



Our spiritual practice for January is **Story**.

"I now see how owning our story and loving ourselves through that process is the bravest thing that we will ever do." ~ Brené Brown

Sunday, January 5, 2025
"Telling a Different Story"
with Rev. Mary Gear

The stories that we tell have power. This month, we explore the spiritual practice of story. This Sunday, we consider the challenge and transformation possible from telling a counter-cultural story.

| | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Prelude | <i>Becky Owen (she/her)</i> |
| Morning Song Hymn #1020 "Woyaya" Words & Music: Loughty Amoa, Solomon Amarfio, Robert M. Bailey, Roy Dedeau, Francis T. Osei, Whendell K. Richardson, & Mac Tontoh Transcribed from Ysaye M. Barnwell, arr. Jeannie Gagne | <i>Congregation</i> |
| Welcome | <i>Des McGahern (he/him)</i> |
| Lighting the Chalice "A Shared Story" by Rev. Sandra Fees | <i>Des McGahern</i> |
| Opening Words "Weavers of One Story" by Leah Ongiri | <i>Rev. Mary Gear (she/her)</i> |

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| Opening Hymn Hymn #128 "For All That Is Our Life" Words: Bruce Findlow / Music: Patrick L. Rickey | <i>Congregation</i> |
| Reflection on the Practice of Story | <i>Des McGahern</i> |
| Musical Interlude | <i>Becky Owen</i> |
| Share the Plate Offering | <i>Des McGahern</i> |
| Offertory "Both Sides Now" Words & Music: Joni Mitchell | <i>Congregation</i> |
| Ritual of Sharing From the Heart | <i>Rev. Mary Gear</i> |
| Prayerful Practice | <i>Rev. Mary Gear</i> |
| Musical Response Hymn #95 "There Is More Love Somewhere" Words & Music: African American hymn | <i>Congregation</i> |
| Reading 1 from "The Danger of a Single Story," a TED talk by author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie | <i>Des McGahern</i> |
| A Different Story, Part 1 | <i>Rev. Mary Gear</i> |
| Musical Interlude | <i>Becky Owen</i> |
| Reading 2 from Rev. Kenneth W. Collier's book <u>The Great Wound: Confessions of a Slaveholding Family</u> | <i>Des McGahern</i> |
| A Different Story, Part 2 | <i>Rev. Mary Gear</i> |
| Musical Interlude | <i>Becky Owen</i> |

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.

Reading 3

from Japanese Buddhism teacher David Loy

Des McGahern

A Different Story, Part 3

Rev. Mary Gear

Closing Hymn

Hymn #34 “Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire”

Words: Hal Hopson

Music: Trad. English melody, adapt. by Hal Hopson

Congregation

Closing Words and Extinguishing the Chalice

“Naming the largest truths...” by Rev. Vanessa Southern

Rev. Mary Gear

Postlude

Becky Owen

Reflection questions:

- What has been a formative story in your life?
- What story do you tell about your beliefs and connection to OUUC, a faith community?
- What story were you told about the western US?

There is no After-Service Forum today — Happy New Year!

Next Sunday, January 12, 2024: Start 2 Services!

“Caste, Class, and Capitalism” with Rev. Mary Gear

at 9 am (onsite only) and 10:45 am (online & onsite)

What was the story you were told about poverty and wealth, class and privilege? As we continue our exploration of the spiritual practice of story, we draw on religious teachings to inform our story of who we are and how we are valued.

Faith in Action Forum: Classism 101 at 12:15 pm (online & onsite)

For more details on the new schedule: <https://www.ouuc.org/2services/>

Share the Plate Offering: Our Share the Plate organization for January and February is New Horizon Communities.

Founded in 2007 with OUUC leadership to support a tent camp for homeless adults hosted by local churches, Panza created Quixote Village, a permanent supportive community for the homeless in Olympia. Now New Horizon Communities, this nonprofit has built two additional villages, especially for veterans, in other communities. Village staff work to ensure that every resident gets the care and services they need to achieve their goals.

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: 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.

Have you signed up yet for one of our Gather, Grow, & Guide Sessions to share stories, build connections, and deepen our sense of community? Come gather in the homes of OUUC members for light refreshments and exploration of what this community means to you. Please find the link to register here:

<https://www.ouuc.org/gather-grow-and-guide/>

Find more details on these and other announcements in the Weekly Update:

<https://www.ouuc.org/weekly-update/>

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.