

# NEWCOMER NEWS



Olympia  
Unitarian  
Universalist  
Congregation

December 2024



We focus on a different theme each month, and December's theme is "The Practice of Presence". Join us all month to explore this theme in worship.

## 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](mailto:minister@ouuc.org)  
Rev Sara Lewis  
[faithdevelopmentministry@ouuc.org](mailto:faithdevelopmentministry@ouuc.org)



## DECEMBER HOLIDAYS IN A UU CONGREGATION



In Unitarian Universalism we honor and draw upon many sources of spiritual wisdom and inspiration. You will see this reflected in the variety of holiday practices in December as we honor Christian, pagan, Jewish, and humanist understandings of the season.

We will light Advent candles on Sundays all month, hold a Winter Solstice Spiral walk, sing carols together with the choir, have Christmas eve candlelit services, and mark the new year with an outdoor fire communion service. Find the dates and times for all of these events on the OUUC website and in the monthly events flyer.

## UPCOMING CHANGE TO OUR SUNDAY SCHEDULE

OUUC has been growing and welcoming more newcomers, which is fantastic. Welcome, we are so glad you are here with us!

Growth in attendance also means we have gotten a bit crowded on Sunday mornings, and it is time to hold more than one worship service to make room for all. This new schedule will begin on January 12th:

9am worship service, in person only  
coffee hour between  
10:45 worship service, in person and on Zoom  
2nd coffee hour  
12:15 Sunday forums, in person and on Zoom

Everyone will be welcome to attend whenever and however works for them that week. You could come to the 9am in person service, go home, and then join the forum at 12:15 on zoom. You could arrive for coffee hour at 10:15 and enjoy fellowship with people who came to the early service before you attend the 10:45 service. Or any other combination that works for you.

There will be childcare and children's programming provided during both services, but not during the forums unless requested in advance. And children of all ages are also always welcome in the sanctuary with their families.

Questions? Feel free to reach out to Rev Sara at [dcfd@ouuc.org](mailto:dcfd@ouuc.org)

## NEW UU SEEKER'S CLASS

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

Upcoming Topics of the Classes:

12/5: Worship and the Liturgical Year

Note: NO 3rd Thursday class in December

1/9: Pastoral Care

1/23: Small Group Connections

2/6: Q&A with the minister



## 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!

We have many activities after dinner: spiritual practice groups, parent groups, game nights, sit and stitch craft time, and more. Most groups are drop in and welcome newcomers. Check the calendar for the latest happenings.

Note: there are no dinners on 12/26 or 1/2 for the holiday break.

