

NEWCOMER NEWS



Olympia
Unitarian
Universalist
Congregation

February 2025



We focus on a different theme each month, and February's theme is The Practice of Inclusion. 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
Rev Sara Lewis
faithdevelopmentministry@ouuc.org



STEWARDSHIP AND FUNDING IN A UU CONGREGATION



This month we will launch our annual Stewardship campaign, to raise pledges to support the 2025-2026 operating budget for the congregation. In Unitarian Universalism, each congregation is an independent financial entity, setting its own budget and funding its own works. At OUUC, we ask everyone to make a pledge once a year, which helps us to predict income in order to set a budget for expenses. Annual pledges make up 88% of the annual budget.

The culture of giving in Unitarian Universalism is completely voluntary, although we have "fair share giving guides" that people can use for help in deciding their possible level of giving. But we don't "tithe" (a term for giving 10 percent to your church) in quite the same way other traditions do. We ask for a pledge, of the amount that feels right and doable for each person.

Learn more as our Stewardship Campaign launches this month.

CLASSES FOR ADULTS

Our Adult Faith Development program offers classes open to all. There are a variety starting soon:

The UU Common Read: Authentic Selves

Art Sustains Us: Poetry Writing

The Wi\$dom Path

Don't Leave This Earth Until You Clean Your Room

Find these and more on the OUUC website:
<https://www.ouuc.org/learn/adult-faith-development/>



SPIRITUAL PRACTICE AND CARE

In addition to Sunday worship we offer many other spiritual practice opportunities. Some require registration, most are drop in.

Buddhist Sangha, every Thursday 6:30-7:30pm

UU Pagan Imbolc Potluck and Celebration, Feb. 2nd 5pm

Spiritual Practice Mini Retreat, 2nd Saturday of each month 10am-noon. Registration can be found on the website:
<https://www.ouuc.org/worship/spiritual-practices/spiritual-practice-groups/>

Prayer Group, 3rd Saturdays 10:30-11:30

Spiritual Care Drop In with Rev Mary or Rev Sara, 3rd Saturdays 11:30-12:30

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

Beginning in March, the class series will restart on Sundays 2pm-3:30pm

Upcoming Topics of the Classes:

2/6 Q&A with minister

2/20 membership and congregational life

Sunday 3/2 2pm UU Values, History, and the UUA



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, a kids class, game nights on the 3rd Thurs of the month, and more.

Questions? Email Rev Sara at dcfd@ouuc.org