

# Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula

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

uucspoffice@gmail.com website: uucsp.org

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



### SEPTEMBER THEME: Embracing Possibility

*Embracing Possibility is arguably most central to our faith. It has distinguished Unitarian Universalists from the start. Historically, when others saw depravity and sin at the core of human identity, we saw potential. When many were preaching that this world was fallen, we fell in love with the possibility of heaven on earth. Theologically, you might say we were the people who believed that God hadn't given up on us and so we shouldn't give up on each other or this world. Psychologically, it's led to us being a people of "why not?" Why not give people another chance? Why not fight what seems a losing battle? Why not risk a little failure?*

### September 5 "Loving the People We Dislike" Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford, MaryBeth East

In the last few years, many of us have found it very difficult to have respectful conversations with those with whom we disagree or even with the electronic or social media around issues that affect our lives. But sometimes we don't have a choice. So how do we cope? Maybe it's time to try something different to heal ourselves and our world.

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

### September 12 Gathering of the Waters Rev. Maddie, Jerry Gray

It is traditional for us to come back together the first Sunday after Labor Day Weekend with our Water Communion Service, sharing water from our summer travels and close to home. This year we will also have a special ritual of the sharing of our Holy Water. This is planned to be our first hybrid service, with those who feel comfortable coming into the Sanctuary and others sharing the service on Zoom or Facebook live. Let us rejoice in our beloved community.

### Tuesday, September 14 Gathering Rev. Maddie, Geno Palilla, Christine Mazor

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 Embracing Possibility. The music will be provided by Christine Snipes Mazor, violin and Geno Palilla, piano with Rev. Maddie, soprano. Led by Rev. Maddie with poet Atul Ranchod.

### September 19 Everything Possible Rev. Maddie, Ken Stock

We are now using the theme-based program Soul Matters. The theme for September is "Embracing Possibility". Rev. Maddie reflects on our theme whether we can "be anybody you want to be" as in the song from Fred Small.

### September 26 Mabon Rev. Maddie, MaryBeth East

Continuing the theme of the eight Sabbats of earth-based theology, we come to Mabon which is a harvest festival that is celebrated on the Autumnal Equinox of each year. It is the time when night and day stand equal in duration and a time to express gratitude, complete projects and honor a moment of balance.

### 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

Greetings to one and all as we come back together as one church family on Sunday, September 12 at 10:30 AM for our Ingathering Sunday, Gathering of the Waters. We will be experimenting with in-person in the Sanctuary for the first time since March 2020 or on Zoom and Facebook as we begin to go hybrid if we feel safe. Please be vaccinated, masked, and sit socially distanced if you are in the Sanctuary. Please do not attend in person if you are feeling ill. I look forward to seeing all your faces, those newer among us and those of you who have walked through the front door of our historic church building for decades. I am hoping too that we will be greeting new friends and seekers as we begin again. I look forward to hearing about your hopes and dreams for a new church year and the future of this beloved place. Please bear with us as we try to figure out how to “do church” in the new hybrid way, with those who feel safe joining in the Sanctuary starting September 12<sup>th</sup> and others at home, some at a distance from Santa Paula. You will be hearing about how we have received a matching grant from the Spirit Level Foundation which will allow us to buy all the technology we need to do hybrid worship, Gathering, host meetings with PowerPoint or video in the Sanctuary or Parish Hall, and livestream our Concert Series once it is restarted. To receive the full amount from Spirit Level we will need to raise \$9000 matching funds from our friends, members and community partners. This will allow us to improve our lighting, have several cameras, upgrade the tech station, have a moveable flat screen and more. Stay tuned!

As we begin a new church year, I have some questions for you: What matters to your heart and spirit? Where and how do you find what is sacred to you? What saves you in this complicated life we live? How do we truly share our time, talents, treasure and space with folks of all ages? What role do we play in the larger community? How can we all be part of making things work around here? When do we put our faith in action? I would love to hear your thoughts. And I am so glad to be back from Sabbatical and with you all again!

On the path of our faith,

Reverend Maddie

# Message from the Board of Trustees

## Notes from the President

We are gearing up! September 12! Opening our doors and sanctuary to those friends and members who would prefer to worship within the walls of our beautiful building. However, we are keeping our zoom and Facebook communication open to those enjoying the service at home. Your Board of Trustees and the Safe Congregation Committee have been working toward this goal for months. We value your presence in either a virtual or physical venue. If you opt for joining us at 740 E. Main Street in beautiful downtown Santa Paula 10:30 on a Sunday Morning, you will be greeted with a sign-in sheet (precautionary), and, of course, masking, and social distancing within the pews and during the service. Our Social Hour in the Parish Hall will continue for those who wish to participate, but only water and coffee in disposable containers will be served.

We are adapting to this new world and our church community is such important sustenance spiritually. Worship where you wish and know we are there for you.

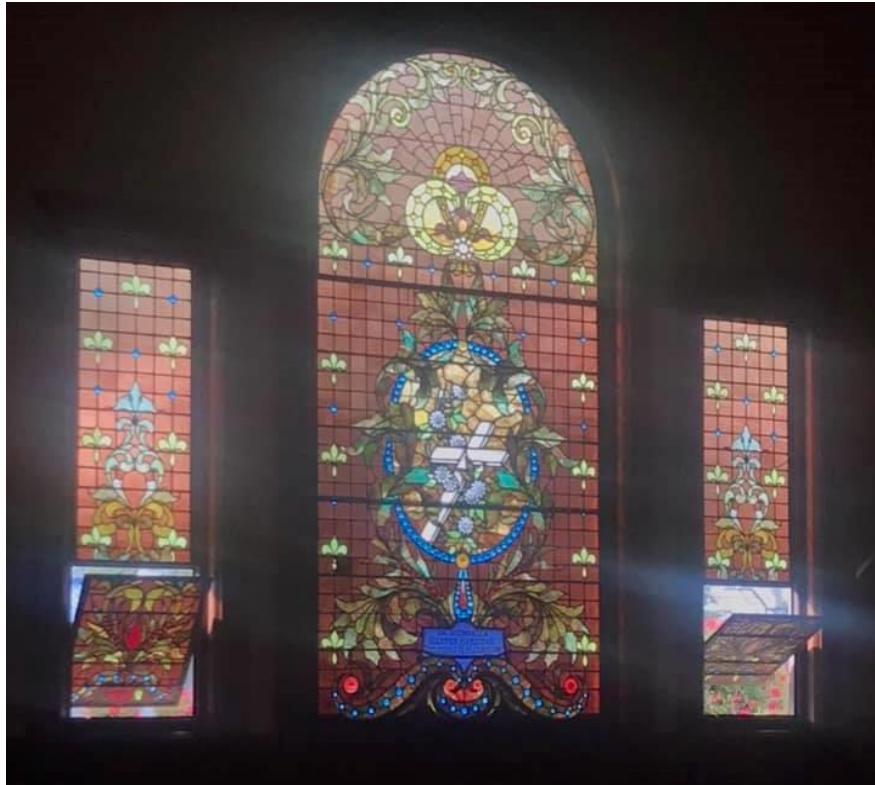
Leslie Nichols



### 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.

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14**

**7:00 PM**

You are invited to our Gathering for sound, silence and word.  
With Maddie Sifantus, Christine Mazor, Geno Palilla & Atul Ranchod

In person, masked, socially distanced, and vaccinated

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



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 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*

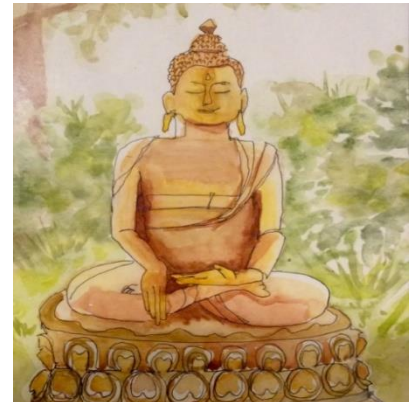


Image: Lynn Holbein

- |                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| <b>September 1</b>  | <b>Jim Cole</b>    |
| <b>September 8</b>  | <b>Rev. Maddie</b> |
| <b>September 15</b> | <b>Jim Cole</b>    |
| <b>September 22</b> | <b>Rev. Maddie</b> |
| <b>September 29</b> | <b>Jim Cole</b>    |

\*\*\*\*\*



### 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

## CRUISE & SING NIGHT



**Friday, September 3**

**5:00-7:00 PM**

**SEE THE CLASSIC CARS!**

**TOUR HISTORIC CHURCH!**

**BRING YOUR VOICE OR**

**INSTRUMENT!**

Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula, 740 E

Main Street, Santa Paula

---

## SANTA PAULA CINEMA SOCIETY

# Stan & Ollie



Imitation might be called the sincerest form of flattery, but the record of Hollywood biopics doesn't supply a lot of evidence to support the old saying. Most of them take far too many liberties with both people and events to be seen as anything better than high-concept exploitations. (Witness Donald O'Conner as Buster Keaton, if you can take it.) Fans of Laurel and Hardy were braced for the worst when Steve Coogan and John C. Reilly were cast as "the Boys" in this 2018 film, but it turned out they were in good hands. The film is a warm (and no, not completely accurate) portrayal of the two film comedians at the end of their lives, enjoying the one last hurrah of a tour of Britain during the 1950s. Coogan and Reilly accomplish far more than creating astonishing facsimiles, they and the screenplay find a way into the characters of the two men behind the comic masks, who couldn't fully appreciate how important they were to each other during their heyday. The result is much better than it needed to be to satisfy L&H fans, and turned out to be one of the more under-appreciated films of the last few years. (1:38)

SANTA PAULA CINEMA SOCIETY  
FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 3, 2021

Universalist Unitarian Church • 740 E. Main Street • 7PM •  
Free! • Enter Side Door





# People and Doings

## OUR HOLY WATER

Each fall we share together a Water Communion where we collect water from our members and friends in a common container as part of our ingathering service. After the service, it is boiled and used for child dedications and other special occasions. It is what I call "Our Holy Water". This year, those of us who feel safe to attend our service on September 12 in person will bring water as usual, gathered from our travels around Ventura County or beyond...or from the tap in your garden. In addition, those in the Santa Paula area will receive delivery of a small vial of Holy Water from our past that you can use for your own rituals at home, save for a future Ingathering or simply pour into your garden to bless it in this time of draught. If you are not with us in person, please have your vial with you in your Zoom room or on Facebook for the service on September 12<sup>th</sup>.

## CHOIR: NOW LET US SING!



While we were hoping to restart our choir in September, due to the Delta Variant and travels of some of our members, we will put it off until October. In the interim, let Rev. Maddie know if you are willing to come into the Sanctuary to help sing the hymns, masked at first, as we start hybrid services September 12, if all goes as planned. 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).

## SIP AND CHECK IN WITH REV. MADDIE



**TUESDAYS SEPTEMBER 14 and 28  
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

## SOCIAL CONCERNS ACTION COMMITTEE

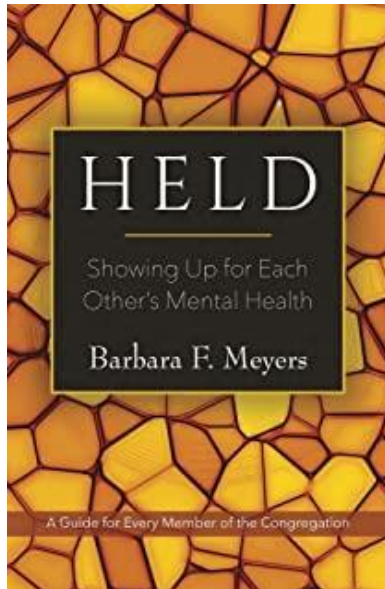
Social Concerns Action Committee will meet Wednesday, September 15, 4:00 PM

## MARY A. LIVERMORE SOCIETY

Thursday, September 23, 11:30 AM The Mary A. Livermore Society will meet for lunch for the first time since last year's Covid lockdown. Check in and important business meeting. WE OURSELVES ARE THE PROGRAM! RSVP Audrey Vincent if you are coming.

# People and Doings

## CARING COMMITTEE CONSIDERS MENTAL HEALTH



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

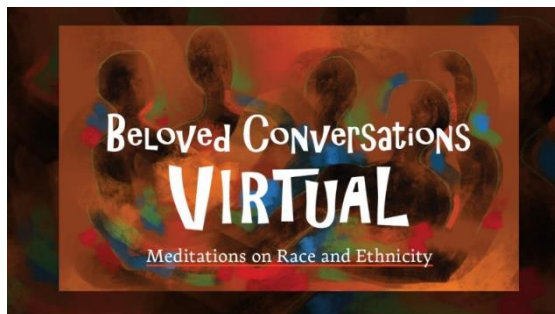
Lay ministers play a vital role in our congregation, extending the reach of our professional minister. Often those with mental health issues are overlooked by congregations. This year the Caring Committee considered the Reverend Barbara Meyers book, *Held*, during its regular meetings along with our normal discussions. "We will be reading the final chapter, "Beyond the Walls" pp. 105-115 for our September meeting, the fifth Thursday, September 30 at 3 PM. Discussion leader, Rev. Maddie. Regular Caring Committee members will receive a copy of the chapter in the mail. All invited; please let Rev. Maddie know if you need the reading.

### **PHONE TREE**

Our phone tree is used to help check on our folks or to get information out rapidly by telephone. If you don't think you are on the Tree and want to be, please let Rev. Maddie or Krystal Johnson know at [uucspoffice@gmail.com](mailto:uucspoffice@gmail.com).

## 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 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)

## October 1<sup>st</sup> Friendship Bridge "Tipica" Sale!

**Who?**.....Friendship Bridge is a "Microcredit Plus" organization that provides over 32,000 underserved, indigenous Guatemalan ladies access to loans, monthly educational trainings, and health care services. The goal is to empower women to create better lives for themselves, their families, and their communities.



**What?**.....An outdoor "tipica" sale featuring new and beautifully designed textiles and handicrafts made with care by talented Friendship Bridge artisan clients in Guatemala.



**When?**.....Cruise Night, Friday, October 1, 2021  
Sale will run from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

**Where?**.....Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula  
740 E. Main St., Santa Paula, California

**Why?**.....Events like this generate income for the artisan clients of Friendship Bridge, which empowers them to sustain themselves and their families. The global outbreak of COVID-19 has impacted these ladies deeply; their livelihoods depend heavily on tourism and people like you who buy their beautiful products. Your purchase goes a long way in helping these women and their families recover from the economic hardships brought on by the pandemic.



**Details**.....Main Street will be blocked off in front of the church for Cruise Night, so plan on walking to the church while taking in the sights and sounds of the festivities. You will find us set up in the Memorial Rose Garden. Credit cards, checks, and cash accepted.



**For More Info**....Email [office@uucsp.org](mailto:office@uucsp.org) or call (805)525-4647.  
We hope to see you on October 1<sup>st</sup>!



*All proceeds go directly to Friendship Bridge.*  
[www.friendshipbridge.org](http://www.friendshipbridge.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,

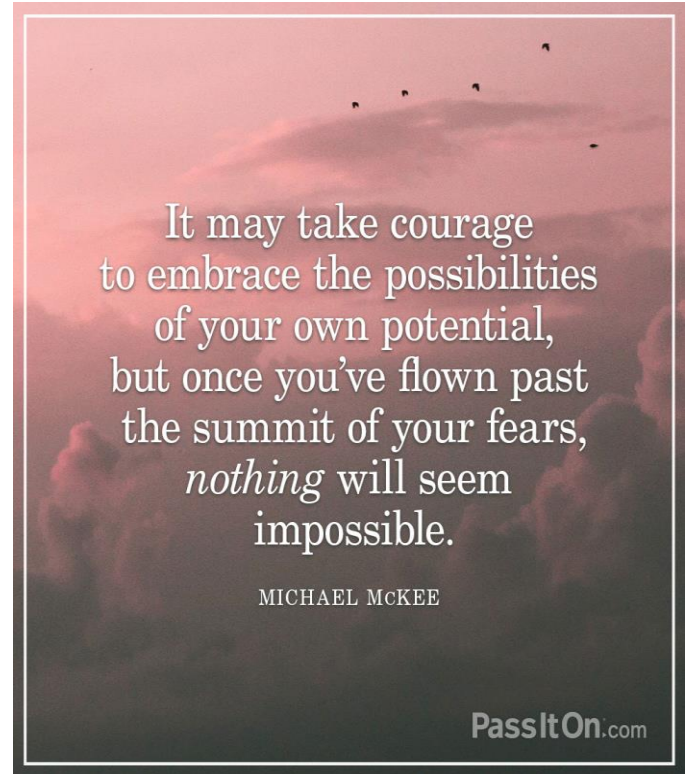
Jerry Gray, Treasurer

Jyl Atmore, Member at Large

Tech Support Team:

Evan Holt   Monika Murillo

Mitch Stone



**October newsletter deadline September 15**

*Dated Material*  
*Time Value*

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