



# Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula

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

## JUNE 2016 SERVICES, SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM



### JUNE 5

“Stopping for Blackberries, a Grasshopper and the Odd Flower” Flower Communion

Rev. Maddie with CJ Starling

Unitarian minister Norbert Capek created the first flower communion for his congregation in Czechoslovakia in 1923. It is traditional for us to have our version of this service, where each of us brings a flower to share, and we go home with a different one. We will recognize Christine Mount during this service.

*First Sunday Plate to CAUSE*

### JUNE 12

“Circle of Friends”, Rev. Maddie & Jerry Gray

"A circle of friends is a ring of trust." A consideration of the meaning of friendship in our lives, from church friends to life-long friends to saying good bye to a friend. Special music by Chris and Lorin Rowan, including Lorin's song "Circle of Friends."

### JUNE 19

“Our Fathers”, Rev. Maddie & Donna Hamer

For many of us, Father's Day is the unofficial kick off to summer. Rev. Maddie considers fathers on the third Sunday in June, the day that most countries around the world celebrate fatherhood, paternal bonds and the influence of our fathers. We will have special music for this Sunday that moves us into the summer months.

### JUNE 26

“Poetry Sunday”, Kate English & Mary Nelson

Once again we'll engage in a day of exchanging feelings and ideas with each other through poetry and music. This is a chance for members and friends of the congregation to share evocative, eloquent, humorous, and passionate emotions or feelings through a favorite poem or song.

*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

Here we are arriving at June and the lengthening, sun filled days when we all hope to take a slower pace for a couple of months. I have started to pay some attention to the garden and my yard at my home, as I know some of you have. I hope you will bring a flower to share from your garden or the roadside to our service on June 5 when we will have our traditional flower communion. That same day we will be thanking Christine Mount for her service as Office Manager as she leaves us to spend more time with her family. However, the work of the church continues and we are welcoming Santa Paula resident Krystal Johnson as our Church Administrator. We thank Christine for training her as she comes on board...and we hope Christine and family come to events or services at the church now that it isn't her job! I will miss her, as I know we all will.

I wonder what you are doing this summer. If you are traveling, I hope you will remember to bring back a small amount of water to share in our first service of the fall in our ingathering Water Communion on September 11, the "Gathering of the Waters", a ceremony also shared by many Unitarian Universalist congregations across the continent. Perhaps you may wish to visit another UU congregation in your travels, bringing back to us ideas of how other UUs do things. My personal plans do not include Ministry Days and the UUA General Assembly in Columbus, Ohio this year but I will be watching some of it streaming online which you can as well. I will definitely be going to the 2017 GA in New Orleans! I leave for two weeks of vacation and two weeks of study leave back East on June 20<sup>th</sup>. I am performing with my band TVS in a house concert, with my accordion player at an Assisted Living facility and officiating at two weddings. I will be seeing the Red Sox play the White Sox at Fenway Park in my brother's awesome seats near the Red Sox dugout. I will be spending as many days as possible with friends in New Hampshire, while there, leading worship two Sunday mornings at the Sandy Island YMCA Family Camp in the middle of Lake Winnepesaukee. During my study leave I will be planning and reading for the next church year as well as studying Universalism in Maine where our founders of this congregation moved from in the late 1800s. I am leading worship at the Universalist Church of Pittsfield Maine on July 10. They have the identical pulpit to ours and I look forward to seeing their historic building, parts of which date to 1857. I will be visiting some UU historians who summer in Maine and learning more about our Mainer roots.

In between all that, I hope to restoke the engines and have some down time. I wish the same for you.

On the path of our faith,  
Reverend Maddie Sifantus

## Message from the Board President

On May 22, we held an informational congregational meeting to announce the path the Board will be taking to address the difference in our incorporated name with the state of California and the one we adopted and list in our bylaws which read: "The church shall be known as the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula; incorporated as the First Universalist Parish of Santa Paula, California". We will be filing a fictitious name record with the county and then posting that name in the paper. This will be the public record needed to present to the bank to align our official name with the bank records.

As we move into the summer months, I hope you all have a great summer and we continue to see you in church. The Board will be holding their annual retreat on July 30, so if you have any items or ideas you would like us to consider in our planning, please let me know.

Please consider helping out on a Sunday morning by offering to be a greeter, usher or chalice lighter. For activities requiring a bit more planning, sign up for Coffee Hour or provide flowers for the altar. Thank you to all who work behind the scenes to make our church a welcoming, vibrant place.

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

In wonder and gratitude,  
MaryBeth East

## News from Among Us

- ❖ 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 21<sup>st</sup> of every month.
- ❖ Our thoughts are with the family and friends of Shirley Atkins, especially her daughter Lottie Patten. Shirley died in May after a period of ill health and a short stay in Community Memorial Hospital. Rev. Maddie led a Time of Remembrance of the Life of Shirley Marie Atkins (February 19, 1923 – May 14, 2016) at the meeting of the Mary A's on May 26 using some of Shirley's writings. Cards may be sent to Lottie at 1611 Muirfield Drive, Oxnard, CA 93036.
- ❖ We are sad that our Office Manager Christine Mount has resigned but glad that she will have more time with her daughter Brennan and her husband Joel. She will be much missed by all. We will be recognizing her time with us during the Flower Communion Service on June 5th.
- ❖ Steve Lattimore had successful surgery for a knee replacement and is recovering well. He will not be able to drive for six weeks. We wish him a quick recovery and that he doesn't go too stir crazy!

## Message from the RE Coordinator

*This year our church had its first Maypole! Reverend Maddie led the congregation in a song as the children held a ribbon in their hand and walked in circles around the Maypole. Here is a picture of the Maypole before the celebration began. To watch some*



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### **Camp Wannago!**

*We had a great time at our annual fundraising event to help raise money to send our youth to Camp de Benneville Pines. Participants enjoyed painting rocks while the children created snakes out of ropes and lightsabers that glowed in the dark. After a delicious spaghetti dinner, we gathered around the campfire to sing campfire songs and roast marshmallows. Thank you so very much to all of you who donated money to this cause.*



4-ever learning,  
Ruth Ricards  
RE Coordinator



# People and Doings

## First Sunday Plate Recipient for Second Quarter

Our First Sunday offerings the second quarter of 2016 will benefit CAUSE, Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy, which now has an office in Santa Paula. CAUSE's two big projects this year are 1) to get out the vote and 2) the Farm Worker Bill of Rights, a campaign using the powers of local governments to curb the labor abuses like wage theft experienced by far too many workers in the fields.

## Flower Communion

Please remember to bring a flower on Sunday, June 5, to share in our traditional annual Flower Communion. It can be a flower from your garden or from a store. We will collect all the flowers together in vases and you will go home with a different flower than the one you came with.

## Santa Paula Concert Series



Stay in Santa Paula the weekend of June 11 and 12 for wonderful music! Our Santa Paula Concert Series will present the *Rowan Brothers* on Saturday, June 11th at 7:00 PM. Then on Sunday evening attend the Party Jam Session, a free event presented by the Ojai Music Festival and the Santa Paula Chamber of Commerce.

The Rowan Brothers are singer-songwriters Chris and Lorin Rowan. The Rowans perform their own music and Acoustic roots/Americana with a splash of Bluegrass. Their most recent CD is "Now and Then." Both record and perform on their own and with others. Their trademarks are tight harmonies and haunting melodies underscored by crisp guitar and mandolin. With their older brother Peter Rowan, they have also recorded several albums including "Sibling Rivalry", "Tree

on a Hill" and "Crazy People". Lorin's song "Soldier of the Cross" is the title track of country artist Ricky Skaggs' Grammy winning CD. Their CDs will be available at the artist's reception following the concert.

The Rowans are longtime musical collaborators with Rev. Maddie. In 2007 she toured the West Coast of Ireland with them, performing in pubs. She will join them on several songs. The next morning after the concert, June 12<sup>th</sup>, they will provide the music at 10:30 AM, as she presents a worship service based on Lorin's song "Circle of Friends" about the importance of friendship. [www.rowanbrothers.com](http://www.rowanbrothers.com). Please let Rev. Maddie know if you can help with this exciting concert and its reception coordinated by Ruth Ricards.

## Ad Hoc Choir for June 19

Rev. Maddie occasionally convenes what she calls an "Ad Hoc Choir" to perform an anthem or special song during our worship services. All are invited to sing—after all her motto is the West African proverb "If you can walk you can dance, if you can talk you can sing." She is planning special music for June 19th. Please let her know that you are interested in singing and when you are available to rehearse. She is hoping to have two rehearsals before the Sunday morning rehearsal on June 19th. Singers from the community are welcome to join us.

## Introducing Krystal Johnson

Please make welcome our new Office Administrator, Krystal Johnson. She is replacing Christine Mount who is moving on to spend more time with her family. Please be patient during the learning curve as Krystal comes on board and Rev. Maddie and Krystal create the way they will be working together. Stay tuned to see if the Office Hours will change. If you are in the building during office hours, come downstairs and introduce yourself.

In 2005 Krystal and her husband, Eric, moved back into her family home here in Santa Paula, from Palmdale, to care for her ailing mother who passed away a year later. Over the years she has been everything from an employee of the Deluxe Corporation in Lancaster to a housekeeper/dining service/wrangler for the Ucross Guest Ranch in Wyoming! Most recently she has been busy caring for her nephew and niece. Now they are in school and she has time for a flexible position like ours during their school day. Welcome aboard Krystal!

# People and Doings

## Flowers for The Pulpit

Did you know that you can sign up for a Sunday to provide "Flowers for the Pulpit"? We used to have to commit to a whole month of flowers but we soon learned that was too much for many of us. Now you can sign up for just one Sunday, kind of like Coffee Hour. In fact, the sign up for "Flowers for the Pulpit" is on the same sign-up sheet for Coffee Hour. It is nice because if you want to celebrate a special occasion such as a birthday or anniversary or if you want to remember the loss of a loved one, you can do so in flowers. Honor the milestones in your life which will in turn help decorate the pulpit for our Sunday morning services. We would like to thank MaryBeth for purchasing a silk flower arrangement that can be used in the event no one signs up.

## Visions of Aztlan

The Social Concerns Action Committee plans to gift the Blanchard Library with our copy of, *Visions of Aztlan*, an exploration of the flowering of the Chicano Art Movement, rooted in the 1960's. If you are interested in seeing this film, sign up in the Parish Hall to borrow it before it travels to the library. We also have most of the documentaries we have screened in our series. We invite you to look them over and check out any you may have missed. -M. Wilson

## All Church Read – Get Reading for July 24<sup>th</sup>!

*We will ultimately not be judged by our technology, we won't be judged by our design, we won't be judged by our intellect and reason. Ultimately, you judge the character of a society . . . by how they treat the poor, the condemned, the incarcerated.* – Bryan Stevenson

A Common Read invites participants to read and discuss the same book in a given period of time. A Common Read can build community in our congregations and our movement by giving diverse people a shared experience, shared language, and a basis for deep, meaningful conversations. Each year's Common Read is chosen by a committee including both headquarters and field staff of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). We are planning to discuss it after Coffee Hour on Sunday, July 24. There are two copies of the book on the shelves in the Parish Hall. If you want your own copy, it is available at the regular outlets and the UUA Bookstore which you can access online from [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org).

*Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson (2014, Spiegel & Grau, an imprint of Random House) is this year's selection. Stevenson, founder of the Equal Justice Initiative, has dedicated his legal career to defending those who are trapped by an often capricious, political, and willfully unjust criminal justice system - poor people, people of color, children, and others over whom the system has run roughshod. It speaks to justice, mercy, and compassion, themes of concern to us as Unitarian Universalists and as human beings. It follows on our recent All Church Read, *The New Jim Crow*.

## Hindsight, Humor and Hope - HHH

As part of our initiative looking at aging and related issues, Rev. Maddie has been offering two groups of a six-part series, *Hindsight, Humor and Hope*. The first group's final meeting will be on Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup> from 11:00AM to 1:00 PM. The second group had its first meeting in May. Please let Rev. Maddie know if you wish to join the second session. It will be closed to new members after the second meeting which is Thursday, June 16. This group meets the third Thursday from now through October from Noon to 2 PM. Members to both groups should bring brown bag lunch. The remaining workshops cover the following:

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

## Save Your Water!

As is our tradition, we will be kicking off the Fall with a Water Communion, a Gathering of the Waters, on Sunday, September 11 led by Rev. Maddie. We ask that you bring a small amount of water from whatever source is meaningful to you, either from the environs of Santa Paula or from your summer travels. The combined water from our shared sources will be used in part to water some of our thirsty plants here on the Church grounds and sterilized for use in any future Baby Dedications.

# People and Doings

## Meditation Practice Group

Our Meditation Group, the Silent Pause, is led by Rev. Maddie Sifantus in the Parish Hall. We will be meeting in June on Wednesdays, June 1 and 15 at 6:00 PM in the Parish Hall led by Rev. Maddie Sifantus. Due to her vacation, there will be one sitting in July on Wednesday, July 20. In August there will be sittings on Wednesdays, August 3 and 17. 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 on Reverend Maddie's private line at the church: 805-525-4620.

## Soaring Hearts Yoga

Members and friends of the congregation are invited to attend yoga in our Parish Hall led by Lisa Hammond on Tuesdays and Thursdays 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](mailto:soaringheartsyoga@gmail.com).



## Classic Movie Night

**SANTA PAULA CINEMA SOCIETY**

PRESENTS

The mystery in this film will be no mystery at all, to the viewers. We are introduced from nearly the start to the psychopathic killer of children, portrayed by Peter Lorre, in the role that would define his career. Yet Lorre's character is only a bit player in this story, which is centered on those who would hunt him down and bring him to justice. They are portrayed by director Fritz Lang as nearly as grimy and twice as cynical as the pathetic, self-loathing killer himself. The dark message is difficult to miss. Lang's vision of German society in the early 1930s remains shocking to us today, even with the knowledge of what came later. Not always an easy film to watch, but well worth the effort. Of the many versions of this film made (including dubbed in English and completely reshot French), the one we will see is the nearly original subtitled German restoration released by Criterion in 2000. (1931, 1:49)

**JUNE 10 2016**

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



SANTA PAULA CONCERT SERIES  
PRESENTS

**THE ROWAN BROTHERS**



Join Us for an Evening of Acoustic Roots Music with a Dash of Americana & Bluegrass, Along with Chris and Lorin Rowan's Trademark Tight Harmonies and Haunting Melodies Underscored by Crisp Guitar and Mandolin.

**Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.**

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**Donation \$20.00 Children 12 & Under \$10.00  
Free for Children 5 and Under**

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



# People and Doings

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 <a href="mailto:msifantus@uuma.org">msifantus@uuma.org</a> .
PASTORAL COVERAGE IN REV. MADDIE'S ABSENCE.	Rev. Maddie will be leaving for vacation and study leave on Monday, June 20th, returning July 19th. The remaining days of her vacation and study leave will be in the fall. Should an emergency arise during the time she is away, please leave a message on the church office phone, 805-525-4647. Should it be between our Administrator's days in the office, please call congregation president MaryBeth East at 805-341-8809.
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	Please submit your July newsletter items to Krystal/Christine at <a href="mailto:uucspoffice@gmail.com">uucspoffice@gmail.com</a> by <u>June 21</u> .
MEDITATION PRACTICE GROUP Wednesday, June 1, 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.
CRUISE NIGHT Friday, June 3, 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Rev. Maddie and Ken Stock will be in attendance at a table in front of the church, having brochures about our church and Unitarian Universalism. Drop by or spend some time with Maddie and Ken between 5-7 PM.
FLOWER COMMUNION Sunday, June 5	Please bring a flower for the flower communion. It can be a flower from your garden or from a store. We will collect all the flowers together in vases and you will go home with a different flower than the one you came with.
AD HOC CHOIR Sunday, June 5, After Coffee Hour	Choir will meet in the Sanctuary
FIRST SUNDAY PLATE Sunday, June 5	Our second quarter First Sunday plate offerings will benefit CAUSE.
HINDSIGHT, HUMOR, AND HOPE <b>GROUP 1</b> Thursday, June 9, 11:00 am	Workshop will be held in the Parish Hall. Bring a brown bag lunch.
RE COMMITTEE MEETING Friday, June 10, 11:30 am	Committee will meet in Minister's office.
CLASSIC MOVIE NIGHT Friday, June 10, 7:00 pm	The Santa Paula Cinema Society presents "M". Admission is free. Bring your own snacks.
SANTA PAULA CONCERT SERIES PRESENTS: THE ROWAN BROS. Saturday, June 11, 7:00 pm	Stay in Santa Paula the weekend of June 11 and 12 for wonderful music! Our Santa Paula Concert Series will present the <i>Rowan Brothers</i> . The Rowans perform their own music and Acoustic roots/Americana with a splash of Bluegrass. On Sunday evening attend the Party Jam Session, a free event presented by the Ojai Music Festival and the Santa Paula Chamber of Commerce.
RE OPEN HOUSE Sunday, June 12 Following Sunday Service	The Religious Education program would like to invite you to join us downstairs to see what the RE children and youth have been working on all year. You will also get a chance to see the new pretend kitchen set and toys that were donated by Jason Johnson. Coffee and refreshments will be served in RE. If you are unable to go downstairs, please let us know and we will prepare a plate for you.
AD HOC CHOIR Sunday, June 12, After Coffee Hour	Choir will meet in the Sanctuary

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# People and Doings

CARING COMMITTEE Wednesday, June 15, 2:00 pm	Committee will meet in Minister's office.
MEDITATION PRACTICE GROUP Wednesday, June 15, 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.
HINDSIGHT, HUMOR, AND HOPE <b>GROUP 2</b> Thursday, June 16, 12:00 pm	The second workshop for Group 2 will be held in the Parish Hall. The group will be closed to new members after this session. Bring a brown bag lunch.
BOARD OF TRUSTEES Thursday, June 16, 6:30 pm	All members of the congregation are welcome to attend. Contact Board President MaryBeth East at 805-341-8809 if you have any questions.
STAFF MEETING Friday, June 17, 10:00 am	Staff will meet in Minister's office.
SOCIAL CONCERNS ACTION COMMITTEE MEETING Friday, June 17, 12:00 pm	Committee will meet in the Parish Hall. Bring a brown bag lunch, tea provided.
WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING Sunday, June 19, 12:00 pm	Committee will meet in Minister's office.
MARY A. LIVERMORE SOCIETY Thursday, June 23, 11:30 am	Mary A's will meet at our new location, Flight 126 Café.
DINNER & A MOVIE Friday, June 24 Potluck: 5:45 pm (new time) Film: 7:00 pm	<b><i>In Plain Sight, Stories of Hope and Freedom</i></b> , executive produced by Natalie Grant, features six modern-day abolitionists as they take on sex trafficking in the U.S. See trailer: <a href="http://www.inplainsightfilm.com">www.inplainsightfilm.com</a> . A copy of the press release for this film is located on the table in the Parish Hall.
CASP FOOD DRIVE Sunday, June 26	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.
SAVE THE DATE Yvon's Baby Shower Sunday, July 31 Following Coffee Hour	Please join us on July 31 for a Baby Shower for Yvon Ortega in the Parish Hall immediately following Coffee Hour. Dessert will be served and we will play some games and watch Yvon open gifts. We asked Yvon what she needed and she picked out a stroller that comes with all the bells and whistles for the little one. Anyone interested in contributing money towards the stroller, please contact Ruth Ricards, or if you prefer, you can bring your own gift. An e-vite will be sent out soon. If you do not receive an e-vite, please let Ruth know and she will add your name to the list.

# June 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Meditation Practice Group, 6 pm	2	3 Cruise Night, 5pm	4
5 First Sunday Plate Ad Hoc Choir, After Coffee Hour	6	7	8	9 HHH Grp 1 11 am	10 RE Comm., 11:30am Classic Movie Night, 7 pm	11 Rowans Bros. Concert, 7pm
12 RE Open House Ad Hoc Choir, After Coffee Hour	13	14	15 Caring Comm. 2:00 pm Meditation Practice Group, 6 pm	16 HHH Grp 2, 12pm Board Meeting 6:30 pm	17 Staff Mtg, 10:00 am SCAC, 12pm	18
19 Worship Comm., 12pm Father's Day	20	21 <u>Newsletter Deadline</u>	22	23 Mary A's 11:30 am	24 Dinner & a Movie, Potluck 5:45 pm Film 7 pm	25
26 CASP	27	28	29	30		

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*Dated Material  
Time Value*