



OREGON
Unitarian Universalist
VOICES
for JUSTICE



Congregations doing justice together

Newsletter – January 2023



REGISTER NOW: INTERFAITH LEGISLATIVE FORUM

JANUARY 22, 2023 @ 1:30PM ON ZOOM

ZOOM REGISTRATION LINK

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Oregon UU Voices Mission

Oregon UU Voices 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.

Highlighting Our Congregations' Work

The Plastic Project: UU Fellowship of McMinnville

The Social and Environmental Justice Committee at UUFM began its Plastic Project in February 2022 to provide collection events at which the community could properly dispose of hard-to-recycle plastics.

People save clear #1, #2, #4, #5, and #6 plastics, sorted by the number on the bottom. The committee also collects straws, utensils, bread clips, and plastic caps. Participants pay \$4 per grocery bag of clean, sorted plastics, which helps cover costs.

After the second event, UUFM partnered with First Baptist Church, which provided a collection space, and Zero Waste, which provided supplies. At the last event,

- Recognizes and respects the interdependent web of all existence.

Members of the Board

Kathleen McKinney, UU Fellowship of McMinnville (chair)

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

Susan Christie, UU Fellowship of Corvallis (secretary)

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

Sue Craig, UU Church in Eugene

John Raymonda, Florence UU Fellowship

Max Merrill, UU Fellowship of Central Oregon, Bend

Current Board Activities

Planning a 2023 Annual Meeting

Rebuilding personal congregational relationships, post-pandemic

Preparing for the 2023 Oregon legislative session

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" \(uuvoicesoregon.org\)](https://www.uuvoicesoregon.org)

75 bags full of plastics were hauled to Portland to [James Recycling](#), which recycles plastics that are not accepted in curbside recycling.

You too can make a big difference in your community and have fun while doing a good thing! For more information, contact Jeri White, Plastic Collection Event Coordinator, at 503-207-5482.

Food Program: Wy'East UU Congregation

The members of Wy'East in northeast Portland have been providing a monthly meal for those in need of shelter since 2012 at Lilac Gardens Family Shelter. The UUs have enthusiastically continued this monthly service in support of Human Solutions as the shelters moved to various locations and finally to the Lilac Meadow's Family Shelter located on Powell Blvd.

Lilac Meadows provides housing for 37 families for an average of 6 months until they find permanent housing. Wy'East members provide home cooked casseroles, salads, fruit, milk, and dessert on the 2nd Sunday of each month, and a holiday meal in December. Five members roast turkeys, other members provide side dishes, and some food items are purchased with the Wy'East UUC Food Justice Fund. The food is delivered to the shelter and served by the staff at the evening meal.

During the year several special collections have provided gardening supplies and children's books and games for their library. Some members also provide diapers and clothing on a regular basis.

Community Court: The UU Church in Eugene

We make healthy sack lunches for participants in this restorative justice program, run by the city of Eugene. Lunches are made at the UUCE kitchen and delivered to the downtown library on the 4th Friday of most months. The program also offers walk-in services for veteran's needs, mental health, and substance abuse.

Trillium Produce Plus: The UU Church in Eugene

This program provides high-quality fresh fruits and vegetables, as well as bread, to people in need. On first and third Thursdays, 2-4 PM, produce is free of charge to individuals and families who have incomes of less than 200% of the poverty level.