



Our spiritual practice for April is **Embracing Possibility**.

*"Ask what's possible, not what's wrong. Keep asking."*

~Margaret J. Wheatley

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**Sunday, April 26th, 2026**

**"Stories Shared, Communities Enriched"**

with Rev. Carol McKinley

Our Unitarian Universalist tradition teaches that truth is not sealed; it is also true that our lives' meanings are not sealed. Our stories deepen narratives of families and communities, helping us to better understand and appreciate this life we share.

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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.

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**Prelude**

*Troy Fisher (he/him)*

**Morning Song**

*Congregation*

"Bright Morning Stars"

Words: Matt Meyer / Music: Traditional

Bright morning stars a risin',  
bright morning stars a risin',  
bright morning stars a risin',  
Day is a breakin' in my soul.

Rise up from morning slumber,  
rise up from morning slumber,  
rise up from morning slumber,  
Day is a breakin' in my soul.

Rise up and hear your calling,  
rise up and hear your calling,  
rise up and hear your calling,  
Day is a breakin' in my soul.

Oh, lift your voice to heaven,  
oh, lift your voice to heaven,  
oh lift your voice to heaven,  
Day is a breakin' in my soul.

We'll build this faith together,  
we'll build this faith together,  
we'll build this faith together,  
Day is a breakin' in my soul.

Bright morning stars a risin',  
bright morning stars a risin',  
bright morning stars a risin',  
Day is a breakin' in my soul.

**Welcome**

*Whitney Godby (she/her)*

**Chalice Lighting**

*Whitney Godby*

Words of the Reverend Scott Tayler

**Opening Words**

By the Rev. Penny Hackett-Evans

*Rev. Carol McKinley*

*(she/her)*

**Opening Hymn**

*Congregation*

**Hymn #298 "Wake Now, My Senses"**

Words: Thomas J.S. Mikelson, Music: Traditional  
Irish melody, harmony by Carlton R. Young

Wake, now, my senses, and hear the earth call;  
feel the deep power of being in all;  
keep, with the web of creation your vow,  
giving, receiving as love shows us how.

Wake, now, my reason, reach out to the new;  
join with each pilgrim who quests for the true;  
honor the beauty and wisdom of time;  
suffer thy limit, and praise the sublime.

Wake, now, compassion, give heed to the cry;  
voices of suffering fill the wide sky;  
take as your neighbor both stranger and  
friend,  
praying and striving their hardship to end.

**Story for All**

Whitney's reflection

*Whitney Godby*

**Musical Interlude**

*Troy Fisher*

**Share the Plate Offering**

*Whitney Godby*

**Offertory**

*Troy Fisher*

**Ritual of Sharing from the Heart**

*Rev. Carol McKinley*

**Prayerful Practice**

Words from the Reverend Christopher Buice

*Rev. Carol McKinley*

**Musical Response**

*Congregation*

**Hymn #6 "Just as Long as I Have Breath"**

Words: Alicia S. Carpenter, Music: Johann G. Abeling,  
harmony rev. By John Edwin Giles

Just as long as I have breath, I must answer,  
“Yes,” to life;  
though with pain I made my way, still with  
hope I meet each day.  
If they ask what I did well, tell them I said,  
“Yes,” to life.

Just as long as vision lasts, I must answer,  
“Yes,” to truth;  
in my dream and in my dark, always that  
elusive spark.  
If they ask what I did well, tell them I said,  
“Yes,” to truth.

Just as long as my heart beats, I must answer,  
“Yes,” to love;  
disappointment pierced me through, still I  
kept on loving you.  
If they ask what I did best, tell them I said,  
“Yes,” to love.

### **Reading 1**

*The Seasoned Soul: Reflections on Growing Older*, by the  
Rev. Eliza Blanchard

*Whitney Godby*

### **Part 1: Stories Shared, Communities Enriched**

*Rev. Carol McKinley*

### **Musical Interlude**

*Troy Fisher*

### **Reading 2**

Words of Joseph Campbell

*Whitney Godby*

### **Part 2: Moments of Eternity**

*Rev. Carol McKinley*

**Closing Hymn**

*Congregation*

**Hymn #1057 “Go Lifted Up”**

Words & music: Mortimer B. Barron

Go lifted up,  
Love bless your way,  
moonlight, starlight  
guide your journey  
into peace  
and the brightness of day.

**Closing Words & Extinguishing the Chalice**

*Rev. Carol McKinley*

Words of Reverend Doctor Peter Raible

**Postlude**

*Troy Fisher*

**Reflection Questions:**

1. What values do you hold that you would pass on to the next generation?
2. How has your generation shaped you?
3. Where do you find hope in today’s world?

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

**No After Service Forum**

**Next Sunday, May 3rd, 2026, at 9 am (onsite only) & 10:45 am (online & onsite):**

**“Sharing Our Good News: Church is Not Fight Club” with Rev. Sara Lewis**

“We UU’s can sometimes be uncomfortable talking about our churches, much less (gasp!) inviting people to come check it out. Today we will explore why and how to talk about Unitarian Universalism and share our good news with others in the world.”

**After-Service Forum on May 3rd, at 12:15 pm (onsite & online):**

Who Speaks for OUUC? With the OUUC Board & Rev. Mary

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**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

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**Today we invite everyone** who would like a **new photo** taken for the directory to have their photo taken on the patio after either of the services.

**Next Sunday, May 3rd**, we will have a plant sale after each service. Come buy plants, garden art, used garden tools, and pots.

**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.

**Purchase tickets for your chances to win the beautiful quilt** donated to the auction by the Sewing Ministry between services in the Commons.

**Tickets to the May 16th dinner and live auction** 5-8 PM at ASHHO are offered on a sliding scale (\$10-100) so ALL can participate. Please note: childcare is offered free of charge. Learn more, buy tickets, or make a donation to the auction catalog by looking for the **auction table in the Commons** during coffee hour or by following the link in the weekly email announcements

**Find more details on these and other announcements in the Weekly Update:**

<https://www.ouuc.org/weekly-update/>