



# September 2024 NEWSLETTER

# Welcome!

Volume #25 | Issue #9 | Chalice Unitarian Universalist Congregation

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## Sapphire Birthstone for September

Without community, there  
is no liberation.

—Audre Lorde

# SUNDAY SERVICES SCHEDULE

## Sunday Service

In person at 10 AM. Online on Zoom 10 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

September 1 – Rev. Sharon Wylie

“Inspired by Worker Unions”

There is power in numbers! This morning we consider the history of union organizing and what lessons we might take forward.

September 8 – Rev. Sharon Wylie

“Facing the Fear of White Violence”

This morning we’ll talk about the thing we’re not supposed to talk about.

September 15 – Rev. Sharon Wylie

“Theology is Everywhere” (UU Theologies #1)

What is theology and why is it important for us to understand? This is the first in a 10-part series on UU theologies, informed by the book *A House for Hope: The Promise of Progressive Religion for the Twenty-First Century* by Buehrens and Parker.

September 22 – Rev. Sharon Wylie

“Ingathering and Water Ritual” All-Church Service

Come, come, whoever you are! Today we observe our communal Water Ritual, where the blending of waters reminds us of our deep connections to each other. Please bring a small amount of water from your home or other place sacred to you (water will also be provided). We will also celebrate Tim McKnight’s 20-year anniversary as Chalice’s Music Director.

The choir will sing.

September 29 – Rev. Dr. Arvid Straube, pulpit guest

“Reverent Agnostics and Rational Mystics”

Should we even talk about God? If so, how?

Rev. Dr. Arvid Straube has been a parish minister for 35 years. He is minister emeritus at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego. He is an Affiliate Faculty member at Meadville Lombard Theological School and has a ministry of spiritual direction.



## Minister's Message

I was on vacation for part of August, travelling in Ecuador and Peru. These were really two separate trips, with different tour groups and different purposes, but I found they shared a common theme: we can do hard things.

In Ecuador, we spent five days in the Galápagos Islands, viewing wildlife up close while hiking, snorkeling, and boating. What I didn't fully understand until I was there is that tourism in the Galápagos is restricted and controlled in order to conserve and protect the wildlife there. As the website [www.travelagewest.com](http://www.travelagewest.com) describes:

“Among the rules established by the Galápagos National Park Directorate (GNPD) is that travelers can only visit protected areas of Galápagos National Park (which comprises 97% of the land surface of the Galápagos) with an authorized tour operator and/or boat. Even beyond that, visitors must be accompanied at all times by a naturalist guide authorized by the GNPD. In a nutshell: Every company operating in the Galápagos follows a strict set of rules, and no traveler can explore without supervision.”

What that looks like in real time is that we might visit an island and know that we are permitted to be there between 10 a.m. and 12 noon only on that specific day. No coming back later, no choosing to come a different day. Our naturalist guides were with us to ensure we were following all rules at all times. Spotting a piece of plastic in a bird's nest was a reason to stop our tour while the guides removed it.

The whole experience taught me: We can do hard things. The things we need to do to preserve and protect the environment, we can do them. The only thing that seems to be holding us back is making the serious and collective commitment to do the hard things we need to do.



Rev. Sharon Wylie  
Minister



In Peru I learned the lesson a different way. We did several different things in Peru, but our main activity there was to hike the 28-mile Inca Trail to Machu Picchu, a four-day hike with guides (and porters to carry things, set up tents, and cook meals). This was the hardest physical activity I've ever undertaken, and I began training for it four months ago.

The hike was difficult, and I struggled with feeling old and slow compared to others in our group. I wondered if I shouldn't have attempted this. But over the days, I realized: It's a hard hike! We're all on the hike because it's hard! I shouldn't avoid activities that might be too hard for me. The difficulty and the challenge are what make the accomplishment meaningful.

We can do hard things. We can attempt hard things and fail. Certainly there will be times in life that we choose what is safe and easy. That's okay too. But there is a rich sense of satisfaction and accomplishment to be found when we choose to tackle the higher hill.

Want to read more about the hike and see some photos? Check out my personal Facebook page. (And if we aren't friends yet, send me a friend request!)

Bright blessings,  
Sharon



# President's Column

Greetings, Chalice!

September. For me, this is simultaneously an exciting and melancholy time of year. I can tell by the changing light that the days are getting shorter, signaling the end of Summer. And I can tell by the traffic on the road in the mornings that school is back in session! It's exciting to have a new school year or new season to look forward to, but also sad to leave the carefree days of Summer behind.



Here at Chalice, we have several exciting things to look forward to this September. I hope you are reading the ENUUS emails every week for details on these activities:

- UU the Vote Letter Writing event on September 7 from 2-3:30p
- BIPOC Brunch/Get Together open to everyone on September 8 from 12-2p
- Opportunity to serve dinner at the ICS Turk Center on September 14
- Online Auction Website opening on September 15 - start thinking about your donations!
- Ingathering and Water Ritual PLUS celebration of Tim McKnight's 20-year anniversary on September 22 at the 10a worship service (yes, there will be cake).

This is in addition to all of our committees and groups that meet regularly throughout each month of the year. Chalice is a busy and vibrant place.

And your Board will be busy in September as well. Our main order of business at our September 10 meeting is to make decisions on our flags. Per our flag policy, the Board must approve flags every year. (For reference, the flag policy is provided at the end of this article.) Each of the three flags approved last year will be voted on for an additional year, as long as the flag has a sponsor. The flags under consideration



are the American flag, the BLM flag, and the LGBTQ flag. Our BLM flag in particular has been the subject of much discussion, with many people hoping for approval and also many people hoping that it is not approved. Opinions are as varied as each congregant here at Chalice. As you can imagine, no matter what the Board decides, many people will be disappointed with the outcome. Please know that your Board takes this decision very seriously and each of us is approaching this decision thoughtfully and with respect for each other and love for Chalice at the center.

Regardless of the Board's decision, this is a seminal moment for Chalice to have continuing conversations about who we are and how we want to present ourselves to our community and wider world.

If you are interested in observing the September Board meeting - or any Board meeting - please contact me so that we can prepare appropriately for zoom or in person observers.

With Love at the center,

Lara Brown  
President, Board of Trustees

Chalice Flag policy approved March 14, 2023:

*"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. 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."*





# Music Program

## Twenty Years of Musical Memories, Interlude

*We'll continue with Tim McKnight's "Twenty Years of Musical Memories, Part 3" in a future newsletter, but this month we share with you an article from our newsletter in 2014 celebrating Tim's Ten Year Anniversary at Chalice. These are Tim's reflections on his first 10 years. Enjoy!*



Tim McKnight  
Music Director

In 2003, while working on my Master's Degree at the University of Illinois, I began to consider the possibility of moving to California upon graduation. Although I didn't know exactly what I was going to do once I got there, I was quite sure that I was not interested in working at a church ever again, considering the negative experiences I had endured in the past. Working in musical theatre was definitely a possibility, especially considering that just a few months before, I was the Music Director for my first professional musical, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, at Zoo Theatre Company, a brand new company founded by Artistic Director Greg Wolf.

Also during this time I had a federal work-study job where I worked on educational websites. One of the other members of the web team was a doctoral student named Amy who was a "Unitarian Universalist". Amy often spoke of her church, how open it was, the great diversity of membership, and how welcome she felt there. I thought, "I guess I should look up this Univertarianist thing...or whatever it's called..." After visiting Southern California a couple of times, I decided to move to San Diego. I had no professional connections, but I felt it would be a good place for me to build my career as a musician and teacher. So, on July 9, 2004 I drove into San Diego to start my new life.

At the same time I was moving to California, Chalice had been looking for a professional Music Director, but to no avail. They weren't getting any responses to their ads, so Susan Spoto, who was then the Music Committee Chair, suggested that they try the UCSD Job Board. It seemed like a long shot, but why not? Within days of getting into San



Diego, I got an e-mail from Meghan Wolf, the sister of Greg Wolf who was the director I had worked with a few months before on Ain't Misbehavin'. She worked for the UCSD Performing Arts Department and had come across an ad for a Church Music Director in Escondido, so she thought she would pass it on to me.

And the rest is history...

It's hard to believe that it has been 10 years since I came to Chalice, and what a journey it has been. I'm so glad that those synchronistic moments all added up to my discovering a church where I am fully accepted for who I am, not partially accepted for who people want me to be; a place where I really believe in the message we have to share with the world, instead of feeling hypocritical and conflicted; a place where I feel that people really care about each other, not where people just want to save each other.

Over the last 10 years, Chalice has cultivated a community that respects and values the power of music in our lives. We have a thriving music ministry that has brought so much to all of our lives. I am very lucky to have found such a place. As I begin my second decade at Chalice, I dream of how we can share the rich blessings that music has brought to us with others in our local community and beyond.

With gratitude,  
Tim McKnight  
(2014)

### **Celebration of Tim McKnight's 20 Years of Music on September 22**

Worship on September 22 is going to be very special. Not only is it our annual In Gathering and Water Ritual service, but we are celebrating Tim McKnight's 20th anniversary as Chalice's Music Director. This celebration is not a surprise like it was for Tim's 10th anniversary, but we still have a few fun ways to say "Thank you!" for 20 marvelous years of music. Please join us in worship on this joyful day. (And yes, there will be cake.)





## Join the Chalice Hand Chimes Ensemble!

The Chalice Hand Chimes Ensemble is a group of 6 to 12 people who enjoy making music together regularly. We meet on Thursdays before choir practice. If you enjoy music and would like to be a part of a dedicated ensemble of similarly motivated people, please consider contributing your skills and time to the hand chimes ensemble. You can come listen to a practice and try it out to see if it is for you. Please contact Tim McKnight or David Peale if you are interested.



## Sunday Worship Music – September Highlights

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

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

**Sept 15:** Tim McKnight will be our worship musician.

**Sept 22:** The Chancel Choir will present "Cross the Wide Missouri", adapted and arranged by Don Besig, with additional lyrics by Nancy Price. Tim McKnight will be our worship musician.

**Sept 29:** Tim McKnight will be our worship musician.

## Looking Ahead

Chancel Choir Rehearsals .....Thursdays @ 7:30p in the Chapel

Handchime Ensemble Rehearsals .....Thursdays @ 6:30p in the Hub



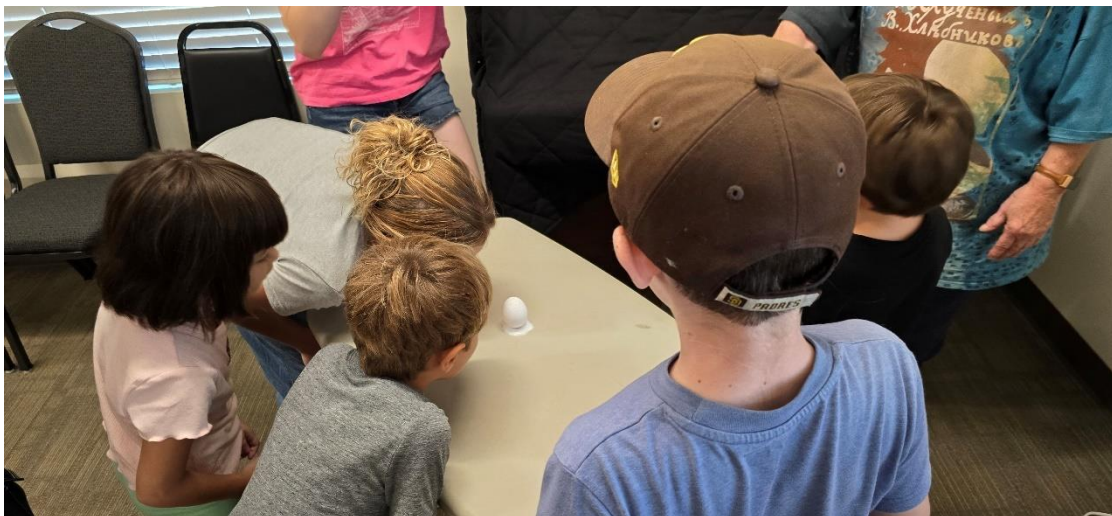
# Family Ministries



## Gaga Pit Build and Summer of Science



Kathleen Swift  
Director of Family  
Ministries





# Unsung Hero

## Emily Troxell

Emily Troxell is a longtime member of Chalice and she has made numerous contributions over the years. Along with her late husband Gene, Emily created and donated the beautiful storage cabinet, tables, and pulpit you see at the front of the Chapel. She also is a seamstress and has contributed countless sewing projects to beautify our church; the most recent are the chair covers located at the front of the Chapel where the Minister and Worship Associate are seated.

Emily just came off the Board of Trustees, where she served for two years as our Board Secretary. She has overseen Circle Suppers for years and, most recently, the Memoir Writers group. And she joined the Auction Team! Doubtless, there are many more contributions Emily has given to us, but one light for sure is her warm and lovely smile.

Emily, we are so grateful to you. Thank you!





## Auction Website opens for donations on Sept. 15!

Have you been wondering what you can do **now** to help make the Chalice Auction a huge success? First, be sure you have the auction dates on your calendar: **Oct. 20-27 for the online auction and Oct. 26 for the live auction** here at Chalice and through zoom. Second, **the auction website opens for donations on Sept. 15** for you to upload your donation descriptions and photos!

Most importantly, it's time to start brainstorming your donation ideas.

### Categories for the online auction include:

**Gift baskets** – You could create a monster mash gift basket or other theme such as a holiday basket, game night, relaxation or wine and cheese.

**Food and Drink** – Think homemade specialty items such as cakes, breads, jellies etc. Or maybe something from a favorite bakery or a winery.

**Services** – You can donate your time for assistance of any kind, such as a ride to the airport. Or donate your special skill, say fixing clocks or digitizing photos or slides.

**Arts and Crafts** – Handcrafted items such as pottery, paintings, quilts



or other artistic creations.

**Jewelry** – You can donate something lovely that you no longer wear or that you created yourself.

**Treasures** – Items not included in the above categories, such as your rare copy of The Original Monster Mash album.

**At the live auction, we will auction off parties and in-person events** (other than large events such as those held at Chalice). Besides being so much fun, parties and entertainment is our biggest money-making category. You can build your party around monster mash or another theme, or no particular theme at all. You are encouraged to find a partner or two if doing an event alone feels overwhelming.

The auction team can help you connect with others and answer any questions you have. You can find us on the courtyard in our “Monster Mash” shirts during the coffee hour or email us at [chaliceauction@gmail.com](mailto:chaliceauction@gmail.com) if you have any questions.





# Coordinating Team Report

Guidepost 1: Build a welcoming community that supports opportunities to foster strong relationships within Chalice for congregants as well as visitors.

- Our July 27 Council of Chairs meeting had a discussion topic about our Sunday Social Hour and how to try and make it more comfortable and enticing for all. CT is talking about how to keep this topic in front of the congregation.
- We had a potluck lunch following our July 28 Blessing of the Animals service at Felicita Park.
- Our Annual Phone Call project to help connect with our congregants is being planned for the first half of September.

Guidepost 2: Provide opportunities for transformative religious/spiritual development for all ages.

- Six Chalice congregants are coming to SpiritRest Silent Retreat, which is co-led by Rev. Sharon.
- The summer R.E. programs are “Summer of Science” and building a gaga court.

Guidepost 3: Guided by the 8th principle and with love at the center, engage in thoughtful social justice action within the congregation, our North County communities, and the wider world.

- UU the Vote letter-writing efforts continue and are going well. We have raised the necessary money for our share of the Spirit Level grant supporting these efforts and have submitted our certification of this.

Guidepost 4: Encourage and support congregants and visitors to develop and share their unique creative talents with one another and in the wider community.

- Multiple Chalice congregants are volunteering with the summer R.E. programs.





Guidepost 5: Engage the congregation in deeply understanding and participating in the communal stewardship of Chalice UU.

- CT has set the date for the close of the pledge drive, Celebration Sunday, as Sunday, April 13.
- CT is working on a memorandum of understanding regarding our financial priorities when we receive a substantial unexpected gift.

Oversight of Chalice programs and committees:

- We have added security cameras to the flagpole area (in response to having our LGBTQ flag stolen).
- A seven-person task force has formed to guide our celebration of Tim McKnight's 20-year anniversary at Chalice.

## Board Report

The new Board of Trustees met on August 13 and covered the following items:

**Annual Phone Call Campaign:** Reviewed this plan by Amber Vlasnik for reaching out to Chalice members and friends to see how they are doing and answer questions about Chalice. Several Board members volunteered.

**Board Goals:** Reviewed Board goals for the coming year: Living In to the new Vision and Strategic Guideposts, organizing existing Policies and supporting the Pledge Drive.

**Chalice Finances:** Learned about finance from Victoria Cagle including Fiduciary responsibility, income, expenses, funds, balances and investments.

**Flag Issue:** Discussed this issue in preparation for the September Board vote including: the background of the Chalice flags, audience for flags, their effectiveness, prioritizing which flag is flown with so many worthy causes, security impact and even the separation of church and state.



# Group Announcements

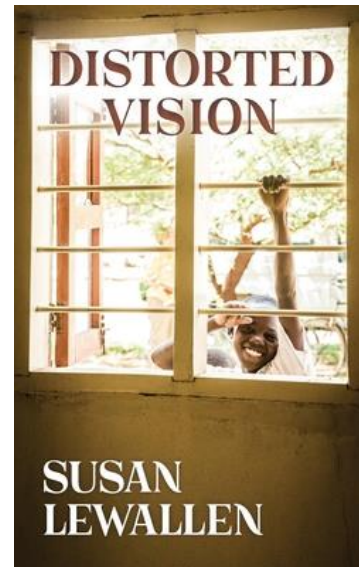
## Women's Book Discussion Group

On September 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 Distorted Vision by Chalice congregant and author Susan Lewallen. If you are interested, please contact Mary for the Zoom information. Non-binary and trans women are warmly invited

### Excerpt from Amazon:

Ana and her brother Jared's short trip back to their childhood home in Tanzania should benefit everyone. He'll volunteer as a surgeon at a remote hospital, and she'll seek projects for her university's global health program. When Jared disappears, Ana's work and life fall to pieces. She's forced to reevaluate her ideas about providing "help" to improve the lives of people in countries she knows and loves.

Whether you imagine that Western aid is a panacea or the problem, this suspenseful story -- rooted in the author's decades of award-winning work in the field -- will challenge your views.



## Dine Out Group

We meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month. The Dine Out Group will meet at Yanni's Bar and Grill located at 12015 Scripps Highland Dr. Scripps Ranch off Highway 15 at 6:00 pm on September 24th. 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.

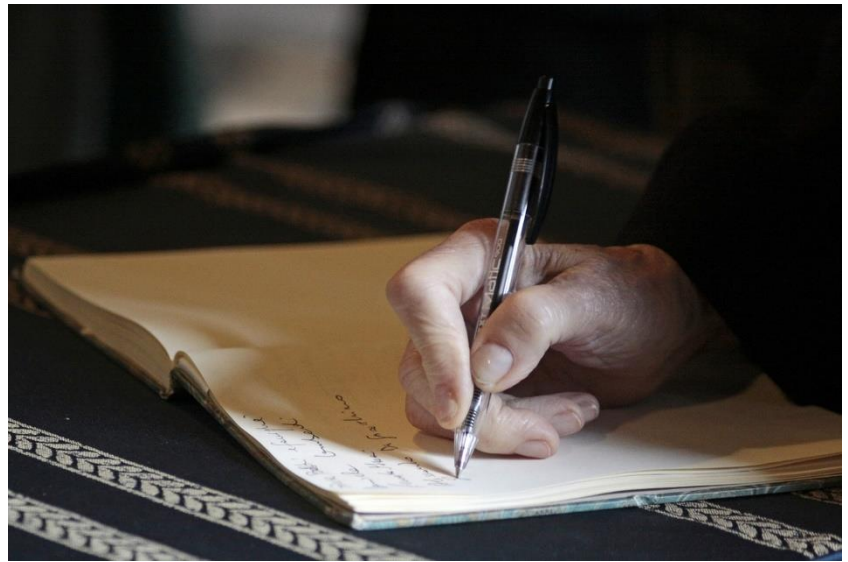


## Memoir Writing Group

The Memoir Writing Group currently meets via Zoom on the fourth Friday of the month at 10 AM. The meetings last 1 ½ hours. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Emily.

As always, you are free to write about any topic you choose, but if you can't think of anything, here are a couple suggestions:

- What photos would you eliminate from your collection? Why?



OR

- In The Faraway Nearby (2013), Rebecca Solnit wrote "Certain kinds of beauty make people weep, the moments 'when hope and history rhyme,' the arrival of the long-awaited, the revelation of a pattern in the universe that is also the revelation of your own power of making and perceiving order, and sometimes just extraordinarily intense beauty, including moral beauties - justice done, truth honored, order or wholeness restored." In what ways have you experienced such beauty in your life?

## Readers' Theater

Our September gathering will be held on Monday, September 23rd at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. We will be reading the comedy *Hillary: A Modern Greek Tragedy* by Wendy Weiner. The plot:

Athena, the Greek goddess of wisdom, and Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love, have been at war since time immemorial. When a young girl named Hillary Rodham devotes herself to Athena alone, Aphrodite takes revenge by having her fall in love with a man of mythical charm and appetites: Bill Clinton. **Please join us (virtually) — newcomers are always welcome at our gatherings!** Please contact Deb to get on our group email list for monthly emails and Zoom invitations. There is no obligation to attend regularly!



## Ladies Out to Lunch



The Ladies out to Lunch group will meet for lunch on Friday, September 20 at Cocina del Charro in Escondido. The address is 890 West Valley Parkway. We meet at 11:30 AM and welcome newcomers! Please RSVP to Carol.

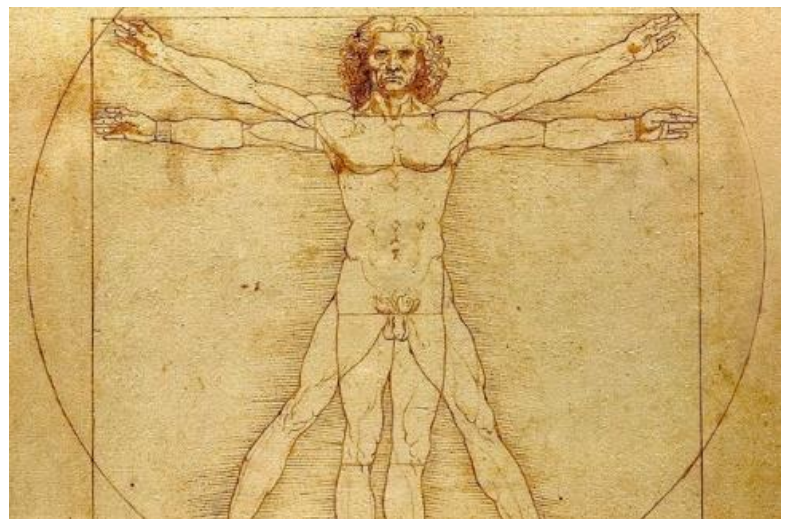
## Circle Suppers

Each month a group of Chalice members and friends gather in their homes to share a meal and spend time in an informal setting. The suppers are scheduled for the third Saturday evening every month. This month they will be held on September 21<sup>st</sup>. The process is simple. One group member offers their home and prepares the main course. The other people attending bring other parts of the meal. It's that simple.

It is our hope that we can expand the membership of this group. The way you can join is to contact Emily for further information.

## Humanism Discussion Group

Humanism is a philosophy that places humans and their well-being at the center of attention. It emphasizes the significance of reason, ethics, and compassion in guiding our lives, rather than relying on supernatural beliefs. Humanism acknowledges the potential for humans to create positive change and emphasizes the importance of social justice, equality, and the pursuit of knowledge. We seek to understand this universe in which we find ourselves and discover what is and what things matter.





The Humanism Discussion Group meets the third Wednesday evening of the month from 7 to 9 pm in the Blue room at Chalice and on zoom (<https://zoom.us/j/91092760972>). We invite everyone, regardless of their background or beliefs, to participate in these enlightening conversations.

If you are interested in Humanism or just curious what it is about, please consider joining us for our next discussion group. There are also many resources on the web including the American Humanist Association and the Freedom from Religion Foundation.

Contact Tom for comments or questions.



# 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 September 2024

Sun

1  
10A Worship  
10A K-9 RE  
11:15A  
Coffee Hour  
11:30A Policy TF  
12P Emerging  
Adults

Mon

2

Tue

3  
9:45 Indie  
Sol  
12P Zoom  
Lunch  
4P CT  
7P Exec.  
Board

Wed

4  
8A W.W.  
9A Men's  
Breakfast  
9:45 Indie  
Sol  
1P Finance  
5P Karate

Thu

5  
9:45 Indie S.  
10:30A  
Women's  
Meditation  
5:30P  
BIPOC  
6:30P  
Chimes  
7:30P Choir

Fri

6

Sat

7  
8A WW  
9A Karate  
10A Music  
Committee  
2P UU the  
Vote  
4P Recital

8

10A Worship  
10A K-9 RE  
11:15A  
Coffee Hour  
12P Emerging  
Adults

9

1P Poetry  
Group

10

9:45 Indie  
Sol  
12P Zoom  
Lunch  
7P Board of  
Trustees

11

8A W.W.  
9A Men's  
Breakfast  
9:45 Indie  
Sol  
5P Karate  
6:30 Men's  
Support

12

9:45 Indie  
Sol  
10:30A  
Women's  
Meditation  
7:30P Choir

13

12P Elder's  
Lunch

14

8A W.W.  
9A Karate  
5P Turk  
Center  
Dinner

15

10A Worship  
10A K-9 RE  
11:15A  
Coffee Hour  
12P Emerging  
Adults

16

17

9:45 Indie  
Sol  
12P Zoom  
Lunch  
6:30P Drum  
Circle  
6:30  
Women's  
Book Club

18

8A W.W.  
9A Men's  
Breakfast  
9:45 Indie  
Sol  
1P Fiber  
Arts  
4P CT  
5P Karate  
7P  
Humanist  
Discussion

19

9:45 Indie  
Sol  
10:30A  
Women's  
Meditation  
7:30P Choir

20

11:30 Ladies  
Out to  
Lunch

21

8A W.W.  
9A Karate  
10A Worship

22

10A Worship  
10A K-9 RE  
11:15A  
Coffee Hour  
12P Emerging  
Adults

23

6:30P Readers'  
Theater

24

9:45 Indie  
Sol  
12P Zoom  
Lunch  
6P Dine Out  
6P Online  
Presence

25

8A W.W.  
9A Men's  
Breakfast  
9:45 Indie  
Sol  
5P Karate

26

9:45 Indie  
Sol  
10:30A  
Meditation  
6:30P  
Handchimes  
7:30P Choir

27

10A Memoir  
Writing

28

8A W.W.  
9A Karate

29

10A Worship  
10A K-9 RE  
11:15A  
Coffee Hour  
11:30 Phone Call  
Debrief  
12P Emerging  
Adults

30

