

*“Empowered by love, we transform ourselves and serve our world.”*

# Annual Report

## 2023 – 2024



THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH IN EUGENE  
WWW.UUEUGENE.ORG  
1685 W 13TH AVE  
EUGENE, OR 97402

Dear Beloved Members, Friends and  
Supporters of UUCE,

As we close another year in the life of this spiritual and justice-making community, I feel a profound sense of gratitude; not only for your generosity in helping to meet our material needs, but also for your generosity of spirit. All around the community are signs of compassion, love, and kindness.

Last May, when we celebrated the 10th anniversary of the dedication of this church at 13th & Chambers, we re-committed ourselves to serving the people (and the more-than-humans) of Eugene/Springfield and Beyond.

This year you put that commitment into action. Our building was in near-constant use by our community partners as we built and strengthened relationships with groups like the Neighborhood Anarchists, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, HAND, Showing up for Racial Justice, Oregon Interfaith Hub, Black Thistle Street Aid and more.

We also took time to eat, play, rest, and reflect with one another. All the while, we drew new people in with a radically inclusive message: you are beloved, whoever you are, whomever you love, whatever your image of the holy.

Blessed Be!  
Rev. Jen Youngsun Ryu



**In Loving Memory:**

*“In the opening of the buds  
and in the rebirth of spring,  
we remember them.”*

Bambi Barth

Suzie Brown

Kitty Carlisle

Ruth Duemler

Esther Erford

Jim Goes

Kathy Rex

Bill Rodgers

Joyce Salisbury

Felicia Sanders

Fred Schultz

Karen Seidel

# Welcome New Members!

*"We covenant to embrace the next person who is always arriving, open to the change they will bring."*

Austin Arrowwood

Bruce Barney

Nancy Callaghan

Marie Cavaroc

Genesis Chandler

Erin Coonrod

Louis DesPrez

Rebecca DesPrez

Don Doucette

Lynn Drazinski

Jayne Gallagher

Denise Galloway

Elliot Gehr

Teresa Hawkes

Loreen Heneghan

Lyn Horine Burgess



Linda Jackson

Marie Kennemer

Nancy King

Heather Lambeck

Jill McKenney

Kathi Merrick

Kenneth Mooney

Suzanne Moreno

Sarah Patnode

Leslie Smith

Nita Steiner

Brian Trujillo

James Trujillo

Amber Weilert

Heidi Wilson

Heidi Kay Winder



James Trujillo



Brian Trujillo



Leslie Smith



Ken Mooney & Suzanne Moreno



Heather Lambeck, Don Doucette, Lynn Drazinski, Amber Weilert, Austin Arrowwood, & Denise Galloway

# “Empowered by Love...”

## UUUCE COVENANT

As a beloved community empowered by love:

- We covenant to embrace the next person who is always arriving, open to the change they will bring.
- We covenant to trust others in their identity and truth and work to be trustworthy.
- We covenant to speak our truth bravely and gently as we commune in love and peace.
- We covenant to make efforts to understand the views of others, and make amends when intentions and impact collide.
- We covenant to expand our connections with the larger community, with humility and empathy.
- We covenant to remember that how we are with each other is the foundation upon which we build the beloved community.



## PASTORAL CARE

Our Kindness Team and Lay Pastoral Associates (LPAs) continued their work of offering care to members of our congregation. Kindness teams organizes meal trains, and the LPAs offer deep listening and empathy for those going through hard times. The LPAs work closely with the minister and receive training in active listening skills.

The minister administers a Pastoral Care Fund that helps members and neighbors with financial needs. This year we helped 14 people with rent, utilities, eyeglasses, and groceries. This fund's balance is about \$7,000 and is replenished by the Christmas Eve collection and donations from weddings, funerals, and other gifts.

We also started experimenting with ways to match community needs with community resources.



Jean DeVenney and Ellie Moran cooking with LOVE!

## HOLY DAY CELEBRATIONS

As many people returned after a long pandemic break from in-person church activities, being together for fun and celebration continues to be an important part of our UUCE identity. Finding joy in our traditions helps build multi-age connections core memories for our children.

**Trunk-or-Treat and Halloween** is an annual tradition, and the black carpet costume walk was a highlight.

Our winter holiday pageant, **The Latke Who Couldn't Stop Screaming**, was so much fun and received rave reviews (as did the delicious piles of latkes served after the service).

The weather cooperated with us on Easter, and kids had no problem finding over **500 eggs in our Easter Egg Hunt**, and there was true joy on the playground as we celebrated the arrival of spring and danced around the maypole to honor the sacred season of **Beltane**.



Heidi Gould, Ryan Doppelmayr, and Heidi Winder prepare for Beltane.

## TUESDAY POTLUCK

*now known as*

*Fellowship, Feast and Fun Night!*

Thanks to many helpful volunteers, we were able to host potlucks every week instead of once a month. We start with a circle blessing or greeting, share a meal, and invite community building with games, crafts, and conversation.

All are welcome whether or not they can bring a dish!



A dragon greets Winnie the Pooh at Trunk-or-Treat.



People of all ages dancing the Maypole together after our Beltane service.

# “We Transform Ourselves...”

Workshops and learning opportunities aimed at our adult members would not have been possible without the great leadership and contributions of the volunteers who keep these programs going.

- Dick Loescher led the **Small Group Connection Circle** team through two rounds of offerings this church year. 112 people participated in 14 groups!
- The Membership team led weekly **Inquirers** sessions on Sunday mornings through the fall, winter, and spring.
- We also offered the following workshops this year:
  - **Trans-Inclusion in Congregations** curriculum, led by Ryan Doppelmayr & Liz LaVenture.
  - **UUA Common Read: On Repentance and Repair**, led by Poppy Lochridge.
  - **Soul Collage** workshop by Jean DeVenney.
  - **Spiritual Practice through Writing**, led by Bonnie Phipps & Wendy Fuller.
  - **Climate Change and Mental Health**, led by Mike Meyer.
  - **Good Omens** watch parties.
  - **Personal Finances and our Values**, led by Ryan.
  - **UU Elevator Speeches**, led by Ryan.
  - **Death Cafe**, led by Ryan.



David Bockoven at our Involvement Fair tells folks about how they can get more connected.



Eli Salerno shares information about LGBTQIA+ affinity group activities.

## CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILIES

We have a vibrant Religious Exploration program for children, youth, and families, lovingly taught by our teaching staff. Our Sunday lessons teach traditions of UU worship and create a feeling of UU identity, while exploring the values we have in common, and have fun!

New this year is our **LGBTQ+ Kids and Youth Group**, which takes place on the last Sunday of the month. It is a time to check-in, mark occasions of celebration and mourning, and build friendships and celebrate the strength of accepting community. One meeting this spring, we invited elders from our LGBTQ UUCE community to share with us about their growing up and coming out experiences. Both the elders and youth felt both inspiration at how far growth and acceptance has come, and reminded that the wider world still has a ways to go.

A resource that we provided families for the first time this fall and spring were **day camps for non-school days**. Providing low-cost childcare with educational opportunities for UUCE families and non-church families alike was an important community service filling a big need in our town. Teacher Sam Waddell is designing a curriculum for two, week-long summer camps which will teach positive values and provide some needed summer support for families.



Youth carry a basket full of colorful blooms on Flower Communion Sunday.



Youth celebrated Coming Of Age with a laser tag and mini-golf outing.



Our children and youth put on a lively production of *The Latke Who Couldn't Stop Screaming*

**Total Enrollment  
2023-24:**

**59 14**  
Children Youth

# “... and Serve Our World.”

## JUSTICE COUNCIL

The Justice Council comes together to support each other's projects and find ways to collaborate. It is made up of representatives from each of UUCE's Justice groups.

In addition to our Economic & Environmental justice accomplishments, other active groups this year include:

- UUs for Justice in the Middle East
- Refugee Sanctuary
- Indigenous Connections Circle
- Healthcare for All
- Accessibility Task Force
- Oregon UU Voices for Justice, a statewide organization who held their first in-person meeting since the pandemic at UUCE.

## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

- The UUCE EarthAction group hosted this year's **Interfaith Climate Summit** an event organized by Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon.
- Volunteers restored native plants at **Turtle Flats** together with Mt. Pisgah Arboretum.
- Greener UUCE Task Force studied and made recommendations regarding the use of **natural gas** in our building.

## ECONOMIC JUSTICE

- Twice per month, **Trillium Produce Plus** provided 900 lbs. of fresh produce and pet food, feeding an average of 60 households each time.
- **Night Shelter** meals team provided meals each month for 75 adults and children at St. Vincent de Paul's First Place Family Center.
- 420 lunches were delivered to the Eugene **Community Court**.
- Sew for a Cause finished 42 quilts & seven quilt tops for **Bags of Love**, logging 725 volunteer hours.
- UUCE worked with ShelterNow! Eugene to launch to replace conestoga huts with **tiny shelters**.
- UUCE hosted the **Solidarity Share Fair** organized by the Neighborhood Anarchist Collective.
- Helping the Homeless provided **hygiene kits**.



Small child helps out with native planting at Turtle Flats.





Sue Craig, Kathy Filip, Ed Filip, Gretchen Miller, Anne Turner, and Nisco Junkins counter hateful protestors Saturday Market.

## MONTHLY JUSTICE ACTIONS

Each month, our Justice Council selects an action that we can all do together.

- July | *Saturday Market, Countering Hateful Protestors*
- August | *Eugene Pride Festival Booth*
- September | *Huerta De La Familia Work Party*
- October | *Bags of Love Supply Drive*
- November | *Transponder, Trans Day of Remembrance*
- January | *Neighborhood Anarchist's Solidarity Share Fair*
- February | *Refugee Resettlement Kits*
- March | *Turtle Flats Habitat Restoration*
- April | *Westmoreland Park Wetlands Restoration*
- May | *Mother's Day Powwow at UO*
- June | *Roseburg Pride Parade*

## COMMUNITY OFFERING

Two Sundays a month, UUCE contributes the entire plate collection to community organizations. In the 2023-2024 church year, your offerings benefited:

*Imagination Library, Greenhill Humane Society, Tooth Taxi for Lane County, Maui Strong Fund, Pearl Buck Center Pre-School, Housing Our Veterans, Ronald McDonald Houses, SAFER, Water for Warm Springs reservation, Cesar Chavez Elementary School, Our Children's Trust, Plaza de Nuestra Comunidad, and CASA*



Suzanne and Dennis Reynolds root out evil (weeds) during a monthly justice action.

**Total Donated in  
2023-24:**

**\$23,218**

**Thank you!**

# Worship & Sacred Events



Judy Shaw speaks from the pulpit during the Ordination of Rev. Jennifer Hackett in October.

On well-attended Sunday mornings, about 240 people participate in our main worship service. That's about 180 people in-person and 60 on Zoom. If not for Zoom, our sanctuary would start feeling very crowded.

This year we covered topics from Zoroastrianism to men's spirituality; Native American heritage to women mystics. We celebrated vibrant lives on Transgender Day of Visibility, and we performed the familiar rituals of ingathering and springtime; winter holy days and New Year's Eve. We talked about Love, the center of our faith, and remembered our beloved dead.

Friday Masked Vespers services, Meditation, Inner Attunement, CUUPS (Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans) rituals, and Oregon Interfaith Hub prayer services were additional sacred ceremonies offered this year.



Ryan leads a Story for All Ages during a Sunday worship service.



Photos and objects to honor our beloved dead form a remembrance altar in our Sanctuary.

# Leadership



Graduates of the Transformational Leadership Journey, a new leadership program.

## LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LDC)

This year, our focus was building a leadership program that supported the specific needs of our congregation. We began in October, 2023, and ended in May 2024. Eight participants completed the program. We used a hands-on internship model, in which each of the participants chose a program area and was assigned a mentor. Program areas included youth faith formation, our Justice Council, our annual pledge drive, fundraising, coordinating special events and office support. Our monthly meetings included guest speakers and topics such as conflict resolution.

## VISIONING TASK FORCE: SHAPING OUR STORIES

*Judy Shaw, Emily Ciscell, Andrew Emmott, Izzy Crecca, Stephanie Dorman, Yvonne Lyles, Barbara Kellogg, Ryan Doppelmayr, and Rev. Jen*

This spring, we embarked on a year-long visioning process by investing in professional consulting to help us. Over 190 people completed the assessment survey, which was the first step on this journey that will continue into next year.

## COMMITTEE ON RIGHT RELATIONS (CORR)

*Bob Cerince, Robin Schantz-Mulford, Eileen Watters, Suzanne Reynolds, Jennifer Tucker, and Rev. Jen*

This was the first year of the newly elected Committee on Right Relations. We missed the presence of a ministerial intern, and we lost two of our members along the way. As we are just beginning, there were some bumps in our process. We apologize for not being skillful in some of our interactions with you. We move into the new year with optimism, and we are “moving at the speed of trust”.

# Building Connections & Community



Our church building is so much more than just our spiritual home. Over 10 years after moving “off the hill,” we are truly living up to our shared vision of becoming a hub for arts, education, celebration, and social justice within the local community.

This year we formed new community partnerships, and made improvements to the facility, in support of our goal of being a truly welcoming congregation, and honoring local heritage.

In November, members of the Buildings & Grounds Team and the Indigenous Connections Circle collaborated on a project that displayed several Native American blankets on the walls (pictured left).

## ACCESSIBILITY & INCLUSION

Our Accessibility Task Force continued their work in making our facility as accessible as possible. This year their accomplishments included:

- Two bariatric chairs for our Sanctuary, to help welcome all body sizes
- Three public education webinars: Home Accessibility, Disability Justice, and Disability Justice & Mental Health with guest Rev. Amanda Schuber from the UUA
- Held the 3rd annual memorial for Ivory McCuen, who died near UUCE while homeless.

## UPGRADES & IMPROVEMENTS

Buildings & Grounds volunteers installed a new **Rheem water heater** (pictured right), funded by our Winter Services Auction Paddle Raise. This upgrade saves energy and reduces our use of natural gas.

The Big Little School donated and paid to install a **new play structure**. This structure (pictured left) is safer for all ages, and allows older kids to play too!



## WELCOMING OUR NEIGHBORS

Within our neighborhood and the larger community, UUCE is earning a reputation as a place people can go when they need assistance or respite. After the ice storm in January, we opened up to our members and friends who needed to recharge devices and fill up water containers until power was restored across the community.

Our congregation hopes to become an Egan Warming Center site in the coming year, providing shelter on freezing nights. Our grounds crew continues to work towards making our property into a “food forest” where fresh produce can be freely found. Our Justice Council and our staff teams continue to explore new projects working towards making our church a hub for resilience and recovery in the community.



Buildings & Grounds pose with a mountain of yard waste cleaned up on a Tuesday morning.

## RENTAL PROGRAM & PARTNERSHIPS

Our rental program remains vital part of our income and our community engagement. We continue to have a mutually beneficial relationship with the Big Little School, who put our space to good use each week, caring for the youngest in our community. Long-term rentals like the Willamette Valley Hardy Plant Group and Oregon Country Fair both expressed deep appreciation for our upgrades to our AV system, as well as our staff’s expertise in the AV booth. In addition to support groups, non-profits, and musicians, we want to highlight how we share our space with folks celebrating the many milestones of life in community.

- 6** Memorials & Celebrations of Life
- 2** Baptism Celebrations
- 4** Quinceañeras & Birthday Parties
- 3** Wedding Receptions & Anniversary Celebrations

**\$75,230**  
Total Rental Income

### RENTAL INCOME BREAKDOWN

- 57% - Education & Workshops
- 18% - Celebrations
- 8% - Social Justice & Community
- 5% - Local Businesses
- 5% - Support Groups
- 5% - Music & Concerts

# Fundraising Events



## Income from Across the UUniverse Auction

**\$14,210** Total Funds Raised for FY 23-24

**\$4,300** Summer Camp Paddle Raise FY 24-25

*Many thanks to each of you who helped  
make this fundraiser a success!*

## Total Income from Fundraising Events

# \$31,050



Across the UUniverse Auction - May 4 | \$14,210



Pi Day on Friday - March 15 | \$1,277



Sweetheart Ball - February 10 | \$628



Cozy Soup Night - January 20 | \$852



Holiday Bazaar - December 9 | \$5964



Winter Services Auction - Nov. 23 - Dec. 10 | \$5,398



Book Sale - September 23 | \$2,721

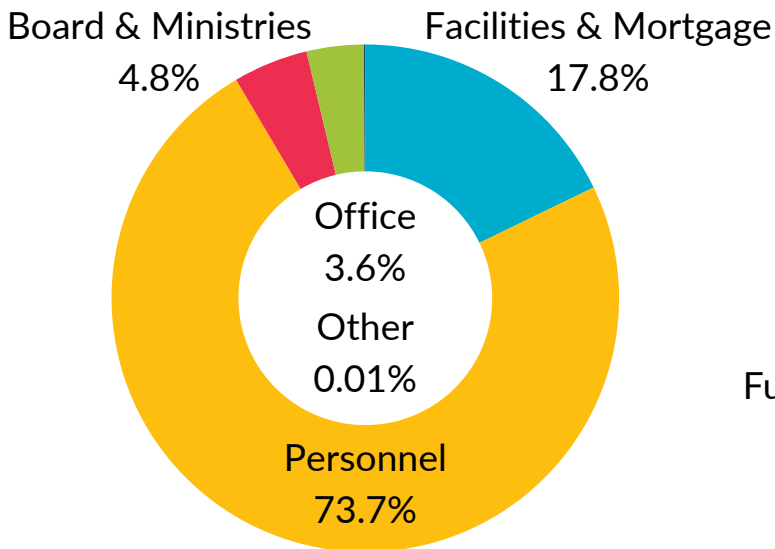
# Financial Report

When we voted to pass a budget for this fiscal year with a \$100,000 deficit, our Board of Trustees promised to strive for more transparency and education regarding our church's financials. In support of that goal, the Board held quarterly financial updates after our Sunday services, a practice we plan to continue in the future.

The generosity of our members and friends as we navigated this church year was awe-inspiring. For the first time in recent history, our pledge campaign reached 101% fulfillment! Folks exceeded their promises of financial support this year, both with their pledges and with an outstanding number of gifts to bolster our income for the year. We are proud to share that our preliminary year end numbers reflect a **BUDGET SURPLUS of \$30,936! Thank You!!!**

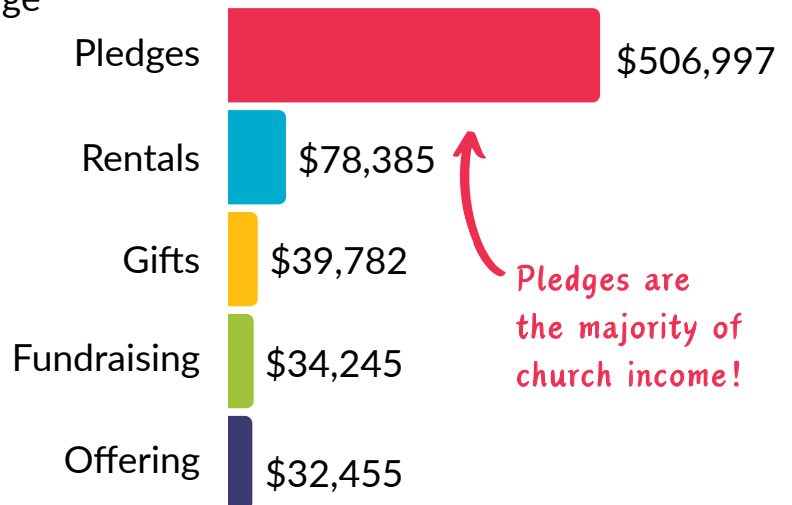
## 2023-24 EXPENSES

Total Expenses: \$674,868



## 2023-24 INCOME

Total Income: \$712,469



## 2024-25 PLEDGE DRIVE

Our pledge drive this year ran from February through the end of April. Our members and friends committed \$549,424 to the coming year, *an all time high!*

228

Households pledged in 2024.

18%

Increase in total funds pledged for next year compared to 2023-24.

# Staff

In 2024, UUCE employed 14 people. We're so proud of the team we have built!



**Rev. Jen Youngsun Ryu**  
*Minister*



**Rev. Dennis Reynolds**  
*Affiliated Community Minister*



**Rev. Lois Van Leer**  
*Minister Emerita*



**Izzy Crecca**  
*Business Admin*



**Ryan Doppelmayr**  
*Religious Exploration*



**Susanne Giordano**  
*Pianist*



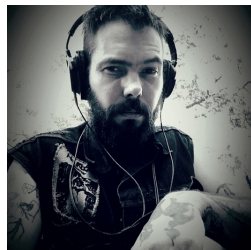
**Joe Rondeau**  
*Music Director*



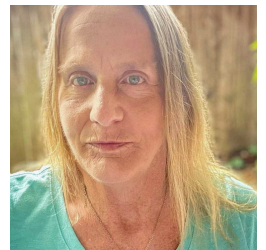
**Colin M. Hill**  
*Office Assistant*



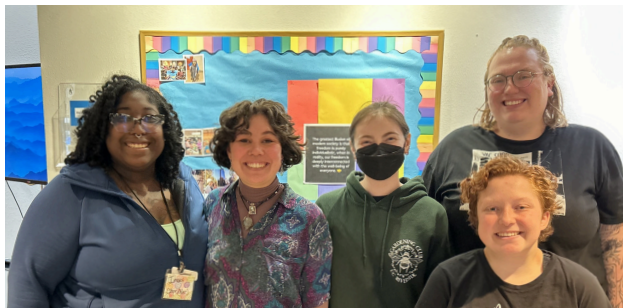
**Kat Johnson**  
*Communications*



**Ian Sonneman**  
*Custodian*



**Michelle Rathburn**  
*Custodian*



**Teaching Team: Imani DenHerder, Sam Waddell,  
Hannah Bullinger, Eli Salerno, and Mel Keller**