



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sunnyvale

September 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>.

**The Woman Who Transformed Work:  
Francis Perkins and the New Deal**

September 6 @ 9:30-10:30 a.m.

By Member Diana Luykx

In recognition of Labor Day, Diana Luykx, along with others, will present personal reflections on how Francis Perkins' legacy shaped everyday work.

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

In preparation for the all-ages water communion later this month, participants will make model watersheds to reflect on their chosen theme, "Everyone Makes a Difference."

**Transitions - Starting Fresh While In The Midst Of It All**

September 13 @ 9:30-10:30 a.m.

By Jeffrey Melcher M. Div.

Every year, we have several chances to start fresh, change habits, let go, and bring ourselves into the present. Our needs, and those of our loved ones, count on us being present. What enlivens you and refreshes your creative, loving presence?

**"Everyone Makes a Difference": An All-Ages Water Communion**

September 20 @ 9:30-10:30 a.m.

By Director of Religious Education, Colleen Hamilton

The Unitarian Universalist Water Communion represents the renewal of community bonds at the start of the church year. The design of this September's service bubbled up from many sources

in our congregation, including children and youth who crafted a ritual around the theme, "Everyone Makes a Difference." As is traditional, participants may bring a small vessel of water from a source of special importance to them, such as their house, neighborhood park, or some place farther afield; however, ceremonial water will be provided during the service for those who choose not to bring their own.

**The virtual hymnal, "Sing Out Love"**

September 27 @ 9:30-10:30 a.m.

By Member Alan Herrmann

There is a new UU hymnal! But it's not a printed book; it is a "virtual hymnal" with over 100 new songs and more to come in the future. We will learn more about it and sing some of the new songs together.

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



Dear Families and Congregants,

At this time of year many Unitarian Universalist congregations devote a service, often multigenerational, to the water communion ceremony.

This 50-year-old tradition symbolizes UU values including *pluralism*, *equity*, and *interdependence*. Just as droplets flow together, so too is each being worthy as itself and as part of something larger. Water also shows the power of *transformation* when it changes states among gas, liquid, or solid. And

what is *justice* without the right to clean, potable water or *generosity* without sharing its blessings? This month's theme at UUFS is *beginnings*. On September 20, all ages will renew our commitment to this community, united by shared values with other UU communities, through our special take on the richly significant tradition of the water communion.

What might distinguish our version of this ceremony? On the day of our water communion in 2025, UUFS children and youth drew my attention to a structure on our grounds that makes our church special and involves water: the tiered fountain near the sanctuary entrance on the Bernardo side of the building. I'd seen it many times before, of course, but never thought twice about it until that day. I promised that future water communions would involve this defining feature. Now in 2026 our youth leaders, "The Deputies," have devised a theme for this year's ceremony, "Everyone makes a difference," and created a lovely ritual to show this profoundly important—and UU! --tenet. Together with the worship associates team, UUFS children and youth look forward to sharing a water communion this year that is meaningful and engaging for all.

## Board of Trustees News

### Listening Circles - Here we go!!

We all have ideas about what we want from our Fellowship—and what we want to do for our Fellowship. **Listening Circles** are a wonderful way to engage everyone in shaping our Vision and Mission and creating our long-term strategic plan. **You are at the center of this effort!**

Listening Circles are being scheduled for **October**. We have four wonderful hosts who have offered to hold in-home or Shephard Hall events: **Mary Ellen and Phil, Gary Bergstrom, Diana Luykx, and Margaret Lawson**. We will also arrange one session on Zoom for folks who cannot get out easily. The date will be determined soon.

While our hosts are busy coordinating dates and times for each Circle, we'll begin organizing the rest of the activities. We have several volunteer facilitators—and could use more! —who will help manage the process during each Circle.

We'll also use AI to record the conversations and create a transcript. The note-taker will manage the recording and step in to ask clarifying questions when necessary.

**Thank you for being part of this important effort. We're looking forward to hearing everyone's ideas!**

## Supporting Our Community and Values

### Help UUFS Get Out the Vote!



Social Justice at UUFS has worked with many UUFS members and friends to send out hundreds of nonpartisan postcards to BIPOC voters in the last few years. Laurel

Beecher is stepping down as coordinator, and we hope that one of you will volunteer to lead this effort.

You pick the timing and the volume of postcards you want to organize! UUFS provides the postcards, stamps, and labels. You create a free



account on Sincere for selecting and downloading voter addresses, postcard guidelines, and text formatted for labels, and you make packets out of these to distribute to postcarding volunteers. It's only a few hours work for a few hundred addresses. You can choose to do one more round of postcards for the 2026 election, or wait until the 2027 primaries to get started.

<https://www.centerforcommonground.org/reclaim-our-vote>

<https://sincereapp.com/>

Contact Laurel Beecher at [activities@uufs.org](mailto:activities@uufs.org) with questions or to volunteer!

## Are We Having Fun Soon?

At the August 16<sup>th</sup>, *Are We Having Fun Yet* service, our speaker, Mary Ellen Bercik distributed index cards and asked everyone to write down their ideas for having more fun at UUFS.

Here are the responses we received:

- Karaoke Night - (4 suggested this), some with open mic for readings/poetry
- Party with potluck, band and dancing
- Saturday Brunch (2 people suggested this)
- Game Night 2x a month (with an offer to set them up!)
- Game Night – make them 1 hour longer to enable longer games
- Host a dance led by a dance instructor
- A Sufi person conducts a service with dancing
- Walk the labyrinth together
- Weekly Dad Joke at service\*
- Jungle Croquet following service on Sunday\*\*
- Broadway Musical Singalong with Children
- Have a beach day
- Coloring
- Have percussion instruments at the service for attendee participation
- Coffee
- Glamping Trip – really just an ability inclusive camping trip with cabins and bathrooms accessible to people with impaired mobility or at least those who cannot get up and down off the ground. 😊
- Glamping Trip to Costanoa Coastal Lodge at the coast in San Mateo County – they have cabins, tent camping, tent bungalows, and RV spots
- Asilomar Weekend (we used to do this once upon a time)
- Include RE kids in the service again to share (e.g. lead songs/movement)
- More of Alan's music (suggested by a fan, obviously)
- After Sunday Service have a "hands on" session in Shephard Hall
  - o crafting homemade cards – free lessons
  - o writing letters for Vote Forward
  - o Brainstorming ideas for community outreach

\* Example of Dad Joke:

I asked my dog "what's 2 minus 2"? He looked at me and said nothing.

\*\* Jungle Croquet is a combination of croquet and obstacle path using croquet balls, mallet, and loops in a path around the property (avoiding the flat, grassy, easy to play places.)

We came up with these ideas and we can make them happen.

## Circle Suppers

Something we are already doing that is always fun is the monthly Circle Supper. If you haven't discovered these yet, you can go to

<https://uufs.org/connection/circle-suppers> to find out more, including how to get the monthly email for signing up.

## Office Hours Changing

UUFS office hours will be on Saturdays from 3:00 to 5:30 pm.

## Activities

### Wiggle Room Care Team Orientation

To better serve families with children of all ages and make efficient use of volunteer time, Religious Education at UUFS would like to offer care for children aged 0-4 in the open "Beautiful Space" adjacent to the sanctuary. This location is more adaptable to children's needs and more flexible with regard to staffing. If you think you might be interested in spending time with young children and welcoming families in a meaningful way, please stop in at this orientation and/or contact Colleen Hamilton at [redirector@uufs.org](mailto:redirector@uufs.org).

### Worship Associates Meeting

Sunday, September 13 @ 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

We will meet in the Conference Room to discuss upcoming worship services. All are welcome to help with recruiting speakers and hosts and planning services.

### **Inter-congregational All-Ages Game Night**

Saturday, September 5 @ 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.

### **And More Games**

New!! Dungeons and Dragons group for youth in 5th grade and up. See the **attached flier** and add your name to the interest list.

### **Social Justice & Climate Action Meeting**

Wednesday, September 23 @ 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: [Social Justice](#). If you would like to join our Google Group or have questions, contact [social.justice@uufs.org](mailto:social.justice@uufs.org).

### **The Book Group**

Friday, September 25 @ 1:30-3:00 p.m.

In person, in a member's home

In September we will engage in an illuminating conversation about [Theo of Golden](#) by Allen Levi. A story of giving and receiving, of seeing and being seen, *Theo of Golden* is a beautifully crafted novel about the power of creative generosity, the importance of wonder to a purposeful life, and the invisible threads of kindness that bind us to one another. 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](mailto: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: [mens.group@uufs.org](mailto:mens.group@uufs.org)

### **Meditation Group**

Meets weekly on Thursday @ 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.

Online via Zoom - Contact: [meditation@uufs.org](mailto: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](mailto:womens.group@uufs.org)

### **Contact Us**

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

Contact [webmaster@uufs.org](mailto: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](mailto:communications@uufs.org).

### **Monthly Calendar**

[uufs.org/calendar/](http://uufs.org/calendar/)





# DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

A NEW GROUP MAY BE FORMING!

ADVENTURE ♦ IMAGINATION ♦ COMMUNITY

We're exploring the idea of  
starting a Dungeons &  
Dragons group for area youth  
at First Unitarian Church of  
San José!



## CREATE CHARACTERS

Bring your imagination to life.



## GO ON EPIC ADVENTURES

Explore new worlds and face  
exciting challenges together.



## LEARN TEAMWORK & PROBLEM-SOLVING

Use creativity and critical  
thinking to overcome obstacles.



## OPEN TO ALL EXPERIENCE LEVELS

Whether you're a seasoned player  
or brand new, you're welcome!



## A SAFE, WELCOMING SPACE

For creativity, connection,  
and building community.

## INTERESTED?

SCAN THE QR CODE!



Add your name to our interest list  
and tell us which meeting times  
work best for you!



TELL STORIES.

BE YOURSELF. MAKE FRIENDS.

5TH GRADE AND UP (NO AGE MAX)

