

September 2021 NEWSLETTER



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

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“As long as the candle
is still burning, it is
still possible to
accomplish and to
mend.”
—Rabbi Yisrael
Salanter

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=S0EyQmZLdjJuNnBlV1ZlWW0yZVFhZz09>

September 5 – Rev. Sharon Wylie

“Honoring Rosh Hashanah”

Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, begins this year at sundown on September 6 and ends at sundown on September 8.

September 12 – Rev. Sharon Wylie

“Honoring Yom Kippur”

Yom Kippur, which begins this year at sundown on September 15th, is considered the holiest day of the Jewish calendar, a time for reflection and asking for forgiveness. We honor this High Holy Day by considering why it is so hard to say, “I’m sorry.”

September 19 – Rev. Sharon Wylie

“Ingathering”

The synergy that creates our church community is mysterious and shaped by ongoing change. Our annual ingathering service reflects on covenant and shared commitment. Wednesday is the Autumnal Equinox.

September 26 – TBA

Today’s service kicks off our 10-part sermon series “Listening to Black Preachers,” featuring Black UU preachers from all over the country. Our preachers were invited to speak on any topic of their choosing.





Minister's Message



One of the things I will always remember about the pandemic is what it is like when what we want to know is still unfolding. Over and over again we've said, "we'll know more soon" and "we'll know more in a month."

Last month I wrote that there was talk of booster shots. One month later, booster shots are happening.

As I write this, multiple bits of news come across my email and social media. We have a vaccinated congregant diagnosed with Covid (aka breakthrough illness). An immunocompromised colleague has just received a booster shot and reports flu-like symptoms and chills. A major airline will charge its unvaccinated employees an extra \$200 a month due to the increased health risk of being unvaccinated.

A group of local doctors have written to our regional public health officer asking for reinstatement of indoor masking requirements, and for a proof-of-vaccination mandate for indoor patrons of bars, restaurants, gyms and entertainment venues.

Chalice staff and lay leaders are working hard to figure out how we can meet in-person as safely as possible. It is the challenge of our times that there is not a simple answer to this puzzle, nor is there just one answer. It is true (and I have said before) that each of you will need to assess your own risk tolerance in deciding what activities you are willing to do in person. And it is also true that many of you are looking to church leaders for guidance in making that assessment. We are all of us worn out, and the more we can help each other make good decisions, the better.

Just a few days ago we received some concrete guidance from the UUA. Their message includes the following recommendations (Note: San Diego County's current risk level is Very High, according to COVID Act Now data):

1. For all indoor gatherings, regardless of size, vaccination status, or area transmission risk: Require good ventilation, well-fitted masks, physical distancing of at least 6 ft, reduced occupancy, no singing, and no food, nor drinks.



Minister's Message, cont.

2. Require well-fitted masks for all large outdoor events, for any outdoor event where unvaccinated children or other vulnerable people are included, and for outdoor gatherings of any size in counties where transmission is Very High or Severe (per the COVID Act Now data).
3. As children below age 12 cannot yet be vaccinated, hold religious education activities and multi-age programs outdoors. If children are indoors, ensure excellent ventilation, masking, physical distancing, and reduced room occupancy.
4. In areas where transmission risk is Very High or Severe, suspend all large, in-person (indoor and outdoor) gatherings such as worship, concerts, or fundraisers.
5. In areas where transmission risk is Low, Medium, or High, small and mid-size gatherings, including limited-attendance worship, may be reasonably safe if indoor precautions for masking, ventilation, physical distancing and high vaccination rates are followed.
6. Create an expectation that vaccinations are required for everyone who is eligible. Work to have the highest vaccination rate possible in your community. We support requiring vaccinations for staff, lay leaders, and anyone spending time with children.

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

Blessings and love to you,
Sharon



President's Column

One of the goals for the Board this year is as follows.
“Support the Outreach team to make Chalice more visible to the outside Community and encourage growth, with a goal of diversifying membership”

Our current membership at Chalice includes 130 members, 9 non-voting members, 5 member emeritus and 39 pledging friends, totaling 183. According to the Chalice Transition/Growth Task Force in 2014 we had at that time 231 members, friends and regulars. (Their report is on the Chalice Wiki site under Governance/Size Transition Task force-it's good reading.)

As you can see, the number of members has dropped over the years. This is in alignment with the nation as a whole. According to a Gallup poll, church, synagogue or mosque membership in the U.S. has dropped from 70% in 1999 to 50% in 2018 and 47% in 2020.

Over the 20 years that I have been a member here and the 8 or so years that I have been involved in leadership, membership has always been a concern. We are always asking ourselves how we can attract more people.

I believe our congregation is on solid footing. We have an experienced and well-loved minister. And I can say the same about the rest of our paid staff. Financially we are doing fine. We have many groups and committees that despite the pandemic continue to thrive. We have continued to donate outside of ourselves. And our online Sunday Services have provided us with solace, spiritual and intellectual growth, and community.

But in order to survive for many years to come, we do need to grow. I have often thought that the best way to grow is to continue to be our awesome selves and people will find us. And I still believe that. However, I also realize no matter how great we are if we are hidden from view our numbers may continue to fall. And being as fantastic as our congregation is, that would be a real shame.

So what do we do? Luckily, we have an active Outreach Team who is focused on this very question. This team consists of Richard Korts, Kate Vereb, Bonnie Packert and Barry Hacker. A big part of our future lies online. It really is the new wave in Church, along with meeting face-to-face. But most of all, whether we are online or face-to-face, the strength of our bonds as a community, our caring for each other and for the world around us is what lies in the heart of our church. We know we have a lot to offer, now we just need to make sure more people know this too. If you have any ideas on growth, please talk to the Outreach team and help them and us by inviting your friends and family to tune in on Sundays or to join the book club or eat out with the Cracker Barrel folks or be active in any of the myriad groups we provide.

With much love for our congregation,

Anne



Anne McKeirnan
Board President



News for Newcomers

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 yet 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>).

Update on Reopening Plans

Chalice is hoping to reopen for hybrid services in September, just a few weeks away. This may be mitigated based on the status of the Delta variant. Our plan is to have services in our Chapel on Sunday mornings in addition to having the services presented in a Zoom format for those who do not feel comfortable meeting in person or for any other reason, such as physical distance.

At present, we are planning 3 cameras in the Chapel feeding the Zoom session. One will be focused on the dais, one on the piano & a third being managed by a person, alternatively providing views of the Choir, the seated congregation, the storyteller, hand chimes ensemble, etc.

It is our intention that at least one of our Sunday morning services will continue to be in hybrid mode indefinitely. Using this approach, persons wishing to view the service will have 3 choices ongoing: (1) in person, (2) via Zoom live at the time of the service or (3) on the Chalice YouTube channel at a later time

For those attending in any mode, all are welcome. We ask all in person attendees to wear a mask while inside the chapel for their own safety and the safety of others. When you attend a service in person, you will be greeted by one of our Chalice Greeter's team who will provide you with an order of service, a mask if you need one & answer any questions you might have. On the Welcome table, there are a wide variety of materials available that describe more about Chalice, including a list of Activities that will show which groups are now meeting via Zoom or in person. This list will be updated regularly to reflect where we are in the re-opening process. After service, our Greeters will be mingling on the courtyard. You can identify them by a blue ribbon attached to their badge with the word "Greeter". They will be able to provide you with any further information you might need & answer any questions. If you do not see a greeter, you can ask any Chalice congregant with a permanent badge. We are all there to help make newcomers welcome. Finally, if you fill out one of our connection cards, you can indicate the kinds of things you want more information on and we will follow up with you via email or phone call.

Welcome to Chalice! We are glad you are here!



Religious Education Program at Chalice

In the cactus garden you will see a small statue of Saint Francis of Assisi, the Catholic friar who lived in Italy from 1181-1226. In the Catholic tradition, Francis is known as the patron saint of animals and the environment. He revered nature as a wonderful gift from God to humans. Saint Francis called all creatures his sisters and brothers. Catholics celebrate his feast day on October 4 and take part in the blessing of the animals. (A patron saint is someone believed to have the ability to intercede with God on behalf of someone's prayers. Having been raised in the Catholic faith, I have always thought of saints as the people who will put in a good word to God for me!)

The Children's Religious Education class painted rocks to memorialize pets that have died, pets that are part of families now and all creatures on Earth. They put the rocks around Saint Francis, who will watch over his sisters and brothers in the garden. After, the children scattered birdseed around the garden as a gift for the birds that live around our Chalice campus.



Chris O'Conner
Director of Family Ministries

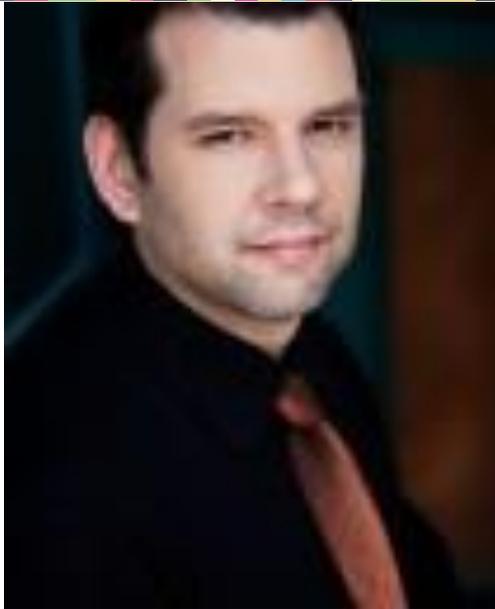




Music Committee

Chancel Choir Rehearsals in Full Swing!

The Chancel Choir has begun rehearsals and is looking forward to bringing special music to our Sunday worship. The choir is scheduled to begin indoor rehearsals at 7:30p in September, but due to the evolving Covid-19 pandemic we may need to continue outdoor rehearsals at 6:30p. Either way, everyone must be vaccinated and wear a mask. The Music Committee is purchasing special singer masks to make it easier to sing while wearing a mask. What a joy to sing together again – even with a mask!



Tim McKnight
Music Director





Music Committee, cont.

Handchime Rehearsals Coming Soon

The Chalice Handchime Ensemble hopes to soon be rehearsing again in person! Rehearsals will be held in the Rainbow Room of the Hub on Thursday evenings. The time must be coordinated with Chancel Choir rehearsals and is currently TBD. Masks will be required. If you are interested in joining the Handchime Ensemble, contact David Peale for more information.



Chalice Handchime Ensemble 2019

Sunday Worship Music – September Highlights

Sep 19: The **Chancel Choir** will present “Down to the River to Pray”, a traditional spiritual arranged by Sheldon Curry. This will be a video presentation.

Looking Ahead:

Chancel Choir Rehearsals	Thursdays @6:30p
Handchime Ensemble Rehearsals (coming soon).....	Thursdays @8:00p
Hymn Sing @ Felicita Park	Sunday, October 17 @10a



Green Sanctuary Team

Goal: BIPOC

- The new goals were lifted up at the July 31st CoC meeting

Goal: Transitioning back to face-to-face gatherings

- The new goals were lifted up at the July 31st CoC meeting
- Continued discussions for reopening for in-person services under COVID conditions
- Continued discussions for allowing small groups to use the Hub
- Purchased and installed HEPA filter for the Hub and Fellowship building
- Talked about COVID safety, and the challenge of our times, at the July 31st CoC meeting
- Revised mask requirements for our campus in light of the Delta Variant of COVID 19.
- CT members have been attending regular meetings of County staff with religious leaders regarding pandemic

Oversight of Chalice programs and committees.

- Continued to clean up the Chalice campus
- Welcomed Callie and Kathleen to the CT and thanks to Callie for taking the lead
- Thanked Deb Coon for her service to the CT
- Received Chalice Lighters grant of \$9000 for safety and security
- Submitted the annual storm water structural BMP maintenance certification to the city of Escondido
- Stucco repair and painting to Chapel and Fellowship Building exteriors are complete
- Reviewed the 4th quarter report of all congregational expenditures
- Finalized the Risk Management Report for submission to the Board
- Hub Wi-Fi has been installed—thanks to Dean Goddette

Board Report

Report for *Tuesday, August 10, 2021* Meeting of the Board of Trustees

- Wendy Metzger appointed as the new member of the Board of Trustees.
- Board heard reports from: Safety Team, Council of Chairs, and Outreach Team.
- Risk Management report was modified while campus was closed due to pandemic
- Ideas for Outreach should be sent to Richard Korts
- Board members discussed an educational video all had watched prior to the meeting.
- Highlights included: shifting focus from gathering to connection and community; updating the website; connections can be made with the idea of “communities within the community”.
- There will be a Board/CT retreat in January.
- Members were encouraged to attend (on-line) the Jubilee III Anti-Racism Training Sept 4-6, 2021. The website was included in Meeting Agenda.



Green Sanctuary Team



We apologize for the lack of diversity in this image. It is a result of systemic issues in our culture that render diversity invisible. Likewise, systemic issues render the disintegration of our climate invisible. We must be conscious to see reality, instead of only what we want to see.

This image represents people who got us into the climate crisis. Only people can get us out! Two years ago this month, some Chalice congregants got

together to work together on Green Sanctuary status. Unbeknown, we were standing on the shoulders of a dedicated group that had already made progress for Chalice. We acknowledge those pioneers. As with worker bees, one can only do so much. Working collectively, the hive drips with honey.

What would it take for you to be involved in Green Sanctuary? We need allies! Allies show support. Use our email address, chaliceuucgreen@gmail.com, to let us know you care about this work. Or email us with ideas or tell us if you want to help. For example, right now, we need people to make phone calls to solar companies to create a profile to share with the congregation. If calling isn't your thing, we need someone to create a spreadsheet for entering the solar installer's data. Short commitments like these come and go.

We also need new Green Team members. A commitment of 3 hours a month is all it takes. The 1st hour is the meeting on the 4th Monday of the month via Zoom from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. The meeting is where we generate ideas and plan follow-through actions. The 2nd hour happens as we carry out those follow-through actions, working individually and collectively. The 3rd hour is for reflection, self-education, and personal action. Besides environmental activists, we'd like other talent on the team. Because if the Code Red of the UN report pushes us into our protective shells, we will not be able to do the work. We need new members interested in designing inspirational activities and worship or in helping in other ways with restorative emotional and spiritual support of the team and the congregation as we move deeper into the climate crisis.

What do you get back? Allies and Team members get the satisfaction of doing something constructive about a challenge we all face. As those of you who attended our July picnic know, we have some fun now and then. New team members could multiply activism and fun.

The Earth is our home, our life support system, and our Mother. We invite you to join in caring for her. September 27 is an open meeting. You are invited to drop in and say hello.



The Social Justice and Service Team

The Social Justice and Service Team needs new blood!

Our three Social Justice and Service Team (SJST) co-chairs – Kathy Zapata, Susan Lewallen, and Chris O'Connor – are ready to move on to different leadership roles in Chalice and elsewhere, and so the SJST seeks some new leaders. Because they have enjoyed the work, Kathy and Susan have served since 2017 and 2018 respectively, and so have remained past the “two-year, overlapping terms with an option to renew once” that is the norm for the SJST, while Chris joined the SJST in 2019 and shortly thereafter was hired to work as Chalice’s Family Ministries coordinator. Volunteer positions require periodic “refreshes” to cultivate new ideas and approaches and to keep an organization vibrant, so please consider whether this low-stress/high-satisfaction team might be a good fit for you.

The Social Justice and Service Team serves as an umbrella organization guiding Chalice congregants in living our mission of “seeking justice in the wider world.” Specifically, the Team is charged with:

- Facilitating the process by which Chalice takes public positions on social justice issues
- Facilitating Chalice’s selection of social justice focus issues
- Coordinating and supporting the Chalice teams working on these focus issues
- Selecting organizations to receive Chalice’s monthly Generosity Offering
- Engaging the congregation in our denomination’s Social Witness Process
- Authoring and maintaining appropriate policies and procedures for social justice programming

A few highlights of the SJST’s exciting work in recent years included coordinating Chalice congregants’ participation in the Women’s Marches and Marches for Science, fundraising and coordinating participation in the Tijuana homebuild with Casas de Luz, coordinating participation in the 2020 Vote Forward letter-writing campaign, and continuing our longstanding commitment to Haven House. The SJST meets quarterly, either in person or virtually, to coordinate this important work, but Chalice congregants take the lead by reaching out to the SJST with ideas and proposals. Co-chair responsibilities include:

- Preparing the annual SJST budget request
- Tracking SJST expenses
- Annually assessing social justice programming
- Shared responsibility for calling Team meetings and creating agendas
- Sending one co-chair to attend the quarterly Council of Chairs meetings
- Acting as the first response to urgent requests for Chalice to take public positions
- Participating in the Board’s periodic assessment of social justice programming

The workload is not particularly heavy, but we need your fresh ideas. Please reach out to Kathy, Susan, or Chris to contribute to “seeking justice in the wider world” by becoming a co-chair of the Social Justice and Service Team.



Transformation Team

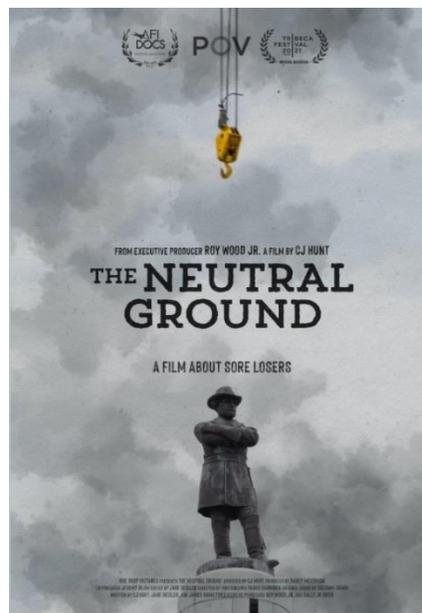


“The Neutral Ground” a PBS Documentary that uncovers Truths about our Racist History.

Why has there been so much controversy about removing statues of Confederate Generals? Where did the statues come from and why were they built? How are they connected to the racist lie known as the “The Lost Cause?” And why does this racist lie still have such a powerful grip on our country especially in the South? The Transformation Team urges all Chalice members and friends to watch the PBS POV Documentary “The Neutral Ground.” It digs deep into uncovering answers to these important questions.

Here’s a link to the Trailer ([link](#))

Here’s a Link to the Documentary ([link](#))



Group Announcements

Ladies Out to Lunch Bunch

The Ladies Out to Lunch Bunch will meet on Friday, September 17 at Chicken Charlie's Table in Rancho Bernardo. The address is 12457 Rancho Bernardo Road, in the Albertson's shopping center at corner of Pomerado Road and Rancho Bernardo Road. We meet at 11:30 AM and we welcome new faces! There is outdoor seating available.

Please RSVP to Carol Simpson by September 15 & indicate if outdoor seating is preferred.

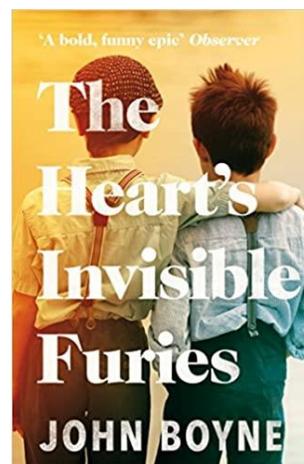


Women's Book Discussion Group

The Chalice Women's Book Discussion Group meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7 pm via Zoom. If you would like to join the discussion, please email Mary Best for the Zoom link. Non-binary and trans women are warmly invited. On September 21st they will discuss *The Heart's Invisible Furies* by John Boyne.

Cyril Avery is not a *real* Avery or at least that's what his adoptive parents tell him. And he never will be. But if he isn't a real Avery, then who is he? Born out of wedlock to a teenage girl cast out from her rural Irish community and adopted by a well-to-do if eccentric Dublin couple via the intervention of a hunchbacked Redemptorist nun, Cyril is adrift in the world, anchored only tenuously by his heartfelt friendship with the infinitely more glamorous and dangerous Julian Woodbead.

At the mercy of fortune and coincidence, he will spend a lifetime coming to know himself and where he came from – and over his three score years and ten, will struggle to discover an identity, a home, a country and much more.



In this, Boyne's most transcendent work to date, we are shown the story of Ireland from the 1940s to today through the eyes of one ordinary man. *The Heart's Invisible Furies* is a novel to make you laugh and cry while reminding us all of the redemptive power of the human spirit.



Readers' Theater



Our September gathering will be held on Monday, September 23rd at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. We'll be reading the drama, *Blues for Mister Charlie*, by James Baldwin. The plot:

In a small Southern town, a white man murders a black man, then throws his body in the weeds. With this act of violence, which is loosely based on the notorious 1955 killing of Emmett Till, James Baldwin launches an unsparing, and at times agonizing probe of the wounds of race. For

where once a white storekeeper could have shot a 'boy' like Richard Henry with impunity, times have changed. And centuries of brutality and fear, patronage and contempt, are about to erupt in a moment of truth as devastating as a shotgun blast. **Please join us (virtually) — newcomers and listeners are always welcome at our gatherings!** Please contact Deb Coon so she can send you an invitation to the Zoom meeting.

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

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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 September, 2021

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9A Cracker Barrel 2P Coord. Team	2 10:30A Women's Meditation 6:30 Choir 7P Exec. Board Meet.	3	4
5 10A Worship Service "Honoring Rosh Hoshana" 11:10A Coffee Hour 4:30P Youth Group	6	7 10A Chair Yoga 12P Zoom Lunch 5:30P Yoga 7P Board Meeting	8 9A Cracker Barrel 6:30P Men's Support Group	9 10:30A Women's Meditation 6:30 Choir	10 Elders Lunch	11
12 10A Worship Service "Honoring Yom Kippur" 11:10A Coffee Hour 4:30P Youth Group	13 1P Poetry Group	14 10A Chair Yoga 12P Zoom Lunch 5:30P Yoga	15 9A Cracker Barrel 2P Coord. Team	16 10:30A Women's Meditation 6:30? Choir 7P Women's Book Discussion	17 11:30A Ladies Out to Lunch	18 10A Worship Team Meeting
19 10A Worship Service "Ingathering" 11:10A Coffee Hour 4:30P Youth Group	20	21 10A Chair Yoga 12P Zoom Lunch 5:30P Yoga	22 9A Cracker Barrel 7:15P Prayer Circle	23 10:30A Women's Meditation 6:30? Choir	24	25
26 10A Worship Service TBA 11:10A Coffee Hour 4:30P Youth Group	27 6:30P Green Team 6:30P Readers Theater	28 10A Chair Yoga 12P Zoom Lunch 2P Staff Meeting 5:30P Yoga	29 9A Cracker Barrel	30 10:30A Women's Meditation 6:30? Choir		

