



Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula

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

MARCH 2017 SERVICES, SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM



March 5

The Sacred Pause

Rev. Maddie, Allan Noel

Rev. Maddie will explore Meditation and Buddhism, one of the “world’s religions which inspire us in our ethical and spiritual lives”, as in the Third Source of our living tradition. She will be joined by her friend and fellow meditator Peter Rowan.

First Sunday Plate to Spirit of Santa Paula

March 12

Connected

Rev. Maddie, Jerry Gray

As the Justice District Assembly approaches at the end of the month, Rev. Maddie explores how we are connected to our Region and the wider UU world, especially as regards to justice initiatives. A special celebration of our connection will occur with the unveiling of our new banner. Our choir will sing Flying Free, accompanied by Vincent Sorisio and Christine Snipes, violin.

March 19

Forgiveness

Rev. Maddie, CJ Starling

Forgiveness is a complex theme, both from a personal and a society-wide perspective. How can we forgive ourselves and each other? Can we let ourselves go from what binds us to past hurts and tragedies? Can we find peace in our hearts and bring compassion to our relationships?

March 26

Recovering the Goddess

Lora Barnett, Pat English

Did you know that God had a wife or that the goddess Tiamat appears in the first line of the first book of Genesis? It’s true- but it is also true that over the millennia the feminine aspects of the Divine were edited out of the Bible and in many ways out of our consciousness. Join guest speaker (and ministerial candidate with only weeks left until graduation) Lora Barnett as she dons her best feminist biblical scholarship hat and points us towards a more balanced view of the divine spirit of life.

CASP offering

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

Message from the Minister

It is the long history of humankind (and animal kind, too) those who learned to collaborate and improvise most effectively have prevailed. —Charles Darwin

One of the things I truly believe about congregations of any size—but especially about small ones like ours—is the need for collaboration. We cannot be a congregation without being connected to each other, a gathered people. We cannot care for one another without that connection. We need to work together to maintain our building, run our programs, have music on Sunday mornings, get the canned goods to the food pantry, and bring faith formation to all ages. We need to all be the welcomers and greeters. We are all responsible for securing our building. Our Caring Committee needs to understand pastoral ministry so as to aid the minister in caring for the members of the church. We need to collaborate to get work done—and I hope we can also collaborate on having fun together. It is *all* collaborative effort and there is a place for everyone, member and engaged non-member alike. We know that in small congregations like ours, there is considerable commitment and sacrifice by our members and friends, contributing time, talent and treasure.

My larger belief is that not only do we need to collaborate within our walls, but we need to collaborate beyond our physical walls, with our local interfaith neighbors and with neighboring Unitarian Universalist congregations. I am hoping to collaborate more with the Unitarian Universalist Church in Ventura and their new minister, Rev. Dana Worsnap who was just installed as well the Conejo Valley UU Fellowship who will be installing their new minister, Nica Eaton Guinn, in May. What can we improvise together?

As we head towards Easter and the season of rebirth, may you feel the excitement of the new. May you be generous with your time, talent and treasure but remember to keep all things in balance, knowing that in our collaborative effort, none of us does it alone.

On the path of our faith,

Reverend Maddie

Message from the Board President

To Congregational Members and Friends,
Here is the 2017 list of new and continuing church leaders.

Board of Trustees

- MaryBeth East – President
- John Nichols – Vice President
- Patricia English – Treasurer
- Luisa Haskell – Secretary
- Kate English – Member at Large

MNL Capital Fund Trustees

- Donna Hamer
- Logan Hardison
- Laura Phillips

Cash Reserve Fund Trustees

- Jan Shepard
- Logan Hardison
- Kate English

Building Maintenance Fund

- Judy Triem
- Leslie Nichols
- Barbara Beach

Thank you to all who contribute so much to our church community.

Next Board meeting is Thursday, March 16, 2016 at 6:30. All are welcome.

In wonder and gratitude,
MaryBeth East

News From Among Us

March 2017

- Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Janine Rees on her recent unexpected death. She was a friend of our congregation and to many of our members.
- Mary Yeates has moved into a facility near her daughter Sandra Muller in the Sacramento area. Her telephone number remains 805-525-0545. Cards may be sent to her daughter's address: 965 King Henry Way, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762. She would love to hear from her UUCSP friends.
- Rev. Maddie officiated at the Memorial Service for Marjorie Sutherland, the mother of the late Suzi Skutley, in our Sanctuary on February 25.
- Thanks go to all those who helped with the successful One Billion Rising event on February 11th which was moved at the eleventh hour to the Santa Paula Community Center.
- Several of us joined Rev. Maddie to sing in the choir at the Installation of the Rev. Dana Worsnap as minister of the UU Church of Ventura on February 19th: Donna Hamer, Ruth Ricards, CJ Starling, Judy Triem and Audrey Vincent. Our friends in Ventura, including Mary Nelson, enjoy collaborating with us. Looking forward to more in the future!
- 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.

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Message from the RE Coordinator



Teacher Lana assists the RE children as they create Valentines and Love Bead necklaces for their family and friends.

The children finished their art project early so they had time to play in the “kitchen area.” It was wonderful to observe the older children playing with the younger ones. We are one big happy family in RE!

We will be introducing a new curriculum in April called, “Spirit Play”. It is a UU adaptation of Jerome Berryman's Godly Play co-developed by Rev. Dr. Nita Penfold, Rev. Ralph Roberts and Beverly Leute Bruce. We will use the Montessori approach and Berryman's worship approach for the structure of RE. As in Montessori, the key elements are the prepared classroom environment and the teachers. These elements free the children to work at their own pace on their own issues after an initial lesson or story within a safe and sacred structure shepherded by two adults. *More information to follow.*



4-Ever Learning,

Ruth Ricards, RE Coordinator

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Spiritual Growth Center

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.

MEDITATION PRACTICE GROUP

Our Meditation Practice Group takes place in our Parish Hall. The group meets on Wednesdays at 6 PM. In March, we will be meeting two weeks in a row: March 8 and 15. In April we will be meeting on April 12 and 26. 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](tel:805-525-4620) or email msifantus@uuma.org.



ALL CHURCH READ 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.

People and Doings

OFFICE HOURS AND PASTORAL COVERAGE

Rev. Maddie is usually available in the office by appointment or pot luck drop in from Tuesday through Friday. Please note that she will be out of town to serve on the Ministerial Fellowship Committee of the UUA from March 20, returning after preaching at an Installation in Connecticut on April 3. While she is gone, pastoral coverage is being provided by our Affiliate Minister, Betty Stapleford. Should an emergency arise during that time, please leave a message on the church office phone, 805-525-4647, and Krystal will contact Rev. Betty. Should it be between our Administrator's days in the office, please call congregation president MaryBeth East at 805-341-8809. Monday is Rev. Maddie's 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.

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. Our next new member recognition will take place during our Flower Communion Sunday on June 4th. Isn't it time you joined new members Rev. Maddie, Rev. Betty and Karen Harris in making this place your home?

CHILD DEDICATIONS

Unitarian Universalists believe that every child brings new life and hope into the world. We set aside a special time, either as part of a Sunday morning service or a time when only the family gathers, to do a Ceremony of Dedication. We take this time to celebrate the life of the child and the blessing he or she is upon our world and in our community. If you are interested in having your child dedicated, please speak to Rev. Maddie.

CHOIR

The adult choir will rehearse again on Thursday, March 9 at 7:00 PM and Sunday, March 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. The choir will be singing *Flying Free* by Don Besig with a violin obligato by Christine Snipes that day and learning music for our monthly appearances through July.

March 12 - Flying Free

April 16 - Easter: Awake Thou Wintry Earth

May 14 - TBA

June 11 - As Torrents in Summer

July 9 - Blowin in the Wind / America

Please be in touch with Rev. Maddie with any questions. All invited to sing!



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People and Doings

SOCIAL CONCERNS ACTION COMMITTEE

The Social Concerns Action Committee will meet Friday, March 17, 12:30. Corned beef sandwiches anyone? It's St. Patrick's Day.

THE MARY A'S

The Mary A. Livermore Society will meet Thursday, March 23, 11:30, location to be announced. If renovations are completed at 126 Café, we'll return there; otherwise we'll meet at church. Jan Shepherd will present Vignettes from the Archives, readings from handwritten notes of Annual Reports of church meetings and also meetings of the Mary A's, going back to January 30, 1899.

CAPITAL FUND

Consider donating to the Capital Fund. Since its inception in 1891, the UU church has incorporated music into its services and concerts. (At one time, they even held dances and cake walks, too.) With 120 members in 1924, the congregation agreed to upgrade the original reed organ with the purchase and installation of an Estey pipe organ. Waldo Hardison offered to give \$2,500 for the pipe organ if the church would raise the balance. The Mary A's took on the challenge and raised a total of \$7,027, selling mincemeat to raise the money.

Today the Marjorie Newlin Leaming Capital Fund provides money to the church for its operating expenses. These expenses include the upkeep and maintenance of our Estey pipe organ. While our congregation today is slightly less in number than it was when the church began, we continue to rely on your donations to the Capital Fund. Your generosity keeps the music playing, not only for our services but also for outreach concerts which bring the community in to enjoy it.

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.

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.

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People and Doings



PHOTO CHURCH DIRECTORY

We are preparing to create a new photo church directory to replace our old (now out of date) print one. We are working with a company at no cost to us. On Friday, April 7, from 1:00 pm until 7:00 pm the company photographers will be on site to photograph our members and friends. Each will receive a free photo directory and free 8"x10" portrait and additional portraits will be available for purchase. People who are not members or friends of the congregation can also have their pictures taken and buy them from the company. The directory is updateable and the company seems easy to work with. Krystal has been putting the initial word out in the Sunday announcements, Friday eBlast and posted information. The directory will not be complete without you.

We need folks to help during coffee hour on each Sunday in March and Sunday April 2, scheduling photo appointments for Friday April 7. Also volunteers needed to act as hosts on April 7.

HELPFUL TIDBIT

After all these lovely rains, it's time to eliminate those pesky weeds. And to do it an ECO-FRIENDLY manner. Simply stir 2 cups of Epson Salts and 1/4 cup of Dawn dish soap into 1 gallon of white vinegar. Stir/shake/spray and do not water for 2 days. This DIY week killer is applied the same as Roundup, but without those harsh chemicals and every bit as effective. Mother Earth thanks you!!



UU Men's Fellowship Spring Renewal April 21 to 23, 2017 Angeles Oaks, California

Are you searching for a fulfilling personal relationship, trying to make an existing relationship work, or grieving the loss of a relationship? We all share these common and challenging concerns. Our lives are full of evolving, changing relationships as well as the anticipations, passions, joys, and losses that often come along as we endeavor to grow. Living the mystery of Life can be thrilling as well as daunting, but a necessity, as we explore the best of what life has for us.

Our semi-annual Men's Fellowship Renewals offer a safe place in which we can be open to this quest and the process of unpacking the issues that underlie it. We welcome our sometimes-raw emotions and self-aware laughter at our foibles. Join our spring renewal at Camp de Benneville Pines in the beautiful San Bernardino mountains as our small kinship groups support each other as we reimagine our personal relationships with others and the wider world. We look forward to your presence in our circle of brotherhood.

If you are interested in this event and want the full information packet, please call or email Krystal at 805-525-4647 or uucspoffice@gmail.com

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People and Doings

SANTA PAULA CINEMA SOCIETY CLASSIC MOVIE

SANTA PAULA CINEMA SOCIETY

PRESENTS

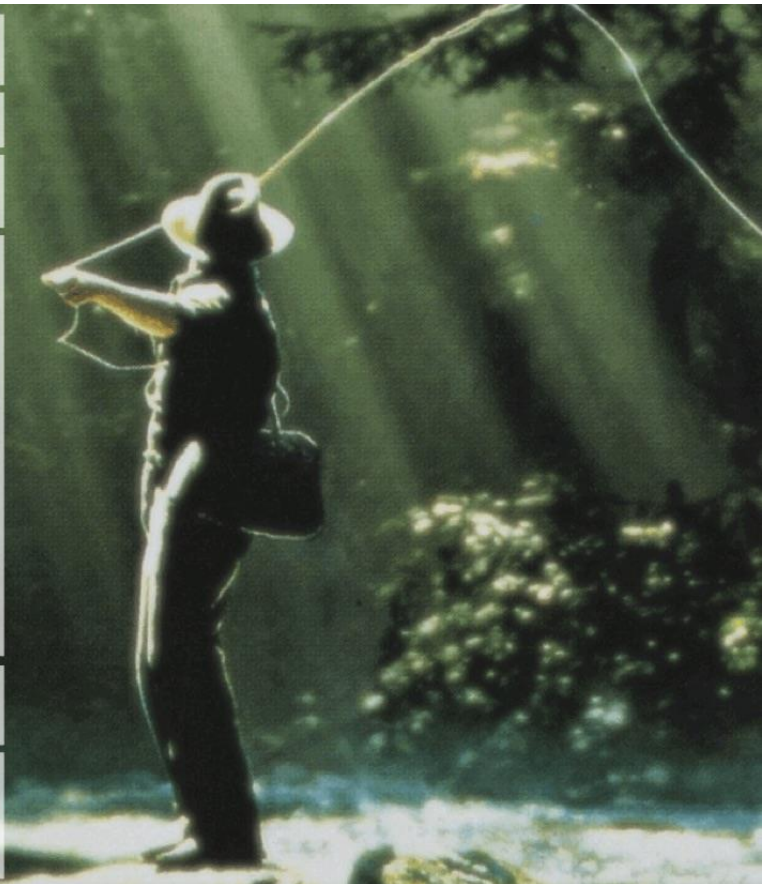
A River Runs Through It

"Eventually, all things merge into one, and a river runs through it. The river was cut by the world's great flood and runs over rocks from the basement of time. On some of the rocks are timeless raindrops. Under the rocks are the words, and some of the words are theirs. I am haunted by waters." —Norman MacLean

In filming this memoir of McLean's Montana boyhood, director Robert Redford had the great good sense to stick close to the original and much-loved text. The result is a powerful and deeply felt film, with the river as a metaphor for the forces uniting and dividing the lives of a family. With Brad Pitt, Craig Sheffer, Brenda Blethyn, and Tom Skerritt. Will be screened in HD. (1992, 2:04)

MARCH 10 2017

Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula
740 E. Main Street
7PM • Free! • Enter Side Door



The Social Concerns Action Committee of The
Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula Presents:

SPARE PARTS

SPARE PARTS is a true life story about four Hispanic high school students who form a robotics club under the leadership of their school's newest teacher, Fredi (GEORGE LOPEZ). With no experience, 800 bucks, used car parts and a dream, this rag tag team goes up against the country's reigning robotics champion, MIT. On their journey, they learn not only how to build a robot- they learn to build a bond that will last a lifetime

DISCUSSION FOLLOWS

Friday, March 24, 2017

Potluck at 5:45 P.M. Film starts at 7:00 P.M.

Free admission, but donations are welcomed

uucspoffice@gmail.net www.uucsp.org 740 E. Main St. Santa Paula, CA

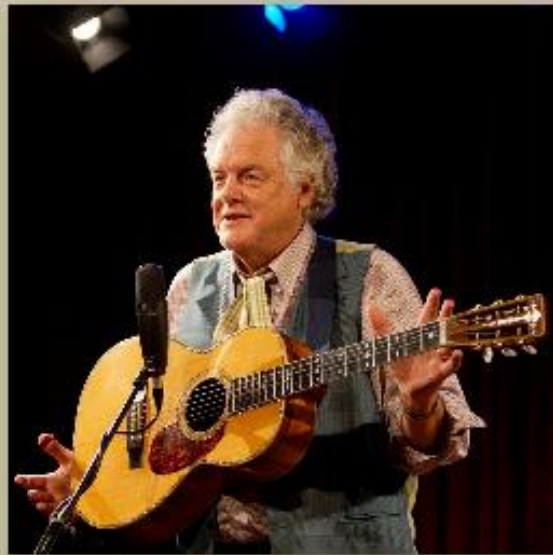


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SANTA PAULA CONCERT SERIES

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.

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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



2017

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
			1	2 9:30 am-Yoga	3	4 7:00pm SPConcertSeries -Peter Rowan
5 10:30am-Worship <i>FirstSundayPlate</i>	6	7 9:30am-Yoga	8 6:00pm- Meditation	9 9:30am-Yoga 7pm-Choir Reh	10 7:00pm-Classic Movie Night	11 Daylight Savings Time – set your clocks ahead
12 9:30am-Choir Reh 10:30am-Worship 12:15pm-Worship Committee	13	14 9:30am-Yoga 4:00 pm-RE Committee	15 10:00am-Staff Mtg	16 9:30am-Yoga 12:15pm-Caring Com Mtg 6:30pm- BoardMtg	17 12:30pm-Social Concerns Mtg	18
19 10:30am-Worship	20	21 9:30am-Yoga Newsletter Deadline	22	23 9:30am-Yoga 11:30am-MaryA's	24 Dinner& a Movie 5:45pm Potluck 7:00pm Movie	25
26 10:30am-Worship <i>CASP</i>	27	28 9:30am-Yoga	29	30 9:30am-Yoga	31	

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2017 PSWD Justice District Assembly

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

March 31 – Evening Opening Ceremonies at each base city congregation

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.

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



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*Dated Material
Time Value*