

Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



To the Beloved HUUF Community

Each of us are here to do this work

The other day I compiled a list of all the committees HUUF has had over the years. Some of them are still around, and some consist now of one, solitary person. And some exist, sadly, only in the realm of memory.

Now what is the purpose of our committees, you may ask? (I'm so glad you did.)

According to the Unitarian Universalist Association, the purpose of a committee "is to foster lay-led governance, support congregational mission, and manage operations, ranging from social justice actions to finance and religious education. These committees facilitate the shared ministry and democratic process of the community."

In short, our committees are, to borrow the nomenclature of Christian theology, the ears, the neck, the hands, the feet. Each of us are here to do the work—to carry the load—to embody the mission of this Fellowship. Without you, that mission exists only in theory. Ideally, a committee would serve as a highly specific, organized unit of values-driven individuals, working for a common purpose, to achieve a missional goal. These are a very few of the committees HUUF has had, examples that come from a much longer list.

Adult RE: This committee plans, implements, and supports educational and spiritual growth opportunities for adults in the congregation. *(Think book clubs and discussion groups, places where deep learning and reflection are taking place.)*

Social Action: Drives the congregation's efforts to achieve justice, equity, and compassion through community service, advocacy, education, and public witness. *(The place where our values express themselves beyond our walls.)*

Membership Committee: Manages the visitor-to-member journey, focusing on welcoming, integrating, and retaining members. *(The place where true welcoming and engagement begins.)*

Caring Circle: Provides lay-led support to congregants during times of need, illness, or transition. *(The plainclothes angel figures who show up when you need it most—often with casserole in hand.)*

Now don't all of these sound wonderful? Don't they sound like important, values-driven labor that deeply aligns with our faith? Don't they sound like facets of a larger world you'd

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Summer concerts at HUUF

Get ready to enjoy some beautiful music together this spring and summer! The Fellowship is thrilled to announce our upcoming concert series, where we'll be partnering with incredible local musicians each month to fill our beloved spiritual home with joy, creativity, and community spirit. These all-ages gatherings promise to be uplifting events where we can connect through the universal language of music while supporting our faith home.

Mark your calendars for these special evenings:



May 16 - The Ponies of Harmony: Join us for a warm and magical night with our dear friends from the Arcata Creative Sanctuary, Katie Belknap and James Zeller, performing together as The Ponies of Harmony. Their music weaves together soulful folk harmonies, gentle acoustic melodies, and heartfelt lyrics that speak to the beauty of connection and community. Expect

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HUUF Poetry Corner

The Gate

This large wooden gate is weathered gray,
a metaphor for moving on, moving through—
a gate closing on our forty years together,
opening to widowhood and the unknown.

In this watercolor you painted years ago,
the tall garden gate opens into sunlight
shining on the branches of a single tree.
Perhaps I'm just not there yet, love.
Maybe these first months of loss are liminal.
Will I someday step into the light, alone but strong?
weathered silver?

Pat McCutcheon



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like to live in someday, that you'd like our children to
inhabit and inherit?

Can you imagine if neighborhoods functioned
like this? Or entire cities, counties or states?

Well, I'm sad to say that at this time, save for
one of those above-mentioned committees, the others
don't currently exist. Why not? Because there's no one to
take them on.

These are people-powered systems and no
amount of "just check writing" will bring them back into
being. They must be lovingly taken up, dusted off, and
revitalized, nurtured back into being by those who feel
the call to do this work.

Every day, with life under Empire, we are forced
to give to systems and organizations that directly oppose
our values. Our tax dollars go to bomb other people's
children, to fund the endless machinery of war. For many
of us, every time we need to go somewhere, we have no
choice but to make a hefty offering to the gods of the
fossil fuel industry. Life under late-stage capitalism
almost demands we participate in and contribute to
systems that violate our faith.

I would like to believe, though, that our gifts to
this Fellowship—of time, energy, creativity, and yes,
money—represent something much more than that. They
signify a personal choice, an exercising and reclaiming of
our innate agency, to strive for the type of world we
want, collectively, to grow.

Yours in grace and gratitude,

Amy Day, Lay Minister

*Note: this piece comes from a longer essay presented as
the annual "Sermon on the Amount," the full text of
which can be found at HUUF's website.*

Concerts, from page one

intimate, storytelling songs that create an atmosphere of
warmth and togetherness.

June 13 - Ruby Ruth George: We're delighted to
welcome Ruby Ruth George to our stage! With a
background rich in contemporary folk and Americana
traditions, Ruby brings powerful vocals, intricate guitar
work, and songs that blend storytelling with emotional
depth. Their music ranges from soulful ballads to upbeat
tunes that get your feet tapping, creating an engaging
and memorable listening experience.

Tickets for each show are \$25 per person

How would you like to be a part of the magic
behind the scenes? We'd love your help. Volunteer
opportunities include setting up before the show,
vending delicious goodies and refreshments, or helping
with cleanup afterwards. Best of all, volunteers receive
free entry to the concert. It's a wonderful way to support
our Fellowship while enjoying incredible live music.

So spread the word far and wide, invite your
friends and neighbors, and come join us for these
magical musical experiences. Together, let's create
wonderful memories and bring some beautiful music
into our community this season!

For more information or to volunteer, reach out
to us anytime, either at office@huuf.org, or call the
office at (707) 822-3793, or check HUUF's website for
more. We can't wait to see you there!

Sunday Services

Sunday, May 3, 11:00 a.m.

Beltane, with Michelle Selvans, and the HUUF Covenant of UU Pagans (CUUPS)

Dear ones: Come join the HUUF community as we celebrate the restorative power of the growing intensity of the sun. CUUPS offers a Beltane ritual service followed by a finger food potluck lunch and tea. Come connect to the land, make healing magic in community, and bless your days and those of the many beings whose lives you touch! This ritual is based in eclectic and Celtic pagan traditions, family friendly, and open to all. Please bring a mug or teapot if you like, and finger food to share if you can. Blessed be!

Sunday, May 10, 11:00 a.m.

Mother's Day, with Amy Day

Join us for a celebration of the sacred art of "mothering" in all its forms. We'll gather multiple voices and perspectives to explore what it means to tend, hold, and bring forth the things we cherish—whether a child, a creative project, or a vision for a better world. This service invites everyone, regardless of gender, to cultivate our capacity for tender care and creative birth. Through shared stories and reflections we'll discover how the practice of mothering extends beyond biology into the way we nurture relationships, ideas, and communities. Come explore how each of us can become vessels of growth and guardianship for what matters most in our lives.

Sunday, May 17, 11:00 a.m.

The Circle Game, with Montana Caouette

The late, great singing mailman, John Prine, left us with the expression "you got gold inside of you." Let us explore ways of discovering that gold through mining creativity and wonder. Assisted by the words of authors Brian Doyle and Mary Oliver, and the music of Joni Mitchell, come join this service of joy.

Sunday, May 24, 11:00 a.m.

Love at the Center: Preparing for Memorial Day, with Montana Caouette and Holli Sinn

This Sunday we will move beyond words and into practice as we live our Unitarian Universalist values through small, meaningful acts of service. Together we will pack lunches for our unhoused neighbors, write letters of care to fellow members and engage in other tangible expressions of love that help us pay tribute to our fallen veterans. We affirm that compassion is something we do, not just something we believe. We will conclude our sacred time together with a community potluck—please bring a simple dish to share and a few flowers as we continue building connection and care around the table.

Sunday, May 31, 11:00 a.m.

Awakening Curiosity, with Amy Day

Join us in exploring how awakening curiosity can transform our spiritual practice and everyday work, moving us from the paralyzing question of "What's the worst thing that could happen?" to the liberating inquiry of "What's the most beautiful story we could tell?" We will explore curiosity as a sacred practice that shifts our perspective, opens new possibilities, and renews our capacity for meaningful engagement with the world around us. When we cultivate wonder instead of worry, we discover fresh energy to answer our callings and approach challenges with creativity rather than fear. Together, we'll practice asking questions that heal, inspire, and help us imagine the world we long to create.

Climate Action Campaign

Climate books and a climate vote at Arcata City Council

This year, HUUF's Climate Action Campaign again joins 350 Humboldt in donating climate related books to elementary schools, this time focusing on schools located in the more rural areas of Humboldt County. Recently the book project received an \$825 grant from Humboldt Sponsors toward purchasing 15 sets of six different books that will be donated to ten elementary schools that were not covered in our similar effort in 2025. Five elementary schools in the Klamath-Trinity School District will also receive books. We thank Humboldt Sponsors for this grant as well as the local Quaker congregation for their \$500 contribution.

The grant from Humboldt Sponsors was one of 91 they provided this year to local groups. All the organizations were honored at a recent reception attended by representatives from 350 Humboldt (Cathy Chandler-Klein and Gail Coonen) and CAC (thank you, Laurel Busse and Cena Marino). We greatly appreciate Cathy for taking on the lioness' share of the grant writing, and acknowledge help from Bek and Sue with this grant application. We thank Laurel, Cena, and Sylvia Shaw for offering to cover the cost of making cloth gift tote bags for presenting the books to the schools.

*For the month of May, let's pledge a simple climate action
in honor of Mother Earth, and all mothers*

CAC welcomes donations from HUUF members and friends to help cover the cost of the books. Please look for our donation jar at our upcoming Fellowship monthly tabling events. You can donate with cash or by check. If using a check, please make it payable to: HUUF/CAC and in the memo line, please indicate "Books to Elementary Schools Project."

Earth Day Activities

For Earth Day, CAC members (thank you, Laurel, Cena, Judy Rieger, and Sue) tabled at the Farmers Market on the Arcata Plaza and asked folks to write postcards to State Senator Mike McGuire and Assembly Member Chris Rogers seeking their support for AB 2389, the Solar Property Tax Bill. This bill will extend the exemption on property tax increases when homeowners install solar equipment on their homes. This exemption is set to expire at the end of 2026. At our monthly climate tabling following the April 26 service we garnered more support for AB 2389 and for SB 868, the Plug into the Sun Act. This bill would support portable solar installations in California. Our service that day was organized and facilitated by Worship Leader, Ann Kilby, with featured speaker, Elliott Dabill, President of Friends of the Arcata Marsh.

Climate Plan on the agenda for May 6 Arcata City Council meeting

The Arcata City Council will meet on Wednesday, May 6, 6:00 p.m. to consider adopting the Regional Climate Action Plan. Please plan to attend in person or on Zoom. If you can't do that, please email the council members. You can get their email addresses at <https://www.cityofarcata.org/405/City-Council>. It's important to encourage the Council to adopt the plan, which has already been approved by the Board of Supervisors and the City of Eureka. Although the agenda is not published yet, it is anticipated the City of Arcata will focus on preparing to meet California's 2045 climate goals. The climate plan emerged from a process that began in 2018 and involved the Redwood Coast Energy Authority, the County, and the cities of Arcata, Eureka, Blue Lake, Ferndale, Fortuna, Rio Dell, and Trinidad. The plan envisions reducing greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2030 to a level that would be 40% below 1990 levels, then progressing to carbon neutrality by 2045. If passed, it may streamline environmental review of the Greenhouse impacts of future developments, as long as they conform to the plan.

For the month of May, let's pledge a simple climate action to do in honor of Mother Earth, and all mothers. *Sue Lee Mossman. co-chair*

Friday, May 1, 7:00 p.m.

Jim Scott presents his music, and a celebratory vision

"The Year to Save the Earth," a multimedia experience by Jim Scott will be featured Friday, May 1, at 7:00 p.m. at the Fellowship. Mixing powerful songs and beautiful projected images, "The Year to Save the Earth" takes us from grieving to celebration and from protest to positive vision for the planet. Jim's lyrical melodies and outspoken poetry celebrate what's beautiful, amazing, and fragile about our Earth. Facing the urgency of the environmental crisis, this musical and visual experience challenges us to feel, to learn and to act. A fundraiser for the Fellowship, a \$20 donation will be accepted at the door.

A prolific composer, guitarist Jim Scott was awarded a National Endowment for the Arts grant to present this multimedia concert in Worcester, Massachusetts with band and chorus. Along with hard reality, the program's message is one of optimism, with many invitations to join in the singing. Facing the urgency of the environmental crisis, the musical and visual experience challenges us to feel, to learn, and to act. Jim has performed at more than 700 UU churches over four decades of travel.

Formerly a member of the Paul Winter Consort, Jim was composer of their celebrated *Missa Gaia/Earth Mass* and sang their anthem song *Common Ground*. He has toured the world, recorded nine CDs of original music, and published a growing series of choral works. One of the originators of the Unitarian Universalist "Green Sanctuary" program, Jim also compiled the *Earth and Spirit Songbook*, an anthology of 110 songs of Earth by many contemporary composers.

UUA President joins other religious leaders to support transgender, intersex, and nonbinary people

Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) President, the Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt, recently joined ten other heads of diverse religious traditions in issuing a landmark statement proclaiming that transgender, intersex, and nonbinary people are worthy of love, support, and protection.

Rev. Betancourt, representing the UUA, is the lead author of the statement, which reflects Unitarian Universalists' commitment to support trans, intersex, and nonbinary people as a matter of faith.

The statement is also signed by Rabbi Jacob Blumenthal, CEO of United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism and the Rabbinical Assembly; Barry Crossno, General Secretary of the Friends General Conference; The Rev. Elder Cecilia Eggleston, Moderator of Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (MCC); Presiding Prelate Yvette A. Flunder of The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries (TFAM); Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President of Union for Reform Judaism; The Rev. Jihyun Oh, Stated Clerk and Executive Director of Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); The Rev. Teresa "Terri" Hord Owens, General Minister and President of Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada; The Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President/CEO of the United Church of Christ (UCC); Rabbi Deborah Waxman, Ph.D., President and CEO of Reconstructing Judaism; and The Episcopal Church. It also includes additional information from signers explaining the basis of support from their traditions.

"During a time when our country is placing their lives under increasingly serious threat, there is a disgraceful misconception that all people of faith do not affirm the full spectrum of gender—a great many of us do. Let it be known instead that our beloveds are created in the image of God—Holy and whole," says the statement, which is directed to the American public, political leaders, and moral teachers.

The above was adapted from a press release issued by the Unitarian Universalist Association on November 12, 2025.



Humboldt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

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Retreat coming up July 31-August 2

Help plan the All Fellowship Retreat: May 17 after service

Our annual retreat will be at the Mattole Camp July 31—August 2. Please join us at our next planning session, Sunday May 17, in the library following the service. Please come with your ideas on what you'd like to see at the retreat. And if you'd like to donate for retreat scholarships please visit <https://huuf.org/donate/> and write in the description *retreat scholarship*. Thank you.

Laura Phelan-Shahin, Retreat Chair

May 20 deadline for June HUUF Newsletter

Don't forget to send your articles, announcements, graphics/photos, and classified ads for next month's *HUUF Newsletter* by 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 20 to newsletter@huuf.org. Classified ads are charged at the incredible deal of \$.10/word.

Classified Ad

Aloha lovely neighbors and community! My name is Isabel and if you or someone you know need Loving Heart-Centered Care for your Pets/Home/Elders/Children/House Cleaning/Organizing/ Decluttering/ Errands, I am available, give excellent care and have great references. Thank you! Aloha nui loa blessings to you and family! Call or text (707) 499-8310.

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