



# Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula

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

## JUNE 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 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). Gathering is supported by a Free Will Offering. Donations can be given the same way as Sunday mornings. *Please mute your microphone as you enter the 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



### JUNE THEME: Good and Evil

*Good and evil are a duality of existence. It is easy to see the evil in others, while denying our own capacity for evil. Our task is to create goodness so that evil is pushed to and beyond the margins. It is to speak truth to power, to attack the sin, but not necessarily the sinner. It is to realize and respect the limits of tolerance. In the end, it is to say "Yes" to life.*

#### June 7 Good, Bad and Indifferent

Rev. Maddie, Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford

Scottish writer Kenneth Graham wrote in the Wind in the Willows: "Good, bad, and indifferent - It takes all sorts to make a world." How do we create goodness in this time when many are divided? What about the question of evil in our times? How can we Practice Inclusivity as state in our Mission?

#### Tuesday, June 9 Gathering

Rev. Maddie, Donna Lynn Caskey

This is a reflective time in our busy week to hear some inspiring music, share some silence and hear spoken word on a theme, which this month is Good and Evil. Rev. Maddie is joined by Singer-Songwriter and Banjo Gal, Donna Lynn Caskey.

#### June 14 Give Us Pleasure in the Flowers

Rev. Maddie, Kenneth Stock

What does Flower Communion look like on Zoom? Can you Zoom from your garden or bring a flower? How do we recognize our members, especially our newest members in this time of Coronavirus? Come and find out!

#### June 21 Summer Solstice

Rev. Maddie, MaryBeth East

It is sung, "Summertime and the living is easy." How do we celebrate cycles of the year in this "different time"? The Summer Solstice is the longest day of the year and the earth's distance from the sun is the greatest and its rays pointing down from directly overhead.

#### June 28 The Compassion of Stonewall

Nicholas Filzen, Pat English

On the 51st anniversary of the Stonewall riots, what can we learn about compassion from the fierce LGBTQ+ folks who fought back against oppression that day? What might "radical, queer love" mean? How is compassion a radical, queer love? Nic is a Candidate for UU ministry who meets with the Ministerial Fellowship Committee in September.

UUs Back in the Day with Leslie Nichols

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

## Message from the Minister

The month of June usually has me wanting to belt out “June is Bustin’ Out all Over”, that classic song of Rogers and Hammerstein from the 1956 musical *Carousel*. It occurs to me that it came out during the polio epidemic time and that June came then just it does for us during this time of COVID-19. We are each of us muddling through it the best we can. We are grateful for Zoom, Facebook, Skype and all the ways that keep us in touch with each other as a congregation and with our family and friends. Your Safe Congregation Committee and Board of Trustees are keeping track of all the news and protocols as the days go on. As I write this, Ventura County is opening some of its businesses and restaurants. As you may have heard, the Unitarian Universalist Association is urging congregations to stay virtual for much longer, potentially through May 2021 or until an effective vaccine is available. We are striving our best to find the safest and wisest path forward for our area and especially for our congregation.

I know how much we want to be physically together in our sacred, historic building. I also know the state makes decisions based on different metrics than ours. They have to consider acceptable levels of risk and the economic hardship being endured by so many, as well as the potential for law suits from religious bodies who feel they should not have to be constrained by state regulations, no matter what.

Our UU values require us to consider the impact re-opening the sanctuary and building would have on the community, especially for those who are most vulnerable to getting sick. We will continue to consider our path forward, hoping for an opening before next spring but preparing to continue virtually until then and beyond, if necessary. Furthermore, we are planning to keep livestreaming after we do come back into the building for those more vulnerable who may still choose to watch from home, those who are homebound and those far away who enjoy our small congregation.

What a joyful day it will be when we can once more gather in person! But right now in this “different time”, love is waiting. The pandemic has shown us how interconnected we really are and how we hold one another's welfare in our hands.

On the path of our faith,

Rev. Maddie Sifantus

# Message from the Minister

In Community – Rev. Betty

We know that things since at least March have been pretty strange for all of us with the COVID 19 pandemic taking up so much of the bandwidth in the news and our lives. It's hard to even remember what we talked about before that. But imagine for a moment that you were an undocumented immigrant right now. How would your life be different?

You would probably have lost your job in a restaurant, your work cleaning houses, your labor as a part of a gardening crew, or one of the innumerable low-wage jobs that don't include overtime pay, health insurance, paid vacation, or unemployment benefits. Your children would be home from school everyday, and you would likely be expected to help them with their schoolwork if their schools were providing it in a way they could receive it.

Or you might be a farmworker who has to work in the fields without basic protection from the virus that is infecting more and more people in your community. And the fear of ICE raids would continue to haunt your dreams even as your backbreaking work continues each day. But you would have no one to take care of your children who are home like the rest of their friends and you would still be expected to pay taxes even though you will never see the benefits from those payments , including the \$1200 payment that some others are getting.

Now I know these are stereotypes, but in our geographical area, they are also the realities for many of those who make their homes in Santa Paula. And it was those experiences that were being addressed by the Immigrant Day event that I attended this year on May 11 in a virtual format instead of the usual in-person experience at the State Capitol in Sacramento I have attended before. People were on Zoom to shine a light on those realities and talk about possible remedies that could be provided by our state legislature

In light of COVID 19.

Of course there were lots of issues, but the organizers had to limit them to a manageable number for that one day. They were: Health 4 All Seniors, the California Earned Income Tax Credit, and Health and. Safety for all Workers. There is not enough space in this article for a detailed explanation of even those issues. But I would love to have conversations with those of you who are interested. There is a lot to think about and to do.

# GATHERING\*



## \*DEFINITION OF GATHERING

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

## JUNE 9, 2020 at 7:00 PM

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

With Maddie Sifantus and “Banjo Gal” Donna Lynn Caskey

On Zoom, exported to Facebook.com/uucsp

Join Zoom Meeting

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+1 253 215 8782 (to call in by phone)

Password uucsp93060

Free will offering to UUCSP, 740 E Main St, Santa Paula, CA 93060

With Gathering in memo line

# 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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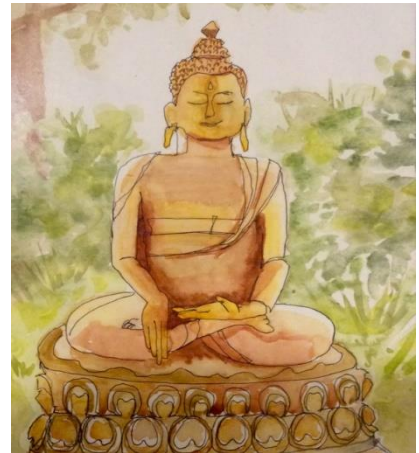
## MEDITATION PRACTICE GROUP

WEDNESDAYS AT 6 PM

Sit with Rev. Maddie on Facebook livestream

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

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 – June 2020

- Kersti Lewis finally had her fusion surgery after several postponements due to the pandemic. She is resting comfortably at home with the help of her mother and daughter Samantha. She expects to be off work for three months. We send her healing thoughts!
- Dale Peace is living at home, confined to his bed with the help of caregivers.
- 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>1</sup> of every month.



### IMPORTANT REMINDER FROM REV MADDIE: IMPORTANT SCAM REMINDER

During this time of COVID-19 there are many scams going around, playing on people's fears or perhaps on their hopes. Remember, if it seems too good to be true, be suspicious! It is always better to go on a website you enter in your browser yourself rather than click on a link in an email you didn't expect from an address you don't recognize or from a social media site. Periodically there are scammers who spoof emails of people you know, including ministers. Remember my two email addresses are [minister@uucsp.org](mailto:minister@uucsp.org) and [msifantus@uuma.org](mailto:msifantus@uuma.org). (I used to use [msifantus@gmail.com](mailto:msifantus@gmail.com) which you may have in your directory; I rarely check that one so please use the other two.) I will not ask you to send me money personally or gift cards. Don't be fooled by emails that look like they might be from me. Other than these two emails, any others are NOT from me.

## 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 also 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 on Tuesdays at 4 PM on Zoom. It is the same Meeting ID and Password as Sunday mornings:

### Join Zoom Meeting

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



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. We are considering the recommendations of the Unitarian Universalist Association as well as our insurance company, our Governor, the county and the wisdom of the scientists. Recently the UUA advised all its congregations not to expect to resume in-person services before May 2021. While this was sobering news, it was not unexpected. We are in the early stages of COVID-19 and do not fully understand its sweep. Nor do we have effective treatment or a vaccine. What we have left to combat this virus is science-based prevention. But perhaps things will move faster than the UUA thinks. We can hope...and we can prepare to stay online as long as we need 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 June 3 at Noon on Zoom. 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. At this point the reality is that it won't be this summer, and it may be as far off as Spring 2021. We are following the advice of the UUA and the Association of Unitarian Universalist Music Ministries (AUUMM) is posting a lot of information, including the feasibility of both congregational singing and choirs when we move towards reopening, whenever that happens. Things will be clearer as the scientific community understands the COVID-19 virus better and a vaccine is developed. Meanwhile, keep listening to music online, singing in your house or your front steps, and supporting your favorite musicians and singers as you can.

## CARING COMMITTEE



Lay ministers or parish visitors 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 June 4 and June 18 at 1 PM. We would be happy to be joined with others who are interested in supporting our members and friends in this way. Please use the same Meeting ID and Password as for Sunday mornings and our other activities.

## 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).

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# People and Doings

## MARY A. LIVERMORE SOCIETY

Thursday, June 25, 11:30 am: The Mary A. Livermore Society will meet on Zoom. Last month's gathering on Zoom, facilitated by Maddie and Ann Hewitt was quite the success. All members and friends invited. Same Meeting ID and password as Sunday services and all meetings.

## SOCIAL CONCERNS ACTION COMMITTEE

Wednesday, June 10, 4:00 pm: Social Concerns Action Committee meets on Zoom. We continue to plan how we can watch a documentary of current interest during this extended time of COVID-19. Also, on the agenda we will be deciding the beneficiary for the 3rd Quarter 1st Sunday offering for July, August, September that will particularly benefit the lives of fellow residents of Santa Paula and the Santa Clara River Valley. All those interested in the second part of our mission, "Seek Justice", encouraged to attend. Same Meeting ID and password as Sunday services and all meetings.

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## 2nd QUARTER FIRST SUNDAY PLATE OFFERING



FRIENDS OF  
THE SANTA CLARA RIVER

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

the voice of protection and conservation of the

For 26 years, Friends of the Santa Clara River (FSCR) has been 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 1/2 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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# VIRTUAL UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY



JUNE 24–28, 2020 | [uua.org/ga](https://uua.org/ga)

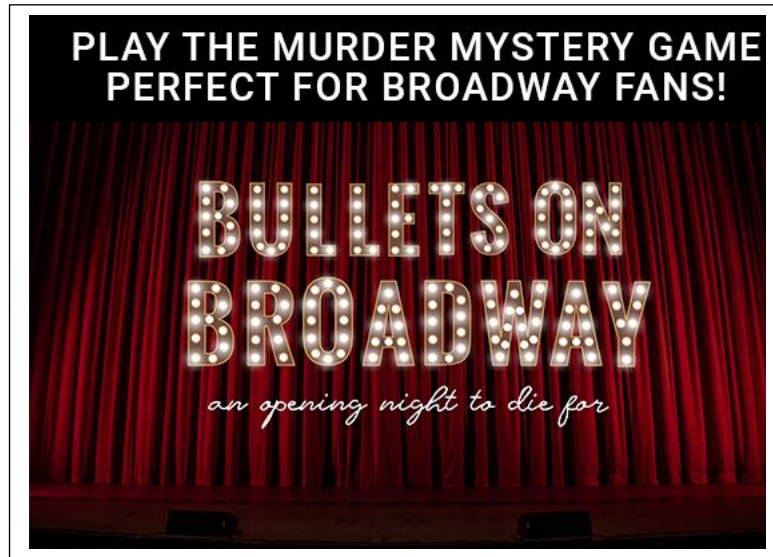
## Rooted, Inspired, & Ready!

You Are Invited

Virtual General Assembly (VGA) 2020 offers Unitarian Universalists an opportunity to gather and deepen our connections with each other and our faith. In addition to the General Sessions, Synergy, Service of the Living Tradition and Sunday worship, registered attendees can also enjoy daily morning worship, Welcoming celebrations, live workshops, an on-demand library of programming, presentations by featured speakers and special events such as coffee hours, worship reflection time, and evening entertainment.

[Register Today!](#)

# 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 you an invitation to a virtual mystery game called, ***"Bullets on Broadway!"*** *It's opening night of Murder in the First on Broadway, and nerves are high. The cast and crew are all a buzz backstage with the excitement of the lights, the sounds...and the dead body of their big-shot Broadway Producer. There lies Jack Bialystock, shot in the back before the curtain could rise. Was the murderer a cast member, like Anita Part who's making her Broadway debut tonight, or seasoned performer Sienna Stealer? How about the creepy Casting Director Colin Back, or audience member Megan Phan who somehow wandered backstage just before the murder took place? There's only one way to find out: play the new game "Bullets on Broadway!" But hold onto your overpriced wine—the murderer could be YOU!*

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 **BULLETS ON BROADWAY VIRTUAL MYSTERY GAME.**

# 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

740 East Main Street  
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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

Newsletter submissions deadline – June 15th

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*Dated Material*  
*Time Value*

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