



OREGON  
Unitarian Universalist  
**VOICES**  
for JUSTICE



Congregations doing justice together

Newsletter – October 2023



**Saturday, October 14, 2023**  
**Oregon UU Voices for Justice**  
**Annual Meeting**



**Theme: Connecting Communities for Justice**

**Where: Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Eugene**  
**1685 W. 13<sup>th</sup> Ave. (Also on Zoom)**

**When: Gather at 9:15 AM, end at 3:30 PM**

**Speakers: Rev. Alison Miller, First Unitarian Church, Portland**  
**Brenda Smith, Executive Director, High Desert Partnership**

**Learn more and register at this link:**

[Events - Oregon Unitarian Universalist Voices for Justice \(uuvoicesoregon.org\)](https://uuvoicesoregon.org)

### 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.

### Introducing New Board Members

The Oregon UU Voices for Justice board is delighted to welcome three talented, experienced, and committed new members!

**Kevin Fairham-Wheeler**, a member of First Unitarian in Portland, focuses his advocacy efforts on environmental justice and energy efficiency, particularly electrification. He bought his first electric vehicle in 2011.

**Lee Curran** is a member of the UU Fellowship of Klamath Falls. Her areas of passion are anti-racism work, disability justice, reform of the criminal legal system, and education about, and resistance to, the growing fascism in the U.S.

**Jean Pierce** has just recently moved to Oregon from Illinois and is a member of First Unitarian in Portland. She is particularly concerned about equitable funding for education. This summer, she was welcomed onto the national UUs for Social Justice Board of Trustees.

## Members of the Board

Sue Craig, UU Church in Eugene (chair)

Barbara Dow, Wy'East UU Fellowship, Portland (co-chair)

David Delk, First Unitarian Church, Portland and Wy'East UU Fellowship, Portland (treasurer)

Kathleen McKinney, UU Fellowship of McMinnville (secretary)

Lee Curran, UU Fellowship of Klamath County

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 2023 Annual Meeting

Rebuilding personal congregational relationships, post-pandemic

Endorsing a proposal for an Oregon public bank

## 2023 Oregon Legislative Information

Check out this page for information on the 2023 Oregon legislative session and committees:

<https://www.uuvoicesoregon.org/2023-legislative-info.html>

## To Get Newsletters and Action Updates

Sign up for our "Action of the Week" at [uuvoicesoregon.org](http://uuvoicesoregon.org)

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

## To Donate

<https://www.uuvoicesoregon.org/donate.html>

Click on the "Donate" button.

## Looking for Congregational Liaisons

Oregon Unitarian Universalist Voices for Justice is working on connecting social justice leaders from UU congregations throughout Oregon to facilitate communications among our congregations, provide support for their justice work, and coordinate programs. If you are familiar with social justice projects at your church and are willing to represent your congregation, you are invited to become part of this group, which will meet via Zoom once a month to:

- Share information about activities in each of the churches.
- Connect with other churches that have conducted similar programs.
- Discuss common concerns and successes.
- Learn how to participate in social justice advocacy campaigns at the state and national levels.

Please contact Jean Pierce at [jeanpierce@aol.com](mailto:jeanpierce@aol.com) to ask questions and to become part of this group. Congregations in Corvallis, Eugene, Florence, and Portland (1st U) have already found representatives!

## Highlighting Our Congregations' Work

### First Unitarian Church, Portland



First Unitarian embarks on a new service to the Portland community with the scheduled opening on November 1 of the 13 Salmon Shower Project. A space in the church's Buchan Reception Hall at SW 13<sup>th</sup> and Salmon, formerly used as a day shelter for

homeless families, is now available for this new project to be run by volunteers from the congregation and others in the community.

### First Unitarian, Portland: Social Justice, A Legacy of Purpose

First Unitarian's The Alliance will present a talk by Frank So, Executive Director and President of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, via Zoom, on October 4, 10:30 AM to noon. Learn about refugee resettlement, migrant law services, youth facing homelessness, and EMO's purpose of doing this work.



Email for a zoom link.

[Alliance@firstunitarianportland.org](mailto:Alliance@firstunitarianportland.org)

**UU Fellowship of Corvallis: Harvest Fest Fundraiser**

On Saturday, October 7, UUFC will hold its annual Harvest Fest fundraiser, with pumpkins, jams, jellies, salsa, plants, and arts and crafts for sale. Proceeds will benefit the Corvallis Multicultural Literacy Center and their efforts to help immigrants with fees needed for work permits and citizenship applications. Proceeds will also assist the Benitez family, our most recent Salvadoran immigrants.