

WELCOME

December 2023
NEWSLETTER

Volume #24 | Issue #12 | Chalice Unitarian Universalist Congregation

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The Elder Tree Birth Tree for December

What are you doing for
others? – Dr. Martin Luther
King, Jr.

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

December 3 – Lay-Led Service “Quantity Over Quality” (Liberation #4) This is the fourth 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. The choir will sing. This is the first Sunday of Advent.

December 10 – Rev. Sharon Wylie
“Five Norms to Revive”

Time marches on, but sometimes progress leaves behinds norms and traditions that might still be useful. Rev. Sharon has some suggestions for norms we could consider reviving. This is the second Sunday of Advent.

December 17 – Rev. Sharon Wylie
“Darkness Divine”

The Wheel of the Year turns to winter this coming Thursday. Our Sunday service reflects on the beauty and meaning to be found in this time of darkness. This is the third Sunday of Advent.

December 24 at 10 a.m.– Rev. Sharon Wylie
“The Best Christmas Pageant Ever” All-Church Service

Inspired by Barbara Robinson’s classic children’s novel, we release any need we might have for a “perfect” Christmas pageant and settle, instead, for the BEST Christmas pageant! Come hear the Christmas story with fresh ears and an open heart, and be prepared to participate in our very own spontaneous pageant. This is the final Sunday of Advent.

December 24 at 5:30 p.m. – Rev. Sharon Wylie
“It’s A Wonderful Life”

We gather at a time of longest night to honor one of the most significant holy days in the Christian tradition. Our service includes a play, traditional Christmas hymns, and communal candle lighting. Childcare is not available for this service.

- 5:30 pm Caroling on the Courtyard
- 6 pm Service in the Chapel begins

December 31 – Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt via video
“Seeds for the New Year”

What seeds are you planting for the new year? How are you weaving your magic into your relationships with others? How can we center beauty and goodness and love in all that's ahead? These questions are at the heart of this service offered by the Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt, President of the Unitarian Universalist Association, via video.



Minister's Message

The following is Rev. Sharon Wylie's homily for the "Chalice Soup and Founders Say" service on November 19, 2023. You can watch the full service on Chalice's YouTube channel.

Earlier this year, in the spring, the surgeon general declared that there's an epidemic of loneliness, a public health crisis. Just this week, the World Health Organization announced the formation of a commission on social connection. We know that isolation and disconnection has big impacts on our health and well-being. And all of this was coming even before the pandemic, and the pandemic did not help at all.

Community, friendship, connection...these aren't just luxuries, niceties if you happen to have them. These are necessities, things we need for healthy living.

Anthropologist Margaret Mead is said to have said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

The story we just heard is a story about what can happen when people come together. Chalice is a story of what can happen when people come together. Every day at Chalice is a story of what can happen when people come together. Sometimes it's a finance committee meeting or board meeting. This morning we're making soup together and waiting to see what happens with the weather....we have folks in the kitchen already making soup with ingredients we brought, so many that they can't use them all, and there's also bread and there's also cake and more food than we're going to be able to eat this morning.

So, I think that we're the lucky ones. Being at Chalice doesn't guarantee that you feel connected and like you have friends; we know we have congregants who are struggling. But we do have each other, and that's a great start.

Blessings,
Sharon



Rev. Sharon Wylie
Minister



President's Column



Kate Vereb
Board President

Have a wonderful December from Kate and Ryder!



Music Program

In-CHOIR-ing Minds Want to Know!

On December 3rd, the Chancel Choir will be singing “These Bells Will Ring,” written by Chloe Grace Baker and originally recorded by Bitter’s Kiss and Blue Stone. The song is quite simple, but through that simplicity emerges a powerful message:

“These bells will ring when peace is come.

And peace will come when the world is one.”

No message seems more important right now. The song goes on to say:

“This Christmas day, reach out your hand
to those who struggle to stand.

Save your prayers, and join the call.

Let freedom’s voice be heard by all.”

Bells have a deep historical connection to war and peace. During times of war, bells were taken down from bell towers all over the world to be melted down into cannons. During World War II, church bells all over Europe were silenced, so that they could be reserved for the sole purpose of announcing an imminent invasion. The common theme here seems to be that during times of war, we hear no bells ringing. But in times of peace, the bells resound with joy and celebration.

The choir will also be performing at the 6pm service on Christmas Eve. We will be singing “Song for a Winter’s Night,” written by Gordon Lightfoot in the 1960’s. Interestingly, it was a hot summer night when Lightfoot penned this song. He was performing on tour in Cleveland, and was missing his wife, Brita Ingegerd Olaisson, as evidenced by these lyrics:

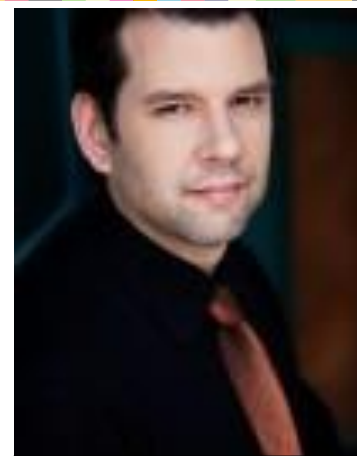
“If I could only have you near

To breathe a sigh or two

I would be happy just to hold the hands I love

On this winter night with you.”

What inspired me to choose this song for the choir to sing on Christmas Eve was the realization that so many people this holiday season will be without people they love. Around the world, the ravages of war are tearing families apart. During a time when we cherish our family and friends, many people around the world will be deeply longing just to hear the voice of their loved one, or to hold their hand for a moment, or just to know that they are alive and safe.



Tim McKnight
Music Director



December's Hymn of the Month

The Hymn of the Month for December will be #1055 in the teal hymnal, "How Sweet the Darkness."

In other Decembers we might have been more likely to pick a "holiday-themed" hymn for the Hymn of the Month. But instead, we were drawn to this haunting yet beautiful hymn because it honors the darkness of winter, but even more importantly it speaks of peace in the third and final verse:

"And when the sky is swept of wars
and keeps but gentle moon and stars,
That peaceful sky, that harmless air,
how sweet, how sweet, the darkness there."

These words were written by English poet Rachel Bates, and the music was written by Unitarian Universalist composer Jason Shelton.

Sunday Worship Music – December Highlights

Dec 3: The **Chancel Choir** will present "These Bells Will Ring" by Chloe Grace Baker, arranged by Keith Sinclair. **Tim McKnight** will be our worship musician.

Dec 10: **John Schulz** will be our worship musician.

Dec 17: **John Schulz** will be our worship musician.

Dec 24, 10am: **Tim McKnight** will be our worship musician.

Dec 24, 5:30 pm : Our celebration will begin with caroling on the courtyard followed by the service at 6p. The **Chancel Choir** will present "Song For a Winter's Night" by Gordon Lightfoot, arranged by Michael Hanawalt and Justine Sasanfar. The **Handchime Ensemble** will present "I Wonder As I Wander", an Appalachian folk tune arranged by Cathy Moklebus, and "Silent Night" by Franz Gruber and arranged by Jason W. Krug. **Tim McKnight** will be our worship musician.

Dec 31: **Tim McKnight** will be our worship musician.

Looking Ahead

Winter PartySaturday, December 2 @ 5p
Christmas Eve Evening ServiceSunday, December 24 @ 5:30p
Auction Event: Nightsongs and Lullabies Saturday, January 20, 2024 @ 7p
Chancel Choir RehearsalsThursdays @ 7:30p in the Chapel
Handchime Ensemble Rehearsals Thursdays @ 6:30p in the Hub



Family Ministries

The Chalice Emerging Adults (EAs) consisting of Emma, Ivy, Justin, Gabe, and Antonio decorated the Chapel with lovely greenery. They were assisted by Paula Gonzales, Vince Gonzales, Kate Vereb, Wendy Metzger, Doug Key, and Lara Brown. Thanks to all their effort the Chapel will look beautiful throughout the holiday season!



Kathleen Swift
Director of Family
Ministries



At a recent RE session, we all gathered as a group and enjoyed a holiday craft, followed by a Friendsgiving breakfast celebration. We knew it was successful because there was only one pancake left!



Green Sanctuary Team



Looking for an offbeat gift that is **GREEN**? Pela has been keeping plastic out of the ocean since 2008. Check out their stylish sunglasses. You can also find out what model cell phone the giftee has and order them a compostable case. While you're browsing websites for that perfect gift, try this one:

<https://pelacase.com>

There is no full moon drum in December. Instead, join the Chalice community for a Winter Solstice celebration. Details in Enuus.



Upcoming Memorial Service



RICHARD KORTS

Saturday, December 2 at 11 a.m.
in the Chalice chapel
and livestream on Zoom (same link
that we use on Sunday mornings)

Zoom Meeting ID: 832 129 662



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.

- The monthly “parents lounge” gathering begins November 5.
- The first quarterly Parents Night Out event at Chalice will be Saturday, November 18.

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 auction went very well!
- Pledge drive task force has begun meeting.

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 groups are meeting for study and reflection. Our second lay-led Spirit Study service (“One Right Way”) will be held on November 5.

Oversight of Chalice programs and committees:

- Monitoring reports have been compiled and are submitted to the Board this month.
- We have launched our online Hive Mind Idea Board for congregants to share ideas and offer support for making things happen.
- As was reported to the congregation via email on October 13, CT made the difficult and unsatisfying decision to take down our Black Lives Matter flag. We hope this is a temporary measure, but it is unclear how CT, the congregation, or the Board would decide together that we support returning it to our



flagpole. (From Sharon: I received multiple notes and comments from congregants acknowledging that the situation was difficult, and agreeing with CT's decision to take the flag down. We have now heard from one person who disagrees with the decision.)

Memorial Wall Task Force:

- No update.

Powering into the Future (Spirit Level grants):

- An update on our solar panels project (from the contractor): “The plans are in the permitting process, we just received some minor corrections so I am hopeful we have permit issuance soon. Depending on permit issuance and weather through the end of the year we may be able to install before end of the year.”

Board Report

The Board Report will return in 2024



Group Announcements

Women's Book Discussion Group

On December 19th at 6:30 p.m the Chalice Women's Book Discussion Group will meet in the Hub or via Zoom to Discuss "Jane & the Twelve Days of Xmas" by Michelle Hoover. If you are interested please contact Mary for the Zoom info. Non-binary and trans women are warmly invited.

Jane Austen turns sleuth in this delightful murder mystery set over the 12 days of a Regency-Era Xmas party. Jane Austen has been invited to spend the holiday with family and friends at The Vyne, the gorgeous ancestral home of a wealthy and politically prominent family. When one of the guests is murdered, Jane must solve the murder.

Dine Out Group

Dine Out will not be meeting in December but will resume in January.
HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU ALL!

Ladies Out to Lunch

The Ladies Out to Lunch group will not be meeting in December.

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.

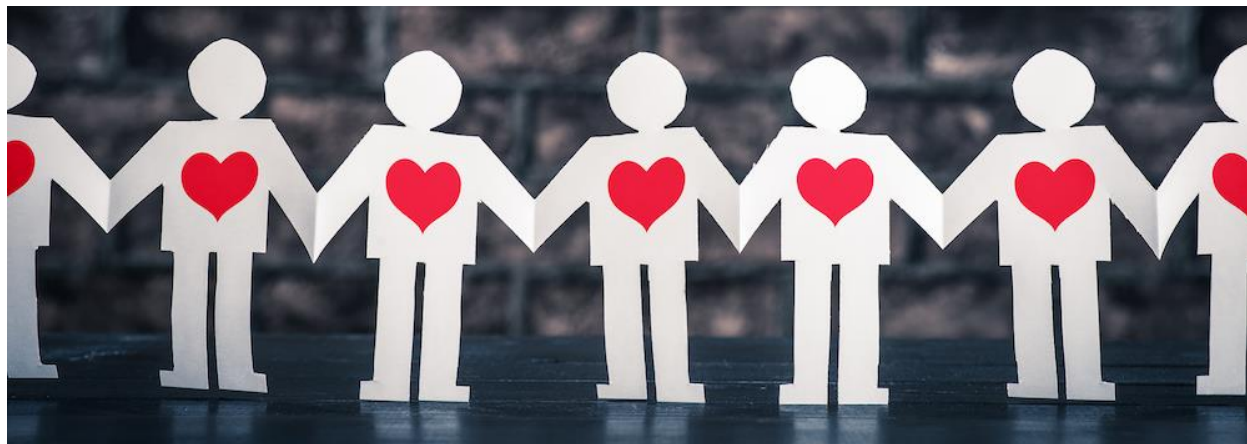


Information

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@chaliceucongregation.org.



Chalice Web Site: <https://chaliceucongregation.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@chaliceucongregation.org

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



Calendar for December 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1

2

8A Private Event
11A Richard Memorial
5P Winter Party

3

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

4

5

12P Zoom Lunch
7P Exec. Board

6

8A Private Event
9A Men's Breakfast

7

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

8

12P Elder's Lunch

9

8A Private Event

10

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

11

12

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

13

8A Private Event
9A Men's Breakfast
1P CT
6:30 Men's Support

14

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

15

16

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

17

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

18

19

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

20

8A Private Event
9A Men's Breakfast
1P Fiber
6P Finance
7P Human. Discussion

21

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

22

23

8A Private Event

24

10 A & 5:30 P
Worship
11:10A: Coffee
12P Teen Group
3P Freeway Zen

25

6:30P Readers Theater

26

12P Zoom Lunch
4P Grief
7P Online Presence

27

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

28

10:30A Women's Meditation

29

30

8A Private Event

31

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

