



Our spiritual practice for March is **Paying Attention**.

Paying attention is a form of reciprocity with the living world, receiving its gifts with open eyes and open heart."

~Robin Wall Kimmerer

Sunday, March 8th, 2026
"On Families"

With Rev. Mary Gear and Rev. Sara Lewis

How are young families doing these days? We explore the terrain for families in Unitarian Universalism and at OUUC.

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

Hymn #1024 "When the Spirit Says Do"

Words & music: African-American spiritual, civil rights period. Arranged by Mark Freundt

Welcome

Whitney Godby (she/her)

Chalice Lighting

"The End Is the Beginning"

Whitney

By Katie Sivani Gelfand

Opening Words

“The Beauty of Just Getting to Be”
offered by Rev. Scott Tayler

*Rev. Mary Gear
(she/her)*

Opening Hymn**Hymn #1051 “We Are...”**

Words & music: Ysaye M. Barnwell

Congregation

Story For All

A Parable: “*The Baker Who Learned*”
by Sara Lewis

*Rev. Sara Lewis
(she/her)*

Musical Interlude

Troy Fisher

Share the Plate Offering

Whitney

Offertory

“Cat’s in the Cradle” by Harry Chapin

Troy Fisher

Ritual of Sharing from the Heart

Rev. Mary

Prayerful Practice

Rev. Mary

Musical Response**Hymn #1053 “How Could Anyone”**

Words & music: Libby Roderick

Congregation

Reading 1

Excerpt from “Caring for Parents as Whole Beings”
written by Erica Baron, Lauren Wyeth & Melissa James

Whitney

Part 1: Families Today

Rev. Sara

Musical Interlude

Troy Fisher

Reading 2

“Letting Go” by UU minister Rev. Jay Wolin.

Whitney

Part 2: Making Space for Families

Rev. Mary

Closing Hymn

Congregation

“Loosen”

Words & music: Aly Halpert

Closing Words & Extinguishing the Chalice

Rev. Mary

“The Art of Truly Noticing”

Words of Rev. Michelle Collins

Postlude

Troy Fisher

Reflection Questions:

1. What is your experience of young families or being a young family at this moment in history?
2. How do you interact with young families or other young families at OUUC?

Today’s After-Service Forum (12:15 pm, onsite and online):

Families at OUUC with Rev.Mary and Rev. Sara

Next Sunday, March 15th 2026, at 9 am (onsite only) & 10:45 am (online & onsite):

“Paying Attention to Covenant” with Rev. Mary Gear

In Unitarian Universalist congregations, we are united by values and covenants instead of creeds. What does it mean to be and live in covenant?

After-Service Forum on March 15th, at 12:15 pm (onsite & online):

“How to Respond to Hard Things” Part 2 with Rev. Mary Gear & Rev. Sara Lewis

Share the Plate Offering: Our Share the Plate organization for March & April is POWER:

Parent's Organizing for Welfare and Economic Rights, is an organization of low-income parents and allies who advocate for a strong social safety net while working towards a world where children and their

caregiving are truly valued, and the devastation of poverty has been eradicated. They work to provide grass-roots support for members of our local community through mutual aid, support groups, and legislative advocacy.

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

The New to OUUC class holds its last class today at 2 pm online. Today's class will be a Q&A with Rev Mary and Rev.Sara. The class is on zoom, you can find the link on the OUUC website. The next class session starts on April 9 at 6:30 after the Thursday Community Dinner.

We are off to a great start with the 2026-2027 Stewardship drive, for the budget year beginning in July. We are three weeks in and at the end of this week. If you haven't pledged yet, we invite you to carefully consider the role the church plays in your life and the value it adds to you, our church community and the community we serve. May our love drive our desire to support OUUC to its fullest potential. To give visit <https://www.ouuc.org/give/stewardship/>

Change to Beverages in the Sanctuary Policy! In order to be more welcoming, we will now allow **cups with lids** inside the sanctuary. Bringing your own cup is encouraged. If you do not have your own cup, some disposable cups will be provided.

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