



May Newsletter · Beltane 2026

Growing Together: A Season of Connection with Sacred Oaks CUUPS

Sacred Oaks CUUPS is a chapter of the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans, and we share a covenantal bond with the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Gainesville. We are a community that is rooted in earth-centered spirituality, open to all, and meeting monthly at UUFG's fire circle or sanctuary.

Welcome to the first of what we hope will become a regular monthly newsletter; a way to keep our community connected to what's happening, what's coming, and what we're building together.

2026 has already been a lively and meaningful adventure, with new ideas, new formats, and new faces. In the first quarter, we experimented with recurring offerings, discussion gatherings, rituals, workshops, and social events.




- **January** opened with a Community Discussion on grounding and intention - a slower, more reflective way to enter the new year.
- **February** brought Imbolc at the fire circle, the cold doing its quiet work on us, followed by a Divination Social filled with shared decks and laughter.
- **March's** Ostara micro-retreat expanded into a full day of workshops exploring psychic intuition, astrology, and new approaches to divination.

Second quarter began with a Community Discussion on *Spiritual Practice and Ethical Living*. The conversation went somewhere honest; touching on karma, the rule of three, consent in spiritual relationships, and the deeper question of how we live our values when no one is watching.

Which brings us to May — the heart of spring. We hope you've found something meaningful in what we've offered so far, and that you'll join us for what's ahead.



You're Invited: What's Unfolding This May

 **Beltane 2026: Balancing the Scales** *A Ritual of Truth and Sacred Accountability*
 **Sunday, May 10, 2026** | **Beltane Ritual: 12:30–2:00 PM** |  **UUFG Fire Circle** · **Rain location: UU Sanctuary**

Beltane is a fire festival, the peak of spring, when the Earth is fully, unapologetically alive. A season of passion, desire, and everything surging forward at once. Traditionally, that energy is celebrated for its own sake. This year, we're giving it somewhere to go.

Many of us are carrying something right now, a truth that hasn't found its voice, a wrong that keeps going unanswered, a grief that sits right next to a refusal to give up. Beltane says it doesn't have to stay locked in your chest; spring's energy is here to give it reprieve.

Together, in a cast circle, we'll name what we brought with us; raise energy through chant, rhythm, and movement; and release it with clear intent toward truth and balance. Then we'll ground together, reclaiming what we stand for, sharing food and drink, and stepping back into the world steadier than we arrived.

This ritual is led by Sarah and James in a traditional Wiccan framework. No experience needed and no right way to show up, only a willingness to bring what's with you. Witnessing is enough. You don't have to be anything in particular to belong here.

As spring settles in and the season invites us to clear and renew, Sacred Oaks CUUPS is gathering for an afternoon of divination, connection, and community sharing.

For a few hours in the afternoon, we'll do a guided divination social: participants sit together at tables and take turns pulling simple one-card readings for one another, with gentle rotation so you get to meet a variety of folks. You're welcome to bring a favorite tarot or oracle deck, or use what's provided. Whether you're experienced or just curious, this is a low-stakes, welcoming way to practice and connect through shared symbols and stories.

Alongside the card work, we'll have a community giveaway table, a Pagan give-away space where you're invited to leave books, supplies, or spiritual tools you no longer need, and take home anything that calls to you. Bring what you can spare. Take what you need. No expectation to do both.

You're welcome whether you come to read, to browse, to receive a card, or simply to spend time in good company.



From Beltane Fire to Living Earth: May & June at Sacred Oaks

A quick look at what's on the calendar over the next two months. Full event details will follow in upcoming announcements.

May 10 — Sabbat Ritual — Beltane: Balancing the Scales · *Fire, truth, and the peak of spring* · *Falls on Mother's Day*

May 17 — Community Gathering — Cards & Community · *Divination social and a Pagan give-away table*

June 14 — Workshops — Earth, Plants & Living Systems · *Hands-on learning with herbalism, permaculture & more*



A Parting Reflection

Community Means Strength [By Starhawk](#)

We are all longing to go home to some place we have never been — a place half-remembered and half-envisioned we can only catch glimpses of from time to time.

Community.

Somewhere, there are people to whom we can speak with passion without having the words catch in our throats. Somewhere a circle of hands will open to receive us, eyes will light up as we enter, voices will celebrate with us whenever we come into our own power.

Community means strength that joins our strength to do the work that needs to be done. Arms to hold us when we falter. A circle of healing. A circle of friends. Someplace where we can be free.

from *Dreaming the Dark: Magic, Sex, and Politics* (Beacon Press)



Chapter of the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans

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