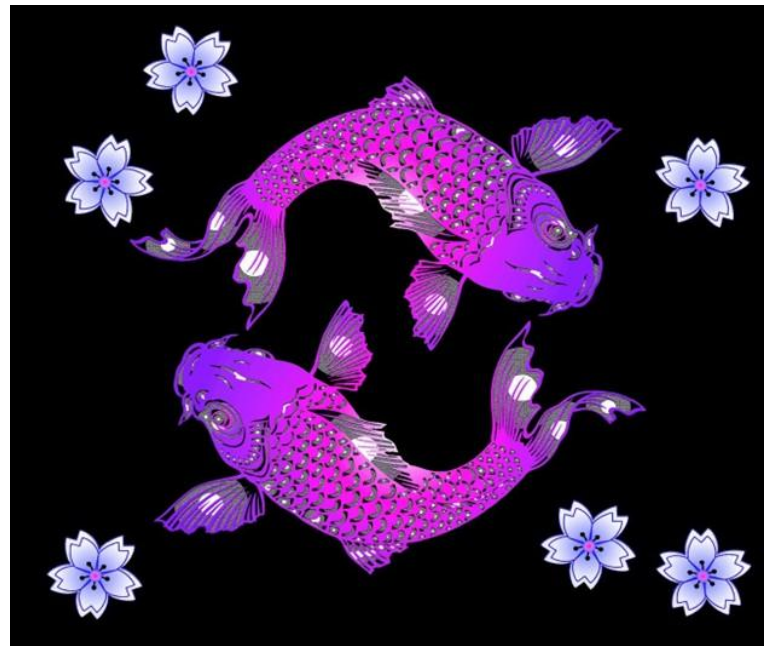


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Soul Symbol for March

**Yin-Yang**

*Balanced and thoughtful*

# 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

March 2 – Rev. Sharon Wylie

“Blessed or Cursed?” (UU Theologies #7)

Today we consider theodicy, the study of why there is suffering. This is the seventh 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.

March 9 – Rev. Dr. Arvid Straube

“For Christ's Sake: Jesus and Christian Nationalism”

Rev. Dr. Arvid Straube is Chalice’s Affiliate Minister. He has a ministry of spiritual direction and is an Affiliate Faculty member at Meadville Lombard Theological School.

March 16 – Lay-Led Service

“Breath of Life: Ancient Wisdom, Modern Science, and the Power Within”

Chalice congregants Jessica Mellor and Jessie Striplin lead us in contemplating the power of breath.

March 23 – Rev. Sharon Wylie

“March Madness” All-Church Service

The poet Wendell Berry wrote about seeking “the peace of wild things” when despair for the world felt too much to bear. This morning is the culmination of our “March Madness” voting for our communal favorite Pacific Ocean dweller!

March 30 – Rev. Sharon Wylie

“Still Here, Still Beautiful”

Today we mark International Trans Day of Visibility, which occurs annually on March 31. The day is dedicated to celebrating trans people and raising awareness of discrimination faced by trans people worldwide.



# Minister's Message



As many of you have noticed, I am often (not always) preaching without a script on Sundays. I thought this newsletter column would be a good way to answer some of your questions about this style of preaching.

I started experimenting with this different style of preaching early last year. After more than 10 years of preaching, I was finding it hard to sit at my computer to write out a full sermon anymore. So first I experimented with what's called “unscripted” preaching, meaning that the sermon isn't written down, but has been practiced out loud multiple times to prepare for Sunday morning. Especially when preaching for two Sunday worship times, it was important that the sermon be planned enough that each service was hearing the same points.

Then I started experimenting with what's called “extemporaneous” preaching. Preparing for this kind of sermon means doing plenty of reading and reflection about different ideas I might want to include in a sermon, but not creating a full outline and practicing every part of it out loud. This way of preaching means being in the moment and letting myself be open to what I feel needs to be said. For this kind of sermon, I might sit down when it's over and realize and remember there were a couple of other ideas or thoughts I had. But I feel at peace that those ideas must not have needed to be said since I didn't remember or feel inspired to include them in the sermon while preaching.

And then there have been some Sundays when I am not just preaching extemporaneously but having a conversation with the congregation in real time and working through some questions and reflections together. I would call this extemporaneous preaching with conversation. In a world where you can pull up brilliant 20-minute TED talks on almost any topic any time, our ability to converse together as part of the sermon experience seems like one of the particular gifts of being in religious community.

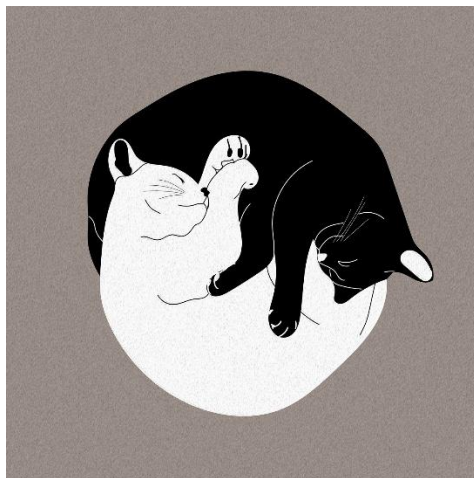


And of course, I haven't abandoned written sermons. I am finding as I become more confident in these different ways of preaching that the best way of presenting the sermon topic reveals itself through my preparation. There are times that I think I'm preparing for an unscripted sermon, and then I realize Saturday afternoon that I really want to write it all down because there are particular things I want to say in a particular way. There have been other times that I thought I was writing a sermon and I realized what I really wanted was to ask you what you were thinking. Each topic has its own creative process, and I don't know what form the sermon will take until Saturday evening, when I am done preparing.

I have always thought of sermon writing as a creative process, and now that I have these choices about how to present the sermon, I feel that the creativity of sermon preparation is more alive for me than it has ever been.

It is undoubtedly a sign of what is changing for me that I am writing this column by using the dictation feature of the computer. At any rate, I am grateful for the positive response I have gotten from you. It has felt risky to be out on the tightrope without a net below, but feeling the love and support of Chalice congregants has given me the courage to take these risks.

Bright blessings,  
Sharon



# President's Column



Lara Brown  
Board President

Greetings Chalice!

It's March, and you know what that means! In addition to our March Madness "Favorite Pacific Ocean Dweller" voting (go Leafy Sea Dragon!), it's also the beginning of our Annual Pledge Drive! Pledges of financial support from members and friends are what makes our beloved Chalice community possible, so in March and April we will be asking you to make your annual pledge to Chalice. You will be receiving an email before March 16 with the details, but here are some highlights:

- **Pledge Drive Theme - "Together: A Force For Good"**. Our Pledge Drive Task Force is so excited about this theme and can't wait to share it with you!
- Sunday, March 16 - Pledge Drive kickoff and pledge packet pickup
- Sunday, April 13 - Celebration Sunday. Celebration Sunday marks the end of our Pledge Drive and we celebrate after service with fun for the kids and tacos on the patio.

There are other amazing things happening at Chalice in March, such as these family friendly auction events open to the entire congregation:

- Sunday, March 2 @ 11:30am - "Potluck and Improv Comedy" - Enjoy a potluck after service followed by an afternoon of quick thinking creativity, cunning, comedy, and likely a very liberal dose of corniness! Suggested donation of \$10/individual, \$20/family. (Potluck is free for everyone!)
- Saturday, March 22 @ 2:00pm - "Game Night Concert" - Tim McKnight and Jennifer Savion are hosting this unique event featuring an innovative combination of music and games. \$20 suggested donation.



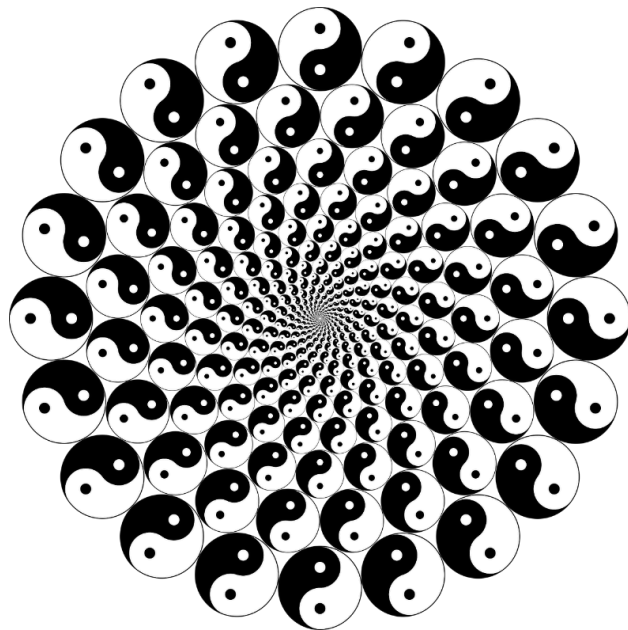
Here are more March events, centering on social justice:

- Saturday, March 1 @ 9a - Beach Cleanup - Check your email for the details on this event in Oceanside, led by the Surfrider Foundation.
- Every 2nd Saturday of the month - Volunteer to serve dinner at the Interfaith Turk Center in Escondido. Contact Steve Schlesinger for details and to get on his mailing list. This is so popular, Steve is considering adding an additional Saturday each month to serve dinner.
- March and every month - Get on the Social Justice mailing list by contacting Paul Courtright or Marshall Fogel. There is important work to be done and there is no one better to do it with than your fellow Chalice congregants.

I hope all these events remind you that even in the midst of all that is happening in our country and wider world, there is still goodness and joy to be found - even if we have to create it ourselves.

Blessings to you all,

Lara Brown  
President, Board of Trustees



# Music Program



Tim McKnight  
Music Director

## In-CHOIR-ing Minds Want to Know

It has now been 5 years since the COVID-19 pandemic began. On March 1st, 2020, the Chancel Choir sang a beautiful song called “Come In from the Firefly Darkness” by Amy F. Bernon. At the time, we had no idea that it would be the last time we would be able to sing together for a very long time.

The Chancel Choir is bringing back this same piece, “Come In from the Firefly Darkness” on March 2, 2025 for a few reasons:

- 1) As I just discussed, March 2025 marks 5 years since the beginning of the pandemic.
- 2) The poetry of the song actually ties into the pandemic in an unexpected way, even though when we sang in 2020, we couldn’t have imagined that connection.
- 3) Amy F. Bernon is one of my favorite living choral composers in the world!

Below is the text of this lovely song. Notice how this person is asking to come back inside after a long time away from their friend. They long to sing with their friend once again. How deeply we all longed to be able to sing with each other again, something that we took for granted for so long...

*Open up your door, my friend, and let me come in,  
Come in from the firefly darkness to hear your stories again.  
I have wandered through this land from end to end.  
I've come home through the firefly darkness to sing with you again.*

*Sing songs of wonder, sing of life begun,  
Of fireflies and full moons over meadows green.*

*Sing songs of children growing toward the sun,  
Like the wild new lilies of the spring, the spring.*



*I've been up in mountain skies with the elk and the snow,  
Heard the silence of the prairie, and watched the wild grass grow.  
Road and river beckon me in voices clear and low,  
My path will be lit by fireflies, so now friend, I must go.  
My path will be lit by fireflies, so now friend, I must go.*

Here is what I shared with the congregation 5 years ago about this piece of music. It's wonderfully innocent and naïve, but informative!

"Today is the beginning of Women's History Month. A little over 100 years ago, composer Amy Beach, who had become the first widely successful female American composer, came to San Diego for the Panama-California Exposition in Balboa Park. In fact, June 28, 1915, was declared "Mrs. H. H. A. Beach Day" and was filled with performances featuring her music. There is a picture in the Balboa Park organ pavilion of then President Woodrow Wilson presenting a special award to Beach on her special day.

We've made some progress toward equality in the last 100 years, but not nearly fast enough. It wasn't until 2013, almost 100 years after Amy Beach accepted her award from the President, that Cyndi Lauper won the Tony Award for Best Original Score for Kinky Boots, becoming the first woman ever to win that award solo."

### **Sunday Worship Music – March Highlights**

**Mar 2:** The Chancel Choir will present "Come In From the Firefly Darkness", by Amy F. Bernon. **Tim McKnight** will be our worship musician.

**Mar 9:** **John Schulz** will be our worship musician.

**Mar 16:** **Tim McKnight** will be our worship musician.

**Mar 23:** **John Schulz** will be our worship musician.

**Mar 30:** **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  
Auction Event: Game Night Con..... Saturday, March 22 @ 2p 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



*Sunday, February 23: Chalice Handchime Ensemble performs "The Londonderry Air", with Susan Spoto on flute*

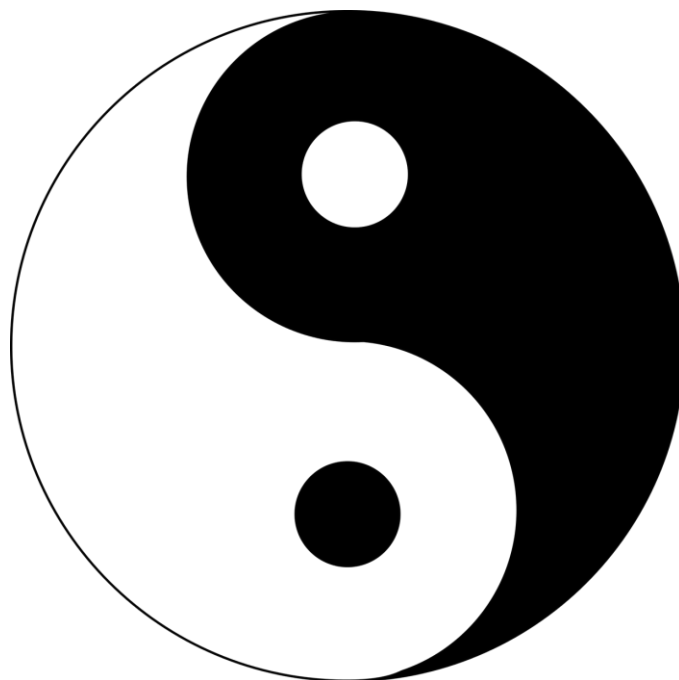


## Save the Date - Chalice Auction 2025

Our annual Chalice Auction will be held online  
from Oct. 19-26, with the live auction on  
Saturday, Oct. 25, 2025!

Please put these dates in your calendar.

And remember that it is never too early to start  
thinking about  
donations! More details to come as the auction  
gets closer.



# Board News

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

**Report Name**—The Board decided to change the name of this report from “Board Report” to “BOARD NEWS” to differentiate it from the financial Board Report to the Board.

## **Task Forces:**

- The **Policy Task Force** presented its ideas on changes to Chalice policies including: having a common format for policies, policies provided annually to Board members in an updated Board Book, no repetition of text from other documents (By-laws, Employee Manual, etc), a sponsor for every policy, sending a list of policies that need updating to the Board and making policies more accessible to congregants.
- The **Pledge Task Force** shared the theme for this year's Pledge Drive: “Together, A Force For Good.”
- The **Engagement Task Force** has developed a series of "get to know you" questions for Board and CT members.

**Board/CT Retreat**—The Board and Coordinating Team participated in a 5-hour leadership development session on February 11<sup>th</sup>. The session was conducted by Reverend Doctor Melissa James, our regional UUA representative, and was felt to be a valuable experience by Board/CT members.

**Reserve Study**—The CT expressed an interest in planning for deferred maintenance for Chalice property and equipment. The Board heard a presentation on the alternative of commissioning a formal Reserve Study done by a vendor which would include an inventory of items, estimating when and what might be needed at what cost annually over 30 years and then planning for a reserve fund to meet the need. This formal study would cost several thousand dollars and could be paid for from a recent Legacy gift to Chalice. The Board decided to look at an alternative of doing this type of study in-house in the future.



## News from Coordinating Team:

- Chalice is sponsoring our renter, Indie Sol, in offering a one-hour gathering on the second Saturday of the month called “Sol Intentions Self-Love Series.” This gathering is being advertised to Chalice congregants, to Indie Sol’s mailing list, and in the wider community. This is scheduled through the end of the year.
- Seven Chalice congregants are signed up to attend Faith Forward’s online Biblical Literacy class, part 1 (six sessions).
- Our newly forming Social Justice Team, led by Paul Courtright and Marshall Fogel, held a meeting after service on Sunday, February 2. Forty-four (44) congregants attended. The February 5th e-nuus has a summary of the meeting.
- Our annual pledge drive theme is “Together, A Force for Good.” Pledge drive packets will be handed out on March 16, kicking off a four-week pledge drive that concludes on April 13, Celebration Sunday.
- The live auction date for 2025 will be October 25, with the online auction the week before. Save the date!
- Care of our buildings and grounds included fixing doors, tidying up the Fireside Lounge, and installing our fifth and final shade on the patio.



# Group Announcements

## Women's Book Discussion Group

On March 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm the Chalice Women's Book Discussion Group will meet in the Hub or via Zoom to discuss *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett. If you are interested, please contact the office: [office@chaliceuucongregation.org](mailto:office@chaliceuucongregation.org). Non-binary and trans women are warmly invited.

### Excerpt from Kirkus Reviews:

It's time to harvest the cherries from their Michigan orchard, but the pandemic means that Joe Nelson; his wife, Lara; and their daughters, Emily, Maisie, and Nell, must pick all the fruit themselves.

To lighten the lengthy, grueling workdays, and prompted by the recent death of world-famous actor Peter Duke, the girls press Lara to tell them about her romance with Duke at Tom Lake, a summer stock company in Michigan, and her decision to give up acting after one big movie role. Lara's reminiscences, peppered by feisty comments from her daughters and periodic appearances by her gentle, steadfast husband, provide the foundation for Patchett's moving portrait of a woman looking back at a formative period in her life and sharing some—but only some—of it with her children.

Duke flashes across her recollections as a wildly talented, nakedly ambitious, and extremely crazy young man clearly headed for stardom, but the real interest in this portion of the novel lies in Patchett's delicate delineation of Lara's dawning realization that, fine as she is as Emily in *Our Town*, she has a limited talent and lacks the drive that propels Duke and her friend and understudy Pallas. The fact that Pallas, who's Black, doesn't get the break that Duke does is one strand in Patchett's intricate and subtle thematic web, which also enfolds the nature of storytelling, the evolving dynamics of a family, and the complex interaction between destiny and choice.

Lara's daughters are standouts among the sharply dawn characterizations: once-volatile Emily, now settled down to be the heir apparent to the farm; no-nonsense veterinarian-in-training Maisie; and Nell, the aspiring actor and unerring observer who anticipates every turn in her mother's tale. Patchett expertly handles her layered plot, embedding one charming revelation and one brutal (but in retrospect inevitable) betrayal into a dual narrative that deftly maintains readers' interest in both the past and present action. These braided strands culminate in a denouement at once deeply sad and tenderly life-affirming.



## Dine Out Group

We always meet the 4th Tuesday of each month. The Dine Out Group will meet at Stone Brewery located at 1997 Citracado in Escondido on March 25th at 6:00pm.

If you are interested, please contact the office:  
office@chaliceuucongregation.org.  
by March 21st.

Singles and couples are welcome for conversation, getting acquainted and catching up. 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, please contact the office: office@chaliceuucongregation.org.

All of us have experienced places that have had a profound effect on us, whether in a dynamic flash or over a period of long exposure. Filmmaker Agnes Varda said "If we opened people up, we'd find landscapes." What are the places that dwell in you? How have they contributed to who you are?

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



## Ladies Out to Lunch

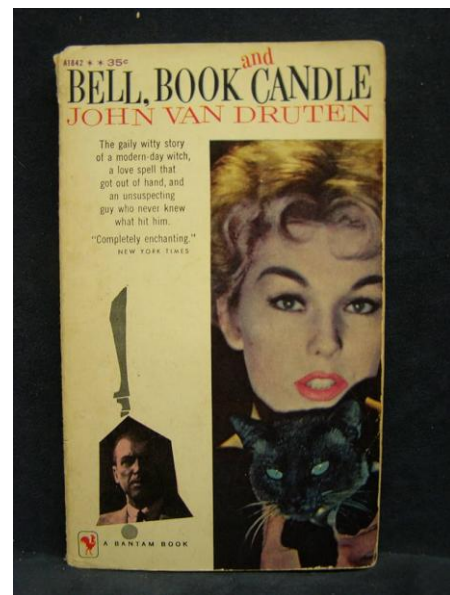


The Ladies Out to Lunch group will meet at Mama Cella's Italian restaurant on Friday, March 21 at 11:30 AM. The address in Rancho Bernardo is 16707 Bernardo Center Drive. If you are interested, please contact the office: [office@chaliceuucongregation.org](mailto:office@chaliceuucongregation.org).

## Readers' Theater

We meet monthly to sight-read plays for the joy of reading plays aloud. 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 you're willing to step into roles and situations that may be out of your comfort zone, you might want to give us a try! If you are interested, please contact the office: [office@chaliceuucongregation.org](mailto:office@chaliceuucongregation.org).

Our next gathering will be on Monday, March 24th at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom, when we'll be reading the romantic comedy *Bell, Book and Candle* by John van Druten. Gillian Holroyd is one of the few modern people who can actually cast spells and perform feats of supernaturalism. She casts a spell over an unattached publisher, Shepherd Henderson, partly to keep him away from a rival and partly because she is attracted to him. He falls head over heels in love with her at once and wants to marry her. But witches, unfortunately, cannot fall in love, and this minor imperfection leads to a number of difficulties.



## Circle Suppers

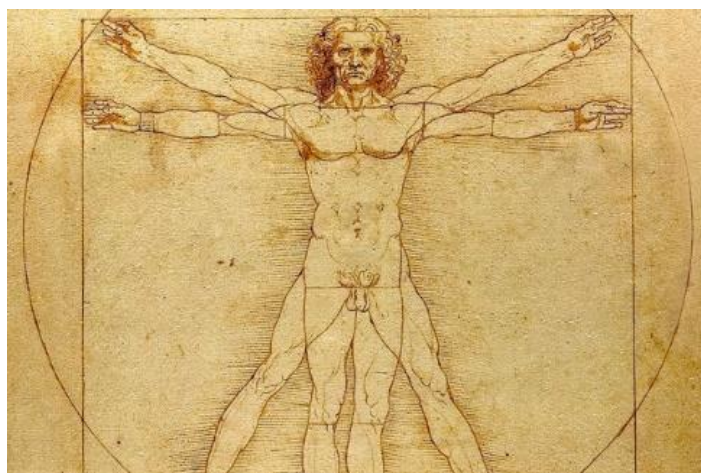
Circle Supper is coming, I've thought it through.

I can afford something to chew  
Some beverages - quite tasty too.  
So come around, if you don't mind  
And join us, be so kind.

Please consider being part of the Circle Suppers where we share some food and conversation with other Chalice members. These suppers are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Saturday each month. If you are interested, please contact the office: [office@chaliceuucongregation.org](mailto: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. 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.





# 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>

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**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 March 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 8A WW 9A Karate 9A Beach Cleanup 10A Music
2 10A Worship 11:15A Coffee Hour 12P Social Justice Meeting 12P E.A. 12:30P Comedy Auction Event	3 7:30P Unity Gruuve	4 9:45 Indie Sol 10A Policy Reorg. TF 12P Zoom Lunch 6P Finance	5 8A W.W. 9A Men's Breakfast 9:45 Indie 4P CT 4P Bible Literacy 5P Karate	6 9:45 Indie S. 10:30A Women's Meditation 6:30P Chimes 7:30P Choir	7	8 8A W.W. 9A Karate 12P Practical Skills 5P Turk Dinner
9 10A Worship 10A K-9 RE 11:15A Coffee Hour 12P Emerging Adults	10 1P Poetry Group 7:30P Unity Gruuve	11 9:45 Indie Sol 12P Zoom Lunch 3P Sol Intentions 7P Board of Trustees	12 8A W.W. 9A Men's Breakfast 9:45 Indie 4P Bible 5P Karate 6:30 Men's Support 7:30P Drum	13 9:45 Indie Sol 10:30A Women's Meditation 6:30P Chimes 7:30P Choir	14 12P Elder's Lunch	15 8A W.W. 9A Karate 10A Worship 6P Circle Supper
16 10A Worship 10A K-9 RE 11:15A Coffee Hour 12P Emerging Adults	17 7:30P Unity Gruuve	18 9:45 Indie Sol 12P Zoom Lunch 6:30 Women's Book Discussion	19 8A W.W. 9ABreakfast 9:45 Indie S. 1P Fiber Art 4P CT 4P Bible 5P Karate 7P Human.	20 9:45 Indie Sol 10:30A Meditation 6:30P Handchimes 7:30P Choir	21 11:30 Ladies Out to Lunch	22 8A W.W. 9A Karate 2P Game Night Concert
23 10A Worship 10A K-9 RE 11:15A Coffee Hour 12P E.A. 12P S.J.	24 6:30P Readers' Theater 7:30P Unity Gruuve	25 9:45 Indie 12P Zoom Lunch 6P Dine Out 6P Online Presence	26 8A W.W. 9A Men's Breakfast 9:45 Indie Sol 5P Karate	27 9:45 Indie 10:30A Meditation 6:30P Handchimes 7:30P Choir	28 10A Memoir Writing	29 8A W.W. 9A Karate 10A Worship Training
30 10A Worship 10A K-9 RE 11:15A Coffee Hour 12P E.A.	31 7:30P Unity Gruuve					

