Sundays in October

The theme for October is “Relationship”

Sunday, October 3
Rev. Julia Hamilton
“Our Relationship to Prayer”

The best description I ever heard of prayer was as a bridge, built by the longing of the soul. But to where? Join us as we explore what “prayer” might mean in a theologically diverse congregation.

Sunday, October 10
Rev. Julia Hamilton
Speaker: Alan Salazar
“Indigenous People's Day: Recognizing the Struggle”

In honor of Indigenous People’s Day, Alan Salazar, a Fernandino tribal elder will speak to us of the struggles of the Fernandino Tataviam tribe to achieve Federal recognition. Alan will also share a recent children’s book he has written called "Tata, The Tataviam Towhee, A Tribal Story." Led by Chalice UU, our Central Coast Cluster of UU congregations is collaborating on this service to learn more about the interconnected Indigenous tribal systems in our area. Join us for this very special service.

Sunday, October 17
Rev. Julia Hamilton
“Gathering the Waters of Our Community”

Today’s the day: Bring your water, because we will launch into the season with our annual water ceremony, both in-person and online! This will be our first service with the congregation in the sanctuary as well as on Zoom.
* We will be sending out a special RSVP request the week before the service. Please let us know if you plan on coming in person so we can plan to safely accommodate our community.

Sunday, October 24
Rev. Lora Young
“The Forest Realm”

Scientist, author, and activist for indigenous rights Robin Wall Kimmerer writes that in her native Potawatomi tradition, all of life on earth exists in the realm of the forest, and reflects that perhaps the trees are gardening us. Join Rev. Lora Young in exploring the ecological truths held literally in the roots, trunks, branches, and leaves of our tree neighbors and what this might mean for environmental justice as we grapple with a rapidly changing climate.

Sunday, October 31
Rev. Julia Hamilton
“A Sanctuary for All Souls”

This is All Souls Sunday, when we build our community altar with photos and mementos of our honored dead. We will also be taking a look at the names on the windows in our Sanctuary — who were they, and what would they have to say to us if they could speak today? This will be the first of a sermon series on our UU ancestors.
* Please bring photos or other small items to remember your loved ones, to place on our altar for the morning.
USSB Annual Auction
Bid for a Year of Art, Food, Travel & Fun

It’s almost bidding time! If you haven’t yet, take a look at our online auction catalog and get ready to place your bids on October 3 at 11:00 AM. We will go live with bidding just after service, and opportunities to bid will continue through Saturday, October 9 at 6:00 PM, at the end of the auction celebration event.

All of our auction bidding will take place on our live auction website: www.auctria.com/auction/ussb2021

Important Auction Dates:
- Week of Bidding: Sunday, October 3 to Saturday, October 9
- Celebration event and raffle: Saturday, October 9 at 5:00 PM on Zoom

Our theme this year is Bluegrass and our celebration event will include a bluegrass performance, raffle, and community fun. Dust off your fiddles, tune up your banjos, and get ready to celebrate in folksy style.

As with each annual fundraiser, the goal is to raise money to support the programs and actions of the Unitarian Society while providing opportunities for community and connection. Like last year, our auction will be held online, with bidding taking place over the course of a week.

Your USSB Auction Team

October Outreach Offering
Black Lives UU

In October, we share our Outreach Offering with Black Lives UU. BLUU is an organizing collective formed in 2015 to provide support, information and resources for Black Unitarian Universalists, as well as to expand the role and visibility of Black UUs within our faith.

Specifically, BLUU is committed to:
- Expanding the power and capacity of Black UUs within our faith
- Providing support, information, and resources for Black UUs
- Justice-making and liberation through our faith

BLUU’s vision:

“BLUU harnesses love’s power to combat oppression and foster healing as a spiritual and political imperative. We know the power of love to be life changing, inclusive, relational, uncomfortable, unconditional and without end.”

In the spirit of this shared vision, please give generously to support the work of BLUU.

For more information: https://blacklivesuu.org.
I recently attended a webinar for Religious Education professionals about the stages of faith development in children and adults. I learned a lot, but one thing the instructor said has really stuck with me: “The congregation is the curriculum.” The relationships we build, the stories we tell, the unique history of our congregation, the people and issues we choose to prioritize, the rituals we practice, and the ways we spend time together, grieve together, resolve conflict, and celebrate together transmit ideas about what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist as much as any RE curriculum. We learn and grow in relationship to each other, and so do our children.

At our RE Family Ingathering a few weeks ago, we talked about the divine spark in each of us. We passed out candles. I lit one candle and used it to light the candle of the person next to me. That person turned to light the candle of the person next to them, and so on. There was a breeze that morning, so candles kept getting blown out. We had to keep helping each other re-light our candles when they inevitably were snuffed out by the breeze. We learned an important truth that morning: Without each other, we couldn’t sustain our divine spark.

Throughout this pandemic, we have had to learn new ways to be in relationship with each other. Now, as we slowly begin to come back together in person, I look forward to cultivating new and renewed connections and friendships. I want our children to learn about love and justice and what it means to be a UU from the curriculum that is this wonderful congregation. I want this for all of us. Here are just a few ways we can help our children and each other keep our divine spark burning in the coming month. For more information, contact me at charla@ussb.org.

In Faith,
Charla Bregante
Director of Lifespan Religious Education
charla@ussb.org

"We need to be together. We yearn for connection. We hunger for the familiar faces of friends, the sound of shared voices proclaiming who we are, where we are going”

—Jeff May

RE Corner
The Congregation is the Curriculum

Children’s RE classes are in-person on Sundays at 10:00 AM!

We are thrilled to welcome back our skilled RE Teachers, Christina Boardman and Janey Madlani, for our Fall CRE program. Kids from preschool to seventh grade are invited to our in-person, outdoor children’s RE program Sundays at 10:00 AM. Find the link to enroll you children in the Friday email or on the USSB website.

NEW! USSB Journaling Hour,
Tuesdays at 7:00 PM on Zoom

October 5 to November 16, adults and teens are invited to join DRE Charla Bregante for an hour a week dedicated to personal journaling. We will start the hour with a chalice lighting and centering meditation. An optional writing prompt will be offered and then we’ll turn off our cameras and just write together. A brief opportunity to share a few sentences or insights will be offered before we close out the hour by extinguishing our chalice.

CRE Parent Circle,
Wednesday, October 6 at 7:00 PM on Zoom

Get to know other CRE parents and strengthen the connections you already have. We are stronger and better parents when we are in a community of mutual support. Join the CRE Parent Circle on the 1st Wednesday of each month.

Why Were We (U)Us?
A Young Adult Zoom Group,
Sunday, October 10 at 6:00 PM PST

The young adult (18-28 year old) Zoomers have rechristened their group to the aptly named, “Why Were We (U)Us?” Members reflect on how their lives have changed since they were in YRUU and what role Unitarian Universalism plays in their lives today. There is also plenty of time set aside for catching up with each other, game playing, and other social activities. Join Why Were We (U)Us? on the second Sunday of each month.
Staff Notes

Rest & Renewal

Director of Administration Taking Sabbatical Leave from November 8-December 10

Listening to Rev. Julia’s Labor Day weekend sermon on “New Year, New Possibilities,” I was reminded of the need for sacred time — time for resetting my own personal routines and interrupting those routines with a healthy dose of rest and renewal.

Several years ago, recognizing the nature of congregational work and making an investment in employee tenure, our Board of Trustees voted in favor of a Sabbatical Leave policy for professional staff to do just that.

“Sabbatical leave is a time for renewal and professional development. By granting sabbatical time, the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara is making an investment in our professional staff, showing appreciation for their contributions, and encouraging trust, loyalty, and creativity while minimizing burnout.”

I am grateful to work for a congregation that values rest and renewal, and that lives into those values through its policies and professional benefits. Entering into what will be my ninth year at USSB (after eighteen months of pandemic and nimbleness and change), I can’t think of a better time to take advantage of that investment.

I certainly recognize the need for my own restoring. I am proud of the work we have done together over these last nine years, and proud of the ways this congregation has stepped up to unforeseen challenges and obstacles. And I look forward to approaching these next years (whatever they may bring) with a renewed sense of creativity and refreshed ideas and approaches that come from time away.

The congregation will be in good hands while I take this time, in the hands of each other and in the hands of our incredibly capable and dedicated staff team. My thanks, again, to this congregation for upholding the precious value of rest, and for allowing me this sacred time of renewal.

Erin Wilson
Director of Administration
erin@ussb.org

Starting Point: New to USSB

Tuesdays, October 12 and 19, from 6:00 to 7:30 PM

Are you new to the Unitarian Society? Or perhaps you’ve been here for a little while and are ready to explore membership and meet some new people? This two-session class is for you! Join Rev. Julia and Director of Religious Education Charla Bregante to dive into a little UU theology, learn a little UU history, share some of your own journey, and connect with others as we explore what it means to be a part of this congregation.

Class is offered both in-person and online!

Please RSVP on Realm.
Starting Point: New to USSB
Tuesdays, October 12 and 19, from 6:00 to 7:30 pm
Rev. Julia Hamilton, Lead Minister, julia@ussb.org
Erin Wilson, Director of Administration, erin@ussb.org
Greg Otero, Facilities Use Coordinator, greg@ussb.org
Stephanie Grey, Media Arts Coordinator, media@ussb.org
Charla Bregante, Director of Lifespan Religious Education, charla@ussb.org
Christina Boardman, Children's RE Coordinator, christina@ussb.org
Janey Madlani, Children's RE Coordinator, janey@ussb.org
Eden Kennedy, Office Manager, eden@ussb.org
Rob Brown, Building Manager, rob@ussb.org
Jon Diaz, Sexton, jon@ussb.org
Heather Levin, Accompanist
Rev. Kenneth Collier, Minister Emeritus

Worship Services livestream on Zoom and Facebook on Sundays at 10:00 AM
The office is available by phone and email on Sunday mornings and from Monday to Thursday, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Email ussb@ussb.org, or call (805) 965-4583.

Deadline for the November issue is Monday, October 25.
Email: Kaleidoscope@ussb.org

Sunday services livestream at 10:00 AM
Join us on Zoom or Facebook, or use your phone to dial in and hear the service live.
To listen to the service on your phone, call 1-669-900-6833 and then enter the Sunday services meeting ID: 960 0363 8223#
You may call in starting five minutes before the service begins.
Zoom and Facebook links are sent out in the Friday email, in a special Sunday morning email, and are always available on our website, at www.ussb.org/worship/zoom.
Contact our office at ussb@ussb.org if you’d like to be added to our email list.
Can’t be with us when we’re live Sunday morning? We archive every service video on our YouTube channel and on our website at www.ussb.org/worship/archive.