



OREGON
Unitarian Universalist
**VOICES
for JUSTICE**



Congregations doing justice together

Newsletter – August 2024

Oregon UU Voices for Justice Annual Meeting 2024



Plan to attend the 2024 annual meeting, to be held at the UU Fellowship of Corvallis on October 5. This year’s timely theme is “Saving Democracy: We Are the Majority.” The morning sessions will highlight two speakers: Steve Phillips, who will speak on “The New Majority: How We Win the Civil War” and Reyna Lopez, who will address “How We Can Support Latinx Candidates.”



After lunch, which will be provided, there will be four breakout sessions, in which we will discuss short-term and long-term strategies for working on our four primary campaigns: (1) Deepening Democracy, (2) Environmental Justice, (3) Economic Inequality, and (4) Human Rights. Registrants may attend any two of these sessions. **Registration is now open:**

<https://bit.ly/2024UUV4JAnnualMeeting>

Message from Our Board President

Sue Craig

State Action Networks: Oregon UU Voices for Justice (OUUVfj) is a State Action Network (SAN) group, and as such, belongs to the national group, CUUSAN. Normally I attend our Oregon chapter meetings, and often our past President, Kathleen McKinney, joins us also.

This monthly meeting was special, in that author Katherine Stewart was invited to speak. She has written many books concerning our democracy and its present state. Her latest book is *The Power Worshipers*, which discusses "Christian" nationalists [[The Power Worshipers - Katherine Stewart](#)]. She spoke mainly about that subject at this meeting.

Many of Stewart’s ideas—and the questions and statements of others during this meeting—were helpful in reminding us of two things: that we need to understand this particular group and what they hope to achieve, and to do the same with Project 2025. Knowing you are all probably very familiar with these two movements, I hope we can all ensure that others know about them also.

Join us to Boost UU the Vote!

Sunday, August 25, at 12pm PT, in Person and on Zoom

Join First Unitarian Portland on Sunday, August 25, at noon, to boost our UU the Vote efforts into high gear. We’ll be joined online by leaders from the UU the Vote campaign and from the Arizona justice network. We’ll hear about the Right to Abortion Initiative and what else is at stake in Arizona and practical ways to put our values into action to help turn out voters on November 5.



We'll give a boost to our letter-writing project (we're well over halfway to our 10,000-letter goal), learn about phone banking (more fun than you think), and (drumroll please) sign up to head to Pheonix with our team to door-knock in October to turn out voters.

Whether you want to write letters with us in person or learn how your congregation can jump into election action, we would love to have your company and help!

IN PERSON: Join us from 12-2pm in First Unitarian's Buchan Reception Hall (1226 SW Salmon St.). After our program, we'll write letters to voters. **Please bring a blue pen, 20 letter-sized envelopes and 20 first-class stamps.** If you can't bring them, we gratefully accept donations to help us cover stamps and envelopes.

ON-ZOOM: Our Zoom webinar will be from 12 pm to 1pm. Please [register here](#)

Sponsored by the Social Justice Collaboration Team and [UU the Vote](#)

Questions? [Contact UU the Vote.](#)

Ways that UU Churches in Oregon Can Deal with Conflict

The following ideas were shared in the monthly Oregon UU Voices for Justice liaisons meeting in August. (To learn more about the liaisons, contact Oregonuuvoices@yahoo.com)

- Use resources available online from <https://www.crnhq.org/>
- If the conflict concerns Article II, post BOTH the Values and the Principles.
- Contact the UUA Pacific Western Region Office <https://www.uua.org/pacific-western/staff>. They are willing to meet with offended parties, lead a worship service, and facilitate workshops.
- Use other worship resources on the UUA website, such as the responsive reading: "We Speak the Language of Love," by Rev. Erika Hewitt. (<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/opening/we-speak-language-love>)
- Invite a speaker who emphasizes that if we feel unsettled because of someone else's words or actions, we can work on settling ourselves, not depending on anyone else to fix it.
- Make sure that people who leave know that they are free to make their own decisions but they will be welcomed back.

News from Our Congregations



UU Church in Eugene: Bill McKibben Climate Talk

The UU Church in Eugene hosted a watch party on July 5 for this important talk. It was broadcast live, with 70 people attending from our church, from other faith communities, and from 350.org. The Earth Action Committee and Third Act Oregon sponsored this successful watch party.



UU Church in Eugene: Members Attend Pride Parade in Roseburg

About 16 UUs from the UU Church in Eugene journeyed to Roseburg on June 22 to support their Pride celebration and parade. The celebration was joyful, but pockets of vocal protesters along the parade route held up signs opposing this event and the inclusive nature of the Pride celebration. Some Roseburg UUs stated that there were fewer people marching in the parade and many fewer onlookers this year compared to last year because of fear of the protesters. We

were glad to provide moral support to this wonderful loving community.



UU Fellowship of McMinnville: Address on Militarism and Democracy, by David Delk, Oregon UU Voices for Justice Board Member

On August 4, Oregon UU Voices for Justice board member David Delk addressed the UU Fellowship of McMinnville on Militarism and Democracy. He noted: Each year the U.S. War Budget takes more and more of the federal discretionary budget, with ill effects on the well-being of most Americans. In addition, the whole process of getting to the final figure is undemocratic. What is undemocratic about it and what can we do to both reduce the size of the war budget and make the process more democratic?

Watch the talk here: <https://youtu.be/t2qoUtOyKHE?si=ipUs3aOCCjoDXIib>

If you find this information of value, David is available to address your congregation as well. Let him know at davidafd@ymail.com.

Eastrose UU Church

Eastrose is our latest recipient of 100 stamps! If your church would like to receive this bounty from OUVVfj, please request the stamps from Sue Craig, sueacraig@gmail.com. We have three more sets to give out for your "Get Out the Vote" activities.

The Eastrose Good Trouble Gang formed in early March. They've been hosting postcard writing sessions after Sunday services for several months now. The sessions have been posted in the weekly e-newsletter called Petals.



UU Fellowship of Corvallis: Climate Action

The UUFC Climate Action Team works to engage members and friends in the work to mitigate climate change, build resiliency, and adapt to increasingly serious changes. A major objective of the team is to work for justice for those least responsible for the climate emergency, but who experience its impacts most deeply.

Climate change has been identified by UUFC minister, the Rev. Jill McAllister, as “the context for all we do as a faith community.” The Board of

Directors has endorsed the declaration of a climate emergency.

News from Other UU Organizations

Flag the Dates - Get Involved

September 28 - 29, 2024

Learn more: uuclimatejustice.org



Climate Justice Festival Voter Mobilization Keynote with Andrea Miller

Tuesday, September 10

3:30 pm ET; 6:30 pm CT; 5:30pm MT; 4:30pm PT

[RSVP](#); Online

Andrea will discuss plans during 2024 for getting out the vote (GOTV) in key states, both on the ground and remotely. We will learn more about post-carding, texting, phone banking, and other opportunities with CCG to support UU voter engagement efforts.

Most of all, we will leave with a sense of commitment and enthusiasm for the work ahead of us.

About Oregon UU Voices for Justice

Oregon UU Voices for Justice Mission

Oregon UU Voices for Justice is a statewide liberal religious advocacy network that seeks to educate, organize, and mobilize UUs and their congregations to advocate for policies designed to build an Oregon that:

- Affirms the worth and dignity of every person.
- Promotes justice, equity, and compassion in human relations.
- Supports religious freedom.
- Upholds the right of conscience and the democratic process.
- Recognizes and respects the interdependent web of all existence.

Members of the Board

Sue Craig, Chair, UU Church in Eugene

David Delk, Treasurer, First Unitarian Church, Portland and Wy'East UU Fellowship, Portland

Kathleen McKinney, Secretary, UU Fellowship of McMinnville

Kevin Fairham-Wheeler, First Unitarian Church, Portland

Max Merrill, UU Fellowship of Central Oregon, Bend

Jean Pierce, First U Church, Portland

John Raymonda, Florence UU Fellowship

Current Board Activities

Planning the 2024 OUUVfj annual meeting, to be held October 5, at the UU Fellowship of Corvallis

Rebuilding personal congregational relationships, post-pandemic

Exploring ways to help congregations in their justice work

Planning more webinars

2024 Oregon Legislative Information

Check out [this page](#) for information on the 2024 Oregon legislative session and committees:

To Get Newsletters and Action Updates

Sign up for our "Action of the Week" at uuvoicesoregon.org

Click on the "Participate" tab in the menu at the top.

To Donate

Donate [HERE](#).

Click on the "Donate" button.