

# NEWCOMER NEWS

March 2026



We focus on a different theme each month, and March's theme is Paying Attention. 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](mailto:minister@ouuc.org)  
Rev Sara Lewis, [dcfd@ouuc.org](mailto:dcfd@ouuc.org)



## STEWARDSHIP AND FUNDING IN A UU CONGREGATION



This month we are in the midst of 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 on the OUUC website under "Give" then "Stewardship"

## ADULT FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Faith development is a lifelong journey in Unitarian Universalism. In our UU church, we believe that spiritual growth doesn't stop in childhood—it continues through every stage of life as we question, reflect, learn, and deepen our understanding. Adult faith development offers opportunities to explore theology, justice, relationships, and personal meaning in community. It nurtures curiosity, strengthens connection, and helps us live more fully into our shared values.

You'll find adult faith development materials on the back wall of the Commons – by the cookies after services. Books can be purchased and paid for at the front office. If cost is a barrier, please reach out to Chloe (memberengagement@ouuc.org)—we want these resources to be accessible to everyone.



### FUN FACT

A fun fact about Unitarian Universalism is that it doesn't have a single creed—meaning there's no required statement of belief to belong. Instead of saying "you must believe this," UU congregations covenant to support one another in a shared search for truth and meaning. That's why you'll often hear UUs say we're united not by belief, but by shared values and commitment to community.

## EVENTS AT OUUC

There are always so many events happening at OUUC! The best way to see a list of the events for the current month is by viewing our events flyer that is posted on the main page of our website at ouuc.org. It also can be found in each of the bathrooms, and on different bulletin boards throughout the church building. These flyers also include any activities that happen after our Thursday night community dinners, and the topics for each Sunday service.



### COME EAT WITH US FOR FOOD AND FRIENDSHIP

Coming together for food and fellowship is a practice of all humans, that has been happening for more years than we can imagine! 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!

Save the date - starting on April 9th, we will be holding our next New Member/New UU class at 6:30 pm in classroom 5. To register, please reach out to Chloe.

We also have many other activities after dinner: Buddhist Sangha, kids class, game nights on the second Thursday of the month, and more!

Questions? Email Chloe at memberengagement@ouuc.org