



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

~ Mitch Albom

Sunday, September 27th, 2026

"Love at the Center"

With Rev. Sara Lewis

Our new statement of UU Values places Love at the Center, and we will hear reflections from participants in the year long Love at the Center book discussion group on what this can mean to our shared faith journeys.

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

"Joy in the Morning"

Words & music: Adam Podd

We'll find joy in the mornin'
Joy in the mornin'
Joy in the mornin'
in the mornin' we'll find joy.

We find hope in our children
Hope in our children
Hope in our children

In our children we find hope

We find strength in each other
Strength in each other
Strength in each other
In each other, we find strength

There is love all around us
Love all around us
Love all around us
All around us there is love.

Welcome

*Anne Radford
(she/her)*

Chalice Lighting

By anastasia biros

Connie Ruhl (she/her)

Opening Words

From the essay, Unitarian Universalism –
One Holy Love for All, by Connie Goodbread

*Tory Henderson
(she/her)*

Opening Hymn

Hymn #336 “All My Memories of Love”

Words: Anna Akhmatova, trans. By Mark L. Belletini

Music: Solesmes version of plainsong melody, adapt.

Congregation

All my memories of love hang upon high stars.
All the souls I've lost to tears now the autumn jars;
and the air around me here thickens with their
song;
sing again their nameless tunes, sing again, and
strong.

Willows in September touch the water clear,
set among the rushes tall of the flowing year.
Rising up from sunlit past comes the shadowed
sigh
running toward me silently, love to fortify.

Many are the graceful hearts hung upon this tree.
And it seems there's room for mine on these
branches free;
and the sky above the tree, whether wet or bright,
is my ease and comforting, my good news and
light.

Stories For All:

Rev. Sara Lewis

From Principles to Values

Musical Interlude

Troy Fisher

Share the Plate Offering

Anne Radford

Offertory

OUUC Choir

“Over My Head”

Traditional Spiritual / Arranged by Adam and Matt Podd

Over my head I hear music in the air.
Over my head I hear music in the air.
There must be a Joy somewhere.

Over my head I hear music in the air...

Over my I hear singing in the air...

Over my head I see freedom in the air ...

Over my head I hear music in the air...

Ritual of Sharing from the Heart

Rev. Sara Lewis

Prayerful Practice

“My Prayer” by Connie Goodbread

Ann DesJardien

(she/her)

Musical Response

OUUC Choir

“Peace”

Poem: Sara Teasdale / Music: Adam Paltrowitz

Peace flows into me,
Peace flows into me,
Peace flows into me,
As the tide to the pool by the shore;
It is mine forevermore,
It ebbs not back like the sea.

Peace flows into me,
Peace flows into me,

I am the pool of blue
That worships the vivid sky;
My hopes were heaven-high,
They are all fulfilled in you.

Peace flows into me,
Peace flows into me,
Peace flows into me,

I am the pool of gold
When sunset burns and dies—
You are my deepening skies,
Give me your stars to hold.

Peace flows into me,
Peace flows into me,
Peace flows into me,

Peace flows into me,
Peace flows into me,
Peace flows into me,

Peace.

Part 1: Reflection

Connie Ruhl

Musical Interlude

Troy Fisher

Part 2: Reflection

Tory Henderson

Musical Interlude

Troy Fisher

Part 3: Reflection

Ann DesJardien

Musical InterLude

Troy Fisher

Part 4: Reflection

Holly Porter (she/her)

Closing Hymn

Congregation

“Coming Home”

Words & music: Shari Woodbury

I return to myself,
Here where I belong.
I am coming home.
Like a bird to its nest,
Like a river to the ocean,
I am coming home.

Closing Words & Extinguishing the Chalice

Holly Porter

Words of Rev. Abhi Janamanchi

Postlude

Troy Fisher

Reflection Questions:

1. What does love mean to you?
2. How have you seen Love at the Center of UUism?
3. What is Love asking of you?

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

Next Sunday, October 4th, 2026, at 9 am (onsite only) & 10:45 am (online & onsite):

“The Science and Humanity of Gender” with Jacob Tennesen

Biology teaches us that males and females form part of a continuous spectrum rather than a rigid binary. Come celebrate the diversity of nature, including human nature, that transcends simple classification.

After-Service Forum at 12:15: TBD

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

At 12:15 today, please join us here in the sanctuary or back in the main Zoom room for a forum with Rev Sara to further explore what Love at the Center means to us as Unitarian Universalists

Registration is open now for an upcoming program called “Trans Inclusion in Congregations”. More than just a “trans 101”, this is a class about culture change and how our UU congregations can become more truly inclusive, as well as exploration of gender and gender justice. The class will be on zoom on Wednesday evenings, find more information on our website or in the weekly announcements.

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/>