



OREGON
Unitarian Universalist
**VOICES
for JUSTICE**



Congregations doing justice together

Newsletter – April 2024

Online Book Discussion

Saving Democracy: A User's Manual for Every American



David Delk

Oregon UU Voices for Justice and the Economic Justice Action Group at First Unitarian in Portland invite you to participate in an online discussion of David Pepper's book, *Saving Democracy: A User's Manual for Every American*. The group, co-led by David Delk and Jean Pierce, will meet the first week of each month beginning in May, with the exact time to be determined by the schedules of the participants. Watch Pepper discuss his book here: [Washington Journal: David Pepper Discusses His Book "Saving Democracy"](#)



Jean Pierce

To Register for the group: [UU Book Club Sign-up](#)

Oregon UU Congregations Support the Trans Community

Submitted by Jean Pierce

For more details about any of these programs, please contact Oregonuuvoices@yahoo.com

First Unitarian, Portland, once a month hosts T-Time, a casual support group that usually is restricted to Trans people. But occasionally the group welcomes allies, particularly when a young person is joining them. Topics usually focus on trans issues with space for Queer joy. In March, T-time sponsored a show featuring the artwork of its members.

Wy'east UU Congregation in Portland, sponsored a Drag Queen Story Hour in February, with the highly entertaining Kisses Major Ash. The event included a craft activity and light snacks. She read a series of books accepting diversity, including *And Tango Makes Three*. Money was raised for an organization servicing trans kids. They plan to invite her back soon for another story hour.

Wy'east also has had a sustained partnership with Rahab's Sisters (<https://rahabs-sisters.org>), which provides food, housing, and clothing for females and female-identifying people, many of whom are unhoused sex workers. Recently the church provided an Easter dinner, and distributed baskets with fun treats.

UU Church in Eugene has a sexuality and gender diversity team that educates and builds community. The team sponsors Queerly Beloved meetups, which are social events such as a potluck dinner with a color theme. Their events include allies.

UU Fellowship of Corvallis sponsored a play, *Roaring Girl*, produced by the Justice Theater. The event was totally run by the trans community. All proceeds benefited the Mid-Willamette Trans Support Network.

UU Fellowship of Klamath Falls hosted a Transgender Day of Visibility Service on March 31.

Highly Recommended Trans Speakers

- Rev. Paul Langston-Daley delivered the Easter Sunday/Trans Visibility Day sermon on March 31, 2024, at the Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Washington County (UUCWC). He spoke over ZOOM about how the resurrection could mean transformation into the person one is meant to be. He talked about his own transition to become a man from being designated as female at birth. He felt so much safer and better about himself and his relationships to others after his transition. He is part of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee at UUA.
- Trystan Reece “the Pregnant Man” <https://www.trystanreese.com/>

Highlighting Our Congregations’ Work

Bethlehem Inn, UU Fellowship of Central Oregon

Bethlehem Inn began in 1999 as a homeless shelter without a permanent location. A renovated motel became its home in 2007. Bethlehem Inn is a high-barrier facility for families and single men and women. It can accommodate 106 residents at a time. Breakfasts and dinners are served daily.

The overarching goal of Bethlehem Inn is to facilitate transitions to stable living situations and empower individuals to regain control over their lives. This is accomplished through several programs run by case managers to secure stable housing, accessing support services and/or addressing underlying issues contributing to the clients’ lack of housing.

UUFCO began its relationship with BI in 2007. Churches in the area agreed to provide meals and volunteers. Since 2008, UUFCO has provided food and servers for one meal per month. UUFCO also provides financial assistance through individual contributions; our yearly Christmas Eve greater community collection is dedicated to Bethlehem Inn.

Bethlehem Inn has a budget of more than \$3.3 million and is supported by 70 partner agencies. Eighty percent of these funds come in the form of direct services to BI residents. Sixty-four percent of the cash contributions come from the communities. The balance is from grants from government and nonprofit foundations.

Bethlehem Inn transforms lives by providing shelter, help, and hope. It is a very successful way to battle the issue of homelessness that continues to confront our Central Oregon Communities.

Those interested in contributing to the ongoing operations of Bethlehem Inn can do so by sending checks to Bethlehem Inn at 20363 Mervin Samples, Bend, OR 97703, attn: Gwenn Wysling.

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, UU Church in Eugene (chair)

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

Kathleen McKinney, UU Fellowship of McMinnville (secretary)

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

Rebuilding personal congregational relationships, post-pandemic

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.

Correction: In the article last month about helping with the Warm Springs water project, the street address for the UU Fellowship of Central Oregon was incorrect. The address is correct in the following note.

You can support their efforts by donating to:

UUFCO

61980 Skyline Ranch Rd.

Bend, OR 97703-9400

Checks need to be payable to UU Fellowship of Central Oregon. Note on the check memo line, "Warm Springs."

For more information, email: maxmerrill@bendbroadband.com.