



All endings are also beginnings. We just don't know it at the time.

~ Mitch Albom

Sunday, September 20th, 2026
"Emergence & Change"

with Rev. Mary Gear & Rev. Sara Lewis

We begin our spiritual focus for the year by exploring how we can use our power, build trust, and navigate change in these historic times.

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 #1010 "We Give Thanks"

Words & music: Wendy Luella Perkins, arr. Susan Peck

Oh, we give thanks for this precious day,
For all gather'd here, and those far away;
For this time we share with love and care,
Oh, we give thanks for this precious day.

Oh, we give thanks for the old and young,
For a time of wonder, joy, and fun
For all we give as we grow and live,
Oh, we give thanks for the old and young.

Oh, we give thanks for this precious day,
For all gather'd here, and those far away;
For this time we share with love and care,
Oh, we give thanks for this precious day.

Welcome

*Anne Kohlbray
(she/her)*

Chalice Lighting

"Autumnal Welcoming" by Sarah Gettie McNeill

Anne Kohlbray

Opening Words

"Thresholds" by Arlen Goff

Rev. Mary (she/her)

Opening Hymn

Hymn #295 "Sing Out Praises for the Journey"

Words: Mark M. DeWolfe / Music: Henry Prucell

Congregation

Sing out praises for the journey, pilgrims, we,
who carry on,
searchers in the soul's deep yearnings, like our
forebears in their time.
We seek out the spirit's wholeness in the endless
human quest.

Look inside, your soul's the kindling of the hearth
fire pilgrims knew.
Find the spirit, always restless, find it in each
mind and heart.
Touch and hold that ancient yearning, kindling
for a newfound truth.

Stand we now upon the threshold, facing futures
yet unknown.
Hearth behind us, wayside hostel built by those
who knew wild roads.
Guard we e'er their sacred embers carried in our
minds and hearts.

Stories For All:*Jet LeBlanc (she/her)*

Reflection on the Autumnal Equinox

Musical Interlude*Troy Fisher***Share the Plate Offering***Anne Kohlbray***Offertory***Troy Fisher*

“The Times They Are A-Changin’”

Words & music: Bob Dylan

Come gather 'round people
Wherever you roam
And admit that the waters
Around you have grown
And accept it that soon
You'll be drenched to the bone
If your time to you is worth savin'
And you better start swimmin'
Or you'll sink like a stone
For the times they are a-changin'

Come writers and critics
Who prophesize with your pen
And keep your eyes wide
The chance won't come again
And don't speak too soon
For the wheel's still in spin
And there's no tellin' who
That it's namin'
For the loser now
Will be later to win
For the times they are a-changin'

Come senators, congressmen
Please heed the call
Don't stand in the doorway
Don't block up the hall
For they that gets hurt
Will be they who have stalled
The battle outside ragin'
Will soon shake your windows
And rattle your walls
For the times they are a-changin'

Come mothers and fathers
Throughout the land
And don't criticize
What you can't understand
For all of your children
Are beyond your command
Your old road is rapidly agin'
Please get out of the new one
If you can't lend your hand
For the times they are a-changin'

The line it is drawn
The curse it is cast
The slow one now
Will later be fast
As the present now
Will later be past
The order is rapidly fadin'
And the first one now
Will later be last
For the times they are a-changin'

Ritual of Sharing from the Heart

Rev. Mary Gear

Prayerful Practice

Rev. Mary Gear

Musical Response

Congregation

“Becoming”

Words & music: Mary Grigolia

I am who I’m becoming, I am all I have done.
I am what I am dreaming, I’ve only just begun.

You are who you’re becoming, you are all you have
done.

You are what you are dreaming, you’ve only just
begun.

We are who we’re becoming, we are all we have
done.

We are what we are dreaming, we’ve only just
begun.

Reading 1

Anne Kohlbray

Excerpt from *Emergent Strategy* by adrienne marie brown

Part 1: Emergence

*Rev. Sara Lewis
(she/her)*

Musical Interlude

Troy Fisher

Reading 2

Anne Kohlbray

Excerpt from *Trusting Change* by Rev. Karen Hering

Part 2: Thresholding

Rev. Mary Gear

Closing Hymn

Congregation

Hymn #311 “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.

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.

Closing Words & Extinguishing the Chalice

Rev. Mary Gear

“Take This as an Invitation” by Birch Cue

Postlude

Troy Fisher

Reflection Questions:

1. What might be emerging in your life?
2. What thresholds are in your life now?
3. How might you mark the Fall Equinox?

The After-Service Forum today at 12:15: 2026-27 Themes and Plans

Next Sunday, September 27th, 2026, at 9 am (onsite only) & 10:45 am (online & onsite):

“Love at the Center” with Rev. Sara & Congregants

Last year, a dedicated group met monthly to talk about the Unitarian Universalist declaration that love is at our center of our values and faith. The group used a collection of essays from UUs titled “Love at the Center: Unitarian Universalist Theologies” to inspire their discussions. In this service, members of the group reflect on their experience.

After-Service Forum at 12:15: What does “Love at the Center” mean?

Share the Plate Offering: Our Share the Plate organization for September and October is Pizza Klatch:

Pizza Klatch is a support group for LGBTQ+ youth and their allies that is held in classrooms during lunchtime at participating local high schools, run by two trained adult co-facilitators who are members of the LGBTQ+ community or allies. The Mission of Pizza Klatch is to foster resilience

in LGBTQ+ youth and create a safe and positive school experience through support, education and empowerment. The group's values include inclusiveness, continuing communication, community building, safety, and youth leadership."

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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At 12:15 today, please join us here in the sanctuary or back in the main Zoom room for a **forum about the themes and plans for this congregational year**. If you liked the Hope and Chaos service in August about last year's book groups, join us to hear about the ones we have planned for this year!

Are you somewhere between 18 and roughly 50 and want to get to know some UU peers over lunch? Our Generation XYZ group meets today at 12:15 in the classroom wing. You can check in with Kedo Baye for more info. Please join us for food and fellowship!

The OUUC Choir has begun singing together again on Wednesdays at 7 pm in the sanctuary. If you have been thinking about joining the choir, we would love to have you raise your voice together with ours. If you have any questions please talk to our Music Director Troy after the service.

Registration is now open for our Thursday evening children's class which will begin in October. In the Love, Grief, and Action program kids will explore climate change and eco-grief in developmentally appropriate ways. What do we love in nature? What stories about our place in nature have we inherited? How

can we feel our feelings and face the predicaments of today? With ritual, story, and social emotional skills we will build the resilience to face hard things.

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

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