



Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula

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

DECEMBER 2019 SERVICES, SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM



DECEMBER THEME: Compassion

Compassion is a significant part of our second principal. Compassion comes from two Latin roots: com meaning “together” and pati meaning “to suffer.” It is part of a continuum that begins with sympathy—feeling pity for—and moves to empathy—feeling with. We are born with a disposition toward compassion, but it is a disposition that must be cultivated and deepened.

December 1 The Practice of Compassion

Rev. Maddie, Karen Harris

Compassion is a key element in our second principle, “Justice, equity and compassion in human relations,” as well as our second source, “Words and deeds of prophetic people which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love.” Many who come to Unitarian Universalism do so because they find “like-minded” people, religious liberals in an illiberal world. The bigger challenge of our faith is for us to become “like-hearted.” Compassion is an essential element in this faith journey. First Sunday of Advent.

December 8 Back to Junior High

Michael Eselun, Pat English

Oncology chaplain and popular guest speaker, Michael Eselun will share some deeply personal reflections about junior high school-- a pivotal and often painful time that leaves indelible memories for many of us. In dialogue with some of those 13-year-old's perceptions, what might be discovered about inherent worth, dignity and compassion? Second Day of Advent

*Tuesday, December 10 at 7 PM Gathering

Rev. Maddie, Geno, Christine

This is a reflective time in our busy week to hear some beautiful music, share some silence and hear spoken word. Music of the season will be provided by our friends Christine Snipes Mazor, violin and Geno Palilla, piano with Maddie Sifantus, soprano. Original poetry by Atul Ranchod.

December 15 Light Bearers: Multigenerational Service

Rev. Maddie, Ken Stock

We bear light in this season of Darkness with ritual, humor and compassion. Santa Lucia procession. Our choir sings. Third day of Advent

*Saturday, December 21 Winter Solstice

Rev. Maddie

Cultures around the world mark the Winter Solstice and end-of-year holidays in different ways. We mark the longest night of the year with a Celebration of the Darkness and the Light with songs, stories and ritual.

December 22 Mary Had a Baby

Rev. Maddie, Betty Stapleford

The service this Sunday is an exploration of the season in word and song through African American spirituals including Mary Had a Baby, Children Go Where I Send Thee, Rise Up Shepherd and Follow, and Go Tell It On the Mountain. Historical background of each spiritual will be given and how the historical context shaped the ways the spirituals developed. Hanukkah begins at Sundown Fourth Day of Advent

Tuesday, December 24 at 5 PM Christmas Eve Service

Rev. Maddie, Erik Halseth

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 29 Our Moral North Star

Erik Halseth, MaryBeth East

As Unitarian Universalists, we have 7 Principles and 6 Sources that suggest an ethical way of being. But what of our moral grounding? From where can we find guidance in this given our non-creedal faith. Where is our moral North Star?


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to practice inclusiveness, seek justice and foster spirituality.

Message from the Minister

There is a little Christmas hymn in our hymnal *Singing the Living Tradition* that sings “Let Christmas come, its story told, when days are short and winds are cold; let Christmas come, its lovely song, when evening’s soon and night is long.” I sometimes wonder how it would be to live in the Southern Hemisphere when the days at Christmas are the longest days of the year and visions of snow and sleigh bells far out of mind, except in the imported songs of Frosty and Rudolph. Whether they too have advertisements about the far away college student returning home in the dark of the early morning through snow and bad weather to brew coffee, with the intoxicating aroma wafting up the stairs to wake his loved ones. But we here inherited the Northern European traditions, and so we look to the holiday lights to brighten these longest nights and some wish for a White Christmas, even if you have to drive to the mountains to find one. At this time of year, we return to the ancient stories of a child born long ago who changed the world and our very own stories of holidays, those that warm us down to our tippy toes and those that shiver our timbers. Most of us have both. The ancient story told, filtered through many lenses with all our own stories added in.

I hope we can look to our community to help bring the “comfort and joy” of the ancient carols to each other, that we can share our stories with each other, and that we can sing a Carol or two as we end this year together and move towards the longer days and the promise of the new one. I hope as we give and receive gifts wrapped up in ribbons and bows that we think of those gifts we can give to each other of time, open hearts, and love born again.

For those of us with newly smaller families or with friends and family members far flung, may we make new traditions and stories to Welcome Yule. And if we are blessed to have our families gather around us, may we be grateful and not worry about the wrappings and crumbs strewn about or hosting the perfect celebration. Let Christmas Come and let us remember the simplicity of the story of a new birth and new light.



**May Christmas come, with love and
blessings to you and yours,**

Reverend Maddie

**Merry
Christmas!**

Message from the Minister



In Community - by Rev. Betty Stapleford, your UUCSP Affiliate Community Minister for Social Justice

In these times it is easy to become discouraged with all the terrible things that are happening to marginalized people, particularly people of color, in our country and the world. We can fall into the trap of feeling that it is hopeless and that there is nothing we can do. I know some of you have heard me quote Edward Everett Hale on this topic many times. But at the risk of being redundant, I would like for you to see the words in print.

Hale, a Unitarian minister in the 19th. Century, was quoted by many people, including Helen Keller, Martin Luther King, Jr, and Barack Obama, in their own ways. But in our UU hymnal, his words are remembered as:

"I am only one, but still I am one.

I cannot do everything, but still I
can do something.

And because I cannot do everything,
I will not refuse to do the something
that I can do."

So, what can we do? It is a question that I hear a lot. And I would like to give you at least some things you and I can do about social justice issues that we hear about. Below you will find some suggestions for how to get involved.

1. Educate yourself about what is really going on by reading books and articles, going to public forums, and listening to podcasts.
2. Share discussions with knowledgeable groups and individuals at UUCSP and other places.
3. Vote!
4. Write and/or call your state and national legislators when you feel strongly about some issues and join with others to do that regularly.
5. Write strong and reasoned articles and letters to the editor of your local newspaper.
6. Vote!
7. Join public actions to support important justice issues in your community, your county, and your state and work with people who are in need.
8. Donate to organizations that stand for the same things you do and who put their values into action. Some of those Unitarian Universalist organizations would be the UU Service Committee, the UU College of Social Justice, and the UU Justice Ministry of California.
9. Vote!

And if you want more ideas, let's talk! Social Justice is my passion and my salvation.

Blessings, Rev. Betty



Message from the Board of Trustees

In looking over the past couple of months of board agendas I notice that we have been discussing quite a few different issues. We are monitoring the hearing devices and considering upgrading them. We discuss what our landscaping plan needs to include. We consider how much all the various programs cost and what their income and impact is. Do we need smoke alarms upstairs and what about security devices in general? Should we hire someone to fix all the little things that need attention, and do we call that person a “handyman”? What would we include in possible Welcome Baskets that the Chamber will pass out to new residents at the Harvest? Are we required to collect sales tax when we sell a product? Why would we want to avoid supporting the State with our tax money? What is the difference between Mission and Vision again? Not only that but we consider Faith Formation. We monitor the decorating committee’s progress in repairing furniture and work on repairing damage to our stained-glass window and covering them with Lexan to preserve them into the future. What are we going to do about disasters? It is not IF but WHEN difficult things happen, and we need to prepare for just about any event. Should we continue to rely on portable fans in warm months or look into basement swamp coolers? What about that idea for a glass case signboard on the east wall to better inform the public about our events? Dunbar Realty moved and who is our new neighbor on the east and does our neighbor on the west have any concerns we should address. This is a partial list. Would you like me to go on? Ask any board members for their perspective on any event or issue affecting the church or our larger community. We all have a lot to talk about as we move forward doing a lot also.

Yours, etc., *John Nichols*



The Board of Trustees has authorized the Decorating Committee to accept or decline donations of artwork or furnishings to the church. If you’d like more information, please contact Jyl Atmore.



ANNUAL NOTICE OF MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS FOR THE UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF SANTA PAULA

From our Bylaws, Article III – Membership:

- A. Any Person who is in sympathy with the purpose and program of this church may become a member by signing the membership book, subject to acceptance by a majority vote of the Board of Trustees or the members present at any legal meeting of the congregation.
- B. Membership in this church shall be open to all persons 13 years of age or older without regard to race, color, gender, national origin, physical or mental challenges, sexual orientation, or gender identification.
- C. Once a person has been accepted as a member, membership rights shall continue as long as s/he indicates, when asked, the intention to continue as a member, and makes identifiable financial or service contributions.

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Faith Formation

PLANNING FOR OUR CHILDREN

The experimentation with our faith formation/religious education for our children and youth continues. We need input from all our members and volunteers who are willing to lead or assist in leading a Sunday, several Sundays or a month of Sundays along with Yvette Sanchez. Rev. Maddie is helping provide structure of the Sundays that the children go downstairs. Here is the volunteer schedule for December as of the Newsletter Deadline:

December 1	Ruth Ricards	(Maddie in pulpit)
December 8	?	(Michael Eselun in pulpit)
December 15	<i>Multigenerational Service</i>	
December 22	?	(Maddie in pulpit)
December 29	?	(Erik Halseth in pulpit)



Our children, youth and adults are invited to join our friends of UU Ventura on a field trip to the Trains! For more information, be in touch with Ken Stock.



Holiday Train Exhibit at Clock Tower in Santa Paula

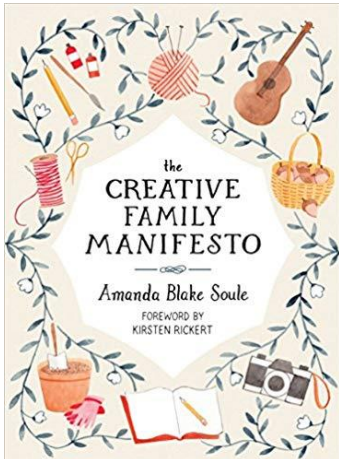


4pm Sunday, December 8th
Admission: 4 & under free, 5-12 is \$2, and 13 & up is \$4
Odd Fellows Clock Tower
868 E. Main St. in Santa Paula.

See you there!



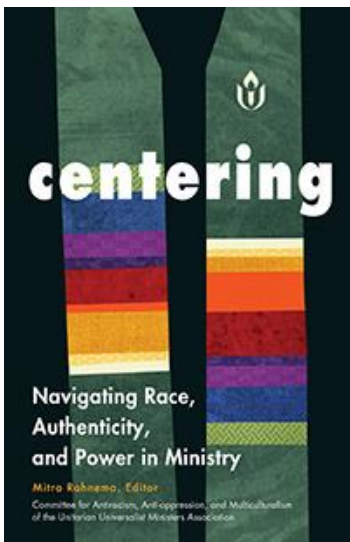
Faith Formation



WHAT THE PASTOR IS READING

Somewhere in my travels I picked up the latest book I have been reading, “The Creative Family Manifesto” by Amanda Blake Soule. It has brought back many memories of how I raised my son Nigel, way back to when I was raised as the oldest of four siblings by my parents who were themselves raised by two immigrant families. My parents came of age during the depression and spent their younger years in families struggling to get a toe hold in their new country...which meant that they needed to be creative about their activities and free time in the days before television and the early days even of radio. Day to day creativity wasn’t a choice but just a way of living. As we go into the holiday season, I remember how we made our own decorations, from stringing cranberries and

popcorn, making red and gold construction paper chains and gathering greens from the woods to decorate our fireplace mantle and front door. And we rolled our own Christmas cookies from the family recipe, frosting them in red, green and white and decorating them with sprinkles and non-pareils. We made each other presents and our entertainments were putting on plays in the basement with old sheets as the stage curtains and singing Carols in the parlor and the neighborhood. I don’t think it is just nostalgia that makes me think that those days were more fun than shopping for decorations at Big Lots. Soule’s book is chock full of ideas for how to spend time with your children and grandchildren that make me smile. These days in our consumerist world, it seems darn counter-cultural!



The challenges, the call, and the opportunity of this moment in Unitarian Universalism and in the broader US American society are compelling.

Unitarian Universalists must be prepared and willing to look inward, examining, exploring, and acting to dismantle white supremacy culture in our association, in our congregations and groups, and in ourselves. At the same time, we must be prepared and willing to look outward and act to lift up Unitarian Universalist values in the political and civic challenges of our time. Rev. Maddie will be leading a three part workshop this church year based on the former UUA Common Read book: *Centering: Navigating Race, Authenticity, and Power in Ministry*, edited by Mitra Rahnema (Skinner House, 2017), centers the stories, analysis, and insights of a number of Unitarian Universalist religious leaders of color as they explore how racial identity is made both visible and invisible in Unitarian Universalist communities. She has ordered several copies of the book which are available to borrow, or you can order your own from the UUA Bookstore. The next two meetings will be on January 12, and February 16 after coffee hour in her office.

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Faith Formation

YOUTH AND CHILDREN PUBLIC WITNESS

The vision for this entry **"What It Feels Like to Be Free!" at the Santa Paula Christmas parade** is to involve at least 40 youth and children carrying 40 hand-painted bags (luminarias) made with expressions of hope, distress, anger and freedom in dedication to the thousands of children imprisoned, caged and separated at the border and numerous ICE detention centers.

Andrea Vargas is recruiting local youth and adults to walk in the Santa Paula Christmas parade, Sat. November 30, and carry the luminarias (using battery-operated candles). The bags will feature art created by youth and community members.

You are invited to participate and meet at the Gazebo at Mill Street & Santa Barbara Street in Santa Paula at 3:30pm on Saturday November 30th.

Andrea asks participants to please wear black pants or dress and primary color shirts/jackets or sweaters.

Please text Andrea your name if you are willing to participate and also complete the registration form linked below.

Andrea Vargas cell 805-218-7599

**Meet at 3:30pm at the Gazebo at the corner of Mill & Santa Barbara streets
- Santa Paula**

Parade begins at 5pm

About Andrea:

Andrea Vargas is a past Director and Curator of the Santa Paula Art Museum De Colores exhibition. She completed a BA Degree in Art In Public Discourse at UC Berkeley. Andrea has strong community roots in Santa Paula and a recent resident of the community. She presently resides in Santa Fe, NM.



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GATHERING*



*DEFINITION OF GATHERING

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

December 10, 2019 at 7:00 PM

You are invited to our Gathering for sound, silence and word as the sun goes down.

Led by Maddie Sifantus with violinist Christine Snipes Mazor and pianist Geno Palilla

Original Poetry, Atul Ranchod

Free will offering for the Gathering musicians

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



Spiritual Growth Center

MEDITATION PRACTICE GROUP

Our Meditation Practice Group takes place every Wednesdays at 6:00 PM in the Parish Hall. Group leadership is shared by Rev. Maddie Sifantus and Jim Cole. Enter through the front gate to the left of the main entrance and come in the side door. 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.

DECEMBER 4 WITH JIM COLE

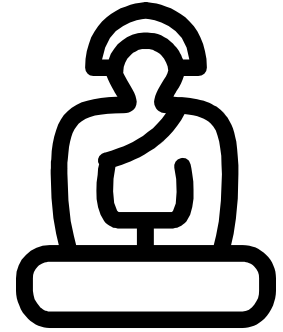
DECEMBER 11 WITH REV. MADDIE

DECEMBER 18 WITH JIM COLE

NO MEDITATION DECEMBER 25 OR JANUARY 1

Free Will Offering

For information call Rev. Maddie Sifantus, 805-525-4620 or msifantus@uuma.org.



SOARING HEARTS YOGA



Members and friends of the congregation are invited to attend yoga in our Parish Hall on Tuesday's and Thursday's from 9:30 am – 10:30 am. with Yoga instructor, Lisa Hammond. Class fee is \$6 - \$8 per session. Lisa has been practicing yoga since the Fall of 2012, and teaching since Summer 2013, and has been blessed to have been leading yoga here in our Parish Hall since early Summer 2015. Several of our members and Rev. Maddie attend. She teaches a gentle style yoga and her classes are appropriate for all levels. In addition to a variety of trainings she has taken over the years, in December 2018 she completed her 200 Hour Yoga Teacher Training Certification under the loving guidance of Ventura based Pixie Stephenson of Sacred Living Yoga. Lisa Hammond can be reached at 831-801- 2276 or soaringheartsyoga@gmail.com If you'd like to receive Lisa's weekly email, please feel free to email or text her your contact information.

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the holidays, our December schedule will be on the following Tuesdays and Thursdays – 3rd, 5th, 10th, 12th, 17th, 19th, 31st. There will be NO Yoga on the 24th and, 26th.

TAI CHI CHIH

Please join us on Fridays. We practice with concentration, quieting the mind, letting go, relaxing, and moving in slow motion. The benefits are spiritual, emotional and physical, and include tranquility, a sense of wellbeing, better coordination, balance and a general increase in energy. All ages are welcome!

Tish Jaramillo leads the T'ai Chi Chih sessions on Friday's at 10 AM with Intermediate sessions and 11:15 AM with Beginner sessions. Tish Jaramillo can be reached at tishj1@hotmail.com.

PLEASE NOTE: The November 29th and December 27th beginner and intermediate sessions will be combined to 1 session at 10:30 AM.



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People and Doings

MESSAGE FROM THE MARJORIE NEWLIN LEAMING CAPITAL FUND

The Fund Trustees are pleased to let you know that the Capital Fund is doing well this year. Even with the withdrawals for the Church, the Fund has risen by \$93,839 to \$1,930,039 in 2019.

Donations to the Fund have been low this year and the Trustees are planning to hold a fundraiser early next year. Donations before the end of 2019 would also be great to receive. The goal is to increase the Capital Fund to above \$2MM which will reduce the annual financial fees and increase the amount the Church can receive for operations and expenses.

The Groundhog Society is a group of people willing to plan and actively contribute to the Church's future by naming the Capital Fund as a beneficiary of their estate plan. Currently the Groundhog Society has 15 members and the Trustees are hoping more will join when Groundhog Day is celebrated at the Church in early February.

If you would like more information about the Capital Fund and/or the Groundhog Society, please contact one of the Trustees

Trustees

Donna Hamer,

Logan Hardison,

Laura Phillips



BECOMING A SAFER CONGREGATION

Thank you to everyone who participated in our congregation-wide fire drill on Sunday, November 17th, at the end of the service! Our Safety Committee has been hard at work thinking and meeting about topics like Fire Safety and other things, and this drill was the first activity to come out of that work.

We will be holding these drills approximately once a quarter during the first year we are doing them so we can all get to know the process, and then annually during Fire Safety Month going forward. If you have any feedback regarding our fire drill process, please give that feedback to a member of the Safety Committee.

As a side note, you may have noticed during the fire drill that Yvette, the kids, and the volunteer teacher all joined us in the parking lot during the drill. On November 10th during RE class, Yvette was trained in the fire drill procedure for the basement area by a member of the Safety Committee and will be able to safely evacuate the class during any drill or emergency.

Best Regards, The Safety Committee

People and Doings

NEWS FROM AMONG US – December 2019

- Our thoughts and prayers are with our friend Kim Mann whose father died on November 25th. The family was around him. Cards may be sent to Kim at 4785 Coho Lane, West Linn, OR 97068-2988.
- Our thoughts are with our Administrator Krystal Johnson, her sister and her family in the recent death of her brother-in-law.
- Rev. Maddie recently visited Karen Harris's mother, Filomena Paulson, The Palms at the Bonaventure, singing some of her favorite songs, ending up with a rousing version of *Mairzy Doats*.
- Jan Shepherd continues to be sticking close to home. She misses her friends at church and in the Mary As and hopes to be back soon.
- 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.



REV. MADDIE'S OFFICE HOURS

Rev. Maddie is usually available in the office by appointment or potluck drop in from Tuesday through Friday. Rev. Maddie's office is located in the "addition" across from the rest rooms at the back of our building. Monday is Rev. Maddie's day off and Saturday is her study/sermon writing day. Some days she is working from home but can get to the office in five minutes, if something comes up. The best way to plan a time to meet with her is to call and leave a message on her private line at the church, 805-525-4620, call her on her cell phone, 508-733-8860 or email her at msifantus@uuma.org.

PASTORAL COVERAGE

Rev. Maddie will be gone from December 2-9 to serve on the Ministerial Fellowship Committee at the Unitarian Universalist Association in Boston. During the time she is gone from Santa Paula, our Administrator, Krystal Johnson or our congregation president, John Nichols, will contact Rev. Betty Stapleford in the case of a pastoral emergency who is covering for her while she is gone.



ARE YOU FOLLOWING UUCSP?

Love it or hate it, social media is where a lot of communication happens these days. At its best, social media helps people share and access ideas, news, events and information. It also can serve as a vital means of connection for people and organizations. The Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula is very active on Facebook, posting our events and other information. Social Media works best when folks share content so that we are not the best kept secret in Santa Paula! If you are on Facebook, "Like" us!



CHOIR: SING!

We generally sing once a month for the Sunday Service. All are welcome to join our choir, including our young singers who are able to read music and singers who only attend church when the choir sings. Rehearsals are directed by Rev. Maddie and accompanied by Vincent Sorisio. Please be in touch with Rev. Maddie with any questions at msifantus@uuma.org. All invited to sing!

December 12	4:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal	
December 15	9:30 AM	Choir Rehearsal	
	10:30 AM	Service	
		Grown Up Christmas List	David Foster, Linda Thompson Jenner
		Arr. Greg Gilpin	
		Santa Lucia Procession	
December 21	7:00 PM	Winter Solstice Celebration (rehearsals TBA)	

People and Doings

WINTER SOLSTICE 2019

Rev. Maddie is planning our Winter Solstice 2019 which will be at our church on Saturday, December 21 at 7:00 PM. There will be both an adult choir and a children's choir, readers and who knows what else! Please let Rev. Maddie know if you wish to be involved. And Save the Date to attend the Solstice!



JOIN US FOR A WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2019 at 7:00 PM

*Jollity, Frivolity, Song and Wassail!
Make the darkest day of the year
a little brighter.*

UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN CHURCH
740 E MAIN STREET, SANTA PAULA
www.uucsp.org ~ 805-525-4647

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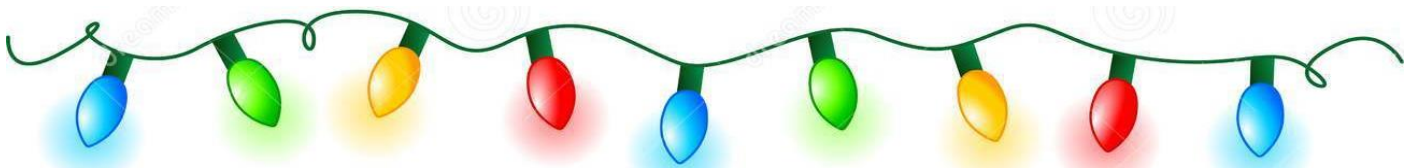
People and Doings



Mike Leigh's comedy of bad manners is not so much a movie as a filmed play. Originally developed for the London stage and featuring Leigh's wife Alison Steadman, its highly successful run was forced to an early end when she became pregnant. With no thought of recasting the lead to keep it on the stage, the play was instead immortalized with a serendipitous BBC taping in 1977. The TV broadcast turned this satire of social striving in pre-Thatcher Britain into an instant cultural phenomenon, to the degree that "Abigail's Party" entered the British cultural lexicon as shorthand for an awkward social event, where everyone behaves properly and dreadfully at the same time. From the start of his filmmaking for BBC during the 1970s, Mike Leigh developed an unusual collaborative method of scripting and working with his actors, devising the situations and character histories, then allowing the dialog to be improvised, as it was here. As a result much of the character backgrounds are revealed only by implication through smalltalk, an affect that allows us to see his people as having full lives outside the immediate frame of the story. "Abigail's Party" became a touchstone piece in the UK, where it continues to be revived on stage, but this early work of a great filmmaker deserves to be seen here too. (1:42)

SANTA PAULA CINEMA SOCIETY
FRIDAY DECEMBER 13, 2019

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



RISE UP SINGING

UU CHURCH OF SANTA PAULA

PARISH HALL ~ 740 E MAIN STREET

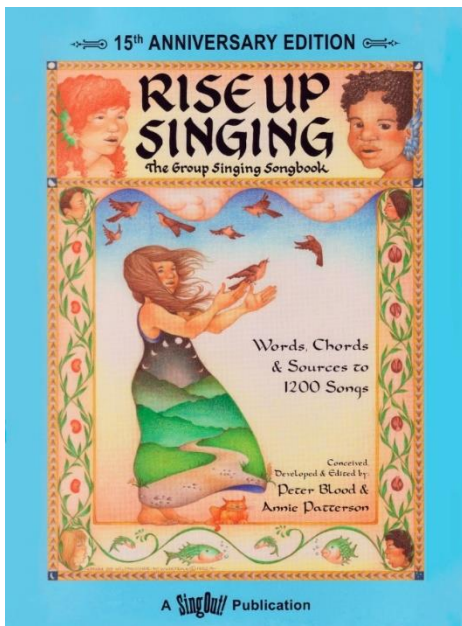
FRIDAY, JANUARY 17 AT 7:00 PM

BRING RISE UP SINGING AND/OR RISE AGAIN
BOOKS IF YOU HAVE THEM

ALL INSTRUMENTS WELCOME! COMMUNITY
SINGING!

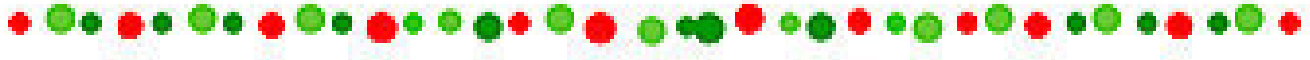
FREE WILL OFFERING (\$5 recommended)

LED BY MADDIE SIFANTUS ~ ALL AGES



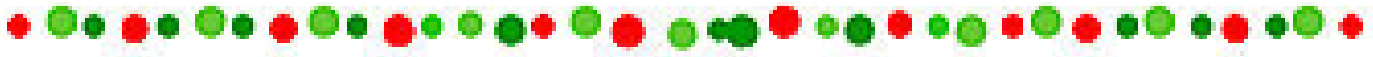
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People and Doings



CARING COMMITTEE

Lay ministers play a vital role in our congregation, extending the reach of our professional minister. The next regular meeting of the committee is Thursday, January 16 at 12:15 PM in Rev. Maddie's office. Each meeting addresses some area pertinent to how we companion our congregation members and friends. We minister to others in need today, knowing full well that we may need ministering tomorrow. If you would like a call or a visit from a member of the Caring Committee or are interested in serving as a lay minister, ask Rev. Maddie or Committee Chair Karen Harris.



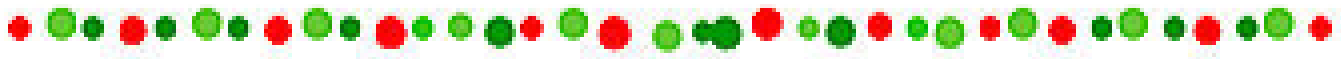
MARY A. LIVERMORE SOCIETY

The Mary A's will meet for their annual potluck and white elephant gift exchange on Thursday, December 19, 11:30am at the home of Judith Beay, 100 Poinsettia Gardens Drive Ventura 93004 (GPS address – 11370 Darling Road 93004).

Potluck luncheon - (Hostess will prepare baked potatoes with various toppings)
Guests please bring other items to round out the meal.

White elephant - Gift exchange - Bring some item which could be decorative, useful, some form of art, food item, ?? - use your imagination.

Please RSVP Phone: 805-647-4339 E-Mail - jbeay@yahoo.com



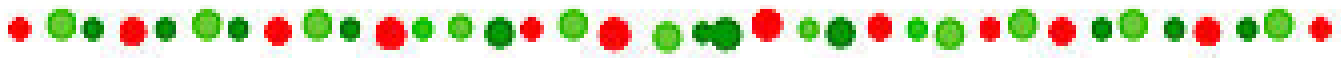
THE SOCIAL CONCERNS ACTION COMMITTEE

NEWS - The Social Concerns Action Committee is seeking a late model laptop computer or iPod to use in our documentary film series. We are a 501c3 organization for tax purposes. Talk to Margaret Wilson.

MEETING – The Social Concerns Action Committee will not meet during holiday month of December, but our work continues through our support of UUSC's Guest at Your Table Program.

DOCUMENTARY film series will resume January 27th, 2020 (film TBA)

EXPAND-YOUR-MIND Expand Your Mind will be on hiatus until February (date TBA).



People and Doings

GUEST AT YOUR TABLE BOXES: Each year we participate in the annual Guest at Your Table intergenerational program of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) which raises support for and awareness about their work to advance human rights. This year's program theme is Women Leaders, Strong Communities, recognizing that each of us can make big changes in our community and the world. Each day families and individuals can put change in the boxes imagining a guest visiting their table. Checks may also be written to the UUSC. The boxes will be passed out during the service on November 24 and will be collected in early January. Extra boxes and do nation envelopes will be on the table in the Parish Hall.



Guest at Your Table

PROJECTS DONATIONS SUPPORT

\$25 helps women in Kiribati access clean water for their households by supporting the installation of new water tanks.

\$50 supports a research project led by Muslim women about the surveillance of Muslim communities in the United States.

\$75 advances drought recovery in Tanzania by providing livelihood support for one single mother, elderly woman, or woman living with disabilities.



\$100 bolsters women's farming cooperatives in Nicaragua through supporting improved administrative systems and strategic planning.

\$150 helps girls and women from Burma (Myanmar) attend leadership and peace-building trainings focused on bridging ethnic and religious divides within the country.

\$300 supports legal assistance for vulnerable migrant populations applying for asylum at the U.S.-Mexico border, including mothers with young children and pregnant women.

\$500 helps fund psychological support and improved security measures for Honduran women human rights defenders, who are facing threats, harassment, and surveillance.



Contributions of any amount qualify for membership. Contributions of \$125 or more are eligible to be matched dollar-for-dollar by the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock in Manhasset, NY.

Feedback about GAYT? We'd love to hear it! Please email Carly at ccronon@uusoc.org.

[UUSC.ORG/GUEST](https://uusoc.org/guest)



Guest at Your Table

WOMEN LEADERS, STRONG COMMUNITIES

Guest at Your Table is the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's annual intergenerational program to raise support for and awareness about critical human rights issues. This year – focusing on the theme *Women Leaders, Strong Communities* – we are highlighting the following women leaders from UUSC partner organizations:



A climate activist from Kiribati, **Pelenise** is responding boldly to climate change in the Pacific.



Marta is working to support victims of violence and eradicate violence against women in Honduras.



Wai Wai is helping prevent violence and bridge ethnic and religious divides in Burma.



In Mexico and the U.S., **Monica** is using the arts to bolster resiliency and leadership among migrants.

A 79-year-old human rights organization, UUSC advances human rights in the United States and around the globe through research, advocacy, and partnerships with small grassroots organizations.

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

People and Doings

4TH QUARTER FIRST SUNDAY PLATE OFFERING

November 3, December 1



Neighborhoods for Learning

Santa Paula



Serving: Fillmore, Santa Paula,
Ventura

For more information please

call: 805-340-9608

We are located at:

217 N. 10th Street

Santa Paula, CA 93060

Parent and Child Together (PACT) Classes

- Participate in play-based learning
- Enjoy a warm and welcoming environment
- Connect with parents, caregivers, and your local community

Neighborhoods for Learning also offers:

- Parent Education and Support
- Developmental Checkups
- Resource and Referral

Who can attend?

Classes are available to parents/caregivers with children ages 0 – 3 who reside in Ventura County and are grouped by age as follows:

Infants: 0 - 8 months

Young Toddlers: 9 - 20 months

Older Toddlers: 21 months – 3 years old



LAST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH FOOD OFFERING ONE STEP A LA VEZ

Our church has a long history of donating food as a tangible expression of our generosity toward the deep need in our community. One Step A La Vez is so grateful to begin receiving the monthly UUCSP non-perishable food collection on the last Sunday of each month. The food will be used for meals for the teens served by our program from Santa Paula, Fillmore and Piru. Whatever we are unable to use for the youth, will be distributed in our twice monthly **community food pantry** to hungry families (First and second Wednesdays). We welcome ALL non-perishable food items but some very helpful items that the teens will always go through include, peanut butter, jam, breakfast cereal, canned tuna or chicken, jars of pasta sauce, canned pineapple, boxes of macaroni and cheese or cup o' noodles, granola bars, popcorn, and dry pasta. Shelf stable basics like cooking oil, flour, spices and condiments also help!

We can also always use things like tampons, pads, shampoo conditioner, bodywash, deodorant, toothbrushes, laundry soap for our free **toiletries closet** that is accessed by our staff when a youth needs something they do not have at home. For our **Christmas Store** where the teens go free "shopping" for their siblings, parents, grandparents and anything they might want for themselves. These could be new or used giftable items for ANY age. We never know what youth will participate - it depends on their attendance on the day of the store... so we do not get little cards with specific requests. But One Step for sure can always use anything our congregants might want to donate. Why don't we dedicate the Xmas tree to the One Step Xmas store?

We are accepting donations December 1st- December 18th.

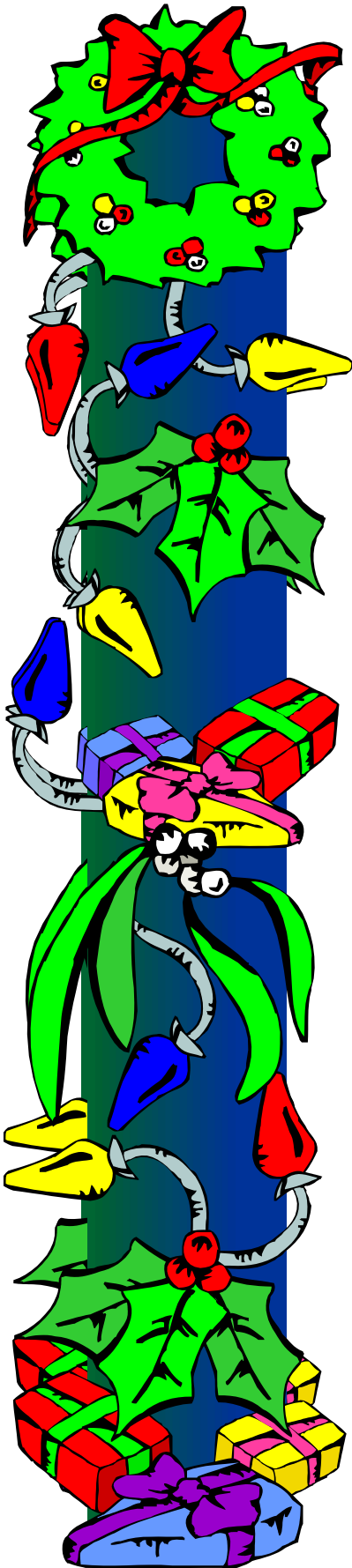
Our Christmas Store happens on December 19th and whatever the teens do not select is then given out to our food pantry families. We help the teens wrap the gifts for their family members and they each go home with a large bag of gifts like Santa.

Usually we tell people that anything they were about to take top the Goodwill they should bring to us instead...

Kind regards, Kate English, Executive Director

www.onestepalavez.org

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HOLIDAY SCHEDULE 2019

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

www.uucsp.org

Sunday, December 1 at 10:30 AM

"The Practice of Compassion"

Rev. Maddie Sifantus with Karen Harris

~ *First Sunday in Advent*

First Sunday Plate to Interface

Sunday, December 8 at 10:30 AM

"Back to Junior High"

Michael Eselun with Pat English

~ *Second Sunday in Advent*

Tuesday, December 10 at 7:00 PM

Holiday Gathering with Rev. Maddie Sifantus

Christine Snipes Mazor, violin and Geno Palilla, piano

Sunday, December 15 at 10:30 AM

"Light Bearers" Multigenerational Service

Santa Lucia Procession

Rev. Maddie Sifantus with Ken Stock

~ *Third Sunday in Advent*

Saturday, December 21 at 7:00 PM

Winter Solstice Celebration

Mulled cider and cookies following

Sunday, December 22 at 10:30 AM

"Mary Had a Baby"

Rev. Maddie Sifantus with Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford

~ *Fourth Sunday in Advent*

Christmas Eve, December 24 at 5:00 PM

Christmas Eve: Lessons and Carols

Special Music

Rev. Maddie Sifantus with Erik Halseth

Sunday, December 29 at 10:30 AM

"Our Moral North Star"

Erik Halseth with MaryBeth East

Offering of non-perishable food for One Step a la Vez

Sunday, January 5 at 10:30 AM

"Burning Bowl"

Jerry Gray and John Nichols

People and Doings

SANTA PAULA CONCERT SERIES: 2020 EVENTS

THOUSAND OAKS CHINESE
FOLK ENSEMBLE
SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 2020
7:00 PM



The ensemble performs a variety of repertoire which bridges Eastern and Western Music, strengthening the cultural and educational exchange in Ventura County and Southern California. There will be reduced ticket prices of \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 12 and under for this concert.



REGGIE HARRIS
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2020
4:00 PM

A songwriter of great depth and passion, Reggie Harris writes from a personal sense of mission that merges a world wise point of view with a singularly hopeful stance that life, though often challenging, is filled with possibility and hope. His songs reveal thoughts about life and love and some of the deep aspects of the human experience and cover topics from his own personal journey to world issues and history.

The Santa Paula Concert Series proceeds benefit the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula Building and Historical Fund. The church was founded in 1889 and the building erected in 1891. UUCSP is a Registered Ventura County Landmark.

The mission of the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula is
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Calendar of Events

DECEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 1030am Worship	2	3 930am Yoga	4 6pm Meditation	5 930am Yoga	6	7
8 1030am Worship	9	10 930am Yoga 7pm Gathering	11 12PM Safe Congregation mtg 6pm Meditation	12 930am Yoga 4pm Choir Reh	13 10&11:15am T'aiChiChih 7PM SP Cinema Society	14
15 930am Choir Reh 1030am Worship	16	17 930am Yoga	18 6pm Meditation	19 930am Yoga 1130am MaryA's 630PM Board Mtg	20 10&11:15am T'aiChiChih	21 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 7pm Winter Solstice
22 1030am Worship	23	24 NO Yoga 5pm Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas	26 NO Yoga	27 10:30am Beg&Int T'aiChiChih	28
29 1030AM Worship UUof our Past OSALV Food Offering	30	31 930am Yoga				

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THE UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN
CHURCH OF SANTA PAULA

740 East Main Street

Santa Paula, CA 93060

Office: 805-525-4647

uucspoffice@gmail.com

www.uucsp.org



Sunday Worship Services at 10:30 am

Rev. Maddie Sifantus, Minister, Choir Director

Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford, Affiliate Minister

Krystal Johnson, Office Administrator

Vincent Sorisio, Church Musician

Albie Alamillo, Custodian

Board of Trustees:

John Nichols, President,

Karen Harris, Vice-President

Jerry Gray, Secretary,

Pat English, Treasurer

Jyl Atmore, Member at Large

Newsletter deadline December 21



Dated Material
Time Value

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