



Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula

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

DECEMBER 2016 SERVICES, SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM



December 4 Once Upon A Time—Again

Michael Eselun, Kate English

Popular guest speaker and UCLA Oncology Chaplain, Michael Eselun will explore the meaning and hidden gifts that may lie in our stories, just waiting to be told again.

First Sunday Plate to One Step a la Vez

December 11 St. Lucia: Bringing the Light

Rev. Maddie, Donna Hamer

We are children of the light. Without the light of the sun nothing would have come to life on this earth. There are many traditions of light across the cultures of the world in December. Today we will think about the light and one tradition that somehow made its way from Italy to Sweden and this morning to Santa Paula! Special music by Rev. Maddie and Christine Snipes, violin.

December 18 We Make a Holiday!

Rev. Maddie, Jerry Gray

In the darkest days of early winter, we make a holiday, stringing lights against somberness, giving gifts of ourselves and our treasures to brighten those we care about and those less fortunate than ourselves, celebrating the stories of old for all ages. Special music by our choir and soloists Barbara Beach.

December 21 at 7 PM Winter Solstice

Rev. Maddie, Donna Nelson

Join the Cast, Children and adult singers who have prepared a special Winter Solstice Celebration. The centerpiece will be an adaption of the play "The Jester's Test" by Paul Brandvik along with Madrigals, Carols, Fanfares and general hilarity to bring mirth to the shortest day of the year. Audience members are encouraged to get into the spirit of the evening by wearing Medieval inspired garb.

December 24 at 5 PM Christmas Eve

Rev. Maddie and Worship Associates

We gather on Christmas Eve for a traditional Christmas Eve service of readings, Carols, and special music. We will end with the traditional candlelit *Silent Night*.

December 25 Christmas and Hanukkah Service and Potluck Brunch

Rev. Maddie, Mary Nelson

We gather as a community of all ages, those of us who choose to be with one another as many travel afar to be with family and friends. Children will remain with their families in the Sanctuary and the Parish Hall. Please bring a brunch item to share.

CASP food offering

January 1 New Years' Service and Potluck Brunch

Rev. Maddie

We gather to start the New Year with a service of Turning, for those awake after New Year's Eve! Children will remain with their families in the Sanctuary and the Parish Hall. We will light candles for those "turning" events that we experienced in the old year: births, deaths and other major events. Please bring a brunch item to share.

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

Message from the Minister

As I write this, I am still basking in the glow of opening the doors of our historic congregation to the faith communities of Santa Paula for the Community Thanksgiving Service. I had positive feedback from the clergy who attended, and those of you who were able to attend, found it moving as well. Thanks to those of you who helped, those of you who sang and those of you who attended. And a HUGE thanks to Ruth Ricards who coordinated



the reception, the set-up and clean-up. One of the local pastors told me that the broader community could learn a lot from us about how to do diverse worship. And on top of it all, the service made over \$400 for the work Interface.

Now we are headlong into the year-end festivities. Some of us celebrate Hanukkah. For others, it is the Winter Solstice that is most evocative. For still others, like myself, the Advent season has great meaning, including the lighting of a candle on an Advent Wreath for the four Sundays before Christmas and the special music of the season. We will be considering all of these in different ways in December, bringing light to the darkest days of the year. We are hoping to help keep things sane and balanced for all of us, whether by attending our Meditation Practice Group on December 14 and 28, Yoga with Lisa Hammond on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, joining me Caroling at the Mupu Grill to sing familiar songs and carols in a secular setting with roasted chestnuts, or just coming together in community Sunday morning. I wish for you a stress-free (as much as possible) holiday season, with great thanks for each one of you and your place here in our historic home at 740 E Main Street.

On the path of our faith,

Reverend Maddie

Message from the Board President

Another year has passed (so quickly) and the Board of Trustees is now preparing for the annual meeting on January 29, 2017. The following actions are needed to help us prepare:

- All committee chairs submit their annual budgets for the 2017 budget
- Budget Committee to draft the 2017 budget for Board recommendation and Congregation approval
- The Nominating Committee (Judy Triem, Mary Nelson and Steve Lattimore) will be asking one of you to fill an open Board or committee position
- Open positions for this year include: three Board members and one Capital Fund Trustee
- At the annual meeting, we will select one Cash Reserve Trustee and the 2018 Nominating Committee

Please consider filling one of these open positions by talking to one of the Nominating Committee members, our minister or Board member.

Wishing you a happy holiday season.

With gratitude,
MaryBeth East

News From Among Us

December 2016

- A special Memorial Service for friend of our congregation, Molly King, will be December 3rd at the Oil Museum where she was a docent speaking about the Murals all over Town. It will be from 2-5 PM with a program at 3 PM. All of Molly's friends are welcome.
- Lynne Morrison continues to have rehab at Vista Cove. Cards can be sent to her there at 250 March Street, Santa Paula, CA 93060. Visits are also appreciated.
- Mary Yeates is recovering from a broken hip at Glenwood Care Center. Cards made be sent to her at 1300 North C Street, Oxnard, CA 93030.
- Cheryl Wilson writes us from Oklahoma that she is enjoying her new life in a co-housing community.
- Two new members officially joined the congregation on November 20th, Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford and Rev. Maddie Sifantus. Congratulate them and welcome them when you see them. We will be having a new member service in 2017 to welcome those who have recently joined.
- 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.

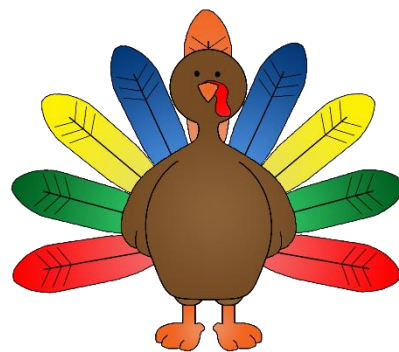
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Message from the RE Coordinator

It was wonderful to have the children participate in the cornbread communion on November 20. I was so proud of how they helped pass out the cornbread and apple cider to the congregation and didn't spill a drop!

During "Time for All Ages," Teacher Lana shared a story with all of us about how we sometimes take for granted all the people involved in bringing us pumpkin pie to our Thanksgiving table. Everyone from the farmer to the processing plant manager, to the store manager and finally the pie maker. It is important to remember all the people involved and to give thanks.

The kids had fun making their own Thanksgiving turkey. They wrote what they are grateful for on the feathers of the turkey. One of the children was creative and wrote a name of a food item that corresponded to the color of each feather... red - cherries, blue - blueberries, yellow - lemons, green - broccoli, purple - grapes and of course orange - oranges!



Peekaboo! Can you guess who is behind this turkey?

4-Ever Learning,

Ruth Ricards

RE Coordinator

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Spiritual Growth Center

MEDITATION PRACTICE GROUP

Our Meditation Practice Group takes place in our Parish Hall. Our meetings in December will be December 14 and 28 at 6:00 PM. Please note that this is a change from the previously announced one date in December. Instead there will be one Meditation in January on the 18th. 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, December 6, 13, 20 & 27 and Thursday's December 1, 8, 15, 22, & 30, 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

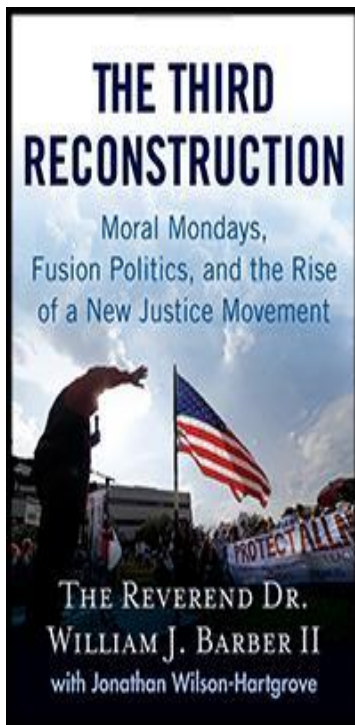
Rev. Maddie has begun hosting a Drop-In Small Group in her office on occasional Sundays after coffee hour. The next one will be Sunday, December 11—about Noon—for about an hour. She chooses a different theme each meeting. Come and explore a topic of meaning as we hear one another's stories and experiences, 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 this coming year 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 in 2017 but you may like to purchase or borrow the book to begin reading now. There are two copies available to borrow on the bookcase in the Parish Hall or you may wish to purchase your own copy. A paperback edition is available for purchase at inSpirit: UU Book and Gift Shop, from Amazon or your favorite bookseller.



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People and Doings

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. She will be out of town for the Ministerial Fellowship Committee and several days of vacation from November 28 through December 10th. 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.

MINISTERIAL FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE: PASTORAL COVERAGE

Rev. Maddie serves our Unitarian Universalist Association by sitting on the Ministerial Fellowship Committee (MFC), which is the group that credentials our ministers and deals with Fellowship Issues. She will be leaving on the redeye on Sunday evening, November 27th to fly to Boston for this meeting, returning December 10th. The Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford will be providing pastoral coverage. 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. At other times, Rev. Maddie is generally reachable in an emergency on her cell phone (508-733-8860) or you can leave a private message on her church private line: 805-525-4620.

HOLIDAY MUSIC

The December holidays all come with wonderful music associated with them. The hope is to have special music for each Sunday service in December, the Winter Solstice and Christmas Eve. Please let Worship Associate Kate English know if you want to add a special piece of music on December 4th. On December 11th, Rev. Maddie and Christine Snipes, violin, will perform Gesu Bambino by Pietro Yon to go along with the Italian theme of St. Lucia. On December 18th, our choir will sing and we will have a solo by Barbara Beach. Let Rev. Maddie know if you have interest in singing and/or playing on Christmas Eve, December 25th or January 1st. Vincent Sorisio will be playing all three days. There will be a choir rehearsal at 9:30 AM on Sunday, December 18th; more may be added.

HOLIDAY BRUNCHES

As you have likely noticed, Christmas Day and New Year's Day both fall on a Sunday this year. Rather than canceling services, we will have a shorter version in our Sanctuary and then gather to share a potluck brunch together in our Parish Hall on both Sundays at the usual time of 10:30 AM. All will need to pitch in and it will truly be pot luck! Anyone who wishes to take on a specific role in either service or with the potluck, please speak with Rev. Maddie. Vincent Sorisio will be playing as usual. Friends and far flung returning family members invited.

SALVATION ARMY ANGEL TREE

The Salvation Army Angel Tree is a holiday program designed to raise in-kind gifts to assist families who are in crisis as a result of medical issues, unemployment, homelessness, medical issues or other difficult circumstances and who otherwise wouldn't have the resources to celebrate Christmas. For the 2nd year, the Social Concerns Action Committee is hosting an Angel Tree for needy families in Santa Paula. Please take a look at the tags on the tree in the Parish Hall. If you would like to "adopt" that child and get the gifts on that tag or get one of the gifts listed, either is appreciated. These all go to benefit needy kids right here in Santa Paula. If you decide to participate in this year's Angel Tree you can take a tag that are on the bookshelf next to the tree to use as a tax donation receipt. All gifts must be under the tree by Monday, December 19th as these will be picked up on the 20th and distributed on the 22nd. If you have any questions, please contact Delicia at 323-829-6867.

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People and Doings

THE MARY A'S

The Mary A's will meet on Thursday, December 15th at 11:30 am at Judith Beay's home at 100 Poinsettia Gardens Drive. Ventura (call for directions) 805-647-4338. The luncheon is a Pot Luck. Please bring toiletries for a donation to a homeless shelter. It would be nice if you could bring a Christmas saying or story.

SOCIAL CONCERNS ACTION COMMITTEE

On Friday, December 16, at 12:00 noon, the Social Concerns Action Committee will meet in the Parish Hall. Brown bag lunch.

The Social Concerns and Action Committee will not be hosting their Dinner and a Movie in December due to the busy holiday season. Stay tuned for our selection next month. Happy New Year!

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 which will be January 29th after church, it is a good time to think about what our congregation means to you. Becoming a member 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 member 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.

The conditions for membership, according to our bylaws, are these: "This society shall welcome as members any person who is in sympathy with its purposes and program, has reviewed these bylaws, and has signed the membership book in the presence of the minister or an officer of the church."

If you fall into that "friend" (active non-member) 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 sign the membership book.

FIRST SUNDAY PLATE RECIPIENT FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER

One Step a la Vez is an after school drop-in and resource center for teens. The mission of the OSALV program is to serve the communities of Santa Clara Valley by providing a safe environment for 13-19-year olds and preparing informed, empowered youth who are equipped with the tools to lead, cultivate cultural awareness, bridge the gaps of inequality and advocate for fair, just and healthy individuals and community.

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



PASTOR GOES PUBBING!

“Chestnuts roasting on the open fire....”

Join Rev. Maddie for Caroling at the Mupu Grill

930 E Main Street, Santa Paula

5:30 PM for about a half hour

Visiting musicians encouraged

Friday, December 16

Saturday, December 17

Sunday, December 18

Thursday, December 22

Friday, December 23

WINTER SOLSTICE 2016

“The Jester’s Test”

As you have heard, a group of your fellow parishioners and community members have been rehearsing with Rev. Maddie and local music educator, Donna Nelson since September. Winter Solstice 2016 will take place on Wednesday, December 21 at 7:00 PM. The focus of the evening is a Medieval inspired play, “The Jester’s Test.” The main roles are all filled but we still need choir singers, both adult and children. Please let Rev. Maddie know if you or a family member or friend would like to don vaguely Old English sort of garb and join in the fun as we bring light to the darkness. We will need help with set up and clean up, as well as with the reception. Please let Rev. Maddie or Ruth Ricards know if you can help in those ways. And of course, we need an audience! Costumes highly encouraged. Come see Donna Hamer as the Queen, Karl Krause as the King, and more. Here is the remaining regular rehearsal schedule:



Wednesday, December 7

NO REHEARSAL

Wednesday, December 14 at 7:15 PM

FULL RUNTHROUGH

Saturday, December 17 at 10:00 AM

DRESS REHEARSAL

Wednesday, December 21 at 7:00 PM

SHOWTIME!

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"Stuff" First Sunday in Advent

Solo: Carol of the Birds

Sunday, December 6 at 10:30 AM

Michael Eselun with Loni Kate English

First Sunday Plate to One Step A La Vez

"St. Lucia: Bringing the Light"

Special music: Santa Lucia

Third Sunday in Advent

We Make a Holiday!

Barbara Beach, solo

Wednesday, December 21 at 7:00 PM

Solstice Players and Singers

Mulled cider and cookies following

Christmas Eve: Lessons and Carols

Rev. Maddie Sifantus with Worship Associates


Christmas morning service and potluck brunch

Sunday, January 1 at 10:30 AM

Rev. Maddie Sifantus

People and Doings

SANTA PAULA CINEMA SOCIETY CLASSIC MOVIE NIGHT



SANTA PAULA CINEMA SOCIETY

PRESENTS

BLAZING SADDLES

From Mel Brooks, the king of questionable judgment, comes possibly the ultimate bad taste movie, a massively broad spoof of Westerns and whatever else seemed funny to Mel Brooks at the time – and to Mel Brooks, everything is a source of comedy. A Yiddish Indian? A man punching out a horse? The Count Basie band playing in the middle of the desert? A bunch of cowboys sitting around a campfire and... well, you know. It works because chaos comes so naturally to Brooks. He doesn't care if it makes any sense or is good for anything but a laugh. This screening is also a tribute to the late, great Gene Wilder who was never so good as he was working with Mel Brooks. R-rated for some crude language, and, well, you know. (1974, 1:33)

DECEMBER 9 2016

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

Women's Convocation—Save The Dates!



Do not miss this opportunity to hear **bell hooks**, one of the most influential voices in the American feminist movement! She will give a keynote address at the **Third Women's Convocation, Asilomar, CA, February 16-19, 2017**. Writer, professor, feminist theorist, and activist, hooks is the author of numerous critically acclaimed and widely influential books on the function of race, gender, class, and culture. Her most well-known works, such as *Ain't I a Woman: Black Women and Feminism* (1981) and *Feminist Theory from Margin to Center* (1984) focus on issues surrounding the invisibility of black women from common discourses of racism and gender. *Feminism Is For Everybody: Passionate Politics* (2000) details her beliefs on the significance of feminist values in everyone's lives - women and men alike. hooks is currently the Distinguished Professor in Residence in Appalachian Studies at Berea College in Kentucky. Register at [Third International Women's Convocation](#). Consult [the latest edition of the Program Guide](#).

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Santa Paula Concert Series Presents

An unforgettable concert experience

A Winter Gift

Step into the magical world of Winter Season stories and music.



Patrick Ball Lisa Lynne & Aryeh Frankfurter

Celtic legends, along with Irish and English literature woven together with beloved and rare pieces of holiday music. A concert that celebrates the central message of the Season. Hope. Hope for something wondrous. Hope for a light in the darkness.

THURSDAY, DEC 15 7:00 PM

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

LegendsOfTheCelticHarp.com

Schedule of Events



December 2016

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
				1 9:30 am-Yoga	2	3
4 10:30am-Worship <i>FirstSundayPlate</i>	5	6 9:30am-Yoga	7	8 9:30am-Yoga	9 7:00pm-Classic Movie Night	10
11 10:30am-Worship 12:00-Drop in Small Group	12	13 9:30am-Yoga 6:30pm-Board Meeting	14 6:00pm Meditation 7:15pm-Solstice Rehearsal	15 9:30am-Yoga 11:30am-Mary A's 7:00pm-Concert A Winter Gift	16 12:00pm-Social Concerns Mtg 5:30pm-Caroling @ Mupu Grill	17 10:00am-Winter Solstice Dress Reh 5:30pm-Caroling @ Mupu Grill
18 9:30am-ChoirReh. 10:30am-Worship 12:00pm-Worship Committee 5:30pm Caroling @ Mupu Grill	19 SalvationArmy Angel Tree deadline for gifts	20 9:30am-Yoga	21 10:00am-Staff Mtg 2:00pm-Caring Committee Mtg 7:00pm-Winter Solstice	22 9:30am-Yoga 5:30pm-Caroling @Mupu Grill	23 5:30pm-Caroling @ Mupu Grill	24 5:00pm- ChristmasEve Service
25 10:30am-Worship Church Potluck <i>CASP</i> CHRISTMAS	26	27 9:30am-Yoga	28 6:00pm- Meditation	29 9:30am-Yoga	30	31

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WINTER SOLSTICE: The Jester's Test



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 7:00 PM

Directed by Donna Nelson and Maddie Sifantus

Cast of Santa Paula community members

UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN CHURCH

OF SANTA PAULA

740 E. Main Street 805-525-4647 ~

uucspoffice@gmail.com

MEDIEVAL COSTUMES ENCOURAGED

FREE!

WASSAIL! WASSAIL! WASSAIL! WASSAIL!

*Dated Material
Time Value*

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