

August 2021 NEWSLETTER



Volume #22 | Issue #8 | Chalice Unitarian Universalist Congregation

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"Don't judge each day by
the harvest you reap but
by the seeds that you
plant."

- Robert Louis Stevenson.

SUNDAY SERVICES SCHEDULE

Sunday Service at 10 am

Zoom Meeting ID: 832 129 662

<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/832129662>

After-worship COFFEE HOUR

<https://zoom.us/j/118751781?pwd=S0EyQmZLdjJuNnBlV1ZlIWW0yZVFmZz09>

August 1 – Rev. Sharon Wylie

“Celebrating the Harvest”

Online at 10 a.m.

We mark the Pagan holiday of Lammas, the first harvest festival, the festival of grain. Please have a piece of fruit or vegetable with you to eat during the service (cherry tomatoes are especially appropriate!). We will celebrate the bounty together.

August 8 – Rev. Sharon Wylie

“What I Still Know for Sure”

Online at 10 a.m.

In an August 2018 sermon, Rev. Sharon offered her reflections on the truths that keep her grounded and centered. Today we revisit that sermon from three years ago. Have those truths held up?

August 15 – Rev. Sharon Wylie

“Blessing of the Animals”

In-person: 10 a.m. at Felicita Park, Area 4 (\$3 for parking)

Bring a pet (animals on-leash or crated please) for Rev. Sharon to bless. Masks are required for everyone. Childcare and refreshments will not be available.

Memorial Video: Please send photos of beloved deceased pets to Rev. Sharon at swylie@chaliceuucongregation.org before noon on Saturday, August 13.

If you would like your pet blessed but cannot or prefer not to attend in-person worship, please contact Rev. Sharon at swylie@chaliceuucongregation.org for details.

August 22 – Rev. Sharon Wylie

Online at 10 a.m.,

“Reflections from General Assembly”

Join Chalice congregants as they share learning and reflections from this year’s General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations.

August 29 – TBA



Minister's Message

From Rev. Sharon Wylie

In early June, I emailed the congregation (members, friends, and others who attend regularly) to ask about your vaccination status. Of the 230 people I emailed, I got 143 responses, some of whom answered for themselves and people not on my email list (so the numbers don't add up exactly, as you'll see).

Of the 143 responses I got, I learned of 147 full vaccinations, 2 immunocompromised people, and one person unvaccinated. This is a 98% vaccination rate!

If everyone who did not reply to my email is unvaccinated (which is extremely unlikely), then we are still 64% vaccinated. (If you missed that email, I sent it out on June 5 with the subject line "vaccination survey." If you haven't replied, I'd still love to hear from you!)

As a community, Chalice is highly vaccinated. That's the good news.

The bad news is more complicated.

First and foremost, the increasing spread of the highly transmissible delta variant pushes us back into learning mode. There is much we don't know yet.

1) It has just recently been reported that "emerging data suggests" that some vaccinated people can pass the virus to unvaccinated people. This is a critically important issue for being around children and immunocompromised people. This is of paramount importance to us at Chalice as a multigenerational community.

2) The rate of breakthrough illness for vaccinated people is very low, but it may be higher with the delta variant. Time will tell. (Also keep in mind that with 200 million people vaccinated, a "very low" rate of breakthrough illness still means that thousands of people will be ill.)

3) We don't know the risk for vaccinated people to have a breakthrough illness that results in long COVID.

4) Even without delta, we are still learning how long the vaccines work. There is already talk of booster shots for some people.

These unknowns come at a time when public restrictions have mostly disappeared. The only real public health guideline we have had the past six weeks in California is that unvaccinated people have been requested to mask indoors. It appears that this guideline was difficult to follow. Even before the delta variant arrived in San Diego, the rate of coronavirus cases shot back up after June 15, when requirements to mask and distance in public places went away.

Just this morning (July 27), the CDC revised their masking recommendations, and in response, the County of San Diego has issued a statement recommending "the universal wearing of masks by both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals in indoor public settings."



Reverend Sharon
Wylie



Minister's Message, cont.

To be clear about what is happening: if we were still using the State's color-coded "tier" system that went away on June 15, San Diego County would currently be in the most-restrictive purple tier. Just a few days ago, the County reported the highest number of new COVID-19 cases since February 5.

The difference between now and last year at this time is that many of us are vaccinated and are at substantially less risk of illness and death than we were previously. It is very safe for vaccinated people to be together without masks. The people who are getting sick and dying are overwhelmingly unvaccinated. This is especially heartbreaking because now, almost every COVID-19 death is preventable.

What does all this mean for us as a community? If we wait to meet in-person until there is no risk of coronavirus for any of us, then we will never meet in-person again. It has been the hardest truth for me to face that there is no way I can keep all of us safe forever, unless we are to stay locked away in our homes forever, which safety comes at the high price of our mental health.

As it stands right now, for us to gather in-person, each of us needs to do our own personal risk assessment of what we are comfortable doing. We need to create together as many choices as we can so we can be together in multiple ways: not only online and not only in-person. And we need to be in good communication with each other about what we need in order to be and feel as safe as we can.

Our highest priorities as a community are to do what we can to keep our children and our immunocompromised congregants as safe as possible while we offer what communal activities we can.

We will have an in-person worship service in Felicita Park on August 15 in order to bless our animals. Masking is required to support the safety of children and immunocompromised people, our most vulnerable congregants. More details about that worship will be communicated via email.

We continue to work toward being able to worship in-person (and online) sometime in September.

Take care of yourselves, be careful, and keep on keeping on.

Blessings and love to you,
Sharon

To schedule an appointment with Rev. Sharon:

Online: <https://calendly.com/revsharonwylie/>

Text or call: 619.871.9959

Email: swylie@chaliceucongregation.org



President's Column

Do you know what our mission statement is here at Chalice?

Let me see if I can tell you without looking it up. Open doors, open hearts, open minds...and then something about seeking justice to the wider world.

I remember when we, as a congregation, created it. I remember really enjoying the process. Except the long discussion about the colon vs semicolon. Which now I can't place anyway. But I do remember liking the meetings where we talked about what Chalice means and what we want our mission statement to reflect.

So here it is in its entirety.

Open hearts, open minds, open doors, nurturing spirits, seeking justice within the wider world.

On the website there is no colon, nor semicolon. I'm not sure what happened there. Anyway, a lot of times it is the process that matters more than the actual result. It's the journey, not the destination as they say. Although here maybe both matter.

I think our mission statement can give us direction and guidance and be especially important when we feel we may be off track. Are we personally and communally living up to our mission statement?

Our mission statement can provide outside spiritual seekers a nugget of knowledge of who we are at Chalice.

It can be a way for each committee and group to have a focus on what the overall tenor of their work should be.

Does our current mission statement do this? Yes? No? Maybe?

It has been over 10 years since we created our mission statement. Is it time to look at it again as a whole congregation? Perhaps not to change it, but maybe to just go through the journey of thinking why we have it and what it means to us.

Much love,
Anne
anne.mckeirnan@gmail.com



Anne McKeirnan
Board President



News for Newcomers

Welcome to Chalice! We are glad you are here. All are welcome at Chalice, especially in this time of separation and uncertainty. We strive to be a beacon of liberal religion in North Inland San Diego County.

Even during this time of the Covid-19 pandemic, we are vibrant & thriving in many ways. Although we cannot meet in person, we have numerous activities, starting of course with our Sunday Services at 10 AM on Zoom (<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/832129662>).

But there is MUCH more than that. We believe the best way to become more knowledgeable about our congregation & our community is to get involved in one or more of our activities. Here are some that might be of interest you:

Coffee Hour – Join our Coffee Hour immediately following Sunday Service at approximately 11 AM. There you will meet some of our congregants who will warmly welcome you. The initial gathering will be put randomly into “breakout rooms”, usually with 5 to seven people. There you can chat or just observe the banter of people in our community. This is a wonderful way to get acquainted with others.

Zoom Lunch Bunch with Rev. Sharon – meets on Tuesdays from noon to 1 PM. Here you can join Rev. Sharon and normally 5 – 8 other congregants for a wide-ranging discussion that’s different every time. Also, an excellent opportunity to ask Sharon any questions you might have about Chalice.

Chair Yoga and Standard Yoga – Chair yoga meets Tuesdays at 10 AM for one hour, yoga instructor Patty Carlisle takes participants through seated & standing poses. Request Zoom information from Patty at PattyCar@San.RR.com. Standard Yoga via Zoom meets Tuesdays 5:30 – 6:30 PM.

Many other activities can be found on the Chalice Website, chaliceucongregation.org.



Family Ministries

Summer Religious Education Program at Chalice



Why is there a milk carton next to the plant?
The children thought of inventive methods to water the new native plants.



Chris O'Connor
Director of Family
Ministries

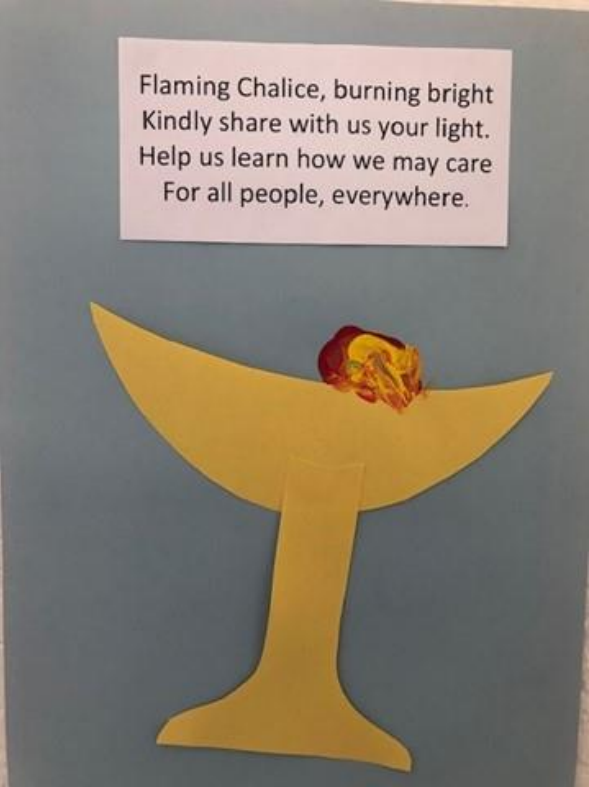


Everyone made Zen Rock Gardens in class





The Chalice library has new books written by Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) authors.



The little ones are learning about the chalice, the symbol of Unitarian Universalism.



A new type of chalice for the chalice lighting at the beginning of each class

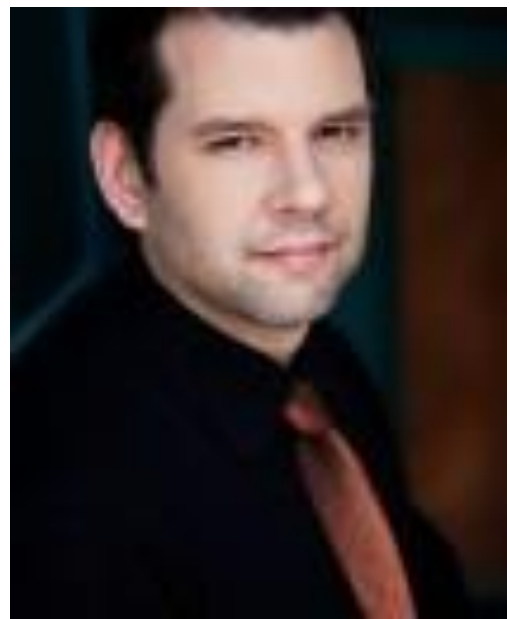


Music Committee

Beginning Music Theory and Ear Training Class a Big Success!

Chalice's Music Director, Tim McKnight, offered a free 8-week online music theory and ear training class during the months of May and June. How did it go? It was a blast! According to Tim:

"I wasn't sure if very many people would want to take the class, so I was thrilled when 25 people signed up! I had a lot of fun putting the material together, and even more fun teaching the class. The Zoom format really worked quite well for this type of course, and it seemed like people were both enjoying themselves and learning something! What more could a teacher ask for?"



Tim McKnight
Music Director

And his students agreed. Here is what a few had to say:

"One of the things I really enjoyed was discovering how systematic some things are, things I didn't learn in my third-grade piano lessons. I loved seeing how a scale is a specific pattern of whole and half steps, regardless of the key, and I was intrigued by the regularity of the patterns of sharps and flats in key signatures. Plus, I saved the rhythm exercises to practice [handchimes] with."

– Bonnie Packert

"As a music major in college over 50 years ago I found Tim's beginning music theory class a great review course. I was reminded of many things I had forgotten from lack of use. It was good to review all the key signatures in major and minor keys, as well as music terms I had forgotten. There were even a couple of music terms I don't remember ever hearing before."

– Susan Sklar

"There was a lot that I knew, but quite a bit that either I'd forgotten or I got by without knowing this or that detail. That was where this course was so very valuable to me."

– Geoff Allinson

"I was a student in Tim's Music Theory class recently and I learned SO much. Even with having some musical knowledge, I couldn't believe how much more there is to learn. Tim is an incredible teacher. Not only is he super knowledgeable and talented musically, he is also such a great instructor as he imparts his knowledge in an understandable, concise and engaging manner. The class moved quickly and I loved the class participation aspect. Tim created a safe learning environment where it was okay to not get the



Coordinating Team cont.

answer right and he helped coach us to the correct response in the questions when that happened. I've told friends and family that I was taking this class and they were so amazed that a church would offer this...and free of charge too. I greatly appreciate Tim and Chalice for making this class available to the congregation. And I look forward to learning more in the future!"

– Julie Benn

Chancel Choir Rehearsals Begin in August – In Person!

The Chalice Chancel Choir will be able to return to in-person rehearsals starting Thursday, August 19 at 6:15p. The rehearsals will take place outside on the patio until September 2, when we expect to move to the Rainbow Room in the Hub. After moving indoors, the choir will return to the regular Thursday rehearsal schedule from 7:30p to 9:30p. For now, all choir participants must be fully vaccinated. As our season begins, the Chancel Choir will not sing live during Sunday services, but will pre-record musical selections on Thursday evenings in advance for Sunday service. If you are interested in singing in the choir, please email music@chaliceucongregation.org for more detailed information. It will be wonderful to make music together again!



Chancel Choir from 2019

Looking Ahead:

Chancel Choir RehearsalsThursday, August 19 @6:15p
Handchime Ensemble RehearsalsTBD - Coming Soon!



The Coordinating Team oversees operations at Chalice. Due to staff changes, there was no report from CT to the Board. There will be a two-month report in September.



Nature's Chalice

Board Report

The Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, July 13, 2021 on Zoom. Advantages of meeting by Zoom were immediately apparent as 2 Board members attended from distant locations. New Board Goals were discussed and voted upon. Board will invite a new Trustee to replace Judy Winn, who is no longer eligible to be on the Board because her wife is now an Executive Staff member. Victoria Cagle volunteered to represent the Board at quarterly Council of Chairs meetings. Discussion of merits of on-line versus in-person Board Meeting were discussed. Board approved Bonnie Packert to be on the newly formed Finance Committee. Discussion of Open Questions for the 2021 to 2022 Chalice year.

Full minutes are available on the Chalice Member Website. Minutes from the July meeting will be posted after approval at the August Board of Trustees meeting.



Green Sanctuary Team

There's something for everyone here. Read on.

Your Chalice Green Sanctuary Team is developing a program we're calling "Solar Ambassadors." The program lines up with UUA's triple approach to climate change:

1. Mitigation

Actions Chalice individuals can take to slow climate change include:

- Sign up for SDG&E's Ecochoice program <https://www.sdge.com/residential/savings-center/solar-power-renewable-energy/ecochoice>
- Understand and support Community Choice Energy <https://theclimatecenter.org/community-choice-101/>
- Explore solar—over 100 California-licensed solar installers are at work in San Diego County. We want to help congregants navigate the options.
- Shape Local, State and Federal policy. This is a hard one for many of us, but your Team will try to find small actions and make them easy to take.

2. Adaptation:

Heat is getting to life-threatening levels; many will suffer. Some will die. Each of us can have clean energy to cool our buildings. The same sun that is baking us can also provide that energy.



3. Environmental Justice:

It's fine for those of us who can afford to invest in solar, and many of us already have, so it's time to lend a hand to those in our wider community who can't. It can be hard to navigate the programs that are available, and we can help.

Anyone can be a solar ambassador! By learning and taking small actions, we make change inevitable. There are many exciting fronts. Click here chaliceuucgreen@gmail.com. We'd love to hear from you. Chalice Green Sanctuary meets the 4th Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m.

From the Green Sanctuary Team: chaliceuucgreen@gmail.com



Group Announcements

Reader's Theater Group

Our gathering this month will be on Monday, August 30th at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. We'll be reading aloud the comedy *Abraham Lincoln's Big, Gay Dance Party* by Aaron Loeb. The plot: A fourth-grade teacher in a small town tells her class that Lincoln was gay. When Honest Abe is "outed" at the Xmas pageant, controversy and chaos engulf the town. A hilarious, poignant and timely look at prejudice past and present. **Please join us (virtually) — newcomers and listeners are always welcome at our gatherings!** Please contact Deb Coon at debjcoon@gmail.com or 858-204-1048 so she can send you an invitation to the Zoom meeting.



Elder's Lunch

The August Elders Lunch will be Friday, August 20 at 12:30 (NOT August 13, our usual meeting date)

If you want to be emailed a reminder with the zoom link the day before, please let Rev. Sharon know at swylie@chaliceuucongregation.org or call her at 619-871-9959

Women's Book Discussion Group

On August 17 at 7 pm the Chalice Women's Book Discussion Group will be discussing "The Hate U Give" by Angie Thomas via Zoom.

Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed. Soon afterward, his death is a national headline. Some are calling him a thug, maybe even a drug dealer and a gangbanger. Protesters are taking to the streets in Khalil's name. Some cops and the local drug lord try to intimidate Starr and her family. What everyone wants to know is: what really went down that night? And the only person alive who can answer that is Starr. But what Starr does—or does not—say could upend her community. It could also endanger her life.

Non-binary and trans women are warmly invited. To join the discussion, email Mary Best at marybest50@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

Chalice Web Site: <https://chaliceuucongregation.org>

Address: 2324 Miller Avenue; Escondido, CA; 92029

Phone: 760.737.0393

PrevUUs is published monthly by Chalice Unitarian Universalist Congregation. The complete newsletter is distributed via email to members and posted on the Members Only section of the website. An edited version (without congregant contact information) is posted on the public section of the website. Paper copies are available per request. Deadline is the 24th of the month.

Submit articles to: Office@chaliceuucongregation.org

With much gratitude to our Editorial Team: Peggy Keifer, Callie Leef, and Andi Stout.



Calendar for August, 2021

Until further notice, Chalice activities and events will be held virtually.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>10A Worship Service "Celebrating the Harvest" 9A RE K-6 11:10A Coffee Hour 4:30 Youth</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10A Chair Yoga 12P Zoom Lunch 5:30P Yoga 7P Exec. Board Meet.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9A Cracker Barrel 2P CT</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10:30A Women's Meditation</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>10A Worship Service "What I Still Know for Sure" 9A RE K-6 11:10A Coffee Hour 4:30 Youth</p>	<p>9</p> <p>1P Poetry Group</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10A Chair Yoga 12P Zoom Lunch 5:30P Yoga 7P. Board Meet.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9A Cracker Barrel 6P Men's Support Group</p>	<p>12</p> <p>10:30A Women's Meditation</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>10A Worship Service "Blessing of the Animals" 9A RE K-6 11:10A Coffee Hour 4:30 Youth</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10A Chair Yoga 12P Zoom Lunch 5:30P Yoga</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9A Cracker Barrel 2P CT</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10:30A Women's Meditation 6:15P Choir</p>	<p>20</p> <p>12:30 Elder's Lunch</p>	<p>21</p> <p>10A Worship Team Meeting</p>
<p>22</p> <p>10A Worship Service "Reflections from General Assembly" 9A RE K-6 11:10A Coffee Hour 4:30 Youth</p>	<p>23</p> <p>6:30P Green Team</p>	<p>24</p> <p>10A Chair Yoga 12P Zoom Lunch 2P Staff Meeting 5:30P Yoga</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9A Cracker Barrel</p>	<p>26</p> <p>10:30A Women's Meditation 6:15P Choir</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>10A Worship Service TBA 9A RE K-6 11:10A Coffee Hour 4:30 Youth</p>	<p>30</p> <p>6:30P Readers Theater</p>	<p>31</p> <p>10A Chair Yoga 12P Zoom Lunch 2P Staff Meeting 5:30P Yoga</p>				

