

THE WINDOW

First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego



First UU Members Join 'Not My Presidents Day' Protest

Church members took a stand for justice and equality

Hundreds, including First UU Church members, gathered at Waterfront Park on Presidents' Day as part of the nationwide 50501 Movement to protest President Trump's policies and the influence of unelected officials like Elon Musk in government. Participants voiced concerns over immigration reforms, DEI, and anti-discrimination laws. The rally aimed to unite those frustrated with the administration, calling for action against harmful policies.

Ame Stanko, a long time First UU church member, has shared this: "Protesting felt important for three reasons. First, I want to apologize to other countries being insulted right now. He doesn't represent all Americans. Second, many people are dismayed. I want to encourage

them—we can fight back. Third, people often thank me for representing those who couldn't attend due to work or physical limitations. If you want to take action, go to www.fiftyfifty.one and click *Events*. The next action is February 28 - Economic Blackout Day!



Pictured: Betty Ball

Roger Lundbohm



Pictured: Ame Stanko with her wife, Anne. Photos taken by Nancy Fisk.

Hillcrest Services:

10 am Sundays

4190 Front Street
San Diego, CA, 92103
619-298-9978

February 23

Music Sunday and New Member Blessing Service

March 2

"Navigating the Age of Overwhelm"
Rev. Kristen Kuriga, *Assistant Minister*

South Bay Services:

10 am Sundays

970 Broadway, Suite 104
Chula Vista, CA 91911
619-271-5017

February 23

Please join us for Music Sunday and New Member Blessing Service at the Hillcrest Campus

March 2

"We're All In This Thing Together"
Rev. Justine Sullivan, *Lead Minister*

February's Worship Theme is:
"The Practice of Inclusion"

Journey Toward Wholeness (JTW) What Can I Do?

Keepers of the Culture 2025

February 22, Saturday | 5 pm - 7 pm |
San Diego African American
Museum of Fine Art

The San Diego African American Museum of Fine Art in collaboration with the San Diego History Center will honor its 2025 Keepers of the Culture recipients. The event is free and space is limited. Click [here](#) for more information.



Generosity Offering: The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)

AFSC is an international organization that works with communities to challenge injustice and build conditions for lasting peace. Their U.S.-Mexico Border Program, established in 1977, focuses on engaging with media on immigration and border issues while uplifting community-based campaigns. Through training, advocacy, and coalition-building, they work to secure just immigration policies, protect human rights, and advance migrant rights. [Read more about the AFSC US-MEX border program here.](#)

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to create community, to nurture spiritual growth, and to act on our values to help heal the world.

Nuestra misión es crear comunidad, fomentar el crecimiento espiritual y vivir nuestros valores para ayudar a sanar el mundo.

OUR VALUES

Equity, Generosity, Interdependence, Justice, Pluralism, and Transformation, centered around Love

Love is at the center of Unitarian Universalism



Love At the Center: What is Article II?

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) has revised Article II of its bylaws to address current challenges like anti-racism and inclusivity. The updates, shaped by community input, emphasize mutual accountability and freedom of belief over a creedal approach. [Learn More Here.](#)

Volunteers Needed for Camp Assembly in April!

The All Pacific Southwest Service Area (PSWSA) Annual Assembly is held from April 25 through April 27 this year at First UU! The theme of this year's Assembly is "Unitarian Universalism: Now More Than Ever!" We are hosting this annual conference and we need your help with registrations, ushers, greeters, table hosts, kitchen help, and more. Please contact [Robie Evans](#) if you'd like to volunteer!

Home Hospitality Needed For Assembly Delegates

First UU will be hosting this year's Pacific Southwest Service Area Assembly for delegates from all Southern California UU churches and Camp de Benneville Pines. Do you have an extra bedroom and could provide home hospitality for one or two delegates for two nights? If you live near the Hillcrest area and are willing to help, it would be greatly appreciated. Breakfast will be provided at the conference. For more information, please email John Schaibly at johnschaibly@gmail.com.

Announcements

Our Church Family

Celebration of Life for Marv Pulliam

March 15, Saturday | 2 pm | Meeting House
Please join us in the celebrating the life of Marv Pulliam.
Reception to follow in Bard Hall. All are welcome.

Remembering Martha Kohler

It is with a heavy heart that we share the passing of Martha Kohler, who peacefully passed away on Sunday, February 2. She was surrounded by a supportive family with whom she shared a close and loving bond. Martha was a long-time member of First UU, as well as an active member of the American Association of University Women (AAUW). She was a devoted supporter of the Old Globe and served as a long-time cashier for the monthly book sale of the San Carlos Friends of the Library. At this time, no service has been planned. For the address to send cards, please contact the church's office administrator.

Chapel Chair Change: A Beautiful Upgrade

We're excited to announce we've purchased new chairs for the chapel, replacing the old, worn ones. The chapel looks even more beautiful and inviting now!



Window Submission Deadline

The deadline for submissions to the Window is by the end of day on **Sunday, February 23**. If you would like an announcement included in the Window, please email: officeadmin@firstuusandiego.org.

D4\$ Returns! Start Those Creative Juices Flowing!

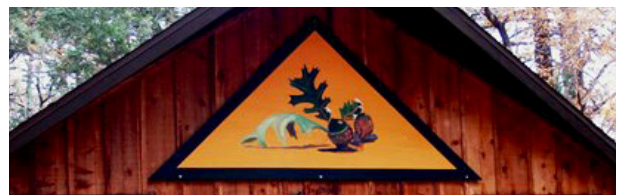
Mark your calendars. We need you to think of what event(s) you'll be offering for the first half, or Auction One of D4\$ 25-26. We'll collect these events during the month of March, and these events will be held May 2025 through November 2025. Bidding will begin mid-April. For more information, [visit our website](#).



Love Camp de Benneville Pines?


April 4 - 6 | Check-in at 4 pm | Camp de Benneville Pines


Join the UU Fellowship of San Dieguito for a fun weekend of singing, crafts, games, hikes, discussions, improv, and more for all ages! Check-in starts Friday at 4 pm, and we'll head back down Sunday around noon. For questions, email betsygilpin01@gmail.com. Register [here](#).




What's Happening


February 20, Thursday


 **Young Adult Group**
6 pm - 7:30 pm, Room 114b
Weekly. For those aged 18 to 35. Please contact Lara for more information: lara@firstuusandiego.org


 **UUA Common Read**
6 pm - 8 pm, Zoom
Join us for the first Common Read Workshop! This spring, First UU will explore *Authentic Selves: Celebrating Trans and Nonbinary People and Their Families*, with four total Zoom sessions. [Click here](#) to learn more and sign up.


February 23, Sunday


 **Music Sunday and New Member Blessing Service**
10 am Service, Hillcrest Campus, Meeting House.
Join us in welcoming our new members with a music-filled service!

 **Hillcrest In-Person Social Hour**
Following worship, Bard Hall
Join your community for coffee and conversation.


 **Parents As Spiritual Guides**
11:15 am - 12:30 pm, Room 114a
All parents are invited to our monthly session. This month, we'll begin by creating space for check-ins and discussing how families are navigating the current political climate. We'll then have time to share our hopes and dreams for *Our Sustainable Future*.


 **JUUL Tones Rehearsal**
11 am - 12:30 pm, Clark Chapel
Weekly. Contact **Andrea**: andrea@firstuusandiego.org


 **Open Heart Sangha**
4 pm - 5:30 pm, Bard Hall
Weekly. Contact **Marge**: margewur@gmail.com

 **Purim Playtime**
4 pm - 5:30 pm, Zoom
Exploring the words and pains of the *Book of Esther* with community Torah study and blackout poetry practices, hosted at [The Torah Studio](#), led by Liana Wertman and Eliza Slavet (of San Diego's Hinenu Havurah). Register [here](#).


February 24, Monday

 **Coping With Chronic Conditions Support Group**
1:30 pm - 3 pm, Zoom
Second & fourth Mondays. For church members and friends who deal with chronic and long-term physical conditions. Contact [Chris Smith](#) prior.

 **The Men's Fellowship Annual Banquet**
6 pm - 9 pm, Bard Hall
This is an opportunity to reconnect with old friends, to meet new ones and to learn: "What We Do and Why We Do It." Food will be provided. We welcome men of all ages, backgrounds, and diversities, straight, gay, bi, or transgender. The banquet is free—please RSVP: bit.ly/3WhXIVc

 **Women's Choir Rehearsal**
7 pm - 8:30 pm, Bard Hall
For more information, contact [Tomás Acosta](#).


February 25, Tuesday

 **Caregivers/Allies Support Group**
4 pm - 5:30 pm on Zoom
Second Monday & fourth Tuesdays. For those with caregiver responsibilities or if you have concerns for a friend or relative. Please contact [Les Vivian](#).


February 26, Wednesday

 **Chalice Choir Rehearsal**
7 pm - 8:30 pm, Bard Hall
Weekly. Contact [Tomás Acosta](#) for more information.

February 27, Thursday

 **Young Adult Group**
6 pm - 7:30 pm, Room 114b
Weekly. For those aged 18 to 35. Please contact Lara for more information: lara@firstuusandiego.org

February 28, Friday

 **Memory Matters Gathering**
10 am - 11:30 am, Online
With Kathy Gilbert and Gay Hybertsen, LCSW. For those who worry about memory problems and their care partners. Email hybertsen@att.net for the link.

What's Happening

March 1, Saturday



Building Sacred Ground (BSG) Workshop

10 am - 1:30 pm, Common Room

BSG is an experiential program designed to help individuals explore Unitarian Universalism and build community. *Read all the details on Page 7.*

March 2, Sunday



The Idea Exchange: People & Racialized Identities

11:15 am, Room 323 and Online

Join us for a discussion of *Kimberlé Crenshaw on Intersectionality: More than Two Decades Later*. We will read the article at the beginning of the meeting, and copies will be provided. Please contact [Louise](#).



The God Who Repents: An Exploration of the Yahwist Source

11:30 am - 12:30 pm, Room 114a

The *Sacred Text Study Group*, led by Connor Barrow, will gather to continue our exploration of the sources of the Pentateuch. This month's topic is: "The God Who Repents: An Exploration of the Yahwist Source."



Purim Artmaking – Play, Learn, and Make Art!

11:30 am - 2 pm, Bard Hall

Join us for a collaborative art-making session where we'll learn and have fun. The resulting artwork, a tapestry featuring the text of Purim (The Book of Esther), will be displayed at the church, creating a Purim-themed playground area for the Purim party! This event will also take place on March 9.



The Animal Ministry

11:45 am - 1 pm, Library

First Sunday, monthly. Please join us in planning our future!



Hillcrest Song Circle

2 pm - 4 pm, Room 323

First Sunday, monthly. Bring your guitar and/or voice. For more information, contact wombated@gmail.com or cmack5313@gmail.com

March 6, Thursday



Adult RE: Bob Nowlan Book Talk

6:30 pm - 8 pm, Zoom

Join First UU congregant and author Bob Nowlan as he explores critical theory, popular music, and his book *Excessive Flashpoints, Solitary Demands, Darkest Corners: Ian Curtis, Joy Division, Critical Theory, and Me*. To register, visit the [church website](#).

March 7, Friday



Racialized Identities Awareness (RIA) Book Group

6:30 pm, Room 320 and Online

Please join us for a discussion of the book *Better Living Through Birding: Notes from a Black Man in the Natural World* by Christian Cooper. If interested, please contact Louise Titlow: lmtitlow@gmail.com

March 9, Sunday



Rainbow Action Group's Hybrid Meeting

11:15 am, Room 323 and Online

For more information and Zoom link, contact Louise lmtitlow@gmail.com. All are welcome.

March 15, Saturday



Dynamic Duo: Hospice and Palliative Care

10 am, Bard Hall and Zoom

Chris Smith, a retired hospital nurse and church member, will talk about hospice and palliative care. Learn how each of them plays a role when illness affects the quality of life. Chris will cover how they work, how to access them, and what resources are available for support. All are welcome. Hosted by UU Seniors, this will be a hybrid program using Bard Hall and Zoom at <https://bit.ly/UUSeniors>. Come early and socialize!

April 19, Saturday



Day of the Child - Volunteers Needed!

10 am - 3 pm, Chula Vista Memorial Park

South Bay Campus is excited to participate in the Day of the Child! We need assistance with setup before the event and breakdown afterward. We're looking for volunteers to help with:

- *Setup:* Around 8:30 am
- *Event activities:* Planting seeds and making paper roses
- *Breakdown:* After 3 pm

Our activity will align with the theme: *Coming Together Today for Our Leaders of Tomorrow*. Let us know if you're interested in joining and supporting this fun event! **Corina Macias:** corina@firstuusandiego.org



Our Grief Journeys

This is an in-person, twice-monthly peer support group for people who are grieving the loss of a loved one. For details about joining, please contact Karen Thurston at karenthurst@gmail.com or call (770) 519-4947.

Upcoming Sunday Services

February 23: Save the date! Music Service and New Member Blessing, with both campuses worshipping **at the Hillcrest Campus.**

March 2: "We're All In This Thing Together" led by Rev. Justine Sullivan, *Lead Minister.*

March 9: "Navigating the Age of Overwhelm" led by Kristen Kuriga, *Assistant Minister.*

March 16: "The Practice of Trust: Wisdom Circle Service" led by Karen Thurston, *Lay Leader.*

Volunteers Needed for Day of the Child

April 19, Saturday | 10 am – 3 pm | Chula Vista Memorial Park

South Bay Campus is excited to participate in the Day of the Child event! We need volunteers to help with setup (around 8:30 am), event activities, and breakdown (after 3 pm). Our seed planting and paper rose activity will align with the theme: *Coming Together Today for Our Leaders of Tomorrow.* Contact Corina: corina@firstuusandiego.org

South Bay Food Pantry

We are the Pantry

First UU's largest social justice project welcomes all hands (and feet)! The greatest need right now is volunteers for Friday morning "retail rescue." Help divert food that's headed for a landfill—food that fits in your car and gets on pantry clients' dinner tables the very next day. Isn't that how it's supposed to work? Friday's team has regulars and occasional volunteers, so give it a try by writing to: foodpantry@firstuusandiego.org.

Want to support South Bay Food Pantry but can't volunteer?

The food pantry relies on donations from generous individuals. If you'd like to contribute, scan the QR code or visit: www.firstuusandiego.org/food-pantry.html



The South Bay Food Pantry is located at 970 Broadway, Suite 101, Chula Vista 91911. Open to the public Saturdays 11 am - 12:30 pm. Please contact foodpantry@firstuusandiego.org or call (619) 271-5017.

ACLU Know Your Rights (KYR) Trainings

March 3, Sunday | 1:00 PM | Online

Join one of the ACLU's KYR Trainings to learn about your individual rights and how to protect communities facing escalating threats. RSVP [here](#).

Call to Action: Oppose the "No Bailout for Sanctuary Cities" Act (HR 32)

HR 32 would halt any federal funding for 'sanctuary' jurisdictions that are deemed to benefit undocumented immigrants. The bill defines 'sanctuary' as any state, city, county, or locality that limits or prohibits local law enforcement from assisting with deportations. Although undocumented immigrants are already ineligible for most major federal benefit programs, states and localities still receive federal funding for services that benefit all residents, such as the National School Lunch Program, [local bus lines](#), and [Meals on Wheels](#). Outreach from constituents is especially needed to urge border district Members of Congress (MOCs) to oppose HR 32. Please help by contacting Rep. Levin's office, spreading the word, and encouraging his constituents to call and ask him to **OPPOSE HR 32.**

- Levin's DC office number: (202)225-3906
- Staff emails: Kyle.Krahel@mail.house.gov; Alison.Feinswog@mail.house.gov; Jessica.Ramirez@mail.house.gov; Eileen.Lee@mail.house.gov

Immigrant Rights Action Group

First UU is currently gathering interested participants to reignite the Immigrant Rights Social Justice Action Group on campus. If you are interested in joining the team, please email valeria@firstuusandiego.org for next steps.

Sign up for the Social Justice Newsletter!

Email valeria@firstuusandiego.org to get added to the list for monthly updates and resources for all things social justice.

Membership & Community

New Member Blessing

February 23, Sunday | During Service | Hillcrest Campus

Join us in welcoming our new members! As we receive them into membership, we also reaffirm our covenant with one another in this community, renewing our commitment to shared values and strengthening our connections.



Building Sacred Ground (BSG) Workshop

March 1, Saturday | 10 am - 1:30 pm | Common Room

BSG is an experiential program designed to help individuals explore Unitarian Universalism and build community. This workshop is divided into three main sections: UU 101, led by Tony Bianca; a Journeys workshop, focused on community building and membership; and lunch with a minister, where you'll get the chance to ask questions and engage in conversation with Rev. Kristen. This session is perfect for both newcomers and long time UUs! If you're interested in attending, please RSVP to valeria@firstuusandiego.org

Family & Lifespan

This Sunday, February 23, is Music Sunday. The service will feature all of our musical ensembles and include a New Member Blessing! Instead of dismissing the children and youth after Time for All Ages as usual, they are invited to go directly to their groups in rooms 113 and 114. Lara will hold space for our youth in grades 6-12, as usual, in 114b. In 113, Kate has special musical activities planned for our elementary-aged children. Following the service, Parents as Spiritual Guides will meet with Tony in 114a.

Parents As Spiritual Guides

February 23, Sunday | 11:15 am - 12:30 pm | Room 114a

All parents are invited to our monthly Parents as Spiritual Guides session. This month, we'll begin by making space for check-ins and discussions around how people are navigating the current political climate with their children and families. Then, we'll have time to share our hopes and dreams related to *Our Sustainable Future*.

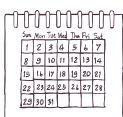
UU Common Read 24-25: "Authentic Selves"

On February 20 and March 20, First UU will participate in the UUA Common Read with *Authentic Selves: Celebrating Trans and Nonbinary People and Their Families*. Learn more and sign up on our [church website](#).

Sacred Text Study Group

March 2, Sunday | 11:30 am - 12:30 pm | Room 114a

We will gather to continue our exploration of the sources of the Pentateuch, led by Connor Barrow. This month's topic is: "The God Who Repents: An Exploration of the Yahwist Source." All are welcome!



To view the complete schedule of youth Lifespan events, check out the [Lifespan calendar](#) on the website!



Can't find what you're looking for?

See the [website calendar](#) for all events

Stay Connected

 facebook.com/firstuusd

 instagram.com/firstuusd

POSTMASTER:
Please send address changes to
The Window, 4190 Front Street,
San Diego, CA 92103-2098

First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego
4190 Front Street, San Diego, CA 92103-2098
Phone: 619-298-9978, **Fax:** 619-298-9997
E-mail: mail@firstuusandiego.org

Our Staff

Ministers:

Rev. Justine Sullivan, Lead Minister
Rev. Kristen Kuriga, Assistant Minister
Rev. Dr. Everett Howe and Rev. Julie Forest, Community Ministers

Music Staff:

Tomás Acosta, Choir Director
Andrea Spiero, JUUL Tones Ensemble Director
Lexi Pulido, South Bay Music Coordinator
Tony Bianca, Handbell Program Director
Gaby Villafranca, Music Program Assistant

Staff:

Robie Evans, Director of Operations
Tony Bianca, Director of Lifespan Faith Formation
Lara Anderson, Youth and Young Adult Coordinator
Valeria Aguilar, Membership and Social Justice Coordinator
Corina Macias, Outreach and Pantry Coordinator
Liora Naor, Office Administrator
Kate Collier, Program Assistant
Pam Bates, Scheduler
Ray Evans, Facilities Manager
Mark Epler, Event Coordinator
Ricky Cuadra, A/V Tech Assistant

Board of Trustees

Valerie Jaques, President
Karen Lamphere, Vice President
Armin Kuhlman, Treasurer
Rose Van Oss, Secretary
Leland Beck, Jim Davis, Steve Howard, Maren Outwater, and
Les Vivian, Trustees

Important E-mail Addresses:

General First Church E-mail: mail@firstuusandiego.org
Scheduling of Church Property: schedule@firstuusandiego.org
The Window (newsletter): [window@firstuusandiego.org](mailto>window@firstuusandiego.org)
First Church Web Site: [website@firstuusandiego.org](http://www.firstuusandiego.org)
www.firstuusandiego.org (Main site)
www.firstuusandiego.org/uus-of-the-south-bay
(UUs of the South Bay)

Contact the Main Office (Hillcrest Campus):

First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego
4190 Front Street, San Diego, California 92103
619-298-9978 • mail@firstuusandiego.org
www.firstuusandiego.org

Office Hours:

Tuesday—Friday, 10 am to 2 pm and Sunday after Services

Contact the South Bay Campus (Chula Vista):

Unitarian Universalists of the South Bay
970 Broadway, Suite 101 & 104, Chula Vista, California, 91911
619-271-5017 • uusouthbay@firstuusandiego.org
www.firstuusandiego.org/uus-of-the-south-bay
Campus Hours: Sunday for Service or By Arrangement