

The Unitarian
Congregation
of Taos
April 2026
Bulletin Board



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

Sat., Mar. 28	Stand with UCOT at No King's Protest
Sun., Apr. 5	Service: <i>Sacred Emergence</i> , Rev. Diana Davies
Sun., Apr. 12	Sharing Circle: <i>Our Greatest Disappointment</i>
Wed., Apr. 15	UCOT Men's Group, 4 p.m.
Sun., Apr. 19	Service: <i>Dandelions</i> , Rev. Diana Davies
Tue., Apr. 21	UCOT Women's Lunch, 12 p.m., Martyrs
Wed., Apr. 22	UCOT Afternoon Games, 2:30 p.m.
Thu., Apr. 23	UCOT Book Group, 10:30 a.m., SOMOS
Sun., Apr. 26	Sharing Circle: <i>Open Topic</i>

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

In the spring of 2020, at the height of the COVID lockdown, I began meeting with a spiritual director. I was a new minister at the time, just coming into my own as a pastor, preacher, and faith educator, when everything changed. Suddenly, I had to learn to do all these things virtually — over the phone or via Zoom — and I felt adrift. Without being able to see members of my congregation face to face, I doubted my ability to connect with them as a minister should. In the face of a world-changing pandemic, I began to wonder if church still mattered. My faith in Love, Nature, and sacred Relationship was shaken.

Because the crisis I experienced was more spiritual than mental/emotional, more about faith than family system, and more a matter of discernment than goal setting, spiritual direction — rather than therapy or coaching — was the right option for me. (Many people benefit from some combination of these.) I still meet with my spiritual director monthly, and it remains a very important part of my spiritual life and faith development. In fact, it has been so important for me that I felt called to become a spiritual director, so I could share the experience with others.

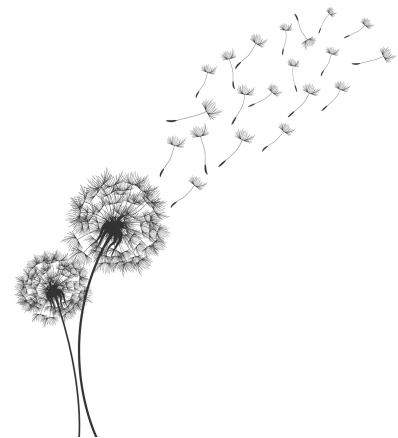
Spiritual direction can take different forms, depending on the seeker's own religious background and their spiritual needs and questions. Group or one-on-one sessions may include meditation, prayer, readings, and responding to questions. But spiritual direction (or spiritual companionship) is always about deep and compassionate listening and helping a seeker find their own spiritual path, utilizing a variety of spiritual practices. A spiritual director doesn't try to steer a seeker in a particular direction but helps them find their own way toward deeper engagement with Mystery/God/Meaning. To find out more about spiritual direction/companionship, see: [Spiritual Directors International](#) and the [UU Spiritual Direction Network](#).

Sacred Emergence
Rev. Diana Davies

Sunday, April 5, 11 a.m.

Bent Lodge, 124 Camino de Santiago, Taos

Emergence is that phenomenon evident throughout nature in which something seems to come out of nothing, or a thing rises into being that is greater than the sum of its parts. Think of a flock of birds migrating in formation, without any map or leader. Although they are only natural, moments of emergence can feel magical, even miraculous. This Sunday, we'll consider the Easter story as a tale of sacred emergence.



Dandelions

Rev. Diana Davies

Sunday, April 19, 11 a.m.

Bent Lodge, 124 Camino de Santiago, Taos

Although not as notorious as bindweed or goat head, many gardeners see dandelions as a noxious weed that must be eradicated. But dandelions serve important functions: as food, medicine, soil replenishers, and as symbols of resistance, resilience, and regeneration. On this Sunday before Earth Day, we celebrate those beings that are often disrespected, even hated, but that offer important lessons about the collective strength of the marginalized and the power of being persistent.

SHARING CIRCLES

Bent Lodge, 124 Camino de Santiago, Taos

Our Greatest Disappointment

Sunday, April 12, 11 a.m.

Life has its share of proverbial ups and downs, but one or two of those downs may have left us feeling somewhat betrayed by life, as if we had missed the mark in some significant way. Disappointment is universal, but it's also deeply personal — a lingering reminder of what might have been. Please come share your individual disappointment, and we'll share ours.

Open Topic

Sunday, April 26, 11 a.m.

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

Treasurer's Brief

Be Scott

In addition to the new pledges reported on in the March newsletter, another couple of pledges have altered the original projected budget: the total expected pledge amount of \$34,000, has increased by \$3,000, which will cover almost all of our expenses. In light of this, we went ahead with the hoped-for 5 percent pay raise we have traditionally offered our paid staff. The Board thought you would like to be made aware of that, especially since it's in keeping with the UUA guidelines. Most important, we are thrilled with the staff we have and feel they each deserve the recognition.

UUA Corner

"As Unitarian Universalists, we know that faith formation is a lifelong process, one I believe we are truly blessed to undertake in community together. Like religious ethics, faith formation can help us make decisions in our daily living so that our actions are an expression of our deeply held values.

In times like those we are in today, the values, the connections, the questions, the thinking and wrestling we have already done become urgent. They form a foundation of our living so that when we are faced with devastating situations — ICE snatching our families and our neighbors off the streets, policies undermining basic human rights, unceasing violence and war, and politicians working to decimate the social safety networks we have worked so long to create — we can move confidently with our UU values at the forefront in response.

In these days when we are called to resist, to shelter and support one another in community, and²

to faithfully proclaim the values we hold in common cause, may we remember to do the daily work of faith formation together across the generations so that we can respond with love at the center and with our living tradition as our guide."

— Rev. Sofia Betancourt, PhD/ UUA
President

UCOT Men's Group

April 15, 4:00 p.m.

(Third Wednesday Monthly)

The UCOT Men's Group will meet in person on Wednesday, April 15, at 4 p.m. Contact [Chuck Fawns](#) for this month's location.

UCOT Women's Lunch

April 21, 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, April 20, to [Mary Shaffer](#).

UCOT Afternoon Games

April 22, 2:30 p.m.

(Fourth Wednesday Monthly)

Game Night is now Afternoon Games. We start at 2:30 on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Everyone is invited to play games — Rummikub, Dominoes, Train, or a game of your choice. Join us on April 22 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.

Stand with UCOT at No Kings Protest

Saturday, March 28, 11 a.m.

Join UCOT members Saturday March 28, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., at Paseo del Pueblo Norte & Civic Plaza Drive, for the No Kings Protest. Contact Don Zablosky (Don@DonZablosky.com) if you can take turns holding the UCOT banner. This is another way you can actively connect your actions with your beliefs and help our community learn about us.

UCOT Book Group
April 23, 10:30 a.m., SOMOS
(Fourth Thursday Monthly)

In April we will be reading and discussing **Patriot, A Memoir**, by Alexei Navalny.



Alexei Navalny began writing **Patriot** shortly after his near-fatal poisoning in 2020. This book is the full story of his life: his youth in the U.S.S.R., his political awakening, his activism, his beloved and fiercely supportive wife and family, his total commitment to challenging a superpower determined to silence him and suppress democracy, his enduring love of Russia and its people, and his final years in prison.

He said, “On my birthday, of course I wish I didn’t have to wake up in this hellhole and could instead have breakfast with my family, receive kisses on the cheek from my children, unwrap presents and say, ‘Wow, this is exactly what I dreamed of!’ But life works in such a way that social progress and a better future can only be achieved if a certain number of people are willing to pay the price for their right to have their own beliefs. The more of them there are, the less everyone has to pay. And the day will come when speaking the truth and advocating for justice will be commonplace and not at all dangerous in Russia.” His prison diaries reflect a man who, even when placed in the most excruciating of circumstances, displayed undiminished spirit and commitment, and serve as a startling reminder of why the principles of individual freedom matter. **Patriot** is Alexei Navalny’s final letter to the world, an unforgettable document written by a man of profound integrity and unyielding courage.

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](#).

LEADERSHIP
UCOT Lay Leader Program
Mary Gray

Our congregation is rich in the skills, commitments and sharing of members. Being a Lay Leader is a deeply moving opportunity to share our faith and bring the congregation together. We presently are led by Be Scott, James Radnor, Bette Myerson, Barbara Martinez, Julian Spalding, Mary Shaffer, and Mary McPhail Gray. We need one or two more members to join our happy team. You will be supplied with the requirements of the service format – in fact, our congregation president has even provided his entire text for anyone to use. Only the topic of the day, announcements, and recognition of members who brought refreshments or flowers need to be added. Your creative additions can be enriched by your own thoughts and by consulting our UU national web presence. Please consider expressing your love for our community in this way.

Charitable Giving Committee
Medical Debt Relief Project

For the past eight years, faith communities and individuals have contributed toward the Taos Medical Debt Relief Project. UCOT has been among them. This year we raised \$1,455 from our members and added \$200 from our Charitable Giving budget to send \$1,655 to this worthwhile effort. A total of \$42,460 was raised, which paid off \$530,750 in medical debt owed to Holy Cross Hospital by Taos County residents who were unable to pay these bills. We are very happy to be a part of this wonderful effort. Thank you for your contributions. Please contact [Bette Myerson](#) if you would like more details or have questions.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Sid Bender
- 5 Julian Spalding
- 22 Marianne Furedi
- 25 Bette Myerson
- 30 Diana Davies