



Olympia
Unitarian
Universalist
Congregation

Volunteer News

September 2026

Chalice Lighting for the theme of Beginning

At the Edge of Something New
Rev. Michelle Collins

We gather at the edge of something new. Summer's looseness gives way to rhythm, and rhythm calls us home. Whatever weariness, wonder, or waiting you carry through these doors, you are welcome here. You are seen here. You are needed here. Let us breathe together and open our hearts to all that is waiting. Come, let us begin our work, together.



Check in question: What has your most joyful and most painful beginning taught you about yourself?

WELCOME TO OUR NEW NEWSLETTER

A new resource for volunteers and leaders at OUUC

This monthly newsletter is intended to be part of how we equip and support volunteers and leaders within OUUC. Questions, comments, and requests can go to Rev Sara Lewis



DCFD@ouuc.org

September's theme is Beginnings

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 SEPTEMBER DATES AT OUUC

- 9/9 Choir Practice Resumes
- 9/10 Community Dinners Resume
- 9/13 Water Communion Service
- 9/20 Sunday forums Resume:
Forum to introduce the annual themes

CONTINUING THE BOARD VISION OF MINISTRY

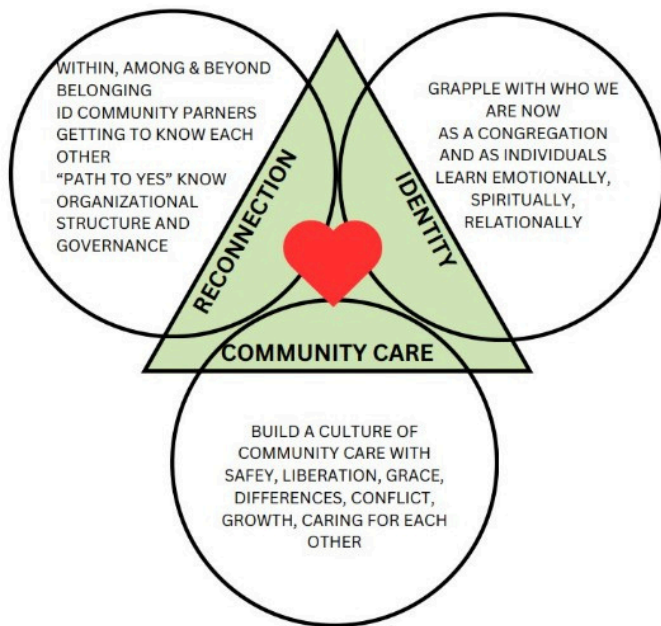
This year we continue with the same vision of ministry the Board set last year. It is shown in the illustration below. The main areas of focus from the Board are:

Connection, Identity, and Community Care

Using this vision, Rev Mary and Rev Sara then created some focus goals for programming for this year:

Storytelling, Gathering and Joy as acts of resistance.

How can your team's work contribute to these focus areas? Please discuss and share your ideas!



HOW TO BRING SPIRITUALITY AND UU IDENTITY INTO YOUR BUSINESSY MEETING

It can be easy to get right down to business, to the Doing of things, but in a faith community like a congregation it's important to remember that we are here to shape and find our Why and How and Who With as much as our What, and that how we do anything is ultimately part of our mission.

Gathering to do the work of the congregation is a sacred task and an opportunity to be in deeper meaningful relationship with the others who also give their time for this work. So how can you bring more intention and take time for deeper meaning in the midst of business?

Does your team have a covenant with one another? How often do you review it or remind yourselves of that covenant? Does your team have a mission or purpose statement or a statement of values? How often do you review that or remind yourself of your purpose?

Do you take some time for a chalice lighting or opening words or other centering practice before you begin your meeting? Do you take time to check in and share what is happening in your lives so you can know each other better?

Do you hold retreats or other opportunities to just be together as a team and build community outside of business and work?

If you answered no to any of those questions, there is your opportunity to bring greater depth to your team. There will be a Skill Builder on how to create a covenant on Sunday the 21st at 12:15. If you cannot attend the recording will be available afterward on the OUUC youtube channel.

And if you'd like to chat about spiritual practice and your team, feel free to reach out to Rev Sara at dcfd@ouuc.org

NOMINATE A VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH!



Each month this church year we will celebrate a volunteer of the month. Nominations for great volunteers to highlight are wanted! If you know someone who does great things at OUUC, please nominate them by emailing Rev Sara at dcfd@ouuc.org

IS YOUR INFO UP TO DATE?

As we start a new church year it's a great time to check your group info and make sure it's up to date.

If you've changed your meeting date or time, did you update Victoria so the OUUC calendar could be updated?

Do you need a new zoom link set up? Contact Victoria to see if the OUUC zoom account is available and get set up.

Did you have a change in leadership or membership and is your Realm group updated? If you need help contact Chloe for help with Realm.



PROGRAM THEMES FOR 2026-2027

Our program themes for the 2026-2027 year will be:

1. Understanding and Using Our Power
2. Building Trust
3. Navigating Change

These themes are set by Rev Mary and Rev Sara and help guide the programming choices offered for the church year. More will be shared about these themes in the worship and forum on 9/20

STAFF CHANGES

There have been some big changes to the staff structure in the Resource Ministry Area.

With considerable thought and board consultation, Rev Mary has reorganized some staff positions to better serve the congregation and meet the changing and emerging needs.

We are moving to two positions in OUUC's Resource Ministry: a congregational administrator and a Facility Manager. We will be using a contractor to clean the building.

For any questions about these changes, please contact Rev Mary at minister@ouuc.org



**Administrator,
Victoria Lee**



Facilities, Kedo Baye

On August 24th we welcomed onsite a new Acting Congregational Administrator named Victoria Lee. (Not to be confused with Office Assistant Victoria Ridgway.) "Acting" in the job title means that Victoria L. is in the position temporarily and may become permanent.

Victoria L. will be working 30 hours per week to cover the administrative and office duties, including the weekly update. She will be the acting lead for OUUC's Resource Ministry.

On August 25th, Kedo Baye will begin as the Interim Facility Manager. "Interim" in the job title means that Kedo agreed to fill this new position as we search for a permanent employee. The Facility Manager job posting for 15 hours per week will be in the Tuesday update and on the website.

GETTING THE WORD OUT

How do you spread the word about what your team is up to at OUUC? We have many ways to communicate at OUUC, and the communications strategy and staffing is also in a bit of flux right now. If you are not sure who to contact or how to go about getting the word out, for this fall just send your requests directly to Rev Sara at dcfd@ouuc.org

Remember that communications could include:

- The weekly update email
- The Spark email (less for announcements, but inspirational or informational articles are possible)
- The Tiny Little News Show
- The OUUC Website
- Social Media
- Realm posts
- Signage and paper handouts
- Verbal announcements

Not every type of communication is guaranteed, but Rev Sara can help you find out what is possible.



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

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AS THINGS GET BUSIER THIS MONTH

As the church year ramps up things will be getting busier around OUUC!

Some quick reminders for everyone:

- Make sure your meetings or other space use plans are on the OUUC calendar. Do not assume space will be available.
- OUUC supplies (tables, chairs, easels, dishes, etc) cannot be borrowed and removed from the building without prior approval by staff.
- Lost and Found is located in the back hallway, and will be disposed of regularly to keep it from overflowing. Please check for your items there.
- We do not have a space in the building for leaving things for other congregants to pick up. Leaving items in the kitchen may result in them going into the lost and found.
- Tabling and displays in the Commons are managed by our Member Engagement Specialist, Chloe Meyer. Check with her about scheduling use of the Commons. memberengagement@ouuc.org
- It's shared space, be kind to each other! Clean up after yourself and leave things where they belong.
- Not sure about a space issue? Contact interim facility manager Kedo Baye.

THANK YOU!

Thank you for all you do at OUUC, and all the ways you share the gift of who you are with this community! And thank you for engaging with this new resource.