



Our spiritual invitation for summer is **Slowing Down**.

“Slow down” seems like the wrong thing to do when there’s fire on the mountain.

But here’s the point: in “hurrying up” all the time, we often lose sight of the abundance of resources that might help us meet today’s most challenging crises.

~ Bayo Akomolafe

Sunday, August 18, 2024

“A Faithful Democracy”

with Rev. Nancy Reid-McKee

This Sunday we will explore the current threat facing the democracy of the United States, and how we, as religious people, can respond with integrity.

Speaker Bio: Rev. Nancy Reid-McKee, she/her pronouns, recently retired from the Northlake UU Church in Kirkland, WA. Rev. Nancy attended the Starr King School for the Ministry along with our Rev. Mary Gear, graduating in 2018. She did her internship at the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock in New York, has served our faith tradition as President of the Starr King Graduate Association, Vice-President of the UU Women’s Federation and currently serves as Chair of the UU Commission on Social Witness.

Prelude

Troy Fisher (he/him)

Morning Song

Congregation

Hymn #318 “We Would Be One”

Words: Samuel Anthony Wright

Music: Jean Sibelius, arr. from The Hymnal, 1933

Welcome

Liz Clement (she/they)

Lighting the Chalice & Sabbatical Candle

Liz Clement

with the words of Pat Uribe-Lichty

Opening Words

Rev. Nancy Reid-McKee

“The Bright Thread of Hope” by Rev. Gretchen Haley

(she/her)

Opening Hymn

Congregation

Hymn #128 “For All That Is Our Life”

Words: Bruce Findlow / Music: Patrick L. Rickey

Personal Reflection

Liz Clement

Musical Interlude

Troy Fisher

Share the Plate Offering

Liz Clement

Offertory

Troy Fisher

Prayerful Practice

Rev. Nancy Reid-McKee

orienting practice adapted from My Grandmother’s Hands by Resmaa Menakem

Ritual of Sharing From the Heart

Liz Clement

Musical Response

Congregation

“What We Need Is Here”

Words: Wendell Berry from *The Wild Geese*

Music: Rev. Amy McCreath

Reading

Liz Clement

from Active Hope by Joanna Macy

Musical Interlude

Troy Fisher

Sermon: “A Faithful Democracy”

Rev. Nancy Reid-McKee

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 online and in-person.

Hearing assistance devices are available in the sanctuary at the tech desk.

Closing Hymn

“We Shall Be Known”

Words & Music: Karisha Longaker of MaMuse

Congregation

Closing Words and Extinguishing the Chalice

similar to Elizabeth Selle Jones in SLT #456, c.1993

Rev. Nancy Reid-McKee

Postlude

Troy Fisher

Reflection questions:

- Given the current political and social climate, what are the three dimensions that Joanna Macy identifies that might guide us as a religious tradition?
- How does this influence you, personally?
- How can you integrate this in your response to the world situation?

Next Sunday, August 25, 2024:

“Take What You Need: Backpack Blessings” with Rev. Monica and Rev. Sara

We’re embarking on this congregational year’s journey toward a world of more love, justice, and health. What do you need to pack in your “backpack” of values and practices? We’ll explore some possibilities together, and offer backpack tags as reminders of what we’re bringing along.

August 25 After-Service Forum (11:30 am, onsite & online): Mid-Sabbatical Congregational Check-In. This will be a time to reflect on this time of rest and renewal in our beloved community, and we’ll check in with each other on how we can keep leaning in, to sustain and strengthen our shared ministry during this sabbatical and beyond. Please come!

For more info on Rev. Mary’s sabbatical, please check out the kiosk in the Commons, talk to a member of the Sabbatical Committee (look for their teal “SabComm” badges after today’s service), or visit the sabbatical page on the OUUC website: <https://www.ouuc.org/sabbatical/>

Share the Plate Offering: Our Share the Plate organization for July and August is the South Sound Reading Foundation.

Since 2001, the South Sound Reading Foundation has brought the joy and promise of books and reading to all our region’s children. Approximately 82% of the people served are low income, and those who might otherwise struggle with reading and learning. Because many families have transportation challenges, South Sound Reading Foundation works with community partners to bring needed programs and opportunity to families.

If you write a check, please note “pledge” if it is a pledge payment. Other donations will benefit the Share the Plate program.

- Checks can be mailed to OUUC at: 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.

Also at 11:30 next Sunday, and for the next few after that, all are welcome to join **get-out-the-vote postcard parties** here at OUUC. We’ll handwrite simple postcards designed to encourage voter turnout in states where voter suppression is a known reality. Efforts like this make a difference, and it’s fun with friends.

We’re nearing the start of a new church year next month, when there will be **many, many things happening at OUUC**. Our Adult Faith Development Program just opened up registration for a really wonderful and rich lineup of **classes and groups** starting in the Fall, our **youth** are going strong. Both the **choir** and our **Thursday evening Community Dinners and activities** will be back right after Labor Day... and there’s more!

Find more details on these and other announcements in the Weekly Update: <https://www.ouuc.org/who-we-are/publications/weekly-update/>

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