
MAKING CONNECTIONS



First Unitarian Church of Oakland

Directory of groups, activities, and resources.

Designed to connect adults with the heart of our spiritually alive, radically inclusive, and justice centered community.

685 Fourteenth Street, Oakland CA 94612

(510) 893-6129

www.uuoakland.org

Ministers' Message

Welcome to the First Unitarian Church of Oakland. Here in this historic sanctuary in the heart of downtown Oakland, we are a diverse people seeking to meet the spiritual challenges of today and shaping a more just, inclusive, and joyful future. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, we hope that you find support and encouragement for your next chapter here. Some have called congregational life a spiritual co-operative, and that is an apt description. Rev. Theresa, as your Parish Minister, tends to our ministries of worship, pastoral care, justice-making, and church governance. Rev. Sheri, as your Associate Minister for Faith Development, nurtures Adult Faith Development, and Children and Family Ministries. We work with dedicated music, office, facilities, and ministries staff. But the real heart of our church community is the members who become enlivened by what they experience here, find ways to serve the mission of the church, and invite companions into those ministries of our congregation that feed their souls.

In our church we encourage members:

- **To attend worship regularly** to connect with one another and what is most sacred, to give us time to pause, celebrate, reflect, and recommit to our values, our spiritual lives, and the change we want to be in the world.
- **To commit to a regular spiritual practice.** Members have chosen things such as spiritual or religious activism, meditation, prayer, yoga, interplay, memorizing poetry, music, walking, or spending time in nature. We can help you find a spiritual practice that is right for you.
- **To join a small group in the congregation.** Our community is large enough that to have real depth of connection you'll need to find a place to connect. Covenant groups, ongoing affinity groups like the young adult group, the book club, a music group like the choir, Journey Toward Wholeness First Sundays, or the Buddhist sitting group are all great places to begin.
- **To serve a ministry of the congregation.** Where does your joy or your need to grow draw you to serve? Many members start by becoming a greeter or an usher, helping with the 4th Sunday potlucks, volunteering with the pastoral care team to help congregants in need, or working with one of our justice teams.

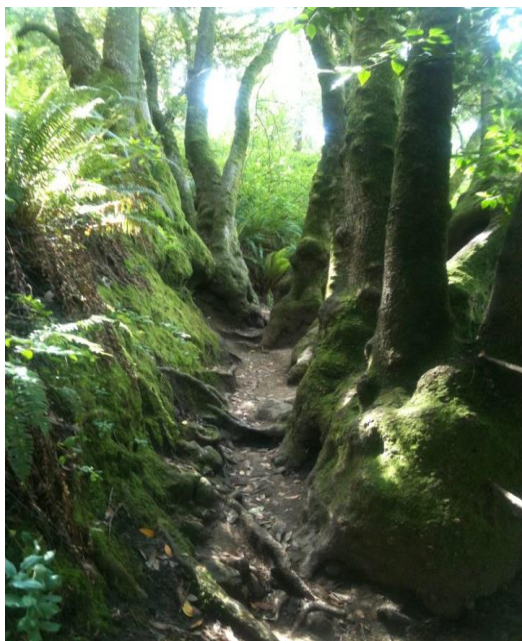
This booklet is full of information about the programs of the church and contact information to get you connected. If you would like to have help from one of your ministers to navigate these next steps of your involvement, please don't hesitate to call on us. Rev. Theresa is also available for pastoral support by phone or in person. You can contact them at revsoto@uuoakland.com

We know that being part of this community has the potential to transform your life. We hope you will turn toward that possibility with an open mind and heart. We are glad you have chosen to join us.

In faith and with bright hope,

Rev. Theresa Soto

Rev. Sheri Prud'homme



This brochure is geared toward adult activities in our community

For information about our children and family programs, please see our *Children and Family Ministries* pamphlet.

Or you can also contact Nicole Fitzhugh, our Children and Family Ministries Coordinator., at nicole@uuoakland.org, or Reverend Sheri at revsheri@uuoakland.org.

WORSHIP

**Worship Service is on Sundays at 10:20 AM in Hamilton Hall
Social Hour follows the service in Wendte Hall**

Here are some ways to get further involved in Sunday Service:

Greeting & Welcome Tables

- Greeting -- Sundays, before worship, 9:45 to 10:30 am, in the church foyer or front patio
 - Welcome Table -- Sundays, after worship, for about 45 minutes, in Wendte Hall
- Greet people when coming to church, or help newcomers during social hour. Help people feel welcome and meet our congregants. Provide information on our faith, church, programs and membership. Great way to meet others and learn people's names! Sign up via SignupGenius (see pg. 12), or email connectionsteam@uuoakland.org

Ushers

- Sundays, 10 AM until after worship service, in Hamilton Hall
- Ushers welcome people to church, hand out Sunday worship guides, help people find seats, collect the offering, and generally care for the congregation during worship. Sign up in SignupGenius (see pg. 12), or contact Sherry Larsen-Beville at ushering@uuoakland.org

Worship Associates

Members of the congregation partner with the clergy to plan and lead the worship services. We receive education in liturgy and worship leading. Some Worship Associates also lead summer worship services.

Contact Rev. Theresa Soto at revsoto@uuoakland.org

Worship Slides

- About 2 hours, usually Wednesday or Thursday, for your week (rotates among team).
- We have fun using our creative and technical skills to make the slides used to enhance the worship services. Training provided. Contact Emily Stoper at slidescreators@uuoakland.org

MUSIC

Opportunities to participate in our lively & varied music program:

Crescendo Choir

- Rehearsals – Wednesdays, 7:15-9:15 PM, in the Starr King Room
 - Performances – most Sundays, 9:15 AM until end of service, in Hamilton Hall
- Come check us out. The choir is looking for more singers, especially tenors and basses. Contact Marilyn McMahon at choir@uuoakland.org

Joyful Noise and other Ensembles

Our praise band and other small groups are always open to singers & musicians with some prior experience and skill. Soloists are also welcome to provide music in worship services. These groups are by audition/invitation. Contact Stefan Schneider at music@uuoakland.org

Pop-Up Choir

- Usually on 4th Sundays, 9:15 AM until end of service, in Hamilton Hall
- Join singers and non-singers before service to learn two easy songs, then perform them together during that day's worship service. Contact Susan Keiter, at popupchoir@uuoakland.org



PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral Associates

This team of dedicated members offers one-one caring and support to church members in times of need. It could include a spiritual crisis, major life changes, age or mobility isolation, health problems, etc. The Pastoral Associates rely on a wide network of church members to provide meals, rides, and other instrumental support. Contact pastoralcare@uuoakland.org

Sunday Prayer Announcements

If you have a significant joy or sorrow that you would like to be held up by one of the ministers in the Sunday service, please contact Rev. Theresa Soto at revsoto@uuoakland.org

FAITH-IN-ACTION – OUR JUSTICE WORK

We have several efforts that would welcome your participation:

Justice Team

Supports the integration of, and collaboration between, all of the justice work at church. We consider the intersection of our justice ministries, while we deepen our spiritual values and relationships, and expand our impact both within, and beyond, our walls.

Contact Bev Smrha at justiceteam@uuoakland.org

Journey Toward Wholeness Transformation Team (JTW)

- Meets 1st Sundays, 12-2 PM, in the Starr King Room.

Congregants gather to deepen our reflection on, and engagement in, the anti-racism and multicultural work of building the beloved community. Join us in this "heart" work and help bring justice to the world. Breakout groups:

- **People of Color Caucus** provides camaraderie and support for people of the global majority who are members and friends.
- **Allies for Racial Equity** provides support for white people unlearning and resisting racism.

Contact the JTW team at jtw@uuoakland.org

Earth Justice Associates (EJA)

- Meets 3rd Sundays, 12-1 PM, in the 3rd Floor Reception Area.

Our program provides ways to help protect and restore the earth and its natural resources. We share a special concern for the ways in which environmental degradation more severely affects communities of color. Our activities are educational, community-building, justice-oriented, and fun! Contact EJA at earthjustice@uuoakland.org

Tutor with BOOST! West Oakland

- Mo, Tu or Th 3-4:30 PM, or We 1:30-3 PM, or Mo, Tu, We, or Th 5:30-7 PM

Founded by church members Joan and Howard Poulter in 1997, Boost! West Oakland is a no-cost tutoring and mentoring program for K-5 students enrolled at Lafayette Elementary School in West Oakland. Contact Natalie Ingraham at boost_tutoring@uuoakland.org, or contact BOOST! directly, at info@boostoakland.org or (510) 444-7285.

McClymonds Merit Scholarship

We coordinate a scholarship program to support college-bound graduating seniors of the local McClymonds High School. Contact Ben Thompson, at mcclymondsmerit@gmail.com

Ella Baker Center for Human Rights Partnership

- Meets 4th Sundays, 12:15-1:45 PM, in the 3rd Floor Common Area
- Respond to calls for action from the Ella Baker Center in the “Books not Bars Campaign” and in resisting mass incarceration. Contact Micky Duxbury at ellabaker@uuoakland.org

Immigration Justice Team

Working in partnership with the Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity, we offer practical support to a newly-arrived immigrant family. We help pass legislation, witness deportation proceedings, raise funds to release parents and affirm the dignity and worth of all immigrants. Contact Lauren Poole at accompaniment@uuoakland.org

SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS

Orientation to Membership

- 4th Sundays, 12 to 2pm, in the Starr King Room.
- This workshop is to help you decide whether Unitarian Universalism and the First Unitarian Church of Oakland are right for you, and help you connect to others in the community. For newcomers and potential new members, but long-term members are welcome to attend too. Learn more at the Sunday Greeting & Welcome Tables, or email connectionsteam@uuoakland.org



Many Paths: A Faith Sharing Series

- Usually 3rd Sundays, after the worship service, in the Starr King Room
- A community member shares the story of their faith path, followed by conversation and Q&A. Speaker ideas or questions, contact Rev. Sheri, at revsheri@uuoakland.org

Religious Traditions Discussion Group

- 3rd Saturdays at 10:30 AM in the 3rd floor Crompton Library.
- The third source of Unitarian-Universalism acknowledges the wisdom of religious traditions around the world. We investigate some of those sources and see how they can illuminate our understanding of UU seven principles. Contact Anthony McHugh at religioustraditions@uuoakland.org

For more on Adult Faith Development...

Please see our *Adult Faith Development* pamphlet at the Sunday Greeting & Welcome Tables. Topic ideas or questions, contact Rev. Sheri at revsheri@uuoakland.org

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Other ways to connect with our community. Or gather some fellow congregants and start your own group!

Fourth Sundays Potluck

- 4th Sundays after worship service, in Wendte Hall.

Join us for the monthly church community potluck lunch. All are welcome to enjoy the food and socializing. Please bring food and drop it in the kitchen before going to service. Help is always needed with clean up. Contact Ron Weisberg at potluck@uuoakland.org

Church Book Group

- Meets 4th Tuesdays 7:30-9:30 PM, at a member's Oakland home.

Check-in followed by discussion of a nonfiction book.

Contact Emily Stoper at bookgroup@uuoakland.org

Covenant Groups

Church members meet in small groups at church, or in each other's homes, to listen intentionally to one another to reflect on the spiritual theme of the month and how it is most alive in our experiences and relationships. Most groups meet monthly.

Contact Emily Stoper at covenantgroups@uuoakland.org

Disability Identity Discussion Group

- Meets 3rd Sundays after service at 12 PM, in the 3rd floor Crompton Library.

This group is for people who identify as having a disability, obvious to others or not, and together we share our personal experiences, offer mutual support and discuss how the church can become more inclusive of people with all disabilities.

Contact Debby Kaplan, at disabilityidentity@uuoakland.org

Meditation Group

- Meets 3rd Mondays, 7:15 to 8:30 PM, at a member's Oakland Rockridge district home.

The meditation sangha welcomes meditators of all backgrounds and experience levels. We begin with silent meditation for 40 minutes, followed by check-ins and tea.

Contact Carol Emert, at meditation@uuoakland.org

Men's Fellowship Group

- Meets 2nd Sundays, 9 to 10 PM, in the 3rd floor Crompton Library.

Men's Fellowship gathers in conversation, program events, shared meals and a social justice activity for us to connect and build community. Newer members, friends and younger adults are encouraged to join us. Contact Ron Weisberg, at mensfellowship@oakland.org

Pagan Interest Group - Circle of Oak

- Meets 3rd Sundays at 12:00 PM.

This group explores the world's Earth-based spiritual paths based on the religious traditions of members' expertise. The group welcomes those grounded in Earth-centered traditions of Africa, Asia, Oceania, and the Americas who wish to share and explore together.

Contact Piper Rowanoak, at circleofoak@uuoakland.org

Poetry Circle

- Meets 1st Sundays, 9:30 to 10:10 AM, in the 3rd floor Crompton Library.

Bring a favorite poem including one you've written.

Contact Ron Weisberg, at poetry@uuoakland.org

Young Adult Group

We are a social, educational, and social action group open to 18-35 years olds. Connect with us on Facebook (UU Oakland Young Adults), or email to youngadults@uuoakland.org. Or text EZUUOakYA to 797979 to be added to our text blast message list.

ANNUAL EVENTS

All Church Picnic

- Fall 2020 date & location to be determined.

Sponsored by Children and Family Ministries and Journey Toward Wholeness Team.

Contact Nicole Fitzhugh at nicole@uuoakland.org

All Church Retreat

- Fall 2020 date & location to be determined.

A weekend of connection, nature, games, worship, swimming, and fun!

Contact the retreat team at churchretreat@uuoakland.org

Women and Girls Retreat

- Summer 2020 dates to be determined. At Redwood Glenn Retreat Center, in Loma Mar. An inspiring, fun-filled weekend for all who self-identify as women and girls.

Contact the retreat team at womensretreat@uuoakland.org

OUR MINISTERS

- Rev. Theresa Soto, Parish Minister, revsoto@uuoakland.org
- Rev. Sheri Prud'homme, Associate Minister for Faith Development, revsheri@uuoakland.org

OUR STAFF

- Venée Call-Ferrer Congregational Administrator, administrator@uuoakland.org
- Amanda Smith Office Manager, office@uuoakland.org

Children & Family Ministries

- Nicole Fitzhugh Children & Family Ministries Coord., nicole@uuoakland.org
- Dorothy Paul Nursery Coordinator
- Sophie Kaiser Nursery Assistant
- Dash Goss-Post Spirit Games & Art Room Leader
- Indea Miller-Morton Spirit Games & Art Room Leader
- Jordan Stephens Club UU Leader

Facilities

- Stefan Schneider Facilities Manager & Rentals Coord., rentals@uuoakland.org
- Zachary Gamble Audio/Visual Technician
- Frank Tobor Sexton

Music Ministry

- Stefan Schneider Joyful Noise & Choir Co-Director, music@uuoakland.org
- Renée Witon Joyful Noise & Choir Co-Director, music@uuoakland.org
- Geoff Ullerich Church Musician

GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE

Generally, these teams draw from members who have been here a year or more. But if you have particular interests or experience to contribute, don't hesitate to be in touch.

- **Board of Trustees** board@uuoakland.org
- **Operations Team** operationsteam@uuoakland.org
- **Building and Grounds Committee** rentals@uuoakland.org
- **Committee on Shared Ministry** sharedministry@uuoakland.org
- **Community Connections Team** connectionsteam@uuoakland.org
- **Endowment Team** endowments@uuoakland.org
- **Finance Team** financeteam@uuoakland.org
- **Personnel Committee** personnel@uuoakland.org
- **Program Council** programcouncil@uuoakland.org
- **Stewardship and Generosity Team** stewardship@uuoakland.org

CHURCH LOCATIONS

A brief guide to locations in our church, to help you find your way to meetings & events:

- **Hamilton Hall** our **sanctuary**, with **chancel** in front, balcony & **narthex** in back
- **Wendte Hall** our **social hall**, with adjacent main **kitchen**, and **patio** in back
- **Starr King Room** by stairs & elevator
- **Nursery** down the hall from elevator

Second Floor

- **Program Room** center of 2nd floor, next to elevator
- **Arts & Crafts Room** back of 2nd floor, at end of hall

Third Floor

- **Church Office** front of 3rd floor, behind glass walled divider
- **3rd Floor Reception Area** front of 3rd floor, outside church office
- **Crompton Library** center of 3rd floor, next to elevator
- **3rd Floor Common Area** center of 3rd floor, outside library

COMMUNICATION RESOURCES

Church Website is www.uuoakland.org. You will find descriptions of upcoming services, special events, and information about the life of the church.

Chalice Chatter is the official weekly email newsletter from the church office announcing upcoming events and information for the church. You can subscribe to it on our church website: go to the bottom of the home page, fill in the information under 'Email Newsletter Sign-Up', then click 'Sign Up'.

Church Calendar lists upcoming church sponsored groups and events. Our church website home page 'Church Events' section shows events for the next few days, and you can click 'See more events' at the bottom of that section to see the full calendar. Or go directly to it, at www.uuoakland.org/calendar.

Church Announcements are available in several places. Our church web site 'Recent News' section shows the latest news, and you can click on 'Past News' at the bottom of that section to see more. Announcements are also included in the Chalice Chatter weekly e-newsletter (see above). Or a limited number of printed announcements are available from the ushers before Sunday service.

Upcoming Service is featured on the top right section of our church website home page, www.uuoakland.org. From there you can click on 'upcoming services' to look further ahead, or 'service archive' to look back at past services.

Church FaceBook page is www.facebook.com/uuoakland/

Signup Genius is our online tool for Sunday volunteering, such as greeting, ushering, and potluck signups. You can access SignupGenius from our church website. Go to the very bottom and click on 'Sunday Volunteering', which will take you to our SignupGenius site. Don't bother with the 'Create a Signup' or 'Log in' at the top. Just scroll down the page to find the day you want, and check the 'Signup' box below the slot you want, then click 'Submit and Sign up' at the bottom. Fill in your name & email on the next screen, and click 'Sign up now' at the bottom, and you're signed up!

Revised 11/11/2019