



# Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula

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

uucspoffice@gmail.com website: uucsp.org

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



### AUGUST THEME: Communion

*The Latin root of communion means "fellowship, mutual participation, or sharing." The word implies a deep connection, which is the outcome of participating in community in meaningful ways. It is a process of giving and receiving, the work of heart and hands, an invitation to friend and stranger alike. No altar is required, just a welcome table with room for one more, always one more.*



### August 1 First Fruits of the Harvest

Rev. Maddie, Ruth Ricards

In the ongoing process of creation, the wheel of the year continues to turn. We continue with our recognition of earth-based theologies which recognize at this time the first fruits of the harvest at Lammass and Lughnasadh

### First Sunday Plate to the Spirit of Santa Paula

### August 8 Theme sermon: Communion

Rev. Maddie, Mary Nelson

For the last several years we have subscribed to the theme-based service Touchstones. This month is our last one using Touchstones as we move to Soul Matters which the other congregations in our area use. Rev. Maddie addresses the August theme of Communion.

### August 15 Universalism: Our Heritage

Rev. Maddie, Rev. Betty

Rev. Maddie spent part of her Sabbatical doing research about Universalism, our heritage at UUCSP. She plans a series on Universalism and what she found in Massachusetts, Maine and beyond.

### August 17 7 PM Gathering

Rev. Maddie

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 Communion. The music will be provided by Iranian musician, Sahba Sizardkhani. Original poetry by Atul Ranchod. Led by Rev. Maddie.

### August 22 Sankofa: A Walk Into the Light of Love with Reggie Harris

Rev. Maddie, Rev. Betty with ministers from our cluster

Please join the Channel Islands CIUUster of congregations collaborative worship service, with special guest musician Reggie Harris. A songwriter of great depth and passion, Reggie Harris writes from a personal sense of mission that merges a world wise point of view with a singularly hopeful stance that life, though often challenging, is filled with possibility and hope. His songs reveal thoughts about life and love and some of the deep aspects of the human experience and cover topics from his own personal journey to world issues and history. Offering to the Living Legacy Project, on whose board Reggie sits. <https://www.uulivinglegacy.org/>. More information to come!

### August 29

Mathew P. Taylor, Kate English

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. Mathew is a founding member of the Inland Empire Chapter (#3) of the Coven Sub Rosa. He is completing his studies 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.

### UUs Back in the Day with Leslie Nichols

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

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

## Message from the Minister

I am writing these words from what is called the dog days of summer, after the last day of my three-month sabbatical and now in vacation days, arriving home in Santa Paula by the time you are reading your newsletter. When I turn my computer on in the morning, my email program tells me what the weather and temperature are back home. It is unusually hot and humid here for this climate and raining every day, pretty much, making me wish I could send some of it back to Santa Paula. It also makes me wonder why we call these lazy days, “dog days.” Since I am on vacation, I had time to look it up and it turns out that the Romans related the hot, steamy days of summer with the brightest star from the constellation Canis Major which means large dog: Sirius the Dog Star. I suspect we have taken over the phrase by watching the dogs sleep in weather like we have been having on both the right and left coasts. And thinking about how many of us just want to be able to curl up like a dog and step away from our usual work. That image brings me to thinking about all of us as we move through this summer.

What I wish for you is that you give yourself the time to breathe the air and feel some spaciousness, whether in Santa Paula or on your vacation as things loosen up from the pandemic and some feel safe to travel. Wherever you might be, remember to bring water back for our traditional water communion, which will be our Opening Sunday which is planned to be a hybrid service in the Sanctuary and on Zoom and Facebook on September 12. Watch the September newsletter for more details. During these hot days, I hope you drink lots of fresh water to keep hydrated and drink in all of the experiences, old and new, that this time might offer. And I encourage you to eat of the summer bounty, whether from your own garden, a friend or neighbor’s, or a Farmer’s Market—or a thought-provoking book. Take time to savor it all, find new ideas, and come back refreshed in the Fall, ready to see your church friends and recommit to the work and ministries of our congregation. Meanwhile August services will continue online with some activities and meetings back in the church building. Don’t hesitate to be in touch if you want to chat with me in person, on Zoom, the telephone or Facetime. I would love to hear some of your ideas of how we can be a vibrant congregation, how you have been doing while I have been away or just share a lazy, dog day.

On the path of our faith,

Reverend Maddie

# Message from the Board of Trustees

## Notes from the President

Hooray, we have a Building and Grounds Committee for the first time in several years. Our building is a treasure and there is always much to be done to keep it up to date and secure. Ann Hewitt, Board Member and Secretary, has taken on the leadership with John Nichols, Ken Stock, and Mitch Stone joining her as members. Projects that are planned include the revisioning of the tech booth for our opening on Sept. 12th plus other projects recommended by membership and our Church Secretary, Krystal Johnson. There are still slots available on this committee so step up and throw your hat in the ring.

A shout out to our Finance Committee and Capital Fund who provide leadership in keeping us solvent and secure. The Finance Committee not only manages our day-to-day financial operations but is looking at our grant requirements as well. Laura Phillips, a member of the Capital Fund, reports we are now at a level where our management costs might be reduced. Donating to our Marjorie Newlin Learning Capital Fund ensures our financial health into the future.

Past President John Nichols has been researching his personal genealogy and finds he has deep and early roots in Massachusetts. As your BACK IN THE DAY researcher of UU History we know from our monthly forays into important UUs in the development of our country, Massachusetts representation has been a standout in the development of our denomination and the United States.

Leslie Nichols



### **MEMBERS & FRIENDS DIRECTORY**

An updated version of our Members & Friends Directory is now available and can be delivered to you electronically as a file or mailed to you as a booklet. Contact the church office at [office@uucsp.org](mailto:office@uucsp.org) or call 805-525-4647, to request your copy. Please specify electronic file or hard-copy booklet.

# GATHERING\*



## \*DEFINITION OF GATHERING

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

## AUGUST 17, 2021 at 7:00 PM

You are invited to our Gathering for sound, silence and word as the sun goes down.

Led by Rev. Maddie Sifantus with percussionist Sahba Sizardkhani

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

Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula, 740 E Main Street, Santa Paula

# Spiritual Growth Center

## SPIRITUAL GROWTH CENTER



As we begin to open up after the pandemic, we encourage you to find ways to continue your spiritual practices at home, join yoga which is once more in the Parish Hall or through August join Rev. Maddie or Jim Cole leading Meditation on Wednesday evenings at 6 PM on Zoom or livestreaming from our Facebook page. Yoga is led by Lisa Hammond. Be in touch with her 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, as we become hybrid or in our Parish Hall? Let Rev. Maddie know.

\*\*\*\*\*

### MEDITATION PRACTICE GROUP

#### WEDNESDAYS AT 6 PM

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

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7312177775>

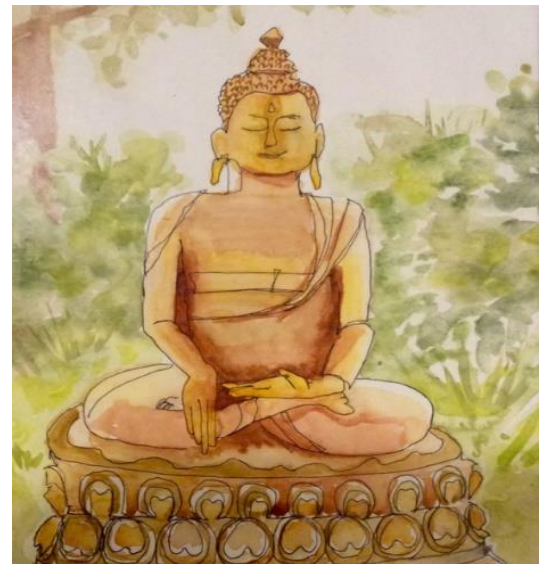
Meeting ID: 731 217 7775

Passcode: uucsp93060

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

*Leadership schedule subject to change*

<b>August 4</b>	<b>Rev. Maddie</b>
<b>August 11</b>	<b>Jim Cole</b>
<b>August 18</b>	<b>Rev. Maddie</b>
<b>August 25</b>	<b>Rev. Maddie</b>



*Image: Lynn Holbein*

\*\*\*\*\*



### SOARING HEARTS YOGA

Soaring Hearts Yoga has returned to the Parish Hall. Join them on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:30 AM. Bring your own mats and props.

Please contact Lisa Hammond at 831-801-2276 or [soaringheartsyoga@gmail.com](mailto:soaringheartsyoga@gmail.com) for more information.

# People and Doings

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

As things open up a bit, Rev. Maddie is available to meet with you in person in her office if you are comfortable or outside in the shade on our church grounds. She is also available by appointment on Zoom, on Facetime or on the telephone. She is also available to meet with you socially distanced in your garden or in her courtyard at her 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 [minister@uucsp.org](mailto:minister@uucsp.org)

---

## **SIP AND CHECK-IN**

**TUESDAYS AUGUST 3 AND 24 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.

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

Meeting ID: 731 217 7775

Password: uucsp93060



---

## **CRUISE & SING NIGHT**



**FRIDAY, AUGUST 6  
from 5:00 to DUSK**

**SEE THE CLASSIC CARS!**

**TOUR HISTORIC CHURCH!**

**JOIN IN RISE UP SINGING!**

Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula, 740 E Main Street, Santa Paula

---

# People and Doings

## **WORSHIP TEAM**

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 schedule Worship Hosts, consider and support any and all aspects of worship services on Sunday mornings, but also special worship services and worship-related events that take place at other times of the week like the Winter Solstice and monthly Gatherings.

All current Worship Hosts and anyone interested in becoming one or in the philosophy of worship is cordially encouraged to attend the next meeting of the Worship Team on Tuesday, August 3 at 7:00 PM on Zoom. This is an especially important meeting as we plan for the August services which continue on Zoom and Facebook and as we move into hybrid worship, beginning with our Water Communion Service, the Gathering of the Waters, on September 12. For more information, please be in touch with Rev. Maddie at [minister@uucsp.org](mailto:minister@uucsp.org) or call her private line a the office: 805-525-4620.

## **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 our plan for reentry as we look towards the fall. The next meeting of the committee is August 11 at 11:30 AM on Zoom. The Safe Congregation Team reports and is advisory to the Board.

## **WALKING EACH OTHER HOME**

**Thursday, August 12 6:00 PM**

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

## **SOCIAL CONCERNS ACTION COMMITTEE**

The Social Concerns Action Committee will meet Wednesday, August 18, 4:00 p on Zoom.

## **MARY A. LIVERMORE SOCIETY**

Due to unfortunate circumstances in July, the Mary A's were not able to host guest speaker Vaughn Williams and has been postponed to the August meeting on Thursday, August 26, on Zoom, at 11:30 am.

Our guest speaker will be Vaughan Williams, Constanica Leshin's son. Vaughan works as the Restoration Field Manager of Younger Lagoon Reserve at UC Santa Cruz and has a Bachelor's Degree in Ecology and Evolution. Vaughan is also very knowledgeable about species of plants that are either native to or invasive for our local Santa Paula rural areas, and our urban landscaping and gardens. Please join us! If you would like more information about this presentation, or about Vaughan, please contact Ann Hewitt at [ahewitt@anacapa.ca](mailto:ahewitt@anacapa.ca).

## SANTA PAULA CINEMA SOCIETY

**The INTRUDER**

When Roger Corman, the hugely successful master of low-budget horror and teen exploitation films, decided to make a purpose picture in 1962, he didn't mess around, optioning the rights to a hard-hitting novel by Charles Beaumont about a stranger who arrives in a small Southern town to whip up resentment over school desegregation. The stranger is played with chilling effectiveness by William Shatner, fresh off his supporting role in "Judgement at Nuremberg." Corman found nobody willing to finance the making of a movie on such a controversial topic, so he and his brother bankrolled the production out of their own pockets. Although this was one of Corman's proudest moments as a filmmaker, and the film still packs quite a punch, and remains remarkably relevant sixty years later, it was also the one project that failed to turn a profit, and Corman returned to making cheap entertainments, leaving this one film to stand alone. (84 mins)

SANTA PAULA CINEMA SOCIETY  
FRIDAY AUGUST 13, 2021  
Universalist Unitarian Church • 740 E. Main Street • 7PM • Free!  
• Enter Side Door

---

### CARING COMMITTEE

*Where we had thought to be alone, We should be with all the world.*

*~ Joseph Campbell*

Lay ministers play a vital role in our congregation, extending the reach of our professional minister. As we are going into the 2021-2022 Church Year, we will be changing the Caring Committee's meeting formula to the Fourth Thursdays at 3 PM with the next meeting scheduled for August 26 at 3:00 PM in the Parish Hall and on Zoom. The Caring Committee is open to all those interested in keeping our members and friends connected and exploring issues of pastoral care. Come talk with Rev. Maddie about how things went during the Sabbatical and plans for the next church year. Karen Harris, chair.

### PHONE TREE

We created a Phone Tree at the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020. 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 know at [uucspoffice@gmail.com](mailto:uucspoffice@gmail.com).

---

### 2021 3rd QUARTER 1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY OFFERING

#### **August 1, September 5**

The Third Quarter First Sunday Offerings will benefit **SPIRIT OF SANTA PAULA** whose work serves our homeless and struggling families of our Santa Clara River Valley in Santa Paula, Fillmore, and Piru. "Harvard" the year round shelter on Harvard Blvd. here in Santa Paula receives direct funding from Spirit of Santa Paula. Please be generous. The need is great. <https://www.spiritofsantapaula.org/>



# People and Doings

## **CHOIR: NOW LET US SING!**

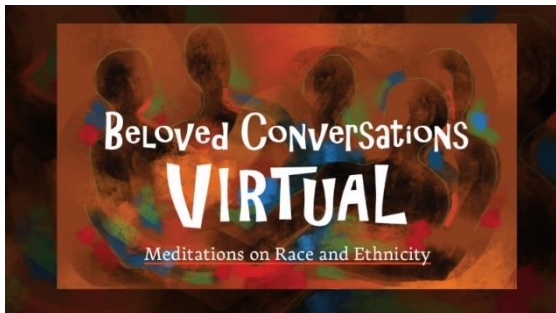


While we have not been able to gather for more than a year, we are hoping to restart our choir in September, with the first service we will sing at on Sunday, September 12. The choir formula is that we rehearse at 4 PM on the Thursday before the Sunday we will sing and then at 9:30 AM on the Sunday. We are still confirming plans to reopen safely but save those times! We are open to all singers, whether or not they are members of our congregation. We usually sing at one Sunday a month. Please join us! For any questions, please be in touch with Rev. Maddie at 805-525-4620 or email her at [minister@uucsp.org](mailto:minister@uucsp.org).

## **SAVE YOUR WATER!**



As the fall approaches, please save a small amount of water to be used in our Gathering of the Waters service which will be September 12, both live in person and on Zoom and Facebook for those of you at a distance or not ready to come inside. More details will be in the September newsletter. We continue to be conscious of our long-standing drought here in California, so we will once more focus our water communion on the meaning and importance of water in our everyday lives. We ask that you bring a small amount of water from whatever source is meaningful to you and prepare a few words (write them down ahead of time) describing your connection to the water or the source. The combined water from our shared sources will be used in part to water some of our thirsty plants here on the Church grounds and sterilized for use in any future Baby and Child Dedications.



The second "Within" phase of Beloved Conversations Program dates are September 21st through mid-December. Registration runs June 22nd-August 31st.

Register before August 14th and get \$25 off! Use code BCFALL21EB Half and Full Scholarships are also available, no one will be turned away due to lack of funds.

Pricing and additional information available on our website: [www.meadville.edu/beloved](http://www.meadville.edu/beloved)

## **RISE UP SINGING TO RETURN**

As we look forward to the restart of various activities of our congregation and our outreach to the community, Rev. Maddie is looking ahead to the restart of our communal singing program, Rise Up Singing, later this fall. In the past we have met on the third Friday of the month from 7-9 PM. Rise Up Singing is open to singers and instrumentalists of all ages. Free Will Offering (\$5 suggested). Let's keep the message of music going through singing together. Rev. Maddie is looking to revitalize our program as we restart it and is open to your suggestions. For more information and to give your ideas, call Maddie Sifantus at 805-525-4620 or email her at [minister@uucsp.org](mailto:minister@uucsp.org).

THE UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN  
CHURCH OF SANTA PAULA

740 East Main Street  
Santa Paula, CA 93060

Office: 805-525-4647

[office@uucsp.org](mailto:office@uucsp.org)

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

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

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

Mitch Stone



**September newsletter deadline August 15**

*Dated Material*  
*Time Value*

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