



Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula

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

uucspoffice@gmail.com website: uucsp.org

OCTOBER 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/731217775>

Meeting ID: 731 217 7775 Password: uucsp93060

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

THEME: OCTOBER THEME: Emotional Intelligence

While IQ has long been valued, intelligence alone is not sufficient for success. Equally important is EQ or emotional intelligence with its focus on self-awareness, self-regulation, motivation, empathy, and social skill. These emotional competencies are not innate, but they can be learned. Through them, thinking and feeling are employed together in life affirming ways that influence all of our interactions.

October 4 Am I My Neighbor's Keeper? Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford, Mary Nelson

It would certainly be helpful if we could answer with a simple "yes" or "no." But it is much more complicated than that. And the challenges of the current pandemic, the political climate, and the racial turmoil has made things even more difficult. So on this Sunday we will explore the question through Unitarian and Universalist theological lenses in the hope of gaining some clarity for ourselves, our community, and our world.

First Sunday Plate to Interface

October 11 Blessing of the Animals Rev. Maddie, Ken Stock

We give thanks for all the non-humans in our lives. This is a chance to recognize and honor the ways that our animal companions enrich our lives. We will also take time to remember those pets we hold in our hearts and our memories. Please send us pictures!

Tuesday, October 13 Gathering Rev. Maddie 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. Led by Rev. Maddie Sifantus. The music will be provided by Christine Snipes Mazor, violin and Maddie, soprano, with poet Atul Ranchod.

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



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October 18 Canvas Sunday: Our Heritage, Our Future

Rev. Maddie, Jerry Gray

We look to our roots as a Universalist congregation to envision our future and how each of us can support it and realize its message of universal, radical love.

October 25 Conflagration: A Look at Transcendentalism

Rev. Maddie, Pat English

Transcendentalism is a root of modern Unitarian Universalism. Through the lens of John Buehrens new book *Conflagration: How the Transcendentalists Sparked the American Struggle for Racial, Gender and Social Justice*, we look at this interesting period of our history and how it can inform us today.

UUs Back in the Day

Elizabeth Palmer Peabody

Leslie Nichols



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Message from the Minister

I continue to think about how we can deepen our connections to one another, provide connections to those in the community who may need them and be connected each of us to that whisper of the still small voice in each one of us which is the sacred core of our being. Contemporary society is plagued by isolation, loneliness, and despair on a “normal” day, not to mention in the time of pandemic, fire and smoke, and the political climate of this election year. While social media facilitates connections and networking, it tends to be superficial. And our new Zoom world provides a way for us to see each other’s’ faces, but leaves out subtle interaction, the chance conversation and the opportunity for hugs. We know that in times of crisis, too many people have no one to turn to. And as we age (and we are all aging), we lose friends and family from our inner circle which may have been our support in our younger years.

As we entered the pandemic, my number one goal was—and remains—to keep us connected as best we can. That is why we have a Phone Chain, a Caring Committee, ongoing meetings such as the Mary As, Meditation, and Sip and Check and Check In and more. That is why we continue to have Worship on Sunday mornings and Gathering on the second Tuesday. We miss so much at this time, from singing together while gathered, the beauty of the inside of our Sanctuary and Parish Hall and the chance to welcome new people into our midst, people who may need a faith for tough times—for all times.

I encourage you to invite friends and family to visit us on Zoom or our Facebook page www.facebook.com/uucsp Perhaps they will respond to the connection to a liberal faith that will ground them during this time—and all times. They—and we all—need to find things like emotional intelligence, our theme for October 2020. A faith community like ours is a place where we can learn those skills as we try to be more connected with each other and lift up justice for all, from the least among us in our community to those who built this Universalist building back in 1891. Let us share our good news.

On the path of our faith,

Rev. Maddie Sifantus



Message from the Board of Trustees

The Universalist half of our church's and denomination's name will soon be celebrating its 250th anniversary in the United States. What a milestone! Later on, in the church year you will hear Sunday services and learn of other ways we are honoring the sestercentennial. Our own congregation is significantly younger than that, at a mere 130. We have a relatively new Archives committee who are working to preserve the history and records we have accumulated in that century and (nearly) a third. For history buffs, their work will be fascinating, and for those to whom history is "just history" - I expect you will find some interesting tidbits or curiosities.

In more recent developments, our 129-year-old building is soon to be welcoming 21st century technology, as we build in the infrastructure for social media 'broadcasting' of Sunday services and other events. We won't be looking much different at first (or even second) glance. There will be a few extra electrical outlets that you will see once our building can reopen. Beyond that, nearly all the work will be beneath the floors.

Our budget has been doing well, considering the turmoil going on in our world. The Finance committee has been keeping tabs on things to aid the Board in its decision making. Surprising as it may seem, they are already working on our 2021 budget! That's my segue into asking you all to begin thinking about pledging for next church year. We haven't been able to do our usual fundraising, and even our Sunday plate offering isn't what it usually is, understandably. Our budget will depend more than usual next year on the results of our upcoming canvass. That committee will be meeting soon, and you can expect to hear some novel ways of preparing for the congregation's upcoming monetary needs.

Take care, keep in touch with each other, and we look forward to seeing you in Zoom-church. That reminds me... maybe we should rechristen it ZUUm?!



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.

GATHERING*



***DEFINITION OF GATHERING**

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

OCTOBER 13, 2020 at 7:00 PM

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

With Maddie Sifantus, Christine Mazor, & 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.

MEDITATION PRACTICE GROUP WEDNESDAYS AT 6 PM

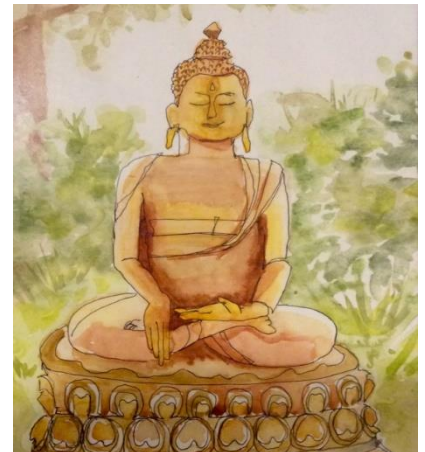
Sit with Rev. Maddie or Jim Cole on Zoom or Facebook livestream

Leadership schedule subject to change

October 7	Jim Cole
October 14	Rev. Maddie
October 21	Jim Cole
October 28	Rev. Maddie

www.facebook.com/uuscpl

Thirty to forty minutes of visualization, chant, and silence together



SOARING HEARTS YOGA



Soaring Hearts Yoga invites you to join them in their shady outdoor space on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:30 AM. Bring your own mats and props. No access to the building. Please contact Lisa Hammond at 831-801-2276 or soaringheartsyoga@gmail.com for more information.

People and Doings

NEW: Meet the Members!

While we're unable to meet face-to-face in worship and coffee hour, and via committee meetings and events, we thought it would be nice to keep and deepen connections up by providing a member profile each newsletter, starting with the members of your Board of Trustees. Whether you are getting to know someone for the first time, or getting to know something new about them, we hope "Meet the Members" will help to get and keep us connected despite the need for social distancing. For more information, please contact Rev. Maddie at minister@uusc.org or Krystal Johnson at uucspoffice@gmail.com



John Nichols was a black and white darkroom photographer for over 30 years. Eighteen years ago, he made the leap to both color photography and digital printing. The darkroom is now a wine cellar and he now prints both grayscale and color on paper and canvas using state of the art printers using archival pigmented inks.

After teaching for 9 years he moved on to open the John Nichols Gallery in Santa Paula in 1984 and then a bookstore called Mr. Nichols. He offered curatorial services to museums and organizations throughout Ventura County and was curator at the California Oil Museum for 10 years. His current gallery is on the second floor of the Santa Paula Art Museum.

He was previously president of the congregation in the 1980s and has been a Rotarian for 35 years and was named Rotarian of the Year. He is past president of the Santa Paula Historical Society, Downtown Merchants Association, Santa Paula Chamber Business of the Year, board member of the Museum of Ventura County and currently the Santa Paula Art Museum. He has worked on the crew at the Monterey Jazz Festival for over 40 years.

He began writing for newspapers and magazines about 30 years ago and the results are published in his Kindle book "Essay Man". He also wrote The St. Francis Dam Disaster, the Santa Paula Portrait Project, Mexico 1895, and The Vernacular Bestiary.

In 2010 John was selected to be interviewed and documented by Focus on the Masters. Focus on the Masters is a non-profit art appreciation program that documents, preserves and presents the works and lives of accomplished contemporary artists. Their archive includes oral histories, videotaped interviews, photographic portraits, and examples of the artists' work.

Photographs by John Nichols are in the permanent collection of the Museum of Ventura County, the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, Univ. of Austin, Texas, the Jackson Wheeler Collection (gifted to the Carnegie Art Museum, Oxnard), the City of Ventura, Santa Paula Art Museum,

People and Doings

Ventura Community Memorial Hospital and numerous private collections. Selected exhibits include the Santa Paula Art Museum, the California Oil Museum, the Museum of Ventura County, Ojai Art Center, Ojai Valley Museum, Annual Santa Paula Art and Photography Shows, Carnegie Art Museum and others. For several years he has been collaborating with Gail Pidduck to produce art about agriculture exhibits. That lead to the development of the Ag Art Alliance to further promote exhibits for artists working in the field of art about agriculture.

What is your faith of origin?

In about 5th grade or so a neighbor invited us to a Sunday school service. I went once and we were assigned to memorize one line from the bible, and I would get a free bible. I didn't do it, but they gave me the bible anyway. That action told me that I could not value anything in the bible because I did not have to work to understand it. A gift without any effort was meaningless in this case. My dad was raised Plymouth Brethren and often would tell the story about the men in the church telling him he would burn in hell for all eternity for not accepting Jesus.

How did find out about Unitarian-Universalism?

In 1958 my mom was seeking some religion. She was attracted to the occult and things like that. She heard about Unity Church and got out the phone book and called the closest thing...Universalist. She got Fred LeShane on the phone. I think he had just left the church in SP and moved to Ventura and became a Unitarian. He asked her what sort of thing she was looking for and after she talked a bit he said maybe she should look into Unitarianism. They joined the church in the first year or so in Ventura, almost charter members. Why did Fred move and change religions??? I joined the LRY and became president and started babysitting for church members and got to hang out at their homes and read their books and listen to their records and get inspired. I went to Starr King for 3 weeks in my senior year to study theology.

Why UUCSP? What do you find/ hope to find here?

More questions. Synchronicity guides me so I don't seek, I wait until things drop into my lap. Things and ideas are constantly falling into my lap and onto my path and I only notice some. I would become better at noticing that which is being given to me as I open my selves up to greater awareness of my existence.

If you could have dinner with any religious/spiritual leader, past or present, who would you choose and why?

If I said Meher Baba it wouldn't be any fun because he took a vow of silence. Which spiritual leader that you know of would drink wine? That's IT. Jesus because he would not have to bring his own wine but just turn my water into wine for the party.



People and Doings

NEWS FROM AMONG US – October 2020

- As we have reported in our weekly Friday eblasts, Jan Shepherd had a stroke and after a stay at the Community Memorial Hospital, was moved to skilled nursing. Jan Shepherd's family is in the process of moving her home to Santa Paula with full time care. The family does not want any calls to conserve her energy. Meanwhile, cards can be sent to her at: Jan Shepherd 500 W Santa Maria St #147 Santa Paula, CA 93060.
- We celebrate with Kate English in her new position with Ventura County, after many years with One Step a la Vez.
- Rev. Maddie officiated at the Celebration of Life of Dianne Davis on September 19 at the Church of Angels. Dianne was known in Santa Paula for creating the hanging basket program on Main Street. Our thoughts are with her husband, Dudley.
- 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 OFFICE HOURS

During this time of the Pandemic, Rev. Maddie is available by appointment on Zoom or on a telephone appointment. She is also available to meet with you socially distanced in the Memorial Garden at church, in your garden or in her courtyard at home. Monday is Rev. Maddie's day off and Saturday is her study/sermon writing day. 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 on Study Leave to prepare for and attend the Fall Meeting of the UUA's Ministerial Fellowship Committee from September 25 through October 7. She is entering her eighth and final year of service, with two more meetings after this one, in early December and April 2021. During the time she is doing full days of Zoom, our Administrator, Krystal Johnson or our congregation president, John Nichols, will contact Rev. Betty Stapleford in the case of a pastoral emergency.



SIP AND CHECK-IN WITH REV. MADDIE

TUESDAYS SEPTEMBER 15 AND 22

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> Meeting ID: 731 217 7775 Password: uucsp93060

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, 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. The next meeting is October 9 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. The Caring Committee's next meeting is scheduled for the third Thursday, October 15 at 3 PM on Zoom. Should you wish to join this group which cares for our members and friends and deepens our connections, please be in touch with Rev. Maddie or Karen Harris, chair.



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 do not think you are on the Tree and want to be, please let Rev. Maddie or Krystal Johnson know at uucspoffice@gmail.com.

WORSHIP TEAM MEETING OCTOBER 20 at 7 PM

The Sunday morning service or "Worship" is a unifying event in the life of our congregation, a place where members and friends come together for inspiration, intellectual challenge, spiritual nourishment, community belonging, intergenerational connections, and continuity with the Unitarian Universalist faith, and where all other areas of church activity can connect, including music, other arts, religious education, social action, hospitality, and stewardship. Our Worship Team meets quarterly, together with the Minister to consider and support any and all aspects of worship services on Sunday mornings, but also special worship services and worship-related events that take may place at other times of the week like the Winter Solstice and monthly Gatherings. There are special considerations in this time of Zoom and planning for the day we are back in the Sanctuary.



All current Worship Hosts and anyone interested in becoming one or in the philosophy of worship is cordially encouraged to attend a Worship Team Zoom on Tuesday, October 20 at 7:00 PM. Usual Zoom Meeting ID and password.

People and Doings

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 may be as far off as Spring 2021 or even later, depending on finding a vaccine. 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. Meanwhile, keep listening to music online, singing in your house or your front steps, and supporting your favorite musicians and singers as you can.

MARY A. LIVERMORE SOCIETY

Thursday, October 22, 11:30 AM the Mary A. Livermore Society will meet on Zoom. Speaker will be Ned Branch, Executive Director, Blanchard Community Library.

OLIVE OIL

message from a member-
Audrey have received a fresh supply of olive oil. The bottle size is a little larger, 500 ml is now 750ml. Please contact Audrey Vincent if you would like a bottle



Because Black Lives Matter.
Because this is good work.
Because of the inherent worth
and dignity of EVERY person.

Walking Each Other Home

2nd Thursday of Each Month at 7pm via Zoom

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



A monthly discussion group addressing racial justice in both a personal and community context. 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

SOCIAL CONCERNS ACTION COMMITTEE

Wednesday, October 14, 4:00 pm,
Social Concerns Action Committee will meet.

Focus: Ballot Propositions
Because we UUs affirm the democratic process (our Fifth UUA Principle), because we govern ourselves using the democratic process in our business meetings, we want to do due diligence in this election year and study the ballot measures before us all this fall. Bring your voter's guide to our Zoom meeting to be ready for a discussion of the statewide propositions which Margaret Wilson will lead along with a member from the League of Women Voters.

People and Doings

4th QUARTER FIRST SUNDAY PLATE OFFERING

OCTOBER 4

NOVEMBER 1

DECEMBER 6



Again, this year for this last quarter we will support Interface Children & Family Services, thereby providing many needed services for our fellow Santa Paula residents now during this pandemic. Thanks to our tax-deductible year-end gifts this time last year at year, Interface provided direct services to 1,378 adults, teens, and children who live in and around Santa Paula, Fillmore and Piru. Interface also provided critical information and referral services to 1,005 community members via 211 Information & Assistance.

By calling 211 people are able to access help right when they need it right there in their homes, thanks to remote access. Be it assistance for problems relating to domestic violence, mental health issues, child abuse prevention, or trauma treatment, help is forthcoming. No more re-arranging schedules to comply with difficult appointment times; no more transporting the children along for lack of childcare. Such accessibility brought about a 225% increase in the number of counselling sessions for our valley residents, hopefully bringing about greater health, sustainability, and wellbeing to our corner of the County.

We are fortunate in having easy access to Interface's many services. Let's help Santa Paulans and Santa Clara River Valley residents get the professional counselling services they need. Let's support Interface!



People and Doings

UUCSP Members and Friends

As mentioned previously in this newsletter by our Board of Trustees, we are celebrating a Sestercentennial this year. UUCSP has voted to donate \$250 to share in this event. Please see the letter below.

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August 21, 2020

**Dear Friend of Murray Grove,**

**The Universalist Sestercentennial is here!**

**A continent-wide celebration of 250 years of Universalism and its impact now and for the future will be held virtually October 2-4. You and your congregants are invited.**

There will be a rich array of programs, talks, workshops, and entertainment for registrants to enjoy. Thomas Potter and John Murray re-enactors will engage you in the story of their meeting; Judith Sargent and John Murray's love story will be played out in "Love Notes;" story tellers will enchant with "2st Century Expressions of Universalism." There will be a Heritage Hunt and dances by The Core of Fire. We will even dedicate the representation of the Hand in Hand (in construction right now) that brought Universalism to our shores. (When it is safe, we hope your families will come enjoy and climb on it.) You are specifically invited to join us for a grand toast to Universalism's Sestercentennial on Friday evening. Registration for individuals for the entire weekend is open: [Register NOW](#)

Sunday's service, which could be your congregation's service on October 4<sup>th</sup>, will be led by Rev. Justin Schroeder, senior co-minister of the First Universalist Church of Minneapolis and projected continentally by zoom and U-Tube.

You can also celebrate this significant anniversary all year. To aid you in discovery, a [Universalism Toolkit](#) has been created. This resource provides stories, bios, readings, music, dramas, sermons and much more. Follow the [link](#) and enjoy the journey.

A 250th anniversary is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. A sculpture is being commissioned to commemorate all Sestercentennial Donors of \$250 or more by December 31, 2020.

We invite you to make a special donation and to be honored this way.

Sincerely,

*Diem, Dominick, and Carol*

**Diem Jones**, Executive Director

**Dominick DePinto**, Board President

**Carol Haag**, Development Committee Chair

THE UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN  
CHURCH OF SANTA PAULA

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Santa Paula, CA 93060  
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[www.uucsp.org](http://www.uucsp.org)  
[www.facebook.com/uucsp](https://www.facebook.com/uucsp)



NOVEMBER newsletter deadline October 15

Sunday Worship Services at 10:30 am

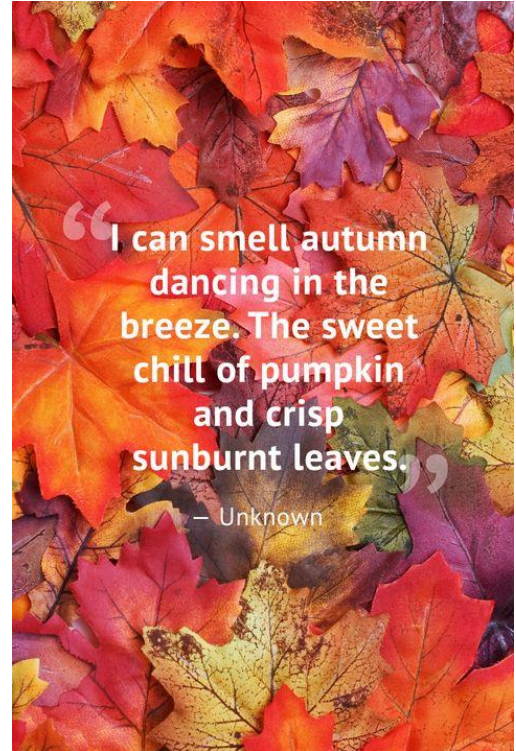
Rev. Maddie Sifantus, Minister, Choir Director  
Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford, Affiliate Minister  
Krystal Johnson, Office Administrator  
Vincent Sorisio, Church Musician  
Albie Alamillo, Custodian

Board of Trustees:

John Nichols, President,  
Karen Harris, Vice-President  
Jerry Gray, Secretary,  
Pat English, Treasurer  
Jyl Atmore, Member at Large

Tech Support Team:

Erik Halseth  
Michael Gonzalez  
Evan Holt



*Dated Material*  
*Time Value*

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