



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sunnyvale

March 2026

Fellowship News & Events



Join us on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in person at 1112 S Bernardo Ave, Sunnyvale, CA,
or on Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/958336800>.

Paying Attention to What Matters

March 1 @ 9:30-10:30 a.m.

By RE Director Colleen Hamilton

Director of RE Colleen Hamilton will reflect on the activism of Autumn Peltier, who at age 12 represented the Wikwemkong in the Assembly of First Nations and confronted the Prime Minister of Canada about his support for pipelines and failure to protect indigenous water rights. We will hear directly from Ms Peltier in a brief video and consider how we can all pay attention to what really matters.

Children's Sunday Morning Community, 9:15-11:30 a.m.

The entire congregation, including children, will start in the sanctuary for brief opening worship. Like the other congregants, children will then choose one of the three activity groups described in the Sunday order of service and the monthly newsletter.

Children who have been signed into our care are welcome in any group without their parent/caregiver. Worship will conclude in the activity groups. All ages are invited for snacks in Shephard Hall where self-serve materials are available for engaging children.

Age of Distraction

March 8 @ 9:30-10:30 a.m.

By Rev. John Bloom-Ramirez

William James—the American philosopher and psychologist—helps explain why this feels so costly. He teaches us that distraction isn't only a productivity problem. It's a formation problem... your life isn't only what happens to you. It's what you let in. It's what you linger on... With constant "sound bites" and "doom scrolling," we do have to covenant with ourselves to STOP!

Misogi – Ritual Purification

March 15 @ 9:30-10:30 a.m.

By Member Kimberly Yancey

Inspired by feedback from our February 15 reading, this interactive session focuses on chant and vibration to promote peace and vitality. In response to requests for actionable ways to process life's challenges, this service offers a practical experience to help participants calm, heal, and uplift themselves.

The Act of Becoming

March 22 @ 9:30-10:30 a.m.

By Rev. John Bloom-Ramirez

W.B. Yeats said, "The world is full of magic things. Waiting for our senses to grow sharper." How do we touch that deep well within ourselves that allows us to become the human we were meant to be? How do we see the magic when all around us is despair?

Inviting Our Authentic Selves

March 29 @ 9:30-10:30 a.m.

By Rev. John Bloom-Ramirez

"Acts of exclusion, discrimination, and the impacts of systemic oppression are all there, right before me. I don't always perceive them—I have been taught to not see them—but they are there..." says Rev. Karen G. Johnston. What acts of exclusion or systemic oppression have you witnessed, but have become so "used to seeing it," that it becomes "visual static"?

Minister's Musings



March is a season that invites new beginnings. As we celebrate Ostara, we mark the return of fertility, creativity, and the “bright half” of the year—a time to re-engage the physical world through

planting, gardening, and witnessing the natural rhythms of awakening life, from hibernating animals to the arrival of new births.

Inspired by this season of renewal, I have taken on a personal project: rearranging my office as an act of *radical hospitality*. By giving up private space to create comfort and dignity for guests and family, I am practicing a tradition rooted in the *Rule of St. Benedict*, which calls us to welcome others with intentionality, warmth, and the breaking down of barriers so that all feel truly valued. It also aligns well with the UU Covenants of Generosity (*We cultivate a spirit of gratitude and hope*) and Equity (*We declare that every person is inherently worthy and has the right to flourish with dignity, love and compassion*).

While the process has challenged my neurospicy brain's relationship to order, it has also made space—for overnight guests, for my professional work with the Fellowship, for creative pursuits like fiber arts, and for my academic life. I have also reconfigured a small altar for personal devotion, reminding me of the spiritual grounding that sustains this work.

This season asks us to reflect: *How do we practice radical hospitality in our own lives—and what holds us back when we do not?*

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



Dear Families and Congregants,
PAY ATTENTION!! Who hasn't heard that phrase and sat up a little straighter? When I hear those words, I imagine the disembodied

blare in a Peanuts cartoon issuing over the head of a disengaged student. But of course there's another aspect of March's theme, *paying attention*. Charlie Brown or Peppermint Patty would no doubt have been secretly paying attention to something else, a scene out the window or something in a thought balloon floating in the same frame. Good thing March is a month of five Sundays in 2026, because from money to religion there's a lot to unpack in *paying attention*.

We live in an “attention economy.” The phrase was coined in the 1970s to describe how focus had become monetized even back in the days of print and TV advertising. Now awash in a sea of digital information, the exploitation of attention may be reaching crisis levels. Witness social media titans such as Meta's Mark Zuckerberg being hauled into court for harming children by profiteering off the capture of their inner lives. But what else can fill the split frame on this topic? As fans will recall, pastimes such as music, games, and friendship absorbed the Peanuts gang, just as they do youth today. For consideration of our theme this month, I would like to add that religious practices themselves, such as prayer, chant, ritual, and sacred texts, reward a person's attention outside the monetary system. More radically even, as Jenny Odell proposed in *How to Do Nothing: Resisting the Attention Economy* (2019), refusing to pay attention may constitute a form of resistance amid the current crisis. I'm not a zealot advocating for a kind of media purification, but I do believe we can make sure that our attention is not always for sale. The contemplation and fellowship of churchgoing help us resist selling out to the social control and political power that accrues to those who can now so frequently bank on us to pay attention. So, come to church during this month and bring your children along. I'm happy to be a part of helping them navigate our attention economy with minds and hearts they know how to call their own.

Let us pray.

Action Sunday – March 1

Join us on Sunday, March 1, for **Action Sunday**—a monthly gathering held on the first Sunday of each month. We'll begin the worship service in the Sanctuary followed by 30-minute interactive activity groups offered throughout the building. Each group will conclude with the benediction in their space. Choose from three engaging activities, created to keep the experience fresh and meaningful.

March 1 Activities to Choose From

• **Sign Making Activity - Conference Room**

Join us to create signs for the March 28 *No Kings* Demonstration! Margaret Lawson and Janet Werkman will lead this activity in the Conference Room, assisted by RE Staff Member Joseph Healy. Come ready to be creative, connect with others, and promote our shared values. Supplies will be available (colored pens, foam core), or bring your own.

• **Learn about Holi Hands-On: Shephard Hall**

UUFS youth have been making colored powders for Holi, the Hindu Festival of Colors, each spring the past few years. They are eager to share their knowledge! In this activity group, adults and children will make the colored powder and learn more about this holiday that will be celebrated March 3rd by many in the local Asian Indian community and throughout the world. Participants will not adopt the custom of throwing the powders at others, but prepare to get your hands messy. RE staff member Leah Simmons will lead alongside UUFS youth.

• **Practices for Paying Attention: Sanctuary**

Children and adults are invited to practice paying attention by focusing on the five senses and on the heart muscle. Religious Education staff member Colleen Hamilton will lead two short meditations centered on bodily awareness. Zoom attendees will be able to participate in this activity.

Supporting Our Community and Values

Parent and Child Orientation for K-1 OWL

Sunday March 8 @ 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Conference Room 1112 S. Bernardo Ave,
Sunnyvale

In collaboration among area UU congregations, a series of OWL workshops for kindergarteners and first graders will begin March 8 (Our Whole Lives, a secular comprehensive sexuality education course). This orientation meeting is mandatory for participation in the program. This program is open to the community. For more information, see the attached flier and feel free to spread the word.

Pledge Drive

Yes, it's time again for our annual pledge drive! Members and friends of UUFS support the operations and priorities of the fellowship with our financial donations. During the pledge drive we pledge the amount we plan to give during the upcoming fiscal year that begins on July 1, 2026. Your pledge allows the fellowship to plan our annual budget and manage our resources responsibly. Our pledge drive has begun and will continue through the end of March. And stay tuned: the Pledge team is planning a social event in late March to celebrate our progress!

UUFS Pledge Form 2026-2027:

<https://forms.gle/GGeh1L2tAh2J31hP8>



SRFTF Scheduling Poll

UUFS Needs Your Help Scheduling Congregational Workshop! We are planning workshop sessions to be held one Saturday in May with Stewardship for Us. The purpose is to engage in meaningful conversations around our priorities for the Fellowship and how best to fund them. Your attendance is vitally important. Please click the link below to complete one question about your available dates. Respond by THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26th.

[UUFS Workshop Scheduling Survey](#)

Questions? Contact
strategic.reserve.fund.task.force@uufs.org

Activities

Inter-Congregational All-Ages Game Night

Saturday, March 7 @ 5:00–7:00 p.m.
At UU Fellowship of Sunnyvale

Board-game enthusiasts meet on the first Saturday of every other month from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. All ages, including families with children, are welcome. Pizza provided; other potluck snacks and nonalcoholic drinks invited. Please [click here](#) for more details about our Game Night.

The Book Group

Fridays, February 27 and March 27
@ 10:00-11:30 a.m.
In person, in a member's home

In February we discuss [Persuasion](#) by Jane Austen. The book for March will be [Disability Visibility](#), Alice Wong, Editor; first person stories from the 21st Century of the highs and lows of living with a disability. All future (and past) book selections are posted on the [uufs.org Book Group page](#) and also via our Google Group. Contact book.group@uufs.org to join us or to be added to our Google Group.

Social Justice & Climate Action Meeting

Wednesday, February 25 and March 25
@ 7:30-8:30 p.m., Online via Zoom

All are welcome to join us at our monthly meeting as we discuss relevant topics and plan activities. Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/96254752500>. If you would like to join our Google Group or have questions, contact social.justice@uufs.org.

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](#) 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. Rev. Johnnie's work phone number is +1 (669) 290-7067. Going forward, please use this number to reach them.

Contact webmaster@uufs.org regarding updates to our website. For questions about this newsletter and for Mid-Week Update and Newsletter or Web submissions, contact communications@uufs.org.

Monthly Calendar uufs.org/calendar/

Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education Kinder-First Grade



Parent Information Meeting

Zoom

February 22

2:00-3:00 pm

attendance optional



Parent and Child Orientation

March 8, 2026 2:00-4:00 pm

1112 S. Bernardo Ave, Sunnyvale

attendance required

sibling childcare provided



Our Whole Lives

- 8 Sundays 2:00-3:00 pm
- March 15-May 17 except 4/5 & 5/10
- Rotating meeting location at UU organizations in Fremont, Los Gatos, and Sunnyvale
- \$50-\$150 suggested donation
- Registration open after the information session

Our Whole Lives (OWL) is a secular comprehensive sexuality education course. The curriculum is written and updated regularly by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and the United Church of Christ (UCC). OWL facilitators are trained through the UUA and UCC.

Questions? Email Colleen
redirector@uufs.org