Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula 740 E. Main Street Santa Paula, CA 93060

(805) 525-4647 uucspoffice@gmail.com Website: uucsp.org

MAY 2017 SERVICES, SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM

May 7 Infinite Hope

Martin Luther King Jr. wrote "We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope." In troubling times, finding ways to re-energize ourselves allows us to keep doing good works. Join us in welcoming infinite hope into our hearts.

First Sunday offering to UU Rise

May 14 The Human Heart

This Mother's Day Rev. Maddie considers our foremother Margaret Fuller who was a Unitarian, an American journalist, critic, and women's rights advocate associated with the American transcendentalism movement. Our choir and Chalice Children sing.

*Tuesday, May 16 Gathering

A weeknight Gathering with Sound, Silence and Word with Rev. Maddie.

May 21 Reason

One of the Six Sources of our tradition is "Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit." What is the role of reason in our faith? Rev. Maddie continues her exploration of the Sources.

May 28 To Walk Beside

On the weekend that we remember military service members who have died in the line of duty, Rev. Maddie considers the increasing numbers of women and men who serve as Unitarian Universalist military chaplains with support and endorsement from the UUA. What issues do they encounter and what gifts of our faith do they bring?

CASP offering

Rev. Maddie, Kate English

Rev. Maddie, Allan Noel

Erik Halseth, Pat English

Rev. Maddie, CJ Starling



Message from the Ministers

It is hard to believe that the end of the regular church year approaches! We still have lots going on until things slow down a bit late in June and the summer months, although here at the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula, we meet year 'round, unlike many of our UU congregations, especially back East where I moved from. I hope you will join us for worship Sunday mornings, Meditation, our new Tuesday evening *Gathering*, or one of the many ways we come together as a community. Prepare to stay in touch with our church family by checking us out on Facebook. Volunteer to host coffee hour or help around the place—a great way to get to know others better. Be sure to read our All Church Read, *The Third Reconstruction* by William Barber. We will be meeting to discuss this compelling book on Sunday, June 4 after coffee hour, about 12:15 PM. My copy and several others are circulating and I have ordered two more copies which will be in the Parish Hall for you to borrow.

This month I continue with my sermon series exploring different aspect of the Six Sources of Unitarian Universalism, which are the sources of wisdom we drawn upon as UUs. At the end of April, we addressed the Sixth Source, the spiritual teaching of Earth-centered traditions, with our May/Beltane service and Maypole, as we will on June 18 with a service for the Summer Solstice. On May 21, we will address the Fifth Source, which is humanist teachings. As Kendyl Gibbons once said, "Weave me no fairytales frosted with miracles; give me a light I can see."

Our light in Santa Paula increases day by day. The world is being reborn around us and spring is always a good time to think about our place in the world and our vision for the future. Here is a thought that I found from Margaret Wheatley who wrote *Turning to One Another*: "There is no power greater than a community discovering what it cares about. Notice what you care about. Ask 'What's possible?' not 'What's wrong?' Keep asking."

Let us discover what we care about as we enter this creative period of rebirth.

On the path of our faith,

Reverend Maddie

Message from the Ministers

<u>In Community</u> - Article for the UUCSP Newsletter – by Rev. Betty Stapleford, your UUCSP Affiliated Community Minister

We hear a lot about undocumented immigrants being arrested and deported. But little is reported about detention centers, nearly 250 of them throughout our country where many are held between the time they are detained by ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) and either deported or released. And their incarcerations can last from months to years.

The closest center to Santa Paula is in Adelanto, run by a for-profit company in the high desert near Victorville where over 1400 men and women are housed. And because of its remote location, detainees seldom see their loved ones. Nor do most of them have legal counsel because of their lack of funds. And their activities, other than menial labor for a salary of one dollar a day, are very limited. This is the facility where I go most months with a group of UU and interfaith partners to visit detainees.

A typical visit at Adelanto begins with checking in at the front desk and asking to see a particular detainee by giving his or her "A" number. After waiting an hour or more, hearing your detainee's name, placing all your belongings in a locker, turning in your driver's license, and walking through a metal detector, you are led by a guard through two heavy metal doors with other visitors.

A third door leads into the visitation room where detainees are seated in blue plastic chairs waiting for visitors. They wear blue, orange, or red jumpsuits, indicating the seriousness of their "crime," and you listen and respond for an hour to heartrending stories told by detainees while a uniformed guard stands watch. At the end of the hour, visitors are told to leave, and detainees are led back to their quarters. Visitors are then sent back to the waiting room where, if they are lucky, they begin the process again to see a second detainee.

When visits by the group are completed, nametags and locker keys are exchanged for driver's licenses after belongings are retrieved from the lockers. And the long trip home begins with visitors carrying feelings of grief, compassion, and determination get rid of this dehumanizing system in their minds and hearts.

If you would like to know more about this subject or get training to go with us, please contact Rev. Betty.

Message from the Board President

To Congregational Members and Friends:

The Board asked Judy Triem and John Nichols to research options to rebuild the wayside pulpit. A local master carpenter has been selected and the Board approved the proposal submitted. Please see Judy and John regarding the plans and design. The landscape design is still to be done so if you have suggestions, we would love to hear them.

Patricia English and Luisa Haskell are the Board contacts for all committees who manage budgets. Any questions on how to collect, monitor and report committee activities should be discussed with Patricia and Louisa. They will also be your contacts later this year for setting budgets for next year. Thanks Luisa and Patricia.

Next Board meeting is Thursday, May 18, 2016 at 6:30. All are welcome.

President Ponders.....

I had the opportunity to reflect on my life and personal journey in response to an invitation by Jan Shepherd to "tell my story" at the April meeting of the Mary A. Livermore Society. Following that meeting, I've been thinking about the concepts of patience and perseverance related to social change. It seems to me, we need to know how to balance the strength of sitting and listening and then know when it's time to shift to an activist mode of marching, tweeting, posting and funding.

How do you know when it's the time to shift from one to the other? I would love to hear how you maintain your balance. See me at coffee hour.....let's talk.

Peace as an ever flowing stream, MaryBeth East

News From Among Us

May 2017

- Rev. Maddie was happy to see Lottie Patton, Shirley Atkins' daughter, when she dropped by to donate three children's books and a church sculpture as she continues dismantling her mother's belongings.
- Many of us attended the Memorial Gathering for Janine Rees which was held at Rancho Camulos in Piru. Ruth Ricards spoke eloquently about Janine, her yoga practice and her friendship.
- Many of us also attended the benefit for One Step a la Vez, including our friend Doris Vernon.
- Easter had a nearly full house and 13 children in attendance. Hallelujah!
- 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

Introducing our new curriculum, Spirit Play!



The children and youth sit around in a circle listening to the story from Ostara Sabbat called, "The Bunny and The Egg."



Children and youth use various art mediums to reflect on the story they heard.



4-Ever Learning, Ruth Ricards, RE Coordinator



SOARING HEARTS YOGA

Members and friends of the congregation are invited to attend yoga in our Parish Hall led by Lisa Hammond. In May, we will meet on Tuesday's 16th, 23rd & 30th, and Thursday's 11th, 18th & 25th, 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 May, we will be meeting on the 10th and 24th. Looking ahead to June, we will be meeting on June 7 and 28. 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, mindfulness 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.

T'AI CHI CHIH

A NEW Beginner's Course in T'ai Chi Chih-Joy thru Movement will be offered for 8 Fridays, May 19th-July 7,11:15-12:15. The course fee is \$40. Developed by Justin Stone in 1974, T'ai Chi Chih(TCC) consists of 19 movements designed to circulate and balance the life force that flows within us. It is a slow, relaxed approach to generating more energy, relieving stress, improving balance, and deepening awareness. Often called a moving meditation, the movements are accessible to anybody, regardless of age weight or physical ability. No special clothing or equipment needed. Instructor Pete Gregory says, "It is the most nourishing, fulfilling hour of my day. One stop shopping, this stuff really works." Come and learn how to play with the Chi, first class is FREE! To sign up, email Pete at psgreg24@gmail.com . Learn more at www.taichichih.org

ALL CHURCH READ

Our All Church Read discussion of the book The Third Reconstruction by William 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.

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.

Spiritual Growth Center

GATHERING



***DEFINITION OF GATHERING**

an assembly or meeting, especially a social or festive one or one held for a specific purpose.

MAY 16, 2017 at 7:00 PM

You are invited to our Gathering for sound, silence and word as the sun goes down. "There is healing in the night."

Free will offering for the musicians.

Led by Maddie Sifantus with Atul Ranchod, poet. Music provided by members of

A Call to Peace with Eduardo Del Signore, Federico Ramos and Ron Wagner

Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula, 740 E Main Street, Santa Paula

REV. MADDIE'S OFFICE HOURS

Rev. Maddie is usually available in the office by appointment or pot luck drop in from Tuesday through Friday. She will be out of town from May 1-8visiting friends and colleagues in the Bay Area and participating in an Installation. Rev. Betty will be covering for her in the case of pastoral emergencies and can be reached through the office. Rev. Maddie's office is located in the "new wing" across from the rest rooms at the back of our building. 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, <u>805-525-4620</u>, call her on her cell phone, <u>508-733-8860</u> or email her at <u>msifantus@uuma.org</u>. 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.

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. A good time this spring would be our Flower Communion service on June 4. If you are interested in having your child dedicated, please speak to Rev. Maddie.

MEMBERSHIP: ARE YOU READY TO SIGN THE BOOK?

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. We will be recognizing our new members in our June 4th service.

GATHERING

Please join Rev. Maddie for the second weeknight gathering of sound, silence and word on Tuesday, May 16 at 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary. This new experiment of an alternate weeknight form of worship will feature music, poetry or prose, and guided visualization as the sun goes down. A free will offering will be taken to compensate visiting musicians. In future months, we hope to have a variety of music, players and readers. Please let Rev. Maddie know of your ideas and interest. All invited.

CHOIR

All are welcome to join our choir, including our young singers who are able to read music. We will rehearse again on Thursday, May 11 at 7:00 PM and Sunday, May 14 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. All Thursday rehearsals will cover the music for that Sunday and will include learning music for our monthly appearances through July.

May 14 I am But a Small Voice Roger Whittaker, John Coates Jr

June 11 As Torrents in Summer H. W. Longfellow, Edward Elgar

July 9 Blowin' in the Wind/America Bob Dylan, arr. Len Thomas

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

SOCIAL CONCERNS ACTION COMMITTEE

The Social Concerns Action Committee will meet Friday, May 19, at 12:30. Brown bag lunch.

THE MARY A'S

The Mary A. Livermore Society will meet Thursday, May 25, 11:30, at Café Flight 126. Topic will be Tai Chi Chih presented by Peter Gregory. He says 'Developed by Justin Stone in 1974, the T'ai Chi Chih form consists of 19 movements designed to circulate and balance the life force that flows within us. It is a slow, relaxed approach to generating more energy, relieving stress, improving balance and deepening awareness." Adding a personal comment, he adds, "It's the most nourishing, fulfilling hour of my day. One stop shopping, this stuff really works!"

CARING COMMITTEE LOOKING FOR CUSHIONS AND RIDES

We are looking to make some cushions available for the seats in the sanctuary for those who find them uncomfortable. We are also interested in making a Ride List for those who need rides to church on Sunday or special events at the church. The next Caring Committee meeting will be Thursday, May 18 at 12:15 PM in Rev. Maddie's office. Please let her know if you are interested in helping with any of these projects or being on our caring team.

PHOTO DIRECTORY SATURDAY, JUNE 10

WE WANT YOU! We have added a second date for photo appointments. Saturday, June 10, from 11:00am – 5:30pm, the Lifetouch company will be on site to photograph 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. It is important to us that we have a complete church directory. You may signup online at https://booknow-lifetouch.appointment-plus.com/9qhkxmhv/ or contact Krystal at 805-525-4647 or uucspoffice@gmail.com for further information, details or signups.

MAY CRUISE NIGHT HELP NEEDED!

The second Santa Paula Cruise Night of 2017 is Friday, May 5th. Rev. Maddie and Ken Stock will both be out of town. If you wish to host Cruise Night, please let Rev. Maddie and Krystal know immediately so materials can be left for you. We have a table under a pop up canopy in front of the church, greeting passersby, talking about our congregation and having literature available. We are usually there from about 5 PM until sundown. **If no one comes forward, there will be no Open House for this Cruise Night or chance to "Tour Historic Church".**

FIRST SUNDAY PLATE

This second quarter of 2017 we designate the first Sundays' offering to UURISE, a non-profit, 501c(3) organization, which empowers immigrants and refugees in the U.S. by offering one on one legal services, education, and training. Financially supporting UURISE is one tangible way we as UU's can live out our First Principle to affirm and promote "the worth and dignity of every person." By supporting UURISE we actively contribute to the national discourse on immigrant rights and immigration reform. By supporting UURise, we help create a safe and welcoming environment for all people, without discrimination.

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.

PHOTOGRAPHERS WANTED

We would like to have photographs taken at various church activities for use on Facebook, our webpage and for archival purposes. If you like to take pictures, whether with your phone or with a nice camera, please get your images to Rev. Maddie at msifantus@uuma.org or Krystal in the office at uucspoffice@gmail.com

SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS SIGN UP FOR COFFEE HOUR, ALTAR FLOWERS, USHER AND GREET AND TO LIGHT THE CHALICE The dictionary definition of a volunteer is "to freely offer to do something." We may be small but there are many small things to be done to be hospitable to our members, friends and visitors. Volunteering is fun and helps us be engaged with one another and get to know new people. Please sign up on the clipboard in the Parish Hall to serve coffee hour; there are a number of people who will mentor you in how to make coffee, set up and clean up. It does not need to be a feast; it can be as simple as some cookies or a vegetable tray. There are also places to sign up to be a greeter/usher, provide altar flowers (which can be in memory or honor of someone), and to the light the chalice.

SANTA PAULA CINEMA SOCIETY CLASSIC MOVIE



Elaine May's career as a writer and director was, to say the least, troubled and brief, resulting in only four films. In her second effort from 1971, May creates a dark comic tale of a good-for-nothing playboy (Walter Matthau), whose ruinous spending habits can only be rescued by marrying, and then dispatching, a rich woman. May becomes the target of his cynical affections. This familiar plot device is taken in unexpected directions by Elaine May. Or was it? Her legendary lack of discipline in completing films on time and budget led the studio to cut a much shorter version of the film, which she disowned. Though we will never know exactly where Elaine May was going with this film, the result is still very funny and original. Should be a real discovery for anyone who missed when it was released, meaning, just about everybody.

UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF SANTA PAULA 740 E. MAIN STREET 7PM • FREE! • ENTER SIDE DOOR





Message from a Member:

Do you have a favorite song about food? There's a good chance that Gold Coast Concert Chorus will be singing it! Enjoy the "Food, Glorious Food" on "The Night They Invented Champagne" because "Life is Just a Bowl of Cherries" in "Strawberry Fields." You get the idea. Good Eats: A Feast of Musical fun will be performed Friday, June 2 at 8 pm and Saturday, June 3 at 2 pm at St. John's Lutheran Church, 1500 North C Street, Oxnard. \$15, adults; \$12, seniors/students; \$5 children. Contact Donna Hamer for tickets at 805-746-6587 or ddhamer@gmail.com. Or call 805-616-7269 or email tickets@GoldCoastChorus.org.



Come-join-in-the-fun-by-the-campfire!¶

The goal is to raise \$420 to send our youth to summer camp. There will crafts, Taco Bar for dinner, songs around the campfire and s'mores for dessert. Suggested donation is \$20/adult, \$10/child or \$40 for the whole family.¶

Saturday, May 20 at 6 pm

740.E. Main Street, Santa Paula

UU-Church-of-SP¶

(805) 525-4647

SOCIAL CONCERNS ACTION COMMITTEE

The Social Concerns Committee is presenting the three short documentaries on immigration issues on Friday, May 26, 7:00 P.M. Come at 5:45 PM for a Potluck. The first two films, Immigrants for Sale and Pursuing the Dream, were produced by Robert Greenwald's Brave New Films Company. The first tells how the private prison industry is making windfall profits off the most vulnerable people in our communities as ICE under the new administration is boosting deportations. The second centers on DACA members and their precarious position. The third, The Other Side, an award-winning documentary produced by the Television Trust for the Environment. It concentrates on the devastating impact of Mexican-US migration on the communities that are left behind in Mexico. It's the story of the villagers working to try to make sure their children will not have to migrate to realize their dreams. Discussion after the event will be led by Betty Stapleford.

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





- Immigrants for Sale Countless lives of undocumented immigrants are being taken and sold for billions of dollars. Watch the disturbing details unfold and listen to the first-hand accounts of the real cost of private prisons.
- Pursuing the Dream Brave New Films has partnered with United We Dream in the making of Pursuing the Dream: What you need to know about DACA, Immigration, and Beyond. The takeaway? We can all do our part to support those who are most vulnerable in Trump's America by demanding elected officials defend immigrants and push for permanent protections. Let's be on the right side of history
- The Other Side This program from the City Life series reveals the devastating impact of Mexican-US migration. The people who attempt to cross suffer horribly and frequently die. The families and communities left behind are disabled and their languages and cultures are being destroyed. The Other Side tells the story of the villagers who have had enough -- and now are trying to make sure their children will no longer have to migrate to realize their dreams.

DISCUSSION FOLLOWS

With Special Guest Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford

Friday, May 26, 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 93060

Calendar of Events



2017

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
	1	2 NO Yoga	3	4 NO Yoga	5 10:00am T'aiChiChih 5:00pm CruiseNight	6
7 10:30am-Worship <i>FirstSundayPlate</i>	8	9 NO Yoga 7:00pmICE OUT mtg	10 10am Staff Mtg 6pm Meditation	11 9:30am-Yoga 7pm Choir Reh	12 10:00am T'aiChiChih 7:00pm-Classic Movie Night	13 10am Chalice Children Reh.
14 9:30am Choir Reh 10:30am-Worship	15	16 9:30am-Yoga 7:00pm Gathering	17	18 9:30am-Yoga 12:15pm Caring Comm Mtg 6:30pm Board Mtg	19 11:15am Beginner T'aiChiChih 12:30pm-Social Concerns Mtg	20 6pm Camp Wannago
21 10:30am-Worship Newsletter Deadline	22	23 9:30am-Yoga 4:00pm-RE Comm Mtg 7:00pmICE OUT mtg	24 6pm Meditation	25 9:30am-Yoga 11:30am Mary A's	26 11:15am Beginner T'aiChiChih 5:45 pm Potluck 7:00 pm Movie	27
28 10:30am Worship CASP	29	30 9:30am-Yoga	31			

740 East Main Street of Santa Paula Universalist Unitarian Church

Santa Paula, CA 93060

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Next newsletter deadline: Sunday, May 21

Sunday Worship Services at 10:30 am

Rev. Maddie Sifantus, Minister, Choir Director Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford, Affiliate Minister Ruth Ricards, Religious Education Coordinator Lana Moore, RE Assistant Vincent Sorisio, Church Musician Albie Alamillo, Custodian Krystal Johnson, Office Administrator Board of Trustees: MaryBeth East John Nichols Patricia English Luisa Haskell Kate English

GATHERING

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an assembly or meeting, especially a social or festive one or one held for a specific purpose.

You are invited to our Gathering for sound, silence and word as the sun goes down. "There is healing in the night." Free will offering for the musicians. Led by Maddie Sifantus with Atul Ranchod, poet. Music provided by members of A Call to Peace with Eduardo Del Signore, Federico Ramos and Ron Wagner Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula, 740 E

Main Street, Santa Paula

MAY 16, 2017 at 7:00 PM



THE UNIVERSALIST UNTARIAN

