



Olympia
Unitarian
Universalist
Congregation

Volunteer News

December 2025

Chalice Lighting for the theme of Hope

The chalice lit among us is a
beacon

A beacon of hope, in a world in
crisis

A beacon of possibility, made
manifest in community

A beacon of warmth through
our interconnections

A beacon of light illuminating
our shared wisdom

A beacon of connection by our
being together

By Debra Faulk



Check in question: If you
could magically infect
someone with hope, who
would it be and why?

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

December's theme is "Choosing Hope"

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 DECEMBER DATES AT OUUC

- 12/4 12:15 Board and Healthy
Congregation Team Forum
- 12/14 12:15 Forum on Microaggressions
- 12/24 5:30pm and 9pm Christmas Eve
Services
- OUUC Office Closed 12/25-1/3
- 12/28 10am Fire Communion Service
outdoor only, not streaming

ACTIVE LISTENING AND HOLDING SPACE

How can we listen and hold space in ways that help others feel safe and invited to share?

Our Skillbuilder forum in November was on the topic of Active Listening and Holding Space, and it is available to view here:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/2cJRMyj2nUY?si=eukawUW8pR3B0tJZ>



VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH



Our volunteer of the month for December will be Melanie Ransom. Melanie 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 December 5th.



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

SAFER CONGREGATIONS TEAM AND POLICY



OUUC has a Safer Congregations Policy (page 41 of the policy manual here: <https://www.ouuc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/OUUC-Policies-and-Procedures.pdf>) which is intended to keep everyone safe from harassment and abuse at OUUC.

This is the work of everyone here at OUUC, but in particular of the Safe Congregations Team (pictured above). This team would address any concerns of safety. If you have any concerns and would like to make a report about safety or have questions about our policy, you can contact Rev Mary or Rev Sara or other members of the team: Wendy Tanner, Rich Brandt Kreutz, and Anne Gustafson

SHARE YOUR PICTURES FOR UPCOMING SLIDESHOWS

We are creating and showing a new photo slideshow on Sunday mornings as a way to share the story of who we are and what we do. Please take photos of your teams and activities and share them! You can email photos to Rev Sara.



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

Thank you volunteers!

HOW TO GET FUNDRAISER APPROVAL



In December we will have the holiday cookie fundraiser (thank you cookie brigade!), which will raise money for the Sunday coffee hour budget. We fund our operations, special projects, and outreach benevolences in multiple ways: the regular budget request, ongoing donation baskets such as at the Thur dinner, and special fundraiser events such as the cookie sale.

All fundraising and fundraisers need approval by the Board, every year. So if you have an idea for a fundraiser event or project, you will need to request approval for your event from the Board. Leave plenty of time for your approval request, as the Board agenda can get busy!

NO DECEMBER SKILLBUILDER

There won't be forums following the worship service on 12/21 or 12/28, so there is no Skillbuilder in December. If you have a request for a future skillbuilder topic, let Rev Sara know!