

May 2023 NEWSLETTER

WELCOME

Volume #24 | Issue #5 | Chalice Unitarian Universalist Congregation

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**The Hawthorne Tree
Birth Tree for May**

**“Mornings in May, echoed
with the call of cuckoos,
sunlight glowed through
fresh green canopies of
trees.” – Meeta Ahluwalia**

SUNDAY SERVICES SCHEDULE

Sunday Service

Zoom Meeting ID: 832 129 662

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

After-worship COFFEE HOUR

Stay in the same Zoom site as Sunday Service

May 7 – Rev. Sharon Wylie

“You’re Not the Only One Who’s Struggling”

Given the pandemic stresses of the past few years, we all have something to learn about how even minor trauma can have an ongoing impact in our lives. This morning we’ll learn more about how trauma lives in and impacts our bodies. May is Mental Health Month.

May 14 – Rev. Sharon Wylie

“It’s Not About the Lattes: And Other Things Millennial Parents Want UU Congregations to Know”

Rev. Sharon Wylie, a member of Generation X, has co-written this morning’s sermon with Rev. Bethany Russell-Lowe, a Millennial.

May 21 – Music Service

“In Praise of Music” Multigenerational Service

Chalice’s cherished tradition of holding music services twice a year (one in the Winter and one in the late Spring) held strong for 15 years, from 2004-2019. Then came three years with no music services! That brings us to May 21, 2023, the day when Chalice will hold our first music service since 2019! We will take the opportunity to praise, laud, exalt and celebrate music itself. Along the way we will explore music’s unique ability to stir the heart, awaken the brain, move the Spirit, and heal the soul. And as always, the music service will feature many of our amazingly talented Chalice musicians!

May 28 – Rev. Sharon Wylie

“Masks, Vaccines, and Religion, Oh My!”

The intersections of religion with health care go back hundreds of years. We will better understand our modern religious landscape by examining these intersections.



Minister's Message

The following are excerpts from Rev. Sharon Wylie's sermon "Community is Hard, But Here's Why It's Worth The Trouble" offered on April 2, 2023. You can watch the full sermon on Chalice's YouTube channel.

One of the hardest aspects of community life is what happens when we disagree. What happens when we disagree with something that has happened, what happens when we disagree with a decision that's been made, what happens when we disagree with each other.

The history of this congregation, Chalice, includes a time that people disagreed with each other so strongly that the church split, and two congregations existed for a period of time, and then those two congregations eventually came back together to form this congregation. Through that process, we learned what happens when we disagree with each other and can't resolve it. And having split, we experienced that neither of the two congregations thrived on their own. We learned that we are better together than we are split apart.

It's easy to take that Big Picture view of things that happened a few decades ago, but it's much harder when you are the someone who is in conflict with someone else.

We arrive in religious community happy to have found a group of like-minded people, happy to make some new friends, to enjoy the Sunday gathering together, relieved to feel less alone in the world.

It takes some time, but eventually it becomes clear that there are some people you like more than others. As you get more engaged with church activities, you will find that there are people here you disagree with about important things. You will find there are situations you can't control. You will find that sometimes there are outcomes you don't want.

Being in community together—any kind of community, not just religious community—being in community together is finding a balance between the needs and wants of the individual and the needs and wants



Rev. Sharon Wylie
Minister



of the collective. None of us here get to have everything just the way we want it to be, not even me, not even the president of the congregation.

I am talking about religious community right now, but I could be talking about the community that is formed between friends or among neighbors. None of us get to have everything our own way....

Because we EXPECT there to be conflict and disagreement in our communities. We are diverse people, often with strong opinions. Our goal is not to avoid conflict, our goal is to stay in relationship with each other to resolve conflict. None of us get to have everything our own way, and how we sort out our feelings about that is actually really important.

This is why we have at Chalice, like many Unitarian Universalist congregations, a Conflict Resolution Policy and a Good Relations Team to work with congregants who want help in addressing conflicts in our community.

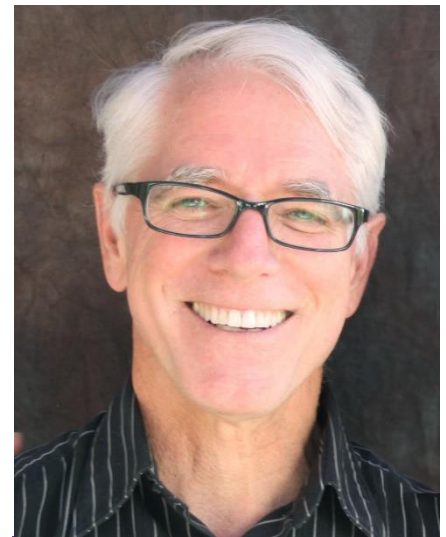
So not only is this a place where you may eventually be in disagreement with someone else, but we encourage and expect you to work with that person to resolve your disagreement. Either that, or you set your disagreement aside, not so you can pretend to be friends with someone you're not friends with, but you need to find a set of agreements that allow you to co-exist in community together.

Blessings and love to you,
Sharon



President's Column

A big thank you to all who made our Pledge Drive a success! Although we did not quite reach our goal of \$340,000, we almost made it with 102 pledgers totaling roughly \$320,000. We had 60 pledgers who raised their pledges, an increase of over \$45,000! This increase helped offset pledge reductions of almost \$18,000. Fourteen pledgers increased their pledges by 100% or more. New and returning pledgers added over \$11,000 to our pledge income. Our congregation has shown great strength in supporting our mission and I am grateful and proud to be a part of it.



Tom Carlstrom
Board President

Due to our successful pledge drive, our minister will remain full-time. However, because of the roughly \$20,000 short fall, the board will still be looking for ways to reduce our expenses (or find additional income) and produce a balanced budget at the congregational meeting in June. There are still lots of tough decisions ahead.

Repairs have been made to the gas, water, and sewer lines damaged during the installation of shade sails on our courtyard and both our buildings are fully functional again. Another big thank you to all involved with making this happen.

The Unitarian Universalist Association (of which we are a member) is holding its annual General Assembly Meeting this June 21 - 25, 2023 online or in-person in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Chalice can send 3-4 delegates to vote on important matters such as the new UUA president and Article II reworking of our principles. If you are interested in being a delegate, please contact Rev. Sharon or me.

Inspire, connect, act.

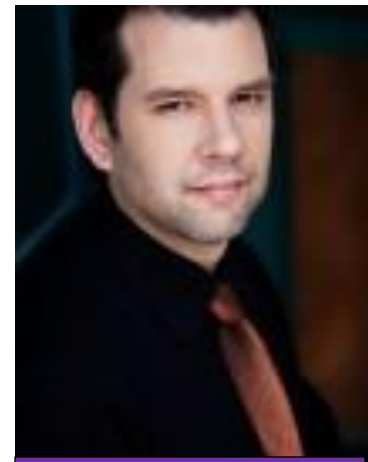
Blessings,
Tom Carlstrom, Board President



Music Program

Spring Music Service on May 21 @ 9am and 11am!

It's our first Music Service in three years! Music Director, Tim McKnight, the Chancel Choir, the Handchime Ensemble, and musical guests are preparing some very special music presentations, all in celebration of the importance of music in our worship and in our lives. We will also take this opportunity to honor Deborah Morton's 20 years of service as accompanist for the Chancel Choir. This will be a multi-generational service, so bring the kiddos!



Tim McKnight
Music Director

Sunday Worship Music – May Highlights

May 7: John Schulz will be our worship musician.

May 14: Tim McKnight will be our worship musician.

May 21: Spring Music Service! The **Chancel Choir** will present 4 selections: “Everything Possible” by Fred Small; “Sound of Silence”, by Paul Simon; “I’d Like to Teach the World to Sing” by Bill Backer, Roquel Davis, Roger Cook, and Roger Greenaway; and “Thank You For the Music”, by Bjorn Ulvaeus and Benny Anderson. The **Handchime Ensemble** will present “Introspection” by Jason W. Krug. **Tim McKnight** will be our worship musician.

May 28: John Schulz will be our worship musician.

Looking Ahead

Spring Music ServiceMay 21 9a & 11a
Auction Event: Chalice’s Nuu Revuu June 24 @ 6:30p – 8:00p
Auction Event: Nightsongs and Lullabies January 20, 2024 @ 7p
Chancel Choir RehearsalsThursdays @ 7:30p in the chapel
Handchime Ensemble Rehearsals Thursdays @ 6:30p in the Hub



Family Ministries

Guest Columnist: Tony Bianca

Tony Bianca is the Director of Lifespan Faith Formation for First UU Church of San Diego

Why Come to Camp?

As you may or may not know, First UU partners with Chalice Congregation each June to host an All-Church Camp at Camp deBeneville Pines. This year, camp will take place from Friday, June 2nd to Sunday, June 4th, and I'd like to encourage you to come.

Now, if I'm being honest, I'm not naturally a camping kind of guy. I like being out in nature all right, but I also like my own bed, my own shower, and strong Wi-Fi. To be clear, at Camp deBeneville, the beds & showers are just fine, and I've never had a problem getting a signal on my phone. But even if those things were horrible, I'd still encourage you to come to camp. Let me tell you why.

Camp is one of the few things we do in the church year where I experience "church" the way we talk about it when we're being our most idealistic. It's truly multigenerational. As I've mentioned before, our campers last year ranged in age from preschool to the 80s. That happens on Sundays, too, but on Sunday, we tend to be divided up into our own spaces. Even at social hour, most folks tend to chat with their usual friends, and that's completely normal. But at camp, the activities are structured to give you the opportunity to mix and mingle more than usual. We sing and eat, make art, hike, play games, worship and just hang out together across generations. And as we do all these things, we build community and connections in ways that there aren't many other opportunities to do so.

Also, there's something magical that happens when we have the opportunity to live with each other in the "in between" moments. There is ample time and space at Camp to have much-needed alone time. But there are also moments when we get to see each other's splendidly mundane humanity. As much as the activities are fun, I also find morning chats over coffee and chance encounters during down time deeply meaningful. These moments before the caffeine kicks in, or when we're up late under the stars too tired to be our fully-curated "church selves" are, in my experience, when I really get to know people as people.

So whether you're a regular at Camp or a complete newbie, I hope to see you on the mountain this June. You can find out more and register at <https://www.firstuusandiego.org/all-church-camp.html>



Kathleen Swift
Director of Family
Ministries



From Paula Gonzales, Emerging Adults Leader

Did you see the Easter Bunny at Chalice? Kathleen asked the Emerging Adults Group to fill eggs one Sunday, and then return on Easter to hide them. Their collective enthusiasm was quite a gift! Hazel Barnard made a costume and had fun playing with the young children. Our Emerging Adult Group meets most Sundays in the Cottage after 2nd service. But, on Easter, they showed up at 9:00 to hide eggs for a traditional hunt. Fun times at Chalice!

If you did not know that Chalice has a young adult group, you are not alone. There are about 14 young adults who have stayed in touch with their Chalice peers and enjoy doing things together, including meeting on Sundays! Natalya keeps in touch by Zooming in to meetings from Wisconsin when she is not working or competing. Ivy, Antonio and Gabe have arranged their work schedules so that they are available on Sundays. They know the value of community and are building it here at Chalice. They meet after the second service so that Emma and Leah can help with Childcare during service.

Special Note – Need Photos of Graduating High School Students:

We are in the process of planning a Bridging Ceremony. This is a traditional UU milestone marking students' graduation from high school. This year will be a big group!! Leah Brown has requested there be a slide show that will make her cry, and we would like to fulfill that wish! If you have any pictures of the students who will be graduating this year, please send them to Paula. The Ceremony will take place on Sunday, June 18th in combination with the Flower Service and Father's Day.



Do You Know... #1

Do You Know...

How to make a Sunday morning announcement at service?

Often a Chalice team or committee wants to let the congregation know about an upcoming event. To make a Sunday end of service announcement one must submit by email the wording of the announcement, along with who will be making the announcement at each service, to worshipannouncements@chaliceuucongregation.org. Please submit this info by the Wednesday before the Sunday of the announcement. The worship associate for that day will contact you confirming the details. If your announcement is a video announcement then submit the video to the same link and the tech team will contact you.

How to reserve a room for a meeting?

If your committee is having a meeting it is important that you reserve your room. This will guarantee you have that space at that time and it will get your meeting on the Chalice calendar so anyone interested in your meeting can find you. Even if your meeting is on Zoom you should follow this process so people can find you there too. Go to the homepage at the Chalice website at <https://chaliceuucongregation.org/>, select the drop down menu under connection, and select calendar. You will then see a room use request form. Fill that out and when you get a confirmation from the office administrator you will be all set.

This is a new monthly column with “how to” questions answered. If you have a question you’d like to see answered send your query to Anne.



Green Sanctuary Team

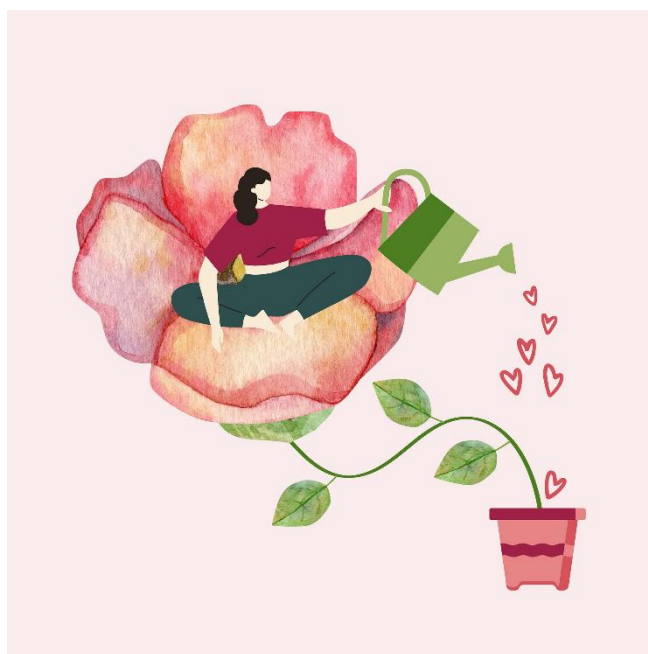
Let's meet up to drum as the Flower Moon rises on **Friday, May 5 from 7 to 8 p.m.** outdoors at Chalice. As an added benefit, it is Cinco de Mayo!

And now for the climate and you. What to do about the nine "atmospheric rivers" that walloped California this winter? Frankly, you've heard most of the things you can do to flip the equation.

Now it's time to take care of yourself. Climate angst triggered by climate disasters along with crippling inertia can trigger both anxiety and depression. To a certain extent it's like traffic, in that it is completely out of our control. Enter **radical acceptance**--the act of fully accepting the situation in the moment and without judgement, without bitterness. Tara Brach writes about this. The calm center of radical acceptance is a place to return to, a place to heal. And when the time is right, a place from which to plan and take meaningful action. It's so important to take care of yourself if you are to take care of the world.

Green Sanctuary is a group of Chalice members and friends who work together to assist Chalice in moving toward a sustainable community of caring.

Chaliceuucgreen@gmail.com



From the Board

Annual Congregational Meeting

On June 11, 2023, Chalice UU Congregation will hold our annual meeting. We will be voting on our annual budget, electing new members to the Board, and perhaps other motions. Details about the meeting will be announced next month but we want to give everyone notice about our bylaws rules for voting eligibility.

Voting members need to be in attendance or arrange for absentee voting material. Our Bylaws state: "A Voting member shall be at least thirteen years of age. Shall have been a member for sixty (60) days, shall be a participant in congregational life, and shall have pledged or given fair share support in the current fiscal year (or obtained a waiver)."

Voting rules are as follows: "All votes at Congregational meetings shall be cast in person, either face to face and/or live online, or by absentee ballot but not by proxy. A Voting Member who is unable to attend a Congregational meeting either face to face and/or live online may obtain an absent ballot by applying in writing, by email, by phone or in person to the Secretary. All absent ballots must be turned in to the Secretary before the meeting begins."

If you have any questions please contact the office administrator at: office@ChaliceUUCongregation.org.



Coordinating Team Report

Goal: To more fully live our UU values in our journey toward wholeness, we commit to explore ways within our congregation to become a greater source of nourishment for Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC). At a minimum we want our white congregants not to marginalize our BIPOC congregants. More purposeful work may focus on encouraging internal congregation dialogue and self-reflection on issues such as structural racism, white supremacy practices and anti-oppression work.

- Nothing new to report at this time

Goal: As we transition back to face-to-face gatherings, our goal is to continue to provide online accessibility of our worship, meetings, events and activities while also embracing the power and comfort of being physically present in community.

- We have removed the mask requirement and the reservation system

Oversight of Chalice programs and committees:

We have prepared for the Council of Chairs meeting

- CT members have been helping with the pledge drive so we cancelled our second meeting in March
- Callie Leef will be staying on for another term, per Board approval
- Susan Spoto will join as a fifth member of the CT, per Board approval

Memorial Wall Task Force:

- Nothing new to report

Shade Sail Courtyard Cover:

- The gas line has been repaired

Powering into the Future Project:

- The permitting process is underway for the solar project



Board Report

This month the board acted on a number of issues:

- The completion of the annual Pledge Campaign was anticipated and plans for a celebration were organized.
- Reviewed the list of candidates from the Nominating Committee

Vice President - Lara Brown

Treasurer – Victoria Cagle

Trustee – Dennis Brown

Trustee – Marianna Benedict-Bacilla

Nominating Committee – Anne McKernan

- The Policy on Flags and Banners to be displayed on our campus was amended. The underlined content was removed.
"A congregant or group must receive Board approval before hanging flags on the flag pole, external gate, or Hub. Board approval can be granted via email as per our current policy and is a simple majority vote. Continuing to hang existing flags shall be approved annually in the August Board meeting. ~~Flags hanging in the Chapel can be approved by the Board and delegated to the Worship Committee as appropriate.~~ If vandalism should occur, the cost will be absorbed first by the team or committee that sponsored the flag request, with additional assistance through a special fundraiser or volunteer congregation member. Hanging and removal shall be the responsibility of the requestor with input from the CT."



Group Announcements

Women's Book Discussion Group

On May 16th at 6:30 pm the Chalice Women's Book Discussion Group will meet via Zoom to discuss *The Cutting Season* by Attica Locke. If you are interested, please contact Mary for the Zoom information. Non-binary and trans women are warmly invited.

The Cutting Season is set in the fictitious Belle Vie plantation, where the magnificent antebellum mansion sits uneasily cheek by jowl with the restored slave quarters. Like its inspiration, Oak Alley, Belle Vie is a combination of museum and venue for parties and conferences. Local African Americans enact the roles of slaves in a sanitised interpretation of the plantation's dark history.

In one of the book's many compelling ironies, in its current iteration Belle Vie is managed by a black woman, Caren Gray. It's her job to make sure everything runs smoothly, from maintenance of the grounds to the historical tableaux staged for the public. It's a job for which Caren is overqualified, but she's a single mother with limited options in a struggling economy.

For Caren, Belle Vie's history is more than just another chapter in the tormented past of the American south. Her own mother worked at the house when it was still the family home of the Clancys. But the past has a longer reach than that – Caren is directly descended from Belle Vie slaves, notably a notorious runaway called Jason.

These days, the plantation's existence is precarious. Income doesn't match outgoings, and the conglomerate whose sugar-cane operation surrounds the now-meager acreage have plenty of cash to tempt the Clancys to walk away from their history and sell up.

But when murder comes to Belle Vie, it appears to have nothing to do with anyone connected to the plantation. When the groundsman discovers a woman in a shallow grave by the property boundary, Caren soon discovers that the brutally murdered victim was a migrant worker on the cane-cutting operation on the other side of the fence. Her determination to make sure the woman's death is taken seriously becomes the engine that propels her into levels of danger she has never imagined.

It's a novel rich in atmosphere, strong in story, but at its heart *The Cutting Season* hinges on human complexity. The tangled rope of some kind of history has a stranglehold on everyone at the heart of this book, and their relationships give it a texture that reminds us why we come to fiction rather than the historical account. There are solutions here but no easy answers for Caren Gray, or for the rest of us.

Irresistibly reminiscent of Faulkner's resigned maxim, "The past is never dead. It's not even past", *The Cutting Season* does what the best crime fiction can do: it illuminates our present in the light of our past and explains us to ourselves. On this evidence, [Attica Locke](#) is more than capable of that. And also of leaving us on the edge of our seats, hearts in our mouths.



Ladies Out to Lunch

The Ladies Out to Lunch group will meet on Friday, May 19 at 11:30 AM. We will be lunching at Chin's Szechwan Restaurant at 15721 Bernardo Heights Pkwy in Rancho Bernardo. Come and join us! Please RSVP to Carol.



Dine Out Group

After 3 years of absence, we are resuming the monthly Dine Out Group. We will meet on the fourth TUESDAY of the month at 6:00 pm. In May, we will meet at The Brigantine on May 23rd at 6:00 pm located at 421 W. Felicita Ave. If you wish to review the menu, search www.brigantine.com.

Please RSVP to Cindy by May 19th so I may make reservations.

Singles and couples all are welcome to participate in good conversation, good food, catching up and getting acquainted. This is an open group that enjoys breaking bread together.



Circle Suppers

Each month members of the Chalice congregation gather to share dinner and conversation. These dinners are called Circle Suppers. The dinners are held on the third Saturday evening of each month and are hosted by one of the members. The host provides the main course, and the other participants provide the remaining part of the meal. This is a wonderful way to get to know other members of the Chalice Community in an informal setting.

If you find that you would be interested in participating, please contact Emily.

Readers' Theater

We meet monthly to sight-read plays for our own education and enjoyment. We draw roles at random so we can read a variety of plays that interest us and rarely fit our exact number and demographics. If you love theater, you're comfortable sight-reading aloud, and willing to step into roles and situations that may be out of your comfort zone, you might want to give us a try! If interested, please contact Deb to get on the group's monthly mailing list.

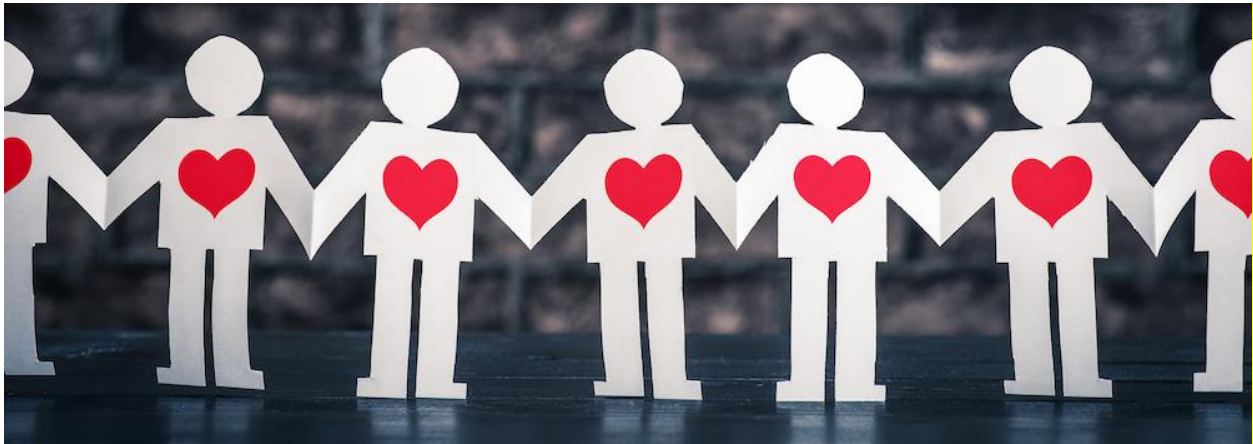


Information

MEMBERSHIP

Official membership is not required for participation in most Chalice activities, but there may come a time when you hear a voice inside saying, “This is my religious home. I want to support it.” If so, it may be time to think about making the commitment of membership.

To learn more about membership, contact Kathleen Swift, our Office Administrator, by email at office@chaliceuucongregation.org.



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 by the 24th of each month to: Office@chaliceuucongregation.org

**With much gratitude to our Editorial Team:
Hope Campbell, Callie Leef, and Andi Stout.**



Calendar for May 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1

2

12P Zoom
Lunch
1P CT
7P Exec.
Board

3

9A Men's
Breakfast

4

10:30A
Women's
Meditation
6:30P Hand
Chimes
7:30P Choir

5

7P Drum
Circle

6

2P Tech
Rehearsal

7

9 & 11 A
Worship
9A K-9 RE
10:10A
Coffee Hour
12 P Teen Group
3 P Freeway Zen

8

1P Poetry
Group

9

12P Zoom
Lunch
7P Board of
Trustees

10

9A Men's
Breakfast
6:30 Men's
Support

11

10:30A
Women's
Meditation
6:30P Hand
Chimes
7:30P Choir

12

12P Elder's
Lunch

13

2P Tech
Rehearsal

14

9 & 11 A
Worship
9A K-9 RE
10:10A
Coffee Hour
12 P Teen Group
3 P Freeway Zen

15

16

12P Zoom
Lunch
1P CT
6:30P
Women's
Book Disc.

17

9A Men's
Breakfast
1P Fiber
Arts

18

10:30A
Women's
Meditation
1P Finance
6:30P Hand
Chimes
7:30P Choir

19

11:30A
Ladies
Lunch

20

10 A
Worship
Team
12P Music
Rehearsal
Circle Supp.

21

9 & 11 A
Worship
9A K-9 RE
10:10A
Coffee Hour
12 P Teen Group
3 P Freeway Zen

22

6:30P Readers
Theater

23

12P Zoom
Lunch
2P Staff
6P Online
Presence
6P Dine Out
6:30P Green
Team

24

9A Men's
Breakfast
7:15P
Prayer
Circle

25

10:30A
Women's
Meditation
6:30P Hand
Chimes
7:30P Choir

26

27

2P Tech
Rehearsal

28

9 & 11 A
Worship
9A K-9 RE
10:10A
Coffee Hour
12 P Teen Group
1P Private Event
3 P Freeway Zen

29

30

12P Zoom
Lunch

31

9A Men's
Breakfast

