



# Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula

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

## MAY 2020 SERVICES, SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM



### HOW WE GATHER

As we stay Safe at Home, we continue to work to stay connected through Zoom and Facebook as well as our Phone Tree. The church building is closed to all but staff. Sunday morning services begin on Zoom at 10:30 AM with the Prelude starting several minutes beforehand and coffee hour breakout following. Please email Joys and Concerns to Rev. Maddie at [minister@uucsp.org](mailto:minister@uucsp.org) who will read them or you can put them in the CHAT function on Zoom during the service. Please mail your donation to the church, set up online pay with your bank or if neither of those work, use the link on the homepage of our website: [www.uucsp.org](http://www.uucsp.org).

### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/731217775>

Meeting ID: 731 217 7775

To phone: +1 253 215 8782 US (Seattle)

Password: uucsp93060

### MAY THEME: Sabbath

*Sabbath-time is more important than ever as an antidote to our busyness, fragmentation, and distraction. The Sabbath is a symbol for creation and creativity. It acknowledges "being" over "doing." It values centering, mediation, prayer, and other spiritual practices. It may not be as long as a day, but we need Sabbath moments to refresh, restore, and renew.*

#### May3 Beltane

##### Rev. Maddie, Sushila Wood

In agricultural societies, Beltane marked the start of the summer season. Rituals were performed to protect crops, livestock, and people. We all have something we want to harvest by the end of the year—plans we are determined to realize. Beltane is a great time to get those plans in full swing. First Sunday offering to the Friends of the Santa Clara River.

#### May 10 You Have to Rule the Wave

##### Rev. KC Slack, Kate English

"...you had to constantly try to understand what was going on and how to survive in this space...and how not to...go under. You're on your own, and then, politics is in your life. You have to ride the wave." - Arundhati Roy. Rev. KC serves our congregation, the UU Church of the Verdugo Hills in La Crescenta.

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**Tuesday, May 12 at 7 PM      Zoom Gathering**

**Rev. Maddie, Eduardo Del Signore, Atul Ranchod**

This is a reflective time in our busy week to hear some beautiful music, share some silence and hear spoken word on a theme, which this month is Sabbath.

**May 17**

**This Present Moment**

**Rev. Maddie, Jerry Gray**

W.H. Auden wrote, "The past is not to be taken seriously... nor the future..., but only the present instant." During this different time, how can we think of it as a Sabbath time? The first of two sermons on our theme for the month: Sabbath.

**May 24**

**Memorial Time**

**Rev. Maddie, Karen Harris**

Reflections on this time of remembering of those who are gone.

**May 31**

**A Gift of Time**

**Rev. Maddie, Pat English**

The second of two sermons on our theme for the month: Sabbath. UUs Back in the Day by Leslie Nichols  
Food Offering for One Step a la Vez (if we are in the Sanctuary)



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# Message from the Minister

How changed the world is! Each one of us most likely has had to set aside whatever plans we had for 2020 when the new year rolled around. I know that I won't be going to Montana to preach and take some vacation in May, nor will I be going to the UU General Assembly in Providence in June. GA has also moved online...which will give all of you a chance to attend all or part of it. I continue to wish you safety and sanity as we all attempt to navigate this unprecedented situation. I continue to encourage you to look for the bright moments, the quiet when we can hear the birds and the touching base with friends to just see how things are going. I have attended Zoom cocktail hours with colleagues nearby and far and with East Coast friends (soft drinks allowed!). And since I am in the "hope business", as I often call it, I look for those moments of hope that are still in each day. I read a favorite Emily Dickinson poem at a recent online service which begins:

"Hope" is the thing with feathers -  
That perches in the soul -  
And sings the tune without the words -  
And never stops - at all -

In the scriptures, Paul talks about faith, hope and love. These three have been the foundation of the Judeo-Christian world we come from as Unitarian Universalists. This hope is not sentimental nor is it out of touch with reality. It is not a cock-eyed optimist. Rather it is a foundational way we can move through this time, looking at what we have held up as being important that perhaps isn't, after all. For me my hope is for this pandemic to pass as quickly as possible, that the scientists can learn what we need to know to move forward, and that the love we have for each other in this congregation, this community and beyond will hold us and help us to address the needs of our community and those vulnerable among us. And I pray for those who have been touched with illness or death from COVID-19.

For now, Sunday morning worship continues to be online as best we can manage it. We will continue with that until the Center for Disease Control, our area government officials and the Unitarian Universalist Association say that it is safe to gather in person again. For now, we have a Zoom Sanctuary and a Zoom Parish Hall. We have Zoom activities...and could have more if any of you have an idea to share. I continue live-stream our Meditation Group from my house at 6 PM on Wednesdays on our church Facebook page. I prefer to see the bright side to our current situation, seeing people in our Zoom sanctuary who live far away and folks nearer by who cannot join us on Sunday mornings or for other events. Thought will be given to how to continue to include these folks, even as we grapple with copyright issues when you are broadcasting online, Zoom bombers (we've been lucky so far), those among us who don't have the technology or know how to join us and the difficulties many have not seeing each other in person. Our first priority continues to be to stay safe and look out for each other. I am mostly working from home much of this time but both Krystal and I will be in the office some days, social distancing from each other on our different floors. Please email me at [msifantus@uuma.org](mailto:msifantus@uuma.org), [minister@uucsp.org](mailto:minister@uucsp.org) or call me at 508-733-8860, my cell phone, if you just want to talk. You can also leave a message on my private office line, 805-525-4620 which will send me a text. Know that you are not alone.

On the path of our faith and singing a tune without words,

Rev. Maddie Sifantus

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## Message from the Board of Trustees

## Board Notes from President John Nichols

How many Santa Paula UUs does it take to screw in a lightbulb? None.

You can't screw in a light bulb if you can not enter the church building. You can not enter the church building until the possibility of you catching the coronavirus or unintentionally spreading the coronavirus to others is over. I bet your next question is, "Well, how long will that be?"

The answer to that is, “An undetermined amount of time.” Where am I supposed to turn to learn to have that much patience this late in my life? What religious teaching have I ever encountered that could help? Tell me if you know of any.

Maybe meditation would help, or yoga, or tai chi or Sunday morning sermons. I guess I'll just have to keep trying and participate in the church life as it is in the here and now through Zoom and web sites and emails.

I can't help but to think and plan about the future. All the while focusing on the present, as we have been taught by the sages. I'm thinking that as we emerge at some point from whatever we want to call this current state that we will be building and growing a new church with lots of elements from the past and also lots of elements we pick up along the way as we travel into the future.

Zoom on and keep the faith.

[illegible]

## From the Finance Committee

Thank you to everyone who has been sending in pledge donations and contributions for the Friends of the Santa Clara River. We appreciate your dedication and support of our caring church community.

These are challenging times when we are not meeting face to face and our usual practice of "passing the plate" does not work via Zoom. As a reminder, you can either send check via mail to:

UU Church of Santa Paula  
740 East Main Street  
Santa Paula, CA 93060

Or you can set up an automatic payment through your bank and save yourself the stamp. Please remember to note the purpose of the donation (annual pledge, First Sunday Plate, etc.) on the memo line.

For one time donations, the website at [www.uucsp.org](http://www.uucsp.org) has links for credit card or PayPal payments.

Thank you again for your generosity and ongoing support. Stay safe and stay well.

MaryBeth East, Patricia English, Jerry Gray, Luisa Haskell

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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.

**MAY 12, 2020 7:00 PM**  
**on ZOOM**

You are invited to our Gathering for sound, silence and word.

Led by Maddie Sifantus with Atul Ranchod

Special Guest, Eduardo Del Signore

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7312177775>

Meeting ID: 731 217 7775

To phone: +1 253 215 8782 US (Seattle)

Password: uucsp93060



# Spiritual Growth Center



## SPIRITUAL GROWTH CENTER

During this time of Social Distancing and our building being closed, we encourage you to find ways to continue your spiritual practices at home. Rev. Maddie leads Meditation on Wednesday evenings at 6 PM, livestreaming from our Facebook page. As soon as we are able, we will restart Meditation, Yoga and T'ai Chi Chih in our Parish Hall as well as add a second meditation group on Mondays with Corinne Carson. Plans are underway for a special event of a Sound Bath with Mari Fix as well as some other programs that are spiritual practices, support our lives, encourage our education and exploration, and can give our service to others. Our Spirit Growth Center provides opportunities and programs to awaken and sustain love, compassion, service, and personal transformation in line with the Mission of the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula: Practice Inclusiveness, Seek Justice and Foster

Spirituality. Our goal is to help individuals discover how spiritual practice, learning, and community service can transform their lives and move the world toward peace and justice. Our programs are guided by the set of Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism and the Six Sources they draw from. One of the Principles affirms our intention to accept one another and encourage each other's spiritual growth.

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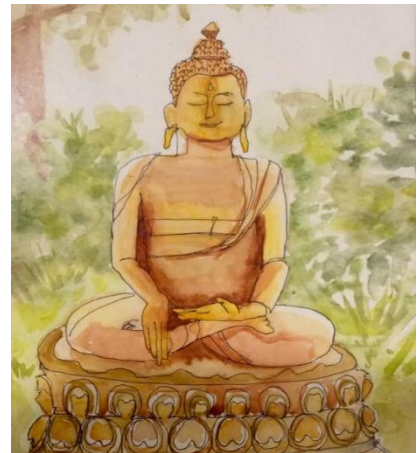
### MEDITATION PRACTICE GROUP

WEDNESDAYS AT 6 PM

Sit with Rev. Maddie on Facebook livestream

[www.facebook.com/uuscplivestream](https://www.facebook.com/uuscplivestream)

Thirty to forty minutes of visualization, chant and silence together



### SOARING HEARTS YOGA

Yoga sessions have been cancelled until further notice.

Lisa Hammond can be reached at 831-801- 2276 or [soaringheartsyoga@gmail.com](mailto:soaringheartsyoga@gmail.com)



### TAI CHI CHIH

T'aiChiChih sessions have been cancelled until further notice.

Tish Jaramillo can be reached at [tishj1@hotmail.com](mailto:tishj1@hotmail.com).

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# People and Doings

## NEWS FROM AMONG US – May 2020

- Dale Peace was moved back home with hospice.
- Jan Shepherd has had a couple of “tumbles” (as she calls them). Visiting nurses have been coming in and her doctors are keeping close watch on her from afar and think the falls may have been due to change in medications. We are happy to see her face on her “Zoom square”!
- Rev. Maddie’s beloved brother-in-law Alistair Catto died on April 11 from complications from ALS (Lou Gehrig’s Disease). He was 68 years old and leaves Maddie’s sister Bonnie. There will be a Memorial Service at a later date when the family can gather.
- 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 15th<sup>t</sup> of every month.



**IMPORTANT REMINDER FROM REV MADDIE:** There is another email scam going around where the scammers make an email that looks like it's from me but is not my email address. This is happening to churches and temples across the country. I would never ask you to send gifts cards, click on any links (other than our zoom to a service or meeting) or send me money by any means. My correct emails are [msifantus@uuma.org](mailto:msifantus@uuma.org) or [minister@uucsp.org](mailto:minister@uucsp.org). Don't be fooled by ones that LOOK like they are from me. They are not.

## REV. MADDIE'S OFFICE HOURS

During this Safe at Home period, Rev. Maddie is available by telephone or email if you need to talk. Email her at [minister@uucsp.org](mailto:minister@uucsp.org) or [msifantus@uuma.org](mailto:msifantus@uuma.org). You can leave a message on her private office line which will send her a text: 805-525-4620. The fastest way to reach her is by calling her cell phone at 508-733-8860. Unless it is an emergency, please limit your call or texts to between 8 AM and 6 PM. If you get voice mail, leave a clear message and phone number and she will get back to you. Once we can go back into the church building, she will be happy to meet with you in her office. Another way you can “visit” with her and others is Sip and Check in with the Minister Tuesdays at 4 PM on Zoom. It is the same Meeting ID and Password as Sunday mornings:

## SIP AND CHECKIN WITH REV. MADDIE TUESDAYS AT 4 PM ON ZOOM



Grab your favorite beverage and join Rev. Maddie on Zoom.  
We will light a chalice, have a reading, and check in with each other.

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# People and Doings

## BECOMING A SAFER CONGREGATION

Your Safe Congregation Team continues to meet to look at a number of our policies and the safety of our building and practices, as well as measures we should be taking to keep our building and each other safe during this time, including thoughts about our reentry once it will be safe to do so. Your Safe Congregation Team is Rev. Maddie, Erik Halseth, Ken Stock, Karen Harris representing the board, Pat English on fiduciary safety, Krystal Johnson from the staff and our friend Sharon Kufeldt. Please let Rev. Maddie know if you have interest in this effort or concerns. Our next meeting is May 6 at Noon in Rev. Maddie's Office or on Zoom if we are still sheltering in place. The Safe Congregation Team reports and is advisory to the Board.

## CHOIR AND RISE UP SINGING

While we cannot gather at this time, you are encouraged to find ways to sing or listen to music until the choir can gather and the days when we can open the doors to Rise Up Singers. Several of the performers who have graced us with their presence in the Santa Paula Concert Series in the past have been livestreaming on Facebook or their websites including Hiroya Tsukamoto, Peter Rowan, and our most recent performer, Reggie Harris. Steve Werner, the folk singer from a recent Gathering and the Winter Solstice, is frequently posting live songs on Facebook. Many orchestras from all over the world are posting concerts. Do a search and you may be thrilled what you find! And the editors of Rise Up Singing and Rise Again, Annie Patterson and Peter Blood, have many suggestions to keep us singing. They put out "A Daily Song of Hope". They say: We need great songs right now to help us make it through this challenging time. Peter is posting a song a day. You can find these videos (by many different artists) in two ways:

- On their website: [www.riseupandsing.org/dailysong](http://www.riseupandsing.org/dailysong)
- On their Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/pg/RiseUpAndSing1](https://www.facebook.com/pg/RiseUpAndSing1)

## CARING COMMITTEE

Lay ministers play a vital role in our congregation, extending the reach of our professional minister. During this time we are meeting every two weeks on Zoom, with the next two meetings scheduled for May 7 and May 21 at 1 PM on Zoom. We will reschedule the May 22 visit from hospice chaplain Corinne Carson. If you would like a call from the minister, a member of the Caring Committee or are interested in serving as a lay minister, ask Rev. Maddie or Committee Chair Karen Harris.

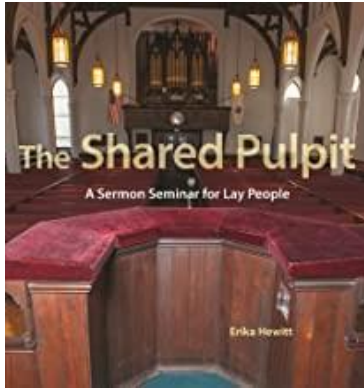


## PHONE TREE

We now have a phone tree. Thanks to the eight phone captains. This will be used to help check on our folks or to get information out rapidly by telephone. We may also create a Group Text group. If you don't think you are on the Tree and want to be, please let Rev. Maddie or Krystal Johnson know at [uucspoffice@gmail.com](mailto:uucspoffice@gmail.com).



# People and Doings



## SERMON WRITING WORKSHOP SERIES WITH REV. MADDIE

Four people are taking the workshop The Share Pulpit with Rev. Maddie. We are now meeting on Zoom with the next session on Saturday, May 2 from 1-4 PM. The remaining workshops will be scheduled at that meeting. This workshop is now closed but Rev. Maddie will offer it again in the fall if there is interest.

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## MARY A. LIVERMORE SOCIETY

The Mary A. Livermore Society will keep its historic record of the longest continuously gathered meeting in the County by coming together on zoom Thursday, May 28, at our usual time 11:30 am. Our convener, Ann Hewitt, will call us together as she did in April. It was fun checking in then, which we will also do in May, and we will also hear from Rev. Betty Stapleford speak about her recent trip to So. East Asia. Join us!

## SOCIAL CONCERNS ACTION COMMITTEE

The Social Concerns Action Committee will hold their regular monthly meeting on Zoom on Wednesday, May 13 at 3:00 PM. Any interested friends and members of UUCSP invited to join this Zoom meeting in our regular Zoom room: *Join Zoom Meeting* <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7312177775>  
*Meeting ID: 731 217 7775 To phone: +1 253 215 8782 US (Seattle) Password: uucsp93060*

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## 2nd QUARTER FIRST SUNDAY PLATE OFFERING



FRIENDS OF  
THE SANTA CLARA RIVER

*We will continue to support this cause on May 3 and  
June 7 with mailed and electronic donations  
collected.*

For 26 years, Friends of the Santa Clara River (FSCR) has been the voice of protection and conservation of the 82-mile Santa Clara River from its headwaters to the sea. FSCR is currently the steward of the donated keystone property, Hedrick Range Nature Area (HRNA). In the Santa Clara River Valley, FSCR actively restores the riparian (streamside) environment at HRNA. Volunteers come monthly to the 220-acre site to remove invasive plants, plant native vegetation, and work in the native plant nursery. After many years, the restoration has been a huge success as endangered bird species have returned in increasing numbers. Larger land mammals, such as mountain lion and coyote, are known to be present signifying the entire ecosystem is healthy.

Not far upstream FSCR is helping to manage a visitor area known as the Sespe Cienega Trail (at the road into the Fillmore Fish Hatchery). The site is newly open to the public and contains ½ acre interpretive native plant trail. Visitors are able to take a brochure available at the site kiosk and walk through finding numbered markers and reading about important species. Volunteer days to maintain the current trail are held approximately every other month. A significant expansion of the Sespe Cienega site is planned over the next few years with other conservation partners.

Thanks to State funding FSCR takes school classes -- over 1,500 students learning about the river on-site. Immersion in nature is the best way to impart lasting knowledge and lifelong stewardship of our environment. Before the grant funding expires, **FSCR would like to establish a Santa Clara River Scholar Fund to continue offering this program. The fund would cover program expenses, such as outdoor leaders and supplies, as well as administrative costs (insurance and clerical). Trips within walking distance of a River location would be offered to schools in the Santa Clara River valley especially that have worked with FSCR such as Santa Paula HS, Briggs School and Fillmore Middle School.**

Join the FSCR mailing list to get an occasional announcement for upcoming events at [fscr.org](http://fscr.org).

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# JOIN US IN THIS YEAR'S VIRTUAL MYSTERY FUNDRAISER! Support our Sponsorship Fund



Due to the unpredictability of the current COVID-19 situation, the Mystery Dinner Committee has decided to postpone the Grand Gatsby Fundraiser Event until the spring of 2021. We think it is important to stay connected during this time, so we will be sending those of you that are interested, a virtual mystery game where you will get the option to guess Whodunit and join us via Zoom for a prohibition party where we will reveal the murderer's name! We are hoping to raise enough funds for the UUCSP Sponsorship Fund to help send children, youth and adults to UU events. Please stay tune for your invitation to the **UUCSP VIRTUAL MYSTERY CLUE GAME**.

The **UUCSP VIRTUAL MYSTERY CLUE GAME** will begin the week of May 25, 2020. Please help us keep summer camp and continuing education alive and well for members and friends of our church by making a donation to the UUCSP Sponsorship Fund. Thank you!

All art is the property of and was provided by MyMysteryParty.com ©

# SANTA PAULA CONCERT SERIES: UPCOMING EVENTS

DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS, THERE WILL BE NO CONCERTS UNTIL THE FALL



A CALL 2 PEACE WILL BE RESCHEDULED FROM MAY 16 TO A LATER DATE

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ROBYN CARMICHAEL WILL  
RETURN ON JANUARY 23, 2021  
at 7:00 PM  
CLASSICAL PIANO

THE UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN  
CHURCH OF SANTA PAULA

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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

**June newsletter deadline May 15**

When this is over,  
may we never again take for  
granted  
A handshake with a stranger  
Full shelves at the store  
Conversations with neighbors  
A crowded theater  
Friday night out  
The taste of communion  
A routine checkup  
The school rush each morning  
Coffee with a friend  
The stadium roaring  
Each deep breath  
A boring Tuesday  
Life itself.

When this ends, may we find  
that we have become  
more like people  
we wanted to be  
we were called to be  
and may we stay that way –  
better for each other  
because of the worst.

*Dated Material*  
*Time Value*

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