



Our spiritual practice for November is **Nurturing Gratitude**.

“If you find yourself... hearing, again, the earth's great, sonorous moan that says... all you love will turn to dust... Do not raise your small voice against it... Instead, curl your toes into the grass... Walk through the garden's dormant splendor. Say only, thank you.”

~Ross Gay

Sunday, November 2, 2025

“What Are We Missing When We Talk About Covenant?”

with Rev. Jon Luopa

Since the late 1970s, UUs have been talking more and more about covenant. Things like ‘covenant groups’ and writing our own covenants we ground in behavioral guidelines and psycho-social paradigms. Have we forgotten the spiritual depth of the concept of covenant? Let’s explore that question.

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

“So We Go”

Words & Music: Pat DeSimio, Do-arranger: Mark Sloniker

Welcome

Curt Hill
(he/him)

Chalice Lighting “Sacred” by Robin F. Gray	<i>Curt Hill</i>
Opening Words by Rev. Michelle Collins	<i>Rev. Jon Luopa (he/him)</i>
Opening Hymn Hymn # 1010 “We Give Thanks” Words & Music: Wendy Luella Perkins, arr. Susan Peck	<i>Congregation</i>
Story For All The Story of the Dedham Congregation, based on the work of Alice Blair Wesley	<i>Rev. Sara Lewis (she/her)</i>
Musical Interlude	<i>Troy Fisher</i>
Share the Plate Offering	<i>Curt Hill</i>
Offertory “Thankful” Words & Music: Carole Bayer Sager, David Foster, and Richard Page, Arranged by Mark Hayes	<i>OUUC Choir</i>
Ritual of Sharing from the Heart	<i>Rev. Sara Lewis</i>
Prayerful Practice	<i>Rev. Jon Luopa</i>
Musical Response “Come With Me” Words & Music: Penny Blake	<i>OUUC Choir & Congregation</i>
Sermon: What are we missing when we talk about Covenant?	<i>Rev. Jon Luopa</i>
Closing Hymn Hymn #64 “We Sing Now Together” [vs. 1, 3, & 4] Words: Edwin T. Buehrer / Music: Adrian Valerius’s <i>Nedelandtsch Gedenckclanck</i> / Arranged by Edward Kremser	<i>Congregation</i>
Closing Words & Extinguishing the Chalice	<i>Rev. Jon Luopa</i>

Reflection Questions:

1. Into what relationships were you born and how do you feel obligated to them?
 2. What relationships have you created and what sense of mutuality is there in them?
 3. In these relationships, have you had experiences where you needed to:
 - repent - own your own self-interest?
 - forgive - engage in mutual reconciliation?
 4. How might you apply some of these ideas to your relationships at the Olympia UU Congregation?
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Today's After-Service Forum (12:15 pm, onsite and online):

"Generational Differences as OUUC Grows"

with the OUUC Board of Trustees

At 2 pm today, our New UU Class will meet to explore the topic of connections and communications at OUUC. This class is for all who are interested in knowing more about OUUC or in becoming a member.

Next Sunday, Nov. 9, 2025, at 9 am (onsite only) & 10:45 am (online & onsite):

"Gratitude for the Mystery" with Rev. Kathryn Bert

It is human nature to fear the unknown. The world provides us with plenty of uncertainties and even chaos these days. But what if we were to embrace the uncertainty and express gratitude for the mystery? How might that change us and the world?

After-Service Forum on Oct. 26, at 12:15 pm (onsite & online):

Faith in Action: UU Class Conversations

Share the Plate Offering: Our Share the Plate organization for November and December is Rebuilding Together Thurston County (RTTC):

RTTC provides free, critical home repairs and improves accessibility for low-income homeowners and nonprofit facilities. Their clients are typically seniors, persons with disabilities, military veterans, or families with young children. The work they do, often accomplished by volunteers, preserves existing affordable housing, and allows these folks to remain living in their homes safely and with dignity.

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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OUUC Opportunity of the Week: the Sewing Ministry team!

The Sewing Ministry creates sewed items in support of OUUC's ministry, such as wall hangings for the sanctuary, lap quilts for folks who could use a "warm hug," pride flags, stoles, and items for the annual fundraising auction. We welcome sewists of all skill levels, usually on the 3rd Saturday of the month from 12:30 – 3:30 pm.

OUUC is participating in food collection for immigrant families living in our community. A local church is delivering groceries to participants' homes to decrease the risk to families threatened by unexpected detention if they leave their homes. There will be boxes in the coffee area beginning today and ending on the 30th of November. Please pick up a can or two when you do your weekly shopping and bring it to church on a Sunday in November to show solidarity and support!

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