite & online):
Skill Builder — How to Create Covenant

Opportunity of the Week: Books, Brownies & Beans book sale is Oct 24–25. Bring in books, sign up to volunteer, or offer entertainment on Saturday. Visit <https://www.ouuc.org/books> to learn more and to volunteer.

Drop-In Soul Matters Group: Meets at 6:30 pm after Sept 18th Thursday dinner, to discuss the spiritual theme of the month, *Building Belonging*.

Children's Class (ages 5–11): *Lessons of Loss*, 6:30 – 7:30 pm after Thursday dinners, Sept 25–Nov 13. For registration or questions, contact Anissa Bentlemsani (REAssistant@ouuc.org).

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