

UUFD Summer Series 2025

Exploring Spiritual Paths – Windows to Enrichment

People of the world experience and nurture their own spiritual growth in many ways. Our Sanctuary windows reflect some of those faiths, and this series will explore those represented, so we can better understand those whom we include and welcome to our fellowship each week.

JUNE 29 Mary Ocken - Overview

Opening Windows to Enrichment

Ours is a community that welcomes people of all spiritual traditions, appreciating all the ways we find to live a spiritual and moral life. Join Mary as she opens the gates to our Shared Ministry Summer Series, which will be an 8-part exploration into the spiritual diversity within and beyond our community.

JULY 6 Beau Smith - Christian Cross

The Cross: Keeping Christianity Weird for Over Two Thousand Years

Of all religious symbols across many and various faiths, the cross stands out as both one of the most recognizable and one of the strangest. How is it that an instrument of humiliation, torture, and death came to symbolize one of the world's great faiths? How has this symbol lasted down the millennia, and why is it still important today? In sum, Beau says it is because it keeps Christianity weird in the best ways possible.

JULY 20 Megan Dugan - Humanist symbol

In These Hands: A Humanist Vision of Sacred Responsibility

What if holiness lives not in heaven, but in human hands? Drawing on Adrienne Rich's Final Notations, Megan Dugan will explore how Humanism offers a path of meaning, care, and awe—rooted not in belief, but in the choices we make and the lives we touch.

JULY 27 John Heavenrich - Star of David (Judaism)

The History of the Star of David

John will explore the history of the Star of David and how it became a prominent symbol of Judaism. The history of the Star of David goes beyond even Judaism.

AUGUST 3 Anna Pool - Om Symbol (Hinduism)

Spiritual Practice in Everyday Life: Reflections from 20 Years of Ashram Living

Hinduism is one of the most ancient and complex religions of the world, comprising thousands of sects and traditions. Rather than an academic lecture about its history, I will be sharing insights from my 20 years of living and practicing a yogic lifestyle in a Hindu ashram (spiritual community) here in the US. With the support of GaiaShakti, a group of local kirtan musicians, we will

immerse ourselves in chanting Om and other Sanskrit mantras. Through this talk, Anna invites us to discover the power of this tradition as well as how it connects with the core values of Unitarianism.

AUGUST 10 Maureen Fallon-Cyr - Wheel of Dharma (Buddhism)

The Buddhist Path to Liberation

An important symbol in the Buddhist tradition is the Dharmachakra, the eight-spoked wheel, known as the "Wheel of Dharma." In the Buddha's first sermon, he initiated the first "Turning of the Wheel of Dharma," circulating teachings that directly lead to enlightenment. The eight spokes symbolize the Ennobling Eightfold Path – that which cultivates morality, mental discipline, and wisdom leading to liberation. Maureen will invite you to come "see for yourself" what the Buddha offered with that first turning of the Wheel.

AUGUST 17 Oley Smith - Yin Yang (Daoism)

Unity, Diversity, and Harmony

In this presentation Oley will invite us to use experiential practices and the symbolism of the Tai Ji Tu (commonly known as the Yin Yang symbol) to understand the fundamental principles of Daoism.

AUGUST 24 Aline Schwob - Atheism

An Exploration into Atheism

This talk will cover what Atheism is, some characteristics of Atheism vs other beliefs, and studies of Atheism compared to Christianity and Buddhism. Aline will delve into some of the general characteristics of Atheists, including some famous people who share this philosophy and what they have to say about it. She will also describe how she personally came to defining herself as Atheist.

AUGUST 31 Carolyn Miller and Gwyn Adams - Goddess symbol

Finding balance in a masculine world

This presentation will feature reflections on the divine feminine and how that empowers us today. Gwyn Adams and Carolyn Miller will each share both personal and historical perspectives on Goddess worship.