



Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula

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Santa Paula, CA 93060
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Website: uucsp.org

JANUARY 2016 SERVICES, SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM

The Theme for this month is *We Begin Again*

JANUARY 3

Rev. Maddie Sifantus & Loni Kate English
“We Begin Again, a New Year After a Year”

It has been exactly a year since Rev. Maddie began her ministry in Santa Paula. Rev. Maddie reflects on the year just ended and the year just beginning, our “state of union.”

First Sunday Plate to Santa Clara Valley Hospice.

JANUARY 10

John Nichols & Jerry Gray
“Burning Bowl”

The Burning Bowl is an annual ceremony we perform each year in January. We will talk a little about the meaning of ritual and the history of the Burning Bowl ceremony and then write down some things we want to reduce or get rid of in our lives and then we burn them. It is a cleansing and healing ceremony to get the new year started off right.

JANUARY 17

Rev. Maddie Sifantus & Allan Noel
“A Day On, Not a Day Off”

We mark the legacy of the Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King Jr. knowing that it is still true that “injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

Hymn Sing, 10:15 am

JANUARY 24

Guest Speaker & Mary Nelson
“TBA”

JANUARY 31

Rev. Maddie Sifantus & Pat English
“Inherent Worth”

We consider the First Principle as part of Rev. Maddie’s ongoing series of the Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism. These principles affirm “the inherent worth and dignity of every person.” How do we affirm all persons, including ourselves, but not affirm the poor behaviors of those same persons?

CASP Food Offering



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

Message from the Minister

Happy New Year one and all! And happy one year together. I moved to Santa Paula on January 2, 2015 when I began with you as your minister, taking the plunge of moving clear across the country, not knowing you nor whether my house of 38 years in Wayland, Massachusetts would sell or whether the house I was hoping to buy would come through. There was the unpacking in my office and my house, getting to know the roads to the stores and to your houses, where to go to feed my culture bug, and most importantly, getting to know all of you. Now in January 2016 after the October 2015 Installation, I feel much more settled.

My normal end-of-year practice is to set some personal and professional priorities for the coming year. I long ago gave up making New Year's Resolutions since they most often seemed doomed to failure. Instead I set my intentions after meditation and discernment and use them to focus the plans I make and the path I walk in the coming months, all the while leaving room for the unknown. The roads we all travel have some unexpected twists and turns, the fog might roll in or the sun suddenly blind. Not that we shouldn't make plans but sometimes we have to let room for something bigger than us to come in and make itself known. It brings to mind a favorite poem of mine by Sheenagh Pugh, "What If This Road":

What if this road, that has held no surprises
these many years, decided not to go
home after all; what if it could turn
left or right with no more ado
than a kite-tail? What if its tarry skin
were like a long, supple bolt of cloth,
that is shaken and rolled out, and takes
a new shape from the contours beneath?
And if it chose to lay itself down
in a new way; around a blind corner,
across hills you must climb without knowing
what's on the other side; who would not hanker
to be going, at all risks? Who wants to know
a story's end, or where a road will go?

As we all begin a new year, I hope that your roads will reveal new wisdom to you, that you have the wherewithal to rise to the challenges which will present themselves and that you take some joy in the year that will roll out in front of you "like a long, supple bolt of cloth."

On the path of our faith,
Reverend Maddie Sifantus

Message from the Board President

To Congregational Members and Friends:

Sharing our Light. This is the theme of our 2016 Canvass and it has been a successful one! Thank you to one and all who pledged your support of our caring, dynamic congregation. Please plan on attending an “organizational preparedness” meeting on January 17 and the Annual Meeting and Pot Luck Lunch on January 31st. These meetings are designed to inform and engage you in what it takes to support our church community. Both meetings will be immediately after the service.

The minister and Board discussed 2016 priorities and identified the following:

Membership

Communications – website, brochures, social media, common platform and document storage

Policies Handbook

Concert Series

If you are interested in working on one or more of these tasks, talk to Maddie or a Board member. If you are asked to participate on a committee or complete an activity to support our church, please say yes. Sharing our light is the theme of the 2016 Cavass. Let your light shine!

See you at the Annual Meeting on January 31st immediately following the potluck lunch after the service.

Next Board meeting is Thursday, January 21, 2016 at 6:30. All are welcome.

In wonder and gratitude,
MaryBeth East

News From Among Us

- ❖ Rev. Maddie thanks all those who were able to attend her first ever Open House at her new home. It is her practice to write thank notes for gifts. However, some things were separated from cards or didn't have a card. She thanks everyone who so thoughtfully brought gifts or sent cards this her first holiday season in Santa Paula.
- ❖ Dale Peace expects to return home from Vista Cove by the New Year. We are grateful that he is much improved and wish him all the best as he returns home.
- ❖ Jyl Atmore is nearing the end of her chemotherapy treatments and looking forward to having all weeks be good weeks.
- ❖ We are happy that friend of the congregation Peggy Poehler's children are recovering well after surgery.

Message from RE Coordinator



On December 13th, 6 children and 7 adults went on a walking field trip to view the Christmas trains on display at the Odd Fellows Lodge. It was wonderful to watch the children's expressions when all the trains were in action. They also had fun counting the nutcrackers that were in the display with the hope of winning a prize for guessing the correct number. We would like to thank the man with the long, white beard (AKA Ken Stock) for paying the entrance fee for everyone who attended the event.

The multi-generational service on December 20th was spectacular! I would like to thank everyone who helped make the pageant come together...from the narrator, to my assistant, and to all of those who willingly volunteered to participate in the pageant. I must admit my favorite characters were "Baby Jesus" and "Luisa the Donkey"! Here is a photo of the animals in the manger welcoming Baby Jesus into the world. You can go to the UUCSP Facebook page to view all of the photographs from the pageant.



I would like to wish everyone the merriest of holidays and a peaceful new year!

4-ever learning,
Ruth Ricards,
RE Coordinator

People and Doings

First Sunday Plate Recipient for First Quarter

Our First Sunday offerings this new quarter of 2016 will benefit Santa Clara Valley Hospice/Home Support Group, Inc, a nonprofit organization providing services to the elderly and others with life-altering illnesses and age related decline. Services include transportation to medical appointments and therapies; lending of medical equipment, wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, canes; counseling support for physical, psychological and spiritual needs of individuals and families; referral services; monthly flower visits; and primary caregiver relief with volunteer home visits. Services are available for Santa Paula, Fillmore, Piru and Saticoy residents free of charge. Located at 133 N. Mill St., the volunteer organization has served the valley community for 35 years. scvhospicehs@yahoo.com.

Membership

Are you an *official member* of the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula or thinking of becoming one? As we approach our Annual Meeting, it is a good time to think about what our congregation means to you. UUCSP membership allows you to vote on the budget and all important decisions we make.

Becoming a member of UUCSP is an individual decision, so some people in a family may be members while others are not. While only members can vote on church matters, both members and non-members alike are welcome to attend services and other church activities, volunteer, and contribute financially to our congregation.

Like many other UU churches, we have dedicated friends who have been active in our congregation, perhaps for years, but have never signed the membership book.

If you fall into that “friend” category, you might want to consider becoming a member now. If you have never gotten around to signing the book but want to become an official member now, it’s easy—simply arrange with Rev. Maddie to discuss what membership means and to sign the membership book. We will be having a “New UU” class early in 2016.

Soup with the Minister

The next Lunch with the Minister will be on Thursday, January 14 at Noon in the Parish Hall. Rev. Maddie will provide a hearty soup and a beverage. Do you have a neighbor or friend that might enjoy a casual lunch out—bring them along! Children are welcome to join us. There is no need to bring anything but should you wish, side dishes, a small amount of dessert or bread to share is welcome. You may wish to stay for the showing of the Film of Rev. Maddie’s Installation at 1 PM following lunch and conversation. Bon appétit!

Life Calls Us On: Rev. Maddie’s Installation

The October 25th Installation was filmed by Art and Doreen Shinn, and we will be watching it together on Thursday, January 14th at 1 PM, following the Lunch with the Minister. Come for just the showing or earlier for lunch.



Thank You Notes

Our congregation received two handwritten thank you notes from CASP recently, one for our monthly canned food items and rice and beans brought to church on Sundays, and the other to the Mary A. Livermore Society for their gift of \$50.

People and Doings

Meditation Practice Group

Our Meditation Group is led by Rev. Maddie Sifantus in the Parish Hall twice a month. In January the group will meet on Wednesdays, January 6 and 20 at 6 PM. 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 tradition. She also has a personal Christian Contemplative Prayer practice. 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 on Reverend Maddie's private line at the church: 805-525-4620.

RE Surprise Buddies!



Every winter after the New Year holiday, the RE children are randomly matched up with a participating adult member of the church. The purpose of the Surprise Buddy program is to promote multi-generational connections through written correspondence between members of the congregation and the RE children. Throughout the program, the member will send clues to their Surprise Buddy. The Surprise Buddies will be revealed on February 14th, Valentine's Day. If you are interested in being a Surprise Buddy, please let Reverend Maddie or Ruth Ricards know.

Small Group Facilitators Needed!

We will be forming small groups in 2016. Rev. Maddie will be leading a Pilot Group early in the new year to train those interested in working with her to be facilitators in our small groups. Speak to Maddie if you are interested in learning about being a Small Group Facilitator. Small groups are under the guidance of the minister who will help members choose topics and guide discussions in meaningful ways. This program cannot run without four trained facilitators who work with Rev. Maddie. We have about 20 people signed up who are interested in attending small groups so far. Please sign up on the clipboard in the Parish Hall if you want to add your name to the list. A small group program finds members engaged in deepening relationships, meaningful issues, and inspired action both in the congregation and in the larger community. Rev. Maddie's sermon of October 18th on Small Groups, "Can We Talk? Small Group Ministry", is posted on the website.

Hindsight, Humor and Hope

As part of our initiative looking at aging, Rev. Maddie kicks off a six-part series starting in January and running for six meetings. The first one will be Tuesday, January 5 from 11 AM to 1 PM and will include lunch which will be provided at this first meeting. After that we will brown bag lunch or decide among us to potluck it. From February through June we will meet on the first Tuesday from 11 AM to 1 PM with the exception of April when we will meet on April 19th. This is open to all adults of any age, as we are all aging. Please sign up on the clipboard in the Parish Hall. Hindsight, Humor and Hope is a new curriculum written by Rev. Maddie's friend and colleague Karin Peterson. The workshops are open to all and cover the following:

- Workshop 1: Elderhood – A Work In Progress
- Workshop 2: Solitude and Connection – The Stuff of Life
- Workshop 3: Diving Through the Layers – The Fabric of My Life
- Workshop 4: Creating New Visions – Building on Experience
- Workshop 5: Making Friends with Mortality
- Workshop 6: Hindsight, Humor, and Hope

Schedule of Events

REV. MADDIE'S 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.
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	Please submit your January newsletter items to Christine at uucspoffice@gmail.com by Thursday, <u>January 21</u> .
FIRST SUNDAY PLATE Sunday, January 3	Our first quarter First Sunday plate offerings will benefit Santa Clara Valley Hospice.
HINDSIGHT, HUMOR, AND HOPE WORKSHOP ON AGING Tuesday, January 5, 11:00 am	Workshop will be held in the Parish Hall. The first workshop will include lunch. After that we will brown bag lunch or decide among us to potluck it. Workshop is open to all.
CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE Tuesday, January 5, 7:30 pm	Committee will meet in Minister's office.
MEDITATION PRACTICE GROUP Wednesdays, January 6 & 20, 6:00 pm	All are invited to a meditation practice group in the Parish Hall led by Rev. Maddie Sifantus. 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). There is power in meditating together. For more information, leave a message on Reverend Maddie's private line at the church: 805-525-4620.
V-DAY MEETING Wednesday, January 6, 7:15 pm	Meeting will be in Parish Hall or Minister's office.
CLASSIC MOVIE NIGHT Friday, January 8, 7:00 pm	The Santa Paula Cinema Society presents <i>Another Year</i> . Admission is free. Bring your own snacks. See page 9 for more information.
RE SURPRISE BUDDIES Sunday, January 10	The children's Religious Education program will kick-off the Annual Surprise Buddies event on Sunday, January 10. The Surprise Buddies will be revealed on Sunday, February 14 during Coffee Hour.
WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING Sunday, January 10, Noon	Committee will meet in Minister's office.
LUNCH WITH THE MINISTER Thursday, January 14, 12:00 pm	Please join Rev. Maddie for lunch in the Parish Hall. Rev. Maddie will provide a main dish and a beverage. There is no need to bring anything but should you wish, side dishes, a small amount of dessert or bread to share is welcome.

Schedule of Events

VIEW REV. MADDIE'S INSTALLATION Thursday, January 14, 1:00 pm	The October 25th Installation was filmed by Art and Doreen Shinn, and we will be watching it together following the Lunch with the Minister.
STAFF MEETING Friday, January 15, 9:30 am	Staff will meet in Minister's office.
RE COMMITTEE MEETING Friday, January 15, 11:30 am	Committee will meet in Minister's office.
SOCIAL CONCERNS ACTION COMMITTEE Friday, January 15, 12:00 pm	The committee meets in the Parish Hall. Please note the new time of 12:00 noon in the Parish Hall. Brown bag lunch.
HYMN SING Sunday, January 17, 10:10 am	Please note the time for the Hymn Sing is five minutes earlier than the previous Hymn Sings. It is a good time to learn some less familiar hymns and songs. The prelude will start at its usual time just before 10:30 AM.
ORGANIZATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MEETING Sunday, January 17, 12:00 pm	Please join us for this meeting after services. This meeting is designed to inform and engage you in what it takes to support our church community.
CARING COMMITTEE Wednesday, January 20, 2:30 pm	Committee will meet in Minister's office.
BOARD OF TRUSTEES Thursday, January 21, 6:30 pm	All members of the congregation are welcome to attend. Contact Board President MaryBeth East at 341-8809 if you have any questions.
DINNER & A MOVIE Friday, January 22 Potluck: 6:00 pm Film: 7:00 pm	Award winning, <i>At the River I Stand</i> (directed by David Appleby, Allison Graham, Steven Ross) reconstructs the two eventful months in Memphis in 1968 leading to the tragic death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the climax of the Civil Rights Movement. It demonstrates the integral connection between civic and economic rights. In the film we see how the Memphis Black community rallied behind a strike of grossly underpaid sanitation workers. Dr. King saw an opportunity to link this struggle to his nationwide Poor People's Campaign and challenged the economic power structure of the South. His non-violent strategy was sorely tested. Trailer: http://newsreel.org/video/AT-THE-RIVER-I-STAND
MARY A. LIVERMORE SOCIETY Thursday, January 28, 11:30 am	Mary As will meet at our new location, Flight 126 Café. Our speaker, Susan Shamroy, Reader, Christian Science, will provide an introduction to the faith, its founder, Mary Baker Eddy, and Sue's own discovery of it.
CASP FOOD DRIVE Sunday, January 31	The children will collect the non-perishable food items for CASP during the service. Please bring your food items with you into the sanctuary for collection.
ANNUAL MEETING & POTLUCK Sunday, January 31, 12:00 pm	Please join us for this meeting after services. This meeting is designed to inform and engage you in what it takes to support our church community.

Schedule of Events



the
**Santa Paula
Cinema Society**
presents

Another Year



Writer/director Mike Leigh makes uniquely naturalistic films, so much so that they can be a bit disorienting at first. He isn't much interested in telling a story. His films conspicuously lack a dramatic climax, and no major turning points. His characters rarely explain themselves with the usual movie-making techniques we've become so accustomed to seeing. They don't make big speeches about their innermost feelings. No great secrets are revealed. In fact, the dialog between his people is mainly the kind of smalltalk that occupies the majority of real life personal interactions. Yet his people are explained in his films, less by what they say than in the spaces between what they say. Leigh's genius is building his films from the people up, rather than story down. His actors become so comfortable living in the skins of their characters that they're able to convincingly improvise dialog, some of which appears in the films (good luck trying to guess when they are working from a script). Though he's been making films this way for over 40 years, Leigh's approach has never worked more completely than in *Another Year* (2010). The film takes us into the lives of a professional couple, their family, and friends, for a full year, divided in the film into four seasons. It's about what they see, notice and often fail to understand about each other over the course of that arbitrary period of time. Featuring some of Leigh's excellent stock company of British actors, including Jim Broadbent, Ruth Sheen, Phil Davis, Imelda Staunton, and an impossible performance by Lesley Manville. A powerful and challenging film from a courageous filmmaker working at the top of his game.

FRIDAY JANUARY 8, 2016, 7:00 PM

Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula 740 E. Main Street (enter side door)

ADMISSION FREE

Bring your own snacks!

January 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 First Sunday Plate	4	5 Aging Workshop, 11am Congregational Life, 7:30pm	6 Meditation Practice Group 6pm VDay Mtg, 7:15pm	7	8 Classic Movie Night, 7pm	9
10 Worship Comm Mtg, noon Surprise Buddies	11	12	13	14 Lunch w/Minister, 12pm Installation Film, 1pm	15 Staff Mtg 9:30 am RE Comm., 11:30am S.C.A.C. 12pm	16
17 Hymn Sing, 10:10am Org. Preparedness, 12pm	18	19	20 Meditation Practice Group 6pm Caring Comm., 2:30pm	21 <u>Newsletter Deadline</u> Board Mtg 6:30pm	22 Dinner & a Movie, Potluck 6pm Film 7pm	23
24 31 CASP Annual Mtg, 12pm	25	26	27	28 Mary A's 11:30am	29	30

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Dated Material
Time Value