

The Window

A Weekly Publication



First
Unitarian Universalist
Church of San Diego

Double Issue!

Our Mission

Our mission is to create community, to nurture spiritual growth, and to act on our values to help heal the world. Nuestra misión es crear comunidad, fomentar el crecimiento espiritual y vivir nuestros valores para ayudar a sanar el mundo.

Our Eight Principles

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
2. Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;
3. Acceptance of one another, and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
5. The right of conscience, and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part;
8. Building a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and oppressions.

December's Monthly Worship Theme: The Gift of Mystery

Hillcrest Campus Location
4190 Front Street
San Diego, CA 92103
619-298-9978

South Bay Campus Location
970 Broadway, Suite 104
Chula Vista, CA 91911
619-271-5017

Hillcrest Services 10 am Sundays

December 24, 10 am, Meeting House "Christmas Eve Service For All Ages"

Rev. Justine Sullivan, Tony Bianca, and the RE Team
All ages are encouraged to join us for this service which will include our annual No-Rehearsal Pageant and, new this year, a visit from the Grinch.

December 24, 6:30 pm, Meeting House "Christmas Eve Candlelight Service"

First UU Worship Team
Join us starting at 6:30 pm with a concert of Christmas music. At 7 pm, we'll celebrate the season with a service filled with our favorite Christmas songs, readings, and lighting of candles.

December 25, 12:30 pm, Bard Hall Christmas Day Potluck and Carols!

We are so pleased to announce that we will host a beautiful Christmas Day potluck luncheon. Please come with your favorite dish, and even friends and relatives bearing their favorite dishes! Together, we'll dine, sing, and have lovely conversations. Contact swamini@firstuusandiego.org with any questions.

December 31, 10 am, Bard Hall "Seeds for the New Year"

We'll be having a Watch Party only to view a New Year's service from the UUA. There will be no live service. Kate will be available for Childcare in Bard Hall.

South Bay Services 10 am Sundays

December 24 "Love is Born!"

Rev. Kristen Kuriga, *Assistant Minister*
Join us for a Christmas "Eve" celebration with stories, readings, music by the South Bay Singers, and carols in English & Spanish!

December 31 "Seeds for the New Year"

Livestream of the UUA Worship Service

5th Sunday Generosity Offering Partner Church Romania

This special relationship with our Partner Congregation in Romania has lasted more than 25 years! We have the handmade cloth hymnbook covers, and the Weaving celebrating the 450th Anniversary of Unitarianism. Their multi-purpose building is named "San Diego Friendship Hall," in recognition of our support. This offering will help them help others. Donate on our [website](#), under gift designation select "Generosity."

January 7 Generosity Offering Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

UUSC collaborates with grassroots organizations and movements that are advancing our shared human rights goals on the ground. Recently they were a strong presence at the COP28 UAE (Conference of Parties) at the World Climate Action summit. UUSC supported the creation of seven side events at COP this year to bring together faith leaders and climate activists in a shared space to strategize solutions around the crisis. Please support this important work.

What's Happening?



First UU's office will be closed December 25 - December 29, 2023. Staff will be working shortened hours from home offices.

Interfaith Shelter Network Congregational Rotation

First UU and the Social Justice Executive Team are proud to announce that our Hillcrest campus will host the Interfaith Shelter Network's rotational shelter from March 10 — March 24. We will need all the help we can get! Hosting the shelter is a serious community and congregational effort, and volunteers interested in helping prepare meals, stay overnight, or otherwise facilitate operations are encouraged to reach out now so we can start planning! Contact kristen@firstuu.sandiego.org for more information or learn more at the [Interfaith Shelter Network website](#).

12-19-23 Board Meeting Review and Digest

- Celebrated our wonderful Coming of Age worship service held on 12/03/2023. A big thank you to the Lifespan Staff Team!
- Celebrated our two recent gatherings: Thanksgiving worship with a potluck and our Christmas Tree Trimming, Potluck and Carols Sing-a-long on 12/15/2023. These were two great expressions of being in community together!
- The board appointed Sarah Ormond as a new member of the Nominating Committee to fill one of the two current vacancies.
- Sue gave a positive financial report, ending 11-30-2023.
- The board planned for our upcoming "State of the Union" congregation meeting which will be held on Sunday, Jan 28, 2024 at 12:30 pm with lunch served just prior to the meeting.

Skinny Dip or Fat Dip?

Of Ice Cream dips of course. Teens will be selling your favorite flavors with cookies to fatten their Camp Scholarship fund January 7 in Bard Hall after service. By the way, we sponsored our first two youth to attend Senior High Winter camp at de Benneville Pines. Thank you for your support!

Memory Matters Gathering

December 22, second and fourth Fridays, 10 am — 11:30 am, online, with Kathy Gilbert, LCSW, and Gay Hybertsen, LCSW. This is a place for those who worry about memory problems and their care partners. The gathering enables members to learn to deal with the consequences of memory loss. Email hybertsen@att.net for the link.

Hillcrest In-Person Social Hour

December 24, Sundays, following worship, Bard Hall. Join your community in Bard Hall after the service for coffee, snacks, and conversation.

Virtual Social Hour

December 24, Sundays, 11 am, bit.ly/FirstUUSocialHour, Meeting ID 824 042 297. Password: FUUSD. Come one, come all to virtual Social Hour, and share your thoughts about the service or whatever is on your mind each Sunday just after the service. Let's keep connecting!

Open Heart Sangha

December 24, Sundays, weekly, 4 pm — 5:30 pm, Bard Hall. The Open Heart Sangha, practicing mindfulness meditation in the tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh. All are welcome! Contact Marge, margewur@gmail.com.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24, Sunday, 6:30 pm, Meeting House on the Hillcrest Campus. Join us starting at 6:30 pm with a half-hour concert of Christmas music featuring our Handbell Ensemble, Penny Whistlers, and other musicians. At 7 pm, we'll celebrate the season with a service filled with favorite Christmas songs, readings, and candle lighting.

Christmas Day Potluck and Carols!

December 25, Monday, 12:30 pm, Bard Hall. We are so pleased to announce that we will host a beautiful Christmas Day potluck luncheon. Please come with your favorite dish, and even friends and relatives bearing their favorite dishes! Together, we'll dine, sing, and have lovely conversations. Contact swamini@firstuusandiego.org if you'd like to volunteer or have any questions.

Caregivers/Allies Support Group

December 26, second Mondays & fourth Tuesdays, 4 pm — 5:30 pm, zoom. The Caregivers/Allies Support Group is welcoming prospective new participants. For additional information about participating contact [Les Vivian](#).

First UU San Diego Bereavement Group

December 28, Thursdays through December, 3 pm — 4:30 pm, <https://bit.ly/3s5AL6u>. Led by Rev. Justine Sullivan and pastoral care team member Karen Thurston.

New Year's Eve

December 31, Sunday, 10 am, Bard Hall. We'll be having a Watch Party only to view a New Year's Service from the UUA. There will be no live service. Kate will be available for Childcare in Bard Hall.

Contact [Rose](#) to add your group's info to the Window!

What's Happening?

Chalice Choir

January 3, Wednesdays, 7 pm, Bard Hall. Join us for singing and fun with First UU's largest musical ensemble. All God's critters got a place in the choir - come and take yours! No prior singing experience is required.

Racialized Identities Awareness Book Group

January 5, Friday, 6:30 pm — 8 pm, Room 323. Come join the Racialized Identities Awareness Book Group's discussion of *The House of the Broken Angels* by Alberto Urrea. Contact Imtitlow@gmail.com for more information.

Board Chat

January 7, first Sundays, 12:30 pm, bit.ly/FirstUUBoardChat. This month we'll be discussing the board's proposed amendments to the constitution, which will be voted on by the congregation at the January 23 meeting.

Hillcrest Song Circle

January 7, first Sundays, 2 pm — 4 pm, Room 323. As always, bring your guitar/and or voice. This is a fun chance to sing—we are not a choir. For information contact Wombated@gmail.com or cmack5913@gmail.com.

ZUUMERS

January 7, first Sundays, 6 pm — 7:30 pm, online. We are a neighborhood group online. Join us for interesting conversation and sharing. Visit with old friends and meet new ones. Contact Claudia at obata.claudia@gmail.com.

Coping With Chronic Conditions Support Group

January 8, second and fourth Mondays, 1:30 pm — 3 pm, URL bit.ly/CopingCCGroup, meeting ID 681-036-9317. New participants contact Chris Smith prior to attending at 619-300-7477 or [email](mailto:).

Women's Choir

January 8, Mondays, 7 pm, Bard Hall. Join this warm and welcoming group of women who create community through joyful, spirit-filled singing. No prior experience is required.

Neighborhood Group without Borders

January 10, second Wednesdays, 11 am — 1 pm, 4349 Adams Ave, San Diego, CA 92116. Susan Riegel Harding invites you to a brown bag lunch. We can chat, play games, or plant succulents, whatever we feel like doing. Coffee, water, and other beverages will be provided. Text RSVP to 619-987-6234.

Finance Committee Meeting

January 11, Thursday, 6:30 pm, link in the members area of the [website](https://www.firstuusan.org). Non-committee members do not take part in discussions or have a vote.

Women Together Meeting

January 13, second Saturdays, 12 pm — 2 pm, Common Room. Join us to share joys, concerns, and friendship. Contact Claudia, obata.claudia@gmail.com.

Kirtan Chanting

January 13, second Saturdays, 6 pm — 7 pm, Common Room. Join Patita Pavana of Spirit Soul And Friends along with our event host, James Long, for an evening of Kirtan.

Rainbow Action Group's Koffee Klatch

January 14, second Sundays, 11:15 am — 12:15 pm, Room 323. Bring some refreshments and join us. All family, friends and allies are invited.

Steps to Membership

January 14, Sunday, 11:30 am, Room 321. Join Rose Littler-Riedel and Swamini Saraswati to have your questions answered about membership at First UU!

Cosmos

January 14, second Sundays, 1 pm — 3 pm, Room 323. Cosmos will meet on the second Sunday of each month. We are beginning 2024 meeting in person for the first time since Covid changed the world. Join us as we explore the birth and evolution of our universe and what it means for us as a species as we address the major challenges and opportunities of our time. Contact [James Long](mailto:JamesLong@firstuusan.org).

Board Meeting

January 16, third Tuesdays, 6:30 pm, Bard Hall & online. Board of Trustees meetings are open to congregants. Zoom link in the members only section of the [website](https://www.firstuusan.org).

Book Club - Note Different Night!

January 18, Thursday, 6 pm, Zoom. We will be discussing *Watchmaker of Filagree St* by Natasha Pulley. In February, we will be discussing the one San Diego book: *The Sum of Us* at our regular second Thursday date. Please join us for a lively discussion.

5th Tuesday Board Meeting

January 30, Tuesday, 6:30 pm, <https://bit.ly/5thTuesday>. Led by Rev. Kristen and Rev. Justine on *Transforming Conflict* by Terasa Cooley. Copies of the book available in the Library and also Rev. Justine has copies on hand. You may recall the workshop given by Terasa Cooley this past Spring. We are doing a deep dive into her book to help us learn to be more aware and accepting of discomfort when it arises in our practice toward radical welcoming.

South Bay Campus

New Date--South Bay Tamalada

The South Bay Tamalada has been rescheduled for Saturday, January 6th from 1 pm — 6 pm at the home of Carlynn Ashley. Save the date and join us on Dia de los Reyes/Epiphany for an afternoon of community and nourishment. More details coming soon!

South Bay Worship

Sundays, 10 am, South Bay Worship Hall. Join the South Bay community for Worship every Sunday.

South Bay Wisdom Circle

Join us for a new year of inspiring conversations and fellowship. Each month offers the gift of connecting with members of our beloved community to discuss inspiring and important issues, and revel in the wisdom that emerges. The South Bay Wisdom Circle will be facilitated by our Intern Minister, Swamini Adityananda Saraswati. For more information: swamini@firstuusan.org.

Family & Lifespan

Social Justice

Climate Action: Stop Plastic Pollution!

Oregon Senator Jeff Merkley and CA Rep Jared Huffman (D-CA-02) introduced the Break Free from Plastic Pollution Act—the most comprehensive plan ever introduced in Congress to address the plastic pollution crisis that is poisoning our air, water, and land, and disproportionately impacting communities of color and low-income Americans. This is our chance to regulate plastic pollution. **Call your members of Congress** today and ask for their support of this vital legislation!

Cluster News

Summit Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Auction!

Summit UU Fellowship invites all SUUperheroes to participate in its annual silent auction, January 15 — 19, or its live auction on January 20 at SUMMITOPOLIS, 8778 Cottonwood Ave. in Santee! Anybody can bid, and your participation would be greatly appreciated!

Online silent auction: January 15 — 19

www.actria/summitopolis2024

In-person auction: January 20

Silent bidding 3 pm — 4:30 pm

Live auction starting 4:45 pm.

On Sunday, Dec 24th, our 10:00 AM Service will be our Christmas "Service for All Ages". The service will include our "No-Rehearsal Christmas Pageant" as well as a visit from The Grinch!

Our Christmas Eve Candelight Service starts at 6:30 PM with a musical concert and the Service itself beginning at 7:00 PM. Childcare will be available during this Service.

On Sunday, Dec 31st, our 10:00 Service will be a pre-recorded service from the UUA. You can watch together in Bard Hall or join us online from home. There will be no RE, but Childcare will be provided.



Young Adult Group (ages 22 - 35)

Tuesdays, 5:30 pm — 7 pm, Room 114b. This is an open, welcoming space to share meaningfully, play games, consider social and climate justice issues, and plan events. Contact Youth & Young Adult Coordinator, **Lara Anderson**.

South Bay Food Pantry News

Need Support?

Could you or someone you know use support with food, blankets, or other basic needs? The South Bay Food Pantry wants to help! Let a minister or staff person know, or leave a voicemail at the pantry office: (619) 271-5017.

Save the Bread

Con Pane bakery in Liberty Station would throw out hundreds of pounds of bread but UUs are there to rescue it every Friday and Saturday! Contact **foodpantry@firstuusandiego.org** to get involved.

The South Bay Food Pantry...

is located at 970 Broadway, Suite 101, Chula Vista 91911. Open to the public Saturdays 11 am — 12:30 pm. Contact **foodpantry@firstuusandiego.org** or 619-271-5017.

How to Donate to the South Bay Food Pantry

Donate online or by check payable to FUUSD with "SB Food Pantry" in the memo. Mail to 4190 Front St., 92103.

Food Pantry Collecting Supplies for Unsheltered Folk

The pantry can always use easy-open, no-cook food, hygiene items, and adult incontinence supplies. Drop off in Hillcrest on Sunday morning in the Meeting House.

Midweek Bagging

Thursdays, 11 am — 12:30 pm, South Bay Campus Room 105. Join us putting together bags of healthy food for Saturday's distribution. Drop by or check ahead with **foodpantry@firstuusandiego.org**.

Blanket Collection

The South Bay Food Pantry is collecting blankets for distribution to the hundreds of families that will receive food from us this holiday season. If you can, share some warmth with our neighbors by leaving a new blanket or two for the Pantry's donation box in the meeting hall, or get in touch with a volunteer or staff to learn more about how you can support the Pantry's mission this season.



Two Weeks at a Glance Calendar

Friday, December 22, 2023

Memory Matters Gathering

December 22, second and fourth Fridays, 10 am — 11:30 am, online. This is a place for those who worry about memory problems care partners. Email hybertsen@att.net for the link.

Saturday, December 23, 2023

Food Pantry Food Distribution

Saturdays, 11 am — 1 pm, South Bay Campus. Volunteers should arrive by 10:30 am to staff a station. Youth may volunteer with a parent. foodpantry@firstuusandiego.org.

Sunday, December 24, 2023

Christmas Eve Family Service & Livestream

In person or [online](#) at 10 am! Outdoor viewing available.

South Bay Christmas Eve Service

Sundays, 10 am, South Bay Worship Hall.

Hillcrest In Person Social Hour

Sundays, following service, Bard Hall. Coffee and tea provided.

Virtual Social Hour

Sundays, 11 am, bit.ly/FirstUUSocialHour, Meeting ID 824 042 297. Password: FUUSD.

Open Heart Sangha

Sundays, 4 pm — 5:30 pm, Bard Hall. margewur@gmail.com.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24, Sunday, 6:30 pm, Meeting House on the Hillcrest Campus. Join us at 6:30 pm for a half-hour concert of Christmas music. At 7 pm, we'll have a service filled with Christmas songs, readings, and lighting of candles.

Monday, December 25, 2023

Christmas Day Potluck and Carols!

December 25, Monday, 12:30 pm, Bard Hall. We are so pleased to announce that we will host a beautiful Christmas Day potluck luncheon.

Tuesday, December 26, 2023

Caregivers/Allies Support Group

December 26, second Mondays & fourth Tuesdays, 4 pm — 5:30 pm, online. For additional information contact [Les Vivian](#).

Thursday, December 28, 2023

Food Pantry Midweek Bagging

Thursdays, 11 am — 12:30 pm, South Bay Campus Room 105. Join us putting together bags of healthy food for Saturday's distribution. foodpantry@firstuusandiego.org.

First UU San Diego Bereavement Group

December 28, Thursdays through December, 3 pm — 4:30 pm, <https://bit.ly/3s5AL6u>. Led by Rev. Justine Sullivan and pastoral care team member Karen Thurston.

Saturday, December 30, 2023

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Saturdays, 11 am — 1 pm, South Bay Campus. Volunteers should arrive by 10:30 am to staff a station. Youth may volunteer with a parent. foodpantry@firstuusandiego.org.

Sunday, December 31, 2023

New Year's Eve Worship Service

December 31, Sunday, 10 am, Bard Hall. We'll be having a Watch Party only to view a New Year's Service from the UUA. There will be no live service. Kate will be available for childcare in Bard Hall.

Open Heart Sangha

Sundays, 4 pm — 5:30 pm, Bard Hall. margewur@gmail.com.

Monday, January 1, 2024

Campus Closed

Tuesday, January 2, 2024

Young Adult Group

Tuesdays, 5:30 pm — 7 pm, Room 114b. Young Adults aged 22-35 are gathering in room 114b every Monday. Contact [Lara](#).

Wednesday, January 3, 2024

Chalice Choir Rehearsal

January 3, Wednesdays, 7 pm — 8:30 pm, Bard Hall.

Thursday, January 4, 2024

Food Pantry Midweek Bagging

Thursdays, 11 am — 12:30 pm, South Bay Campus Room 105. Join us putting together bags of healthy food for Saturday's distribution. foodpantry@firstuusandiego.org.

Upcoming Events

Racialized Identities Awareness Book Group

January 5, Friday, 6:30 pm — 8 pm, Room 323. Come join the Racialized Identities Awareness Book Group's discussion of *The House of the Broken Angels* by Alberto Urrea. Contact lmittlow@gmail.com for more information.

Board Chat

January 7, first Sundays, 12:30 pm, bit.ly/FirstUUBoardChat, Meeting ID: 863 0218 5062 Passcode: 203946.

Hillcrest Song Circle

January 7, first Sundays, 2 pm — 4 pm, Room 323. Bring your guitar/and or voice. Wombated@gmail.com or cmack5913@gmail.com.

ZUUMERS

January 7, first Sundays, 6 pm, online. For more information and link, please contact Claudia at obata.claudia@gmail.com.

Coping With Chronic Conditions Support Group

January 8, Mondays (second & fourth), 1:30 pm — 3 pm, URL <https://bit.ly/CopingCCGroup>, meeting ID 681-036-9317.

Women's Choir

January 8, Mondays, 7 pm — 8:30 pm, Bard Hall.

Neighborhood Groups without Borders

January 10, second Wednesdays, 11 am — 1 pm, 4349 Adams Ave, San Diego, CA 92116. Text RSVP to 619-987-6234 to reserve one of 14 available spaces each month.

Finance Committee Meeting

January 11, Thursday, 6:30 pm, link in the members area of the [website](#).

Women Together Meeting

January 13, second Saturdays, 12 pm — 2 pm, Common Room. Contact Claudia obata.claudia@gmail.com.

Our Staff

Ministers:

Rev. Justine Sullivan, *Lead Minister*
Rev. Kristen Kuriga, *Assistant Minister*
Swamini Adityananda Saraswati, *Intern Minister*
Rev. Jim Grant and Rev. Lone Broussard, *Affiliate Ministers*
Rev. Bonnie Tarwater, Rev. Dr. Everett Howe,
Rev. Frank Placone-Willey, Rev. Julie Forest
and Rev. Katy Swanson, *Community Ministers*
Rev. Dr. Thomas A. Owen-Towle, *Minister Emeritus*

Music Staff:

Marshall Voit, *Music Director*
Andrea Spiero, *JUUL Tones Ensemble Director*
Tony Bianca, *Handbell Program Director*
Tomás Acosta, *Collaborative Pianist*

Staff:

Robie Evans, *Director of Operations*
Tony Bianca, *Director of Lifespan Faith Formation*
Rose Littler-Riedel, *Communications Coordinator & Chaplain Intern*
Lara Anderson, *Youth and Young Adult Coordinator*
Jazmine Ramanathan, *Administrative Assistant*
Kate Collier, *Program Assistant*
Corina Macias, *South Bay Ministry Assistant*
Pam Bates, *Scheduler*
Ray Evans, *Facilities Manager*
Connie Hayes, *Controller / Bookkeeper*
Mark Epler, *Event Coordinator*

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to
The Window, 4190 Front Street, San Diego, CA 92103-2098

First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego
4190 Front Street, San Diego, CA 92103-2098
Phone: 619-298-9978, Fax: 619-298-9997
E-mail: mail@firstuusandiego.org

Board of Trustees

Everardo Aguilar, **President**
Valerie Jaques, **Vice President**
Sue Marberry, **Treasurer**
Karen Lamphere, **Secretary**
Leland Beck, Rosalba Ciampi, Steve Howard,
Gay Hybertsen, and Paula Johnson, **Trustees**

Important E-mail Addresses:

General First Church E-mail: mail@firstuusandiego.org
Scheduling of Church Property: schedule@firstuusandiego.org
The Window (newsletter): [window@firstuusandiego.org](mailto>window@firstuusandiego.org)
First Church Web Site: website@firstuusandiego.org
<http://www.firstuusandiego.org> (Main site)
<http://www.firstuusandiego.org/uus-of-the-south-bay>
(UUs of the South Bay)

Contact the Main Office (Hillcrest Campus):

First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego
4190 Front Street, San Diego, California 92103
619-298-9978 • mail@firstuusandiego.org
www.firstuusandiego.org

Office Hours:

Tuesday—Friday, 10 am to 2 pm and Sunday after Services

Contact the South Bay Campus (Chula Vista):

Unitarian Universalists of the South Bay
970 Broadway, Suite 101 & 104, Chula Vista, California, 91911
619-271-5017 • uusouthbay@firstuusandiego.org
www.firstuusandiego.org/uus-of-the-south-bay
Campus Hours: Sunday for Service or By Arrangement