

# October 2023 NEWSLETTER

# WELCOME

Volume #24 | Issue #10 | Chalice Unitarian Universalist Congregation

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## The Ivy Plant Birth Tree for October

“Live in each season as it passes:  
breathe the air, drink the drink,  
taste the fruit.” – Henry David  
Thoreau

# SUNDAY SERVICES SCHEDULE

Sunday Service  
9 and 11 AM. Online on Zoom 9 AM  
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

October 1 – Rev. Sharon Wylie  
“Guilt Trips: Is Ethical Travel Possible?”  
The theme of today’s worship service was selected by the winning auction bidder for this item at our March auction.

October 8 – Lay-Led Service  
“On Fear” (Liberation #2)  
This is the second in an 11-part worship series reflecting on the characteristics of white supremacy culture as described by trainer and teacher Dr. Tema Okun on her website [www.whitesupremacyculture.info](http://www.whitesupremacyculture.info).

October 15 – Rev. Sharon Wylie  
“What Happened at General Assembly”  
At this year’s General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) of Congregations, one delegate tearfully described being painfully surprised that we are considering updating our seven principles. Let’s not be surprised by the business of our Association! Come hear all the latest news.

October 22 – Rev. Sharon Wylie  
“Lessons from My Depression”  
After preaching about depression and other mental illnesses for years, Rev. Sharon was diagnosed with depression herself in 2018. This morning she shares reflections from her own experience with mental illness, a common symptom of perimenopause.

October 29 – Rev. Sharon Wylie  
“We Call Our Beloved Dead” Multigenerational Service  
In many faith and cultural traditions, this is the season to remember and honor our ancestors and beloved dead. Today we gather for our annual remembrance service in memory and celebration of those who have gone before us.



# Minister's Message

*The following is an excerpt from Rev. Sharon Wylie's sermon "Imagining Liberation" offered on September 10, 2023. You can watch the full sermon on Chalice's YouTube channel.*

I have three quick notes for us as we begin this year of learning about the characteristics of white supremacy culture.

The first is to please take time to read at least the home page of the divorcing white supremacy culture website ([www.whitesupremacyculture.info](http://www.whitesupremacyculture.info)). Even if you're not going to participate in one of our small groups. Dr. Okun's original article was almost just a list of bullet points, and the revision she published in 2021 is much richer and more complex than the original article. For example, it's not "individualism" that's a characteristic of white supremacy culture, it's the individualism that is "a toxic denial of our essential interdependence and the reality that we are all in this, literally, together."

"Worship of the written word" means honoring ONLY what is written and ONLY what is written to a narrow standard, even when what is written is full of misinformation and lies. An erasure of the wide range of ways we communicate with each other and all living things.

So you hear that these ideas are more complex than can be summarized in a neat phrase. So that's the first note.

The second note: one of the reasons that Dr. Okun chose to revise and update her work is that people were using the characteristics as a weapon, and she does NOT want that. She writes: "Many people are misusing this material; the misuse seems to most often take the form of pulling out a characteristic or using all of them as a kind of checklist to target people, to accuse people of colluding with white supremacy culture, to evaluate or assess people, or to avoid accountability and rigor in the workplace. For example, I've heard stories about people claiming that the characteristic of worship of the written word means they shouldn't have to fill out work reports. This is an absurd



Rev. Sharon Wylie  
Minister

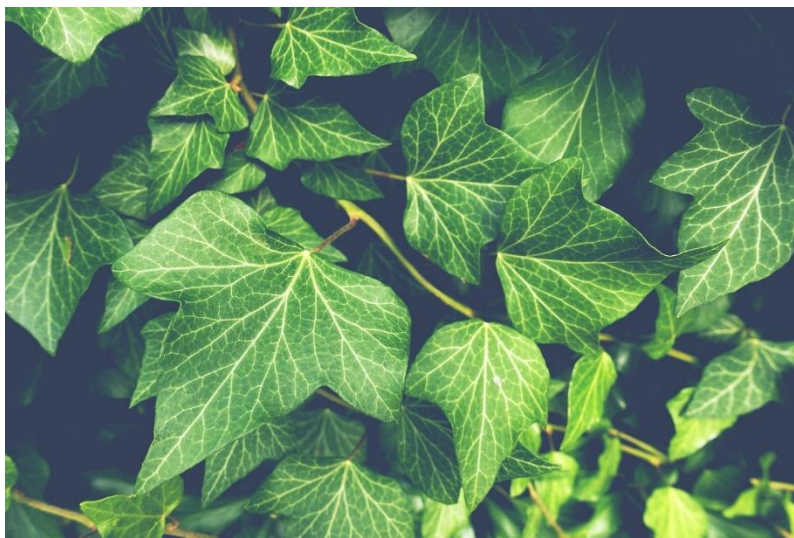


misreading of the characteristic, which essentially asks us to honor knowledge and wisdom that comes to us in multiple ways.”

And the third note is to be mindful of how we hold this liberatory work in relationship with other social justice and liberation movements. Yes, dismantling white supremacy culture is about liberation for all of us. But it is not liberation that is commensurate with the liberation sought by, for example, Black people who fear being killed by the police during a routine traffic stop. There is a difference in degree. We want to also be careful that we don't equate the liberation of white people from the very system that benefits us with the liberation of BIPOC people who are disadvantaged and harmed in almost every possible way by that same system.

So those are the three notes: 1) The material is complex, take some time to read and learn and discuss. 2) The material is complex, don't try to weaponize it. 3) The liberation of white people from white supremacy culture is not on par with the liberation of BIPOC people from white supremacy.

Blessings,  
Sharon





# President's Column

Your Chalice Board of Trustees will be working with you to complete important projects this year. In the spirit of transparency, I'll be using this column to provide more information about our final goal, the creation of a new vision statement. See past letters for information about the Ministerial evaluation and 5-year-plan.

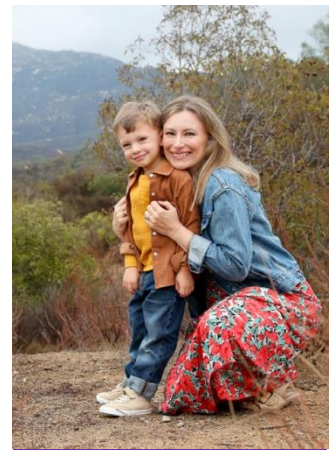
You'll recall that the congregation approved the following new mission statement. I'll repeat it here, even though I *know* you have it memorized!

With love at the center, the mission of this church is to...

INSPIRE individual and communal spiritual growth

CONNECT through worship, music, learning, and caring ministries

ACT in the service of promoting UU principles in ourselves and the wider world



Kate Vereb  
Board President



As the current Board is working on a plan for what Chalice will do in the next 5 years, it's a great time to change our vision statement to what we imagine Chalice will look like in the future.

When I quiet the near-constant activity in my brain, and listen to the deep, residing stillness of my heart, I see Chalice as a place that provides belonging and meaning. This is one of our core needs as people, and something that a lot of us struggle to achieve in a world that equates clicks with our self worth. As UUs, we share the same values, although we may disagree specifically about how to go



about providing belonging and meaning to each other. But I believe that the [community of communities model](#) is the way forward, and it is ok to provide different ways of belonging to different people. I am excited to think of how our congregation can engage together in various ways - whether or not they actually come to “campus” or even attend Sunday services. I love calling Chalice my “campus”, acknowledging its role to me as a place I will go to forever learn.

What does Chalice mean to you? When you stop to listen to the deep residing stillness within, what comes to your heart?

We look forward to hearing from you. Many thanks to Marianna Bacilla, Amber Vlasnik, Tom Carlstrom, Carol Simpson, Sarah Shepard, and Dennis Brown for all their hard work.

In love and service,

Kate

PS Loving the new gorgeous parking lot flag!

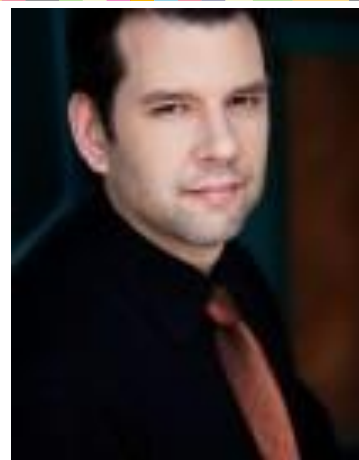




# Music Program

## Winter Party – Saturday, December 2 at 5pm

Save the date for our Winter Party on Saturday, December 2 at 5pm. It will be a joyful evening of food and music celebrating the Winter season. The evening festivities will include the Chancel Choir as well as some of our talented Chalice singers and musicians. And of course we will have sing-along songs! Put it on your calendar now and look for more information as we get closer to December.



Tim McKnight  
Music Director

## Sunday Worship Music – October Highlights

**Oct 1:** John Schulz will be our worship musician.

**Oct 8:** John Schulz will be our worship musician.

**Oct 15:** The Chancel Choir will present “Hope” by Cynthia Gray. **Tim McKnight** will be our worship musician.

**Oct 22:** Tim McKnight will be our worship musician.

**Oct 29:** The Chancel Choir will present “Remember Me” by Kristin Anderson-Lopez and Rober Lopez from the movie “Coco”. **Tim McKnight** will be our worship musician.

## Looking Ahead

Winter Party .....Saturday, December 2 @ 5p  
Auction Event: Nightsongs and Lullabie..... Saturday, January 20, 2024 @ 7p  
Chancel Choir Rehearsals .....Thursdays @ 7:30p in the Chapel  
Handchime Ensemble Rehearsals ..... Thursdays @ 6:30p in the Hub



# Family Ministries

In this column, I am taking a look back to the spring of 2021 when I first returned to serve as your Office Administrator. We have been through some changes! At the time I started, we were still holding services mostly online, although we did have a few in-person services at Felicita Park. As a member of the Coordinating Team, I remember how much importance we put on remaining in community; we believed (and still do) that community is the bedrock of right relationship. Since in-person events seemed a powerful part of community, we planned what we termed a Spirit Booster Gathering in December of 2021. It was a rousing success! We continued to have these and, even though we are now offering a hybrid of in-person and online worship, Spirit Boosters are here to stay. (Thanks to Wendy Metzger for leading this. Please contact her or Rev. Sharon if you would like to help.) If you need to contact me in the role of office administrator, please email: [office@chaliceuucongregation.org](mailto:office@chaliceuucongregation.org).



Kathleen Swift  
Director of Family  
Ministries

When I accepted the position of Director of Family Ministries last fall, while staying on as Office Administrator, I wondered whether I could handle the two very different worlds. I shouldn't have worried. I love the variety! And I love working with our children and youth again. We started new classes for several age groups. I let the congregation know of my goal for having our classroom leaders mostly comprised of people without young children. Did you ever come through! Over 70% of our class leaders are from congregants who are not parents of a young child. I appreciate your support of our families. Please let me know if you are willing to lend an occasional hand in one of the classrooms. You can contact me at [dfm@chaliceuucongregation.org](mailto:dfm@chaliceuucongregation.org).

Warm regards,  
Kathleen Swift  
Director of Family Ministries





## Do You Know...

### How many ways you can make a donation to Chalice?

Donations are always needed at Chalice. The primary way we support Chalice is through our yearly pledge. This is often done in April but it can be done anytime of the year. You can also make a one time donation. The easiest way to donate to Chalice is to go to our website at [chaliceuucongregation.org](http://chaliceuucongregation.org) and select “give” at the very top of the homepage. This takes you to a page that tells you how to donate online, by text, with checks or by cash. It also shows you how to set up automatic bank payments if you’d like to do that. If going online is challenging for you, then you are welcome to send a check to Chalice UU Congregation at 2324 Miller Ave, Escondido, CA 92029.

Lastly you can support Chalice and have a blast by attending the Chalice Auction which is coming up on October 7th, 2023.

Also—in the May Newsletter:

- How to make a Sunday service announcement
- How to reserve a room for a meeting

See May newsletter [\[May 2023\]](#)

In the June Newsletter

- What the coordinating team (CT) does and who is on it?
- How to join the choir

See June newsletter [\[June 2023\]](#)

In the July Newsletter

- About the Chalice Community Bulletin Board
- See July newsletter: [\[July 2023\]](#)

In the August Newsletter

- Greeters needed-update: contact Kathy Zapata at [kathy@o2a.com](mailto:kathy@o2a.com)
- See August newsletter [\[August 2023\]](#)



# Green Sanctuary Team

Reminder: Mark your calendar. Our October Full Moon Drum is Friday, October 27th from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m on the Chalice patio. All are welcome.

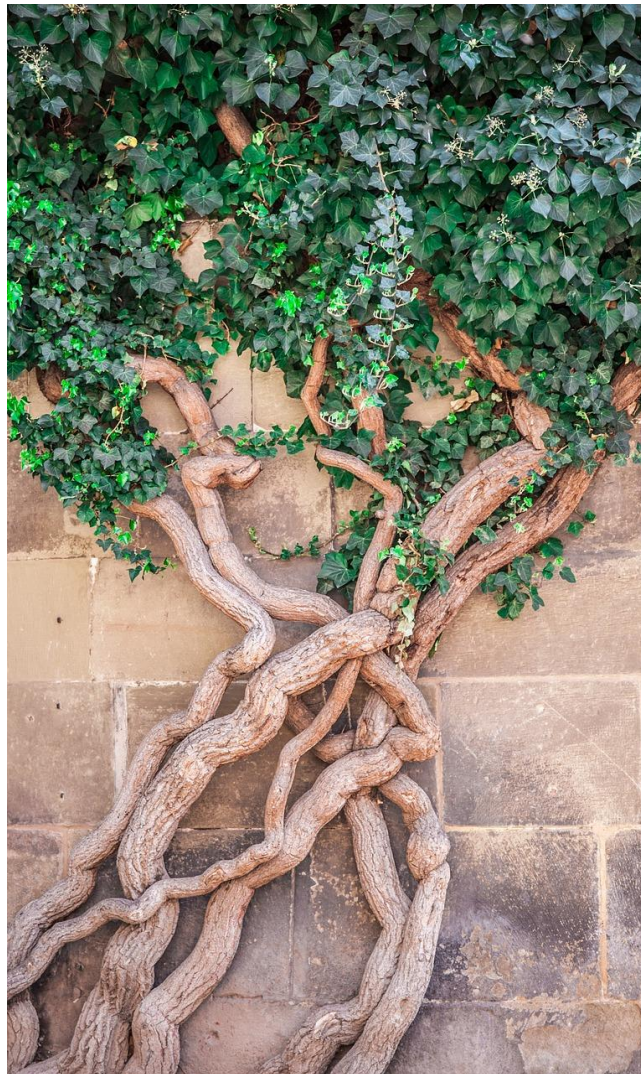


Where'd all our money go? The failure of the public sector to solve climate change is obvious. What's not so obvious is the role of the private sector in that failure. Not, that is, unless we dissect the current debt "crisis," as nothing more than a failure to fund the government though fair taxation. Meanwhile a deceitful shell game plays out. For decades, wealth has funneled into an ever-smaller group of individuals who create foundations that give back sizeable amounts of it. You know names if you watch Public Broadcasting System programming, which ironically is only 39% publicly funded. Granting back ill-gotten gains (think zero tax liability, polluting practices, ridiculously low wages) has



heavy strings attached. There's even a term for it, blue washing. Do good with one hand while protecting the status quo with the other. Have you experienced the echo chamber that loops through some basic tenets? DON'T call people or individual corporations out. WORK only for win-win solutions (lest a Winner lose some wealth). THE BEST way to do good is to do well. PROGRESSIVE tax systems steal from wealth creators. Time after time no matter how many summits are convened, TED talks given, or billions of dollars contributed the win-lose economy grows. This is ruinous for social justice and the environment. It's a bad idea to trust the private sector to solve massive public problems. A democratic republic holds the public good in highest regard. Read the UUA's well-developed stance and action items here:

<https://www.uua.org/action/statements/escalating-income-inequality>







### MAMMA MIA! (Here We Go Again)

The Chalice Auction is now open for bidding! The online auction will run until 5pm Sunday, Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>. A special one-night Live Auction will be held Saturday, Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>.

Most dinners will only be available only during the live auction Saturday, Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>, Live auction items are in the catalog at the auction website. You will see \*\*\*LIVE AUCTION ONLY\*\*\* in the description for those items. All other items are available for bidding online only.

You are encouraged to wear a costume to the live auction. Your costume can be Mamma Mia themed or any Halloween theme of your choice. There will be a costume contest with fabulous prizes.

If you plan to participate via Zoom you will need to make your own bidding paddle with your bidding number on it before the live auction starts. You can find your bidding number at the bottom of the page when you are signed into the auction website at [charityauction.bid/chaliceUU](https://charityauction.bid/chaliceUU)

Those attending the live auction in person can arrive anytime after 4:30 pm. Please bring finger foods to share. You can also bring any online auction items you wish to show off and put them in the Rainbow Room for the evening. At 5 pm, there will be food, drink and socializing in the Courtyard, and online auction items will be available to view in the



Rainbow Room. At 5:45 pm there will be a bidding practice session for Zoom attendees and at 6:00 pm the Live Auction and Shenanigans begin.

Would you (and a friend) like to go to a fabulous Chalice Auction Dinner Party for just \$20.00? Don't forget to purchase your Dinner for Two Opportunity Drawing ticket, available now at the auction website. You'll need to let the auction team know before the start of the live auction which dinner you would like to attend if you're the lucky winner. You do not need to attend the live auction to win. There are amazing dinners to check out on the website now.

Our goal is \$30,000, so bid often and bid high to support this wonderful community.

If you have any questions, we're here to help! Contact the auction team at [chaliceauction@gmail.com](mailto:chaliceauction@gmail.com) or call Judy.



## "Carrying Grief Group"

Carrying Grief is a small group specifically for those who are moving through a major loss in their life. The group meets to share stories and experiences, to learn about the grief process, and to talk about what it means to live with grief and loss. The group will meet online (using zoom) and in-person (in Chalice's Blue Room) for six sessions from 4-5:30 pm on the following Tuesdays: 10/10, 10/31, 11/14, 11/28, 12/12 and 12/26.

This group is co-facilitated by Rev. Sharon Wylie and Chalice congregant Julie Mack. To register, please email Rev. Sharon to let her know of your interest.





# Haven House

Judy Cavallo and Steve Schlesinger thank Haven House volunteers for dinner on September 16. Thanks to Sue Lewellan, Paul Courtright, Nancy Hacker, Jessica and Ivy Mellor and Vincent Orona for cooking and serving. Also thanks to Lara Brown, Alice Dodd and Joanna George for providing food.



# Coordinating Team Report

**Goal:** As a congregation, we commit to supporting families, in all their incarnations, with emphasis on families with children and youth in RE and on intergenerational relationships by creating, maintaining, and strengthening appropriate programs.

- We are excited for our Sept. 17 Sunday. Congregants are receiving phone calls encouraging them to attend. We'll have a bounce house, cake, and a conversation / icebreaker game.

**Goal:** Facing challenging financial times after the building of the Hub followed by the pandemic, it is necessary that all Chalice congregants deeply understand and participate in creating a sustainable and generous financial environment.

- Our now-in-the-fall auction will be held the week of October 1-8. Our live auction event will be October 7. The theme is Mamma Mia—Here We Go Again!
- Pledge drive task force will be meeting in October.

**Goal:** Our commitment is to support our anti-racist work and the building of a beloved multicultural community. We will use existing and additional resources to encourage the reconciliation and expansion of involvement among all groups and congregants.

- Our Spirit Study leader group is continuing their work. A congregational workshop was held on Aug. 13th. A workshop on the characteristics and antidotes of “fear” will be held on September 10.

**Oversight of Chalice programs and committees:**

- We purchased 15 new chairs for the courtyard.
- We are investigating our water meter locations, usage, and billing.
- We are looking into replacing the lights on the campus exterior wall.



### Memorial Wall Task Force:

- No update.

### Powering into the Future (Spirit Level grants):

- We have added multiplatform capabilities to the Green Room.
- Cabinets have been added to the back of the chapel.
- New speakers for the patio have significantly improved the sound quality outside.
- Portable PA system is complete including outside streaming capability.
- Working on Zoom capability for Rainbow room.

## Board Report

- Several Task Force committees within the Board are active.
- The **Bylaw Committee** is working to make the bylaws more readable as well as reflecting the present way in which the congregation operates. This committee would welcome any thoughts or information that congregation members wish to have considered. The lead person is Tom Carlstrom.
- The **Congregational Vision Committee** is developing a **Five-Year Plan** to help guide the direction that our congregation will follow. The lead person is Dennis Brown.
- And the **Pledge Drive Committee** is starting to develop plans for our next pledge drive. The lead person is Kate Vereb.





# Group Announcements

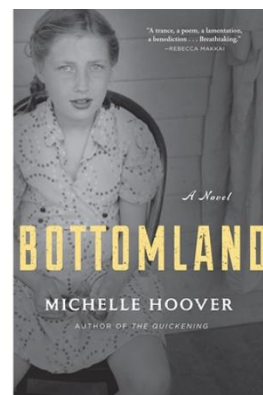
## Women's Book Discussion Group

On October 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm the Chalice Women's Book Discussion Group will meet in the Hub or via Zoom to discuss *Bottomland* by Michelle Hoover. If you are interested, please contact Mary for the Zoom information. Non-binary and trans women are warmly invited.

### From Kirkus Reviews

The voices emerging from a brooding farmhouse in early-20th-century Iowa reveal its residents' secrets and desires—some expected, some less so.

Through the faceted first-person accounts of four siblings and their father, Hoover (*The Quickening*, 2010, etc.) delivers a lyrical, at times mysterious, and dreamy tale of family ties. Its focus is several generations of the Hess clan, headed by Jon Julius, who emigrated from Germany to the United States in 1892, staking 150 acres of Midwestern bottomland as a homestead for his wife and the six children they would have.



Some 20 years later, the Hess family may seem rooted, but the demands of survival on the land are relentless, and their isolation is intensified by a dispute with neighbors, a crippling accident, and the anti-German sentiment arising from World War I. Yet Hoover's tale is about more than the Hess' hardscrabble rural existence, moving as it does from wide open fields to the grime and toil of urban factories and overseas to the blasted wastes of Europe, all the while exploring the psychologies and complicated, sometimes unreliable, and unexpected bonds among the siblings.

When two of the sisters, Esther and Myrle, disappear from the farmhouse one night, the notion of home is cracked wide open, never to be restored. Lee, the son who went to war and returned traumatized, sets off for Chicago to search for the girls but eventually returns without them. Esther's and then Myrle's accounts follow, overlapping yet divergent, while Hoover plays a sly hand of revelation, leaving the truth about how and why the girls escaped to emerge late and plangently.

Deftly imagined and written, Hoover's second novel offers an intriguing, modern take on a classic American landscape.



## Dine Out Group

We meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month. In October, the Dine Out Group will meet at Yanni's Bar and Grill at 6:00 pm on October 24th located at 12015 Scripps Highland Dr, San Diego 92131. To review the menu search [yannisbarandgrill.com](http://yannisbarandgrill.com).

Please RSVP to Cindy.

Singles and couples are welcome for conversation, catching up, and getting acquainted. This is an open group that enjoys breaking bread together.



## Circle Suppers

Circle Suppers is a continuing program open to all Chalice people. The group meets on the third Saturday of each month for dinner and conversation. The food is prepared by each participant guided by the host. If you wish to participate please contact Emily.

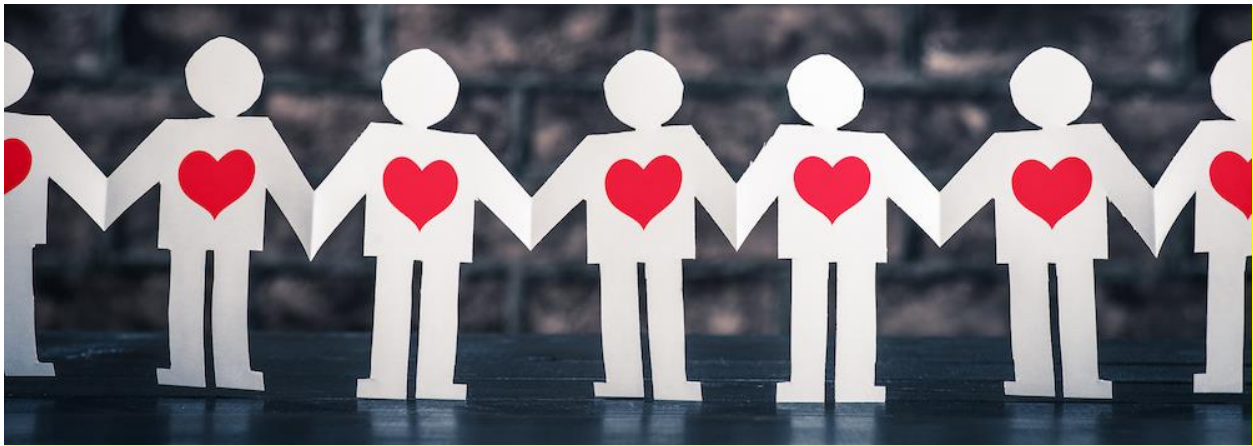


# Information

## 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](mailto: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 24<sup>th</sup> of the month.

**Submit articles by the 24<sup>th</sup> of each month to:** [Office@chaliceuucongregation.org](mailto:Office@chaliceuucongregation.org)

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





# Calendar for October 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

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

2

3  
12P Zoom  
Lunch  
7P Exec.  
Board

4  
8A Private  
Event  
9A Men's  
Breakfast  
1P CT

5  
10:30A  
Women's  
Meditation  
5:30 BIPOC  
Cohort  
6:30P Hand  
Chimes  
7:30P Choir

6

7  
8A Private  
Event  
5P Live  
Auction

8  
9 & 11 A  
Worship  
9A K-9 RE  
10:10A  
Coffee Hour  
12 P Teen Group  
3 P Freeway Zen

9

10  
12P Zoom  
Lunch  
4P Carrying  
Grief Group  
7P Board of  
Trustees

11  
8A Private  
Event  
9A Men's  
Breakfast  
6:30 Men's  
Support

12  
10:30A  
Women's  
Meditation  
6:30P Hand  
Chimes  
7:30P Choir

13  
12P Elder's  
Lunch

14  
8A Private  
Event  
10A Council  
of Chairs

15  
9 & 11 A  
Worship  
9A K-9 RE  
10:10A  
Coffee Hour  
12 P Teen Group  
3 P Freeway Zen

16

17  
12P Zoom  
Lunch  
1P CT  
6:30P  
Women's  
Book Club

18  
8A Private  
Event  
9A Men's  
Breakfast  
1P Fiber  
Arts  
6P Finance  
7P  
Humanist  
Discussion

19  
10:30A  
Women's  
Meditation  
6:30P Hand  
Chimes  
7:30P Choir

20  
11:30A  
Ladies  
Lunch

21  
8A Private  
Event  
10 A  
Worship  
5P Haven  
House  
6P Circle  
Suppers

22  
9 & 11 A  
Worship  
9A K-9 RE  
10:10A  
Coffee Hour  
12 P Teen Group  
3 P Freeway Zen

23  
6:30P Readers  
Theater

24  
12P Zoom  
Lunch  
6P Dine Out  
Group  
6P Online  
Presence  
Group

25  
8A Private  
Event  
9A Men's  
Breakfast  
7P Prayer  
Group

26  
10:30A  
Women's  
Meditation  
6:30P Hand  
Chimes  
7:30P Choir

27  
7:30P Drum  
Circle

28  
8A Private  
Event

29  
10 A Worship  
10A K-9 RE  
11:10A  
Coffee Hour  
12 P Teen Group  
3 P Freeway Zen

30

31  
12P Zoom  
Lunch  
4P Carrying  
Grief Group

