
September 2025

Beacon on the Hill

The monthly newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley
Vol. 84 #9

The mission of this church is to create loving community; inspire spiritual growth; and encourage lives of integrity joy, and service.

Chalice Circles Open House and Informational Session on Sunday, September 14

Starting at 1 pm Sunday Sept. 14, we will have a Question-and-Answer session with our Chalice Circle Leadership Team. Are you wondering what Chalice Circles are all about? Do you have questions about how to become a facilitator, or a participant? Do you want to have a say in what sort of topics might be chosen? Perhaps you have opinions or questions about when Circles should meet, or how Circles should meet. We want to hear from you! Please join us to help shape the future of Chalice Circles at UUCB! This will be a warm and welcoming get together. We invite anyone and everyone to participate.

About Chalice Circles

Chalice Circles have often been called the heart of UUCB. They usually meet twice a month for about two hours. The format of the meetings helps participants set aside daily distractions, reflect on their lives and beliefs, and make meaningful connections with one another. Through sharing their wisdom, members leave each meeting with a deeper understanding of themselves and of each other. Each Chalice Circle becomes a small, personal community of listening and caring in the midst of a large congregation.

How to Sign Up

Sign-ups will start in September for Fall Circles and in January for Spring Circles.

Please see The Week Ahead for dates and additional information. Or contact chalicecircles@uucb.org



September Services

Sundays 11 am

In Person, [Facebook Live](#) and [YouTube](#)

September 7

Level Up

September 14

Odds Are

September 21

How to Lose

September 28

Take Backs

Coffee & Community

Starts at 10:30 am in the Atrium

Lunch

In the Social Hall following the service

Sunday Programming

Youth and Children's Choir Rehearsal

Sundays at 10 am

The Choir is open to all children and youth, ages 5 ½ and up. Prior musical experience is not required. We rehearse in the Meditation Room (below the Sanctuary) or on Zoom. We help lead the Sunday worship service once or twice per month. Occasionally we participate in other music events. We'd love to have you join us!

Religious Education (Starts Sept. 7!)

Sundays at 11:15 am (during service). The theme for September and October will be BUILDING THE COMMON GOOD. Please email Rev. Kathryn Jay, Minister of Congregational Life, for more information: kathryn@uucb.org

Humanist Connections

Sundays at 1 pm on Zoom (3rd Sunday is in person)

September 7 – Harold Ogren will arrange for the selection of topics and speakers for OCTOBER.

September 14 – Paul Ulbrich will discuss “What is certainty?”

September 21 (Music Room) – Dennis Monthei will discuss “Who is your favorite Roosevelt?”

September 28 – Harold Ogren will discuss “What happens when our electrical grid dies?”

Special Events

Sept. 5-7 **Capital Campaign Info Sessions**

Sept. 9, 16, 23, 30 **Theology Class, A House for Hope: Deepening Your Journey with Unitarian Universalism**

Sept. 7, 21 **(Social Justice) Fall Community Book Read, *The Beadworkers: Stories***

Sept. 12 **(Family Ministry) Friday Family Movie Night**

Sept. 14 **(Social Justice) Carnival of Care**

Sept. 14 **(Small Group Ministry) Chalice Circles Open House**

Sept. 20 **(Special Worship Service) Church du Soleil Fall Equinox**

Sept. 20 **(Family Ministry) Youth Group Kickoff!**

Sept. 21 **Newcomers Q&A**

Sept. 25 **(Special Event) Redwood Nights: Storytelling Under the Stars**

Sept. 26-27 **(Family Ministry) Coming of Age Retreat**

Sept. 27 **Death Café Conversations**

Sept. 27 **(Music Concert) Bryan Baker & Friends**

Sept. 28 **Pathway to Connection Session 2 UU/UUCB History**

Weekly Events (see uucb.org/weekahead)

Mondays

9 am Write For Your Life
9 am Women's Meditation Group

Tuesdays

10 am Improving Your Balance through Tai Chi
12:15 pm Applied UU Buddhist Sangha

Wednesdays

10 am Walk & Talk Group
10:30 am Aging with Grace

Thursdays

5 pm Javanese Gamelan
7 pm Choir Rehearsal

Fridays

10 am Improving Your Balance through Tai Chi

Monthly Events & Meetings

Sunday (1=1st Sunday, 2=2nd Sunday, etc.)

9:30 am Parents Discussion Group (1/3)
1 pm Working to Overcome White Supremacy (2)
1 pm Immigrant Support Group (1)

Monday

11 am Textile & Art (2)
5 pm Climate Justice Committee (4)

Tuesday

10:15 Prep/Serve Lunch GRIP (4)
7 pm World Peace Committee (3)

Wednesday

10 am Walk & Talk (4)
7:15 pm Board of Trustees (2)
7 pm Program Council (3)

Thursday

10 am Thank You Circle (3)

Friday

11 am Textile & Art (4)

Saturday

9 am Work Party (3)
1 pm POCC People of Color Caucus (3)
2 pm Death Café (quarterly)
4 pm Parents' Night Out (3)
6:30 pm Youth Social Event (3)

Announcements

From the Board

Listening presence: Helen Toy
helen_toy@yahoo.com

The Board changed the date of the September Board meeting from the 1st Wednesday (9/3) to the 2nd Wednesday 9/10).

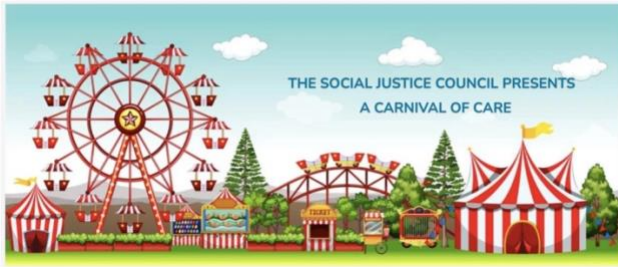
Capital Campaign



Kay Crider, a UU consultant, will be on-site with us September 5-7, 2025. She will meet with our board, ministers, staff, and members to hear about our culture, concerns, and our hopes for our church both programmatically and with our building. A core focus of Kay's visit will be on identifying recommended next steps and giving us practical information to help us prepare for a possible capital campaign for our church home.

On Sunday, September 7 @ 12:30 pm after the service there will be a presentation for all interested members. Light snacks and childcare will be provided, and it will also be live-streamed. Kay will present her initial observations and recommendations to the congregation, followed by a question-and-answer period. Please join us!

Social Justice Committee



Sunday, September 14
Fireside Room and Social Hall
5:30 PM – 8:00 PM

Come share a potluck dinner and help to Build the Common Good as you play games, learn about UUCB's Social Justice work, and take action.

Fun!! Prizes!! **Extra chances to win when you bring a friend along!!**

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Sept. 27 Bryan Baker & Friends



Beethoven and the Bard

A program of piano pieces inspired by Shakespeare, including Beethoven's Tempest

Sonata and movements from *Romeo and Juliet* transcribed by Prokofieff.

And songs on Shakespeare poems sung by Rod Lowe, Marcelle Dronkers, Phil Buonadonna, Michèle Voillequé, and Troy Turriate.

A fundraiser for UUCB's general fund. Tickets at the door and in advance, \$20; no one turned away for lack of funds.

Honoring Indigenous Peoples Group

The Beadworkers: Stories by Beth Piatote.

Three in-person book discussion meetings on Sundays in the Fireside Room 9/7, 1:30-3:00 pm; 9/21 & 10/5, 1-2:30 pm; **in-person talk with the author, Sunday, 10/19, 1-2:30 pm.** Book discussion meetings include a community beading project—joining together our intentions for the common good.

Dr. Piatote, who is Nez Perce and enrolled with Colville Confederated Tribes, is an associate professor in the Departments of English and Comparative Literature at UC Berkeley. A critically acclaimed collection of short stories, poetry and a play, *The Beadworkers* is a poignant and compelling exploration of the Native American experience, blending humor, compassion and insight to examine themes of identity, loss and resilience.

Sponsored by UUCB's Honoring Indigenous Peoples Group and the Literature, Film, Drama & Music Contingent. For questions and to sign up for the Book Read, please contact [Helen Tinsley-Jones](#).



Good Neighbor October

No More Tears

Website: nomoretearssq.com



Mission: No More Tears (NMT) is a violence and crime prevention program founded in 2002 by men incarcerated at San Quentin and concerned citizens both seeking to remedy the rise of violent crime in their communities and reduce the recidivism rate of returning citizens. We recognize the unique perspective of former perpetrators and value their ability to bring solutions to the communities where they once contributed to the problem.

Partner Church

Last month we presented the vision for our new UU Global Network. This month we continue with “Our Core Values – Connecting Through Covenant”. These values are not abstract ideas but are lived out in the ways we listen, collaborate, and build community. These core values are:

- We covenant to center relationships. We will learn and grow together in a community.
- We covenant to encourage participation. We celebrate cultural differences, global diversity, and emerging voices.
- We covenant to find our path together. We will decenter hierarchy and make collaborative decisions.
- We covenant to work together with intentionality. We will be transparent and adaptable with many paths to participation.

Our partners in the Hungarian Unitarian Church live out these values through their celebration of Thanksgiving on the fourth Sunday of September. In the villages, the people come together for a communion service that celebrates the bounty of the harvest and their thanks to God for the blessings bestowed upon them. This is followed by a feast in the community hall which everyone contributes to and attends. Many hands knead the dough and bake the bread for communion. One of the villagers’ fat hogs will likely give its all for the meal.

Meanwhile, we are working with Rev. Marcus to have a Partner Church Sunday service sometime soon. Who knows what that service will look like. Perhaps some of you who have been to Transylvania may want to share your

memories. Maybe someone who would like to go could tell us what excites you (or even scares you) about that prospect.

The four values stated above apply to all of us, here at UUCB and also in Homorodújfalú. We on the Partner Church Community can't do it all. Let's make the circle as wide as we can. You know where to find us on Sundays, or contact Stephanie Ann Blythe at steph62850@yahoo.com or Anne Greenwood at annegt1@sbcglobal.net. The next step is OURS.

A House for Hope: Deepening Your Journey with Unitarian Universalism

With Rev. Marcus Liefert

A central purpose of religious community is to provide a place to wrestle with life's necessary, beautiful and excruciating questions. Where do we come from and where are we going? What is human nature and the nature of the divine? In what do we put our faith when things are at their worst? We wrestle with these questions through theology—the work of thinking about our own answers to these questions in relationship to the way people have thought about them throughout the ages — and through spiritual practice — the way we inhabit these questions in our daily lives. This is a class for those who wish to deepen their engagement with Unitarian Universalist theologies and spiritual practice.

Using *A House for Hope* by Rebecca Parker and John Buehrens as our guide, we'll explore how our religious ancestors have made meaning in the face of these questions and hold together the opportunities and challenges of our own times.

Sept. 9, 16, 23, 30

Oct. 7, 14

All sessions are on Tuesdays, 6:30 – 8:30 pm, in the Fireside Room.

Register at: <https://uucb.org/education/uu-theology-class/>

Freestone Oversight Committee

The Freestone Oversight Committee (FOC) is comprised of Beth Pollard (Board Rep and Co-chair), Tom Tripp (Co-chair), David Wemmer (Freestone Committee Rep), Bob Moore (Freestone Committee Rep), Susan Lankford, and Larry Nagel. The FOC has the following items to report on from July-August 2025.

- After a second well was drilled on Lot 1 on May 27, 2025, and came up dry, the Freestone Committee investigated the feasibility of drilling a third well. A new geologist recommended additional drilling sites. A property line survey was performed to ensure that the most likely site will not intrude on the neighbor's property. The UUCB members who have been funding the drilling work, along with the Freestone Committee, decided not to perform a third drilling and instead pursue a different approach.
- A UUCB congregant and donor for the drilling efforts submitted a proposal to the Board of Trustees at the August 6, 2026, Board Meeting. The proposal calls for him to purchase Lots 1 and 2, with conditions, for \$150,000, which is less than the \$250,000 required by the congregation's resolutions to be in hand by September 30, 2025.
- If approved as submitted, the proposal would supersede the congregation's March 2023

resolution and April 2025 amendment, and would relax, modify or remove milestones and other requirements and Board authorizations. Congregation approval is required if such a proposal is pursued. This proposal is supported by the Freestone Committee, but they have no part in the proposal.

- At the Board's request, the FOC met on August 13 to consider the proposal and provide a report to the Board.

If you have any questions, please e-mail us at FOC@UUCB.org.

**Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley
Covenant of Right Relations**

We covenant to build a religious community guided by love and sustained by respectful relationships. Believing

that building healthy relationships is a spiritual practice, we aim to listen appreciatively, speak with care, express gratitude, honor our differences, and assume good intentions. We endeavor to communicate directly, honestly, and compassionately, particularly when we are in conflict. When we hurt one another, we will try to forgive, make amends and reconnect in a spirit of love. In celebration of the common purpose that unites us, we will do our best to abide by this covenant.

MEMBERSHIP in this Unitarian Universalist congregation is open to all who see this church as their religious home and the principles for which the church stands as their own. People who wish to join participate in an "introduction to membership" session, sign the membership book, and commit to supporting this church through participation and financially. To become a member, please contact membership@uucb.org.

NEWSLETTER ITEM SUBMISSIONS: Submit announcements and articles by email to beacon@uucb.org. Due to limited space, we do not publish announcements for events occurring outside the church community. **The deadline for submissions** is the 15th of the month. **Questions?** Please email beacon@uucb.org. (Beacon is compiled and edited by Charis Domador.)

WEBSITE: uucb.org

PHONE: 510-525-0302

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS:

To subscribe to the email version of this newsletter or "The Week Ahead at UUCB," email connections@uucb.org. You can also find both newsletters at the website under "News."

UUCB general discussion list:

http://groups.google.com/group/uucb_discuss/about

Email list for families: Email family.ministry@uucb.org

Our Board of Trustees Widening the Circle Vision Statement:

We, the trustees of UUCB commit ourselves to championing racial justice, embodying anti-racist practices, and confronting and dismantling white supremacy culture and all forms of oppression (including but not limited to racism, sexism, ableism, homophobia, transphobia, classism, ageism, xenophobia and religious oppression, including anti-Semitism and Islamophobia) in everything we do.

Board of Trustees

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Michael DeWitt
Kristen Jensen
Beth Jerde
Carla McCasland
David Rosales
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Helen Toy

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Victoria Bowen (Membership)
Tom Tripp (Buildings & Grounds)
Cynthia Greenleaf (Social Justice)
Barbara Cullinane (Pastoral Care)
Marin Fischer, Virginia Frederick and June Sheffield (Music)
Jim Gasperini (Communications)
Ann Harlow (Fundraising and Hospitality)
Lonnie Moseley (Adult Religious Exploration)
Lenore Ralston (Chalice Circles and Finance)
Kay Fairwell and David Rosales (Board Liaisons)

Staff (partial list)

Minister: Rev. Marcus Liefert
revmarcus@uucb.org 510-525-0302 ext. 303
Minister for Congregational Life: Rev. Dr. Kathryn Jay
kathryn@uucb.org 510-525-0302 ext. 307
Operations Director: Janae Heard
janae@uucb.org, 510-525-0302 ext. 306
Membership and Engagement Mgr.: Charis Domador
connections@uucb.org, 510-525-0302 ext. 304
Facilities Manager: Peter Barnhold
peter@uucb.org, 510-525-0302 ext. 308