

April 2020 Chalice PrevUUs Calendar Newsletter of the Chalice Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Escondido, California 2324 Miller Avenue, Escondido, CA 92029 Phone: 760-737-0393 Website: ChaliceUUCongregation.org

Vol. 21 # 4A

### Zoom Lunch with Rev. Sharon

Tuesday through Friday Noon to 1 pm Zoom Meeting ID: 358 579 869 Zoom link: https://uuma.zoom.us/j/358579869

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April 2020 Sunday Services at 1 0:00 am on Zoom

### Sunday Service at 10 am

Zoom Meeting ID: 832 129 662 https://uuma.zoom.us/j/832129662

### After Worship: Coffee Hour!

(Bring Your Own Coffee) Zoom Meeting ID: 118 751 781 https://zoom.us/j/118751781

Once worship has ended, you will leave the webinar and re-enter the "Coffee Hour" meeting, which allows us to see and hear each other. We will be sorted into small groups for casual conversation (what Zoom calls "breakout rooms").

# April 5 Rev. Sharon Wylie online service "Boundaries"

This is the eighth in a 10-part series on cultivating resiliency in an age of overwhelm.

April 12 Rev. Sharon Wylie online service "The Empty Tomb" A reflection on Easter.

**April 19 Rev. Sharon Wylie online service "For the Beauty of the Earth"** April 22, 2020 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day.

April 26 Rev. Sharon Wylie online service "Coping"

The Chalice website: ChaliceUUCongregation.org has instructions for how to attend a Zoom meeting. There is no cost to attend, or to download the Zoom app.



# Calling All Poets and Poetry Lovers — The poetry service is scheduled for May 24

If you would like to contribute, you may submit your own or a favorite poem to Patty C. *[no contact info this edition].* This year the theme is "Musings From the Heart," intentionally left wide open so folks can write about whatever's on their minds. Poem submission date is May 16. Carol M will put together a slide show of photos to accompany the poems and needs time to do that before the 24<sup>th</sup>.

We're calling all poets! Please understand that the Sunday service is limited in time – 20 minutes for poetry. Due to time and continuity, all poems may not be included in the service. Let us know if we can offer your poem on our Chalice Website. Last year's poems are posted. They are at ChaliceUUCongregation.org. Find the dropdown menu under the tab "News" and follow that to "Newsletter". The 2019 poetry collection is the first link on the list.

If there was ever a time we can be grateful for the tradition of having a Chalice poetry service this would be the time.

## **IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

The Nominating Committee of Chalice's Board of Trustees (Susan Spoto-Chair, Kathy Zapata-Bergamini, and Marshall Fogel) is required to prepare a slate of candidates for Officer and Trustee positions in April, to be voted on at the Annual Meeting in June.

We are delighted to announce that Amaki Ayikpa, Kate Vereb, and Judy Winn have graciously agreed to be nominated as Trustees serving a two-year term. Richard Korts has agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee, serving a three-year term.

# Despite our best efforts, the Committee has been unable to identify Chalice Members willing to serve as Vice President and Secretary of the Board.

The Vice President succeeds to the office of President the following year and then becomes Past President in the year following that. The Secretary is responsible for keeping accurate records of all Board Meetings and Congregational Meetings, maintains a roster of Voting Members, and prepares ballots for elections (assisted by the Office Administrator). The qualities sought for Chalice leadership positions can be found on page 31 of our Policy Book. <u>https://</u>

<u>members.chaliceuucongregation.org/images/d/db/Congregational\_Policies\_June\_2019.pdf</u> Are you ready to take a leadership position on Chalice's Board and help guide the Congregation into the future? We need to hear from you now. Please contact the Chair of the Nominating Committee Susan Spoto at susan.spoto@gmail.com or (858) 486-7873 if you can serve.

### Chalice Green has an information tidbit for you.

Did you know that Methane is a potent greenhouse gas? Holy cow! U.S. cows produce more methane than the entire U.S. oil industry! What choices can we make to limit methane in the atmosphere? Chalice Green will be meeting on the Zoom platform Wednesday April 22 at 6 pm. If you wish to join us, contact Victoria Tenbrink at <a href="mailto:sage.yarns@yahoo.com">sage.yarns@yahoo.com</a>.



# Family Ministry ~ April 2020



Chris O'Connor, Director of Family Ministries

As families are at home with their children, teachable moments are coming up during each day. Having access to the resources for learning is much easier than the nuances involved with understanding our children's emotions and their ability to communicate those feeling with us. Ideally, we will be able to find that "sweet spot" when a child is ready and able to learn and not overwhelmed by their fears during this uncertain time.

In the book, <u>Tending the Flame: The Art of UU Parenting</u>, consideration is given to this subject. As parents we have figured out that trying to teach children when they are hungry or tired is rarely successful. But also keep in mind that the emotional state of a person (and that goes for parents, too!) is also a factor in successful learning. None of us are probably showing our best selves every moment with our present situation, so keep expectations reasonable.

Family Ministries and the Parent's Neighborhood Group has weekly Zoom meetings and discusses topics such as these. Information about the exact time will be posted online during the week. During this time of restricting social interactions Zoom RE classes are being planned for the Chalice children and youth.

### Send in your Chalice picture -

I sent out a request that families take a picture of a home chalice or put one together out of items found at your own home. The first picture sent in to me was this one from Jerry Carter. He wrote:

The Chalice has many meanings but one that is important to me is community and mutual support. This home chalice reminds me of community. Send to dfm.chaliceuuc@gmail.com

The Chalice Parents Neighborhood Group and Family Ministries Teams offers two helpful resources to families during the week:

**A Parent's Support group** on Zoom Saturdays at 4 pm. Please join us to exchange ideas, creative projects you can do with your children based on UU principles and give and receive support.

**Topic:** Parents Support Group \*\*\* Join Zoom Meeting [no contact info this edition]

**Family Meditation** - Becky Sangha has generously offered to host a Family Meditation on Thursdays at 4 pm. Becky uses her creative powers to walk us through short guided meditations intended to help connect our minds with our bodies. We end with a short Loving Kindness (also known as Metta) meditation. Our 7th UU principle is respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. We will dedicate our meditation time and send meditation blessings to all.

Topic: Family Meditation with Becky Zoom: [no contact info this edition]

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	Music Ministry for Apri	<i>il 2020</i>
	Looking Ahead:	
25	A <i>Short</i> Evening of Song with Tom Carlstrom on Zoom Saturday, April	
	An Evening of Song with Tom Carlst full concert experience	rom TBA
	Tim and Friends Concert	ТВА
	Spring Music Service	Sunday, June 21 @ 9 & 11
	Keyboard Kaleidoscope #6 Concert	Saturday, September 12 @ 7
Tim Mal/night		

Tim McKnight

As with many of our Chalice activities, the Chancel Choir and the Handchime Ensemble are not meeting until it is safe to do so. We all miss rehearsing together and bringing inspiring music to the Chalice community, and we look forward to getting back to making music as soon as possible. In the meantime, we hope you enjoy the music presented in our Sunday Zoom services. On March 22 we had Grunion Run, Justin Gray, and Amy Throckmorton share their talent. Join us online Sundays @10am for a wonderful worship experience!

# "A Short Evening Of Song With Tom Carlstrom" - On Zoom!

Though the auction event, "An Evening Of Song With Tom Carlstrom", is postponed. Tom has generously offered the congregation an online sneak preview of his concert. With help from the amazing talents of our audio-visual tech. Stuart Holmes, Tom will present "A Short Evening Of Song With Tom Carlstrom" via Zoom at 7:00 pm on April 4 This event will last approximately 30 minutes. Zoom meeting ID is [no contact info this edition]



# **Council of Chairs Meeting**

The Council of Chairs guarterly meeting is the central place where information is shared between the Coordinating Team and Chalice's committees and groups. Such information includes budgeting requests and approvals, policies, calendaring, congregational goals and outcomes, information between groups, best practices in governance and congregational life. and training on desired topics. Training topics support and inform congregational leaders on matters pertaining to religious leadership.

Each Chalice group, task force, committee, or team is invited (encouraged) to send a representative to the Council of Chairs quarterly meeting.

Saturday morning, April 4 from 10 am to noon.

If you are a Chalice congregant, and you want to attend, please contact the Chalice office by midnight on Friday for Zoom information.

# Groups - that are meeting; and groups that are waiting

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What	When, Where	Who & Why you want to participate		
Board Games	Second Wednesday 1 pm.	Board Games will reconvene when the covid-19 restrictions are lifted and it is OK for people to be out and about.		
Activist Letter Writers	No scheduled meetings for April	Suggestions for writing from home will be available by email to Kaye Campbell. New activists welcome. Contact: Kaye C [no contact info this edition]		
Men's Support Group	Second Wednesday 6:30 pm Zoom meeting planned	We get to know and support each other by sharing experiences, thoughts and feelings from our lives. If you are interested please contact Steve S [no contact info this edition] to be on the Zoom list.		
Memoir Writers Group	Second Thursday 10 am on Zoom	Alice D leads this group in writing personal memoirs. Meets once a month. This is a great way of getting your thoughts and memories on paper. Contact Alice [no contact info this edition] to be put on the Zoom list.		
Elders Lunch with Rev. Sharon	Will reconvene when it is safe to do so.			
Fiber Arts & Crafts	Third Wednesday 1:30 to 3:30 pm IF we are able to meet by that week - Blue Room	We chat and work, primarily needle-crafts like knitting, or embroidery, but any portable crafts are welcome. Contact: Bonnie P [no contact info this edition]		
Prayer Circle	Third Wednesday 7 pm On Zoom	Join Rev. Sharon for a Unitarian Universalist prayer circle. Please come prepared to request prayer and to offer prayer to others. All are welcome. Contact: RevSharonWylie@gmail.com for Zoom information.		
Newcomers Coffee	After service, all are invited to join break-out groups on-line.	If you are a newcomer to Chalice, feel like one, or are a recent or returning visitor, we would love to share a cup of coffee and conversation with you. Please see the Zoom break-out room information on page 1. Bring your own coffee.		

# Cracker Barrel Men's Breakfast Group

Cracker Barrel is a long standing Chalice Men's breakfast group that meets weekly, 9 AM to 11 AM. Before, the meetings were at Denny's. Now they meet by Zoom. The group is comprised of about 18 male Chalice congregants & guests & is chaired by Marty Schwartz.

Some people are confused by the name, because of the restaurant chain of the same name that operates in many states & other parts of California as well. Our name is derived from a



tradition of over 100 years ago when crackers were shipped in barrels and the "General Stores" had a cracker barrel which men often gathered around to talk and tell stories.

Our meeting format starts with attendees telling jokes and follows with a period where we go around the room & everyone has a chance to bring up a topic for discussion, often leading to lively and sometimes controversial exchanges. Sometimes a topic may last 10 minutes, sometimes as long as an hour. Normally, everyone gets a chance to contribute.

Two of our long time members, Dennis Brown & Dave Masterjohn live in the Temecula Valley area. On March 11 we decided to travel up to Temecula & we met at a restaurant there. The photo shows the group who attended that day.

Cracker Barrel is open to all male Chalice congregants and their friends. The group is currently meeting by Zoom. Before the California Shelter In Place request closed the restaurants for dine in patrons, anyone could just show up on Wed. morning at Denny's at 510 W Mission Ave,

# Ways to Give

During these challenging times, Chalice still has ongoing expenses. Income was already below expectations for the year and being off-campus is not helping. We need your help to weather this storm. Here are ways you can donate:

- Use the Donate button on the website. The Online Giving form lets you identify the purpose, such as offering, annual pledge, or auction. The lowest cost to Chalice is for a debit from a checking account. Credit card charges impose a cost to us of about 3%, so please consider adding that much to help cover those costs.
- Text a donation amount to 833-942-1298, then follow the instructions to provide credit card and donor details. Again, please consider adding 3% to help cover the credit card costs we incur. Currently this is treated as an offering unless you let us know otherwise.
- Use the bill-pay service of your bank to set up a payment. We will receive a check in the mail, no cost to us.
- Just mail us a check. No fees for us but you have to buy the stamp!

Thank you as always for your generosity!

Bonnie Packert, Treasurer

# Groups - that are meeting; and groups that are waiting

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What	When, Where	Who & Why you want to participate	
Green Sanctuary Team	Zoom meetings - once a month	We are still expanding the planning team, so we invite you to see what we're up to and decide if you would like to take a more active role. Contact: Victoria T [no contact info this edition]	
Mah Jongg	Not meeting at this time	Beginners welcome. Contact: Margaret S [no contact info this edition]	
Women's Support Group	First & Third & Fifth Wednesday 6:30 pm on Zoom	A safe, loving environment to share feelings, life and laughter. Contact: Kaye C [no contact info this edition] to be put on the email list for Zoom meeting information.	
Poetry Group	Second Mondays 1 to 3:00 pm Zoom	We don't know what will come and what restrictions we will face then, but the Poetry Group will meet at our usual time. We will be on a Zoom video conference until we are able to meet in person. Bonnie P. will send the meeting info to our email list but anyone who would like to participate can contact her at <i>[no contact info this edition]</i> for the info. This is an open group. Participants bring poems to read aloud, with all welcome to join in discussion of the works and the thoughts they inspire.	
Chair Yoga	Not meeting until further notice		
Yoga	Tuesday evenings at 7:00 On Zoom - please contact Kathy to get on the email list for Zoom contact information.	This gentle yoga class is perfect for seniors, beginning yoga students, or for those with lots of experience who enjoy a good, relaxing stretch with friends. Wear comfortable clothes. Bring a mat, or borrow one at Chalice. Contact: Kathy Z <i>[no contact info this edition]</i>	
Cracker Barrel	Wednesdays, 9 am for breakfast, 9:30 for discussion! Meet on Zoom.	Liberal thinkers & friendly, supportive men. New friends are welcome. Open to all men of Chalice to meet life-long friends with a sense of humor. Contact: Marty S <i>[no contact info this edition]</i>	
Zen Meditation	Is now meeting on Zoom one day a week.	The Freeway Zen meditation group is continuing with once-a- week meetings on Zoom. Please email AI, <i>[no contact info this edition]</i> for details. All are welcome. Website: FreewayZen.org	
Family Meditation	Thursdays, 4 pm Meet on Zoom	Becky S is offering a meditation class for families and children through Zoom. Please contact the Chalice office for the Zoom information, or check the weekly E-Nuus	
Women's Meditation & Study	Thursdays, 10:30 am On Zoom	Women's Buddhist Meditation. Mutual support and the practical implementation of Buddhism in order to enrich our daily lives. Contact: Carol B. [no contact info this edition]	

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#### Inquirers Series - April Meeting to be rescheduled

Adult religious education class that may be able to resume on Zoom. Each class covers a different topic exploring Unitarian Universalism. Details to come.

#### Circle Suppers - Third Saturday, No April Supper together

Circle Suppers: It is with sadness and concern that it is necessary to suspend Circle Suppers for April. As May draws closer, we will make a decision about meeting. It would be good to return to our monthly dinners. Keep Warm and Keep Emily T [no contact info this edition] Healthy.

#### Chalice Dine-Out - Third Monday - No April Dine-Out together No April meeting

#### Women's Book Group - Third Tuesday, April 21 at 7:15 pm on Zoom

The Women's book Discussion group will try to meet April 21<sup>st</sup> on Zoom. Details not yet available. The book is The Library Book by Susan Orlean. (We say try because the group is trying a Zoom meeting in March as a test, so we're not sure yet how it will work). Stay safe.

#### Ladies Out to Lunch - Third Friday, No meeting in April

Does not expect to meet until May at the earliest, if traces of the pandemic have subsided by then. Predictions are difficult at this time. We are temporarily disbanded for now.

#### Readers' Theater - Fourth Monday, April 27 at 6:30 pm - Zoom

We're going to try something new this month in the age of COVID-19! We'll be gathering — virtually - to read aloud the play we would have read in March — *Men on Boats*, by Jaclyn Backhaus. Spinning historical, theatrical, and gender conventions on their heads, this subversive tale is a 21st-century telling of 19th-century American explorer and one-armed Civil War veteran John Wesley Powell, who assembles a brawny band of soldiers, trappers, and adventurers to explore the waterways of the American West. It has been billed as "laugh-out-loud theater" that "infuses America's historic myths of male conquest with a sly blast of subtext." Please join us on Zoom - we can handle as many listeners as want to participate! Ten of us already signed up to read parts from our homes, and anyone else is welcome to listen! Please contact Deb C at [no contact info this edition] so she can send you an invitation to the Zoom meeting! [If the Shelter in Place order has been lifted, we'll meet in the Blue Room of the Hub, but we're currently planning on meeting virtually — another reason to contact Deb, so she can keep you informed.]

#### Haven House Interfaith Community Dinner -Wednesday, April 23 at 6:15 pm (dates change each month)

Haven House is the year-round shelter for homeless adults at ICS. Chalice members and friends prepare a monthly dinner at the Haven House kitchen for 30-45 people and then dine with them sharing fellowship. A Chalice volunteer coordinates the meal, selecting the menu and organizing participants via e-mail. Kids are welcome with adult supervision. Haven House clients do the cleanup. A reimbursement fund is available for

expenses as well. Contact Marshall F [no contact info this edition] if you'd like to volunteer.









	Sat	<ul> <li>4</li> <li>10:00 am Council of Chairs (Zoom)</li> <li>4:00 pm Parent Support (Zoom)</li> <li>7:00 pm Tom Caristrom Concert on Zoom</li> </ul>	11 4:00 pm Parent Support (Zoom)	<b>18</b> 4:00 pm Parent Support (Zoom)	25 4:00 pm Parent Support (Zoom)	
	Fri	<i>3</i> 12 noon Zoom Lunch with the Minister	<i>I0</i> 12 noon Zoom Lunch with the Minister	<i>17</i> 12 noon Zoom Lunch with the Minister	24 12 noon Zoom Lunch with the Minister Newsletter Deadline	
Distancing without $ solating$	Thu	2 10:30 am Women's Meditation (Zoom) 12 noon Zoom Lunch with the Minister 4:00 pm Family Meditation (Zoom)	9 10:00 am Memoir Writers (Zoom) 10:30 am Women's Meditation (Zoom) 12 noon Zoom Lunch with the Minister 4:00 pm Family Meditation (Zoom)	<i>16</i> 10:30 am Women's Meditation (Zoom) 12 noon Zoom Lunch with the Minister 4:00 pm Family Meditation (Zoom)	23 10:30 am Women's Meditation (Zoom) 12 noon Zoom Lunch w/ Minister 4:00 pm Family Meditation (Zoom) 6:15 pm Haven House	30 10:30 am Women's Meditation (Zoom) 12 noon Zoom Lunch w/ Minister 4:00 pm Family Meditation (Zoom)
Apríl 2020 ** <sub>Dís</sub>	Wed	<ul> <li><i>I</i></li> <li>9:00 am Cracker Barrel</li> <li>(Zoom)</li> <li>12 noon Zoom Lunch with the Minister</li> <li>6:30 pm Women's Support (Zoom)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>8</li> <li>9:00 am Cracker Barrel</li> <li>(Zoom)</li> <li>12 noon Zoom Lunch with the Minister</li> <li>6:30 pm Men's Support</li> <li>7:30 pm Peaceful Path Med (Zoom)</li> </ul>	<i>IS</i> 9:00 am Cracker Barrel (Zoom) 12 noon Zoom Lunch with the Minister 6:30 pm Women's Support (Zoom) 7:30 pm Prayer Circle	<ul> <li>22</li> <li>9:00 am Cracker Barrel</li> <li>(Zoom)</li> <li>(Zoom) Lunch with the Minister</li> <li>2 pm CT (Zoom)</li> <li>7:30 pm Peaceful Path Med (Zoom)</li> </ul>	29 9:00 am Cracker Barrel (Zoom) 12 noon Zoom Lunch with the Minister
*	Tue	visit Vews" tab, there ) password	7 12 noon Zoom Lunch with the Minister 2 pm CT (Zoom) 7:00 pm Yoga (Zoom) 7:00 pm Exec. Board (Zoom)	<ul> <li>14</li> <li>12 noon Zoom Lunch with the Minister with the Minister</li> <li>2 pm Staff (Zoom)</li> <li>7:00 pm Board (Zoom)</li> </ul>	21 12 noon Zoom Lunch with the Minister 7:00 pm Yoga (Zoom) 7:00 pm Women's Book (Zoom)	28 12 noon Zoom Lunch with the Minister 7:00 pm Yoga (Zoom)
Chalice UU Congregation	Mon	<b>e information</b> , v .org; under the "h ne can access. No	6 12 noon Zoom Lunch without the Minister	<i>13</i> 12 noon Zoom Lunch without the Minister	20 12 noon Zoom Lunch without the Minister 1 pm Poetry Group on Zoom	<ul> <li>27</li> <li>12 noon Zoom Lunch without the Minister</li> <li>6:30 pm Readers'</li> <li>Theater on Zoom</li> </ul>
C	Sun	<b>For the most accurate information</b> , visit ChaliceUUCongregation.org; under the "News" tab, is a Calendar that anyone can access. No password needed.	5 10 am Worship Service on Zoom "Boundaries" Rev. Sharon Wylie 11:15 am After Worship: Coffee Hour on Zoom	12 10 am Worship Service on Zoom "The Empty Tomb" Rev. Sharon Wylie 11:15 am After Worship: Coffee Hour on Zoom	<ul> <li>19</li> <li>10 am Worship Service on Zoom "For the Beauty of the Earth" Rev. Sharon Wylie</li> <li>11:15 am After Worship: Coffee Hour on Zoom</li> </ul>	26 10 am Worship Service on Zoom "Coping" Rev. Sharon Wylie 11:15 am After Worship: Coffee Hour on Zoom

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April 2020 Chalice PrevUUs Magazine Section



Vol. 21 # 4B

Newsletter of the Chalice Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Escondido, California 2324 Miller Avenue, Escondido, CA 92029 Phone: 760-737-0393 Website: ChaliceUUCongregation.org

Minister's Message for April

What a lot has changed, and so very quickly.

I returned to work on March 10 after a twoweek vacation. At the Board meeting that night, we talked a bit about the novel coronavirus. San Diego had had only one case of COVID-19 so far (diagnosed just the day before in someone who had been traveling). We knew that changes to congregational life were probably coming, but it wasn't clear when.

The very next day, March 11, California Governor Gavin Newsom advised that gatherings of 250 people or more shouldn't happen, and that no gatherings should happen unless social distancing (6 ft. between people) could be observed.

By Thursday, March 12, local authorities had mandated the Governor's recommendations, and we announced by email to the congregation that because we cannot observe social distancing in worship, going forward, Sunday worship would be held online at 10 am.

Fortuitously, we had worshipped online using the Zoom platform one Sunday last summer, before construction of our new building was finished. So I was not as overwhelmed moving our worship online as I might otherwise have been, and congregants weren't quite as disoriented as you might have been either.

Our March 15 service was called "Stay Away and Stay Connected."

By March 20, the Governor had ordered residents to stay at home except for essential outings like buying groceries ("essential work" was also identified in the order, with essential workers allowed to be at work).

As I write this on March 27, there are now 417 diagnoses of COVID-19 in San Diego County. And we know that there is insufficient testing available, which means the real numbers are likely much higher than the official count. We have several Chalice congregants with symptoms that seem like COVID-19, but they do not "qualify" to be tested. This is one of the great frustrations of this particular moment.

We have not been told anything official for when the stay-at-home order will end. And whenever it ends, it is likely we will still need to maintain social distancing for some time. At this point,



Rev. Sharon Wylie

I am thinking and planning for at least three months of online worship, while keeping in mind that it could be considerably longer than that.

As so many of you have commented to me, as hard as things are right now, we can be grateful for the technologies that let us still "meet" together online, to hear each other's voices and see each other's faces. With Zoom technology, many of our groups are continuing to meet. And on Sunday morning, we are still able to be together.

We have hard times ahead of us. Our staying at home is to slow the rate of spread so the hospitals are not overwhelmed. Many of us will get sick, and there will be losses. Our work now is to stay as calm and grounded as we can, to lean on each other for support, to focus on getting through one day at a time, and to be as safe as we can given what we know.

Blessings and love to each of you, Sharon

To schedule an appointment with Rev. Sharon: Online: https://calendly.com/revsharonwylie/ Text or call: 619.871.9959 Email: revsharonwylie@gmail.com President's Message for Apríl 2020 - Alec Bergamini

Dear Future Generations,

This letter is addressed to the future curious and is meant to be a history of our experience with this COVID-19 event. At the end of this letter you will find a link where you can add your own observations.

March 24, 2020 – It's been 11 days since our household has shifted to self-quarantine mode. We are staying home and have supplies delivered whenever possible, only doing occasional supply trips. Kathy continues her employment remotely and I'm busy with home improvement projects and Board of Trustees work. We spend significant amounts of time in Web Conferences (Zoom): business and church meetings, services, yoga classes and family and friend get-togethers. Mostly we cook all our meals but have ordered out a couple times to support favorite businesses.

State of the Virus – As I write this there are over 49,000 U.S. cases, with over 500 deaths. These numbers are considered low because of lack of available testing. New York is hardest hit followed by California, Washington and Louisiana. The U.S. is third in cases behind China and Italy. Recorded cases are doubling every 3 days. A number of therapies to treat the virus are being researched; some look promising but none look to be a very near-term fix.

<u>State of Governance -</u> Federal, State and Local government has the country well locked down, at least in theory. Enforcement of "flattening the curve" policies is problematic. The executive branch has instituted and is enforcing strict anti-hoarding laws. The President continues to send out mixed and confusing messages and says he wants the U.S. open by Easter. He's worried that the lock down is hurting the economy. Congress is doing their job by haggling over a multibillion-dollar stimulus package that includes sending almost everyone a check for over a thousand dollars.

<u>State of the Economy</u> – The economy is undergoing massive shifts of resources as people are laid off from noncritical jobs and some are then rehired in critical jobs. The Federal Reserve projects unemployment of 20 to 30 percent in the second quarter. The stock market has dropped 30% from its high in February and is fluctuating by as much at 10% a day.



Alec Bergamini

<u>State of the Environment</u> – The environment appears to be benefiting from the lockdown with less air pollution and a decrease in fossil fuel mining.

Good information about this crisis is available online. A few are <u>Coronavirus</u> <u>Resource Center Harvard Health</u>, <u>Center for</u> <u>Disease Control</u>, and credible news sources like the New York Times and the Washington Post.

<u>State of caring</u> – Businesses, Churches and Community organizations are stepping up to help those in need. Many churches are encouraging their members with jobs to give generously at this time of increased need. Locally <u>Meals on Wheels</u> is very active on getting food out to shut-ins. The New York Times article "<u>How You can Help Victims of the</u> <u>Coronavirus Pandemic</u>" gives sound advice.

As hinted at the start, this letter is intended for future generations as a record of our experiences during these dangerous and interesting times. I encourage you to add your experiences, stories, and opinions to this letter. I've shared the letter at <u>Letter Link</u> \*\* and I plan on keeping it open for at least the duration of the California lockdown. All I ask is that you limit sharing of the link to the Chalice Community and mark your entries with the date and your name (or known pseudonym). I don't plan on editing entries unless they are offensive.

Best Regards and stay safe, Alec Bergamini President Chalice Board of Trustees

\*\* To add your thoughts to the Chalice journal, go to: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kdbUTEbvFXApfmXRyfjjwQqemCOWRdArMDLw6HcrRiE/edit

### **Chalice Board of Trustees Report for April Newsletter**

The Chalice Board of Trustees met for the regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at 7 pm in the Blue Room of the Hub. Dr. Nancy Bowen, Chalice congregant and former Public Health Officer for the County of San Diego, attended as a guest to address concerns about the Covid-19 virus outbreak. She shared insights and advice for keeping the Chalice community safe during this health crisis. It was reported that a shortfall for the current budget year is currently projected. The Board voted to pay for any yearend budget shortfall from the reserves. The Board reviewed the Chalice Lighters Grant being prepared for needed funds requested by the Safety and Security Team. It was voted to table this item until additional information could be obtained. Board members completed and turned in the annual Board Self Evaluation forms.

### Coordinating Team (CT) Report for March Board meeting

Goal: Create well-designed, attractive and welcoming classroom and meeting spaces and outdoor play spaces

- § The playground has been installed and is in use.
- § Dean Goddette (chair) is forming the Courtyard Cover Task Force.
- § The Furnish and Finish Task Force will be seeking bids to wire the Hub for internet.

 $\S$  We have found a handyman to help with miscellaneous repairs on campus.

Goal: Investigate additional fundraising sources and activities

§ Deb, Sharon, and Susan from CT met with Alec and Dean from the Board to discuss anticipated budget shortfall.

Oversight of Chalice programs and committees:

- § Stewardship Team is forming with Rev. Sharon as the acting chair.
- § Distributed budget request forms to groups and committees, due April 4.
- § Discussed priorities for Safety Team (at their request).
- § Considered responses to COVID-19. Will consult with Safety Team about forming a response task force.

# **Unitarian Universalist Events:**

The 2020 PSW District Assembly scheduled April 24-26, 2020, has been cancelled. The annual business meeting will be held on-line via Zoom.

UUA General Assembly on June 24-28, 2020 in Providence, RI. Experience amazing opportunities to enhance your faith and connect with other Unitarian Universalists. General Assembly offers workshops, programs and lectures customized and created for spiritual growth and development. More information at uua.org

Chalice Web Site: ChaliceUUCongregation.org

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