

NEWCOMER NEWS

February 2026



Olympia
Unitarian
Universalist
Congregation



We focus on a different theme each month, and February's theme is Embodying Resistance. Join us all month to explore this theme in worship.

WELCOME NEWCOMERS!

This is a special monthly newsletter that shares what is happening here at OUUC for those who are new. We are trying to avoid insider language and assumptions here, if anything doesn't make sense please let us know.

We are also happy to chat with you in general. Feel free to reach out:

Rev Mary Gear, minister@ouuc.org

Rev Sara Lewis

faithdevelopmentministry@ouuc.org



STEWARDSHIP AND FUNDING IN A UU CONGREGATION



This month we will launch our annual Stewardship campaign, to raise pledges to support the 2026-2027 operating budget for the congregation. In Unitarian Universalism, each congregation is an independent financial entity, setting its own budget and funding its own works. At OUUC, we ask everyone to make a pledge once a year, which helps us to predict income in order to set a budget for expenses. Annual pledges make up 88% of the annual budget.

The culture of giving in Unitarian Universalism is completely voluntary, although we have "fair share giving guides" that people can use for help in deciding their possible level of giving. But we don't "tithe" (a term for giving 10 percent to your church) in quite the same way other traditions do. We ask for a pledge, of the amount that feels right and doable for each person.

Learn more as our Stewardship Campaign launches this month.

CLASSES FOR ADULTS

Our Adult Faith Development program offers classes open to all. There are a variety starting soon:

Book Discussions:

Tao of Gender - Mondays from 1/26-3/2, virtually, from 6:30 pm - 8 pm

Darkness Divine - first Tuesday's from 2/2-6/2 from 1-3 pm

Other Classes:

Adult Our Whole Lives (sexuality education) - 2/7 from 10 am - 3 pm

Drama Workshop - Every Saturday from 1/24 - 2/28 from 1 pm - 2:30 pm

Find these and more on the OUUC website:
<https://www.ouuc.org/learn/adult-faith-development/>



SUNDAY MORNING REFLECTIONS

Each Sunday between the first and second service, there will be opportunity to discuss reflection questions that were offered by the minister or speaker for that Sunday's service. At 10 am, feel free to grab a cup of coffee and join us in the youth room, which is located down the hallway at the end of the commons. These are very casual discussions, and we hope you will join us to connect more!



NEW UU CLASS

We hold a class for newcomers to learn more about OUUC and Unitarian Universalism on Sundays from 2-3:30pm via Zoom. All are welcome to join us, Please RSVP to get the zoom link to Chloe at memberengagement@ouuc.org

Upcoming Topics of the Classes:

- 1/25 How & Why we Worship
- 2/1 How we Learn and Grow
- 2/8 How we Care for Each Other
- 2/15 How we Put our Faith Into Action
- 2/22 How we Connect
- 3/1 Membership
- 3/8 Final Q & A



COME EAT WITH US FOR FOOD AND FRIENDSHIP

A great way to get to know us is to come to one of our weekly dinners. We put on a dinner on Thursday evening almost every week, 5:30pm. All are welcome, it's not a potluck, just come!

We have many activities after dinner: spiritual practice groups, a kids class, game nights on the 3rd Thurs of the month, and more.

Questions? Email Rev Sara at dcfd@ouuc.org