

April 2025 NEWSLETTER

WELCOME

Volume #26 | Issue #4 | Chalice Unitarian Universalist Congregation

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Soul Symbol for April

Lion

*Brave Leader
with Big Heart*

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

April 6 – Lay-Led Service

“Pluralism: Walking the Path of Many Paths”

Chalice congregants Anne McKeirnan and Wendy Metzger lead us in a service on our UU value of pluralism. We will hear reflections from several Chalice congregants who draw inspiration from other faith traditions.

April 13 – Rev. Sharon Wylie

“Honoring Our Sages and Elders” All-Church Service

Our modern culture glorifies youth and devalues aging. But that doesn't mean we have to! This morning congregants of all ages will celebrate the gifts (and recognize the challenges) of growing older. Congregants 60 years and older will receive blessings and gifts as sages (those in their 60s and 70s) and elders (those who are 80 years and older).

April 20 – Rev. Sharon Wylie

“Deeds not Creeds”

A reflection on Easter and our UU ideas about salvation.

April 27 – Watch Party at Chalice

Chalice congregants are invited to worship at First UU Church of San Diego (at 10 a.m.) or to gather at Chalice to watch the livestream of that service. Rev. Meg Riley will preach the sermon; she is one of our two co-moderators of the UUA. A choir with members from the five San Diego County UU congregations will sing.



Minister's Message

A parable for our times (shared with the congregation during worship on March 23):

Chalice has participated in two beach cleanups in the past five months (in coordination with regularly scheduled cleanups organized by the Surfrider Foundation). Now, when I go for a walk around my house, I see things that are obviously litter—cups and things—and we pick them up while we walk. But the beach isn't really like that. Yes, if you're the first person to hit the beach on Saturday morning, maybe you're seeing obvious litter. But at a beach cleanup, there's a lot of us, and the beach seems pretty clean at first glance. I think those of us who have gone have had that experience of thinking, "do I even need to be here? It doesn't look that bad."

But you keep finding little bits of plastic and next thing you know, you have a half pound of plastic in just your bag. And there's 40 people on the beach who are helping with the beach cleanup. If each person has a half pound of plastic, well, that's 20 pounds of plastic we've picked up.

At the last beach cleanup earlier this month, we were done picking up, and I was walking with some Chalice congregants back to the Surfrider Foundation table to check out and to put our litter in the trash. And just as we were walking and chatting, I looked down and spotted another big piece of plastic. And I realized, it's really hard to spot all of the litter on the beach.

The other thing that was just sort of gross to all of us who were there was that we kept seeing these little white bubbles and we eventually realized it was Styrofoam. It doesn't decompose—not quickly anyway—it just breaks into smaller and smaller pieces. I don't know when's the last time I used Styrofoam, but it really brought home to me how dangerous it is. They're so little and they're everywhere and you can hardly see it.

I think the story of cleaning up a beach is a good parable for our times. One person can't do it all. The 40 of us definitely didn't get all of the litter that was there that week. And you know, people were going to be to the beach later on that day, leaving more litter after them.



Rev. Sharon Wylie
Minister



So, you know, we all have to work together. It takes continuous work. We need to keep coming back. And that's just the work of living near the beach, that ongoing work of trying to keep it picked up.

I think that's good to remember in our politics and the things we'd like to change in the world. I wish we could just make one big effort and have the work be done. But of course, we see that's not the case. We have to keep working at it. Progress will be made and then there will be backward steps.

So I wanted to offer that as an image to keep with you as we do justice work. We all have to work together, with everybody doing their part, and we have to keep at it.

Bright blessings,
Sharon



President's Column

Greetings Chalice!

It is Pledge Drive Season! Our 4-week Pledge Drive started on March 16, and ends on April 13, Celebration Sunday. Our theme is "Together, A Force for Good." When we join together, we are stronger, more resilient, and capable of creating positive changes in our local communities.



Lara Brown
Board President

Sometimes we can get discouraged, feeling like our actions don't make a difference. As I tell my adult children, you have no way of knowing how every good action, how every kind word impacts other people. Our words and actions ripple out in positive waves that we often can't see, but are there nonetheless. Every small gesture counts: the smile at just the right moment, a hug when desperately needed, encouragement to keep going, just being there. You are doing good things, and it makes a difference even if you can't see it.

Combine that with a whole community doing good things together, and the waves of positive impact are magnified even more. That's "Together, A Force for Good."

Looking for ways to make an impact in our local community? Contact Paul Courtright or Marshall Fogel and ask to be added to our Social Justice mailing list. There is so much good work being done! Our Social Justice Team has identified three organizations to potentially partner with: UU for Social Justice, Interfaith, and the San Diego Food Bank. I also love seeing the pictures of congregants participating in protests around the county. The Social Justice Team plans to meet the fourth Sunday of each month after service.

I hope you all have a chance to get outside and enjoy this beautiful Spring season. The cherry blossoms, manzanita, ceanothus, and all manner of beautiful plants and trees and rocks are calling. We are blessed at Chalice to have lovely grounds to enjoy. We can hold this beauty and joy at the same time we hold our drive to be a force for good in a world that desperately needs it.

Blessings to you,

Lara Brown

President, Board of Trustees

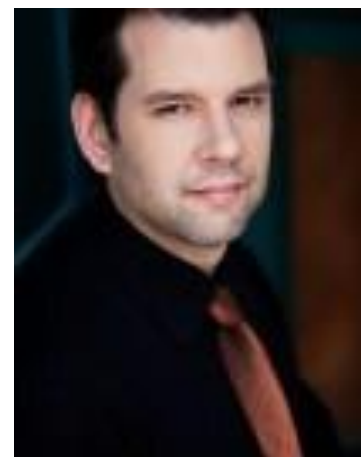


Music Program

In-CHOIR-ing Minds Want to Know

The Chancel Choir has a busy Spring season!

- ♪ On April 20th, the choir will be performing an arrangement of the beloved hymn “Morning Has Broken” at the Sunday morning worship service.
- ♪ On April 27th, members of Chalice’s Chancel Choir will travel to First UU Church of San Diego, where they will participate in a mass choir performance which will take place at the 3rd Annual Pacific Southwest Service Area Assembly. The worship service starts at 10am, so we hope to see lots of Chalice folks there!
- ♪ On May 4th, the Chancel Choir and *Unity Gruuve* will be performing the Annie Lennox song “Little Bird” to celebrate National Bird Day. Charles Almanzo Babcock, who was the Superintendent of Schools in Oil City, Pennsylvania, established the first Bird Day in 1894. It was also the first holiday in the United States dedicated to the celebration of birds. Babcock founded the day, observed annually on May 4th, to advance bird conservation as a moral value.



Tim McKnight
Music Director

New Children’s Recessional Song!

Starting March 30th, we will be singing a new song to send the children to their Religious Education classes. The new song is called “As You Go” by Kathleen Tracy. The song lyrics go like this:

*We hold you in our love as you go, as you go.
May your heart be at peace as you go.
To nurture the spark of your precious life,
We hold you in our love as you go.*



Mark Your Calendars for the Spring Music Service on June 8th!!!

The Spring Music Service is an annual tradition at Chalice. This year's music service will take place on Sunday, June 8th @ 10:00am. The theme of the service is "Better Together." We will explore the ways that our Chalice community makes us stronger, better, healthier and happier than we could possibly be if we tried to go at this journey alone!

Game Night Concert – Huge Success!

Here are some memories from the amazing Game Night Concert held on March 22.

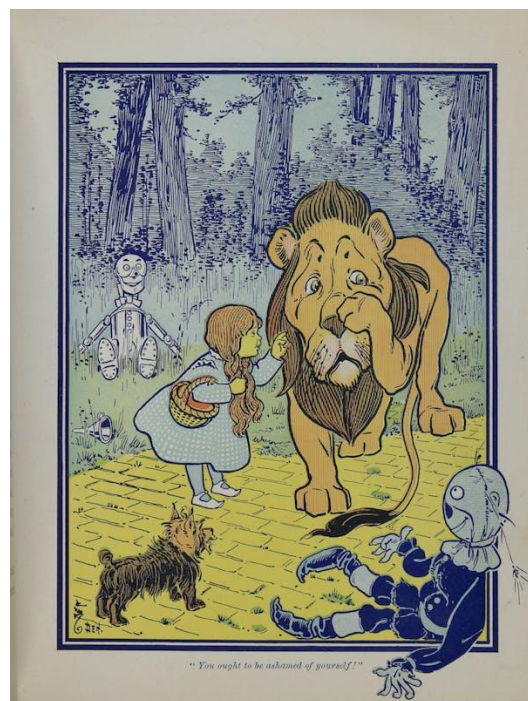


Sunday Worship Music – April Highlights

- **Apr 6:** **Tim McKnight** will be our worship musician.
- **Apr 13:** **John Schulz** will be our worship musician.
- **Apr 20:** The **Chancel Choir** will present "Morning Has Broken", words by Eleanor Farjeon, arranged by John Leavitt, tune based on a Scottish folk melody. **Tim McKnight** will be our worship musician.
- **Apr 27:** The **Chancel Choir** will participate in a mass choir performance at the Pacific Southwest Service Area Assembly worship service held at First UU Church in San Diego. This service will also be live streamed at Chalice. No in person worship musician.

Looking Ahead

Chancel Choir RehearsalsThursdays @ 7:30p in the Chapel
Handchime Ensemble RehearsalsThursdays @ 6:30p in the Hub
Spring Music Service Sunday, June 8 @ 10a in the Chapel
Auction Event: Sorrow, Comfort, Hope and Joy: Exploring the Power & Resilience of the Human Spirit through Music Saturday, September 27 @ 3p in the Chapel



Family Ministries

Guest Column from Tony Bianca, Lifespan Faith Formation
First UU Church of San Diego

Breathe in trees
 breathe out calm
Feel at ease
 in and out
Free to be
 feel the love
Breathing as
 we are one

by Ardath Schaibly



Kathleen Swift
Director of Family
Ministries

All Church Camp: Breathe In Peace, Breathe Out Love May 30th-June 1st

Are you ready to step away from the busyness of daily life and reconnect with the beauty of nature, community, and your own spirit? Join us for this year's All Church Camp, where our theme is **"Breathe in Peace, Breathe Out Love."**

If you've been to Camp before, you know what it's all about and I hope you'll come back this year. If you've not been before, All Church Camp is a tradition that brings together people of all ages for a weekend of relaxation, community building, fun, and renewal. This multigenerational gathering offers a wonderful opportunity to build connections, celebrate our shared values, and create lasting memories.

Throughout the weekend, we will explore ways to cultivate peace within ourselves and radiate love into the world. Nurture your spirit through guided meditations, hikes and nature walks, workshops, singing, making art, or just talking some free time to unwind and enjoy the beautiful surroundings. And of course, we'll come together for delicious meals and shared laughter.

No matter your age or stage of life, there is a place for you at All Church Camp. We always make sure to plan a verity of activities that can be done as a family, and we're also mindful to schedule activities that children can do without their grown-ups to give the adults some time for themselves as well.

As tensions build in the world around us, many folks report feeling overwhelmed, frustrated and anxious. In these times, it's more important than ever that we deepen our connections to each other and take time to renew our spirits. Come breathe in the peace of our community and breathe out the love that sustains us all!

For more information and to register, visit <https://www.firstuusandiego.org/all-church-camp.html>. Additional questions can be directed to Tony@FirstUUSanDiego.org



TOGETHER, A FORCE FOR GOOD

Pledge Drive for FY26

Our annual pledge drive to support our shared congregational life is underway!! Please submit your 2025-2026 pledge by Sunday, April 13 by any of these methods:

- The pledge website: <https://chaliceuuc.wixsite.com/pledge-drive>
- Reply to this email, which sends directly to our Congregational Administrator at office@chaliceuuccongregation.org
- Leaving a voice message for the Office Administrator, Kathleen Swift, at (760) 737-0393
- Fill out the form in your pledge packet, tear it off, and mail it to Chalice
- Fill out the form in your pledge packet, tear it off, and submit it during Sunday morning worship on April 6 or April 13

However you make your pledge commitment, you are invited to affirm your stewardship gift to Chalice during Sunday morning worship on April 6 or April 13.

And join us for Celebration Sunday, April 13! Bounce house, food, and fun!





Concert at Chalice by The Uklectics!
April 5 @ 6 PM
\$15 for individuals, \$25 for families

Lena has joined a new band called The Uklectics - we perform an eclectic selection of tunes with the predominate instruments in the band being voice and Ukulele. Join us for an evening of old-time feel-good favorites mixed with some new pieces that are sure to please.

Thanks!



All Church Camp: Breathe In Peace, Breathe Out Love May 30th-June 1st

Join us for this year's *All Church Camp*, where our theme is "**Breathe in Peace, Breathe Out Love.**" (Gratitude to Victoria Cagle, who came up with this year's theme.)



Camp de Benneville Pines, a four-season Unitarian Universalist (UU) camp, located in the San Bernardino Mountains, offers a unique opportunity for campers of all ages to connect with nature, build community, and engage in a variety of activities, including hiking, swimming, archery, and more, all within a welcoming and inclusive environment.

The camp offers a variety of activities throughout the year, from hiking, swimming, and archery in the warmer months to snowshoeing, snow sculpting, and sledding in the winter. It is nestled in a forest of towering pines, cedars, and oaks, providing campers with opportunities to connect with nature and build community.

Campers are housed in comfortable but rustic cabins with showers and bathrooms down the hall. It also offers wonderful food prepared for all diets. Mostly, Camp de Benneville Pines provides a space for campers to recharge, connect with nature, and build lasting friendships. There will be activities that can be done as a family and also activities that children can do without their grown-ups to give the adults some time for themselves as well.

Please share your talents with us! Can you lead a meditation? An art class, craft, or a drum circle? Can you teach archery or co-lead a hike? Please let Kathleen Swift or Victoria Cagle know.

For more information and to register, visit
<https://www.firstuusandiego.org/all-church-camp.html>

Important: Chalice has money set aside for scholarships. Please contact Kathleen if you are interested.



Overflow Parking on Sunday Mornings

Did you know that Chalice has an overflow parking area? The entrance is on the right side of Miller, just up the hill from the entrance to the main parking lot. A set of stairs leads back down to the church campus.

We would like to ensure that on Sunday mornings, the main Chalice parking has space for the following groups:

- Families with young children
- Elders 80 years and older
- Anyone with difficulty walking or anyone with medical conditions
- People new to the congregation

Please consider parking in the overflow area if you are not in one of these groups, to help provide premier parking spaces for those who need the closest and safest access to church.

Note: There is a row of cones set up to avoid having people access the area through the wrong driveway. Please use the driveway immediately past the cones.

Thank you!
The Coordinating Team





Join our Chalice walking team!

NAMI is the National Alliance on Mental Illness, and NAMIWalks is their annual campaign to raise awareness and funds.

When: Saturday, April 26, 2025 from 7:00-11:00 a.m.

**Where: NTC Park in Liberty Station
2455 Cushing Road, San Diego, CA 92106**

Event Route Length: The event is a 5k (3.1 miles) walk, but you can walk more or less as you feel able. One loop around NTC Park in Liberty Station is approximately 1.5 mile.

Registration is free. Join the team at www.namiwalks.org/team/72218.

Fundraising: Please ask your family and friends (but let's spare our Chalice congregants from being solicited multiple times) to donate to our campaign. Chalice congregants will be asked to donate at our April 20 worship service. Chalites can also make a donation directly at our team page at www.namiwalks.org/team/72218.

Event details:

It can be crowded on walk day, so we suggest arriving early. Leashed pets are welcome. Team Chalice will meet at 7:00 a.m. We will bring our congregational banner to carry. Team captain Rev. Sharon will be in touch beforehand about where to meet.

Registration Opens at 7:00 a.m.

Opening Ceremony Starts at 8:00 a.m.

Walk Begins at 8:15 a.m.

Event Ends at 11:00 a.m.



Board News

The Board of Trustees met on March 11, 2025 and accomplished a number of things:

Monthly Reports—The Board reviewed the President's Report, Vice President's Report, Treasurer's Report, Minister's Report and Coordinating Team Report.

TASK FORCES:

- The **Policy Task Force** presented its preliminary report. The Board suggested several changes including the following: clarifying the categories of “Board Approved Policies,” calling the non-Board policies and procedures “Procedures,” calling the interested parties “Stakeholders” and making sure that the history of changes was maintained.
- The **Engagement Task Force** tested a questionnaire that could be used to allow congregants to learn more about the people serving on the Board.
- The **Pledge Drive Task Force**: The Pledge Drive started March 16, kicking off a four-week pledge drive that concludes on April 13, Celebration Sunday. The Board confirmed the member "stewardship contribution" as \$100 per year. It was also confirmed that older congregants could make a Qualified Charitable Distribution pledge from their IRA and save taxes.

Board/CT meeting —The Board and CT will meet on April 19 to discuss our 5-year Guideposts. This is a follow-up to our February retreat.

Dangerous and Disruptive Policies—The update to these policies was completed and approved by the Board.

Information System--The Board discussed the need to improve congregant's access to online information about Chalice.



News from Coordinating Team:

- The congregation was notified about opportunities for two online classes: Aiming for Allyship: Intersectional Anti-Racism Training, and Faith Forward's "UU Elevator Speech".
- Social Justice Team has identified three organizations to potentially partner with: UU for Social Justice, Interfaith, and the San Diego Food Bank. The Social Justice Team plans to meet the fourth Sunday of each month after service.
- There are still some issues with our recently-repaired hub doors. Our locksmith is ordering new parts.

Congregational Meeting: Sunday, June 8 after service

Please put Sunday, June 8, on your calendars for our congregational meeting. Members will vote on our budget as well new Board of Trustee positions including Vice-President and Treasurer. We need a quorum, so please plan to attend!



Group Announcements

Women's Book Discussion Group

On April 15th at 6:30 pm the Chalice Women's Book Discussion Group will meet in the Hub or via Zoom to discuss *The Women* by Kristin Hannah. If you are interested, please contact the office (office@chaliceuucongregation.org) for the Zoom information. Non-binary and trans women are warmly invited.

Excerpt from Kirkus Reviews:

A young woman's experience as a nurse in Vietnam casts a deep shadow over her life.

When we learn that the farewell party in the opening scene is for Frances "Frankie" McGrath's older brother—"a golden boy, a wild child who could make the hardest heart soften"—who is leaving to serve in Vietnam in 1966, we feel pretty certain that poor Finley McGrath is marked for death. Still, it's a surprise when the fateful doorbell rings less than 20 pages later. His death inspires his sister to enlist as an Army nurse, and this turn of events is just the beginning of a roller coaster of a plot that's impressive and engrossing if at times a bit formulaic. Hannah renders the experiences of the young women who served in Vietnam in all-encompassing detail. The first half of the book, set in gore-drenched hospital wards, mildewed dorm rooms, and boozy officers' clubs, is an exciting read, tracking the transformation of virginal, uptight Frankie into a crack surgical nurse and woman of the world.

Her tensely platonic romance with a married surgeon ends when his broken, unbreathing body is airlifted out by helicopter; she throws her pent-up passion into a wild affair with a soldier who happens to be her dead brother's best friend. In the second part of the book, after the war, Frankie seems to experience every possible bad break. A drawback of the story is that none of the secondary characters in her life are fully three-dimensional: Her dismissive, chauvinistic father and tight-lipped, pill-popping mother, her fellow nurses, and her various love interests are more plot devices than people. You'll wish you could have gone to Vegas and placed a bet on the ending—while it's against all the odds, you'll see it coming from a mile away.

A dramatic, vividly detailed reconstruction of a little-known aspect of the Vietnam War.



Dine Out Group

We meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month. This month Dine Out will meet at Cork & Craft located at 16990 Via Tazon Rancho Bernardo on April 22nd at 6:00.

Please RSVP to the office (office @chaliceuucongregation.org) by April 18th.

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 the office (office @chaliceuucongregation.org)

"Stories have to be told or they die, and when they die, we can't remember who we are or why we're here." (Sue Monk Kidd) Are there stories you wish you had been told? Have we told our stories enough to ground ourselves and our descendants?

You are invited to join us when we meet again on the fourth Friday of April.

Ladies Out to Lunch

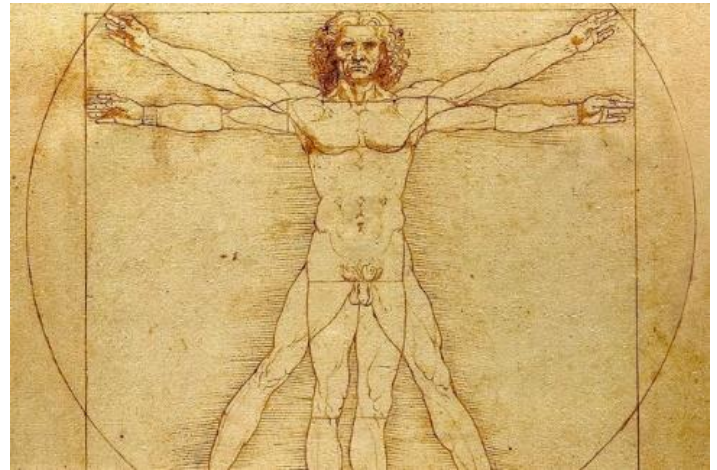
The Ladies out to Lunch group will meet on Friday, April 18 at 11:30 AM. We will meet at Fish House Vera Cruz, located at 360 Via Vera Cruz in

San Marcos. Please rsvp to the office (office @chaliceuucongregation.org).



Humanism Discussion Group

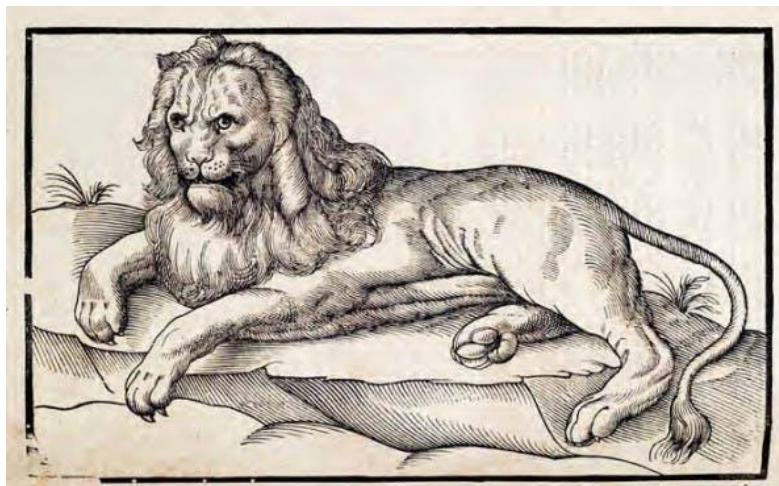
Humanism is a philosophy that places humans and their well-being at the center of attention. It emphasizes the significance of reason, ethics, and compassion in guiding our lives, rather than relying on supernatural beliefs. Humanism acknowledges the potential for humans to create positive change and 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. Contact the office (Office@chaliceuucongregation.org) for contact information. There are also many resources on the web including the American Humanist Association and the Freedom from Religion Foundation. please contact the office (office@chaliceuucongregation.org)

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.



Chalice Website: <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 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 April 2025

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1
12P Zoom
Lunch
6P Finance

2
8A W.W.
9A Men's
Breakfast
4P CT
5P Karate
5P
Uklectics
Practice

3
10:30A
Women's
Meditation
6:30P
Chimes
7:30P Choir

4
5
8A WW
9A Karate
10A Music
9A Uklectics
Concert

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

7
7:30P Unity
Gruuve

8
12P Zoom
Lunch
3P Sol
Intentions
7P Board of
Trustees

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

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

11
11A
Cleveland
Memorial
12P Elder's
Lunch
7:30P Drum

12
8A W.W.
9A Karate
10A Council
of Chairs
3P Sol
Intentions
5P Turk
Dinner
6P Seder

13
10A Worship
11:15A
Coffee Hour
12P Emerging
Adults
11A Celebration
Sunday

14
7:30P Unity
Gruuve

15
9:45 Indie
Sol
10A Policy
TF
12P Zoom
Lunch
6:30P
Woman's
Book Disc.

16
8A W.W.
9ABreakfast
9:45 Indie S.
1P Fiber Art
4P CT
4P Bible
5P Karate
7P Human.

17
9:45 Indie
Sol
10:30A
Women's
Meditation
6:30P
Chimes
7:30P Choir

18
11:30 Ladies
Out to
Lunch

19
8A W.W.
9A Karate
10A Worship
1P Board/CT
Retreat
6P Circle
Supper

20
10A Worship
10A K-9 RE
11:15A
Coffee Hour
12P Emerging
Adults

21
7:30P Unity
Gruuve

22
9:45 Indie
12P Zoom
Lunch
6P Dine Out
6P Online
Presence

23
8A W.W.
9ABreakfast
9:45 Indie S.
5P Karate

24
9:45 Indie
Sol
10:30A
Meditation
6:30P
Handchimes
7:30P Choir

25
10A Memoir
Writing

26
8A W.W.
9A Karate
9A Nami
Walk

27
10A Worship
10A K-9 RE
11:15A
Coffee Hour
12P E.A.
12P S.J.

28
6:30P Readers'
Theater
7:30P Unity
Gruuve

29
9:45 Indie
12P Zoom
Lunch

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

