Olympia Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Volunteer News

February 2026

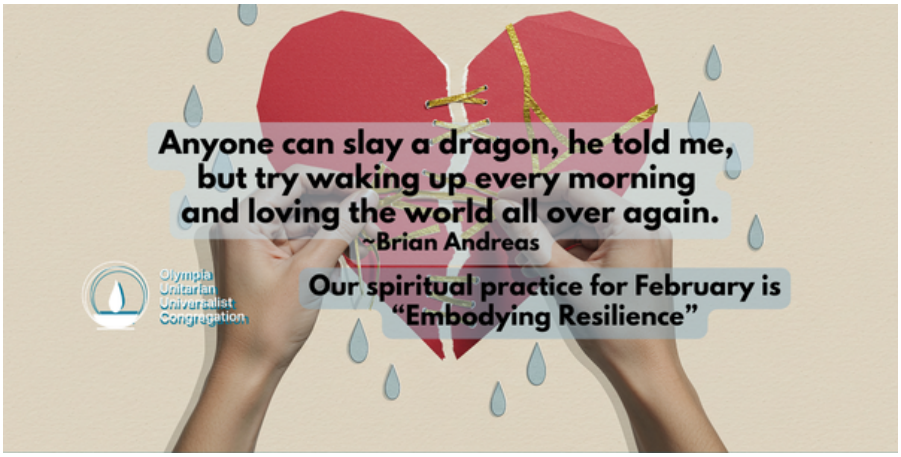
Chalice Lighting for the theme of Resilience

The Flame Arising from Us
Rev. Scott Tayler

We gather
knowing that our light can't
reconstitute itself.
Without each other
a coldness sets in.
Leaning on each other,
trusting each other
Helping each other fall back in love
with life over and over again -
Only from this does the flame
emerge.
Today, may it rise again!



Check in question: What is your most beautiful scar? What wound ended up giving you a surprising gift?



February's theme is "Embodying Resilience"

Our spiritual theme for the month will be explored in worship, children's religious education, small groups, and it can be brought into your team meetings as well! Consider using the chalice lighting and check in question provided here.

More Resources for Volunteers

Besides this newsletter, you can find more resources for volunteers on the website at:

https://www.ouuc.org/learn/volunteer-training/

IMPORTANT FEBRUARY DATES AT OUUC

- 2/1 12:15 Skillbuilder: Responding to Hard Things
- 2/12 5:30pm Stewardship Team Community Dinner Takeover
- 2/15 12:15pm Board Forum: New Fundraiser Policy
- 2/16 OUUC Office Closed for President's Day

SUCCESS STORIES IN ENGAGEMENT

How do we define congregational engagement and how can we help others engage at the level they want to engage with OUUC? These topics were covered in last month's Skill Builder, and you can view the recording here: https://www.youtube.com/live/9MnRrVpO990?si=M-nwqg4DZmBc_6Ma



VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Our volunteer of the month for February will be Jason Martinelli. Jason does many things at OUUC; if you have anything to say about him as a volunteer that could be shared in the Spark please send it to Rev Sara at dcfd@ouuc.org by February 7th.

Have another volunteer in mind who would make a great volunteer of the month? Nominate them by emailing Rev Sara!

HOW IS YOUR BUDGET DOING?



The OUUC budget year is July-June, so we have five months left in this budget cycle. If your team has a budget, how is it going? Money from this budget year needs to be spent before June 30th, unspent budgeted funds get returned to the year-end surplus. Teams and budgets do not save their unspent budget for their own use.

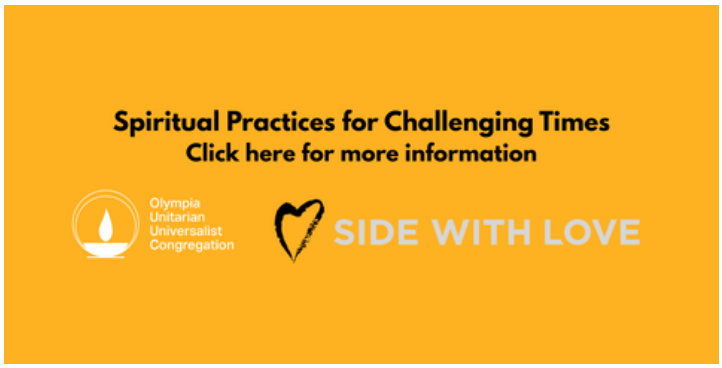
If you are projecting to run overbudget, that is a concern that should be forwarded to the Board. Teams are not authorized to spend more than they were budgeted for.

Not sure what you've spent? You can request a budget report by emailing our Office Manager, Ian Stephan, at officemanager@ouuc.org

SKILLBUILDER ON HOW TO RESPOND TO HARD THINGS

Our Skillbuilder Forum on February 1st will be about how we respond to hard things. We are living in a time of hard things in the world, and we all have hard things at times in our lives. How can we respond? This forum will be part one, part two will be in March. Join Rev Mary and Rev Sara at 12:15 on 2/1 to explore this question and practices that can help us all.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICES FOR CHALLENGING TIMES



We are living in challenging times, but we are not alone. OUUC is not alone either - we are supported by our fellow UU's and our Unitarian Universalist Association. One of the programs of the UUA is the Side with Love program, perhaps best known to you because of the bright yellow Tshirts. But Side with Love is also a resource for us all, and they have gathered up a marvelous collection of practices for challenging times that you can access here.

COMMUNICATION DUE DATE REMINDERS



For weekly update announcements: Monday noon

For Tiny Little News Show: get request in as soon as possible, not later than Saturday noon for next week's video

For Thursday Spark: announcements are not included in The Spark

Verbal Announcements at Thurs Dinner: only OUUC related announcements allowed, request by Thurs noon by email to Rev Sara at dcfd@ouuc.org

Sunday order of service and verbal announcements: very limited and needs to be approved, request by Thurs 11am

FUTURE SKILLBUILDERS

If you have any requests for future skillbuilders, please reach out to Rev Sara at dcfd@ouuc.org

Olympia Unitarian Universalist Congregation
A loving, just, and healthy world.