

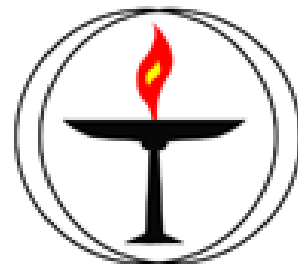


Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula

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

uucspoffice@gmail.com website: uucsp.org

MARCH 2021 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

MARCH 2021 THEME: Respect

Respect is the way that we affirm another's worth & dignity. UU minister Tom Owen-Towle has suggested that respect is more important than love. The word respect comes from a Latin root that means "to look back, to regard." It reminds us that when we look with the hard eyes of judgment, we would be wise to look again with the soft eyes of respect that we might truly see beneath superficialities.

March 7 Unitarian Universalism Calls Us to Action—Now

Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford, MaryBeth East

Lots of us have heard our UUA President Rev. Dr. Susan Frederick - Gray say that this is no time for "a casual faith." And many believe action is a part of that obligation. The only questions are what areas of concern we are drawn toward and what actions each of us finds most compelling and feasible. Come this Sunday with an open mind and heart to explore the possibilities for yourself.

First Sunday Plate to House Farm Workers <https://housefarmworkers.org/>

Tuesday, March 9 7 PM Gathering

Rev. Maddie, Christine Snipes Mazor & Geno Palilla

This is a reflective time in our busy week to hear some beautiful music, share some silence and hear spoken word on a theme, which this month is Respect. The music will be streamed from the Sanctuary by Christine Snipes Mazor, violin and Geno Palilla, piano. Led by Rev. Maddie 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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March 14 at 10 AM

Channel Islands Cluster Shared Worship

Shelly Tochluk, speaker

“Solidarity and Racial Justice: How do we stand together if we are not all together?”

"The last year brought multiple, ongoing crises to the forefront of our minds. Health inequities in the face of a global pandemic. Police violence against Black people. The spread of massive conspiracy theories leading to a white supremacist, anti-democratic insurrection. Calls to stand in solidarity for racial justice have been loud and clear. How do we take action? We are not only physically at a distance. Many of us also feel unsure about what to do. Do we really want to abolish the police? How can we stand in solidarity if we feel conflicted? How do we bridge the divide?" We share worship with the other UU congregations in our cluster, with many of the ministers participating and the author of *Witnessing Whiteness* preaching. Note different time and Zoom ID info. This service will not be exported to Facebook.

Meeting ID: 209 555 249 Passcode:
2020

One tap mobile +16699006833



March 21

Ostara: the Spring Equinox

Rev. Maddie, Ken Stock

The eight Sabbats of Earth Based Theology respect the cycles of the year on our earth. **The Spring Equinox is the point of perfect balance on the journey through the Wheel of the Year. Night and day are of equal length and in perfect equilibrium - dark and light, masculine and feminine, inner and outer, in balance.** The natural world is coming alive. We mark this time while thinking of our March theme of respect.

March 28

Rest From the Storm

Rev. Maddie, Karen Harris

Rev. Maddie reflects on how we all need rest and Sabbath time in our lives, including her own, as she leaves on Sabbatical after Easter! Respect for others starts with respect for our own needs.

UUs Back in the Day

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

For the last several years we have subscribed to the Touchstones Project. It is an effort by some UU ministers to fill the need for resources for Sunday morning worship and other activities of congregations. The Worship materials especially are very helpful for our Worship Hosts and visiting speakers. The Touchstones yearly theme this year is Deepening Connections which was chosen long before the pandemic. The Touchstones subtitle is *Exploring Meaning, Transforming Community*, which seems to me is what we are trying to be about in our historic congregation, along with deepening connections. I sometimes like to think about the differences in how early parishioners went about exploring meaning and transforming their community might have looked like, what they wore to church on Sunday morning, what music they liked to sing from the old Universalist hymnals and how they heated the Sanctuary back in the day. What were their Board meetings like? Did they argue about the use of words for the Holy? Did they have prayer meetings as many churches did back at the turn of the Twentieth Century? What happened at their “Grande Concert” which happened on June 29, 1906? How did it compare to our Santa Paula Concert Series, now on hiatus? Who *were* these folks who moved from back East to settle in this valley and found this Universalist congregation? These are some of the questions I am asking myself again as I head off in April on Sabbatical, hopefully back East if it is safe, sending a pile of books on ahead of me. I hope to make the trek up to Caribou this time, which is on a piece of land at the top of the state of Maine that reaches way up into New Brunswick towards Quebec City. If you look up the Caribou congregation, you find that its latest name was the Central Aroostook Unitarian Universalist Church, and its last reported membership was 29 people in 2009. But you also find that they were trying to sell the building. I wonder what I will find? Inquiring minds want to know.

On the path of our faith,

Reverend Maddie

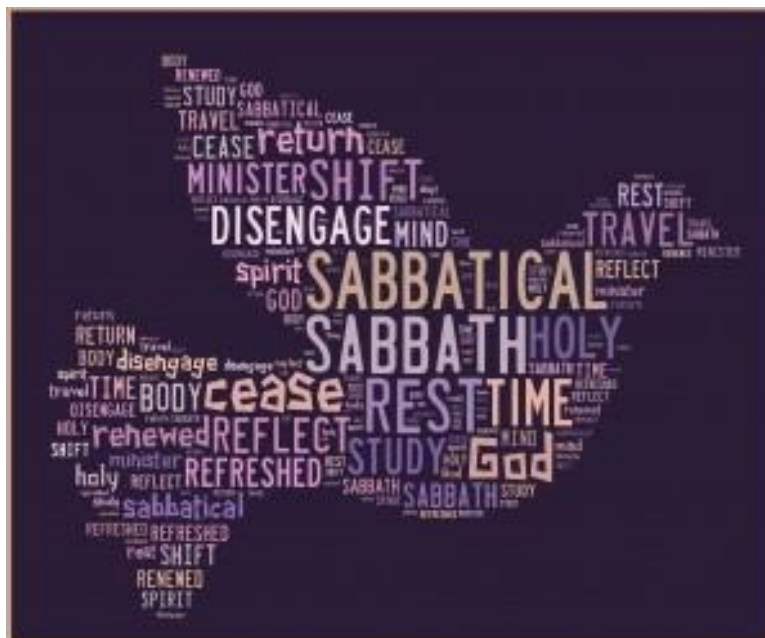


Sabbatical Moments

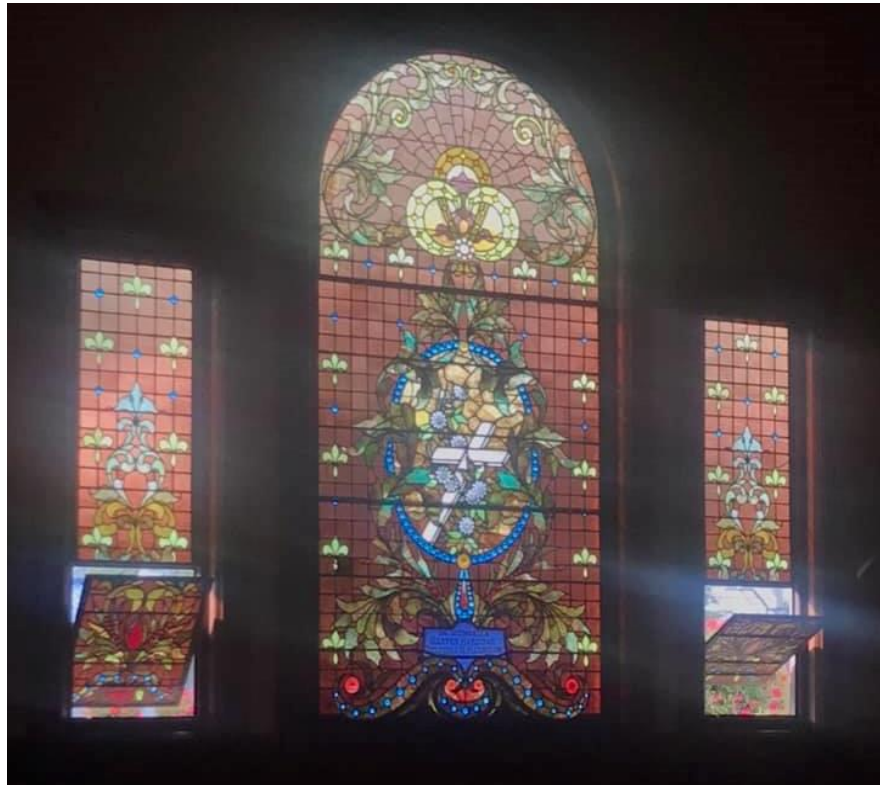
“I believe that the most important single thing,
beyond discipline and creativity
is daring to dare.”

~ Maya Angelou

What would three months of unstructured space look like for our minister and how would having a different minister for three months challenge us to look at our mission and how we do things as a congregation? The planning for Rev. Maddie's Sabbatical continues as April approaches. Rev. Maddie has completed her Sixth Year as minister at the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula and will take the first half of the six months Sabbatical she has accrued in 2021. She will preach on what a Sabbatical is on March 28th, leaving for three months followed by some of her vacation time, after Easter Sunday. The Sabbatical Team includes Krystal Johnson, MaryBeth East, Kate English, Rev. Betty, and Karen Harris. The next Sabbatical Planning meeting will be March 3 on Zoom. Please share any questions or concerns with Rev. Maddie or the Team members. What can we dare to be during this time?



GATHERING*



*DEFINITION OF GATHERING

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

MARCH 9, 2021 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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<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 or Jim Cole lead Meditation on Wednesday evenings at 6 PM, on Zoom or livestreaming from our Facebook page. We offer socially distanced yoga in our rose garden with no access to the building. Be in touch with Lisa Hammond for more information. 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. Would you like to offer an activity on Zoom during this time?



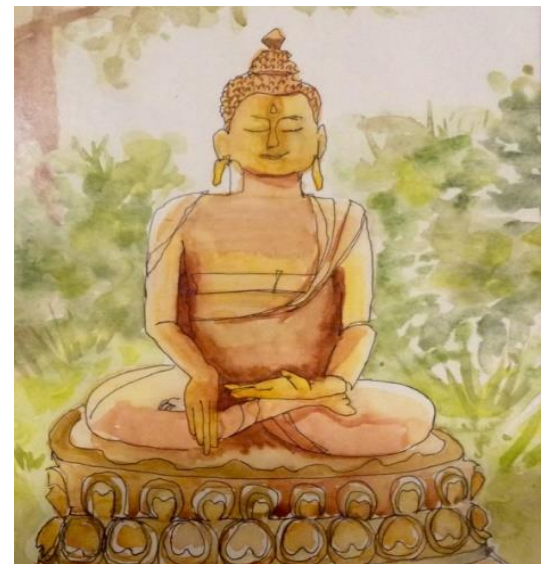
MEDITATION PRACTICE GROUP

WEDNESDAYS AT 6 PM

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

March 3	Rev. Maddie
March 10	Jim Cole
March 17	Rev. Maddie
March 24	Jim Cole
March 31	Rev. Maddie

Leadership schedule subject to change



Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7312177775>

Meeting ID: 731 217 7775 Passcode: uucsp93060 www.facebook.com/uucsp

Image: Lynn Holbein



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 are keeping and deepening connections by providing a member profile each newsletter, this month our new Secretary of our Board of Trustees, Ann Hewitt.



Member Profile UUCSP Secretary Ann Hewitt

Mary A. Livermore Society, convener

Age: 68

Occupation: Retired Climate Change and Environmental Consultant, aspiring creative

Residence: Mid-Town Ventura

E-mail: ahewitt@anacapa.ca

What is your faith of origin?

Roman Catholic (the Irish variety)

How did find out about Unitarian-Universalism?

During my 20s, I attended lectures at the UU Church in Ottawa, Canada. They were always inspiring and the Church was beautifully designed, on the banks of a river. When Richard and I decided to marry, the Church immediately came to mind. During our discussions with the Minister, I learned a little more about UU Principles.

Why UUCSP?

We chose Santa Paula partly because our neighbors are members (Jerry Grey and John Robles). After a few visits, we found the congregation to be very welcoming, without being overwhelming. And I loved the Church building.

What do you find/ hope to find here?

As an immigrant, I often miss my Canadian connections and sense of place. I was looking for return to community, and a quiet place to reflect on my own life and the world around me. And to give back.

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

This is difficult, since I find the deification of leaders very disturbing. Even though he was not a religious leader per se, I would treasure a dinner with Joseph Campbell. His analyses of myths and his absolute commitment to joy is so very different from the world in which I was raised. "If you do follow your bliss you put yourself on a kind of track that has been there all the while, waiting for you, and the life that you ought to be living is the one you are living. Follow your bliss and don't be afraid, and doors will open where you didn't know they were going to be."

People and Doings

MEMBER ALERT! (friends are welcome as well, but cannot vote) Call to a special, brief Congregational Meeting on Sunday, Mar. 21st right after the service at 11:30 to re-elect Karen Harris to the Board of Trustees. During the crush of our first ZOOM Annual Meeting we failed to accomplish this officially and are calling on all members to join us in finalizing this task. After this meeting, we will continue with our usual breakout coffee hour.



NEWS FROM AMONG US

March 2021

- Our thoughts are with Barbara Beach who continues to recover from an illness at home with care coming in.
- Jan Shepherd has had a fall and is in the hospital as this is being written.
- CJ Starling is looking for housing if anyone has any leads.
- Nicholas "Nic" Filzen will be our Sabbatical minister while Rev. Maddie takes the first half of her Sabbatical from April through June. You're invited to his ordination on Sunday, March 7th at 2 PM PST! Please come celebrate as the Unitarian Universalist Church of Saint Petersburg and the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara co-ordain him as a Unitarian Universalist Minister. For many reasons, the event will be virtual, which allows more folks around the country and world to participate and attend. The Rev. Dr. William Schulz (former Executive Director of Amnesty International USA, former President of the Unitarian Universalist Association, and former President and CEO of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee) will be offering the sermon from his home near Boston. There will also be live music from the US southeast by the bluegrass band, "My Girl, My Whiskey, and Me!" You may join Zoom using this link:

<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/94116706528>

Meeting ID: 941 1670 6528

The service will also be livestreamed on the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara FB page. And join Rev. Maddie and Rev. Nic for Easter on April 4!

- Albie Alamillo has recovered from COVID-19 and is back cleaning our building. Our Tech Team member Evan Holt also had a mild case of COVID, was able to continue work from home and is now recovered. Stay safe everyone!
- 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.



People and Doings

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 her home. Monday is Rev. Maddie's Sabbatical Day (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 or minister@uucsp.org



SIP AND CHECK-IN WITH REV. MADDIE

TUESDAYS MARCH 9 AND 23 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



BECOMING A SAFER CONGREGATION

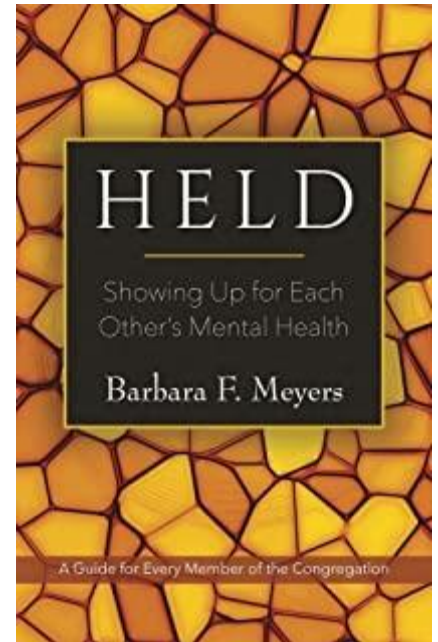
NEEDED! Two new members! Due to the death of Pat English and Erik Halseth refocusing on Seminary, we are two members short when we need all hands-on deck to make plans for reopening later in 2021. Please let Rev. Maddie or Krystal know if you are interested. Your Safe Congregation Team continues to meet 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. We are informed by our insurance company, Church Mutual, and the Pacific Western Region of the UUA. The next meeting is March 10 at Noon on Zoom. The Safe Congregation Team reports and is advisory to the Board.



People and Doings

CARING COMMITTEE CONSIDERS MENTAL HEALTH

Lay ministers play a vital role in our congregation, extending the reach of our professional minister. Often those with mental health issues are overlooked by congregations. This year the Caring Committee is considering Reverend Barbara Meyers new book during its regular meetings along with our normal discussions. The Caring Committee's next meeting is scheduled for the third Thursday, March 18 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

It has been a year since we created a phone tree 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.



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. The editors of Rise Up Singing and Rise Again, Annie Patterson and Peter Blood, have many suggestions to keep us singing and are still putting out "A Daily Song of Hope". They say: We need great songs right now to help us make it through this challenging time. Peter is posting a song a day. You can find these videos (by many different artists) in two ways:

- On their website: www.riseupandsing.org/dailysong
- On their Facebook page: www.facebook.com/pg/RiseUpAndSing1



People and Doings

SOCIAL CONCERNS ACTION COMMITTEE

The Social Concerns Action Committee will meet Wednesday, March 17, 4:00 pm on Zoom. Laura Espinoza will speak on issues related to race that we as justice seekers should know about.



MARY A. LIVERMORE SOCIETY

The Mary A. Livermore Society will meet **Thursday, March 25 at 11:30 AM** on Zoom with special guest speaker Judge Katherine Ann Mader.

Judge Katherine Mader spent two decades as a judge in a criminal court, was the LAPD's first inspector general, a prosecutor in two murder-for-hire trials, and a defense attorney who successfully argued to spare the life of the Hillside Strangler. From her perch behind the bench, Judge Mader witnesses a parade of drug addicts, gang members, mentally ill defendants, pricey private attorneys, jaded prosecutors, and true-believer public defenders.

In 2020, her book, *Inside the Robe* was published. In the book, Judge Mader takes the reader for an intimate tour of her courtroom. Our March program will feature Judge Mader. It promises to be interesting and compelling! Join us!



2021 FIRST QUARTER SUNDAY OFFERINGS TO BENEFIT

HOUSE FARM WORKERS

MARCH 7

Our 2021 First Quarter Sunday offerings will be given to House Farm Workers, a citizens' advocacy group who strives to improve housing conditions for those essential workers who plant, cultivate, and harvest the wealth of crops here in the Santa Clara River Valley. Our funds will be combined with other benefactors to maximize benefits.



People and Doings



The past four years have created some serious racial polarity. For many of us, in the Tri-Counties, we are small islands of "BIPOCedness" finding solace in our communities of faith as Unitarian Universalists.

What might be available if we were able to gather virtually as a **BIPOC** community monthly to allow for the exploration and development of creating a safe place? We would be able to: discuss our lives and experiences, share resources, play music, and foster an inclusive springboard for the faith we so ardently love?

Matt Chapa and Ayanna Gaines, two Chalice members, are eager to find out.

Please join us on **Thursday, March 11th from 7-8pm** via Zoom for an informal get-together so that we might gauge the interest of our BIPOC siblings.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95532331455?pwd=TFI3b2MwUG96MmN0c1M5RHZiUXFsZz09>

One tap mobile

+16699006833

Meeting ID: 955 3233 1455

Passcode: 305115

People and Doings



Chalice is excited to invite California Central Coast cluster Unitarian Universalist Congregations to join us for a four-part online workshop series

Witnessing Whiteness: The Need to Talk About Race and How to Do It

with

Shelly Tochluk, Ph.D.

Thursdays, April 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd - 7:00-8:30 p.m.



This interactive workshop series will offer foundational grounding and skills-building practice opportunities for engaging in challenging conversations about race.

4/1 – Foundations

- Know Thyself: Self-assessment and framework for engaging with other white people about racism
- Context Analysis: Critical awareness when engaging across race

4/8 – Becoming a Bridge

- Developing “both/and” thinking as a tool
- The RACE Method, from the White Ally Toolkit

4/15 – Engaging in Difficult Conversations

- Strategies for effective engagement with family, friends, and coworkers

4/22 – Developing our Emotional Capacity to Engage

- Reducing Ego, Listening to the Radical

Shelly Tochluk, Ph.D., author of *Witnessing Whiteness*, is an educator with a background in psychology who spent years as a researcher, counselor, and teacher in California’s public schools. Dr. Tochluk works with AWARE-LA (Alliance of White Anti-Racists Everywhere-Los Angeles) and trains teachers as a Professor of Education at Mount Saint Mary’s University-Los Angeles.

This workshop series is being offered to California Unitarian Universalist congregation members and friends committed to dismantling racism.

To help defray costs, a total donation of \$20 per household is requested.

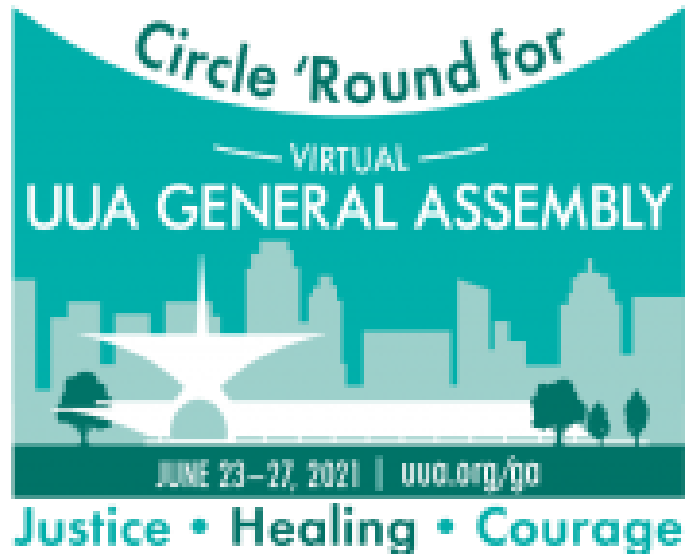
However, no one will be turned away for lack of funds. Maximum participants: 200.

Please register in advance here:

<http://bit.ly/WitnessingWhitenessWorkshopSeriesChaliceUU>

Our Chalice mission: *To nurture spiritually courageous people who transform the world through justice and compassion.*

People and Doings



General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Participants worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend; congregations must [certify](#) annually to have voting delegates

The UUA Board of Trustees has passed a resolution making the 2021 UUA General Assembly a **100% virtual event**. Let's reach record-breaking attendance **June 23-27, 2021!**

Why Virtual General Assembly?

General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we conduct business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles. That remains true even when we cannot gather physically. Last year, GA had more than 4,900 registered attendees participate from remote locations around the world. Although we give up the face-to-face interaction and hugs that are prevalent when we meet in-person, we retain our dedication to community and make our experience more accessible and more environmentally sustainable.

People and Doings

WhaleCoast Alaska 2021

Have you ever wanted to visit Alaska? If so, **WhaleCoast Alaska 2021** is for you! 4 Alaska UU congregations invite you to experience our unique environmental and spiritual tour program this summer, when it will be safe to travel again. See Alaska through the eyes of local UUs, with friendly homestays and awe-inspiring tour activities. See wildlife, including moose, bears, caribou, whales, bald eagles, sea lions, etc. Visit Denali National Park. Experience Native Alaskan culture.

WhaleCoast Alaska is an inspirational way to visit our beautiful state. Complete info at: www.WhaleCoastAK.org. This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience you won't want to miss!



THE UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN
CHURCH OF SANTA PAULA

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Santa Paula, CA 93060

Office: 805-525-4647

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www.uucsp.org

www.facebook.com/uucsp



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:

Board of Trustees:

Leslie Nichols, President,

Karen Harris, Vice-President

Ann Hewitt, Secretary,

Jerry Gray, Treasurer

Jyl Atmore, Member at Large

Tech Support Team:

Evan Holt Monika Murillo

Michael Gonzalez Mitch Stone

April newsletter deadline MARCH 15

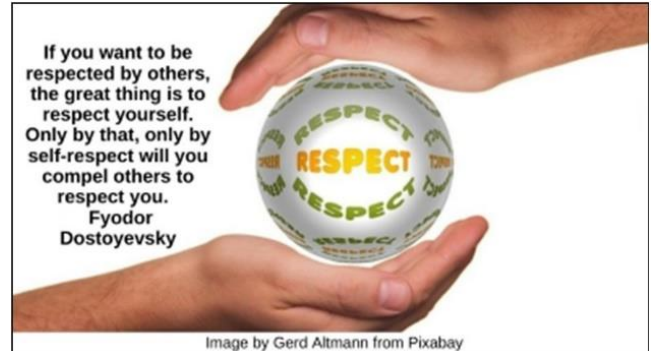


Image by Gerd Altmann from Pixabay

Dated Material
Time Value

Universalist Unitarian Church
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740 East Main Street
Santa Paula, CA 93060