



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sunnyvale

December 2023

Fellowship News & Events



Join us on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in person or on Zoom at <https://bit.ly/uufs-sunday-service>. All our children join us in the sanctuary on the last Sunday of each month and then go from there with their teachers to their classrooms.

Sunday Services

Article II: Our Shared Values

December 3 @ 9:30 –10:30 a.m.

By Member Alan Herrmann

Unitarian Universalists are a diverse group, bringing together many different religious faiths and traditions. Although we have no religious creed, we share common beliefs and values. Is it possible to actually write down what UUs believe? Come and find out!

Children and Youth Sunday Morning Program

In the Sunday morning children's program this week, participants will exercise their spirit of wonder in the face of mystery. What is revealed, one might ask, when I cut many little slits in a wedge of folded paper? A familiar winter decoration, of course, but also a feeling of joyful surprise when the paper is unfolded and those cuts turn into a lacey net that looks like a snowflake.

The Persistence of Memory

December 10 @ 9:30 –10:30 a.m.

By Rev. John Bloom-Ramirez

Inspired by the Dali painting of the same name, this sermon will explore how our memories and our lived experiences have and will continue to form us into the people we are today.

Celebrating UUFS Sunday

December 17 @ 9:30 –10:30 a.m. In the chapel.

By Board Members Karen Enz and Debbie Timmers

Please join in this service of celebration of UUFS accomplishments hosted by your Board of Trustees. This year has been an especially challenging transition in that we have evolved from full time ministry to a shared ministry with the welcome addition of Rev. Johnnie to guide and to enhance UUFS. A supplement will follow for a chance for you to lend your voice on how to envision your desires for UUFS in the coming years.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24 @ 9:30 –10:30 a.m.

By Rev. John Bloom-Ramirez

Celebrating Christmas with the light of many candles, carols, food, and fun.

The Power of Goodbye

December 31 @ 9:30 –10:30 a.m.

By Rev. John Bloom-Ramirez

Continuing our discussion of grief, there is grief in letting go of a toxic relationship. There is also healing, and hope.

Minister's Musings from Rev. John Bloom-Ramirez

This is one of my favorite times of year. For me, it isn't about the gifts, which are lovely, but about the time we spend with friends and family. As I mentioned in my previous column, it's also the time to remember that we need to care for not only one another, but ourselves.

I have been going, going, going for months now. I have been flying all over the country and Europe, and on my off days when I wasn't working on church things I was packing and preparing for my family's move from Southern to Northern California. I made the assumption that by hiring movers I would save myself a lot of stress both physically and mentally, but strangers handling your precious things comes with its own set of worries and fears!

Recently, I stubbed my toe, which caused me to walk funny due to a swollen big toe and broken toenail, which caused my sciatica to flare up first on my right side, then my left. I had to take time away from the airline because of it. I am still dealing with intermittent back pain, and blessedly have the medical care that makes this tolerable. Ultimately though, to me this was a lesson: slow down and listen to your (my) body. I didn't, and I made it worse. Since then, I have been practicing better self-care and only doing what I *can* do, not necessarily what I feel I *need* to do.

So, take it from me – the things that *need doing* will get done. Take your time, do those things slowly and surely, and give yourself time to breathe and rest. Otherwise, your body could rebel too!

Children's Religious Education: October Update from Colleen Hamilton

Dear Families and Congregants,

Longer periods without sunlight make December in the northern hemisphere a month for contemplating what we may not see clearly or fully understand. It is a season of mystery and wonder, which are among the inspirations of our

faith. As the proposed Unitarian Universalist Association bylaws state, mystery and wonder “open our hearts, renew our spirits, and transform our lives.” We may not fully transform lives in the Sunday morning children's program right away this month, but we'll get some practice marveling at the unknown and have some fun along the way.

Another special event this December will be a collaborative performance of the nativity story in the sanctuary during the service on Christmas Eve. Families are invited to attend together and take on a role in an audience-participation pageant. The service on New Year's Eve will also involve families together in the sanctuary, as usual on the last Sunday of the month. Time for All Ages will feature Rev. Johnnie sharing a story with the children before teachers lead them out to the playground and classroom that day.

Let's all keep the wonder alive during this special time of mystery and joy.

Supporting Our Community and Values

Recycle Those Used Ink Cartridges

Bring all your used ink cartridges to the Welcome Table on Sundays to help pay for UUFS office supplies. Jean Staats will deliver them for credit to our account at Office Depot. Thank you for using this way of contributing to the Fellowship. Call Jean with any questions (number in the directory).

Guest at Your Table Annual Campaign through Dec. 9th

Thanks to all who have made generous donations to the UU Service Committee! It's easy to donate via our personalized page:

<https://donate.uusc.org/team/539605>. Teri Wiss and Janet Werkman have each provided \$5000 matching donations, and UU Shelter Rock matches gifts of \$150+. Please check if your employer matches donations; UUSC is a 501(c)3 non-religious organization. Questions? Contact social.justice@uufs.org.

UUndies Sundays! December 10th and 17th - Laurel Beecher

Continuing a UUFS tradition, we will collect donations of cotton underwear and other items listed below and deliver them to HomeFirst for distribution to their shelter clients.

Most-needed items:

- **New** pillows to include in move-in kits, **New** twin-sized blankets, **New** bath towels
- **New** cotton underwear for women
- Elastic waist pants, all sizes/genders
- Laundry soap (powder or liquid pods)

COVID-19 Prevention Supplies:

Hand Sanitizer, Disinfecting Wipes, N-95/KN-95 Face Masks, Rubbing Alcohol

Travel Size items:

Shaving cream, Toothpaste, Deodorant, Hand sanitizer, Soap, Shampoo

Standard Items:

Lip balm, Baby diapers, New socks, Wet wipes, Razors (disposable), Toothbrushes, Twin-sized sheets, New white T-shirts, New underwear/undergarments (all genders/all sizes)

Bring your donations to the fellowship on December 10th or 17th or arrange for drop-off (or possibly pickup) with Laurel Beecher. Email Laurel at activities@uufs.org with any questions.

If you prefer instead to donate online, go to <https://www.homefirstscc.org/wishlist> and view the three Amazon Wishlist's to select, or go [here](#) to donate money. If you would like your donation to be included in our tally of UUFS donations, please let Laurel know what you have donated online.

Activities

Intercongregational All-Ages Game Night

Saturday, December 2nd @ 5:00 – 7:00 pm
At UU Fellowship of Sunnyvale

There will be a variety of teen and adult table games on hand—or bring one of your own. There will also be a staff-supervised table featuring games for younger children. Parents play knowing that their kids are happily occupied

too. Enjoy good company and potluck snacks while we play.

Multigenerational Climate Discussion Circle

Saturday, November 18th @ 11:30 –12:30
Online via Zoom

This fall, we are reading: [*Bicycling with Butterflies: My 10,201-mile Journey Following the Monarch Migration*](#) by Sara Dykman, the first person to bicycle alongside monarch butterflies on their storied annual migration. This month, we'll continue the discussion. Books Inc in Campbell offers our group a 20% discount. Email redirector@uufs.org if you would like to reserve a copy. It's also available from bookshop.org [here](#).

Social Justice & Climate Action Meeting

Thursday, December 21st @ 7:15 – 8:15pm
Online via Zoom

Be sure not to miss our meeting this month. UCC member (and UUFS friend) Paul McGee will present on the topic of climate change: "Blessed Tomorrow Caring for Creation Today," Join us via Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/96254752500>. Email social.justice@uufs.org if you would like to join our team's Google Group or have questions.

The Book Group

Friday, December 15th, 10:30 - 12:15 p.m.
In person with a Zoom option

Please note the change in date and time due to our host's personal schedule. Join us on Friday, Dec.15 as we share holiday cheer and read aloud Dylan Thomas' *A Child's Christmas in Wales*. Please bring a copy of the book if you have one. In January, we plan to be back to our regular schedule: the 4th Thursday from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. Our January book is *Death Comes for the Archbishop* by Willa Cather. It is available at local libraries and Leigh's Favorite Books. We meet in a member's home with a Zoom option by request. Contact book.group@uufs.org to join us or to be added to our Google Group.

Men's Group

Meets weekly on Tuesday @ 7:15 - 8:15 p.m.
Online via Zoom
Contact: choir@uufs.org

Meditation Group

Meets weekly on Thursday @ 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.
Online via Zoom
Contact: meditation@uufs.org

Women's Group

Meets every 2nd and 4th Monday of the month
@ 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Online via Zoom
Contact: womens.group@uufs.org

UU Alaska Tours for 2024

The dates in June and July for the 2024 Unitarian Universalist tours in Alaska are now on the tour group website and they are taking reservations (<https://whalecoastak.org/>). There are two different tours and they always fill up. Four UU congregations in Alaska organize and benefit from the tours. Their members provide home stays, dinner parties, activities, and transportation for the guests.

Karen Enz gave a presentation to UUFS last summer about the trip she and Ginger Wolnik took with them. This is your chance to sign up!

Contact Us

You can reach our office manager, Ellen Juco, at office@uufs.org or by calling our office at (408) 739-0549. Ellen is available on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:30 - 7:00 p.m. and on Sunday mornings. (On site Tuesdays and Sundays, and from home on Thursdays.)

Reverend Johnnie's meeting hours are available [here](#). Please refer there for any pastoral care or operational needs. If the date does not have hours listed, please reach out at revjohnnie@uufs.org. He is, of course, always available for immediate spiritual emergencies via his cell phone.

Contact webmaster@uufs.org regarding updates to our website.

Please direct questions about this newsletter to: communications@uufs.org.

[Our Fellowship is Located on Ohlone Land.](#)

Note: See our [News](#) page for detailed information on our Covid-19 decision making and policies.

Monthly Calendar

uufs.org/calendar/

