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Turquoise Birthstone for December

“The human heart is too grand to be wasted in the gutter of cultural exclusivity.”

–Abhijit Naskar

SUNDAY SERVICES SCHEDULE

Sunday Service
In person at 10 AM. Online on Zoom 10 AM

After-worship COFFEE HOUR
Stay in the same Zoom site as Sunday Service

December 1 – Rev. Sharon Wylie

“What Brings Us Together” (UU Theologies #4)

This is the fourth 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. This is the first Sunday of Advent.

December 8 – Rev. Sharon Wylie

“We’re All Socially Awkward”

December is a time for more parties and more time with friends and family. If you feel clumsy and awkward at times, consider: You are not alone. This is the second Sunday of Advent.

December 15 – Rev. Dr. Arvid Straube, pulpit guest

“Dialog With My Inner Scrooge”

This is the third Sunday of Advent. Rev. Dr. Arvid Straube is an Affiliate Faculty member at Meadville Lombard Theological School and has a ministry of spiritual direction. He has been a parish minister for 35 years, including 10 years as the Lead Minister at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego.

The choir will sing.

December 22 – Rev. Sharon Wylie

“Winter Solstice” Multigenerational Service

Let’s celebrate the shortest day of the year! This is the fourth Sunday of Advent.

December 24 – Christmas Eve Service

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

Handchimes will play.

December 29 – Rev. Sharon Wylie

“The Turning of the Year” Multigenerational Service

Get ready to welcome the new year.



Minister's Message

This collection of teachings comes from Unitarian Universalist composer Jason Shelton, from his *Sources* cantata:

In the Talmud of the Jewish tradition, the sage Hillel said: What is hateful to you, do not do to others. This is the whole of the Law; all the rest is commentary.

In the Hindu legend of the Mahabharata, the divine Krishna declared: This is the sum of duty: Do nothing unto others which would cause you pain if done to you.

In the Gospel of Matthew in the Christian scriptures, the messiah Jesus says: Whatever you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

In the Buddhist text of the Udanavarga, the student is urged: Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful.

In the Muslim Hadith of al Nawawi, the prophet Mohammed teaches: No one of you is a believer until he desires for his brother that which he desires for himself.

In the T'ai Shang treatise of Taoism, the seeker is instructed: Regard your neighbor's gain as your gain, and your neighbor's loss as your own loss.

In the ancient wisdom of Shinto there is a saying: The heart of the person before you is a mirror. See there your own form.

The Oglala Lakota spiritual leader Black Elk wrote: All things are our relatives; what we do to everything, we do to ourselves.

Bright blessings,
Sharon



Rev. Sharon Wylie
Minister



President's Column

Greetings, Chalice!

Last month the choir sang a song called “Count Your Blessings”. The message in this song is just what I need right now: a reminder that there are good, beautiful things in life and that taking deep pleasure and joy in those blessings is a blessing in and of itself.



Lara Brown
Board President

One of the blessings that I “count” is our shared Chalice community. I came to church one recent Sunday with my stomach tied up in knots. It had been that way for some time, even before the election, a constant reminder of the stress I was feeling. But as I sat and sang the hymns, including “Comfort Me”, and listened to Rev. Sharon’s message, I felt my body relax for what seemed like the first time in weeks. I was right where I needed to be. Thank you, Chalice.

And I am truly blessed to be serving as your President and working with such an amazing group of people on the Board of Trustees. We have had some tough conversations the last few months and held each other with respect even when we disagreed. Our Policy Task Force has been hard at work, organizing our policies to make them easier to find and maintain. The Pledge Drive Task Force, a joint venture between the Board and Coordinating Team, will begin meeting soon to plan our pledge drive to support Chalice through our next fiscal year. And a new Engagement Task Force is just getting off the ground. The purpose of this task force is to foster more open communication between the Board and the congregation. More on that in coming months.

As December arrives, I hope you will be able to join our Chalice community in celebration at our annual Winter Party on Saturday, December 7 from 5p to 7p. We will have a potluck followed by some outstanding entertainment. It will be sure to put a smile on your face and bring a joyful spirit to your heart. Look for an email with all the details plus the link to join over zoom in the coming days.

May your days be rich with blessings,

Lara Brown
President, Board of Trustees

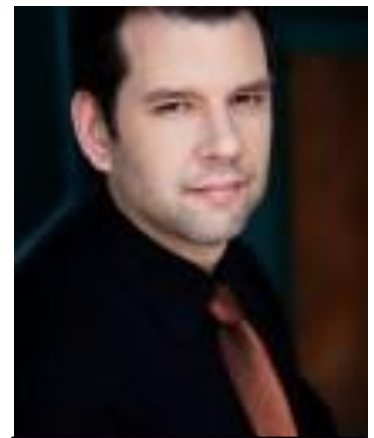


Music Program

Twenty Years of Musical Memories, Part 5

This is the fifth and final installment of “Twenty Years of Musical Memories.” Starting this past July, I’ve been sharing highlights from my 20 years as Chalice’s Music Director. July’s Newsletter column covered the years 2004-2007; August covered 2008-2011; after taking September off, we resumed in October, which covered 2012-2015; and November’s column covered 2016-2019.

That brings us to this month’s column, which will cover the years 2020-2024. Let’s begin!



Tim McKnight
Music Director

2020

March – The month came in like a lamb and went out like a lion. On March 1st, the Chancel Choir sang “Come in from the Firefly Darkness” as scheduled. No one could have known that would be the last time the Chancel Choir would sing together in person for a very long time. March 8th would be the last in-person worship service before the COVID-19 pandemic shut down the world.

April – Tom Carlstrom presents the first of many virtual concerts to come. Tom’s concerts become an important part of Chalice’s pandemic-era music ministry.



May – For the first time in almost 20 years, there is no Spring Music Service at Chalice. Oh, and the Olympics were postponed too.

August – Chalice’s Chancel Choir releases their virtual choir project, featuring the song “How Can I Keep from Singing?” arranged by Andy Beck. Choir members recorded themselves at home, and then Judy Winn put all of the recordings into a beautiful video.

September – The Keyboard Kaleidoscope 6 Concert is postponed, along with many other musical events at Chalice. The Keyboard Kaleidoscope 6 Concert would finally take place almost four years later, on June 15, 2024.



2021

March – The first of two Chalice Cabaret Watch Parties takes place over Zoom. The two Zoom-hosted watch parties represent another beautiful example of how Chalice found ways of bringing music to people’s lives in a time of pandemic.

May – Chalice Music Director Tim McKnight offers a Beginning Music Theory course on Zoom for 8 consecutive Thursday nights. More than 20 Chalice folks of varying ages and musical backgrounds sign up for the class. It was so successful, Tim might offer a similar course again in the future!

August – After a year and a half of no in-person rehearsals, the Chancel Choir rehearses on the patio. Vaccinations and masks are required to participate. The plan at this time was to move into the Rainbow Room in September. Since there was still no group singing permitted in the chapel at this point, the Chancel Choir had to record their selections for Sunday worship rather than performing them live.



October – In conjunction with Rev. Sharon’s 10-part sermon series “Listening to Black Preachers,” Tim McKnight created the “Black Composers Series.” One Sunday per month for the next year, a different black composer would be featured both through a biographical video as well as through music of that composer which would be heard during worship. The series started with American composer Florence Price, who lived from 1887-1953.

2022

August – Mary Best becomes Chalice’s eighth Music Committee Chair, taking over from Alice Dodd.

September – For the first time in 2½ years, the Chancel Choir performs live in the chapel for Sunday worship.

November – Chalice’s Handchime Ensemble performs live in the chapel for the first time since before the pandemic started.

December – For the first time ever in Chalice’s history, the Chancel Choir performs at the Christmas Eve service.



2023

January– After 6 years of faithful service, Justin Gray plays his last Sunday worship service at Chalice, as he takes a position at St. Timothy’s Catholic Church in Escondido.

March – Beloved Chalice musician John Schulz serves as Sunday worship musician for the first time since 2016! John’s work required that he and Jessica moved to Alabama for several years, but when they returned to Southern California, Chalice put them both to work immediately! We love you John!!!

May – After a 3½ year dry spell with no music services, Chalice’s musicians come together to present a Spring Music Service called “In Praise of Music.” During the service, Deborah Morton is celebrated and honored for her 20 years of service as the Chancel Choir accompanist. It is decided that for the foreseeable future there will be just one music service per year, in the Spring.

October – Worship service attendees sing and learn about the very first Hymn of the Month (HotM), #1012 “When I Am Frightened.” Why didn’t we think of this a long time ago?!?! I’m pretty sure in 20 years there will still be a Hymn of the Month!

2024

May – The Spring Music Service, “Friends & Family Playlist,” features some epic premieres:

- ♪ The Chancel Choir sings a version of “My Favorite Things” (from *Sound of Music*) with special lyrics written by Alice Dodd, our beloved and talented friend who suddenly passed away a few months prior.
- ♪ The World Premiere of Chalice’s new Music Program Promo Video, with a script also written by Alice Dodd.
- ♪ Chalice’s official worship band, *Unity Gruuve*, is debuted to a grateful congregation, fulfilling a longtime goal of the Music Program. The band is led by Dean Goddette.



Join the Chalice Chancel Choir!

The Chancel Choir is Chalice's adult choir, open to anyone who enjoys singing. Chancel Choir rehearses on Thursday nights from 7:30–9:00pm in the Chapel. Chancel Choir serves two primary purposes. First, it is a place where people who love to sing can sing with each other in a community within the larger Chalice community. Second, Chancel Choir prepares music to sing for Sunday worship, in order to enhance the worship and share their musical gifts with the larger congregation. Chancel Choir sings a wide variety of musical styles, including Broadway, sacred, country, pop, classical, folk, and everything in between.



Each member of the choir is provided a folder with sheet music, as well as access to practice files so that they can learn the music at home. This makes rehearsal time more enjoyable and productive. And no audition required!

Sunday Worship Music – December Highlights

- **Dec 1: Tim McKnight** will be our worship musician.
- **Dec 8: John Schulz** will be our worship musician.
- **Dec 15:** The **Chancel Choir** will present "From An Irish Cabin", lyrics by Ruth Sawyer Durand and music by Douglas E. Wagner. **Tim McKnight** will be our worship musician.
- **Dec 22: Unity Gruuve** will perform. **John Schulz** will be our worship musician.
- **Dec 24:** The **Handchime Ensemble** will perform "Sussex Carol", arranged by Terry Osman. **Tim McKnight** will be our worship musician.
- **Dec 29: Tim McKnight** will be our worship musician.

Looking Ahead

Winter Party Saturday, December 7 @ 5:00pm
Christmas Eve Service Tuesday, December 24 @ 5:00pm
Chancel Choir RehearsalsThursdays @ 7:30p in the Chapel
Handchime Ensemble RehearsalsThursdays @ 6:30p in the Hub



Family Ministries

Curriculum for our Children

Many times, throughout the year, our children and teens work together, learning as a whole group. Younger children often look up to older children as role models; older children can learn to be patient and helpful. It also gives them a chance to act as leaders, to play teacher, and to develop empathy and kindness. There are also benefits to being in similar age groups. Children and teens are at similar stages of development and maturity. Sometimes, children of the same age feel more at ease and less intimidated. So, we try to include both kinds of religious education here at Chalice.

For the next few months, our kids will be in same-age groupings, with occasional whole group sessions. Our upper elementary children are participating in a Unitarian Universalist (UU) curriculum called, *Toolbox of Faith*.

What tools does Unitarian Universalism offer for the challenges of life? Children discover what aspects of UU faith are helpful to them, developing a toolbox of faith. The expectations of life depend upon diligence; “...the mechanic who would perfect his work must first sharpen his tools.” — Confucius. *Toolbox of Faith* invites participants to reflect on the qualities of our Unitarian Universalist faith, such as integrity, courage, reflection, flexibility and questioning (among others). We use real tools as symbols of the UU virtues we explore. For example, flexibility is symbolized by duct tape. After exploring the idea of flexibility, we do a fun craft. In this case, we make reusable lunch bags by covering an ordinary brown bag with duct tape.

Returning to one service has left many volunteers feeling some relief. However, this has had the opposite effect in the RE classroom—many people who used to volunteer now choose to go to service, as there is no other. If you would consider volunteering—perhaps once a month—please contact me: dfm@chaliceuucongregation.org. The children and I will really appreciate it!



Kathleen Swift
Director of Family
Ministries



Unsung Hero

Judy Winn

Is it possible to describe what an impact that Chalice member and supreme volunteer, Judy Winn, has had at Chalice?

She has been an RE leader for many years. She adapts whatever curriculum she is teaching for the Chalice youth who are in her class. She has even been making breakfast for her students this year.

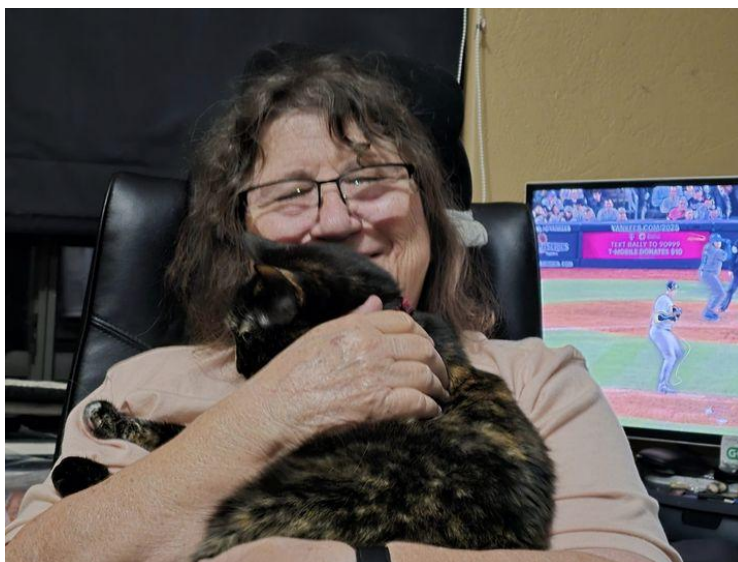
Judy single-handedly personalizes and sends birthday cards to all Chalice congregants. That is some 200 or more per year. She also communicates with other Care Team members to ensure that significant events in congregant's lives are recognized with flowers or other gifts.

As a member of the Auction Team, Judy has ensured the smooth operation of the auction for many years. She also monitors the auction email address, so she answers most of the questions that come via email. In addition, she checks in every donation made through the website.

Judy is currently serving on the Nominating Committee which seeks out qualified candidates for open positions on our Board of Trustees. This is an important position in which she will excel.

In the past, Judy was the primary videographer for Chalice's Cabaret shows and a major participant in creating the wonderful videos of the show that so many Chalice congregants cherish. The first year (month) she became involved with Chalice, she was asked to run video for Cabaret (since she had a couple of cameras). She did that, and after that, most of the editing, which is extremely time-consuming. She has done countless other videos for Chalice, including a choir Zoom video during the pandemic shutdown. Judy also does all the slides and the pages on the website.

And did you ever receive a hug from Judy? If not, you are seriously missing out.



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 Annual Phone Call project to help connect with our congregants is complete. Remember that Board and CT members were not on our call lists (as we are already well connected).
 - 89 households were contacted by 19 callers.
 - 50 conversations (via voice, text, or email) happened.
- Our celebration on September 22 of Tim McKnight's 20 year anniversary as Chalice's music director was well attended, a great success, and very fun!

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

- The new session of children's religious education programs begins September 29:
 - The teen group is participating in a program dubbed, "Snack 'n Seek." It is a continuation of Popcorn Theology (but with better food) interspersed with a study of World Religions. They have identified some speakers from some various religions to visit whenever possible. This program will continue through the rest of the fiscal year.

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.
- Otters and Oceans Task Force researched ideas for Chalice to support ocean health and has planned for Chalice (along with our UU congregations in Vista and Solana Beach) to participate in a beach cleanup in Oceanside on November 2.



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

- Nothing new to report.

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

- Nothing new to report.

Oversight of Chalice programs and committees:

- CT has planned a retreat for ourselves on October 12 to brainstorm ideas for leading the congregation in working with these guideposts.
- Chalice congregants were contacted by text message appearing to be from Rev. Sharon requesting gift cards. CT will be considering how to better protect our congregants information. Our October 5 Council of Chairs meeting will have a topic of scams, security, and password protection.
- CT has not yet added insurance coverage for the shade sails due to the high cost of \$1,600. Our total insurance premium without it is \$7,743.



Group Announcements

Women's Book Discussion Group

On December 17th at 6:30 pm the Chalice Women's Book Discussion Group will meet in the Hub or via Zoom to discuss *Lady Tan's Circle of Friends* by Lisa See. If you are interested, please contact Mary for the Zoom information. Non-binary and trans women are warmly invited

Excerpt from New York Times review:

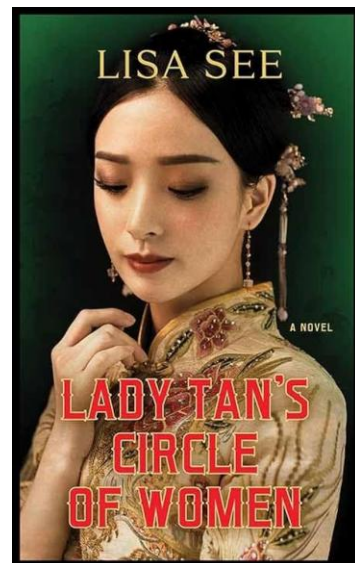
“Whether animal or woman, we are a man's possessions. We women exist to give him heirs and feed, clothe and amuse him. Never forget that,” Respectful Lady instructs our narrator at the beginning of Lisa See's latest novel, “Lady Tan's Circle of Women.” This scene, which takes place as mother and daughter endure the anguish of foot binding, sets the tone for the book.

The subject of See's novel is Tan Yunxian, a real-life woman who lived in China during the Ming dynasty. She went on to become a “ming yi” — famous doctor — and published a compendium of 31 cases in the work “Miscellaneous Records of a Female Doctor.”

After her mother dies from a foot infection, Yunxian finds a new home with her grandparents, who are doctors. Grandmother Ru takes her young ward under her wing, and Yunxian embarks on a medical apprenticeship that will last for years. This is how she meets her first friend, Meiling, who is the daughter of Midwife Shi. Yunxian's family is privileged and widely respected, while Meiling is destined to follow in her mother's footsteps. (Midwives are generally looked down upon since they come into contact with “corrupting” blood.)

Because of their immense class divide, Yunxian and Meiling face formidable challenges.

If “to live is to suffer” (as Respectful Lady says), See makes clear the ameliorating effects of friendship and love. She shows how with the right people we can surpass our own expectations and that the hardships of life are often easier to endure if we don't have to survive them alone.



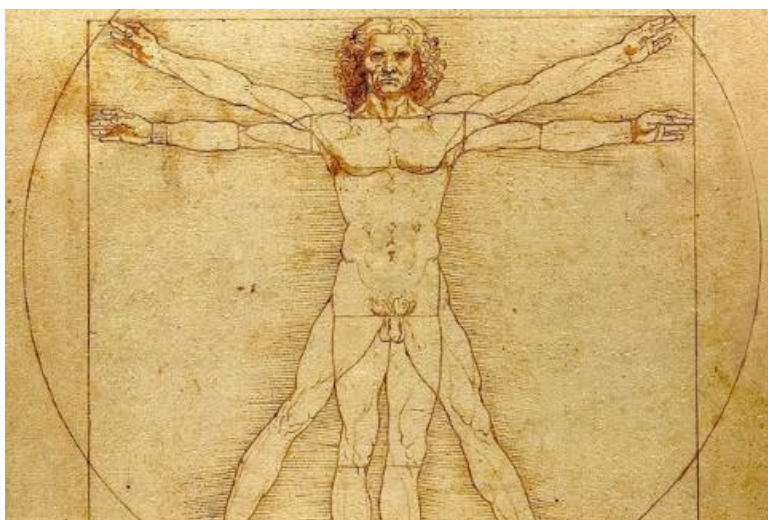
Dine Out Group

We usually meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month for conversation, catching up and getting acquainted. However, as we are entering the Holiday Season, we will not meet in November or December.

We will return in the New Year January 2025. If we do not see you on Sundays in the next two months, have the Happiest of Holidays.

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. We invite everyone, regardless of their background or beliefs, to participate in these enlightening conversations.

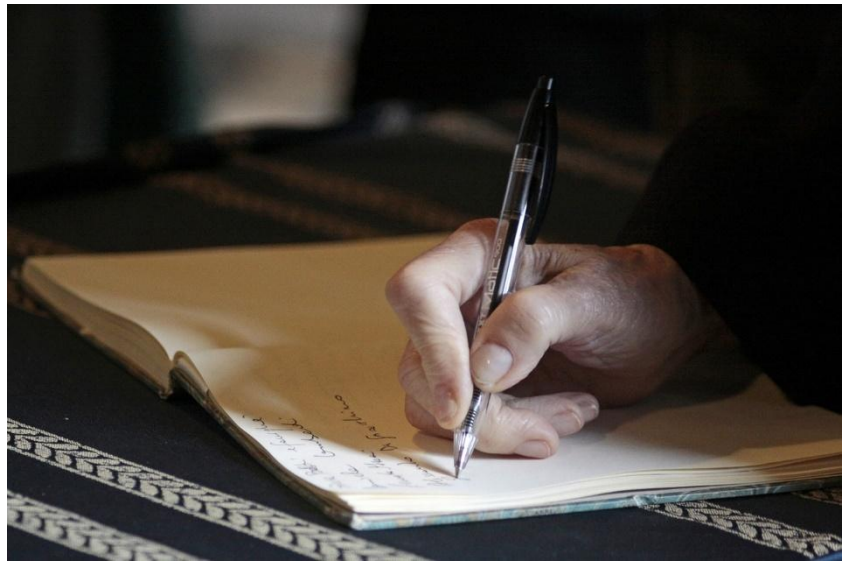
If you are interested in Humanism or just curious what it is about, please consider joining us for our next discussion group. There are also many resources on the web including the American Humanist Association and the Freedom from Religion Foundation.

Contact Tom Carlstrom for comments or questions.



Memoir Writing Group

The Memoir Writing Group currently meets via Zoom on the fourth Friday of the month at 10 AM. **However, we will not be meeting in December.** 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, contemplate your reaction to this statement by F. Scott Fitzgerald:

"It is sadder to find the past again and find it inadequate to the present than it is to have it elude you and remain forever a harmonious conception of memory."

We will meet again on the fourth Friday of January 2025.

Ladies Out to Lunch

The Ladies Out to Lunch group will not meet in December. Will let you know when our January meeting will be. We had a great turnout this month, with eleven in attendance in Escondido at Four Tunas.

Circle Suppers

Circle Suppers are held each month on the third Saturday evening. How does this work? Each month an invitation to Circle Supper is sent to all people who have indicated an interest in attending these suppers. When everyone has answered, one person is assigned to be the host. The host contacts all those interested in attending and provides a list of menu items that are needed for the dinner. This meal is really a highly planned potluck..... Then, on the third Saturday evening people gather for informal conversation and then dinner. This is a great way to get to know other Chalice members. If this type of activity is of interest to you, please contact Emily for further information.



Readers Theater

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

Our next gathering will be on Monday, December 16 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. We'll be reading a perennial favorite of ours, the comedy *Drinking Habits*, by Tom Smith. Accusations, mistaken identities, and romances run wild in this traditional, laugh-out-loud farce. Two nuns at the Sisters of Perpetual Sewing have been secretly making wine to keep the convent's doors open, but Paul and Sally, reporters and former fiancées, are hot on their trail. They go undercover as a nun and priest, but their presence, combined with the addition of a new nun, spurs paranoia throughout the convent that spies have been sent from Rome to shut them down. Wine and secrets are inevitably spilled as everyone tries to preserve the convent and reconnect with lost loves.”

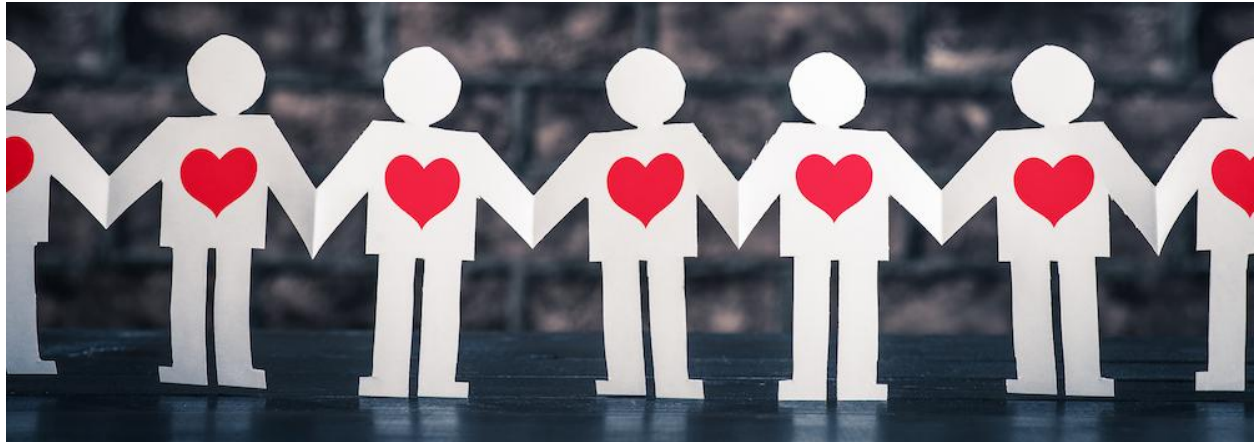


Information

MEMBERSHIP

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

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



Chalice Web Site: <https://chaliceuucongregation.org>
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PrevUUs is published monthly by Chalice Unitarian Universalist Congregation. The complete newsletter is distributed via email to members and posted on the Members Only section of the website. An edited version (without congregant contact information) is posted on the public section of the website. Paper copies are available per request. Deadline is the 24th of the month.

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

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



Calendar for December 2024

Sun

1
10A Worship
10A K-9 RE
11:15A
Coffee Hour
11:45 Greening
of the Chapel
12P Emerging
Adults

8
10A Worship
10A K-9 RE
11:15A
Coffee Hour
12P Emerging
Adults

15
10A Worship
10A K-9 RE
11:15A
Coffee Hour
12P Emerging
Adults
6:30 Drum Circle

22
10A Worship
10A K-9 RE
11:15A
Coffee Hour
12P Emerging
Adults

29
10A Worship
10A K-9 RE
11:15A
Coffee Hour
12P Emerging
Adults

Mon

2
7:30 Uunity
Gruuve

9
7:30 Uunity
Gruuve

16
7:30 Uunity
Gruuve
1P Poetry
Group
6:30P Readers'
Theater

23
7:30 Uunity
Gruuve

30
7:30 Uunity
Gruuve

Tue

3
12P Zoom
Lunch
7P Exec.
Board

10
10A Piano
Tuning
12P Zoom
Lunch
7P Board of
Trustees

17
12P Zoom
Lunch
6:30
Women's
Book
Discussion

24
12P Zoom
Lunch
6P Online
Presence

31
12P Zoom
Lunch

Wed

4
8A W.W.
9A Men's
Breakfast
1P Finance
4P CT
5P Karate

11
8A W.W.
9A Men's
Breakfast
10A
Worship
Ass.
Training
5P Karate
6:30 Men's
Support

18
8A W.W.
9A Men's
Breakfast
4P CT
5P Karate
7P
Humanist

25
8A W.W.
9A Men's
Breakfast
5P Karate

Thu

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

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

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

26
10:30A
Meditation

Fri

6

13
12P Elder's
Lunch

20

27
10A Memoir
Writing

Sat

7
8A WW
9A Karate
10A Music
Committee
5P Winter
Party

14
W.W.
9A Karate
5P Turk
Center
Dinner

21
8A W.W.
9A Karate
10A Worship
6P Circle
Supper

28
8A W.W.
9A Karate

