

[View this email in your browser](#)



April 2025



Rise for Freedom: Nationwide Mass Trainings

7-week On-line training for Community Organizers
Co-sponsored by UUSJ

In this new, challenging environment it's our faith, our funds, our families, and our futures on the line. Learn how to mobilize effectively so we can Rise for Freedom.

NOTE: It still is not too late to participate in this training:

Registration: <https://www.mobilize.us/risefordemocracy/event/763611/>

This is a series of trainings that will help you grow & strengthen your local networks, and get ready to mobilize to demand democracy in this new challenging environment.

The idea is that you would pull together a group of people living in the same community. You might simply invite friends and neighbors OR they show you how to pull together a group using Mobilize.

As the training proceeds, your group will be given time to identify power brokers in your area and to think about how to communicate with them to bring about change. You will be asked to have a flip chart with post it notes or a whiteboard for your group to share their ideas.

8 p.m. ET / 5 p.m. PT 2 hours

Thu. April 3 • How did we get here? (Creeping autocracy.)

Thu. April 10 • Building to a critical mass locally (outreach)

Thu. April 17 • How to talk to people you disagree with

Thu. April 24 • Making political violence backfire

Thu. May 1 • Mutual aid for stronger local organizing

Thu. May 8 • De-escalation and related advanced skills

Thu. May 15 • Advanced strategic organizing skills II

[Tool kit accompanying the training_\(Google Docs\)](#)



Interfaith Advocacy Day, Tuesday, April 29

There is power in knowledge and strength in numbers. Join us for Oregon Interfaith Advocacy Day, sponsored by Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, Tuesday, April 29, at St. Mark Lutheran Church in Salem. Attend issue briefs and workshops on advocating for compassionate legislation, followed by meetings with state legislators.

Location: 790 Marion St. NE, Salem, OR 97301

Email: emo@emoregon.org

Phone: (503) 588-0141

OOUVfJ will meet for this lobby day. We hope you will join us. You can register at the Ecumenical Ministries website: [Interfaith Advocacy Day • Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon](#) (scroll down to find the form). Scholarships are available also. It will be a great time to meet with our legislators.

Social Justice News from the UU Church in Eugene:

Refugee and Immigrant Support Group.

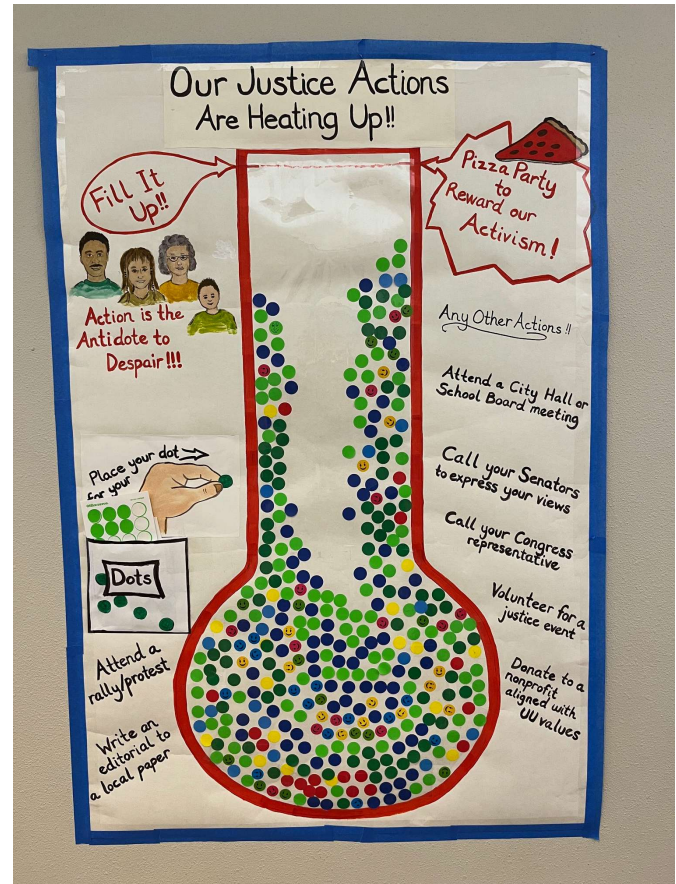
The group has attended training on how to respond to ICE and has provided more than 50 binders with information on “Know Your Rights” for people at risk, including 10 families who participate in our twice a month Produce Plus program.

Indigenous Connections Team.

The Indigenous Connections Team will soon post a land acknowledgment at UUCE. This winter the team hosted a movie and discussion at UUCE about missing indigenous women. The team is also coordinating with an interfaith group for other activities, including Poetry in the Park on May 5.

Earth Justice Group:

The UUCE Earth Justice Group is organizing a rally for Earth Day, April 20, on the two streets next to the church, to raise awareness that our “Blue Boat Home” needs our help and protection!



Power in Coalitions

UUUC Roseburg's Social Action & Justice Committee has joined actively with Indivisible, Shades of Blue, the Democratic Party, and other organizations to work toward a safer, saner, and better-informed community in our very red county. We have hosted sign-making workshops in our activity room and participated in four different stand ups for a variety of issues, including Veterans at our local VA, Social Security, Support for Ukraine, and others in our Stand on the Side of Love.

The Umpqua UU Congregation continues staffing, serving on the Board, and collecting donations of food and money for the Fish Food Pantry as they have for over 25 years. The website and Facebook pages below give a broader picture of the Fish of Roseburg Food Pantry.

<https://fishofroseburg.org/>

Facebook

Care for the Incarcerated Program at UU Fellowship of Central Oregon

UUFCO has a newly created group that is investigating ways to increase humanitarian conditions at the Deschutes County jail, with the goal of reducing recidivism. The group is rapidly growing as church members learn about the initiative. The group is currently examining the scope of the problem they want to address, beginning with identifying support services during and after incarceration. Some of these services focus on housing.

The group met recently with the County Commissioner in an effort to gather information about current conditions. They learned that a number of existing rules created during COVID no longer seem relevant. The practices appear to be designed more for the benefit of administrators than for people who are incarcerated. More information will be forthcoming as the group continues its work.

News from Our Congregational Liaisons

UU Fellowship of Central Oregon is seeing a lot of energy around a coalition that is forming to protest actions of the federal government. Five liberal ministers called a meeting this week, expecting 50-100 people to come. Instead, more than 300 showed up.

UU of Grants Pass reported that, in reaction to the Supreme court ruling on homeless camps, a lawsuit was filed, challenging the city's treatment of people with disabilities who are homeless.

The church is providing support for a permanent center that is supporting homeless services.

UU Church in Eugene created a Direct Action email list designed to alert people to upcoming events and to provide a forum for people to discuss issues. One fourth of the members of the congregation signed on, which meant determining how to facilitate communication without overwhelming people with emails. Two months after its initiation, the Direct Action email list is going to be divided into two lists, to become more manageable. The Direct Action title will be retained for alerts and notifications of bills, protests, and meetings that call for action. The second email list will be developed for discussions and sharing information and articles.

Wy'East UU Congregation celebrated Trans Day of visibility early. They held a potluck picnic in a park on Sunday, March 31st. It was very well attended.

UU Fellowship of Corvallis is providing “Know Your Rights” brochures from the Civil Liberties Defense Center. They are available at the Democracy Action Team’s table on Sundays. UUFC also will host a program by Corvallis Palestine Solidarity on May 1; it will include reports by Corvallis residents who have recently visited Gaza.

Katarina Jones joins ORUUVfJ board

We are welcoming another new Board Member! Katarina Jones will be such a joy to have aboard. She has been in Grants Pass and active there in Justice issues. She has lived in several areas of the state, and is presently in Portland to attend Portland State University. We will be so glad to have her youthful perspective and her dedication to Justice issues. Welcome Katarina.

Board President’s Musings

President Sue Craig

So, now, do take a deep breath.

We are all trying to deal with so many areas of concern. And that is important more than ever. But we are also trying to increase our connectivity with each other, and that is essential.

I would suspect that many of you went to rallies, and plan on doing so again. Again, these show us that we are all trying to keep Democracy alive. Thank you!!!!

It is so wonderful of you all to share your ideas, and activities in this Newsletter. We are an imaginative, hard working Religion. And we are so fortunate to have you all involved. Again, many thanks, and keep up the good work.

We got to hear from some of the smaller Congregations/Fellowships. You are so vital to us, and indeed to your community. Would love to hear from more of you.

Have a good month, making good trouble!

In faith,
Sue Craig

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 the interdependent web of all existence.

Members of the Board

Sue Craig, President, UU Church in Eugene

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

Kathleen McKinney, Secretary, UU Fellowship of McMinnville

Max Merrill, UU Fellowship of Central Oregon, Bend

Jean Pierce, First Unitarian Church, Portland

John Raymonda, Florence UU Fellowship

Lisa Lake, Community Church of Washington County

Jim Henry, Florence UU Fellowship

John Prohodsky, UU Congregation of Salem

Emilia Gonzalez-Clements, UU Congregation at Willamette Falls, Oregon City

Katarina Jones, Unitarian Universalists of Grants Pass

Current Board Activities

1. Rebuilding personal congregational relationships, post-pandemic.
2. Exploring ways to help congregations in their justice work.
3. Planning webinars to showcase speakers who would have addressed the annual meeting.
4. Developing better ways to communicate with members.

2025 Oregon Legislative Information

Check the OLIS website for information on the 2025 Oregon legislative session and committees: [Oregon Legislative Information System](#)

How to Use the Oregon Legislative Information System(OLIS)

<https://youtu.be/vNstQjP9U-I>

This video about how to use OLIS was prepared for us by Jean Pierce, member of the OUUVfJ board and of First Unitarian Church, Portland.



Copyright (C) 2025 Oregon UU Voices for Justice. All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)