



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sunnyvale

June 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>.

What is God?

June 7 @ 9:30-10:30 a.m.

By Members of Men's Group

Some people say they believe in God, but not necessarily in "God as described in the Bible". Some say they believe in a spiritual force that they don't call God. Members of the UUFS Men's Group will share their views on this universal, personal, ancient and present question: What is God?

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

Under "The Deputies" youth leadership, participants will set up the book sale in the Marketplace, which opens after the service. This will serve as an example of the new month's theme, *flourishing together*.

The Perils of Meritocracy

June 14 @ 9:30-10:30 a.m.

By Rev. John Bloom-Ramirez

Meritocracy is corrosive of the common good. It leads to hubris among the winners and humiliation among those who lose out. It encourages the successful to inhale too deeply of their success, to forget the luck and good fortune that helped them on their way.

Cultivating and Providing Joy

June 21 @ 9:30-10:30 a.m.

By Member Kees Vissers

Finding and spreading joy in the world is an important part of life. In this service I will provide a piece of Fair Trade chocolate as communion for all to get us started with some joy. I will conclude with impressions of our Civil Rights tour to Alabama with UUSC.

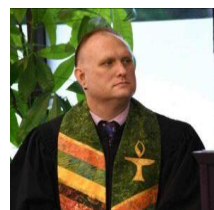
Pride of Serving

June 28 @ 9:30-10:30 a.m.

By Rev. John Bloom-Ramirez

Rev. Johnnie's last sermon as the contract minister for our Fellowship will explore the intersections of Pride, faith, and community, and how we can continue to flourish despite the negativity surrounding us, finding those moments of sparkle that we can truly celebrate.

Minister's Musings



Rev Johnnie's musings are on vacation this month.

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



Dear Families and Congregants,
Flourishing together—June's theme is my favorite one this year! I'm a firm believer that partnerships often thrive where individuals may struggle. The UUFS Religious Education program certainly benefits from teaming up with other congregations.

The Our Whole Lives (OWL) program is a prime example of flourishing together, at every level. We just completed our third workshop series since UUFS began offering these developmentally appropriate sexuality education workshops two years ago through a collaboration with neighboring UU congregations. I co-facilitated this most recent series with my counterpart at Mission Peak UU in Fremont and a trained volunteer from the UU fellowship of Los Gatos, supported by staff and volunteers from all three congregations. We met four weeks in Sunnyvale and four weeks in Fremont and drew participants, in this case 5- to 7-year-olds, from both these congregations as well as from the First Unitarian Church of San Jose. All this logistical complexity is very much worth it. Sharing personnel and community depth is what makes it possible for UUFS to offer this program to our families and to the wider community. Well-regarded and much sought after, the OWL lifespan curriculum, itself a twenty-five-year collaboration between the Unitarian Universalist Association and the national United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministries, is a cornerstone of liberal religious values in the twenty-first century.

Like so many branches on a tree, good collaboration leads to more and more. In addition to plans with these colleagues to offer OWL workshops for 9 through 11-year-olds in 2027 and 12 through 14-year-olds by 2028, other shared youth activities for this summer and fall are under discussion as well. We shall flourish together with our UU neighbors in months and years to come.

Business Meeting Update

The assembled members elected three new Trustees to the Board: congratulations Gary Beckstrom, Diana Luykx and Tara Martin-Milius. The Fellowship also approved a budget for the upcoming year (July 2026-June 2027) and approved the Enhanced Ministry Strategic Initiative.

Supporting Our Community and Values

Lisa Lethin Memorial Silent Auction, Marketplace & Potluck

Sunday June 7th @ 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.



Come enjoy the food and fellowship of the Lisa Lethin Marketplace, Silent Auction and Potluck. The event will be held immediately after the service by the Religious Education classrooms. You can still donate an item to the Marketplace or Auction by using the link below, though it may not be included in the catalog. If you're interested in bidding on an item but can't attend in person, you can have a proxy bid for you. You can also still sign up for the potluck or to assist with the event using the links below. Please bring your reusable plates and utensils and label potluck and Marketplace offerings with ingredients for those with food sensitivities. For any questions, please write to community.marketplace@uufs.org.

[Add Auction or Marketplace Item](#) - google form to add your event or service donation to the auction

[Auction & Marketplace Catalog](#) - view event details and the current list of available Auction and Marketplace items

[Auction Potluck Signup](#) - signup for potluck at the auction

[Auction Event Signup](#) - signup for volunteer tasks at auction

Join Us at Together in Pride! 🌈

UUFS will have a table at the **Together in Pride** event in Mountain View on **Saturday, June 20, 2026**, from **11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** at City Hall Plaza & Pioneer Park. Come celebrate community, visibility, and love with us!

We'll be giving away buttons — stay tuned for details on an upcoming button-making party where you can help create them!

We need volunteers to staff the UUFS table. Shifts are 1.5 hours long (between 10:30 am–3 pm), and we'll assign specific time slots once we have everyone's availability. It's a wonderful way to represent UUFS and connect with the broader community on this joyful day.

Interested in volunteering? Let us know your availability here: 📧

<https://forms.gle/U6LVZt6wLin7U1i69> or let Katie or Alan know.

Questions? Reach out to social.justice@uufs.org

Circle Suppers Are Returning

In the spirit of trying to strengthen our mutual relationships we would like to re-start the Circle Suppers program that UUFS ran successfully for many years prior to Covid. Once a month on a weekend we will arrange for a group of UU folk to get together for a coordinated potluck at the houses of some of our members.

Here's how it will work.

We will have a fixed schedule – the 2nd Saturday of each month at 6pm. A couple of weeks prior to that date we will send out an email to all UUFS to see who would like to participate in the next event, and which people would be willing to host. From the responses we will put together a group (usually of 6-8 people) for each venue and send out a confirmation email. Each host will then contact the assigned guests, and give them the choice of desired contributions, such as appetizers, salad,

main dish, side dishes, and dessert, with the host(ess) providing the table settings, drinks and/or beverages, and bread and butter.

We hope that we can use this as an opportunity to make new friends and build stronger relationships within UUFS – especially for newer members.

You can email circle.suppers@uufs.org with questions or speak with Martin Manley.

Summer Picnic

Sunday, June 21 @ 10:30 a.m.- sunset
Serra Park

Join us for food and fun at beautiful Serra Park in Sunnyvale! Sign up to volunteer to come early and help prepare the site or stay after for clean-up. Picnic area #1 at Serra Park has been reserved on the longest day of the year, Sunday June 21 (thanks Alan). The site is reserved all day, so early birds can go there right after the service if they want, and the rest of us can trickle over between 11:00 and noon or so. Bring a dish to share, a beverage of your choice and a chair for comfort. We hope to see you there! Contact connections@uufs.org for more information.

Coffee Makers? Needed!



Janet Werkman will be gone for the summer, so volunteer baristas will be jumping in to keep the brewing flowing. The Fellowship needs you to make a minimal commitment - just to make coffee on one Sunday when you are available (6/14-9/27). If anyone volunteers by June 7, Janet can offer a lesson.

It doesn't take long to learn and instructions are in the kitchen cupboard. Get access to the scheduling spreadsheet when you join the team. Join at barista.team@uufs.org.

Activities

Inter-congregational All-Ages Game Night

Saturday, June 6 @ 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

Friday, June 26 @ 1:00-2:30 p.m.

In person, in a member's home

In June we will enjoy comparing notes on [Squeeze Me](#), by Carl Hiaasen, a novel that captures the Trump era with savage humor and wonderful, eccentric characters. 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, June 24 @ 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 for the upcoming year. Zoom link: [Here](#). 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/