



Olympia
Unitarian
Universalist
Congregation

Volunteer News

November 2025

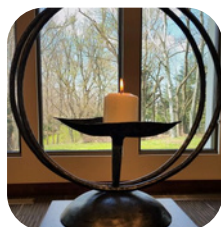
Chalice Lighting for the theme of Gratitude

The Blessing of Right Now (Based
on the words of William Stafford)

The words of poet William
Stafford:

“It could happen any time,
Tornado, earthquake,
Armageddon. It could happen.
Or sunshine, love, salvation.
It could, you know. That’s why we
wake
and look out – no guarantees in
this life.
But some bonuses, like morning,
like right now...”

May this light we now kindle
awaken us to the blessings of this
day,
this morning, this moment of now
we share together.



Check in question: what
childhood experience are
you most grateful for?

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

November’s theme is “Nurturing Gratitude”

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 NOVEMBER DATES AT OUUC

- 11/2 12:15 Board Forum
- OUUC Office Closed 11/11 for
Veteran’s Day
- 11/16 12:15 Skillbuilder: Active Listening
and Holding Space
- 11/27 2pm Thanksgiving Potluck
- OUUC Office Closed 11/27 for
Thanksgiving Holiday

WHO YOU GONNA CALL?

Who should you call to schedule a room? To request a reimbursement? Who does what around here anyway?

Our Skillbuilder forum in October was on the topic of “Who You Gonna Call?”, and it is available to view here:

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



Skillbuilder: Who You Gonna Call?" with Rev. Mary - 10/19/25 OUUC Forum

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

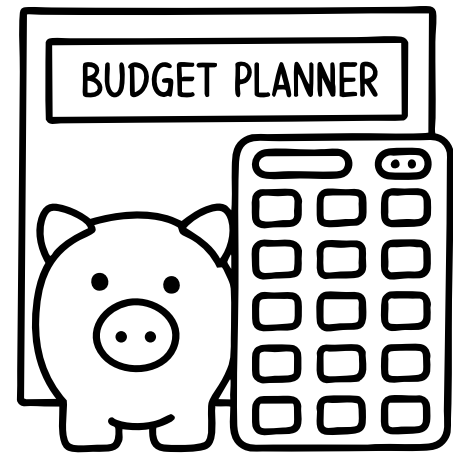


Our volunteer of the month for November will be Susan Dodson. Susan does many things at OUUC; if you have anything to say about her as a volunteer that could be shared in the Spark please send it to Rev Sara at dcfd@ouuc.org by November 4th.



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

IT'S BUDGET REQUEST TIME!!!!



Believe it or not, it is time to get your budget requests ready for the 2026-2027 budget year!

How do you do that? Each ministry lead will be putting together a budget request for their ministry area and giving that to Rev Mary by mid-December. So if you are in the Spiritual Life ministry areas you will make your budget request directly to Rev Mary. If you are in Faith Development, Community Life, or Faith in Action your budget request goes through Rev Sara. If you are in Resource Ministry your budget request goes through Ian Stephan. And you need to get your numbers to them by December!

STORAGE AND LOST AND FOUND

We have very limited storage in the building, if your team is wanting to store things here please check with a staff person about possible space for storage. Please do not just stash stuff somewhere.

We also do not have a space here for items to be left for someone else to pick them up.

Finally, if you've lost something, our lost and found is in the back hallway. Rarely some valuable items may be in the office instead.

PROPHETIC, NOT PARTISAN

With a local election day this month, a short legislative session for Washington State starting in January, and the ongoing work of showing up and speaking up for our values in these trying times, it's likely useful to review the rules for faith communities and politics. In short, we CAN:

1. Speak out on issues. Voting rights, refuge for immigrants, Trans Rights, and more ... all of these are issues that the UUA, other UU's, and OUUC are speaking and acting on
2. Speak out on legislation and ballot initiatives. We can lobby and advocate about specific pieces of legislation, as long as that is small proportion of our overall activities
3. Critique elected leaders and their actions. We can say when our elected leaders are not acting in ways we approve of, and we can encourage our leaders to take actions that are in alignment with our values

WE CANNOT:

1. Engage in partisan politics including: endorsing particular candidates, endorsing particular political parties, fundraising or supporting any political party or candidate. This includes campaigning on church property

You Should Not:

1. Speak for the congregation. When you are engaged in political or civic advocacy, you are not speaking for all of OUUC. But you *can* say something like "inspired by my Unitarian Universalist faith I feel that" or "my conscience demands"
2. Take the OUUC banner to any event without consulting Rev Mary first. Bringing the banner to an event implies OUUC as a whole endorses that action. For both banner use and to sign anything as OUUC, Rev Mary is the person to ask first.

For a deeper dive into all this:

<https://uuthevote.org/prophetic-not-partisan-irs-rules-for-non-profits/>

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. The best way to get time with a staff member is to make an appointment with them.

SKILLBUILDER FOR NOV 16TH



Join Rev Sara at 12:15 on November 16th for the monthly Skillbuilder, this time on the topic of active listening and holding space. These are not just skills for the ministers or pastoral care team to develop, but are helpful skills for all of us as we build a loving and welcoming community.

SAFETY AND EMERGENCIES

OUUC has emergency and safety plans in place, do you know what they are? What happens if there is an earthquake or fire? A medical emergency or even just a small accident?

If you are in charge of any event or meeting here (and you don't know when you might end up being in charge!) it's a good idea to review the safety and emergency procedures.

Please review the recording of the last Emergency Training, held in 2024.

And if you have questions or you have an interest in safety, please reach out to Kent Canny, chair of the Emergency Preparedness team.



OUUC Safety Training with Rev. Sara and the Safety Team - 1/21/24 After-Service Forum



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

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COLLECTIONS AND DRIVES



There will be a food drive at OUUC in November, which has been planned and will be executed by the SWIFT team. The EAT team is collecting plastic bags for their TREX challenge. How do you do a drive or supply collection at OUUC?

First, how would this drive relate to the OUUC mission? What ministry area would it be part of? That ministry area needs to sign on. Then, what space needs would this drive have and who would be responsible for it? Staff need to sign off on space use, which your ministry lead can help you with.

So if you have an idea for a collection, bring it to your ministry team and ministry lead!

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.