

# NEWCOMER NEWS

September 2024



Olympia  
Unitarian  
Universalist  
Congregation

# Hello & Welcome



## 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 (on sabbatical until November)  
Rev Sara Lewis, [dcfd@ouuc.org](mailto:dcfd@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.

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.



## NOW IS THE TIME TO JOIN A SOUL MATTERS GROUP

Our small groups, known as Soul Matters groups, are 6-10 people meeting once or twice a month September-May to reflect on the theme of the month. Once these groups fill there is not another chance to join one until next year, so this is the time if you are interested in being part of a small group.

Register on the OUUC website:  
<https://www.ouuc.org/learn/adult-faith-development/>

## UU THE VOTE

Like all congregations, OUUC is tax-exempt according to the IRS. This designation has freedoms and limitations. One limitation is especially important during this election year. OUUC cannot "participate in or intervene in (including the publishing and distributing of statements), any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office." A violation of this may cause OUUC to lose its tax-exempt status.

What we can do is articulate our values and encourage voting. Unitarian Universalism calls us to support our shared values inside and outside of our walls.

OUUC joins with other faith communities and with the larger Unitarian Universalist Association (the UUA) in working to promote participation and voting our own consciences and values. We are holding postcard writing parties at OUUC and sharing other opportunities for getting out the vote. All are welcome to join us.

post card writing will be at 11:30 on Sundays 9/15 and 9/29

learn more at <https://uuthevote.org/>



## NEW UU CLASS

We hold a class for newcomers to learn more about OUUC and Unitarian Universalism on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month, 6:30-7:30pm. All are welcome to join us, RSVP's are encouraged: Rev Sara at [dcfd@ouuc.org](mailto:dcfd@ouuc.org)

Upcoming schedule of topics:

10/3: UU Values, Beliefs, and History  
10/17: Congregational History and Campus Tour  
11/7: Worship and the Liturgical Year  
11/21: Faith Development and Education Programs for All Ages  
12/5: Pastoral Care and Spiritual Practices



## 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:

9/5 Taco Salad  
9/12 SW Rice Bowls  
9/19 Catered in from Ramirez Mexican  
9/26 Breakfast for Dinner