



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sunnyvale

June 2024

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

TMI - Too Much Information

June 2 @ 9:30-10:30 a.m.

By Rev. John Bloom-Ramirez

In the world we live in, we are being inundated with technology. It's not a new problem, but an evolution of a consistent issue. How do we experience renewal of spirit when we are experiencing "information overload?"

Children's Sunday Morning Program, 9:15-11:30

At this midway point between Mother's Day and Father's Day, participants in the Sunday Morning Program will express gratitude for parents as part of an obstacle-course game where thankfulness wins out.

Crossing Paths Faith Connections Youth Group

After the service, youth in middle or high school are welcome to come to classroom 7 in the Community First School grounds from 10:45 to 11:30 for the start of another installment of Crossing Paths. We will be learning about Unitarian Universalism along with another faith tradition. Email redirector@uufs.org for further information.

Religious Education Committee

All congregants with an interest in Religious Education at UUFS, please mark your calendars to discuss the re-convening of the RE committee. Join Interim Chair Joshua Levy and Director of Religious Education Colleen Hamilton on Wednesday, May 29, from 7:00-8:00 via [Zoom](#).

The Months Ahead

June 9 @ 9:30-10:30 a.m.

By Rev. Stefanie Etzbach-Dale

These days lots of people are recognizing the need to access hope and the courage to stay engaged. Join us as we explore this trend and some potentially helpful approaches. Guest Minister Rev. Stefanie Etzbach-Dale is affiliated with the UU Church of Palo Alto as Community Minister.

Yes, We Can

June 16 @ 9:30-10:30 a.m.

By Rev. John Bloom-Ramirez

The Myth of Scapegoat vs. the Myth of Over functioning: As human beings, we are constantly told that we do not want to be "part of the problem, but the solution." In this case, the "problem" is being part of our society that needs the extra help, versus those that are part of the solution - good little worker bees that work, work, work!

To Be Announced in the Midweek Update

June 23 @ 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Rev. Millie Phillips

Pride, Before the Fall

June 30 @ 9:30-10:30 a.m.

By Rev. John Bloom-Ramirez

June is Pride month, and it's a celebration of all things queer and fabulous... but there is a darker side to Pride that many of you might not be aware of. Pride is a celebration, sure, but it was also a

memorial of those who were lost, those who couldn't be "out," and those who fought for the right to be who and what we are. Come and learn about the history of Queer Pride, the continuing struggle, and why we still march!

Ministers Musings



Today I'm sitting in Disney's Animal Kingdom, enjoying a much-needed respite from a very busy week. I'm struck at all the families who are here celebrating various personal achievements and holidays, such as birthdays and anniversaries. My family itself is here celebrating two birthdays and a wedding anniversary! It has been fun interacting with people from all around the world as Walt Disney World caters to a good number of international travelers. We've all been wishing each other "happy birthday," or "happy anniversary!" It's a wonderful sense of community and a way to share joy with one another. My question to you is: how do you share or celebrate joy?

Not to sound maudlin, but find those little moments of joy to celebrate for yourself. Find your tribe that celebrates with you! Chosen family can be just as important as biological. These small acknowledgments truly brighten the heart and lessen the burden on our souls (assuming you believe in one), if we take this time to acknowledge the good that's in our lives.

"Life is not a problem to be solved but a reality to be experienced." – Søren Kierkegaard

Children's Religious Education: Update from Colleen Hamilton, Director of RE



June's theme is *renewal*. This is the season in Religious Education to appreciate the learning and development of children and youth during the past church year and to recommit ourselves to a sunny

future of awakenings, realizations, understandings, and deepening spiritual awareness. Re-energized, children in the Sunday Morning program will explore their gratitude for parents, celebrate LGBTQ+ pride, and learn about solstice traditions, while youth will embark on a third session of the faith connections group called Crossing Paths.

Whether you're basking in a sense of accomplishment at the end of the school year or sunbathing on the beach, vacation is a great time for a good book. Youth and adults are invited to renew their commitment to a safe environment for all by joining the Climate Reading and Discussion Circle. Just in time for summer reading, this intergenerational group will be discussing Greta Thunberg's *Climate Book*. In this groundbreaking volume, Thunberg weaves her own pithy statements into a collection of essays by specialists on how climate works, how it is changing, how it affects us, what we've done about it, and what we must do now. Youth will appreciate Thunberg's teenaged perspective and anyone could learn something from browsing among the experts' contributions. For families with elementary-aged children who want to participate in a common read, I recommend *No One Is Too Small to Make a Difference*, a collection of short speeches Thunberg delivered at marches and protests, even before parliaments and international assemblies, when she was just 15 or 16 years old.

May the longest periods of sunlight in the year give us the vision this month to see our past clearly and find a path forward together.

Renewing,
Colleen Hamilton

Supporting Our Community and Values

Marketplace Success!

Thank you to all the people who donated goods and services for the UUFS Marketplace. It's been several years since UUFS offered this type of event, and we raised over \$4300 for the fellowship!



Donors and winners will be contacted soon with details of what they won and what is still owed. Then everyone will have a fun summer drinking wine, going to tea, eating yummy theme dinners, and learning about local history, just to name a few. It was a great showing of everyone's creativity and a celebration of community. Denise Kato and Ursula Syrova did a terrific job of organizing this event!

Volunteer on June 8th to help prepare a meal for shelter residents

Social Justice at UUFS will again be coordinating volunteers to provide a meal to 20 clients at a LifeMoves LGBTQ+



shelter in San Jose on June 8th for delivery on June 9th! We are looking for volunteers to help prepare food on June 8th, either in your own home or together with other volunteers in someone else's home. We welcome donations of food items such as fresh fruit, butter, and salad dressing (specifics to be arranged). Contact Laurel Beecher at social.justice@uufs.org to volunteer, donate, or get more information.

Semi-Annual Congregational Business Meeting

Congratulations and appreciation to Anita Herrmann who was elected to the Board at the Business meeting. She continues the tradition of strong, competent members who are serving in this important role. Which leads to grateful recognition of our outgoing Board President Debbie Timmers who has served on the Board for four eventful years. She was Vice President during two of the Covid era years and then led us as President in the transition to our shared ministry with Rev. Johnnie, our part-time minister.

The voting members also approved the Budget for fiscal year 2024-2025 and heard reports from Rev. Johnnie, our Board president, treasurer and several teams and committees.

Article II Change Wins Support

We are pleased to report that at our business meeting, the vote passed to support the proposed changes to Article II. Alan Herrmann, Denise Kato, and John Dowding will be our delegates to General Assembly in June and will vote for the proposed [Article II Changes](#) on our behalf. The most significant change is the addition of [6 Values](#) shown as flower petals with Love at the center (designed by Tanya Webster).



Webmaster Opportunity

Our current webmaster, Yiping Liao, has completed significant improvements to the UUFS website (to be detailed in an upcoming communication). She has done a terrific job! We now need someone new to fill the vital role of maintaining the website. Yiping is available in June or July to aid in this transition.

The webmaster works with the Communications Team as well as other congregation members to manage, grow, and maintain the UUFS website as a helpful and informative tool for both members and newcomers alike. All work is done from home.

This work has both leadership and creativity aspects. Familiarity with our website and experience working with web technologies is a plus, but are not required (as long as you are interested in the work!). Our website is key to growing our congregation and remains the #1-way people find UUFS and form their first impressions of us. If you are interested or would like to learn more, please contact communications@uufs.org. Thank you.

Activities

Intercongregational All-Ages Game Night

Saturday, June 1 @ 5:00–7:00 p.m.

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, June 15 @ 11:30 a.m.-12:30

p.m. Online via Zoom

Feel free to drop in this summer to discuss [*The Climate Book*](#) by Greta Thunberg. Suitable for youth and adults, this collection includes her own writings as well as short essays by international experts on a variety of climate-related topics. Come on the third Saturday of the month and discuss your favorites in our circle! Email REdirector@uufs.org for the link and information about discounted copies available for our group at Books Inc in Campbell.

Social Justice & Climate Action Meeting

Thursday, June 27 @ 7:15-8:15 p.m.

Online via Zoom

Contact: social.justice@uufs.org

All are welcome at our monthly meeting where we discuss a variety of topics related to our Social Justice and Climate Action priorities. Zoom: [Social justice meeting](#). Email social.justice@uufs.org if you would like to join our team's Google Group or have questions.

The Book Group

Thursday, June 27 @ 1:30-3:30 p.m.

In person with a Zoom option

Our June book will be [*Lessons in Chemistry*](#) by Bonnie Garmus. It is available at local libraries and at [Leigh's Favorite Books](#) (with a 50% buyback option). We meet in a member's home. Contact

book.group@uufs.org to join us or to be added to our Google Group. Zoom option *by request*.

Men's Group

Meets weekly on Tuesday @ 7:15 - 8:15 p.m.

Online via Zoom - Contact: mens.group@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

Contact Us

You can reach our office manager, Leah Simmons, at office@uufs.org or by calling (408) 739-0549.

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.

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

Monthly Calendar

uufs.org/calendar/

