Faith in Action Digest

This is a monthly collection of actions, trainings, and resources for putting our Faith into Action, compiled by Rev. Sara Lewis of the Olympia Unitarian Universalist Congregation. This is deliberately a copy and paste document with little time put into formatting, as it is meant to simply collect the many calls to action into one place for ease of communication. Comments and suggestions can be sent to Rev. Sara at dcfd@ouuc.org

Disclaimer: These actions are provided for your information and are not officially endorsed by the Olympia Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Before you go: a helpful protest safety guide: Protest Safety Guide - Common Defense

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November 2nd

BESS SAFETY 101

WEBINAR

Join us to learn more about how **battery energy storage systems** can be safely sited and operated across Washington state.



Chris Pfaff
Hazmat and Rescue
Fire Captain
West Pierce Fire and Rescue

Monday, Nov. 2nd

5:00-6:30 p.m. PST

Register here: https://tinyurl.com/BESSsafetyWA



[Webinar Registration - Zoom]

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November 3rd

1. A new environmental assessment of plans to restore the Deschutes River estuary is available for public review and input through Nov. 9.

Ecology and the Department of Enterprise Services will host two public meetings with presentations, and an opportunity to comment on the Draft SEIS during the hearing portion of the meetings.

Those meetings are:

- Wednesday, Oct. 28, at 5:30 p.m. in person at The Olympia Center, 222 Columbia St NW, Olympia, WA 98501.
- Tuesday, Nov. 3, at 5:30 p.m., virtually at https://tinyurl.com/3kmnsb2m.

Comments can also be submitted online at https://tinyurl.com/5yhbce27 or by mail at:

SEPA Draft SEIS for the Deschutes Estuary Restoration Project

Washington Department of Ecology

c/o Bobbak Talebi, Southwest Region Office

P.O. Box 47775

Olympia, WA 98504-7775

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November 4th

Our next actionshop in our Equity, Racial Justice & Culture Lunch & Learn Series will offer education and analysis to support our key bills and budget asks for the 2027 legislative session.

Come to our FREE virtual actionshop on Nov. 4 from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.! Followed by an optional community and Q&A space with speakers from at 2:30 pm. to 3 p.m.

"Addressing Racial Equity Impacts of Evictions with Research, Analysis, & Actions"

Eviction rates are ever increasing. As a movement, we are witnessing, and some of us are experiencing this all over the state. According to the Eviction Research Network's data for Washington, 2026 is projected to be the highest eviction filing year on record, exceeding 2019 by 12,000 cases. Due to the roots of racism and discrimination within public policy and the fabricated culture of bias, communities of color and specifically Black women-led households are impacted at much higher rates. As we've learned, what impacts one of us impacts all of us.

For our November offering, speakers will dive deeper into the eviction process, present research and trends that clearly mark racial disparities, and discuss what attorneys are seeing on the ground. We'll learn about both historical and current discriminatory and violent policies and practices that are driving low-income renters out of their homes, including Indigenous and tribal communities, farmworkers and immigrant families, rural residents, and people with disabilities.

Tying this together will be opportunities to support 2027 legislative bills actively, and budget asks that will help people get housed and continue to stay housed, such as banning junk fees, the "Shelter not Penalties Act," continued funding for Right to Counsel, and more. Remember, when we fight together, we win!

Speakers:

- Andy Dugan, Executive Director, Skagit Legal Aid
- Hannah Swenson, Managing Attorney, KCBA Housing Justice Project based in Spokane
- Tim Thomas, Researcher, Eviction Research Network, UC Berkeley, and University of Washington

Post-Actionshop Q&A and Community Space 2:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.: Community space will offer time to debrief, decompress, share resources, and ask questions from speakers. This space will follow the actionshop after a short music break, using the same Zoom link.

Register for the Nov. 4 Actionshop

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Resistance from the Borderlands: Arizona Communities Stand Against the Wall

Wednesday, November 4
3:00 p.m. ET • 2:00 p.m. CT • 1:00 p.m. MT • 12:00 p.m. PT • 11:00 a.m. AT • 9:00 a.m. HT
RSVP (via Zoom)

We invite you to join a national virtual webinar highlighting the voices of communities on the front lines of border wall expansion and environmental destruction. During this webinar, you will hear directly from Arizona border communities resisting the expansion of the border wall and its devastating impacts on people, Indigenous lands, wildlife, and fragile ecosystems.

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November 7th

You are invited to register for AGUA's next Immigrant Accompaniment Volunteer Training

Saturday, November 7th, 9:30am to 1pm (we ask you to arrive ten minutes early)

Olympia location to be announced after registration and will not be open to non-registrants

In a time of fear and uncertainty, AGUA: the Accompaniment Group for Unity and Action provides transportation, resources, and support—because no one should face these experiences alone. We stand with our immigrant neighbors!
AGUA volunteers accompany and provide transportation for our immigrant community members going to court hearings, ICE check-ins, & other appointments in Seattle & Tukwila & Tacoma. We typically work in pairs to support accompaniments. At this moment in time, we are without capacity to coordinate visits with local detained community members at the NW ICE Processing Center (NWIPC) in Tacoma. Some of our volunteers are still visiting detainees and witnessing court hearings. We hope to continue supporting Vecinos Unidos in accompanying/transporting local family members to visit their detained loved ones, albeit through plexiglass.
We need volunteers from Thurston, Mason and Lewis counties to drive community members from their homes to Seattle and/or Tukwila. We also need volunteers with conversational Spanish to commit *at least* one day per month to this shared work. Most accompaniments take place on weekdays. If you are not available on weekdays, consider supporting local family visits with detained loved ones in the NWIPC, which has visiting hours 7 days/week.
To join AGUA, we require that you attend an in-person training. Our next training will be Saturday, Nov. 7th, 2026 from 9:30am to 1pm, location TBA in Olympia. Registrants must give at least one full weekday each month to our accompaniment work. We hope to offer another training in early 2027.

We are part of a growing community mobilizing to protect and defend the rights and lives of our immigrant neighbors. JOIN US!

Please send questions to agua.of.oly@gmail.com

REGISTER HERE

AGUA Accompaniment Training Facilitators:

Jean Eberhardt, Lourdes (Alfie) Alvarado, Marilyn Gilman, Holley Rauen, Anne Fischel (we are all volunteers!)

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November 9th

Register to join on 11/9 at 8pm ET / 5pm PT: The Gathering: Declarations of Democracy - Election Round Up

The Gathering is Side With Love's monthly event to strengthen your spirit, make sense of the threats to democracy, and take meaningful action alongside others! Join us live or watch the recording later, every second Monday of the month at 8pm ET / 5pm PT / 4pm AT / 2pm HT. Register at sidewithlove.org/the-gathering.

Declarations of Democracy - SWL Election Round Up

Monday, November 9
8:00 p.m. ET • 7:00 p.m. CT • 6:00 p.m. MT • 5:00 p.m. PT • 4:00 p.m. AT • 2:00 p.m. HT

The UUA's Side With Love team will gather less than a week after election day, on November 9th, to reflect on what we know, what we've learned, and the road ahead. Regardless of what happens on and after November 3rd, we know that it is our sacred call to shape a multiracial, interdependent democracy where everyone can thrive.

Join Side with Love's Nicole Pressley, UUA President Rev. Dr. Sofía Betancourt, musician Glen Thomas Rideout, and other special guests to strengthen your spirit, make sense of this moment in our democracy, and take meaningful action alongside others! Register

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November 10th

Alessandra de la Torre
Policy Associate
NW Energy Coalition

Kaleb Lay
Director of Policy and Research
Oregon Rural Action

Chris Wilke
Executive Director
Center for Environmental Law and Policy

Julie Carter
Policy Analyst
Columbia Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

Data Centers and Water Justice

November 10, 2026 | 5:00 PM PST | Zoom

Register at: bit.ly/DCandWJwebinar

Shifting Power on Data Centers



FRONT AND CENTERED

NW Energy Coalition

New Webinar! Data Centers & Water Justice - November 10th - 5:00pm

Front and Centered is hosting a webinar entitled **Data Centers and Water Justice**. This is the second in a series under their Energy Justice webinar series called, "**Shifting Power on Data Centers**." They are hosting this series in partnership with the **Northwest Energy Coalition (NWEC)**.
The impact of data centers on our water systems in Washington State and across the Pacific Northwest is a growing area of concern for frontline communities. This includes implications for water consumption, contamination, and water rights from the build out of hyperscale data centers.

Panelists in this session will explore these topics, highlight local and state perspectives, and share learnings from policy and regulatory efforts to ensure data center growth is regulated in a way that protects communities and does not exacerbate the existing water challenges our region faces.

Register for November 10th Webinar

You can also check out all of Front and Centered's data centers resources, including factsheets, their statewide community report on data centers, and past event recordings, at their data centers landing hub:

Data Centers - Front and Centered

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November 11th

Veterans Day Work Party at McLane Creek

This Veterans Day, join us in honoring those who have served by giving back to our community. Spend a few hours caring for McLane Creek Nature Trail as we work together to remove invasive yellow archangel and make room for native plants to thrive. Join Stream Team, Thurston County Community Planning and Noxious Weeds, WSU Water Resources, and DNR on Wednesday, November 11, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Bring small hand tools, such as gardening knives, a sack lunch, and a willingness to get your hands dirty! Temporary Discover Passes will be available for volunteers.

Events - Stream Team

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What's Next on Permitting Reform, the Deregulation Push

Wednesday, November 11

8:00 p.m. ET • 7:00 p.m. CT • 6:00 p.m. MT • 5:00 p.m. PT • 4:00 p.m. AT • 2:00 p.m. HT

Join us next week when UUSJ hosts a briefing on S. 5653, the **Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act** (BAAJA) of 2026 in collaboration with friends from the People vs Fossil Fuels coalition. This level set will summarize the impacts of the bill, its deregulatory features, and give guidance on how best to engage Congress during the Lame Duck. A vote in the Senate is expected on **Monday, November 9**.

UUSJ Opposes BAAJA. We find the tradeoff being proffered too steep a price, and we love our neighbors too much to remain silent or inactive. See the UU Joint Statement, on this matter for our position.

Speakers will include:

- **Erik Schlenker-Goodrich**, Executive Director, Western Environmental Law Center
- **Ariana Kretz**, Policy Coordinator, Climate Justice Alliance
- Members of the **UU Climate Justice Coalition**

Additional content on BAAJA below, but note three new explainer items:

- Factsheet on BAAJA's Modeling, Center for Biological Diversity and Oil Change International
- How the BAAJA Could Unlock a Massive Expansion of Data Center-Linked Gas Infrastructure, Oil Change International

- BAAJA Will Accelerate the Expansion of Deadly Immigration Detention Facilities, Detention Watch Network

UUSJ is a member of both the People vs Fossil Fuels coalition and the UU Climate Justice Coalition.

RSVP for the Nov. 11 briefing

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November 12th

Post Election Rapid Response Series (Immigration Focus)

Immigrant allies are invited to register for two online sessions on Rapid Response this **November 12th** and **November 19th**, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. ET.

Connected Americans will cover:

- Rapid Response's purpose and best practices, at the first session; and,
- A deep dive on Deportation Defense campaigns, in the second session.

These sessions are for local organizers, advocates, clergy, and community members. Translation will be provided if requested.

All materials and comments will be presented along the thematic axis of immigration support, and the narrative struggle about immigration justice that will ensure as a result of the election.

Rapid Response Series Registration/Registracion para series de respuesta rapida.

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Midterm Election Results and the Upcoming Anti-Hunger Landscape

Thursday, November 12
4:00 p.m. ET • 3:00 p.m. CT • 2:00 p.m. MT • 1:00 p.m. PT • 12:00 p.m. AT • 10:00 a.m. HT

Following the midterm elections, committee assignments and the anti-hunger landscape will likely shift in the next Congress. Join FRAC's Legislative Team and guest Keith Stern, principal, Cornerstone, Washington, D.C., and Former Director of Floor Operations for the Democratic Leader and then Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi (D-CA). FRAC's Legislative Team will discuss how the midterms will affect anti-hunger advocacy and opportunities to engage your members of Congress during the lame-duck session and beyond. RSVP November 12

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November 14th

Fall Volunteer Work Party

Saturday, November 14 @ 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

See details & register below

Join us at Powell Wetlands for a morning of planting native trees and shrubs. We will be planting a variety of species in a 60-acre pasture. This planting will increase the site's biodiversity and improve the forest along this stretch of the Nisqually River, creating better habitat for salmon and other important species.

Work parties are rain or shine! Light snacks will be provided. Minors are welcome provided they are accompanied by an adult.

See more details and register at the link below. Thank you, and we hope to see you there!

When: Saturday, November 14 @ 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Where: NLT Powell Creek Protected Area, near Yelm. **Eventbrite will send the address in the confirmation email upon registration.**

Accessibility: Mostly flat ground, uneven surface, <0.2 mile walk from the parking location.

Register Here

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November 16th

Join Sierra Club's Environmental Law Program on November 16 to hear from our attorneys and experts about how we are defending communities and climate progress amid data center expansion, rising energy costs, and pro-fossil fuel agendas.

With utility bills increasing by as much as 40% in parts of the U.S., the Sierra Club is leading the fight for clean energy and affordability–intervening in data center development plans, holding utilities accountable, protecting ratepayers from rising energy costs, and fighting the Trump administration's illegal coal plant bailouts that force aging, unreliable, polluting plants to stay online past planned retirement dates.

Across the country, Sierra Club's legal team, Beyond Coal Campaign organizers, and local chapters are working together to challenge federal attacks on our clean energy progress and ensure the rapid, unchecked expansion of data centers does not undermine climate goals or shift costs to households. As utilities and data center developers push to meet projected power demand by extending coal plant operations and accelerating new fossil fuel development, our attorneys and on-the-ground organizers are shaping policies and regulatory frameworks that will protect climate progress, increase grid reliability, and ensure energy affordability.

Sierra Forum: Fighting Polluting Data Center Growth, Coal Bailouts, and the Affordability Crisis

Thursday, November 16

12:00 pm PT / 1:00 pm MT / 2:00 pm CT / 3:00 pm ET

Register to Attend

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November 17th

JUUstice Washington
A UU State Action Network

November 17, 2026
10:00 am • Zoom

Join us for the
2026 Fall Environmental Justice
Session with WA legislators
Rep. Alex Ramel, Rep. Beth Doglio
and Sen. Lovelett!

We'll be looking at what's happening in the WA legislature concerning environmental justice this upcoming session.

We'll also ask about what the WA legislature can do to fend off the current federal administration's efforts to weaken or eliminate environmental projections across the board.

Register here
https://tinyurl.com/ynur6mac



Rep. Beth Doglio
District 22



Rep. Alex Ramel
District 40



Sen. Liz Lovelett
District 40

In the meantime, on November 17, 2026 at 10:00 am on Zoom, we'll be meeting with Rep. Beth Doglio and Rep. Alex Ramel, both from the WA House Committee on Environment & Energy and Sen. Liz Lovelett from the Senate Committee on Environment, Energy & Technology. We'll be talking about what's coming up in the legislature this year and hopefully receive some encouraging news about our struggle with the current federal administration's environment policies. All are welcome to attend.

Registration required, please! Sign up here or click the flyer image below.

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November 18th

Building a Wide Tent in the Environmental Movement in an Era of Rollbacks

Online
November 18, 10 to 11 a.m. PST

Join Green 2.0 for a conversation with environmental movement leaders as they discuss how the movement can build collective people power, center the voices of communities, and build or rebuild a wide and inclusive tent in the environmental movement. Our CEO, Alyssa Macy, will be featured as a panelist.

Register →

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Reimagine Together Again (and again and again...) The Climate Justice revival energy continues with an invitation to Reimagine Together: Fractal Practices for Faithful Climate Justice. Designed to flexibly meet the needs of your congregation or organization, this new curriculum invites us to Begin Together & then proceed in all learning directions, developing and nourishing the skills and connective tissue necessary for participating in the possibilities of a world where all beings may flourish.

The Rev. Deanna Vandiver of Ever Unfolding & a member of the original UU Climate Justice Revival Planning Team will be joining us for the introduction of this encouraging resource.

🗓️ **Register to join on 11/18 at 7pm ET / 4pm PT: Fractal Practices for Faithful Climate Justice**

Guided by UU values, the Green Sanctuary community nurtures resilient, thriving communities through climate actions that prioritize justice. All are invited to join our monthly community meetings to learn together, support each other, and celebrate progress.

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November 19th

Save Your Spot!

This two-part series is focused on how we can engage our communities to protect our future, both online and in person. You're welcome to attend one or both events:

1. **"YOU Are the Best Messenger: Relational Organizing 101," which will be held on Monday, October 26 at 4 pm PT/ 7 pm ET.**
2. **"Having Holiday Conversations with Friends and Family," which will be held on Thursday, November 19, at 4 pm PT/ 7 pm ET.**

Can't join live? The workshop recordings and materials will be shared with all registrants!

People who talk about climate change are more likely to support climate action and policies! It might seem obvious, but many of us are afraid to talk about issues we think might cause tension -- even though most Americans say global warming is personally important to them.

But we can all have a ripple effect on our environmental advocacy by sharing stories, experiences, and actions with our peers.

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