

The Unitarian
Congregation
of Taos
February 2025
Bulletin Board



- Sun., Feb. 2 Service: *Niemöller's Confession: A Story of Silence*,
Rev. Diana Davies
Sun., Feb. 9 Sharing Circle: *Listening*
Sun., Feb. 16 Service: *When You Were a Tadpole and I Was a Fish*,
Rev. Diana Davies
Tue., Feb. 18 UCOT Women's Lunch, 12:15 p.m., Martyrs
Wed., Feb. 19 UCOT Men's Group, 4:00 p.m.
Sun., Feb. 23 Sharing Circle: *Open Topic*
Wed., Feb. 26 UCOT Game Night, 6:00 p.m.
Thu., Feb. 27 UCOT Book Group, 10:30 a.m., SOMOS

Right Now, It's Like This
Rev. Diana Davies

2025 has most definitely gotten off to an inauspicious start. Watching the conflagration in and around Los Angeles and bracing for a post-1/20/25 reality, it's very easy to conclude: "We're all doomed."

But then I remember UU theologian James Luther Adams's declaration: "The resources (divine and human) that are available for the achievement of meaningful change justify an attitude of ultimate optimism." One of those resources that is always available to us is the practice of joy. Joy, not as a means of escape, but as a form of resistance. In the face of horror, laughter does, in fact, help.

February may be the coldest and grayest time of the year, but it also offers us some of the most light-hearted holidays and observances of the year, including Groundhog Day and Valentine's Day (and don't forget [Galentine's Day](#)!). And it offers plenty of opportunities to laugh. One great example of this is the way that some UUs have creatively reimagined the tradition of Valentine's cards as a way of lovingly poking fun at ourselves.

Several years ago, my colleague Tim Atkins (Director of Religious Education at First Unitarian Church of Oklahoma City) came up with ideas for UU valentines, which can now be found [online](#). These include such messages as:

"I love you more than fair trade coffee... almost."

"Will you join the committee of my heart?"

"Let's let our interconnected webs interconnect, baby!"

Soon after, the [UU Hysterical Society](#) came up with some more, including:

"You're my soulmate. Of course, I need to explain what 'soul' means in this context."

"Hey baby, wanna covenant with me?"

For me, these silly and playful messages are a good reminder that, in cold and scary times, joy can be an empowering, healing balm.

Niemöller's Confession: A Story of Silence
Rev. Diana Davies

Sunday, February 2, 11 a.m.

A quote by German pastor Martin Niemöller is prominently displayed at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum. It begins with the lines: "First, they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out — because I was not a socialist." Many of us know some version of this quote, but Niemöller's own story of transformation, from support for the Nazis to active resistance, is less well known. What lessons can Niemöller's tale of transformation offer us as we enter a period of increasing authoritarianism?

**When I Was a Tadpole and
You Were a Fish**
Rev. Diana Davies

Sunday, February 16, 11 a.m.

In the middle of February, we celebrate two events that might seem entirely unrelated: Valentine's Day and Darwin Day (in honor of Charles Darwin's birthday on Feb. 12). Romantic love and cold, scientific evolution seem like opposites in many ways, but maybe they're not! Darwin's own love story with his wife Emma can help us see the connections.

Unitarian Universalist Valentines

Everyday I thank

(please check one)

- God
- The Universe
- The Unnamed
- The Spirit
- Earth Mother
- All of the Above
- None of the Above

FOR YOU

SHARING CIRCLES

Listening

February 9, 11 a.m.

Although listening is the foundation of communication, innovation, growth, and love, few of us know how to do it properly or where even to start.”
— Kim Scott, author of *Radical Candor*

It is only through listening that we engage, understand, connect, empathize, and develop as human beings. It is fundamental to any successful relationship — personal, professional, and political.
— Kate Murphy author of *You're Not Listening*

“Nature hath given men one tongue but two ears, that we may hear from others twice as much as we speak.” — Epictetus

How good of a listener are you? David Brooks, author of *How to Know a Person*, says we're not as good as we think. But neither are those who listen to us. At the Sharing Circle we know what it feels like to listen and to be heard. We value both.



Open Topic Sharing Circle

February 23, 11 a.m.

Using a virtual “talking stick,” each person can speak in turn, sharing whatever is in their hearts or on their minds in the moment.

UCOT Women's Lunch

February 18, 12:15 p.m.

(Third Tuesday Monthly)

Martyrs Steakhouse

RSVP [here](#)

We will meet at Martyrs on Tuesday February 18 at 12:15 p.m. in their separate meeting space at the rear of the property to enjoy a meal and conversation with UCOT women members and their friends.

Join us as we enjoy delicious food and the company of amazing women. RSVP by 10 a.m. February 18 to emily.gillispie@hotmail.com.

UCOT Men's Group

February 19, 4:00 p.m.

(Third Wednesday Monthly)

The UCOT Men's Group will meet in person on Wednesday, February 19, at 4 p.m. Contact Chuck Fawns at charles.fawns@gmail.com for this month's location.

UCOT Game Night

February 26, 6:00 p.m.

(Fourth Wednesday Monthly)

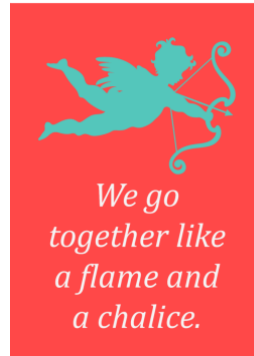
Everyone's invited to play games — Rummi-kub, Dominoes, Train, or a game of your choice — on the fourth Wednesday of the month. Join us on February 26 at 6 p.m. Please RSVP and contact Mary Shaffer for directions or more info: shafferstudios@gmail.com, (432) 386-5888. If you need a ride from the south side of Taos, call Don Zablosky at (469) 855-9107 or email him at don@donzablosky.com.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Barbara Berge
- 12 Margot Coleman
- 13 Thomas French
- 20 Caryle Zorumski

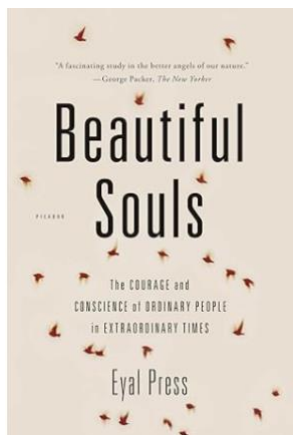
Unitarian Universalist Valentines



UCOT Book Group
February 27, 10:30 a.m., SOMOS
(Fourth Thursday Monthly)

The UCOT Book Group is open to all readers and their friends. Bring \$1 to contribute to SOMOS, which allows us to use their space.

In February, we will read *Beautiful Souls: The Courage and Conscience of Ordinary People in Extraordinary Times*, by Eyal Press.



History has produced many specimens of the banality of evil, but what about its flip side, what impels ordinary people to defy the sway of authority and convention? Through these dramatic stories of unlikely resisters, Eyal Press' *Beautiful Souls* shows that the boldest acts of dissent are often carried out not only by radicals seeking to overthrow the system but also by true believers who cling with unusual fierceness to their convictions.

Please join us for the conversation.

You can find the complete 2025 Book List at the following link: [2025 Book List](#).

NEST Pantry Needs

UCOT is supporting the pantry by the NEST (Navigating Emergency Support Together) — center for homeless services. We need food that is for immediate consumption or only requires brief heating in a microwave. Any cans must have a flip top, and cardboard/plastic containers are preferred. Use your imagination and fill the plaid-covered box at the service! Now that it's winter and the NEST has absorbed the Men's Shelter, we need regular donations!

Call or text with questions (575) 779-3126.

— Mary Gray

Music Committee News
Gael Minton

Future singing practice on service Sundays will be arranged with Martha Grossman as needed. The Music Committee will give a report at the Annual Meeting January 26th on music planning for 2025.

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Anthony Rodriguez

This month Anthony Rodriguez, a woodwind doubler, has caught my attention from this [short video](#) by the Clarion Co.

From Anthony Rodriguez's [website](#), enjoy his full bio and theater musical trailers.

These short pieces give insight into how Rodriguez has crafted a niche for himself: [Can you feel the love tonight?](#) from *The Lion King*, Anthony plays alto-sax and flute. And [this 2023 woodwind doubler reel](#).

Another sample of Rodriguez's musical artistry in [A Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder](#) at The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey (nine minutes.)

Most recently Rodriguez joined the '24-'25 *Annie* national tour for its Chicago Theater and Madison Square Garden shows.

