



Olympia
Unitarian
Universalist
Congregation

Volunteer News

October 2025

Chalice Lighting for the theme of Compassion

To care without drowning...*

Rev. Michelle Collins

Permission Secured by Soul
Matters

Some days the world's pain
floods through us
like water through a broken dam,
every headline, every cry of
distress
becoming our own.
We come here thirsty
for the wisdom
to care without drowning,
to love without losing ourselves
in the undertow of others' sorrow.
Come, let us seek together
the steady foundation
from which true compassion
flows.



Check in question: When were you
offered compassion in an
unexpected or unique way?

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

October's theme is "cultivating compassion"

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/](https://www.ouuc.org/learn/volunteer-training/)

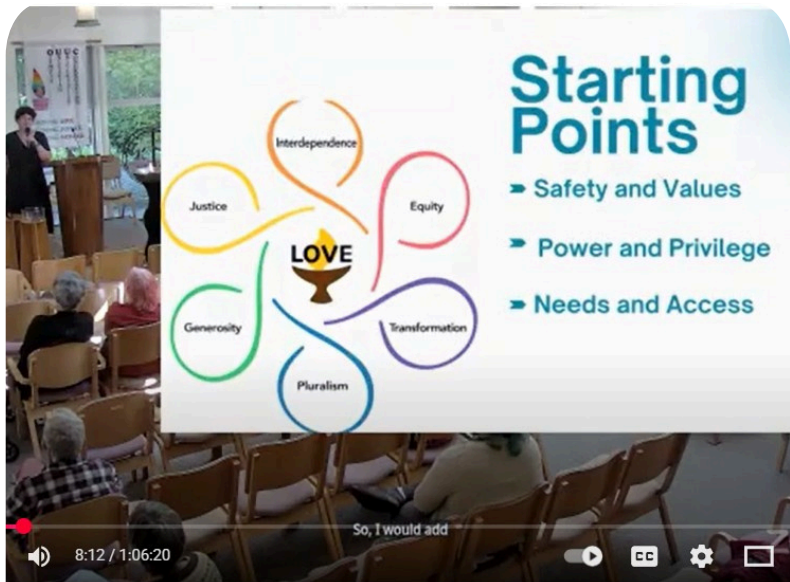
IMPORTANT OCTOBER DATES AT OUUC

- 10/5 12:15 Board Forum: The Big Question
- 10/19 12:15 Skillbuilder: Who You Gonna Call?
- 10/23 Book Sale Set Up
- 10/24 and 10/25 Books Brownies and Beans sale

MAKING A COVENANT

Does your team or small group have a covenant? It is a practice we want to encourage, for each group to make a covenant with each other. Our Skillbuilder forum in September was on the topic of creating a small group covenant, and it is available to view here:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/2cJRMjy2nUY?si=eukawUW8pR3B0tJZ>



— How to Create a Covenant, with Rev. Sara - 9/21/25 After-Service For

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH



Our volunteer of the month for October will be Kedo Baye! Kedo does many things at OUUC; if you have anything to say about them as a volunteer that could be shared in the Spark please send it to Rev Sara at dcfd@ouuc.org by October 5th.



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

IF YOU NEED A CHURCH ZOOM MEETING



We have two zoom accounts for OUUC, and many teams and groups use these accounts to host a zoom meeting. There is a large demand for these accounts, however, so please reserve your zoom room well in advance. To reserve a zoom account, contact **Victoria at office@ouuc.org** at least one week in advance of your desired time.

If the zoom account is available, Victoria will set up the meeting for you and will send you instructions on how to log in to the meeting using a host key and the invite link you should send to your participants.

USING A TV CART AT OUUC

We have two TV carts available for use in meetings and presentations at OUUC. To reserve a cart for your meeting, request one from Victoria at office@ouuc.org. Meetings that will be using a TV cart are marked with an asterisk on the calendar.

We do not have laptops for the TV's, so you will need to bring your own computer to connect. A video about how to use the TV is here:

<https://vimeo.com/1121337832?share=copy>

WHO SHOULD YOU CALL?

Who Do I Talk to About ____?

With an increase in the number of congregants over the last year, it became clear that we needed more staff to support the growing congregation. At the same time, former Office Manager Isaac and his family moved to Minnesota and former Office Assistant Rosie took a full-time job elsewhere, necessitating multiple staff transitions and reorganization in OUUC's operations. Isaac Jennings now works remotely as Finance Manager, Ian Stephan was hired as Office and Facilities Manager, Victoria Ridgway was hired as Office Assistant and Communications Specialist, Marie Arensmeyer shifted to Sexton, and Chloe Meyer was hired as Member Engagement Specialist. All of these positions are part-time. These personnel changes shifted tasks from some staff to others, and from those who have been here for years as well as those who are new to OUUC, we continue to hear the same question: "Who do I talk to about (fill in blank here)?"

Accordingly, we've created a resource to make finding the right person to help you easier. When you visit the "Contact Us" page (<https://www.ouuc.org/about/contact-us/>), you'll now see a 3-column table of ministry areas and concerns with the people responsible for those tasks and their contact information. So the next time you're not sure just who at OUUC can help you with your issue, pull up the contact page to find the answer, and then send them an email, give them a call (phone numbers are at the bottom of the page), or find them at church. Don't hesitate to reach out—we're here to help!

And join Rev Sara on 10/19 12:15 for a Skillbuilder Forum "Who You Gonna Call?" on the current organizational chart



NEW OFFICE HOURS

With many part time staff, when is OUUC open and when can you expect an answer to your voicemail or email?

The OUUC office will be open during these hours for the Fall:



Most staff work a flexible and variable schedule, so please be patient if you do not get ahold of someone right away.

NEW DEADLINES



We also have some new deadlines for various communication submissions:

Tiny Little News: Saturday noon

Weekly Update email: Monday midnight

Children and Youth email: Tuesday noon

Monthly Events Flyer: the Sunday before the Thursday before the 1st

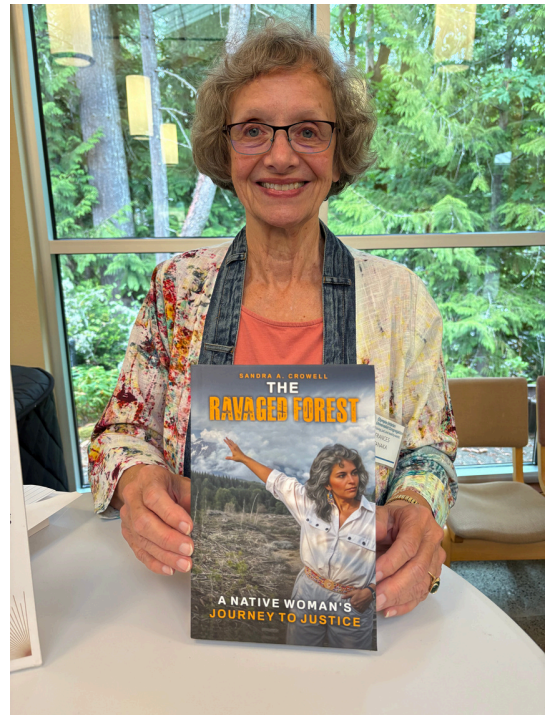
DO A DINNER TAKE OVER?

Our Thursday dinners are an opportunity for your group or team to contribute to community building at OUUC and get some visibility for your team as well, by doing a “Dinner Take Over”. How a dinner take over works is that your group takes a date and becomes responsible for planning and putting on the dinner for everyone. This may sound daunting, but there is still support in place: Rev Sara is still an advisor if you have any questions and there is a budget for food so you don’t have to buy it all out of pocket.

It can be a fun project! If your team or group would like to sign up for a dinner date, please contact Rev Sara at dcfd@ouuc.org



TABLING IN THE COMMONS



“Tabling” is what we call any form of displays or set ups in the Commons during coffee hour, and with such a busy congregation we have a high demand for groups wanting to do this! But our coffee hour also gets quite crowded, so we aim to limit tabling to no more than three groups per week. To schedule your group for tabling, please contact Chloe Meyer at memberengagement@ouuc.org



**Olympia Unitarian
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A loving, just, and healthy world.

www.ouuc.org

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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.