



Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula

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

MARCH 2016 SERVICES, SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM



MARCH 6

Rev. Maddie Sifantus & Donna Hamer
“Accept and Encourage: Third Principle”

Rev. Maddie continues her exploration of our Seven Principles. This sermon will consider Principle Three: Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.

First Sunday Plate to Santa Clara Valley Hospice.

MARCH 13

Sarah Caine & Pat English
“Finding (Dis)Comfort”

Growth can often accompany anger, loss, unknowing, and all manner of uncomfortable feelings. Being present and finding your roots in these times can be a mercy. It can get tricky when things turn upside down and backwards without notice. Let's explore this beautiful, frustrating, devastating life this Sunday! Sarah is a Candidate for Unitarian Universalist ministry.

MARCH 20

Rev. Maddie Sifantus & Mary Nelson
“Ostara (Spring Equinox)”

If the winter solstice signals the birth of the sun, then the Spring Equinox—Ostara—exclaims the birth of the earth and the resurrection from the dark death of winter of the wide world of nature. Our service will mark this turning of the year through calling the directions, words, chants and drumming.

MARCH 27

Rev. Maddie Sifantus & Allan Noel
“Lo, We Awake: Easter Sunday”

We mark Easter from our Judeo-Christian heritage and wonder what its story of Jesus' death and the Christian story of resurrection can mean to all of us, from UU Christians to the earth based folks who are more comfortable marking Ostara (which we did last week!)

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

How do you prepare for spring? Are you sweeping dead leaves off your driveway and out of your car? Are you planning for an old-fashioned spring cleaning, tidying up the winter's clutter and letting the light pour in your windows with their film of grime removed? Are you rising early with the morning's light and sitting with your cup of tea or coffee hearing the sounds of the morning's birds? Are you walking around your neighborhood again? Or perhaps you head over to the beach or Ventura Harbor as I did with my family recently.

Here at church we prepare for the spring as well. You may have noticed that we have a new bulletin board to add to the new mailboxes that you will notice as you walk to the rest rooms. I have added my name to my door so people can find me. The church mice have been about their tasks and many of you bring in extra rolls of paper towels, a plate of cookies for Sunday mornings, or sweep up around the front entrance. This time of year seems like a chance for a fresh start in our lives and the life of our church. Perhaps you haven't been back to church since I came on board. With the rebirth of all that is around us, perhaps this is the time for your rebirth into our faith community. We would love to see you! As our friends in the Christian churches observe Lent and our Jewish friends prepare to observe Passover, we too are aware of our Judeo-Christian heritage and its observances, as well as the ancient earth-based spring rites that celebrate the change of seasons. What rite of spring will you celebrate this year?

Join us for a celebration of Ostara, the Spring Equinox, on Sunday, March 20 at 10:30 AM when we mark a passage in 2016 trip around the sun. Then on Sunday, March 27 come to celebrate Easter with plenty of Alleluias and a few Good Eggs. Or perhaps you are interested in starting or continuing a spiritual practice of meditation. You have three Wednesday evenings in March to experience "The Sacred Pause", the practice of silent meditation. These sittings are open to all and the greater community with no signup. Just come and sit in the silence with us. Expect to be there about an hour.

Whatever your personal rite of spring, I wish you a sense of new beginnings and renewal. When you breathe in, may you breathe in peace and a sense of interconnectedness with the world around you. When you breathe out, may you breathe out love, forgiveness and compassion for the wounded world and its inhabitants...and grab a broom or vacuum and clean out its cobwebs and musty bits ready for a new season together.

On the path of our faith,
Reverend Maddie

Message from the Board President

To Congregational Members and Friends,
Here is the 2016 “who’s who” list.

Board of Trustees

- MaryBeth East – President
- Ken Stock – Vice President
- Laura Phillips – Treasurer
- Luisa Haskell – Secretary
- Patricia English – Member at Large

MNL Capital Fund Trustees

- Donna Hamer
- Logan Hardison
- Jerry Gray

Cash Reserve Fund Trustees

- John Nichols
- Logan Hardison
- Patricia English

Building Maintenance Fund

- Judy Triem
- Leslie Nichols
- Barbara Beach

Help Wanted

Each Sunday we need one greeter, two ushers and a chalice lighter. Check out the signup sheet for coffee hour or provide flowers for the altar. All talents and contributions are greatly appreciated!

Next Board meeting is Thursday, March 17, 2016 at 6:30. All are welcome.

In wonder and gratitude,
MaryBeth East

News from Among Us

- ❖ We are glad that Penny McManus had her procedure with good results and is under treatment. We were joyful to see her in church and at yoga.
- ❖ We were thrilled by the news on Valentine’s Day that the Ortega Sanchez family are expecting a new baby in August!
- ❖ Rev. Maddie did a private Memorial Service in our Sanctuary on Wednesday, February 24th for Jeremy Hulsey. Jeremy was the son of Cindy Hulsey.
- ❖ Rev. Maddie delivered the Invocation for the City Council meeting on February 16.
- ❖ The third annual VDay planning committee included our members and friends Loni Kate English, chair, Delicia Niemi, Audrey Vincent and Rev. Maddie along with Santa Paula clergy and community members.

Message from the RE Coordinator

On February 7th, we received a visit from a friendly bear that joined us for Time For All Ages when I read the story, “Bear and Duck.” Bear was tired of being stung on the nose by bees and being hot in the summer with his fur. He decided it would be more fun if he were a duck. As a mother duck was waddling by with her ducklings, Bear pleaded with her to teach him how to be a duck. After lessons on how to build a nest, swim and fly, Bear quickly learned that being a duck wasn’t as much fun as he thought it would be and decided to just be a bear. Mother duck told him he made a great bear but, more importantly, a wonderful friend. A special thank you to Lena (Bear) and Mary Kate (Duck) for making our story time complete.



Surprise Buddies Revealed!!!

We began Surprise Buddies back on January 10 when the buddies exchanged notes and little snippets about who they were and some of the things they like to do. The kids had so much fun receiving letters in the mail. On Valentine’s Day, the children played a game to match-up with their buddy. I would like to thank Barbara Beach, MaryBeth East, Donna Hamer, Leslie Nichols, Laura Phillips, Ken Stock and Margaret Wilson for making this program a success. From the feedback I received, the adults enjoyed the program as much as the children.



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.

Hindsight, Humor and Hope

The group which is asking “Who, me, an elder?” is now closed, but the good news is a second group will be starting on Thursday, May 19 at noon and will meet monthly for the full six sessions into the fall! Please let Rev. Maddie know if you want to join this second group. The third meeting of group one will be Tuesday, March 1 from 11 AM to 1 PM. Please bring a brown bag lunch. Hindsight, Humor and Hope is a new UUA Tapestry of Faith curriculum written by Rev. Maddie’s friend and colleague Karin Peterson. The remaining workshops for the first group cover the following:

Workshop 3 – March 1: Diving Through the Layers – The Fabric of My Life

Workshop 4 – April 5: Creating New Visions – Building on Experience

Workshop 5 – May 3: Making Friends with Mortality

Workshop 6 – June 7: Hindsight, Humor, and Hope

Guest at Your Table Results

This year our members contributed \$411.16 to the Guest at your Table fund raiser for the UUSC. Thank you for all who contributed.

Ad Hoc Choir for Easter

Please let Rev. Maddie know if you are interested in singing in the Ad Hoc Choir on Easter, March 27. We will rehearse that day at 9:45 AM. It is important to let her know you are singing so that she has music for you.

Meditation Practice Group

Our Meditation Group is led by Rev. Maddie Sifantus in the Parish Hall. In March the group will meet on Wednesdays, March 2, 16 and 30 at 6 PM. In April the group will meet Wednesdays, April 13 and 27. 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. Arrive a little before 6 PM and allow about an hour. 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. For more information, leave a message on Reverend Maddie's private line at the church: 805-525-4620.

Concert Series

Committee Members Needed

Rev. Maddie is looking for a couple more members for the newly formed Concert Series Committee. Spreading the work out ensures no one gets burned out and that we have more input. We are also looking for a couple of people from the community who would be interested in having a strong concert series in Santa Paula and willing to help us collaborate with other arts and music producers in town as well as the hospitality folks. Please give Rev. Maddie your ideas. We will be having a debriefing meeting in March after the A Call 2 Peace concert at a time Thursday, March 24 at 7 PM.

Concert Series: A Call 2 Peace

The next concert in our Santa Paula Concert Series is A Call 2 Peace. See the flyer elsewhere in this newsletter. You are highly encouraged to buy your tickets ahead of time by calling our church administrator, Christine Mount, at 805-525-4647 or come into the office during her office hours to pay for and pick up your print tickets. Her new office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9-1. You can also buy tickets from Rev. Maddie. Tickets are \$20, \$10 for children 12 and under and children 5 and under free. Help is also needed to produce this concert. Flyers to post are on the table in the Parish Hall. Please let Rev. Maddie know if you are able to help on the night of the concert.

People and Doings

Contributions to the Capital Fund Are Always Welcome

Thanks to the Capital Fund our doors are open, many programs are active in the church and we have outreach in the community. We are blessed with our new full time minister, Maddie Sifantus, who leads us in spirit, song and insight. Earnings contributed by the Capital Fund make up about half of our church budget to make these things possible.

The Marjorie Newlin Leaming Capital Fund was started over forty years ago to provide support for the continued long term life of this congregation. Members donated responding to annual contribution appeals. Some large bequests and wise investment of assets by the Fund Trustees inspired by Allan Atmore brought the Fund balance to its current level. We are the beneficiaries of the foresight and generosity of Marjorie and others throughout these forty years. The Groundhog Society was started several years ago to inspire and recognize those who include the MNL Capital Fund in their estate plans. Please consider the Fund as you prepare your will or trust. We can be part of the continuum to keep liberal thought and practice alive in this valley. It is clear that the next generation and those beyond will need to learn and practice the inherent worth and dignity of every person, 'justice, equity and compassion.'

Your contribution to the Capital Fund is a fitting memorial to past members and friends. Also, you can honor individuals of the congregation and community this way. A Dutch friend said "It is good to give with a warm hand." If you choose, these people will be acknowledged in the church newsletter noting that gifts were made to the Capital Fund in their memory or honor. Gifts of any amount will be gratefully received.

Your Capital Fund Committee:

Donna Hamer, Jerry Gray, Logan Hardison

Geno Palilla's Concert Recording

If you attended our wonderful concert on February 13th and heard Geno Palilla's concert, you may have noticed that it was being recorded. Volunteer Paul Ebert from Ojai recorded the concert and made copies for Geno and the church. There is one available to borrow. Many thanks to Geno for a wonderful concert and to Paul for capturing it for posterity. Ask Rev. Maddie if you want to borrow it.

People and Doings

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| <p>REV. MADDIE'S OFFICE HOURS</p> | <p>Rev. Maddie will be taking her first vacation of 2016 and will be out of town from March 7-14. During that time the Reverend Betty Stapleford will be covering for her, should there be an emergency.</p> <p>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.</p> |
| <p>CHRISTINE'S OFFICE HOURS</p> | <p>Please note that Christine has changed her office hours to Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. If you need to reach her outside of those hours, email her at uucspoffice@gmail.com or leave a message at 805 525-4647.</p> |
| <p>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</p> | <p>Please submit your March newsletter items to Christine at uucspoffice@gmail.com by Monday, <u>March 21</u>.</p> |
| <p>HINDSIGHT, HUMOR, AND HOPE WORKSHOP ON AGING Tuesday, March 1, 11:00 am</p> | <p>Workshop will be held in the Parish Hall. Bring a brown bag lunch.</p> |
| <p>MEDITATION PRACTICE GROUP Wednesday, March 2, 6:00 pm</p> | <p>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). For more information, leave a message on Reverend Maddie's private line at the church: 805-525-4620.</p> |
| <p>A CALL 2 PEACE CONCERT Saturday, March 5, 7:00 pm</p> | <p>A Call 2 Peace multimedia events, is a concert series started in 2002 with the purpose of utilizing the avenue of music and visual arts, to bring forth a simple message about Peace into local communities in the Southern California area, with the intention to expand its outreach to communities all over the USA. It features musicians Federico (Freddy) Ramos, Scarlet Rivera, Ron Wagner, and Eduardo del Signore. See flyer on page 9 for more information.</p> |
| <p>FIRST SUNDAY PLATE Sunday, March 6</p> | <p>Our first quarter First Sunday plate offerings will benefit Santa Clara Valley Hospice.</p> |
| <p>CLASSIC MOVIE NIGHT Friday, March 11, 7:00 pm</p> | <p>The Santa Paula Cinema Society presents <i>Billy Liar</i>. Admission is free. Bring your own snacks. See page 10 for more information.</p> |
| <p>CARING COMMITTEE Wednesday, March 16, 2:30 pm</p> | <p>Committee will meet in Minister's office.</p> |
| <p>MEDITATION PRACTICE GROUP Wednesday, March 16, 6:00 pm</p> | <p>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). For more information, leave a message on Reverend Maddie's private line at the church: 805-525-4620.</p> |
| <p>BOARD OF TRUSTEES Thursday, March 17, 6:30 pm</p> | <p>All members of the congregation are welcome to attend. Contact Board President MaryBeth East at 805-341-8809 if you have any questions.</p> |

People and Doings

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| STAFF MEETING Friday, March 18, 10:00 am | Staff will meet in Minister's office. |
| RE COMMITTEE MEETING Friday, March 18, 11:30 am | Committee will meet in Minister's office. |
| SOCIAL CONCERNS ACTION COMMITTEE Friday, March 18, 12:00 pm | Committee meets in the Parish Hall. Bring a brown bag lunch. |
| ARTS AND CRAFTS Saturday, March 19, 10:00 am – 12:00pm | <p>Scrapbook for beginners: We will do two pages for an album, the size will be 12 inches x 12 inches. Please bring 6 pictures, it can be more if you want, it doesn't matter if they are big or small, preferable with a similar theme. It could be friends, family or pets. The plan is to do a page layout with frames for the photos and stickers. For example, if you would like to bring a ticket for a concert you attended and pictures from the event. Anything that is special to you.</p> <p>Our host teacher for the class and scrapbooking wiz, Gemma (pronounced Hemma), will bring variety of 12x12 color pages, frames, stickers, markers, everything to make a couple of cute pages to save your pictures in scrapbook format. She will be bringing an album to show examples of the ones that she has done. Please RSVP to Delicia. As always, any donations are appreciated but not necessary. All donations will go to Gemma for teaching this class.</p> |
| WORSHIP COMMITTEE MTG Sunday, March 20, 12:00 pm | Committee will meet in Minister's office. |
| MARY A. LIVERMORE SOCIETY Thursday, March 24, 11:30 am | Mary A's will meet at our new location, Flight 126 Café. Mary A member and Ventura County Poet Laureate Doris Vernon will read selections of her work. |
| CONCERT COMMITTEE MEETING Thursday, March 24, 7:00 pm | The committee will meet in the Parish Hall. |
| DINNER & A MOVIE Friday, March 25 Potluck: 6:00 pm Film: 7:00 pm | The Social Concerns Action Committee will show the film, "Visions of Aztlan," a documentary giving the rise of the Chicano art movement and its significance in the 60's and today. |
| AD HOC CHOIR Sunday, March 27, 9:45 am | Please let Rev. Maddie know if you are interested in singing in the Ad Hoc Choir on Easter Sunday. It is important to let her know you are singing so that she has music for you. |
| CASP FOOD DRIVE Sunday, March 27 | 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. |
| MEDITATION PRACTICE GROUP Wednesday, March 30, 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). For more information, leave a message on Reverend Maddie's private line at the church: 805-525-4620. |
| SAVE THE DATE PSWD DISTRICT ASSEMBLY April 29 – 30 Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara 1535 Santa Barbara Street, Santa Barbara, CA | Registration is open. Go to http://www.pswduua.org/events/district-assembly/ . District Assembly is an opportunity to connect and enjoy time with hundreds of Unitarian Universalists coming together. There will be worship, workshops, bridging, annual business meeting, and inspiration from our keynote speaker, the Reverend Rosemary Bray-McNatt. President of Starr King School for the Ministry. Her speech will be titled "What's in the wind?" See flyer on page 11 for additional information. |

SANTA PAULA CONCERT SERIES
PRESENTS

A CALL 2 PEACE 2016



An Evening of World Music for Peace
Performed by
Federico Ramos, Scarlett Rivera, Ron Wagner &
Eduardo Del Signore

Saturday, March 5th at 7:00 p.m.

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

Donation \$20.00 at the door
Artist Reception to Follow

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

People and Doings



Billy Liar



The British New Wave films of the late 1950s through the late '60s are notable for their sympathy for working class situations and, depending on the film, a smaller or larger dose of gritty realism. Among the top films in the briefly explored “kitchen sink” genre are “Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner” (1962), “Room at the Top” (1958), “This Sporting Life” (1963), and this film, also from 1963. The most comic of the lot, in “Billy Liar” Tom Courtenay (seen in the current release “45 Years” with Charlotte Rampling) plays Billy Fisher, a young man with a huge imagination, and little to show for it. His dreary urban northern England home is a place where big ideas and couple of bob gets you a cup of weak tea served with a heaping side of scorn. Billy escapes from this oppressive existence entirely through flights of fancy, in the film a series of vividly-rendered fantasy scenes, and generally putting on his friends and family in real life. Based on a novel by Keith Waterhouse, which in turn owed its main theme to the Thurber short story “The Secret Life of Walter Mitty,” the question in both is whether our hero will ever have the courage to act on his imagination. He is tempted by his friend Liz (Julie Christie) to bolt to a new life in London—but will he? Directed by the sturdy John Schlesinger in the widescreen black-and-white format favored by the British New Wave.

FRIDAY MARCH 11, 2016, 7:00 PM

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

ADMISSION FREE

Bring your own snacks (or to share)!

People and Doings

Pacific SouthWest District of the Unitarian Universalist Association
and Camp de Benneville Pines

2016 District Assembly & Annual Meeting



Draw the Circle Wider:
The Prophethood
of All Believers

April 29th @ 7pm
& April 30th 'til 5:30pm

Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara
1535 Santa Barbara Street
Santa Barbara CA 93101

* Reception * Vendors * Opening Celebration * Worship * Banner Parade *
* Keynote Address by Rev Rosemary Bray-McNatt * Youth Caucus *
* Workshops * Bridging Ceremony * Awards * Annual Meetings *

Registration opens online February 15th

March 2016

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|----------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| | | 1 Aging Workshop, 11 am | 2 Meditation Practice Group, 6 pm | 3 | 4 | 5 Concert, 7pm |
| 6 First Sunday Plate | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 Classic Movie Night, 7 pm | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 Caring Comm., 2:30 pm Meditation Practice Group, 6 pm | 17 Board Mtg 6:30 pm | 18 Staff Mtg, 10:00 am RE Comm., 11:30 am S.C.A.C. 12 pm | 19 Arts & Crafts, 10 am |
| 20 Worship Comm. Mtg, 12 pm | 21 <u>Newsletter Deadline</u> | 22 | 23 | 24 Mary A's 11:30 am | 25 Dinner & a Movie, Potluck 6 pm Film 7 pm | 26 |
| 27 Ad Hoc Choir, 9:45am CASP | 28 | 29 | 30 Meditation Practice Group, 6 pm | 31 | | |

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Dated Material
 Time Value