



# Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula

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

uucspoffice@gmail.com website: uucsp.org

## AUGUST 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](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 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](http://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

### AUGUST THEME: Creation

*Creation is an ongoing process. Our world and the universe continue to unfold. We acknowledge that we are co-creators with Earth. Our seventh principle calls us to respect the interdependent web. Our sixth source invites to see the circle of life as sacred and to value and nurture nature, given the imminent threat of climate change. Creation invokes compassion and requires our creativity.*

### August 2 Lammas and Lughnasadh

**Rev. Maddie, Ellen Deeb**

In the ongoing process of creation, the wheel of the year continues to turn. In earth based theologies, this time is one to celebrate the first fruits of the harvest.

First Sunday Plate to LUCHA

### August 9 UUnapologetic: Reimagining the 7 Principles Mathew P. Taylor, Erik Halseth

Mathew and Erik bring their General Assembly workshop on the 7 principles to life in a Sunday service format. Asking us all to consider the living nature of the principles, how do we think about them in light of society's changing attitudes towards racism, sexism, homophobia, and other oppressions?

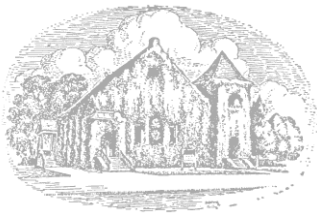
Mathew P. Taylor, was born and raised in Sunny Southern California, has a Bachelor of Arts in Communication. He is a Community Organizer, Author, and Pagan High Priest. He is currently a student at Starr King School for the Ministry and will be seeking ordination in Parish Ministry. He is currently the ministerial intern at the UU Congregation of Rockville, Maryland.

### Tuesday, August 11 Gathering

**Rev. Maddie, Bonnie Catto**

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 Creation. Through the magic of Zoom, Rev. Maddie is joined by her sister, Classics Professor and cellist Bonnie Catto.

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## August 16 Sea Change and Reinvention

**Kate English, with Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford, Worship Host**

What is the difference between change & transition? How do we navigate the wildness of transition and recognize it for the seedbed of creative ideas and solutions that it is? What does this look like on an individual level, in our neighborhoods and in our world?

Our member Kate English is the Director of One Step a la Vez which serves Fillmore, Piru and Santa Paula.

## August 23 Who's the Creator?

**Nic Filzen, MaryBeth East**

We're all perpetually creating, whether it be art, justice, or life. We even create new ways of being in this world. Always becoming something new ourselves. Moment by moment. It's the beautiful artform of living. An embodied jazz tune, with lots of improvisation. The question is, when we create, who is the creator? Are we doing it on our own? Who or what else might be involved? Like the greatest composers of Western classical music, from whom, if anyone, are we "borrowing" to make our masterpiece?

Nic is a Candidate for UU ministry who meets with the Ministerial Fellowship Committee in September. He and his family live in Santa Barbara where he is the former Intern for the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara.

## August 30 UUnapologetic: And Then There Were 8

**Erik Halseth with Mathew P. Taylor, Pat English**

Continuing their discussion around reimagining the 7 principles, Erik and Mathew will be asking how the principles in their current state may or may not address anti-racism and systemic oppression.

Erik is our sponsored seminarian who studies at Starr King School for the Ministry where he met Mathew. He and Mathew presented a workshop at the Virtual 2020 UU General Assembly.

## UUs Back in the Day

**Leslie Nichols**



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## Message from the Minister

As this unusual summer of 2020 continues to unfold, a quote by Henry David Thoreau comes to my mind: “Live in each season as it passes: breathe the air, drink the drink, taste the fruit.” I hope each of you is using this time to pause and find refreshment for your spirit. I hope try new things or reconnect with old things. I hope you are breathing the air in our beautiful valley, enjoying the stone fruits as they come into season and drinking whatever nectar that suites you. Your minister needs to push the pause button once in a while as well, especially in this year with multiple layers of Zoom and Facebook Live. So it is that I will be on vacation after I do our service on Sunday, August 2 with Ellen Deeb Zooming in as my Worship Host from Florida and Dr. Gabino Aguirre Zooming in to tell us more about LUCHA which is our First Sunday Plate recipient of this Quarter. August 2 is what is called a cross-quarter day in the neo-pagan traditions and in the Celtic/Gaelic traditions. It is a tradition of the First Harvest. I am looking forward to exploring it as I have usually been on vacation for that one of the eight Sabbats of Paganism and have never marked it in a congregation or a women’s group, which is where I first encountered these celebrations or festivals. I’ve discovered that my Gaelic MacNeill heritage has me finding great interest in these festivals that come out of the pre-Christian era. What can we discover if we are closer to the cycles of the earth?

I will be back in the office on September 2, gearing up for the fall at church and imagining how we can do Water Communion Sunday on Zoom! For the time being, if you go anywhere, even if it’s only Sespe Creek, bring back a small amount of water that we will collect...somehow...and pool together on September 13<sup>th</sup>. In the meantime, live in the season, stay safe and stay connected to one another.

On the path of our faith,  
Rev. Maddie Sifantus



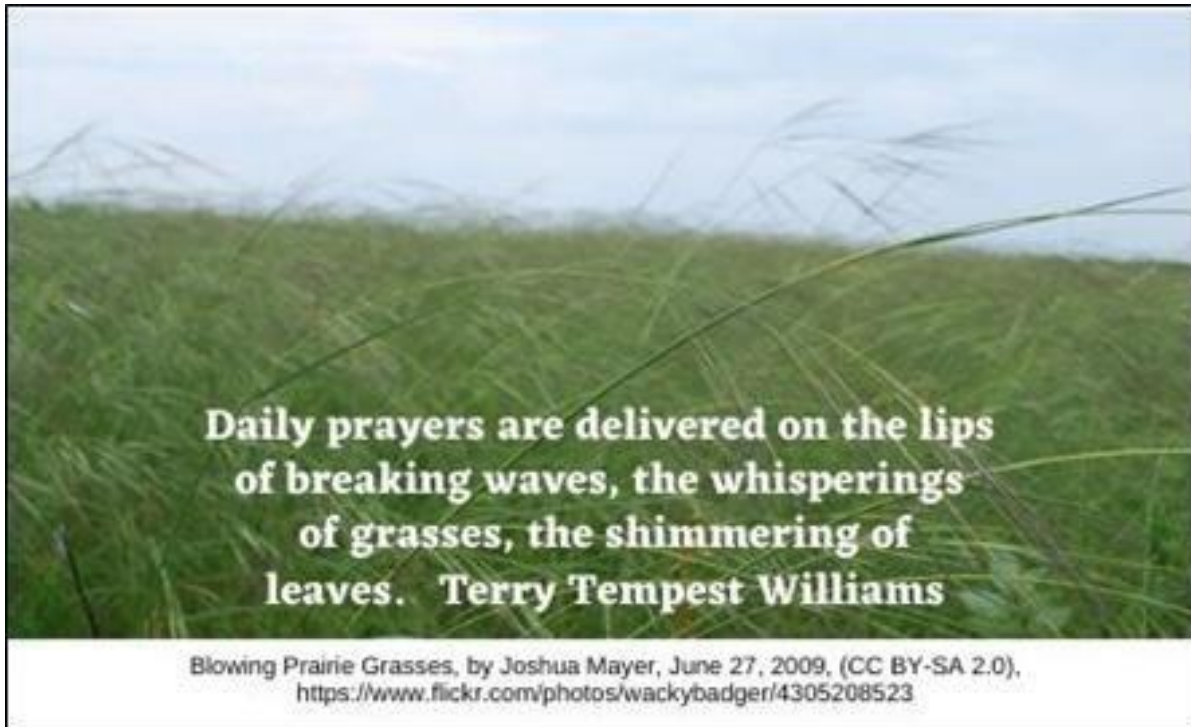
# Message from the Board of Trustees

Dear Members and Friends,

Thank you for your ongoing financial support of our beloved congregation during these times when we cannot meet in person. Stay well until we can be together again.

Finance Committee Members

Jerry Gray, Luisa Haskell, Patricia English, MaryBeth East



# GATHERING\*



**\*DEFINITION OF GATHERING**

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

## AUGUST 11, 2020 at 7:00 PM

You are invited to our Gathering for sound, silence and word.  
With Maddie Sifantus, Bonnie Catto, cello & poet Atul Ranchod

On Zoom, exported to Facebook.com/uucsp

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 731 217 7775 Password uucsp93060

+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. We are experimenting with socially distanced yoga in our rose garden with no access to the building. Be in touch with Lisa Hammond for more information. Our Spiritual 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. Would you like to offer an activity on Zoom during this time.

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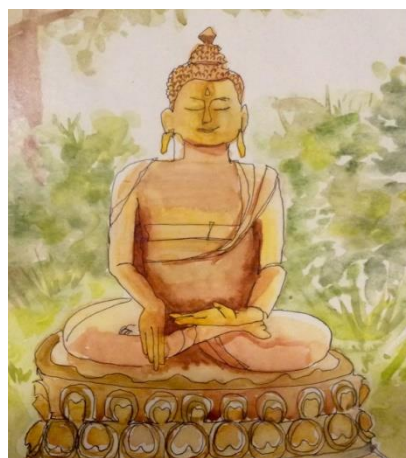
### MEDITATION PRACTICE GROUP

WEDNESDAYS AT 6 PM

Sit with Rev. Maddie on Facebook livestream

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

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. Due to the limited number please be in touch with Lisa Hammond at 831-801-2276 or

[soaringheartsyoga@gmail.com](mailto:soaringheartsyoga@gmail.com).

# People and Doings

## **NEWS FROM AMONG US – AUGUST 2020**

- Rev. Maddie officiated at Dale Peace's Funeral at the Perez Family Funeral Home on June 28<sup>th</sup> followed by a graveside service. Dale's brother Steve Zoomed in from Lubbock, Texas. Many of his caregivers were in attendance including our members Judith Beay and CJ Starling who both spoke. CJ is staying on to care take his home while the family prepares it for eventual sale.
- Our thoughts are with our friend Sharon Kufeldt in the recent loss of her dear friend Keisha who was as family to her.
- Our thoughts are with Karen Harris and her husband Ray in the recent death of her mother Filomena who many of us knew since they started attending UUCSP together.
- 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 of every month.

## **REV. MADDIE'S VACATION**

Rev. Maddie will be gone on vacation from August 3 through September 1. During the time that she is gone from Santa Paula, our Administrator, Krystal Johnson or our congregation president, John Nichols, will contact Rev. Betty Stapleford who is covering for her while she is gone in the case of a pastoral emergency. Please respect her much needed time away and do not email, text or call her during this time. Krystal will be in touch with her if there is an emergency.

## **SAVE YOUR WATER!**

We hope that you bring back a small amount of water from your summer travels. We will be commingling our waters during our Water Communion service which is September 13 at 10:30 AM. Check the September newsletter for how we will be going about it in this Zoom world. The water can be from whatever source is meaningful to you. The combined water from our shared sources will be used in part to water some of our thirsty roses here in our Memorial Garden and sterilized for use in any future Baby Dedications.

## **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, including thoughts about our reentry once it will be safe to do so. At this point we do not expect to be meeting as a congregation in the Sanctuary in 2020, unless things change.

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. The next meeting is August 5 at Noon on Zoom and will be led by Erik Halseth, Chair. 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.

# People and Doings

## **CARING COMMITTEE**

Lay ministers play a vital role in our congregation, extending the reach of our professional minister. The Caring Committee is on hiatus during Rev. Maddie's vacation until our next meeting scheduled for the third Thursday, September 17 at 1 PM. If you would like a call from the minister during August, be in touch with Krystal in the office who will reach out to Rev. Betty who providing pastoral coverage. Members of the Caring Committee are also available along with your Phone Captain should you wish to chat.



PHONE TREE

## **PHONE TREE**

We created a phone tree in March as the Safe at Home period began. This is used to help check on our folks or to get information out rapidly by telephone. 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).

## **MARY A. LIVERMORE SOCIETY**

Zoom with us on Thursday, August 27th, from 11:30 to 1 pm. Betsy Patterson, President, Ventura County League of Women Voters will present issues specific to the coming presidential election, tentatively including ballot propositions. Ann Hewitt will host. Invite a friend.

## **SOCIAL CONCERNS ACTION COMMITTEE**

**MEETING:** Social Concerns Action Committee will meet Wednesday, August 12, 4:00 pm on Zoom.

## **3rd QUARTER FIRST SUNDAY PLATE OFFERING**

Sunday August 2: Our First Sunday offering of the Third Quarter is LUCHA INCORPORATED, ("Struggle Inc.")

a local non-profit that provides produce and meals to our essential workers many of whom are undocumented, therefore have no government support for their well-being.

Equally important is LUCHA's mask-making project funding the purchasing of fabrics for hand sewn masks made by supporters for use by local farmworkers. LUCHA seeks seamstresses! Can do?

Contact Audrey Vincent who will pass your name to Dr. Gabino Aguirre or contact him directly at [drgabino2gmail.com](mailto:drgabino2gmail.com).

Our support is deeply appreciated. Make checks payable to Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula with LUCHA INC. in the memo line.



# People and Doings

**EXPAND YOUR MIND** is expected to resume in September. For now, the group's energy is focused on the **Walking Each Other Home Discussion Group Thursday's, at 7:00 PM on ZOOM**

Growing out of our Beloved Conversations effort, new discussions are beginning in this time of Black Lives Matter. Facilitated by Kate English. For more information, email Kate at [kate@myonestep.org](mailto:kate@myonestep.org)

Because Black Lives Matter.

Because this is good work.

Because of the inherent worth  
and dignity of EVERY person.

**Walking Each Other Home**

Thursdays at 7pm via Zoom

Register: <https://bit.ly/weohuucsp>



A weekly discussion group until we can resume our Beloved Conversations curriculum. We will be utilizing articles, videos and our individual perspectives to inspire reflective discussion and self work. Kate English will facilitate. For more information call or text 805-207-5013.

Made with PosterMyWise.com

# People and Doings



Early in 2020, the Social Concerns Action Committee voted to support the 2020 Census project, budgeting \$50. for use at an event focused on that effort. The event did not happen, but we continue to be supportive by using this space to educate ourselves about the census and how important it is for our home place, the Santa Clara River Valley.

Read Dr. Aguirre's words to learn how the census helps every one of us.

Did you know you are worth \$2,000? Read on!

## **Census 2020 Update for Universalist Unitarian Church**

**Prepared by Dr. Gabino Aguirre\***

The census, which happens every ten years, determines how many representatives each state gets in Congress, and how 800 billion dollars in federal funding gets spent. Schools, roads, health and medical services, disaster relief, and other important things in our community will gain – or lose – funding over the next ten years depending on the official population count. Each person's participation equates to \$2000 per year funding for healthcare facilities and emergency services, children's nutritional programs, housing and education programs and economic development and jobs creation among others. This is a very big deal, and everyone needs to participate.

The census is required by law and all residents, regardless of citizenship, must participate. For the very first time, the census will primarily rely on the Internet for participation. This is one of several barriers that inhibit registration. Others include lack of technology, limited or no broadband access, lack of familiarity with using the internet, mistrust of federal government, fear that personal information will be used against them, and limited English ability.

Locally, various partners are actively promoting a full and accurate count including the US Census Bureau, CA Census 2020, County of Ventura and the Ventura County Community Foundation. Achieving an accurate count in this year of the COVID-19 pandemic has been particularly challenging. With shelter-in-place restrictions, the campaign pivoted toward no-contact strategies using direct mail, utility inserts, social media, phone-banking, text messaging, videos and information dissemination at food-distribution centers. Besides participating via the Internet, individuals can also register by phone and completing a paper questionnaire.

All of these outreach activities are focused on areas and population groups that have been traditionally hard to count. In Ventura County, the focus is on the Oxnard, Port Hueneme and the Santa Clara Valley. Self-response closes on October 31<sup>st</sup> which is only 13 weeks from now. Currently, Ventura County is 4<sup>th</sup> in the state. We are getting close to the goal of having 75% of the County counted before Census Bureau enumeration begins. As of July 9, 2020, Santa Paula was at 68% and Fillmore was at 66.5%.

For more information, go to the following websites:

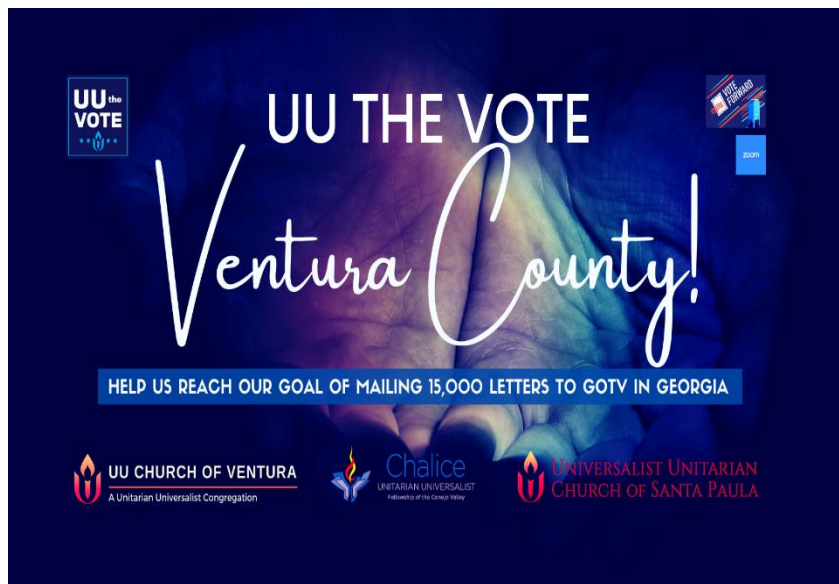
[venturacountycounts.org](http://venturacountycounts.org)   [census.ca.gov](http://census.ca.gov)   [census2020census.gov](http://census2020census.gov).

*\*Dr. Aguirre is the Census Coordinator for Region 5 which includes the coastal counties of Santa Cruz, San Benito, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura.*

# 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](mailto: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/>

## FRIENDSHIP BRIDGE "TIPICA" STORE OPEN!



The Covid19 pandemic has been devastating for underserved people in Guatemala. There is a curfew, markets and public transportation are closed and people are increasingly unable to get food. [Here is a way you too can help out.](#)

Many of you came to last year's presentation about Friendship Bridge with its "Microcredit Plus" program of loans, education, and health care services. We serve over 32,000 poor, mostly indigenous ladies in Guatemala. Our local Southern California Friendship Bridge Support Circle has opened an online store selling many beautiful handcrafted items or "tipica" made by many of these women!

<https://www.handmadebyfriendshipbridge.org/antelope-valley>

**Please follow these instructions:** It is important **not** to press **the green "shop" button** at the top of the website. Each item in our virtual store **must** have **Antelope Valley Circle** listed with the name of the item. Finally, as we are hand delivering items to your door, type in **EMPOWERWOMEN** in the shipping space and you will not be charged for shipping. Wherever you live in Ventura County, your purchases will be hand delivered to your doorstep! Donations gratefully accepted as well!

Questions: Call Constancia 661-478-3213!

THE UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN  
CHURCH OF SANTA PAULA

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We are all butterflies.  
Earth is our chrysalis.  
LeeAnn Taylor

Photo by Anne Lambeck on Unsplash

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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

**September newsletter deadline August 15**

*Dated Material  
Time Value*

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