

The Unitarian  
Congregation  
of Taos  
March 2025  
Bulletin Board



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| Sun., Mar. 2  | Service: <i>The Land of Never</i> , Rev. Diana Davies                                  |
| Sun., Mar. 9  | Sharing Circle: <i>Balancing Nonviolent Action and Equanimity in Challenging Times</i> |
| Sun., Mar. 16 | Service: <i>Like God Themselves: On Loving Our Trans Kin</i> , Rev. Diana Davies       |
| Tue., Mar. 18 | UCOT Women's Lunch, 12:15 p.m., Martyrs  |
| Wed., Mar. 19 | UCOT Men's Group, 4:00 p.m.  |
| Sun., Mar. 23 | Sharing Circle: <i>Open Topic</i>  |
| Wed., Mar. 26 | UCOT Game Night, 6:00 p.m.   |
| Thu., Mar. 27 | UCOT Book Group, 10:30 a.m., SOMOS   |
| Sun., Mar. 30 | 5th Sunday Program: <i>Taos Immigrant Issues</i>                                       |

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

One of my favorite parts of ministry is officiating life-cycle ceremonies, including weddings, memorial services, and child dedications. But perhaps the most moving ritual I've ever participated in was a Renaming Ceremony for a transgender member of my congregation. At one point during the ceremony, the beloved person, attired in the truest expression of her identity, stood in front of a mirror that was covered by a cloth. Her friends and chosen family stood all around her. When the cover was removed from the mirror, the person saw herself as she had always known herself to be, but visibly surrounded by expressions of love, care, and acceptance. Everything about that moment was RIGHT, and I experienced the presence of divine Love in that room.

Today, the well-being of that beloved person is under attack. Many trans, non-binary, and intersex individuals and their families are living in fear of losing their rights and even their lives. As Unitarian Universalists who affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person and who believe that every person has the right to live authentically and to flourish, we are called to support our trans siblings.

I know that for some of us this can feel like a stretch. Not because we aren't progressive and caring, but just because we were raised to believe that there are only two genders, and that gender is directly tied to sexual anatomy. To learn, now, that the truth is much more complicated can be deeply disorienting. That's why we need to proceed in this work with care and with kindness. But proceed we must, because lives are at stake.

Luckily, there are lots of resources available to help us all become more informed, better allies. Here is a whole page of [resources from the UUA](#). Here's [another](#). And [one more](#).

***The Land of Never***  
Rev. Diana Davies  
Sunday, March 2, 11 a.m.

All of us have a set of expectations about what is likely to happen in our lives. And then there are those things that happen to other people. Never to us. Never to our loved ones. Yet, sometimes, the unimaginable happens and we have no words to describe it. No map for navigating it. We have entered the "Land of Never." How might we help each other to get through this strange and frightening land?

***Like God Themselves:  
On Loving Our Trans Kin***  
Rev. Diana Davies  
Sunday, March 16, 11 a.m.

March 31 is [Transgender Day of Visibility](#). At the last UUA General Assembly, delegates representing UU congregations from across the country [voted to affirm](#) that "embracing transgender, nonbinary, and intersex people is a fundamental expression of UU religious values." What does this mean for how we live our UU faith?

***Immigrant Issues In Our  
Local Taos Communities***  
Fifth Sunday, March 30, 11 a.m.

Our first 5th Sunday program for 2025 will focus on immigrant issues in our Taos County communities. The interactive morning will include two local speakers: Jose Gonzales of [Sin Fronteras de Nuevo Mexico](#) and Bea Balsamo of [Taos Immigrant Allies](#); a short film, and Q&A discussion follows. The TIA site has an informative video titled: *The Future We Want* (Deportation Nation VS. Full Employment Enjoyment). Several important bills supporting immigrants are currently working through the current NM Legislative session.

Gael Minton and Julian Spalding are putting together this program.

## SHARING CIRCLES

### *Balancing Nonviolent Action and Equanimity in Challenging Times*

March 9, 11 a.m.

“Change is never painful. Only the resistance to change is painful.” — The Buddha

“Let come what comes, let go what goes. See what remains.” — Ramana Maharshi

“We spend enormous energy trying to control what cannot be controlled. Is it possible to trust what remains when you let go of any attempt to control?” — Gangaji

In times of uncertainty and rapid change, we may feel overwhelmed, unsure of how — or whether — to take action. Should we engage in nonviolent resistance? How do we balance the call to compassionate action with the need for self-care?

Join us in a supportive and trusting circle where we share our feelings, explore the tension between action and surrender, and nourish our authentic selves. Together, we will hold space for both engagement and equanimity, honoring the wisdom that arises when we listen deeply to our own truth and others.

### Open Topic Sharing Circle

March 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

March 18, 12:15 p.m.

(Third Tuesday Monthly)

Martyrs Steakhouse

RSVP [here](#)

We will meet at Martyrs on Tuesday March 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 Monday, March 17 to Diza Sauers, [dizas65@gmail.com](mailto:dizas65@gmail.com).

### UCOT Men’s Group

March 19, 4:00 p.m.

(Third Wednesday Monthly)

The UCOT Men’s Group will meet in person on Wednesday, March 19, at 4 p.m. Contact Chuck Fawns at [charles.fawns@gmail.com](mailto:charles.fawns@gmail.com) for this month’s location.

### UCOT Game Night

March 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 each month. Join us on March 26 at 6 p.m. Please RSVP and contact Mary Shaffer for directions or more info: [shafferstudios@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:don@donzablosky.com).

### Beware of Phone and Online Scams

Your minister will not ask you to buy gift cards. Reminder: beware of email, text, and phone scams! See info [here](#) for how to stay aware.



### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

22 Jim Schultz

23 Bob Van Diest



**UCOT Book Group**  
March 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 March, we will read ***Flight of the Wild Swan***, by Melissa Pritchard.



Sweeping yet intimate, ***Flight of the Wild Swan*** tells the story of Florence Nightingale, a brilliant, trailblazing woman whose humanity has been obscured beneath the iconic weight of legend. Overcoming Victorian hierarchies, familial expectations, patriarchal resistance, and her own illness, she used her hard-won acclaim as a battlefield nurse to bring the profession out of its shadowy, disreputable status and elevate nursing to a skilled practice and compassionate art.

In lush, lyrical detail, Melissa Pritchard reveals Nightingale as a rebel who wouldn't relent — one whose extraordinary life offers a grand lesson in inspired will.

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 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 3

### **Music Committee News** Gael Minton

This will be my last newsletter submission on music for the foreseeable future. Thank you to all who have encouraged me and enjoyed listening. May live (and good recorded) music be an important part of your life always!

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Béla Bartók (1881-1945) was an extraordinary Hungarian composer who creatively used folk music to interweave tonal and atonal writing in chamber works and large orchestral pieces. Saturday February 8th, Chatter North (Santa Fe) played Bartók's 1939 piece for small string orchestra to the acclaim of a packed audience, including a friend and me. While there is nothing like live performance, [this is a fine recording of Bartók's Divertimento for string orchestra](#), by Glenn Gould School musicians in Toronto, 2022 (25 minutes).

The Taos School of Music faculty and students play Bartók's six string quartets every summer. More on Bartók's work and life [here](#).

