



# January 2024 NEWSLETTER

# Welcome!

Volume #25 | Issue #1 | Chalice Unitarian Universalist Congregation

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## Garnet Birthstone for January

“Cheers to a New Year and  
another chance of us getting  
it right.”

-- Oprah Winfrey

# 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

## January 7 – Lay-Led Service

### “Either/Or and the Binary” (Liberation #5)

This is the fifth 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). This service is led by Chalice’s Young Adults group, and children are encouraged to attend.

## January 14 – Rev. Sharon Wylie

### “What Would Dr. King Say?”

In honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, we will consider how his words and teachings continue to have relevance today.

## January 21 – Rev. Sharon Wylie

### “Sermons with Spoilers: Good Omens”

This is the first in a series of sermons in which Rev. Sharon will share her thoughts and analyses of religious-themed movies and tv shows.

## January 28 – Rev. Sharon Wylie

### “Imbolc Blessings” All-Church Service

Imbolc is the Neo-Pagan celebration of the earliest signs of spring, an observance that lives on in our modern Groundhog Day. At this morning’s service, we honor the goddess Brigid and celebrate the many gifts she offers those who worship her.



# Minister's Message

Our focus for January is body gratitude.

#bodygratitude #gratitudepractice

#chaliceuuescondido

What does it mean for us to have a congregational focus for the month? It doesn't necessarily mean we'll have a worship service on the topic, though that might happen sometimes. The idea for a "focus" came to me last month, after preaching about simple pleasures in late November. There is so much pressure to shop and spend and go overboard in December, it seemed to me that we (including me!) need help to stay focused on our true values. I started posting almost (but not quite) daily a photo to Chalice's Instagram account (@chaliceuuescondido) a photo and message on the theme of simple pleasures. And I invited you all to share your photos on the topic as well.

And it was fun! I got photos of a basketball in the hoop, a warm fireplace, a simple Christmas tree, and holiday lights in the window. On my personal Facebook page, Chalice congregants let me know about their simple pleasures: working a puzzle, playing NYT Spelling Bee, enjoying biscotti with coffee while watching the sunrise, online yoga, a hot shower, and time with family.

On Instagram, a photo from inside the chapel during our Winter Party was one of the most "liked" photos we shared. The photo of our menorah in the chapel was another popular one.

The point of this practice is not to do something on social media. The point is to try and keep our focus on those values that are meaningful to us, especially in contrast to the barrage of messages we get through advertising, news, and yes, social media. For those of us who use social media, we can use photos and posts to share our thoughts and ideas, to help strengthen our focus, and maybe—who knows—break through some of the noise out there to help bring a more positive message to



Rev. Sharon Wylie  
Minister



other folks who could benefit from it.

So this January, as diet culture gears up for its big season of body shame, I'm inviting us to stay focused on body gratitude. I hope this won't feel like toxic positivity; I'm not asking you to feel something you don't feel. But when we are being bombarded with messages about everything imperfect with our bodies, we can benefit from reminding ourselves of all the amazing things our bodies can do. Yes, our imperfect bodies, our bodies that get sick and feel pain and sleep poorly and don't always work the way we wish they would. Let's see how it feels to tune in to what our bodies *can* do, rather than what they can't. Will you join me?

Blessings,  
Sharon

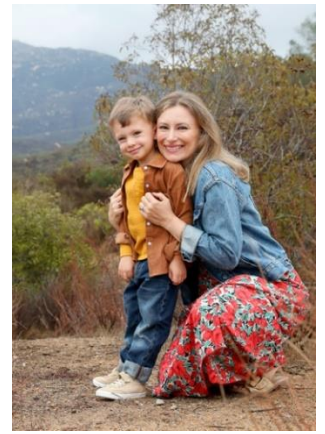




# President's Column

Happy New Year!

I smile as I look forward to all the happenings at Chalice. Here's some updates from the Board as we start this new year:



You may recall that this year we are conducting a scheduled evaluation of our minister. The task force continues to work on this and hopefully have everything completed this Spring.

A task force is currently working on creating a new vision statement. Our vision statement is over a decade old, so it is well past time to clarify the vision of who Chalice is and where we wish to go. More information will be forthcoming about how you can weigh in on this important work. Should you wish to join this task force, please let me know. This is a great role for someone who likes to work on committees with a firm end goal and a timeline.

After the vision statement, the team has decided to work on the 5-year plan. You'll recall that our last 5-year plan was completed in 2018. So much has changed since then. This is important work and I thank the team for their efforts on this (Marianna, Amber, Tom, Carol, Sarah and Dennis).



The last task force surrounds our bylaws and policy book. The team is working hard to make suggestions to make the information more streamlined. We are looking forward to seeing what suggestions they make in the Spring.

Wishing you a beautiful start to a new year.

In love and service,  
Kate

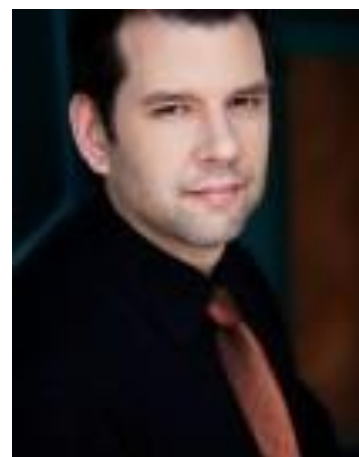


# Music Program

## In-CHOIR-ing Minds Want to Know!

On January 7<sup>th</sup>, the Chancel Choir will be singing “The Rainbow Connection” from the 1979 film *The Muppet Movie*. This song is written by Paul Williams and Kenny Ascher, and was performed by Muppets creator Jim Henson – as Kermit the Frog.

Not only did the song reach #25 on the Billboard Top 100, but the song also received an Academy Award nomination for Best Original Song. The song seems to have a wide appeal that spans across the generations, as is evidenced by the fact that it has been covered by everyone from Johnny Mathis to Gwen Stefani to The Carpenters to Sarah McLachlan to Jason Mraz to Barbra Streisand, and the list goes on and on!



Tim McKnight  
Music Director

What makes this song so special? I think there are many answers to this question, but for the purposes of this article I'd like to focus on the actual title of the song, specifically the words *rainbow* and *connection*.

What does the word *rainbow* mean to you? Many of us might first think of the rainbow flag, a symbol which has come to symbolize the pride and diversity of the LGBTQ+ community. But it's interesting to note that the rainbow flag was designed and unveiled in 1978, just one year before “The Rainbow Connection” was written. So it's not likely that the composers had this meaning of the word *rainbow* in mind when they composed the song.

Let's turn now to the word *connection*. What kind of connection is the song talking about? Some of the lyrics might help us to answer this question:

*“What's so amazing that keeps us stargazing  
and what do we think we might see?  
Someday we'll find it, the rainbow connection.  
The lovers, the dreamers and me.”*

The song seems to explore the common desire, yearning, curiosity, drive to explore, to adventure, to find something more, something which will make us more fully realized in our world. An idealistic notion to be sure, but one that connects humanity throughout history, even when we don't know it.



In 2020, “The Rainbow Connection” was deemed “culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant” by the Library of Congress and selected for preservation in the National Recording Registry.

On January 28<sup>th</sup>, the Chancel Choir will be singing an arrangement of “Scarborough Fair” which is a traditional English melody. Our version was adapted by C. E. Walz and Larry Shackley. Simon and Garfunkel recorded the most famous modern version of this song. But “Scarborough Fair” is actually a folk song, which is a genre of song that is often associated with a certain country or region, and which is passed from generation to generation by oral tradition. The music and lyrics often have separate histories, which is the case here. Lyrics you’ll hear the Chancel Choir sing were written specifically for this arrangement of the song.

### **January’s Hymn of the Month**

The Hymn of the Month for January will be #350 in the gray hymnal, “The Ceaseless Flow of Endless Time”. This hymn has been adapted from a traditional African American spiritual by the eminent 19<sup>th</sup> century African American composer Harry T. Burleigh, yet another black composer who is not a household name to most Americans, but nevertheless whose legacy and influence on the history of American music is undeniable.

The words of the hymn were written by John Andrew Storey, and explore a complex concept – *time*. The hymn’s lyrics delve into the ways that the past, present and future weave together in mysterious ways. Deep thoughts! So, we will literally *take our time* to learn this hymn throughout the month of January.

### **Nightsongs and Lullabies on Saturday, January 20 @ 7pm**

On January 20 at 7pm, Tim McKnight, Jennifer Savion, and Maria-Pia Duffy Folz will present a very special concert, “Nightsongs and Lullabies”. As Tim describes it:

As the darkness of winter surrounds us, this concert will explore the beauty of night and the dreams that fill the mysterious journey we call sleep. You’ll hear beautiful lullabies from around the world, exquisite art songs, Broadway hits, and an eclectic array of piano solos and duets! No need to fear the darkness! This performance will remind us to treasure it.

This concert is an auction event from the March 2023 auction. A donation of \$20 is requested, and can be made at the door if you have not already purchased this event.



## Sunday Worship Music – January Highlights

**Jan 7:** The **Chancel Choir** will present “The Rainbow Connection” by Paul Williams and Kenny Ascher, arranged by Hawly Ades. **Tim McKnight** will be our worship musician.

**Jan 14:** **John Schulz** will be our worship musician.

**Jan 21:** **John Schulz** will be our worship musician.

**Jan 28:** The **Chancel Choir** will present “Scarborough Fair” adapted by C. E. Walz and Larry Shackley, based on a traditional English melody. **Tim McKnight** will be our worship musician.

## Looking Ahead

Auction Event: Nightsongs and Lullabies .. 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



Kathleen Swift  
Director of Family  
Ministries

On December 31<sup>st</sup>, the middle school and upper elementary kids joined several adults in creating Vision Boards. Vision boards let you visualize your success. By regularly looking at your vision board, you immerse yourself in a visual representation of what you want or hope to achieve.



Meanwhile our youngest congregants learned about the tradition of using black-eyed peas for luck in the coming year. They made snowmen out of clay and decorated them with black-eyed peas—for luck!



# Memorial Celebration for Bruce Campbell on January 6th at 2 p.m.

As was announced to the congregation via email on May 20, member Bruce Campbell has passed away.

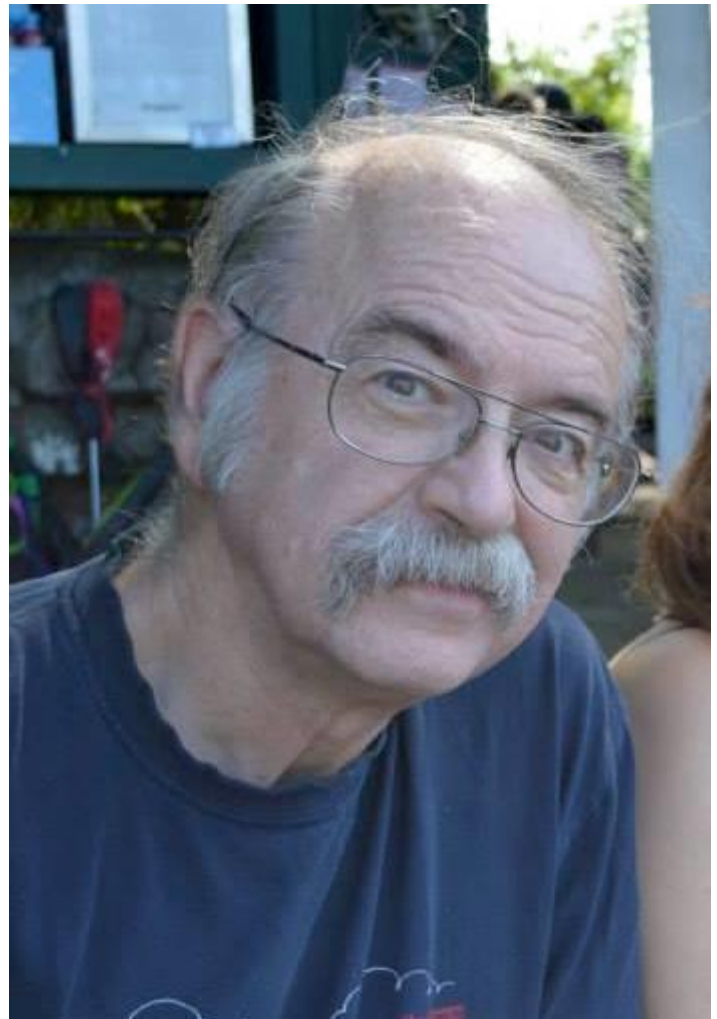
A Memorial Celebration of Life service will be held at Chalice on Saturday, January 6th, at 2 p.m. in the Chalice chapel.

**The family requests that everyone attending the service in-person take a Covid test that morning.**

The service will be streamed using the same Zoom information as our Sunday morning worship service. (Zoom ID: 832 129 662)

**For those coming from out of town:** Escondido, California is about 30 miles northeast of downtown San Diego. You will want to fly into San Diego International Airport (aka Lindbergh Field) and rent a car for transportation.

[Directions and Parking](#)



# Green Sanctuary Team



- Bring broken holiday light strings or working ones you don't need to Chalice for recycling. The box will remain by the Fireside Lounge door until at least January 15.
- The full moon drum circle is Wednesday, January 24 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

It's the New Year, Earth is poised to repeat an annual cycle of stunning beauty. We could mark it at any time of year, but we chose the arbitrary date of January 1. Humans fabricate more than dates. We are refabricating the entire biosphere, our zone of life on Earth. The outcome is uncertain, and the prognosis is not good.

The biosphere is our life support system, and it is in jeopardy. When the clouds do clear, it will be because of people like you and me, who:

- Vote for people who care more about the environment than about their political careers so that laws reduce plastic production, fossil fuel production, and unsustainable farming.
- Vote with our DOLLAR\$ to reduce consumption from those sectors
- See negative population growth as a plus, not a hardship; we welcome immigrants and care for our most vulnerable.
- Choose careers that support positive outcomes.
- Teach our children and grandchildren the hows and whys of living more sustainably.
- Use our influence at work, at home, in communities to foster wiser choices.
- Support each other in living our Unitarian values.

Reflect for a moment on the good choices you are making and be happy. May 2024 be a year to deepen your commitment to our collective future





# 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 “parents lounge” meets on the first Sunday of the month at 10:30 a.m. and started meeting in November.
- The first quarterly Parents Night Out event at Chalice was Saturday, November 18. Only one parent used the childcare. We will set the next one for February.

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.

- Pledge drive task force has met twice. The pledge drive theme is “Let Your Love Flow.” The pledge drive will run March 24 through April 21.

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 third lay-led Spirit Study service (“Quantity Over Quality”) was held December 3.

Oversight of Chalice programs and committees:

- We held a campus-wide evacuation drill on Sunday, November 26. Neighbors were notified the day before that this was happening so there would be no alarm.
- Security consultant Allen Owens came on December 1<sup>st</sup> to meet with the Safety and Security Team to do an updated safety evaluation. He previously consulted with this team in February 2019 and provided safety training for Chalice congregants in February 2020.
- An idea for a contest for a Chalice t-shirt design has come from the Hive Mind Idea Board. Coordinating Team is working with the proposer to find more support for making it happen.





- Tom Carlstrom is improving with new fixtures the lighting in the Courtyard areas.
- We are talking with a non-profit home enrichment program, the Indie Sol Collective, about the possibility of renting from us twice a week.
- The Spirit Booster Team put together our December 2<sup>nd</sup> Winter Party. The event was well attended, with approximately 85 adults and children attending.

#### Memorial Wall Task Force:

- No update.

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

- The Hub rooms have been updated to allow online meetings with new Meeting Owls, TVs, and micro-computers. They all work the same way as the Blue Room. Additional microphones and an additional PTZ camera have been purchased for the chapel.

## Board Report

The Board of Trustees has been working in several areas. The Vision Committee is developing a new Vision Statement that should have a pilot document ready for approval in January. The bylaw committee is hashing out technical aspects of our present bylaws. The committee is correcting punctuation and clarifying terminology along with wrangling their way through some of the organizational issues that the present document contains.

The Good Relations Team has a new member. Marshall Fogel has agreed to accept the position for a three-year term.

The Board of Trustees approved supporting the 2024 Equity Amendment. This motion read: "The Board of Trustees of Chalice UU Congregation supports advancing "Equity: Every person is inherently worthy- (Wheeler) --to the Agenda of the 2024 General Assembly." For further information, please contact Rev. Sharon Wylie.



# Group Announcements

## Women's Book Discussion Group

The Women's Book Discussion will be meeting in January to pick out the books for the rest of the year.

## Dine Out Group

Happy New Year All.

We meet the 4th Tuesday of each month. The Dine Out Group will meet at Burma Place located at 16719 Bernardo Center Dr. (the old Pegasus location) on Tuesday January 23rd at 6:00 pm. To review the menu search [www.burmaplace.com](http://www.burmaplace.com).

Please RSVP by January 18th to Cindy.

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



## Ladies Out to Lunch

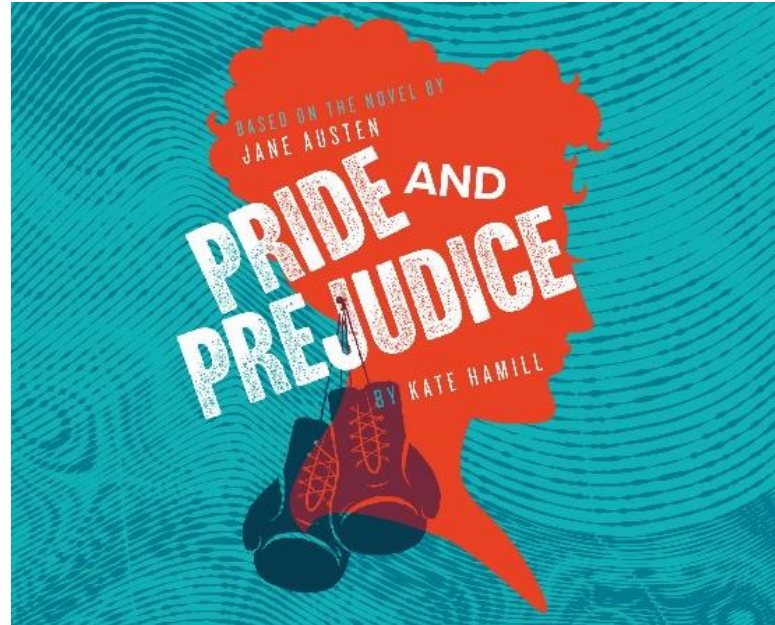
Ladies Out to Lunch will meet at the Olive Garden restaurant in Escondido. The address is 1107 W. Valley Parkway. We meet at 11:30 AM. Please rsvp to Carol.



## Readers' Theater

We share a love of theater and reading aloud by meeting monthly via Zoom to sight-read plays together. 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 are 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. We'd love to see you on Zoom!

Our next gathering will be held on Monday, January 22nd at 6:30 pm when we'll be reading a comedic adaptation of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, by Kate Hamill. This isn't your grandmother's Austen! Said to be bold, surprising, boisterous, and timely, this P&P for a new era explores the absurdities and thrills of finding your perfect (or imperfect) match in life. The outspoken Lizzy Bennet is determined to never marry, despite mounting pressure from society. But can



she resist love, especially when that vaguely handsome, mildly amusing, and impossibly aggravating Mr. Darcy keeps popping up at every turn?! Literature's greatest tale of latent love has never felt so theatrical, or so full of life than it does in this effervescent adaptation. Because what turns us into greater fools...than the high-stakes game of love?

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## Circle Suppers

Circle Suppers are a part of our monthly Chalice activities. For those that are not acquainted with the group, people gather on the third Saturday evening for dinner and conversation. Each participant is responsible for some part of the meal – so the work does not fall on one individual. We are hoping to create enough interest so that we can have two groups each month. But we need additional people to make this work. If you are interested, please contact Emily for additional information.

**New—for January only!**

## Relax Into Yoga For Seniors

Wednesdays in January 2024

January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

10AM - 11AM

Rainbow Room

Dress comfortably, bring your own mat or pad for the floor

This group will be led by Nancy Hodge, a certified yoga teacher visiting from Bend, Oregon. She is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Central Oregon.





# 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 January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 9:30A Private 12P Zoom Lunch 7P Exec. Board	3 8A Private Event 9A Men's Breakfast 10A Yoga	4 9:30A Private 10:30A Women's Meditation 5:30 BIPOC 6:30P Hand Chimes 7:30P Choir	5	6 8A Private Event 2P Bruce Campbell Memorial
7 9 & 11 A Worship 9A K-9 RE 10:10A Coffee Hour 10:30 Parent Lounge 12 P EO Group 3 P Freeway Zen	8 1P Poetry Group	9 9:30A Private 12P Zoom Lunch 7P Board of Trustees	10 8A Private Event 9A Men's Breakfast 10A Yoga 1P CT 6:30 Men's Support	11 9:30A Private 10:30A Women's Meditation 6:30P Hand Chimes 7:30P Choir	12 12P Elder's Lunch	13 8A Private Event 10A Music Committee 10A Council of Chairs
14 9 & 11 A Worship 9A K-9 RE 10:10A Coffee Hour 12 P EO Group 3 P Freeway Zen	15	16 9:30A Private 12P Zoom Lunch 6:30P Women's Book Club	17 8A Private Event 9A Men's Breakfast 10A Yoga 1P CT 1P Fiber Art 7P Human. Discussion	18 9:30A Private 10:30A Women's Meditation 6:30P Hand Chimes 7:30P Choir	19 11:30A Ladies to Lunch 6:30 Nightsongs Rehearsal	20 8A Private Event 10A Worship 5P Haven House 6P Circle 7P Concert
21 9 & 11 A Worship 10A K-9 RE 10:10A Coffee Hour 12 P EO Group 3 P Freeway Zen	22 6:30P Readers Theater	23 9:30A Private 12P Zoom Lunch 6P Din e Out Group 6P Online Presence	24 8A Private 9A Men's Breakfast 10A Yoga 7P Prayer Circle	25 9:30A Private 10:30A Women's Meditation 6:30P Hand Chimes 7:30P Choir	26	27 8A Private Event
28 9 & 11 Worship 10:10A: Coffee 12P EO Group 3P Freeway Zen	29	30 9:30A Private 12P Zoom Lunch	31 8A Private Event 9A Men's Breakfast 10A Yoga			

