

The Unitarian
Congregation
of Taos
March 2026
Bulletin Board



All programs begin at 11 a.m. unless otherwise stated

Sun., Mar. 1	Service: <i>The Return of the Grand Inquisitor</i> , Rev. Diana Davies
Sun., Mar. 8	Sharing Circle: <i>FORWARD HO to Forgiveness!</i>
Sun., Mar. 15	Service: <i>The Only Lasting Truth is Change</i> , Rev. Diana Davies
Tue., Mar. 17	UCOT Women's Lunch, 12 p.m., Martyrs
Wed., Mar. 18	UCOT Men's Group, 4 p.m.
Sun., Mar. 22	Sharing Circle: <i>Open Topic</i>
Wed., Mar. 25	UCOT Afternoon Games, 2:30 p.m.
Thu., Mar. 26	UCOT Book Group, 10:30 a.m., SOMOS
Sun., Mar. 29	5th Sunday: <i>Viruses & Vaccines</i> , Ted Reid, PhD

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

At the 2024 Unitarian Universalist Association's General Assembly, congregational delegates voted to update the Seven Principles (that had been in place since 1985) with six foundational values: Justice, Equity, Transformation, Pluralism, Interdependence, and Generosity, all interconnected with and based in Love. While the Seven Principles still hold great value for many UU congregations (including the Unitarian Congregation of Taos), the Shared Values are now formally part of the UUA Bylaws, describing who we are as a faith, what we stand for, and why.

It was necessary to review and update the language of our UUA Bylaws in part because the Bylaws themselves require such a review every 15 years; but more importantly, it was necessary because ours is a living tradition.



Around the time that the new Shared Values were formally adopted, a colleague, Rev. Linda Hart, noted in a UU ministers' Facebook group that Henry David Thoreau, the famous Unitarian Transcendentalist, best known as author of the book *Walden*, came from a family of pencil makers. Pencils are made from graphite, and American graphite was inferior to what came from England. The American version smeared terribly, so Henry David found a way to use clay as a binder. With this new smear-

free technology, the Thoreau family became America's leading pencil makers.

But what use is a pencil without an eraser? Well, as it turns out, it was another Unitarian, Joseph Priestly, who, back in 1770, identified "a substance excellently adapted to the purpose of wiping from pages the mark of black lead pencil." He called this substance "rubber."

How wonderful is it that this faith that takes the process of review and revision as a core value and spiritual practice has among its ancestors key figures in the history of both the pencil and the eraser?

The Return of the Grand Inquisitor
Rev. Diana Davies
Sunday, March 1, 11 a.m.

In Fyodor Dostoevsky's *The Brothers Karamazov*, Ivan Karamazov confronts his younger brother Alyosha, a young monk in training, with a faith-challenging intellectual argument. Ivan imagines what would happen if Jesus came back to Earth at the time of the Spanish Inquisition only to be burned at the stake. We return to Ivan's anecdote and imagine what might take place if the heretical figure Jesus showed up today.

The Only Lasting Truth is Change
Rev. Diana Davies
Sunday, March 15, 11 a.m.

In her prophetic work *Parable of the Sower*, Octavia Butler wrote, "All that you touch You Change. All that you Change Changes you. The only lasting truth is Change. God is Change." What would a theology based in sacred Change look like? We'll consider Process Theology, a modern movement that imagines humanity's relationship with the divine as mutually changeable, in which everything is in a constant state of becoming.

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Viruses and Vaccines

5th Sunday Program

March 29, 11 a.m.

We live in troubling times. We are faced with widely different views on important topics. One of these topics will be discussed on March 29th at the 5th Sunday program. This talk will be in keeping with the 4th principle of Unitarian Universalism: "A free and responsible search for truth and meaning." The talk will cover the following: What is a virus? What is a vaccine? Who should you believe when it comes to the use of vaccines? Why should you trust science?

This talk is by one of our newest members, Ted Reid, Ph.D., Chemistry and Biochemistry.

SHARING CIRCLES

FORWARD HO to Forgiveness!

Sunday, March 8, 11 a.m.

Welcome to a Sunday sharing circle where we explore Forgiveness: the forgiveness of others, and most importantly of ourselves. Without forgiveness we cannot move forward, instead we are stuck in a repeating cycle of emotional distress and suffering. And, who needs that!

Be courageous; you have nothing to lose except that which is holding you back.

See you on Sunday, March 8th.

Open Topic

Sunday, March 22, 11 a.m.

Come as you are. Say what you like. Share your thoughts or feelings as we pass the mic.

New UU Covenant Group Proposed

Recently, I read an interesting article titled "Space Clearing in the Time of Fascism: How to Protect Your Home and Body from Collective Trauma." A couple of sentences truly spoke my intention for this proposed Covenant Group: "With every scroll, every news update, every scream for help you read online, you are letting something in. Let's learn how to release it again, so you feel empowered to stay up to date with the news while not absorbing all that energy into our home." Please contact me if you are interested in being part of this monthly Covenant Group and would be committed to a full year of gatherings. — Sarah Reid sarahreid1948@gmail.com

UCOT Women's Lunch

March 17, 12 noon

(Third Tuesday Monthly)

Martyr's Restaurant

RSVP [here](#)

Join us at Martyrs, in their separate meeting space at the rear of the property, to enjoy a meal and conversation with UCOT women members and their friends. Enjoy delicious food and the company of amazing women. RSVP by Monday, March 16, to [Mary Shaffer](#).

UCOT Men's Group

March 18, 4:00 p.m.

(Third Wednesday Monthly)

The UCOT Men's Group will meet in person on Wednesday, March 18, at 4 p.m. Contact [Chuck Fawns](#) for this month's location.

UCOT Afternoon Games

March 25, 2:30 p.m.

(Fourth Wednesday Monthly)

To accommodate the shorter days, Game Night is now Afternoon Games. We'll start at 2:30 on the fourth Wednesday of the month. Everyone is invited to play games — Rummikub, Dominoes, Train, or a game of your choice. Join us on March 25th at 2:30 p.m. Please RSVP by contacting Mary Shaffer at shafferstudios@gmail.com or (432) 386-5888 for directions or more info. 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.

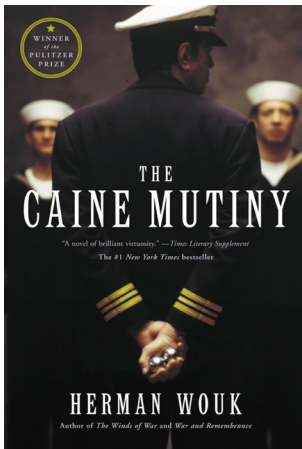
Sunday Flowers

I love flowers and seeing them at this time of the year always makes me feel cheerful. I hope you will join me by signing up and bringing plants or flowers on a Sunday of your choice to mark joys, sorrows, or just for the pure pleasure of enjoying them throughout the service. You can reserve a date by signing up on the printed calendar in person or by calling me. My phone number is (505) 615 1707. I will answer questions and give you assistance if you need help arranging a colorful display.

— Marilynn Nicholson

UCOT Book Group
March 26, 10:30 a.m., SOMOS
(Fourth Thursday Monthly)

In March we will be reading and discussing **The Caine Mutiny**, by Herman Wouk (1951), winner of the 1952 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction.



During World War II, a young naval officer is assigned to a destroyer escort and becomes embroiled in a complex situation as the ship's captain exhibits increasingly erratic behavior. As the captain's mental state deteriorates, the officer and his colleagues must confront a difficult moral dilemma: whether to challenge the captain's authority and relieve him of command or risk the safety of the crew and the ship. The decision carries immense consequences and tests the bonds of loyalty and duty.

Our dear friend Nancy Schultz was determined that we should read this book. We can consider its lessons one of her legacies to us. Please join us for the conversation.

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.

To view the entire **2026 Book List**, follow [this link](#).

UCOT Treasurer's Brief
Be Scott

The UCOT Board of Trustees thought everyone would be happy to receive some good news. At the Annual Meeting, I reported that we would have a 2026 deficit of \$3,440. But by Jan. 29, thanks to three members, we had received enough pledges to bring that amount down to \$940 — a much better way to start the year. Thanks again to everyone for their efforts to sustain this congregation. And how about that meal afterward? Delicious food and a deep sense of community.

LEADERSHIP
Charitable Giving Committee
Margot Coleman

Our Charitable Giving Committee is focused on organizations within our small community that need more help than they are able to receive from government agencies. We support our neighbors who need help while fighting catastrophic disease to children, and adolescents who need help for afterschool activities. We are also focused on our population who don't have enough food. I believe that taking an interest in our town and those who have needs is particularly important in our current social world. We would like to welcome members of our congregation who would like to help our committee in managing the donations and becoming more involved in the work we do in the community.

Last year, we supported 15 different organizations, which included: Rivers and Birds, Bridges, Holy Cross Cancer Support, Shared Table, Medical Debt Relief for Holy Cross Hospital, St. James Food Pantry and St. James Episcopal Church, TruKids 1, NEST, Amigos Bravos, CASA, Imagination Library, TENT, Oo-Oo-Nah, and Taos Search and Rescue.

We had a presentation at our November service by Sandy Campbell, who represents TruKids1, and by Rachel Conn, from Amigos Bravos. Both talks were inspiring.

Charitable Giving Committee
Imagination Library

Imagination Library provides books for between 500 and 520 children. The organization is stable, and every county in New Mexico is enrolled in the program. Dolly Parton, founder of the program, will be visiting New Mexico soon.

Parents can now choose between bilingual or English reading books. The program has the full support of the legislature, and the program is protected so that it cannot be defunded no matter which party is in control of the legislature. Eighty percent of the cost of books and postage is underwritten.

