

NEWCOMER NEWS

October 2026



Olympia
Unitarian
Universalist
Congregation



WELCOME NEWCOMERS!

This is a special monthly newsletter that shares what is happening here at OUUC for those who are new. We are trying to avoid insider language and assumptions here, if anything doesn't make sense please let us know.

We are also happy to chat with you in general. Feel free to reach out:
Rev Mary Gear, minister@ouuc.org
Rev Sara Lewis, dcfd@ouuc.org
Chloe, memberengagement@ouuc.org



THE MONTHLY THEME

OUUC practices something called "theme based ministry", with a theme each month that is shared among different aspects of congregational life: worship, small group ministry, religious education for children, and more. The theme for October is Courage.

This year we are subscribing to a service called "Soul Matters" that creates resource packets for each theme of the month, so you will sometimes hear people refer to Soul Matters as well. We have called our Small Groups "Soul Matters Groups" because they are working with the Soul Matters packets of resources each month.



JOIN US FOR OUR DROP-IN SOUL MATTERS GROUPS

Our small groups, known as Soul Matters groups, are 6-10 people meeting once a month, October-May to reflect on the theme of the month. Feel free to join us on the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm. There is a packet for each month with spiritual exercises and opportunity for personal reflection before bringing your experiences to the group. These packets can be found in the commons, and are updated each month.

GETTING INVOLVED

There are always many things happening at Olympia UU Congregation! It can sometimes feel difficult to get involved in the way you are hoping. If you are looking for teams to be a part of: there is the Environmental Action Team (EAT), Story Finders team, or Buildings and Grounds team. If you are hoping to provide time or energy to the congregation: help cook or set up for our Thursday night community dinners, serve coffee on Sunday mornings, or Adopt a Plot of the church to weed and garden. If it would be helpful to chat more about getting involved at OUUC, reach out to Chloe at memberengagement@ouuc.org



FUN FACT

Unitarian Universalism practices 7 principles with Love at the center. Justice, Transformation, Equity, Pluralism, Interdependence, and Generosity. You may hear it referred to as JETPIG, affectionately created by Rev. Elizabeth Mount to help congregants remember all of the principles.

Fall Gathering

Join us on October 10th, from 2-4 pm to gather around the fire at Rutledge Family Farm. Bring a chair, drinks/snacks, and let us appreciate the fall days together. A ticket to get into the farm is still required, if cost is a barrier, please email memberengagement@ouuc.org

NEW UU CLASS

We hold a class for newcomers to learn more about OUUC and Unitarian Universalism, on Sundays from 2-3:30pm. All are welcome to join us, RSVP's are encouraged: Chloe, memberengagement@ouuc.org

Upcoming schedule of topics:

October 4th: Who we are: UUism
October 11th: Who we are: Olympia UU Congregation
October 18th: How we learn and grow
October 25th: How we put our faith into action
November 1st: How we worship
November 8th: How we connect
November 15th: How we care for each other
November 22nd: Stewardship and membership
December 6th: Final Q and A



COME EAT WITH US FOR FOOD AND FRIENDSHIP

A great way to get to know us is to come to one of our weekly dinners. We put on a dinner on Thursday evening almost every week, 5:30pm. All are welcome, it's not a potluck, just come!

This month's menu plans:

10/1 Vegetarian Day
10/8 Polenta
10/15 National Mushroom Day
10/22 National Nut Day
10/29 Fall Foods