



Chalice Lighting for the theme

Rev. Michelle Collins

We light this small fire
under a vast and intricate
universe.

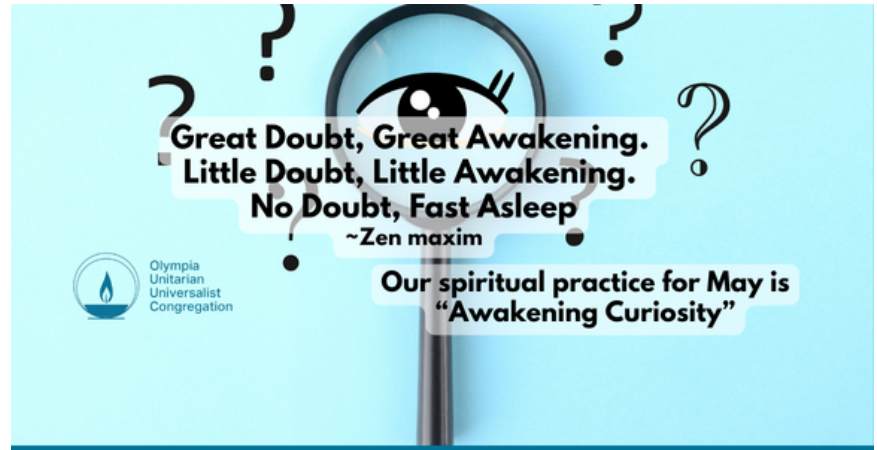
Somewhere, a star
collapses, a seed splits
open, a new element is
glimpsed.

Here, we notice our own
small corner of that
mystery.

Let this flame remind us
that asking how things
work is also a kind of awe.



Check in question: If a
crystal ball could reveal
something about yourself,
your future, or anything
else, what would you want
to know?



May's Theme is "Awakening Curiosity"

Our spiritual theme for the month will be explored in worship, children's religious education, small groups, and it can be brought into your team meetings as well! Consider using the chalice lighting and check in question provided here.

More Resources for Volunteers

Besides this newsletter, you can find more resources for volunteers on the website at:

 <https://www.ouuc.org/learn/volunteer-training/>

IMPORTANT MAY DATES AT OUUC

- 5/3 12:15pm Board Forum on New Controversial Topics Policy
- 5/3 Plant Sale after both services
- 5/16 5pm Annual Auction
- 5/17 12:15pm General Assembly Forum
- 5/31 12:15pm Graduation Party for Our College Student Staff
- 6/7 12:15pm Budget Expo forum
- 6/11 5:30pm Final Community Dinner of Year
- 6/14 12:15pm Annual Congregational Meeting

NEW POLICY ON POLITICAL AND CONTROVERSIAL TOPICS

Operational Policy on Addressing Controversial and Political Topics
As of March 2026

Purpose: OUUC recognizes that diverse points of view can be in alignment with our values and welcomes discussion held in our covenant. As a religious organization, OUUC is also bound by legal limits on political activity. This policy is to set the parameters and expectations for addressing political and controversial topics at OUUC.

What is a Controversial or Political Topic?

- Any legislation, ballot measure, or election currently under debate.
- Any issue which will impact different members of our community differently or where there are competing valid interests and needs.

Come to the forum on May 3rd at 12:15pm to hear more about this new policy and other questions of “Who Speaks for OUUC?”

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH



Our volunteer of the month for May will be Linda Selsor. Linda has done many things at OUUC; if you have anything to say about her as a volunteer that could be shared in the Spark please send it to Rev Sara at dcfd@ouuc.org by May 11th.



Have another volunteer in mind who would make a great volunteer of the month? Nominate them by emailing Rev Sara!

CLOSING OUT THE CHURCH YEAR

The church program year will be winding down in May and June. Many programs will take a break for the summer:

- The last community dinner will be 6/11
- The annual congregational meeting will be on 6/14, and there will be no more 12:15 forums after that
- The Spark will discontinue publication after 6/11

This is a great time to think about marking another year with your team or group. Many groups have a party or other kind of celebration. If anyone is leaving your group, it's a good time to have some closure and say goodbye. And it's also a great time to reflect and evaluate how your year has gone and if there are new goals you want to set for next year.

If your group will have any kind of leadership transition, it's also a good time to thank the outgoing leaders and to make sure that files and other information are handed over to the new leadership.

If you need help updating your group in Realm, contact Chloe at memberengagement@ouuc.org

If you are changing your meeting schedule, contact Victoria at office@ouuc.org

CHANGE IN BUS ROUTES STARTS MAY 3RD

As of May 3, 2026, the Intercity Transit system will be changing to the new design. The number 41 bus that we have been used to having on Division Street between Evergreen and Downtown will be replaced by a new route number 32 running between Evergreen and SPSCC. For anyone coming to OUUC on the bus, learn more about the new routes and schedules here:

<https://www.intercitytransit.com/bus-system-redesign/map>



WATCH THE APRIL SKILLBUILDER: VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION



Rev Sara led a short Skillbuilder in April about how to appreciate volunteers. It has great information for groups that are interested in recruiting, retaining, and supporting volunteers on their teams. You can view the recording here:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/j0iFID5pMdg?si=WU3Kte-l2W-ypqKy>

CHANGE IN OFFICE HOURS

Office Hours are Now:

Sunday: 8am–2pm
Monday: 10am–1pm
Tuesday: 10am–2pm
Wednesday: 10am–1pm
Thursday: 10am–1pm

If you call or drop by during office hours and cannot get ahold of staff, they may be in a meeting.

SMOKE DETECTOR FALSE ALARMS

In the event of a known cause false alarm (you've made smoke in the stove but it's under control, for instance) you can call our monitoring company to report it as a false alarm. We have posted the phone number and other necessary information in the kitchen, near the stove.



FUTURE SKILLBUILDERS

If you have any requests for future skillbuilders, please reach out to Rev Sara at dcfd@ouuc.org



**Olympia Unitarian
Universalist Congregation**
A loving, just, and healthy world.