

The Unitarian  
Congregation  
of Taos  
February 2022  
Bulletin Board



Sun., Feb. 6	Service: <i>How Good Do You Have To Be?</i> Rev. Gary Kowalski
Sun., Feb. 13	Sharing Circle: <i>TBA</i>
Wed., Feb. 16	Men's Group, 4:30 p.m.
Sun., Feb. 20	Service: <i>Communion</i> Rev. Munro Sickafoose
Sun., Feb. 27	Sharing Circle: <i>TBA</i>

***On My Mind***  
**Rev. Gary Kowalski**

There are few things more annoying than being put on hold. You're trying to phone the gas company and have to listen to endless loops of Opus 1 (the world's most overused background track composed by a sixteen-year-old computer nerd in the 1990s), which sounds like it's playing on the old cassette deck you owned in high school. If you're lucky, a mechanical voice may inform you that you're sixth in the queue or have an estimated wait time of nine minutes. So much life down the drain.

I hate it when other people waste my time. That said, I find plenty of ways to lollygag on my own, noodling around on the guitar or reading my daily horoscope, even though I know it's hokum. I've been trying to avoid Facebook, which just leaves me feeling annoyed. One study suggests that last year, the average social media user spent two and a half hours daily on the site, which adds up to one tenth of your life.

Probably I should be learning ancient Greek or improving the moment, but part of me likes goofing off. Being retired, I find it takes me longer and longer to get out of bed and start the day, for example. I'm learning to value naps. Thoreau said that "Time is the stream I go a-fishing in." At this point in my life, I'm fine with not catching much. Just dangling my rod over the water is enough.

The Jews have a word for this kind of wool-gathering. They call it the Sabbath, one whole day each week devoted to the art of *being* and opposed to *doing*. A time to appreciate life without feeling any need to improve on it. An interval for savoring the world without seeking to save it. Taoists call this *wu-wei*, which some translate as "nonaction" or creative quietude.

Have you found a balance between work and rest? Between busy and bored? Between overfunctioning and underachieving? How do you practice Sabbath? And besides listening to Opus 1, what is it you intend to do with your one wild and precious life? —Gary

***How Good Do You Have to Be?***  
**Rev. Gary Kowalski**  
Sunday, February 6

Suppose you hit the winning numbers for the lottery and find yourself suddenly ten million dollars richer than you were yesterday. Do you donate the money to the International Rescue Committee, or buy yourself a villa in France? Few of us will face that happy decision, but what do we make of zillionaires who give away almost all their wealth to benefit humankind? Most of us fall short of Bodhisattva-hood and wonder whether to give a buck to the panhandler on the street. This morning Gary poses the question: How good is good enough?

*See your weekly email for the Zoom link.*

***Communion***  
**Rev. Munro Sickafoose**  
Sunday, February 20

Many of our social challenges are complex predicaments that are not easily solved, if they can be 'solved' at all. Many solutions create more problems than resolutions. But what if thinking we have solutions is part of the problem?

*See your weekly email for the Zoom link.*



## SHARING CIRCLES\*

TBA

Sunday, February 13 & 27, 11 a.m.

Sharing Circles in 2022 will have a new format. We are currently in the process of redesigning with the hope of making improvements and dealing with the continuing Covid issues. We will continue to hold a Circle on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month using the Zoom platform. We understand that a significant number of Circle attendees would prefer face-to-face, but we must take every precaution possible to create a safe environment. We are leaning toward having the 2nd Sunday be a more open format without a formal topic. Members will be able to share on any subject (within reason). In the near term, Dennis will be the facilitator for the 2nd Sunday. The plan is that the 4th Sunday will have a topic and a facilitator—usually the person who recommended the topic.

A number of Circle members would still like to continue the once-a-month writing format we had for the 2021 circles. This will remain an option for those who would like to write; however, there won't be a scheduled time for this. Writing on the topic of the month can occur anytime throughout the month. Details for how the writing will interact with the 4th Sunday Circles will be determined.

For those interested in being on the Sharing Circle mailing list, please contact Dennis at [bridge4fun@mac.com](mailto:bridge4fun@mac.com).

Thank you to the congregation for your enthusiasm and support for the Sharing Circles, and to the Sharing Circle community for participating in the process of evolving our format. If you have any ideas for improvements or redirection of our efforts, please feel free to make them known.

## UCOT Men's Group

February 16

The UU Men's Group will meet Wednesday, February 16, at 4:30 p.m. All who are fully vaccinated are invited to meet in person. Those who wish can join by Zoom. Contact Dennis Scott at [bridge4fun@mac.com](mailto:bridge4fun@mac.com).

## ✿ FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS ✿

- 7 Sang Roberson
- 12 Margot Coleman
- 19 Dori Jones
- 22 Caryle Zorumski

## Music Committee News

Gael Minton



There is a small Vermont town where young people and their teachers have been meeting every summer for 70 years to make chamber music, to sing and folk dance and enjoy the 31-acre farm with woods, fields and a pond. It is the [Kinhaven Music School](#), whose founders David and Dorothy Dushkin had a dream that “children of similar musical interests, removed from the compromises and conflicts undermining their gifts,” could live with music in a noncompetitive environment in the country and grow together.



In the beginning (1952), there were 19 students for seven weeks in the summer, with eight to ten musician counselors. When I attended Kinhaven in 1958, I had only been playing the flute for six years, and to be immersed in a group of 30 kids with a wide range of musical skills was daunting and thrilling. We slept in big tents with floors and two double-decker beds per tent. Then as now, besides music practicing and performing, students take part in cooking, cleanup, and a variety of recreational activities.

Today, there are 90 kids in the Senior Session (six weeks), with 25 to 30 faculty members, and a Junior Session (two weeks), with 70 kids and 20 to 25 faculty members. There is also an adult chamber music session for one week. Now there are cabins (four to eight kids) with electricity and plumbing. The school is “unplugged” (no cell phones, computers, or other electronic devices) allowing for focus on music and community living.

This [short video](#) gives a good flavor of this school. And [this video](#) explains how the faculty members assign chamber music and coach the students.