



Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula

740 E. Main Street, Santa Paula, CA 93060 (805) 525-4647

uucspoffice@gmail.com website: [uucsp.org](http://www.uucsp.org)



JULY 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 remains closed to all but staff. Sunday morning services begin on Zoom and Facebook Live at 10:30 AM and coffee hour breakout follows on Zoom. Please email Joys and Concerns to Rev. Maddie at 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 at UUCSP, 740 E Main Street, Santa Paula, CA 93060 or you can set up online pay with your bank. If neither of those works for you, use the link on the homepage of our website: www.uucsp.org. Gathering is supported by a Free Will Offering. Donations can be given the same way as Sunday mornings.

Join Zoom Meeting: PLEASE MUTE YOUR MICROPHONE

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

Meeting ID: 731 217 7775 Password: uucsp93060

To phone: +1 253 215 8782 Phone password: 529593

JULY THEME: HARMONY

Native American author Tony Hillerman writes, "The Navajo word hozro ... means a sort of blend of being in harmony with one's environment, at peace with one's circumstances, content with the day, devoid of anger, and free from anxieties." Our task is to find our hozro, our way of living in harmony and in beauty. Harmony is a way of walking through life.

July 5 Patriotism in a Pandemic

Rev. Maddie, Karen Harris

How do we foster our spirituality while addressing our mission of seeking justice during this election year and this "different time"? How does our love of our country consider UU the Vote?

First Sunday Plate to LUCHA Incorporated

July 12 Let There Be Harmony

Rev. Maddie, Michelle Cowan

A consideration of the July theme of Harmony in a time when singing isn't allowed.

Tuesday, July 14 Gathering

Rev. Maddie, Geno Palilla and Christine Snipes Mazor

This is a reflective time in our busy week to hear some inspiring music, share some silence and hear spoken word on the theme of Harmony. Led by Rev. Maddie Sifantus. The music will be provided by Geno Palilla, piano, Christine Snipes Mazor, violin and Maddie, soprano, with poet Atul Ranchod.

July 19 Wisdom In Between

Rev. Kristen Rohm, Ruth Ricards

Our lives have changed since mid-March, and we're not sure what the future holds. Let's explore how we might orient ourselves, make meaning and find harmony in this liminal time between the old and the new normal. Rev. Kristen Rohm served as Interim Minister for UUCSP before Rev. Maddie. She then served SouthWest UU Church in Ohio for five years before returning to the sunshine of the south coast to work as Spiritual Care Counselor for Hospice of Santa Barbara.

July 26 Porvida Living:

Radical Love to Be the Change

Roberto Vargas, Rev. Maddie

Dr. Roberto Vargas is recognized as a futurist, community organizer, leadership coach, ceremony leader, and author of *Family Activism*. Born in Santa Paula, he subsequently taught at the University of California at Berkeley and formed a planning consultation practice that enabled him to serve communities throughout the USA, and also in Canada and Sweden. He currently lives in Ventura and with his wife, Rebeca Mendoza, continues to provide leadership training for transformative change.

UUs Back in the Day Margaret Fuller LeslieNichols

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Message from the Minister

The “different time” continues with no sign of letting up any time soon. Even though some things are opening up, we are not advised to gather in our sanctuary any time soon. I pray that you and your family are well and that you are finding ways to use this time. I know that I have been enjoying working from home some of the time, looking up from my computer screen to watch the birds squabbling with each other in my pepper tree and to get at my birdfeeders, both birds and bees drinking at my birdbath and my potted tomatoes thriving since I notice when they need watering. How can we celebrate Summer 2020 when many of us are not traveling or participating in the usual festivals and activities? Here are some ideas:

1. Keep connected to our congregation by attending Zoom Worship on Sundays at 10:30 AM or find it on Facebook Live from our page.
2. Come visit with me at *Sip and Check In* on Tuesdays at 4 PM from our Zoom page, share a lighting of the chalice and a closing prayer and hear what is happening with folks in a small group setting.
3. Spend some time outdoors where you live at the same time each day and notice the difference in light, temperature and what is going on in nature.
4. Enjoy favorite summer foods and make some new ones from scratch that you have always wanted to try.
5. Put your recipes that you have torn out of magazines in order and make one or two!
6. Drive to the grocery store for someone who can't do it.
7. Call someone in the congregation you don't know well just for fun.
8. Praise a salesperson or any worker you see doing a great job.
9. Draw pictures in front on your home on the sidewalk or road or be in touch with some of our young people to do it for you.
10. Start a journal or write in one you have about your strengths and assets, your personal and professional accomplishments, and your social, physical and mental skills.
11. Dream up a one-time workshop or series to lead on Zoom for our church.
12. Sing and dance as if no one is watching!

On the path of our faith, Rev. Maddie Sifantus



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Message from the Board of Trustees

Board Notes from Jerry Gray, Secretary

In these interesting, trying, somewhat crazy times, one thing has been like a warm blanket to many of us at UUCSP: our Sunday morning services. Sure, we're not meeting in the sanctuary yet, but we've "been together" through Zoom and Facebook Live. Many thanks go to the inventive and diligent work of Erik Halseth. He figured out how to get us set up and refined the process so that each Sunday sees improvements and new features (ie: Maddie can now sing along with Vincent's piano playing). At some point, Erik will be unable to coordinate things on Sundays, as he is seeking his ministerial internship. He has graciously agreed to stay at least through the end of July.

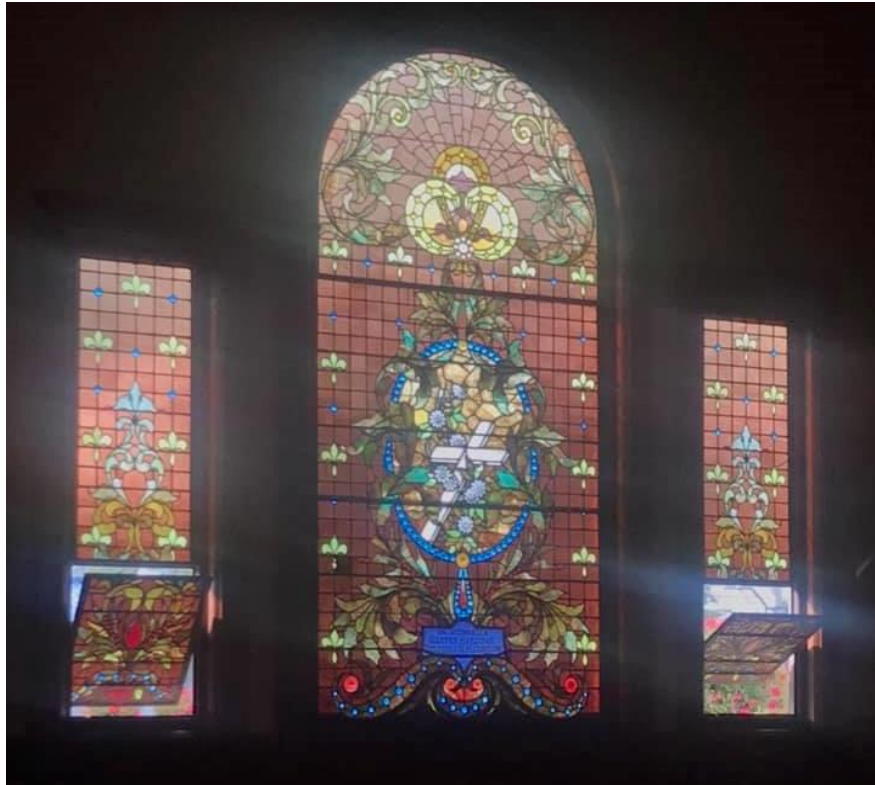
This brings us to a wonderful opportunity. If you are somewhat "tech-savvy" (or feel you could become so, or know someone who is) and would like to be a behind-the-scenes coordinator for our Sunday services, making sure microphones and cameras or phones are working, that speakers are unmuted while they're speaking, and our break-out coffee hour runs smoothly, please let Maddie, Erik, or a board member know. There are some exciting new pieces to the Zoom set up coming soon, and it'll get you back inside the church on Sundays!

Take care, stay safe, and we look forward to seeing/Zooming with you at church!



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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.

JULY 14, 2020 at 7:00 PM

You are invited to our Gathering for sound, silence and word.
With Maddie Sifantus, Christine Mazor, Geno Palilla & Atul Ranchod

On Zoom, exported to Facebook.com/uucsp

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+1 253 215 8782 (to call in by phone) ~ phone password 529593

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 this time goes on, we hope to experiment with socially distanced yoga in our rose garden with no access to the building. 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.

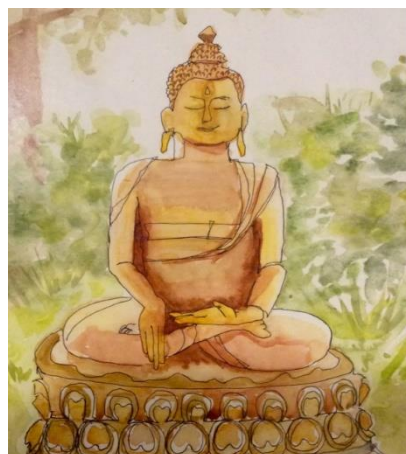
MEDITATION PRACTICE GROUP

WEDNESDAYS AT 6 PM

Sit with Rev. Maddie on Facebook livestream

www.facebook.com/uuscp

Thirty to forty minutes of visualization, chant and silence together



SOARING HEARTS YOGA

Yoga sessions will be held outdoors in the Memorial Garden. Bring your own mats and props. No access to the building. Be in touch with Lisa Hammond at 831-801-2276 or soaringheartsyoga@gmail.com



TAI CHI CHIH

T'aiChiChih sessions have been cancelled until further notice.

Tish Jaramillo can be reached at tishj1@hotmail.com.

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People and Doings

NEWS FROM AMONG US – July 2020

- Dale Peace died on Monday, June 15 after a long period of declining health. His funeral will be at the Perez Family Funeral Home located at 1738 E Santa Paula Street on the corner of 8th St on Monday, June 28 at 9 AM followed by a private Graveside Service at Pierce Cemetery in Santa Paula. Members and friends are encouraged to join in person, masked and with social distancing, or Facebook (details available from the office or in the Friday email).
- Janice Kreider and her husband Steve St. Louis made the trip from the KOA campground to their summer campground in Anacortes, Washington near family. We miss Janice but she zooms into our services on Sundays.
- 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^t of every month.

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 or 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:

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IMPORTANT SCAM REMINDER



Update! Do not respond to any texts that say they are from Pastor Maddie Sifantus; always make sure a text is from my number: 508-733-8860. Again I would never ask for help or money through a text. 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 and msifantus@uuma.org. (I used to use 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 or texts that look like they might be from me. Other than these two emails and my correct cell phone number, any others are NOT from me.

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People and Doings



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.

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7312177775>

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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. Earlier this spring 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. As things start to open in the County, we are keeping our eye on how things unfold.

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 July 1 at Noon on Zoom. The Safe Congregation Team reports and is advisory to the Board.

CARING COMMITTEE

Lay ministers play a vital role in our congregation, extending the reach of our professional minister. As we go into the summer, the Caring Committee is going back to meeting once a month, still on Zoom, with the next meeting scheduled for the third Thursday, July 16 at 1 PM. 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.

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.

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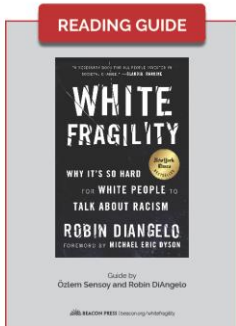
People and Doings

MARY A. LIVERMORE SOCIETY

Our June meeting, and presentation by Judy Triem, “The Vineyards of Ventura County from Mission to Rancho and Beyond: 1782 to 1910” was a great success. We are all learning the idiosyncracies of “Zoom-dom”. Our July 23 meeting (11:30 to 1) will include a presentation by Santa Paula’s Postmistress (or delegate) about the impact of the coronavirus on postal services, as well as a peek into the future. On August 27, Donna Hamer will share her images and stories from her recent trip to Alaska. Please join us; there is no limit to the number of people zooming at once. If you want to be included on the mailing list, just send a note to Ann Hewitt, ahewitt@anacapa.ca.

Also, a friendly reminder that 2020 memberships can be renewed at any time. The \$30 annual fee can be waived if you are impacted by the virus, directly or indirectly. Otherwise, checks should be sent to Jan Shepherd, our treasurer. Her address is in the Church Directory.

SOCIAL CONCERNS ACTION COMMITTEE



Expand-Your-Mind will meet through Zoom Wednesday **July 1st, 7:00 P.M.** to discuss Dr. Robin DiAngelo’s timely book (or if you don’t have time to read the book, watch her You Tube video lecture while you’re puttering around), “**White Fragility: Why It’s So Hard for White People to Talk about Racism**”. She explains the phenomenon of “white fragility” and how it works to sustain our beliefs about racism. She explains how white people can develop their capacity to engage more constructively across race. Read or watch the video and be ready to discuss on Wednesday night 7 P.M, July 1st on the church’s Zoom address. See the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=45ey4jgoxeU>

MEETING: Social Concerns Action Committee will meet Wednesday, July 8, 4:00 pm on ZOOM.

3rd QUARTER FIRST SUNDAY PLATE OFFERING

Our First Sunday of the Third Quarter offering is LUCHA INCORPORATED, (“Struggle Inc.”) a recently formed, local non-profit that provides produce and meals to our essential workers who are undocumented, therefore have no government support for their well-being. Our support is deeply appreciated. Make checks payable to LUCHA INCORPORATED.



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People and Doings

UU the Vote

As we all know, this next election is very important! Our friends at UU Ventura and Chalice UU of Conejo Valley have been collaborating on this campaign for a while now, which includes a letter writing campaign. We have now joined them. We can meet weekly with them on Zoom on Thursdays at 2 PM for information, camaraderie and support. If you are interested in joining with this effort please email the Membership Coordinator of UU Ventura, Jimmy Vasquez, at jimmy@uuventura.org and speak to Rev. Maddie.

Other Ways to Help:

Join our private Facebook Group to share information and help amplify our messages. Feel free to invite your friends; this group is open to everyone, not only UU's. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/535923090376200/>



The poster features a background image of hands clasped together in a supportive gesture, overlaid with a rainbow gradient. The text "UU THE VOTE" is in large, white, sans-serif capital letters at the top. Below it, "Ventura County!" is written in a large, white, cursive script. A blue banner across the middle contains the text "HELP US REACH OUR GOAL OF MAILING 15,000 LETTERS TO GOTV IN GEORGIA" in white capital letters. At the bottom, there are three logos: the UU Church of Ventura logo on the left, the Chalice Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Conejo Valley logo in the center, and the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula logo on the right. In the top left corner is a small "UU the VOTE" logo, and in the top right corner are two small icons: one for "VOTE FORWARD" and another for "zoom".

UU the VOTE

UU THE VOTE

Ventura County!

HELP US REACH OUR GOAL OF MAILING 15,000 LETTERS TO GOTV IN GEORGIA

UU CHURCH OF VENTURA
A Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Chalice
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
Fellowship of the Conejo Valley

**UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN
CHURCH OF SANTA PAULA**

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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

August newsletter deadline July 15

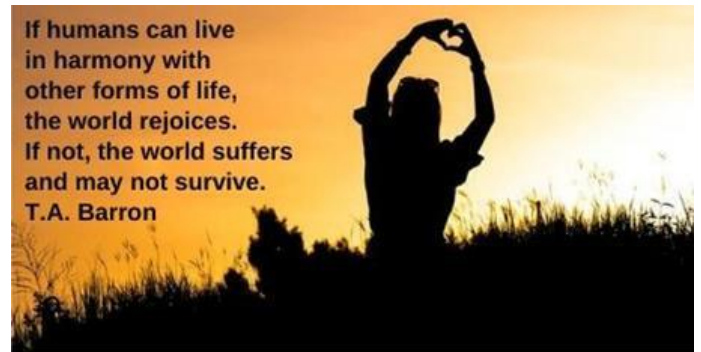


Photo by Ricardo IV Tamayo on Unsplash

Dated Material
Time Value

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