Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula

740 E. Main Street Santa Paula, CA 93060 (805) 525-4647 uucspoffice@gmail.com Website: uucsp.org

FEBRUARY 2017 SERVICES, SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM

February 5 Light a Candle

Rev. Maddie, Kate English

As we explore the Sources of our tradition, we note that in the earth based traditions, early February is the time of Imbolc and in Christian traditions, Candlemas. The Winter Solstice is only six weeks behind us and the Spring Equinox is yet seven weeks away. The darkness still comes too early but there is hope that the light will return and there will be the promise of spring. We will share a ritual and words pointing to transformation and hope.

First Sunday Plate to Spirit of Santa Paula

February 12 Wonder and Mystery

Rev. Maddie explores the first source we draw on as Unitarian Universalists: "Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces that create and uphold life. Our choir sings.

February 19 Help, Thanks, Wow

Inspired by Anne Lamott's book of the same name, Rev. Maddie considers Prayer from the UU perspective.

February 26 "In Support of Our Families"

We Unitarian Universalists "covenant to affirm and promote the inherent worth of every person" and "Justice, Equity and compassion in human relations." But after the recent election, there are many people in our country who are feeling very afraid. On this Sunday, we will be exploring the importance of families, particularly those of our undocumented neighbors, and the ways we UU's can actively work to make all our families feel more secure.

CASP offering

The mission of the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula is to practice inclusiveness, seek justice and foster spirituality.

Rev. Maddie, CJ Starling

Rev. Maddie, Donna Hamer

Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford, Mary Nelson



Every so often I like to remind you of when you might call your minister and that it doesn't need to be an emergency! So, it is that I share this list every once in a while. These occasions are from a list adapted from an essay by the Rev. Dr. Peter Lee Scott, circa 1957 but still hold true today.

- When you haven't met me yet, but would like to.
- When you have problems you'd like to discuss, concerning your children, your job, your marriage, or anything else where a sympathetic ear might be of help.
- When you're going in the hospital or know someone else in the congregation who is.
- When someone close to you has died or is critically ill.
- When you're planning to be married, or wish you could be.
- When you have a child to be dedicated.
- When you're pregnant but wish you weren't.
- When you, or a friend or neighbor would like more information about the Unitarian Universalist faith.
- When you're considering joining the congregation.
- When you'd like to show me what a good cook you are!
- When you have suggestions to make about programs for the Fellowship.
- When you have suggestions for a sermon.
- When you'd like help with committee work or with other congregational activities.
- When there are community issues you'd like to discuss or would like me to be involved with.
- When you're mad at me.
- When you appreciate something I've said or done.
- When you'd like to talk religion with me.
- When you'd like to talk parenting with me as a parent, or as a child.
- When you've had good news and want to share it.
- When you've had bad news.
- When you're feeling overwhelmed.
- When you want to tell me your history with the Fellowship.
- When you want to spend more time with the children and youth.
- When you've heard a great joke and want to share it.

Please give me a call at the church office on my private line: 805-525-4620. If it is an emergency, call my cell phone: 508-733-8860. Or you can email me at <u>msifantus@uuma.org</u>. I would love to hear from you!

On the path of our faith,

Reverend Maddie

Message from the Board President

To Congregational Members and Friends,

In February, your new Board of Trustees will meet following the elections at the Annual Meeting. I encourage everyone to find an event, activity or committee of interest and get involved in your church.

The Board is instituting a "month of Sundays" approach to preparing and closing our church building for Sunday service. Each Sunday during their assigned month, one board member will be responsible to greet at the front door, assist with the Sunday plate and secure the church after the coffee hour. Please say yes if a board member asks you to assist with one of these tasks. We are a small church, relying on many hands. The Worship Committee will continue to coordinate volunteers to be ushers and chalice lighter. Check out the signup sheet for coffee hour or provide flowers for the altar. All talents and contributions are greatly appreciated!

Next Board meeting is Thursday, February 16, 2017 at 6:30. All are welcome.

In wonder and gratitude, MaryBeth East

News From Among Us

February 2017

- As seen elsewhere in this newsletter, Yvon Ortega has left her position as RE Assistant after 11 years to free up Sunday mornings. We hope to see her often in our pews.
- We are glad that our snowbird friend Janice Krieger is back among us and that her husband has recovered from the cardiac issues he experienced over the summer.
- A number of us participated in the Vigil at the Farmworkers Monument on Inauguration Night and in the March in Ventura on January 21. We suspect there will be more of these to come.
- A Memorial Service for our member Lynne Morrison was held in our Sanctuary on January 14th. Officiated by Rev. Maddie with music by Vincent Sorisio, the Celebration of Lynne's life was well attended by members of the congregation and the Mary As.
- Mary Yeates has moved to the Sacramento area to live with her daughter Sandra Muller. Her telephone number remains <u>805-525-0545</u>. Her address is 965 King Henry Way, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762. She would love to receive cards from her UUCSP friends.

• If you have any News from Among Us you would like to share with our community, please let Rev. Maddie know by the newsletter deadline which is the 21st of every month.

Message from the RE Coordinator



The time has come to bid farewell to Yvon Ortega who has been employed by our church for eleven years. During her time with us, she was promoted from childcare provider to RE Assistant. On Sunday, January 15, Reverend Maddie and MaryBeth East, UUCSP Board President, honored Yvon for all of her hard work and time by presenting her with a gift. Yvon has been a wonderful asset to our church team. She brought a unique perspective to our RE program as well as her unlimited cultural knowledge. When Yvon started working for us, she brought along her family. Her daughter was only 3 years old at the time and her brother wasn't even born yet. Now that Yvon has had her third child, she has decided to stay home on Sunday mornings to be with her family and to have one day "to sleep

in." I will miss her tremendously. Over the years, she has helped make props for plays, taught classes, painted murals, assisted in the coordination of special events such as Camp Wannago, Surprise Buddies and RE Open House. We are hoping that Yvon and her family will continue to visit us. They are strong believers of our UU principles and they feel at home with our church community. Best wishes to my friend and colleague. I will miss you!

Lana Moore will continue to fill Yvon's position through June at which time we will look to hire Yvon's replacement. They say no one is irreplaceable but, I know one thing is for sure; there will never be another Yvon.

Curriculum update – Last month the children learned to grieve the loss of a pet or loved one, participated in a stuffed animal wedding, and shared the joy of new additions to families, as we showed how the circle of life continues. On Sunday, January 15, we had a special, tiny visitor downstairs and the children had a wonderful time getting to know her better...well, until the visitor fell fast asleep!

4-Ever Learning, Ruth Ricards, RE Coordinator

Spiritual Growth Center

MEDITATION PRACTICE GROUP

Our Meditation Practice Group takes place in our Parish Hall. There will be two meetings in February, on Wednesdays, February 1 and 15 at 6:00 PM. In March, we will be meeting two weeks in a row: March 8 and 15. Enter through the front gate to the left of the main entrance and come in the side door. This group celebrates the diversity of Buddhist and other meditative orientations and welcomes participants from all contemplative traditions to attend. Rev. Maddie is a long-time meditator from the mindfulness or Vipassana tradition of Buddhism. Allow about an hour and bring your meditation cushion, if you have one, or you can sit in a chair. The group is open to everyone; there is a free will offering (\$5 suggested but all invited regardless of funds). The meeting will begin with a reading and short discussion, with a guided meditation leading us into a time of silence. There is power in meditating together. We would love to have you join us. For more information, leave a message. For more information, leave a message on Reverend Maddie's private line at the church: 805-525-4620 or email msifantus@uuma.org.

SOARING HEARTS YOGA



Members and friends of the congregation are invited to attend yoga in our Parish Hall led by Lisa Hammond on Tuesday's, January 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31, and Thursday's January 5, 12, 19, & 26, at 9:30 am. There is a \$6 fee. Lisa keeps an

email list to which you can be added after attending your first session. She has been leading yoga for us for about a year and several of our members and Rev. Maddie attend. Lisa Hammond can be reached at soaringheartsyoga@gmail.com.

DROP IN SMALL GROUP

Rev. Maddie has begun hosting a Drop-In Small Group in her office on occasional Sundays after coffee hour in her office. The next one will be Sunday, February 12 at about 12:15 PM, for about an hour. She chooses a different theme each meeting. Come and explore a topic of meaning as we hear one another's stories and experiences, and get to know a few others better. No need to sign up, just show up!

ALL CHURCH READ 2016 - 2017

The Common Read of the Unitarian Universalist Association is "The Third Reconstruction: Moral Mondays, Fusion Politics, and the Rise of a New Justice Movement", by The Rev. Dr. William Barber II and Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove (Beacon, 2016. Unitarian Universalists were electrified at General Assembly 2016 by Rev. Barber's call for building and sustaining a movement for justice for all people. The Common Read selection committee believes that this is a moment for Unitarian Universalists to answer that call. The Third Reconstruction offers helpful, practical guidance for engaging with justice movements born in response to local experiences of larger injustices. Drawing on the prophetic traditions of the Jewish and Christian scriptures, while making room for other sources of truth, the book challenges us to ground our justice work in moral dissent, even when there is no reasonable expectation of political success, and to do the hard work of coalition building in a society that is fractured and polarized.

We will have a discussion of the book on **Sunday, April 9 after coffee hour about 12:15 PM.** There are three copies circulating among the congregation. A paperback edition is available for purchase at inSpirit: UU Book and Gift Shop, from Amazon or your favorite bookseller.

OFFICE HOURS

Rev. Maddie is usually available in the office by appointment or pot luck drop in from Tuesday through Friday. Monday is her day off and Saturday is her study/sermon writing day. Some days she is working from home but can get to the office in five minutes, if something comes up. The best way to plan a time to meet with her is to call and leave a message on her private line at the church, 805-525-4620, call her on her cell phone, 508-733-8860 or email her at msifantus@uuma.org. She is happy to meet you in her office, at your home or place of work, or at a local restaurant for a cup of tea or coffee (she will buy her own!). The minister's office is in the back of the church, near the rest rooms. If the front or back doors are locked, call her, and she will come let you in through the back gate off the alley.

FACEBOOK

If you are a user of Facebook, please "like" or page which can be located at https://www.facebook.com/UUCSP/. Get the word out about events in our congregation by sharing them on your own page. Share the good news of Unitarian Universalism!

WEAR YOUR NAMETAG

We often get visitors and not all of us know each other. Please wear your nametag! Rev. Maddie and Krystal Johnson are currently updating the nametags and we note that a number of you don't have one in the nametag tray by the front door to the Sanctuary. If it is at home, please bring it back to church; if you have lost it, Krystal would be happy to make a new one. Leave her a message on the office phone (805-525-4647) or email her at uucspoffice@gmail.com.

MEMBERSHIP

Please make an appointment with Rev. Maddie Sifantus if you are ready to sign the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula membership book and call this community your spiritual home. Rev. Maddie will be happy to talk to you about the path to membership and get to know you better.

BREAK THE CHAIN DANCE

Central to the One Billion Rising event (see elsewhere in this newsletter) which will be held Saturday, February 11 from 2-4 PM at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, 427 N Oak St, Santa Paula is the Break the Chain dance. Participants will have the opportunity to learn the Break the Chain dance at 1:30 PM before the event, as well as Saturday, February 4 at 2pm at 1029 E Santa Paula Street (El Buen Pastor UMC) and Sunday, February 5 at 12:15 PM at 740 E Main Street (the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula).

Choreography specific for this event available on You Tube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mRU1xmBwUeA

CHOIR

The adult choir will rehearse again on Thursday, February 9 at 7:00 PM and Sunday, February 12 at 9:30 AM before singing in the 10:30 AM service. Both rehearsals will be directed by Rev. Maddie and accompanied by Vincent Sorisio. Please be in touch with Rev. Maddie with any questions. All are welcome.

SOCIAL CONCERNS ACTION COMMITTEE

Friday, February 17, 12:30 pm, Social Concerns Action Committee will meet in the Parish Hall. Brown bag lunch.

THE MARY A'S

Thursday, Feb. 23, 11:30 pm, The Mary A. Livermore Society will meet at Flight 126 Café. All women of the church and friends invited.

FIRST SUNDAY PLATE

This first quarter of 2017 we designate the first Sundays' offering to Spirit of Santa Paula. From Nov. 2015 through October 15, Spirit of Santa Paula picked up from Food Share and grocery stores more than 170,705 pounds of food and distributed the items at various sites in town, including St. Paul's church on Saturday mornings or at the Presbyterian Church where on Wednesday Spirit's groups of volunteers prepare on average 600 hot meals for those in need or at risk of homelessness. Please contribute with cash or check made out to the UU Church earmarked "Spirit of Santa Paula." Thank you.

CASP - LAST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH

We collect canned goods, rice and beans for CASP, Community Assistance of Santa Paula, a non-profit food pantry located in a back building of the First United Methodist Church. Santa Paulans of limited means are served by CASP on Mondays before noon. We are pleased to add to CASP's pantry.





SOCIAL CONCERNS ACTION COMMITTEE DINNER AND A MOVIE

The Social Concerns Action Committee will screen the documentary The Best Democracy Money Can Buy featuring the Rolling Stone investigative reporter Greg Palast, who unearthed data revealing that Jeb Bush influenced the 2000 election by purging Black voters in Florida's electoral rolls. Now like a real life detective story, told in a film noir style he investigates the integrity of the November 2016 election. Discussion follows.





STANDING ON THE SIDE OF LOVE

A number of members and friends of our congregation stood on the side of love on February 20 and 21 at the Vigil at the Farmworkers Monument in Santa Paula for those most vulnerable among us and by participating in the March for Justice in Ventura or the Women's March in Los Angeles.





ONE BILLION RISING

Santa Paula will have its Fourth Annual One Billion Rising event Saturday, February 11th at 2pm, at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, 427 N Oak St, Santa Paula. Imagine, One Billion Women around the world sharing their stories, dancing and speaking out for justice, learning about resources available in our community, and demanding an end to gender-based violence. What does ONE BILLION look like? We are calling on our community to harness their power and imagination to rise for justice and join people around the world (170 countries and growing) in making the world a better place!

The event is free and open to all, women and men. It will be in Spanish with simultaneous English interpretation through headsets. Participants will have the opportunity to learn the Break the Chain dance at 1:30 PM before the event, as well as Saturday, February 4 at 2pm at 1029 E Santa Paula Street (El Buen Pastor UMC) and Sunday, February 5 at 12:15 PM in the Parish Hall at 740 E Main Street (Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula.

Choreography specific for this event available on You Tube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mRU1xmBwUeA

One Billion Rising is a worldwide movement to end violence against women and girls. United Nations statistics show that globally, one out of three women will be beaten or raped in her lifetime. Because one out of three women in the world is roughly a billion people, One Billion Rising grew out of VDay and happens annually around February 14th all over the world in an effort to have numbers equal to those affected by violence rise and stand against it. It is a gathering to decry violence, empower women, and work for change.

One out of three means that we all know someone, many someone's, perhaps even ourselves, who have or will experience violence. We can't undo what has happened but by coming together to work for change, we do have the power to change the future. Join us on February 11 in Santa Paula for One Billion Rising, to dance, to work for change, to reclaim our power... until the violence stops.



SANTA PAULA CONCERT SERIES PRESENTS PETER * ROWAN



Grammy-award winner, six-time Grammy nominee, and 2015 IBMA Award winner for Recorded Event of the Year, Peter Rowan is a singer-songwriter with a career spanning over five decades. From his early years playing under the tutelage of Bluegrass veteran Bill Monroe, to his time in Old & In the Way and breakout as a solo musician and bandleader, Rowan has built a devoted, international fan base through a solid stream of records, collaborative projects, and constant touring.

Saturday, March 4th at 7:00 p.m. Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula 740 E. Main Street, Santa Paula, CA 93060 805-525-4647 – www.uucsp.org

> Donation \$20.00 Children 12 & Under \$10.00 Free for Children 5 and Under

Proceeds benefit the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula Building and Historical Fund. UUCSP is a Registered Ventura County Historical Landmark

SANTA PAULA CONCERT SERIES PRESENTS PETER ROWAN

The Santa Paula Concert Series presents Singer-Songwriter Bluegrass legend Peter Rowan on Saturday, March 4, 2017 at 7:00 PM. Admission is \$20 donation at the door, from the church office during office hours, or by PayPal on the church's website: www.uucsp.org. Credit cards, checks and cash are accepted at the door. Children 12 and under are \$10; children 5 and under are free. Seating is first come, first served. Proceeds benefit the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula Building and Historical Fund.

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Born in Rev. Maddie's hometown of Wayland, Massachusetts to a musical family, Rowan learned to play guitar from his uncle. He spent his teenage years absorbing the sights and sounds of the Hillbilly Ranch, a legendary Country music nightclub in Boston frequented by old-time acts like The Lilly Brothers and Tex Logan. In 1956 Peter Rowan formed his first band, the Cupids, while still in high school.

Following three years in college, Rowan left academia and decided to pursue a life in music. Rowan began his professional career in 1963 as the singer, rhythm guitarist and songwriter for the Bluegrass Boys, led by the founding father of bluegrass, Bill Monroe. "One thing I started to like about the Monroe style was that there was a lot more blues in it than other styles of bluegrass," reflects Rowan. "It was darker. It had more of an edge to it. And yet it still had the ballad tradition in it, and I loved that."

The late '60s and early 70's saw Rowan involved in a number of rock, folk and bluegrass projects, including Earth Opera, Sea Train, Muleskinner, and the Rowans, where he played alongside brothers Chris and Lorin Rowan. After the Rowan Brothers disbanded, Rowan, David Grisman, Jerry Garcia, Vassar Clements and John Kahn formed a bluegrass band christened Old & In the Way. It was during this incarnation that Rowan penned the song "Panama Red," a subsequent hit for the New Riders of the Purple Sage and a classic ever since.

Rowan subsequently embarked on a well-received solo career in the late '70s, releasing critically acclaimed records such as Dustbowl Children (a Woody-Guthrie style song cycle about the Great Depression), Yonder (a record of old-time country music in collaboration with ace dobro player, Jerry Douglas) and two extraordinarily fine bluegrass albums, The First Whippoorwill and Bluegrass Boy, as well as High Lonesome Cowboy, a recording of traditional and old-time mountain music with Don Edwards and Norman Blake. Rowan's recent releases- Quartet, a recording with the phenomenal Tony Rice and Legacy with the Peter Rowan Bluegrass Band, coupled with a relentless touring schedule have further endeared Peter Rowan to audiences around the world.

Following on the heels of the celebrated album "Crucial Country: Live at Telluride", Peter recorded his second album for Compass entitled "Old School" with memorable new songs such as "Doc Watson Morning", "Drop The Bone" and "Keepin' It Between The Lines (Old School)" with members of the current Bluegrass Band plus Chris Henry, Michael Cleveland, Bryan Sutton, Ronnie, Robbie and Del McCoury and more. Since then the prolific singer songwriter has recorded and released Peter Rowan's Twang an Groove Vol. 1 on There Records and Dharma Blues on Omnivore Records.



2017

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Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
			1 6:00pm Meditation	2 9:30 am-Yoga 7pmConcert Com Mtg	3 7:00pm-Classic Movie	4
5 10:30am-Worship 12:15pm-One BillionRising dance lesson <i>FirstSundayPlate</i>	6	7 9:30am-Yoga	8	9 9:30am-Yoga 7pm Choir Reh	10	11 2 pm One Billion Rising event
12 9:30am Choir Reh 10:30am-Worship 12:15pm Drop-In Small Group	13	14 9:30am-Yoga	15 10:00am-Staff Mtg 6:00pm Meditation	16 9:30am-Yoga 12:15pm-Caring Com Mtg 6:30pm Board Mtg	17 12pm-Social Concerns Mtg	18
19 10:30am-Worship 12:15pm Worship Com Mtg	20	21 9:30am-Yoga 4pm-RE Com Mtg Newsletter Deadline	22	23 9:30am-Yoga 11:30am Mary A's	24 Dinner& a Movie 5:45pm Potluck 7:00pm Movie	25
26 10:30am-Worship <i>CASP</i>	27	28 9:30am-Yoga				

740 East Main Street of Santa Paula Universalist Unitarian Church

Santa Paula, CA 93060

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April 1 – Base city churches act as launching points for field trips on Saturday and welcome folks back for snacks, a business meeting and catered dinner Saturday night. NOTE: international travel times are dependent on border crossing times; those trips are not guaranteed to arrive before the business meeting begins.

The Unitarian Universalist congregations in Southern Arizona, the Baja Four, invite you to join us for a different kind of district assembly in the borderland. We are invited to join with other UUs as we learn, connect, and transform our hearts, minds, and spirits together. We are hoping to send at least two of our members to this event. You will have the opportunity to contribute to sending them if you can't attend yourself. REGISTRATION CLOSES MARCH 15. For more information visit: http://justiceda2017.weebly.com/ or talk to Rev. Maddie

April 2 - All 3 base city groups will descend on one border location for an all DA Sunday morning worship.

2017 PSWD Justice District Assembly

March 31 – Evening Opening Ceremonies at each base city congregation