



Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula

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

uucspoffice@gmail.com website: uucsp.org

DECEMBER 2021 SERVICES, SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM



DECEMBER THEME: **Opening to Joy**

How can we open to the joy of this season? Can we even find joy? Author Robin Wall

Kimmerer has said: "Even a wounded world is feeding us. Even a wounded world holds us, giving us moments of wonder and joy. I choose joy over despair. Not because I have my head in the sand, but because joy is what the earth gives me daily and I must return the gift."

Sunday, December 5 The Somatics of Joy

Kate English, Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford

Where does joy live in our bodies? Are there body practices that can increase our joy? Church member, Kate English, will lead the service and share some simple trauma informed approaches and ideas to assist us in understanding our own bodies better and expand on the growing field of somatics in the therapeutic and healing sciences.

Second Sunday in Advent

First Sunday Plate to Interface Youth and Family Services

Sunday, December 12 Opening to Joy

Rev. Maddie Sifantus, Jerry Gray

Where do you find joy? Brene Brown says that "Joy comes to us in moments – ordinary moments. We risk missing out on joy when we get too busy chasing down the extraordinary." Rev. Maddie considers ordinary moments for creating joy.

Third Sunday in Advent

Tuesday, December 14 7 PM Holiday Twilight Gathering

Rev. Maddie, Atul Ranchod, Geno Palilla and Christine Snipes Mazor

This is a reflective time in our busy week to hear some inspiring music, share some silence and hear spoken word. Led by Rev. Maddie Sifantus. Music for the season will be provided by Geno Palilla, piano, Christine Snipes Mazor, violin and Maddie, soprano, with poet Atul Ranchod.

Sunday, December 19 Joy of Music

Rev. Maddie, Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford

Music is basic to the holiday season and brings us joy, even if we don't agree with all the words! Come share in special music for December with our choir, solos and more.

Fourth Sunday in Advent

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



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Tuesday, December 21 7 PM Winter Solstice

Rev. Maddie Sifantus and Readers

Cultures around the world mark the Winter Solstice and end-of-year holidays in different ways. We mark the longest night of the year with a Celebration of the Darkness and the Light with songs, stories and ritual. Music by Chucumite.

Thursday, December 23 3 PM Blue Christmas

Rev. Maddie Sifantus, Caring Committee

When the Holidays Hurt: Many people have difficulties during the holiday season for a variety of reasons. This pandemic year may bring more sadness than most. Join Rev. Maddie and members of our Caring Committee in person or on Zoom for a reflective hour of readings and reflection.

Friday, December 24 5 PM Christmas Eve

Rev. Maddie and readers

We gather on Christmas Eve in person and online for a traditional Christmas Eve service of readings, Carols, and special music. We will end with a candlelit *Silent Night*.

Sunday, December 26 My Favorite Things

Kate English and Ruth Ricards

Come join in the spirit of the holidays by listening to stories of some of our favorite holiday traditions.



Join Zoom Meeting: PLEASE MUTE YOUR MICROPHONE

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

Meeting ID: 731 217 7775

Zoom 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

Our theme for this month from Soul Matters is “Opening to Joy”. We often hear at this time of year about the “joy of the season”. I don’t know about you, but each time these holidays roll around once again, I do have some joyful moments, if I can stop long enough to notice them. And I have some sad moments when I think of all those I have lost over the years and lonely moments when I am aware of how I live far from most of my family and friends. And there are some angry moments when the rampant consumerism that these holidays are about for some gets to me. And there are the overwhelmed moments when I just have no idea how I am going to get everything done...and other moments where I sink into the sounds of favorite Carols and other music of the season and the twinkling of lights strung up outside my neighbors’ homes.

We have a lot going on at our congregation; take a look at the schedule inside this newsletter and pay attention when you get your Friday eblasts, as things have a way of changing. Pick and choose what you want to take part in, what brings you joy. Reach out to others to bring comfort in these challenging times and look for joy in the small things. As Scott Taylor says in the poem below, “Joy doesn’t simply arise.”

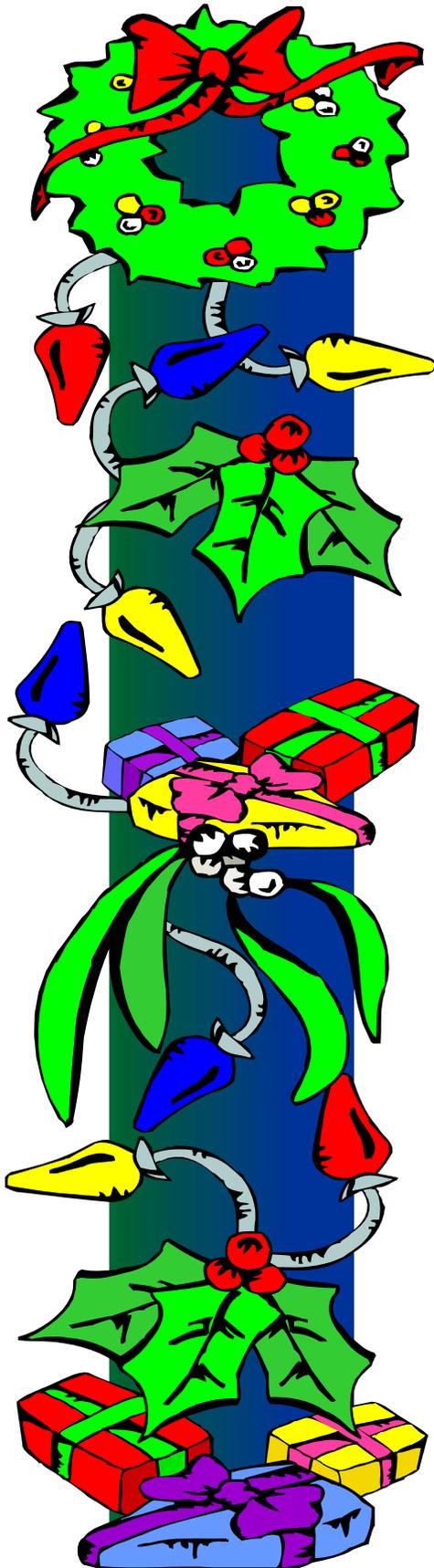


*Joy doesn't simply arise
It flies.
It flings.
No, it is flung.
It is passed,
it is spread,
between you and me,
between the one who just received a gift
and the one that has been looking for it a long time.
It's a beautiful and elegant contagion,
over which we have more control than we think.
If only we share it.
If only we notice that joy is not ours to keep,
but ours to pass on.
So let's light up the world, friends!
Joy blesses us with its exuberance,
so we can make that blessing grow!*

Let us grow our blessings together.

On the path of our faith, *Reverend Maddie*

Holiday Schedule 2021



Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula
740 East Main Street, Santa Paula
www.uucsp.org

Sunday, November 28 at 10:30 AM
"Tis the Season"

Rev. Maddie Sifantus with Kate English
~ First Sunday in Advent First Sunday Plate to Interface

Sunday, December 5 at 10:30 AM
"The Somatics of Joy"

Kate English with Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford
~Second Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 12 at 10:30 AM

Rev. Maddie Sifantus with Jerry Gray
"Opening to Joy"
~Third Sunday in Advent

Tuesday, December 14 at 7:00 PM

Holiday Gathering with Rev. Maddie Sifantus and Atul Ranchod
Christine Snipes Mazor, violin and Geno Palilla, piano

Thursday, December 16 at 11:30 AM

Mary A. Livermore Society Holiday Tea

Friday, December 17 at 6:00 PM

Los Posadas starts from our front steps
Agriculture Museum and DeColores Multicultural Arts

Saturday, December 18 at 5:30 PM

Santa Clara Valley Hospice Tree Lighting
Corner of 8th and Main Streets

Sunday, December 19 at 10:30 AM

"The Joy of Music"

Rev. Maddie Sifantus with Karen Harris
~Fourth Sunday in Advent

Tuesday, December 21 at 7:00 PM

"Winter Solstice"

Rev. Maddie Sifantus Chucumite
~Fourth Sunday in Advent

Thursday, December 23 at 3:00 PM

"Blue Christmas"

Rev. Maddie Sifantus and Caring Committee

Christmas Eve, December 24 at 5:00 PM

Christmas Eve: Lessons and Carols
Rev. Maddie Sifantus with reader, special music

Sunday, December 26 at 10:30 AM

"My Favorite Things"

Ruth Ricards with Kate English

Holiday Schedule 2021

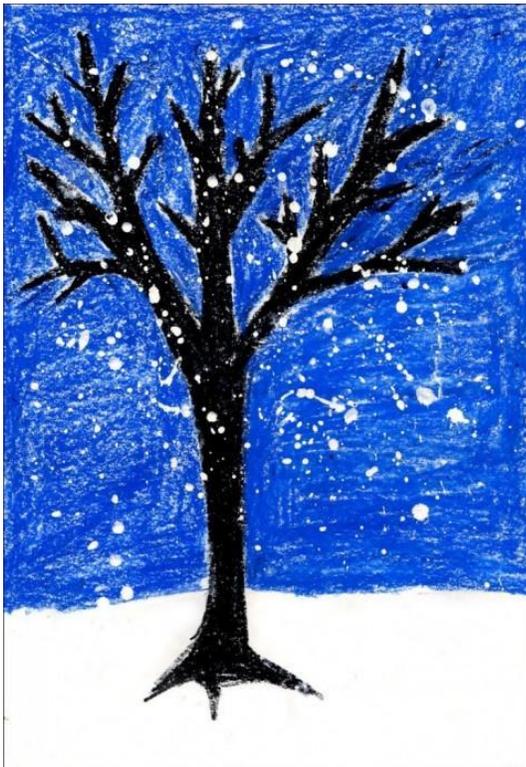
LOS POSADAS SANTA PAULA 2021

FRIDAY DECEMBER 17 AT 6 PM

STARTING IN FRONT OF
UU SANTA PAULA

INVOCATION BY REV MADDIE
ENDING AT THE VENTURA COUNTY
MUSEUM OF AGRICULTURE
IN MEMORY OF XAVIER MONTES

SPONSORED BY THE DECOLORES
MULTICULTURAL ARTS
AND THE MUSEUM OF AGRICULTURE
PROCESSION ON MAIN STREET



BLUE CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 23, 2021 at 3:00 PM

Rev. Maddie Sifantus with Caring Committee
In person in the Sanctuary, masked and socially
distanced and on Zoom

Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula

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

Offering to UUCSP, 740 E Main St, Santa Paula, CA 93060

Image by Gayle Ansel

Winter Solstice



Celebration

Join Us for Songs, Readings, and Jollity to
Brighten the Longest Night of the Year
and Celebrate the Rebirth of the Sun

Featuring Folkloric Seasonal Music from Veracruz, Mexico
Performed by John Robles and Chucumite

Tuesday, December 21 at 7 PM

UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF SANTA PAULA
740 EAST MAIN STREET, SANTA PAULA

Holiday Schedule 2021

CHRISTMAS EVE 2021

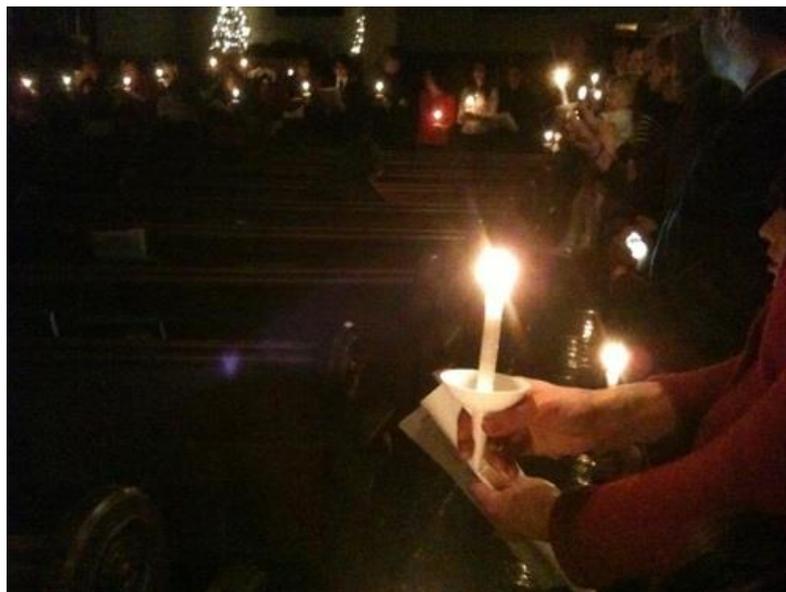
Friday, December 24 at 5:00 PM

In Person, masked and socially
distanced

And on Zoom and Facebook Live

Rev. Maddie and Readers

Special Music



Do You Have a Favorite Holiday Tradition?

On December 26, the service will be centered around holiday traditions. Did you spin a dreidel and eat potato latkes? Perhaps you stayed up late on Christmas Eve to decorate sugar cookies for Santa and his reindeer? Or maybe you skipped the whole thing and went out for pizza and a movie on Christmas day! Whatever your beliefs, do you have a holiday tradition you would be willing to share? You can either tell your story from the pulpit or we can read it aloud on your behalf, whichever feels most comfortable to you. Please contact Ruth Ricards if you are interested in participating in this holiday service.

Spiritual Growth Center

HOLIDAY GATHERING*

***DEFINITION OF GATHERING**

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 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

MEDITATION PRACTICE GROUP

In person in the Parish Hall and on Zoom and FB

on Rev. Maddie's Wednesdays

On Zoom and Facebook on Jim Cole's Wednesdays

Call church office for the Zoom address and password

Like the FB page: Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula

EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 6 PM

For information call Rev. Maddie Sifantus, 805-525-4620 or

minister@uucsp.org

Free Will Offering

December 1 with Rev. Maddie

**December 8 with Jim Cole
on Zoom and FB**

December 15 with Rev. Maddie

**December 22 with Jim Cole
on Zoom and FB**

December 29 with Rev. Maddie

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 for more information.

People and Doings

REV. MADDIE'S OFFICE HOURS

During this time when some are not comfortable yet coming into our church building, Rev. Maddie is available to meet with you on Zoom, at an outdoor location in the Santa Paula area or at your home. If you do feel comfortable coming into the church, she is usually available in the office by appointment or potluck drop in from Tuesday through Friday. Rev. Maddie's office is located in the "addition" across from the rest rooms at the back of our building. Text or call her to open the gate. Monday is Rev. Maddie's day off and Saturday is her study/sermon writing day. Some days she is working from home but can get to the office in five minutes if something comes up. 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.

Pastoral Coverage

Rev. Maddie will be on her final week of 2021 Vacation from December 2-9. During this time the Rev. Dr. Stapleford will be covering for her in the case of a pastoral emergency. You can call or email the office to reach her: 805-525-4647 or office@uucsp.org.

NEWS FROM AMONG US - December 2021

- We are hoping to have the live microphone starting this for those in the Sanctuary to share but for the time being, for those online, please email Rev. Maddie your joys, concerns or milestones by 9 AM Sunday morning for inclusion in the service. You can also write them in the CHAT and have them read during the service.
- We continue to think of the Staplefords. Betty is recovering well from her fractured clavicle and is back to her old schedule. Tom is beginning radiation for breast cancer after successful surgery. And they have a new kitty! His name is Theodore Parker; they call him Parker.
- Jan Shepherd is doing well and is hoping that her daughter Renee will drive her to church some Sunday before to long.
- Barbara Beach is also doing well. We hope she will be able to sing with us in the choir soon!
- 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.

SIP AND CHECK IN WITH REV. MADDIE

TUESDAY DECEMBER 14 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>

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People and Doings

SANTA PAULA CINEMA SOCIETY

Martine and Philippa, two pious and unmarried sisters living in a village on a remote coastline of Denmark in the 19th century are visited by a stranger, a young French woman named Babette. She carries with her a letter of introduction that she hopes will gain her employment as their housekeeper. The sisters have no means to pay her, so with nowhere else to go, Babette agrees to work for bed and board. Over the next fourteen years the sisters' austere lifestyle is gradually transformed by the meals Babette prepares for them, and finally one for the entire village, the likes of which no one living there had ever imagined possible, an edible expression of love, friendship, and gratitude. Sometimes called the ultimate foodie film, the luminous *Babette's Feast* (*Babettes Gæstebud*) won the Academy Award for best foreign language film of 1987, among many others. In Danish with subtitles (1:43).

Babette's Feast

SANTA PAULA CINEMA SOCIETY
FRIDAY DECEMBER 10, 2021

A Film by Gabriel Axel

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



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. The next meeting of the committee is Wednesday, December 15 at 10:00 AM on Zoom. The Safe Congregation Team reports and is advisory to the Board.

SOCIAL CONCERNS ACTION COMMITTEE

The Social Concerns Action Committee meeting will be Wednesday, December 15 4 PM

People and Doings

MARY A. LIVERMORE SOCIETY

Mary Livermore Society of Ventura County: "The Mary A's"

Established in the late 19th Century, the Mary A. Livermore Society is the longest standing women's group in Ventura County. It is over 100 years old. Mary Livermore, popular American reformer, is best known for her volunteer work during the [Civil War](#). She is also known for lectures and writing on behalf of women's social, political and educational rights throughout the late 19th century. for women's education as well as abolition and temperance. Come join us at our monthly meetings, sometimes on zoom and sometimes in person! We have no membership requirements and our programming in the coming year will be interesting! Stay tuned for more information!

The **December 16th** meeting of the Mary A's promises to be a fun event. We are having a Tea Party, inspired by the most beloved Tea Party scene in [Alice and Wonderland](#). Although the Mad Hatter and other notable characters will not be in attendance, the women in the group are known to be interesting and unique. (Usually our meetings feature a topic based on human rights, civil rights, voting rights, reproductive rights and other women's issues.) The purpose of this meeting will be to **celebrate life and ourselves** and to brainstorm about our next year of programming.

Our Tea Party will begin at 11:30 in the Social Hall of Church. Attendance is limited! Tea Party attire is encouraged. Please RSVP by December 12th to Constancia: constancia47@gmail.com or call 661-478-3213 and leave a message! We are each bringing something to the gathering so find out what you can do! Join us!



CHOIR: SING!

How wonderful it was to be back singing on our Thanksgiving Sunday, even with only the 6 of us. In December, we will sing for at the service on Sunday, December 19 which will be a Music Sunday. There will be an hour rehearsal on December 16 at 4:00 PM to work on "A Midnight Clear" which we have done before. Please come on Sunday, December 19 ready to sing at 10 AM; there will be soloists rehearsing before the choir rehearsal. We will also be singing for the Winter Solstice featuring the music of Chucumite on Tuesday, December 21 at 7:00 PM. We will lead some singing, with songs we have done in the past and one new piece. And I am putting together a group of singers to sing for the Tree Lighting of the Santa Clara Valley Hospice's Light Up a Life which takes place across the street from the church on Saturday, December 18 at 5:30 PM. (note the difference in time from the last newsletter). Please let me know if you are interested. We will be singing familiar holiday music.

In normal times the choir usually sings once a month for the Sunday Service. All are welcome to join our choir, including our young singers who are able to read music and singers who only attend church when the choir sings. Rehearsals are directed by Rev. Maddie and accompanied by Vincent Sorisio. Please be in touch with Rev. Maddie with any questions at minister@uucsp.org or 805-525-4620. All invited to sing!

People and Doings

2021 4th QUARTER 1st SUNDAY OFFERING

December 5



ABOUT INTERFACE

Interface is Ventura County's leading nonprofit social services agency, providing free, proven, and responsive services to address the complex physical and emotional needs of 59,000 local clients every year. Its 30 programs utilize evidence-based practices to serve children, teens, adults and families who are typically low-income and struggling with poverty, domestic violence, human trafficking, homelessness, incarceration, child abuse, neglect and abandonment. Interface also connects callers to a vast network of health and human services in 40 counties through its 211 Information & Assistance program.

Interface Children & Family Services:

Serving Santa Paula, Fillmore and Piru

In 2020, Interface provided direct services to nearly 100 adults, teens and children who live in and around Santa Paula, Fillmore and Piru. We also provided critical information and referral services to over 3,000 community members via 211 Information & Assistance. These calls ranged from housing assistance and shelter needs to food insecurity and unemployment assistance, as well as the most current information about COVID testing and vaccination availability.

The Interface team has worked hard to create innovative program and service delivery methods to ensure our community retains access to crucial mental health treatment as well as domestic violence & human trafficking intervention and family support services and education.

Mental Health & Trauma Treatment

Interface served 58 children, teens and adults residing in Santa Paula, Fillmore and Piru with free, high-quality, culturally inclusive mental health services, including: individual and family therapy, specific trauma therapy including child abuse treatment, preventative parenting education, and intensive family preservation services (Homebuilders).

Runaway & Homeless Youth

Interface served 16 adolescents and transition-aged youth in Santa Paula, Fillmore and Piru with our Housing Support Services which includes our emergency and transitional shelter, street outreach, counseling, family mediation and more. Interface continues to operate the only shelter for runaway and homeless teens in Ventura County.

Domestic Violence & Child Abuse Prevention

During the 2019/2020 academic year, Interface served 12 Santa Paula, Fillmore and/or Piru individuals and families who were fleeing domestic violence with crisis response, emergency shelter, and/or counseling, case management and supportive services.

Interface presented the My Body Belongs to Me (MBBTM) child abuse prevention education program in Santa Paula, Fillmore and Piru. MBBTM served 917 children, parents, and educators from these cities. Sites we served included:

- Bob Borrego Child Care Center (CDR), Santa Paula
- Santa Paula Child Care Center (CDR), Santa Paula
- San Cayetano Elementary School, Fillmore
- Fillmore Child Care Center (CDR), Fillmore
- Piru Elementary School, Piru

Interface also presented Teen Dating Violence Prevention program, a universal healthy-relationships education program, to 131 teens in Santa Paula. Sites included:

- Santa Paula High School
- Our Lady of Guadalupe Church-Youth Group

211 Information & Assistance

211 Ventura County responded to 3,130 calls from residents of Santa Paula, Fillmore and Piru. Of these, 224 callers identified as homeless and 188 indicated they were at imminent risk of becoming homeless within 14 days. Housing was the top category of need, followed by mental health and addictions and income support.

People and Doings



Santa Clara Valley Hospice Presents *28th Annual "Light Up A Life" Event*

SANTA CLARA VALLEY HOSPICE TREE LIGHTING

Every year for the past 28 years, we celebrate the holidays by remembering friends and loved ones whom have passed. We also honor special persons and groups that impact our lives. We gather around the Santa Paula Tree in a very special ceremony and light it up in celebration.

Your gift of \$10 or more will illuminate a bulb on the Santa Clara Valley Hospice Tree that will shine throughout the Holiday Season in Santa Paula. Names received of honored friends and loved ones will be read at the Tree Lighting Ceremony.

Tree Lighting Ceremony:

ADMISSION IS FREE

Santa Paula Names

**5:30 p.m, Saturday, December 18, 2021
corner of Main Street & 8th Street**

**Fillmore names will follow Santa
Paula's event & both will be
broadcasted live via Facebook
@HospiceSantaPaula**

ABOUT SANTA CLARA VALLEY HOSPICE

SCV Hospice started in 1980 and is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit community volunteer organization. A medical lending program, serving persons with life-limiting illness, providing medical equipment & supplies, medical transportation, assistance with respite care, caregiver training, grief support, and referrals. All proceeds are giving back to our community to serve our communities of the Santa Clara River Valley in Santa Paula, Fillmore, Saticoy, Somis and Piru. Our non-profit organization relies on your support!

For Name submissions please contact us:

Make checks payable to - Santa Clara Valley Hospice, The Home Support Group, Inc.

Donations can be mailed to - PO BOX 365, Santa Paula, Ca 93061

Phone: 805-525-1333

Email - Info@santaclaravalleyhospice.org

Website - www.SantaClaraValleyHospice.org

Follow us on Facebook - [@HospiceSantaPaula](https://www.facebook.com/HospiceSantaPaula)



THE UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN
CHURCH OF SANTA PAULA

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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



January newsletter deadline December 15

Dated Material
Time Value

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