



Our spiritual practice for May is **Awakening Curiosity**.

"Great Doubt, Great Awakening. Little Doubt, Little Awakening.

No Doubt, Fast Asleep."

~Zen maxim

Sunday, May 24th, 2026

"Question Box Service"

with Rev. Mary Gear

In a service crafted by the congregation, Rev. Mary addresses your theological questions.

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 #38 "Morning Has Broken"

Morning has broken like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the
world!

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!

Morning has broken like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the
world!

Welcome

Anne Radford (she/her)

In Memoriam: Atley Ralston

Rev. Mary Gear (she/her)

Musical Interlude

Troy Fisher

Chalice Lighting

Anne Radford

“Open to Unexpected Answers”
Words of Julianne Lepp

Opening Words

Rev. Mary Gear

Words offered by Bran Lennox

Opening Hymn

Congregation

Hymn #311 “Let It Be a Dance”
Words & music: Ric Masten, arr. Betty A. Wylder

(Chorus)
Let it be a dance we do.
May I have this dance with you?
Through the good times and the bad times,
too, let it be a dance.

Let a dancing song be heard.
Play the music, say the words,
and fill the sky with sailing birds.
Let it be a dance.
Let it be a dance. Let it be a dance.

Learn to follow, learn to lead,
feel the rhythm, fill the need
to reap the harvest, plant the seed.
Let it be a dance.

(Chorus)

Let it be a dance we do.
May I have this dance with you?
Through the good times and the bad times,
too, let it be a dance.

Everybody turn and spin,
let your body learn to bend,
and, like a willow with the wind,
let it be a dance.

Let it be a dance. Let it be a dance.
A child is born, the old must die;
a time for joy, a time to cry.
Take it as it passes by.
Let it be a dance.

(Chorus)

Let it be a dance we do.
May I have this dance with you?
Through the good times and the bad times,
too, let it be a dance.

Morning star comes out at night,
without the dark there is no light.
If nothing's wrong, then nothing's right.
Let it be a dance.
Let it be a dance. Let it be a dance.
Let the sun shine, let it rain;
share the laughter, bear* the pain,
and round and round we go again.
Let it be a dance.

Story for All

Rev. Sara Lewis (she/her)

Why Wisdom is Everywhere: An Anansi Story

Musical Interlude

Troy Fisher

Share the Plate Offering

Anne Radford

Offertory

Eli Manuputty (she/her)

“We Live on Borrowed Time”

Music: Mitch Leigh / Lyrics: Joe Darion

I never thought there could be a love like yours
and mine

I never dreamed that I would see the day that I
would find

A love that feels so right, but here we are
tonight

And now the only thing we really need is time

We live on borrowed time

No one can be sure when the loan will finally
come due

But I'm loving all of mine, I know what time is
for

I've borrowed it so I can spend it all right here
with you

There was a time when I believed that life held
guarantees

There was a time when I was sure my future
was secure

But life had other plans, the future's in God's
hands

And knowing that just makes me love you even
more

We live on borrowed time
Yesterday is past, tomorrow seems a million
miles away
But I promise you that I'm gonna make love
last
By living every moment, every hour, every day

Now we may have a year, or we may have a
lifetime
No one can be certain what the future will
allow
But you and I are here, and this time is the
right time
'cause one thing that I know is that we have
each other now, and now

And we live on borrowed time
Let's celebrate and sing as we walk bravely into
the unknown
'cause we're gonna be just fine, whatever life
may bring
We'll face it all together and we'll never be
alone
We'll face it all together and we'll never be
alone

We may not have forever but our time will be
our own.

Ritual of Sharing from the Heart

Rev. Mary Gear

Prayerful Practice

Rev. Mary Gear

Musical Response

Congregation

Hymn #1001 "Breaths"

Words: Adapted from poem by Birago Diop / Music:
Ysaye M. Barnwell

Refrain:

Listen more often to things than to beings,
listen more often to things than to beings,
'tis the Ancestor's breath when the fire's voice
is heard,
'tis the Ancestor's breath in the voice of the
waters.

Zah Whsshh Aahh Whsshh

Those who have died have never, never left.
The dead are not under the earth.
They are in the rustling trees,
they are in the groaning woods,
they are in the crying grass,
they are in the moaning rocks.
The dead are not under the earth.

Refrain:

Listen more often to things than to beings,
listen more often to things than to beings,
'tis the Ancestor's breath when the fire's voice
is heard,
'tis the Ancestor's breath in the voice of the
waters.

Zah Whsshh Aahh Whsshh

Those who have died have never, never left.
The dead have a pact with the living.
They are in the woman's breast,
they are in the wailing child,
they are with us in our homes,
they are with us in this crowd.
The dead have a pact with the living.

Refrain:

Listen more often to things than to beings,
listen more often to things than to beings,
'tis the Ancestor's breath when the fire's voice
is heard,
'tis the Ancestor's breath in the voice of the
waters.
Zah Whsshh Aahh Whsshh

Question Box Sermon

Rev. Mary Gear

Closing Hymn

Congregation

Hymn #301 "Touch the Earth, Reach the Sky!"

Words & music: Grace Lewis McLaren

Touch the earth, reach the sky!
Walk on shores while spirits fly
over the ocean, over the land,
our faith a quest to understand.

Touch the earth, reach the sky!
Children ask the reasons why.
In our lives the answers show,
and by our love they learn and grow.

Touch the earth, reach the sky!
All are born and all shall die;
life's the time left in between,
to follow a star, to build a dream.

Touch the earth, reach the sky!
Hug the laughter, feel the cry.
May we see where we can give,
for this is what it means to live.

Touch the earth, reach the sky!
Soar with courage ever high;
spirits joining as we fly,
to touch the earth, to reach the sky.

Closing Words & Extinguishing the Chalice

Rev. Mary Gear

Postlude

Troy Fisher

Reflection Questions:

1. What question is on your heart and mind today?
 2. How would you answer it or want it answered?
 3. How would you have answered any of the questions asked today?
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Today's After-Service Forum (12:15 pm, onsite and online):

No Forum: Happy Memorial Day Weekend

Next Sunday, May 31st, 2026, at 9 am (onsite only) & 10:45 am (online & onsite):

“Love’s Hands in Difficult Times” with CB Beal

CB is returning to our congregation live and virtual!

CB Beal (they/them) is a Unitarian Universalist speaker, educator, and consultant specializing in facilitating learning experiences that address issues of marginalization, oppression, and privilege. CB supports people to hold the complexities of our lives as we co-create a safe[r] brave[r] space within which people can be challenged to learn and grow, all toward the purpose of bending the moral and material arc of the universe toward justice.

After-Service Forum on May 31st, at 12:15 pm (onsite & online):

Graduation Party for Carbon Marshall, Chloe Meyer, and Victoria Ridgway.

Share the Plate Offering: Our Share the Plate organization for May and June is Enterprise for Equity:

Enterprise for Equity helps people with low incomes to start or strengthen small businesses. They offer intensive training, expert coaching and consultation, a supportive community of entrepreneurs, and access to credit. Enterprise for Equity believes that entrepreneurship can be a pathway out of poverty, a tool for economic justice, and a vehicle for sustainable, community-rooted prosperity.

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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Next Sunday we invite you all to a Graduation Party here at OUUC! We have three staff members graduating from college this year: Carbon Marshall, Chloe Meyer, and Victoria Ridgway. We will celebrate next Sunday after the 2nd service. Please join us.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the OUUC auction!

Gratitude to those who offered items in the auction, for those who bid online and at the live auction, and those who organized this important and fun event!

This year the auction raised a record total of \$55,174! Of that, \$14,175 will go to LISO to help fund legal support our neighbors facing deportation, \$16,225 will help fund needed items for OUUC including a commercial dishwasher in the kitchen, and \$24,754 will help support the operations of the church this year.

Thank you everyone for your generosity!

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