



Thursday, March 13, 2025

Sunday, March 16

Sunday Worship at 10:15 a.m.

🎵 Singing Sunday after the service 🎵

Learning Community (RE) classes are at 10:15 a.m. Nursery and toddler care is always available during our worship service. Learn about our program and read RE news [here](#).

Social Hour: Fuller Hall after the service.

The Shamrock Run is this Sunday! Check out the route [here](#) to avoid traffic delays on your way into church.

LIVESTREAM SERVICE

The Serious Problem of a Silly King

[Rev. Alison Miller](#), Senior Minister



The Jewish holiday of Purim, which has a Carnival-like atmosphere, begins this evening, March 13. The holiday centers around retelling the Book of Esther – a memorable story that is both serious and silly – where fate and freedom hang in the balance. Let us explore the themes of this holiday and

how it might shed light for our vision of finding a way forward in these times.

ORDER OF SERVICE



Livestream Schedule

[Sanctuary Service](#) – 10:15 a.m.

In-Person & Livestream

[Monday Loving Kindness](#)

[Meditation](#) – 8 - 8:30 p.m.

via Zoom

[Tuesday Connect & Reflect](#) –

5:30 - 6:15 p.m.

via Zoom

[Friday Vespers](#) – 5 - 5:40 p.m.

via Zoom

SERVICES



March's
Shared Plate

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

Minister's Blog

Many Traditions, One Faith

[Rev. Alison Miller](#), Senior Minister

We hold many beliefs, but we share in one faith. Unitarian Universalism is a religious movement that draws wisdom from multiple sources, including the world religions. [Here is the full list](#) of what is often referred to as our six UU sources. In addition, at a recent General Assembly, we passed a set of [shared values](#), which includes pluralism as a core value of our faith.

This openness to diverse beliefs and guiding philosophies sets us apart from more dogmatic traditions. While you can't believe anything you want here as some have suggested, we support a very broad tent. Our eight principles and our six core values create the loving boundaries for what beliefs fall within our tent and what falls outside of it...[MORE](#)

NEW! — March 12 Email from the Board

In response to emails sent by the group protesting the church's actions, and concerns raised by congregants, the Board of Trustees sent a letter to the group on Wednesday, March 12. You can read the full text here on [the Board's webpage](#).

If you have questions, please email the Board at board@firstunitarianportland.org, or see us at our table in Fuller Hall after service on Sundays. You can also attend Board meetings on the first Wednesday of each month. [Details here](#).

Thank you.



For the month of March, we share our plate with the Oregon farmworkers union, [PCUN](#) (Piferos y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste). Its mission is to empower farmworkers and working Latinx families in Oregon by building community, increasing Latinx representation in elections, and policy advocacy on both the national and state levels. PCUN values the ability of workers to take action against exploitation. PCUN strives to strengthen workers' rights by creating safer workplaces, advocating for fair wages, and pushing for enough economic security to care for families. PCUN was founded by farmworkers, and today, that legacy continues.

This Week's Shower Project Requests

Your donations make a big difference in the lives of those we serve. All donations are greatly appreciated. At this time, we are in special need of the following items:

- Snacks and chips
- Protein bars
- Cup o' Noodles
- Men's sneakers (sizes 10-12)
- Belts (all sizes)
- Plastic bags with handles

[Our page](#) includes a list of our most frequently-needed items.

Please bring your items to donate to the cabinet in Fuller Hall, next to the kitchen. Thank you for your support!

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

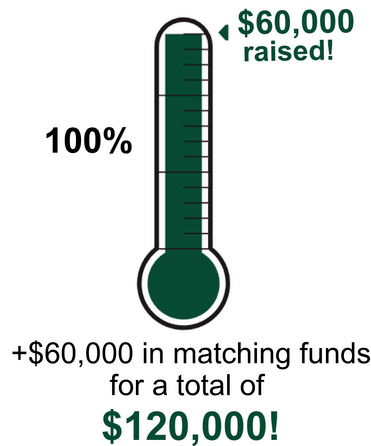
Each spring we turn our attention to the future of the First Unitarian Church of Portland, and ways our current congregation can help ensure our church remains a strong and active part of the lives of future generations.

In March, we offer opportunities to learn about legacy giving by including [the Foundation](#) in your will or other estate plan, or making a cash gift to the Foundation. The Foundation’s Legacy Society [honors those congregants](#) who have made a commitment to the future of this church.

On Sundays this month, look for Foundation information in the pew boxes, stop by our table in the lobby, or [email us](#) anytime.



Want to know what this church has to offer? **Show up for events/classes/socials and stay engaged!**



As you may remember, in January this year we were \$120,000 away from our pledge goal of \$1.4 million when a generous member and the Board of Trustees were collectively able to create a \$60,000 challenge grant. And, we did it! We matched the \$60,000, which is fantastic news! Thank you to all who gave so generously, making our Match 2025 campaign a success.

On a less good front, we have yet to receive the Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERTC) grant from the government that we expected to have received by now to fund \$100,000 of this year’s budget. And ... costs are going up! This means that if you haven’t pledged yet for 2025 and you missed the chance to join the match 2025, we still could use your support to fully fund the year. You can [click here](#) to make a pledge or [click here](#) to donate.

It’s important for all of us to explore ways to grow our income. The Executive Team is working in concert with our Board of Trustees and our Finance Committee to help do that. For more information on the financial state of the church please attend our next Board

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.



NEW! — Thursday Afternoon Volunteer Wanted!

Looking for something meaningful to do on Thursday afternoons? We're seeking a Front Office Volunteer to staff our main reception desk from 1 - 4 p.m. each Thursday.

You'd welcome congregants, staff and other visitors to the church office, answer phones, help manage the reception area, and assist with occasional administrative tasks such as photocopying and data entry as needed. It's a wonderful way to get to know our ministers and staff and have the inside track on all the goings-on at the Church.

Sound interesting? Contact [John Rosette](#) in our Front office or give him a call at 503-228-6389 x102.

Happening This Sunday

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.



"No Place to Grow Old" Documentary Screening

Sunday, March 16, 12 - 2:30 p.m.

Location: Buchan Reception Hall

[Committee on Hunger and Homelessness](#) (COHHO), First Unitarian's [Shower Project](#), and [WeShine](#)

Filmed in Portland, "No Place to Grow Old" is a poignant documentary that sheds light on the growing crisis of senior homelessness in America. It's a call to action and a reminder that homelessness is not just an issue for the young or the forgotten. It's a problem that affects us all in the Portland area and beyond. The film's producer and founder of [Humans for Housing](#), Michael Larson, will be present as will representatives from COHHO, our Shower Project, and WeShine.

[Watch the trailer](#) and prepare to be moved. Pizza and cookies will be served. \$10 donation requested. **[PLEASE RSVP!](#)**

Singing Sunday

Most 3rd Sundays, starting shortly after the service

Location: Fuller Hall and Daisy Bingham



On most 3rd Sundays during the church year, come together in song and community in Fuller Hall after the service. All ages and abilities are welcome.

This Sunday, add your voice as we learn a few protest movement songs with Rich S. and Gilda L.

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Featured News



NEW! SAVE THE DATE — Matins for Lent 2025

Mondays, March 24 and 31 and April 7 and 14, 8:30 - 9 a.m.

Location: Zoom

Lent is a season for self-reflection and renewal. We invite you to ***Matins for Lent***, a series of four quiet Zoom services to inspire you with a uniquely Unitarian perspective on the season.

Offered on Monday mornings from 8:30 to 9 a.m. on March 24 and 31, and April 7 and 14.

Through music, poetry, reflection and prayer, we will explore the metaphors of the scriptural stories as they speak to our own inner lives. [Join on Zoom here.](#)

For more information, contact [Karen S.](#)



REGISTER NOW — 2025 Passover Seder

Sunday, April 13, 12:15 p.m.

Location: Buchan Reception

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

You are cordially invited to attend our First Unitarian Seder in celebration of Passover, the Jewish holiday that symbolizes the universal human quest for liberty. This special ceremonial UU interfaith event, beautifully structured for all ages, is a remembrance of the Jews' flight from slavery in Egypt long ago. Our community Passover Seder will be led by Rev. Alison Miller and her family, Bill Yasnoff, Rich Scher, and the Seder team. It is a worship service, a songfest, a banquet, and a blend of goodness, goodies, gravity, and joy. Children, Youth, Adults, Elders - All are welcome. We will provide a delicious lunch of traditional Seder foods.

Adults \$25 each / Children \$10 each

Come one and all to enjoy food, fellowship, candlelight, stories, music and more!

[Please register now here.](#)

Register early as space is limited!

First Unitarian Congregational Survey 2025

Under 50? We Need Your Opinions!

[Board of Trustees](#)

Your Board of Trustees is conducting a congregational survey as part of our annual evaluation of the church and our ministry.

To date, we have 369 responses, but only 33 from those under 50.

Please take a few minutes to [complete the survey here](#). We want to hear from everyone in attendance, regardless of membership.

Responses will inform planning for the future, including preparation for a long range planning process.

This year's questionnaire is modeled on past surveys that had very high response rates, so we can track changes over time.

If you prefer a paper version, stop by the Board table during Social Hour this Sunday.

Thank you!

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

Enjoyed coming to gatherings at First Unitarian Portland? Consider contributing to sustaining our community. Your support goes a long way in fostering meaningful connections. Thank you!

DONATE



UPDATE — Auction 2025 Starts Soon!

Donations start March 23, bidding starts April 20

Location: Online

The latest edition of Creating Connections: Auction 2025! is just around the corner! Donations start March 23rd and end on Monday, April 7. For a list of donation ideas, go [here](#). Online bidding starts April 20 and continues through May 4. Join us! Look for more information in the weeks to come.

For questions, [contact the Auction committee](#).

REGISTER NOW — Upcoming Antiracism Learning Circles

Starting in March

Location: Zoom

[Advancing Racial Justice Action Group](#) (ARJAG)

Three Learning Circles start in March, and there's still time to register:

- [Subtle Acts of Exclusion](#) by Tiffany Jana and Michael Baran — exploring how to understand, identify, and stop microaggressions (started March 3)
- [The Land That Has Never Been Yet](#) — audio podcast telling the history of our “democracy” and whether we’ve ever had one (started March 12)



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- [Poverty, by America](#) by Matthew Desmond — why the richest country on earth has more poverty than any other advanced democracy (starts March 18)

Simply [go to this registration link](#), scroll to the very bottom of the page, and let us know which Learning Circle(s) you'd like to join.

SAVE THE DATE — Share Your Testimonial in Our Special Membership Service

Sunday, April 6, 10:15 a.m. Contact Jen by March 23.

Location: Main Sanctuary

On April 6, we will be honoring membership in the Sunday service. We are fortunate to have welcomed many new members into the church this past year. We will recognize these new members as well as celebrate membership in the church on this special day. Do you have a testimonial you would like to share about your decision to become a member? Please [send to Jen Thomas](#) by March 23.

NEW! — First Gardening Day of Spring

Saturday, March 29, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Location: 12th Ave side of church campus

[First U Gardening Crew](#)



After two months of "hibernation" during winter, we are ready to tend the gardens again!

Please join us as you are able and interested—bring water to drink, gloves, clippers and hand trowels as you have them.

We convene on the 12th Avenue side of the church campus and then get to work. Shovels, plastic bags and compost bags provided. Also clementines. 😊

Questions? Contact [Laurie L.](#)

The Art Wall Committee is Looking for New Members

[The Art Wall Committee](#)

You don't have to be an artist to join, just be interested in art. Members commit about one day a month to attending a meeting or

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month. Committee members recommend artists who might be a good fit for Fuller Hall and the committee juries the artists. If you are interested, [contact Connie C.](#)

Alliance 2025 Grant Recipients

[The Alliance](#)

Black Student Union Advisors of Portland (BSUAP)	\$1,500
Oregon Karen Association (OKA)	\$1,500
PDX Saints Love	\$1,500
Adelante Mujeres	\$1,000
Bienestar	\$1,000
Southwest Equity Coalition	\$1,000
The Bird Alliance of Oregon	\$500

Alliance thanks all who contributed to Greens Sale, Holiday Sale, and Alliance, which made these grants possible.



NEW! — Your Beacon Bookstore Welcomes Spring Browsers!

Visit us every Sunday during Social Hour

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

When was the last time you visited the Bookstore connected to Fuller Hall? Refreshed and “fluffed up,” the Bookstore welcomes browsers and their coffee cups to see what’s new, find a gift for a friend, take a look at picture books with your favorite child, or sit and read for a few minutes.

Come in this Sunday and receive a coupon for 50% off any book in our Justice section or 100% off one of our Bargain books – good through March 30th.

Many new books featured on the rack just outside our doors and on the shelves to the right as you come in.

Learning Community

Learn more about the [Learning Community programs](#).

Register your child for the 2024-25 program year [here](#).



CHECK WEEKLY — March 16 Newsletter

[Rev. Leah Ongiri](#), Acting Director of Lifespan Faith Formation and Family Ministries

Hey Everyone,

The Shamrock Run is this Sunday! Check out the route [here](#) to avoid traffic delays on your way into church...[MORE](#)

Social Justice Program

Learn more about the [Social Justice Action Groups \(SJAG\)](#).

SJAGs: [Contact us to schedule meetings and events](#).

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.



Recording of the 2025 Sewell Lecture

The Sewell Lecture Team and [Care and Action for Reproductive Dignity](#) (CARD)

On Saturday, March 1, First Unitarian hosted the 2025 Marilyn Sewell Social Justice Lecture. There were over 200 people in attendance, even on a beautiful, warm and sunny afternoon in March!

We are happy to share the recording of the event with you here: [A Tale of Two States: Abortion and Reproductive Stories from Idaho and Oregon](#)

Please check out the CARD table during the social hour after Sunday worship service on April 6 to learn more about how you can collect signatures for the [Equal Rights for All](#) Ballot Initiative. You may also leave completed signature sheets at the CARD table.



Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon Earth Summit
Sundav. March 16. 1 - 4 p.m.

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

[Community for Earth](#) (CFE)

The Earth Summit will take place in communities all over Oregon. Explore how climate change affects your safety and health—and what you can do about it. Connect with your community and key organizations. Learn how to protect yourself and your neighbors.

St. Luke Lutheran Church
4595 SW California Street, Portland 97219

[More information and registration here.](#) Registration paid by St. Luke. Use the “complimentary” option and specify St. Luke as the hub when registering.

NEW! SAVE THE DATE — How to Talk About Climate Change with Family and Friends

Sunday, March 23, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Location: Buchan Reception

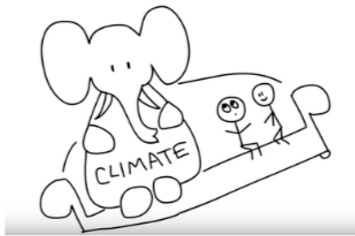
[Community for Earth](#) (CFE)

Image from video "The Secret to Talking about Climate Change" from Alliance for Climate Education

The climate crisis may be humanity's greatest challenge, but you wouldn't know that from how little most people (and politicians) talk about it. Why is it so hard to talk about climate change? How can we initiate climate conversations with friends and family? Join members of Community for

Earth for an interactive workshop to learn practical tips about how to have those conversations, and to practice telling your climate story.

11:30 a.m. to noon: A light lunch will be provided

Noon - 1:30 p.m.: Presentation and workshop

[Please register here](#) to give us a headcount and to receive some resources in advance. If you can't attend at that time but would like the resource list, register for that also.



Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East
Siding with love with the people of Palestine-Israel

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NEW! SAVE THE DATE — Gathering For Those Wanting to Engage More in the Struggle for Justice and Human Rights in Palestine/Israel

Tuesday, March 25, 6:30 p.m.

Location: Buchan Reception

[Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East](#) (UUJME)

Perhaps you have been disturbed by the oppression of the human rights of Palestinians by the state of Israel, or troubled by the billions of dollars in unconditional military aid to Israel given by our own country, the United States, that makes this oppression possible. Perhaps you would like to learn more and engage more on this issue. If so, come to the gathering on March 25 that will be held at 6:30 pm in the Buchan Reception Room. We are starting a new Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East Chapter at First Unitarian Church. This will be the second meeting. Notes from the first meeting on February 25 are [here](#).

Note the article, [Three Tiered Resource Guide for UUs Organizing for Palestinian Liberation](#) (from National UUJME), that we plan to discuss at our upcoming meeting and hope you will read before the next gathering.

You are welcome and please invite other members of First Unitarian who are interested in joining us.

CHECK WEEKLY — Art for Social Justice

Curated by Ethel G., Speaking of Justice Editorial Team

The Speaking of Justice Editorial Team offers weekly art to deepen our connection to the work for social justice and to build the Beloved Community.

“Kindness” by Naomi Shihab Nye is part of the Poetry Films series of The On Being Project. To watch this short animation, click the video below:

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In the Community

Community Milestones, Joys, and Sorrows

[Please email us here if you have any joys or concerns to share.](#)

Chancel flowers last Sunday celebrated the life of Michael Wade. A memorial service for Michael Wade was held on Sunday, March 9, in Eliot Chapel.

Ali Weller and her mom and grandmother share the wonderful news that Ali was accepted to De La Salle High School starting next year when she enters 9th grade. She is looking forward to this new adventure and her family is proud.



Say it with flowers!

Do you have a birth in the family, a graduation, an anniversary, a memorial, or other milestones to share?

You can acknowledge it to the entire congregation by sponsoring a

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the Chancel.

Questions? [Contact Marsha.](#)

March/April Art Wall Exhibition

Artwork by volunteers, originally created by Leslie Lee

From [The Art Wall Committee](#)



During the months of March and April 2025, the Art Wall will feature a series of six panels known as The Soul Box Project.

Originally created by Portland artist Leslie Lee in 2018, it is an artistic representation of the impact of gun violence in the United States.

On average, every year, 600 people in Oregon are killed by a gun. The six panels that are a part of the display are a

visual account of that tragedy...[MORE](#)

Recurring Workshops, Classes & Gatherings

[Check out our church calendar for more info!](#)

— Visit a more comprehensive list of our [Community Groups & Activities.](#) —

The Alliance: The Alliance provides regular opportunities for fellowship, life-long learning, and spiritual growth for its members as well as service to the church and larger fellowship. Learn more about our program and monthly presentations [here](#).

Caregivers Support Group: Open to Newcomers. Fourth Sunday of each month at 9 a.m. [via Zoom](#).

Care and Action for Reproductive Dignity (CARD): We meet on the fourth Sunday of each month from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Fireside and [via Zoom](#). [Contact Marni T.](#)

Connect & Reflect: Join Rev. Alison Miller and Jen Thomas every Tuesday from 5:30 - 6:15 p.m. [on Zoom](#). Come share in

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

Look for the discussion question during Sunday morning preservice slides and our weekly Order of Service.

Committee on Hunger and Homelessness (COHHO): We meet on the 3rd Sunday of the month after services. [Contact Cynthia S.](#) for details or to be added to our email list.

Community for Earth (CFE): We meet on the 2nd Sunday of the month before worship services (hybrid) and on the 4th week of the month at rotating times. [Contact our group](#) or [visit our calendar](#) for details.

Contemplative Practices: First Thursdays and third Thursdays from 1 - 2:30 p.m. This is a drop-in group. Any silent sitting practice is welcomed and no prior meditation experience is needed. Contact [Patty C.](#) and [Ron W.](#) or [visit the event page](#) for more information.

Friday Vesper Services: Every week [from 5 - 5:40 p.m. via Zoom](#). Quiet prayer, reflection, meditation, and music.

Immigrant Justice Action Group (IJAG): [Check the IJAG page](#) on the church website for ways to get involved and groups that need our energy and gifts. For meeting info, [contact Laurie L.](#)

Labyrinth: Most first Sundays of the month in Fuller Hall. [Check the Church Calendar](#).

Lotsa Helping Hands: A care calendar that enables volunteers to provide meals or visits for congregants going through challenging times. To join, [send a request here](#). For questions or to receive support, contact [Leslie C.](#) or [Susan P.](#)

Loving Kindness Meditation: Meets every Monday [from 8 - 8:30 p.m. via Zoom](#). Spiritual reading, meditation, and follow up sharing. Open to all. [Contact Katie R.](#) for more information.

Mental Health Caregivers Group: Second Wednesday every month via Zoom 7 - 8:30 p.m. [Email Ellen Z.](#) for more information.

Sojourners: Lollygagging Our Way To The Inevitable:

Sojourners and Sojourners 2 are two groups that meet for two hours at First Unitarian. Members support each other through aging with facilitated discussions, activities, personal stories, and social events, fostering growth and friendship. **All are welcome, but both groups are limited in size; no drop-ins, please.** [Email Lucy G.](#) with questions.

"T" Time: A Trans, Nonbinary, and Gender-Expansive, Exclusive Gathering: A group for anyone who identifies along the transgender spectrum. There are no requirements for medical

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questioning their gender and parents of trans kids (and their kids, too!) are welcome. We meet on the second and fourth Sundays in Channing Room, shortly after the service until around 1:00 PM. Questions? [Email Aileen](#).

Wednesday Night Meditation: Every week from 7 - 8:30 p.m. All mindfulness and Buddhist-based meditations. Beginners welcome. A thirty-five-minute meditation followed by a member-led discussion to increase understanding and integration of Buddhist principles into our daily lives. For the link, [contact Robert S](#).

Women's Circle II: Meets most second and fourth Mondays of the month. [Email Kim S](#).

Women's Circle IV: Meets first and third Wednesdays of the month. [Email Anne M](#).

Got something for Front Steps? Send in your church-related submission for our weekly publication. Use "Front Steps" as the subject line and [submit here](#).

Deadline: Tuesdays at 5 p.m.

If your submission is urgent and couldn't be sent before the deadline, please include "URGENT" in the subject line.

[Events Calendar](#) | [Ongoing Groups](#) | [Update Records](#)



[First Unitarian Portland](#) | Mail to: 1034 SW 13th Avenue, Portland, OR 97205

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