



# Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula

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

uucspoffice@gmail.com website: uucsp.org

## JUNE 2021 SERVICES, SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM

### JUNE THEME: CARE OF THE SOUL

Rev. Nancy Shaffer asked, "How shall we mend you, sweet Soul? ...Come sit. Come tell me." The soul is understood as our essence, as the core of our being. It is sturdy, but not invincible. Subject to the tragedies that touch our lives, the fabric of the soul can be torn. Shaffer concluded, "We will mend you with pieces of your own sweet self, sweet Soul." The care of the soul is important work for it is self-care.



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### Sunday, June 6 Leadership and the Care of Souls

Rev. Nic Filzen, Ken Stock

Leaders care for their souls and the souls of others. On the 77th anniversary of D-Day and a few days after this year's Memorial Day, what can we learn about caring for souls, especially in difficult times, from the characters of M\*A\*S\*H? (If you don't know, M\*A\*S\*H was an innovative and wildly popular 20th century TV show depicting Korean War mobile army hospital #4077.) How can we all be leaders in our own way within this faith community?

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### Tuesday, June 8 Gathering

This is a reflective time in our busy week to hear some beautiful music, share some silence and hear spoken word. The music will be provided by guitar player and SB City College faculty, Tony Ybarra. Original poetry by Atul Ranchod. Led by Rev. Nic.

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### Sunday, June 13

### "Beautiful Blooming"

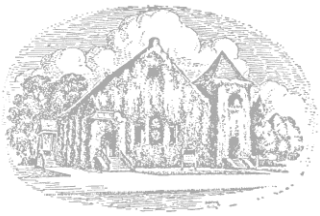
Rev. Nic Filzen, Mary Nelson

As we share in our annual communion of flowers (there will be a pick-up and drop-off at the church on Saturday, June 12th), we'll reflect on how enriching our lives with beauty can be a salve for the soul. Especially when we experience so much constant ugliness in the world. How can beauty help us bloom? How can beauty bloom out from the muck of tragedy?

***To celebrate this annual ritual, there will be a flower pick-up and drop-off in the alleyway behind the church on Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM. Members of the sabbatical planning team and caring team will help Rev. Nic greet folks and distribute flowers. Ruth Ricards will build the altar with all the flowers we have at the end of our collection. We hope you can bring a flower from your own home or neighborhood to share with the community. And perhaps connect with each other physically, even if momentarily, before we are able to completely come back together in the fall.***



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



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**Sunday, June 20**

**When the Sun Stands Still**

**Rev. Nic Filzen, Kate English**

What can the Summer Solstice teach us about reciprocity and our responsibilities to abundance? Can the rhythms of the seasons teach us how to honor our own ebbs and flows? Where might each of us need to call the element of fire into our own lives? Explore these questions on this Summer Solstice Service with Kate, Rev Nic & Janeya Filzen.

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**Sunday, June 27**

**GA Sunday Morning Worship**

Join other congregations around the country and world for the largest annual gathering of UUs joining in worship. You'll sign onto the normal Sunday worship link here at UUCSP and the tech team will share the service with you through zoom. Recognizing the importance of shared ministry and the many innovative approaches to worship created by congregations during the pandemic, UUA President, Rev. Dr. Susan Frederick Gray, selected the [First Universalist Church of Minneapolis](#) to serve as worship leaders for this year's GA Sunday Morning Service. Last year more than 10,000 screens tuned in to the watch the Sunday Morning Worship at GA! Isn't it awesome to feel a part of this large, vibrant movement!



## HOW WE GATHER

As 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. Nic 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

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

# Message from the Minister

What is the soul? As Rev. Shaffer is quoted on the first page, perhaps it is the “essence... the core of our being.” For many people, the soul is disconnected from the body. An idea sometimes referred to as the bifurcation of nature. An idea that goes back at least to Plato, who in his famous allegory of the Cave differentiates between the shadows we all see and the real thing behind us that we can't or choose not to see. The origin or essence of the shadow. The shadow is our body, and the real thing is our soul. Many Christians took this idea and ran with it. The soul goes to heaven and the body remains here. With little to no value.

This thinking has been at the heart of some of the most terrible oppressions in history. If the body isn't real. If it doesn't really matter, then it can be used and abused with impunity. I argue there is no separation between the body and soul. There is no bifurcation of nature. Thus, when I speak of care for the soul, this is *exactly* synonymous with care of the body. Care of the mind. The chemical processes experienced as feelings. Or as it says above, care of the soul is self-care. It's all the same and all infinitely worthy and valuable.

Yet, it doesn't stop with self-care. The theme of the month isn't care of your own soul. It's care of *the* soul. We aren't just responsible for caring for our own souls. We have a responsibility to care for others' too. And to help others care for their own soul. Classic Unitarian theology might even believe that there is indeed only *the* unified soul. I don't quite believe that but do however believe that we are all connected to each other and nature around us but an “essence. The core of our [interdependent] being.”

May we continuously care for our interdependent being - our web of life and existence – by truly caring for ourselves and others. By offering ourselves a gentle and compassionate touch and attention. Allowing and promoting that which each person needs to live a full, whole life in relationship to all. And may we put an end to the injustice in the world that directly harms the bodies... the souls... of individuals in our web.

Faithfully yours, Reverend Nic

## **“What the Pastor is reading:”**

I was thrilled to receive the spring quarter copy of UU World last week. Not sure if you all receive that or not (if not, I hope you will look into it), but it's such a great resource for amplifying what our movement is thinking about and doing around the country and world. The title page headline for this issue reads, “(RE) BUILDING DEMOCRACY, A NATIONAL RECKONING ABOUT RACE, JUSTICE, AND EQUITY. I believe that if we're doing it right, we're always re-building democracy. It's a messy thing, and at least on a national level it seems messier than ever. But that means we are sitting at the precipice of possibility to undo undue harm, and to inject the vaccine of justice into our world. I hope you'll join me in reading more about this important subject through the faith-full lens of our great resource, the UU World.

# Message from the Minister

## Sabbatical Moment

As I settle into my Sabbatical, I have been studying Mary Livermore in greater depth than my time normally allows. I have visited Melrose, Massachusetts where she lived the last years of her life and took a picture of the sign on the house which these days has been made into a two-family home. While talking about her with a friend I am staying with, he found this letter from Lydia Maria Child to a friend of hers, Eliza Scudder, on February 6, 1870, which mentions her experience of Livermore. The editors introduce it and then quote the letter:



“In January 1870 Child went to Boston for a gathering of antislavery veterans. She also attended the founding meeting of the Massachusetts Women Suffrage Association. Mary A. Livermore (1820-1905), from Chicago, became editor of the association’s weekly, *Women’s Journal*.

“Dear Eliza,

I was right down vexed after I parted from you at the depot, but, in the course of a half an hour, I subsided into my long-established habit of “accepting the situation;” and finally I was glad that the accident happened; for it gave me to the opportunity to hear Mrs. Livermore at the Women’s Convention. She is the most electrifying speaker I have heard for many a long year. She has a good deal of argumentative power, she introduces many little humorous anecdotes and illustrations, which contracts well with touches of genuine pathos, and even sublimity. Mrs. Howe talks sensibly and philosophically, and her manner is ladylike and dignified; but the strait jacket propriety, with which “elegant society” invested in her in her youth, fetters the freedom of her soul. Mrs. Livermore is the product of the untrammelled West....”

Even though Livermore lived for 12 years in Chicago, she was originally from the Boston area. It is interesting to me that her house is in Melrose, a block from the church my parents were married in and in which I was christened. Stay tuned for much more about Universalism and Mary A. Livermore in a sermon series after I return in August.

On the path of our faith, Rev. Maddie

# Message from the Board of Trustees

## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Some of you may remember Minister Nic Filzen's comments in the May newsletter on a book by Laura Park, THE NESTED BOWLS. As part of our time with him while Rev. Maddie is on sabbatical your Board of Trustees has been visioning how our church leadership roles can further enhance life in our church and beyond. For us it has been exploring how we can move from managing to "governance". This simply means looking and acting on our roles as being deeper, more spiritual, and impacting on the church, the congregation, and the world outside. A simple premise, but quite a task. How can each one of us on our board or in our congregation deepen our relationship with our values and then turn them outward to influence and help others? Our church has a powerful message to send and each one of us are emissaries.

Last month, I noted that the Board of Trustees was looking to re-establish our House and Grounds Committee. After all, our building not only houses us, but is architecturally significant, historic, and a huge presence right on the main "drag" of our town. Board Member Ann Hewitt has stepped up to leadership and has volunteered to be chair. Church Secretary Krystal Johnson has located a reputable handyman for hire to assist with the more skill-intense jobs. We've brainstormed who might be interested members for Ann to contact. If you get the call or if you wish to be proactive now is the time to say yes!

Leslie Nichols

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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.

## Tuesday, June 8 2021 at 7:00 PM

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

Led by Rev Nic Filzen with Atul Ranchod and  
returning special guest, guitarist, Tony Ybarra.

On Zoom, exported to Facebook.com/uucsp

<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?

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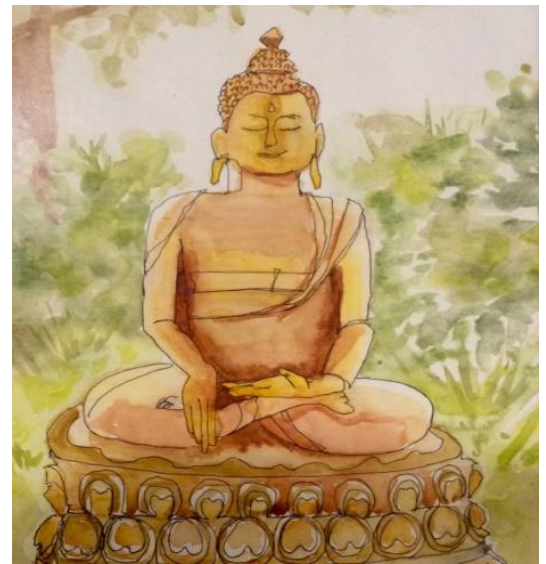
## MEDITATION PRACTICE GROUP

WEDNESDAYS AT 6 PM

Sit with Jim Cole on Zoom or Facebook livestream

- ✚ Wednesday, June 2
- ✚ Wednesday, June 9
- ✚ Wednesday, June 16
- ✚ Wednesday, June 23
- ✚ Wednesday, June 30

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7312177775>  
Meeting ID: 731 217 7775      Passcode: uucsp93060  
[www.facebook.com/uucsp](http://www.facebook.com/uucsp)



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## 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](mailto:soaringheartsyoga@gmail.com) for more information.



# People and Doings

## **REV. NIC'S OFFICE HOURS**

During the time of the Rev Maddie's Sabbatical Leave, our half time minister, Rev. Nic, is available on his ZOOM Tuesday and Thursdays, 3:30-5pm or by appointment. The best way to plan a time to meet with him is to call and leave a message on the Minister's line at the church, 805-525-4620, or email him at [minister@uucsp.org](mailto:minister@uucsp.org)

*Please note this is a different Zoom meeting ID than the usual Sunday meeting ID.*

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6432398489>

Meeting ID: 643 239 8489

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## **SABBATHICAL TEAM AND COMMITTEE ON CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**

While Rev. Maddie is away on Sabbatical from April 12 to July 12, the Sabbatical Team that has been planning for this time will meet monthly on Zoom with Karen Harris as the Convener. The next meeting of the Sabbatical Team will be Tuesday, June 15 at 7:00 PM. They have prepared the Sabbatical Call Sheet that is in this newsletter, so folks know who to call in the areas of life in our congregation.

The Committee on Congregational Life (COCL) will also be meeting monthly on Zoom with Judy Triem, chair. The next COCL meeting is Thursday, June 10 4 PM.

Rev. Nic Filzen is half time Sabbatical Minister and can be reached at 805-525-4620 or [minister@uucsp.org](mailto:minister@uucsp.org).



# People and Doings

## SABBATICAL CALL SHEET

April – July 2021

**PLEASE CONSULT THE CHURCH DIRECTORY FOR CONTACT INFORMATION**

To contact Nic Filzen, Sabbatical Minister, leave a voice message at (805) 525-4620 or send him an email at [minister@uucsp.org](mailto:minister@uucsp.org)

### SABBATICAL COMMITTEE INFORMATION

Name	Representing
MaryBeth East	Finance Committee
Kate English	Life-Long Learning, Community Engagement
Karen Harris	Board, Caring Committee, Safe Congregation
Krystal Johnson	Staff, Administration
Ruth Ricards	Worship Team, Multigenerational
Rev. Betty Stapleford	Social Concerns Action Committee (SCAC), Pastoral Care, Committee on Congregational Life (COCL)

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Name	Position/Title
Leslie Nichols	President
Karen Harris	Vice President
Jerry Gray	Treasurer
Anne Hewitt	Secretary
Jyl Atmore	Member At-Large

### HOW TO REACH THE CHURCH OFFICE

To contact Krystal Johnson, Office Administrator, leave a voice message at (805) 525-4647 or send her an email at [office@uucsp.org](mailto:office@uucsp.org).

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Committee	Chair
Building and Grounds Committee	Board acting on behalf of committee
Caring Committee	Karen Harris
Committee on Congregational Life	Judy Triem
Finance Committee	MaryBeth East
Mary A's	Anne Hewitt
Safe Congregation Committee	Krystal Johnson
Social Concern Action Committee	Margaret Wilson, Co-Chair Audrey Vincent, Co-Chair
Worship Team	Ruth Ricards

### RITEs OF PASSAGE

Please contact church office.

### PASTORAL CARE

Need/Concern and what to do	Name	Position
If someone becomes ill or is hospitalized, or unexpectedly dies	Krystal Johnson	Office Administrative
Phone Tree and other Caring Committee business	Karen Harris	Caring Committee, Chair

### MEMBERSHIP AND NEWCOMER INFORMATION

Please contact church office

### NEWSLETTER, ORDER OF SERVICE, e-BLASTS

Item	Name	Deadline
Newsletter	Krystal Johnson	15 <sup>th</sup> of month
Order of Service	Krystal Johnson	10 am Wednesday before Sunday Service
e-Blast	Krystal Johnson	Emailed on Fridays

# People and Doings

## **CRUISE NIGHT FRIDAY, JUNE 5**



The first Friday of the month Cruise Night tradition is back. Join Ken Stock and cohorts in front of the church and greet our neighbors and friends.

Come out and enjoy the vintage cars as our community starts to open again.

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## **SIP AND CHECK-IN WITH SHARON KUFELDT**

**TUESDAYS JUNE 8 AND 22 AT 4 PM ON ZOOM**

Grab your favorite beverage and join Sharon Kufeldt on Zoom. We will light a chalice, have a reading, and check in with each other.

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

Meeting ID: 731 217 7775

Password: uucsp93060

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## **BECOMING A SAFER CONGREGATION**

Your Safe Congregation Team will meet on Zoom Wednesday, June 9 at 11:30 AM. The team is currently working diligently on our reopening plan so we may gather again. The Safe Congregation Team reports and is advisory to the Board.

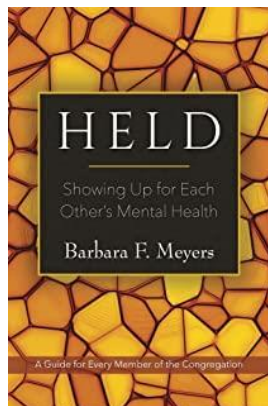
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## **WALKING EACH OTHER HOME**

Our meeting time is changing! We will still meet via Zoom on the second Thursdays of the month but now at **6:00pm**.

This discussion group is part of our congregation's commitment to racial justice. Our discussions are aimed at healing the impacts of racism within ourselves, our congregation and beyond. We will be utilizing articles, videos and our individual perspectives to inspire reflective discussion and self-work. All are welcome. For more information call or email Kate English at 805-207-5013 or [lonikate@gmail.com](mailto:lonikate@gmail.com). Join Zoom Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85431120105> Meeting ID: 854 3112 0105 Passcode: uucsp93060

# People and Doings



## **CARING COMMITTEE CONSIDERS MENTAL HEALTH** **THURSDAY, 2:00 PM ON ZOOM**

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, *Held*, during its regular meetings along with our normal discussions. The Caring Committee's next meeting is scheduled for the third Thursday, June 17 at the new scheduled time, 2:00 PM, on Zoom when we will be discussing the chapter, "Taking Care of People", pages 93-102. Discussion leader, Karen Harris, chair of the Caring Committee with Affiliate Minister, Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford.

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## **SOCIAL CONCERNS ACTION COMMITTEE**

Social Concerns Action Committee will have a lunch meeting at Chapala Restaurant (Harvard and 10<sup>th</sup> Street) on **Wednesday, June 16 at 1:00 PM.**

We will decide on the 3rd Quarter Beneficiary for First Sunday offerings and we will have guest speaker Laura Espinosa from Latino Town Hall.

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## **MARY A. LIVERMORE SOCIETY**

**Thursday, June 24, 11:30 AM**

The Mary A. Livermore Society will meet on Zoom.

Kay Wilson-Bolton will provide an update on Harvard, the Santa Paula year-round shelter which we help support.

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## **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](http://www.riseupandsing.org/dailysong)
- On their Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/pg/RiseUpAndSing1](https://www.facebook.com/pg/RiseUpAndSing1)

# People and Doings

## **2021 2nd QUARTER 1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY OFFERING      JUNE 6** **UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST JUSTICE MINISTRY OF CALIFORNIA**

The Social Concerns Action Committee has chosen the UU Justice Ministry of California to be the recipient of the second quarter first Sunday offering.

The mission of the Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry of California is **to advance justice in our state by cultivating and connecting leaders and communities, and by empowering the public voice of those who share UU values and principles.**

We seek to develop the skills of civic engagement and faith-rooted organizing so that UUs across California can educate, organize, and advocate for public policies that:

- uphold the worth and dignity of every person
- further justice, equity, and compassion in human relations
- ensure use of the democratic process
- protect religious freedom
- promote respect for the interdependent web of all existence

Through the generation of faith-development resources, accessible programming, and accountable relationships, UUJMCA serves to support all UUs in California in putting their faith into public action.

For more information, please visit <https://uujmca.org/>

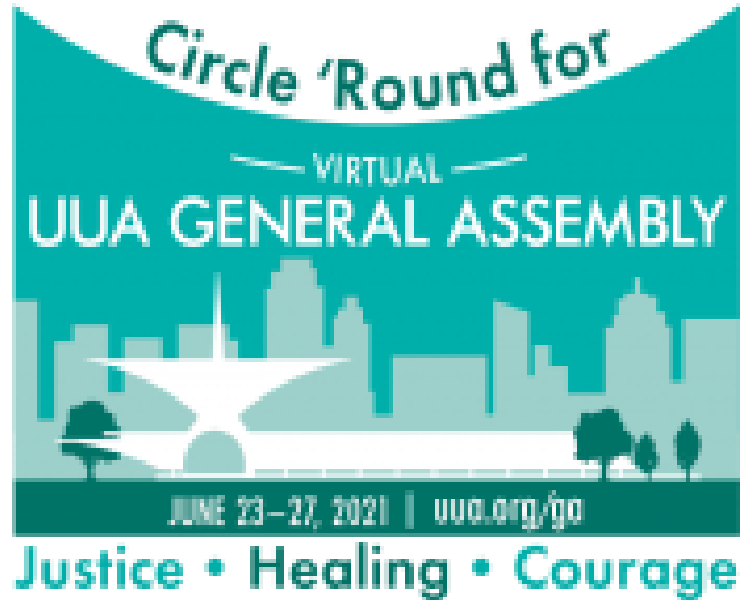
### **Love ARCs: Online Regional Justice Convenings for California UUs**

Join UUJMCA and our California partners for our 2021 Regional Justice Convenings! These convenings are a free opportunity to deepen our faith-rooted work for justice, learn about active legislative efforts and statewide actions, and take a "deep dive" into UUJMCA's Core Campaigns for 2021 (including: Defund Police, ICE out of California, Fossil Free California, and Medicare for All). This year we are especially excited to root our conversations & community in our redeveloped "**Love ARC**" model for putting our love into faithful and intentional action for collective liberation. Our Regional Justice Convenings include an optional but recommended spiritual grounding Friday evening, followed by a half-day of programming & conversation with plenty of breaks on Saturday. Convenings will be held online on the following dates.

**Southern California:** Friday June 11th & Saturday June 12<sup>th</sup>

**Learn more and register today at [uujmca.org/RJC](https://uujmca.org/RJC).**

# 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.

THE UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN  
CHURCH OF SANTA PAULA

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[www.uucsp.org](http://www.uucsp.org)

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



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Sunday Worship Services at 10:30 am

Rev. Maddie Sifantus, Minister, Choir Director

Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford, Affiliate Minister

Rev. Nicholas Filzen, Sabbatical Minister

Krystal Johnson, Office Administrator

Vincent Sorisio, Church Musician

Albie Alamillo, Custodian

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

July newsletter deadline JUNE 15

*“...to the soul, the most minute  
details and the most ordinary  
activities, carried out with  
mindfulness and art, have an  
effect far beyond their apparent  
insignificance.”*

*~Thomas Moore*

*Dated Material  
Time Value*

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