

Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula

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

uucspoffice@gmail.com website: uucsp.org

JANUARY 2022 SERVICES, SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM



THEME: Living With Intention

"Here's what I discovered. Intention is different from setting goals or resolutions in that it "pulls us into" who we truly are. Goals and resolutions "push us out" into future possibilities. To set intentions, we must listen to our inner voice which tells us who we truly are." ~ Katie Covey

Sunday, January 2 Burning Bowl Jerry Gray, John Nichols
The Burning Bowl is an annual end-of-year ceremony we perform each January. We will learn what John has been thinking of late and will talk about the meaning of ritual and the history of the Burning Bowl ceremony. We will then collectively perform the ritual. It is a cleansing and healing ceremony to get the New Year started off right.

January 9 DeColores Rev. Maddie, Ken Stock
What would it be like if we truly embraced all the colors in Santa Paula and beyond? On this day when we kick off First Quarter giving of 2022, Rev. Maddie thinks about the newly formed De Colores Multicultural Folk Arts, an artist-centered, nonprofit corporation that continues the legacy of the late Xavier "Big X" Montes and his vision of a world of racial & economic equality, by inspiring youth, artists, culture makers and culture bearers through the arts espousing his philosophy of peace and social justice.

"Sunday" Plate to: De Colores Multicultural Folk Arts

Tuesday, January 11 Gathering Rev. Maddie, Eduardo Del Signore
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 Grace. The music will be provided by our friend Eduardo Del Signore from *A Call 2 Peace*. Poetry by Atul Ranchod.

January 16 Using Our Intention to Build Beloved Community Rev. Maddie, Rev. Betty
The King Center's theme for the 2022 Martin Luther King Jr. observance is "Shifting Priorities to Create the Beloved Community." How does our Sixth Principle, "The goal of world community with peace, liberty and just for all" inform our consideration of "shifting priorities". How does it inform the discussion of the possible adoption of the Eighth Principle?

January 23 The Devotional Heart Rev. Maddie, Karen Harris
On the day of our Annual Meeting, Rev. Maddie considers the early history of Universalism expressed in pietism and Hosea Ballou's "devotional heart."

January 30 Groundhog Day Audrey Vincent, MaryBeth East
It's time for our annual eco-theological exploration of our relationship and responsibilities as human beings to Earth.

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

Happy New Year one and all!

Our Soul Matters theme for the month of January is Living With Intention. To me, that seems like it could be the theme of the year...or perhaps a lifetime. Last year in this column I reflected through the words of the familiar poem by Mary Oliver, which ends with:

Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?

This is the time of year that many among us set goals and make resolutions. I prefer to set intentions. But that is not easy to do! It is not easy to follow the path of intentions...or even figure out what they are. Here are some questions you might ask yourself that could help with discernment:

1. What did your parents intend to do with their lives? Did they fulfill it? And whether they did or didn't, what did you learn from watching them try?
2. What is your intention when you wake up? Some begin the day by asking, "What do I have to get done?" Others ask, "What do I want this day to be about?" Which are you?
3. Are you too intentional? Is it time to put down all the "doing" and pay a bit more attention to "being"? Has your long list of intentions left you feeling exhausted and even lost?
4. They say intention arises from within. So, what do you do to stay in touch with the fire in your belly?
5. They say intention takes pause. So, when was the last time you stopped, stepped back and allowed yourself to ask, "Am I going in the right direction?"
6. They say, "Habits eat good intentions for breakfast." So, what new habit might you put in place that enables your intentions to become real?
7. What if it's not about what you intend to do with life, but about what life intends to do with you?
8. Have you ever felt that life was living you rather than you living it?
9. Is it finally time to give up that unrealistic intention? The one you've failed at following through on again and again? The one you've been beating yourself up over, again and again? Is it time to intentionally be gentle with yourself and let it go?
10. Are you as good at assuming the good intentions of others as you are at defending your own?

As you begin this next year, may you find time to reflect on "what you plan to do with your one wild and precious life" and may we find ways to reflect on our precious life together.

Happy New Year. On the path of our faith, Reverend Maddie

Message from the Board of Trustees

As we come to the end of yet another transitional year, our small, but mighty church, sails forth into the future, flags flying! We have always been a special light of liberal faith in our Santa Clara River Valley, but 2020 and 2021 have really tested our mettle. Your Board of Trustees has been stalwart, but we are so grateful to those within our church and beyond that have supported the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula with such creativity and diligence. From a Minister who meets every challenge with a can-do attitude, to our Church Musician who fills our sanctuary with inspiring sound, to our Custodian who is only seen by the shining result she leaves in her wake. From the Church Administrator who goes above the call, to our Sabbatical Minister who filled in with energy and determination, and to our Affiliate Minister whose humanity is an example for us all. And, then there are the Committees! From the newest, Building and Grounds, who are serious about keeping our shelter whole to the Finance Committee whose understanding of money matters keeps us on the straight and narrow. It is a wonder to behold. As always, when thanking folks, it is easy to leave someone or some group out, but please know that we are grateful to every one of you. We are blessed by Zoom for allowing us to extend our reach to new folks and also keep in touch with those who have left our immediate community. It looks like 2022 will bring new challenges, but with this congregation and its friends, we are up for it.

Leslie Nichols

UUCSP Board of Trustees President

Message from the Board of Trustees

The Annual Meeting of the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula will be held via Zoom at 12:30 p.m. on January 23, 2022 - after the Sunday Service and a short break. Election of three Board Trustees, two Building Preservation Fund Trustees, one Cash Reserve Fund Trustee, one Committee on Congregational Life member, and next year's Nominating Committee team will occur.

In addition to these elections, we will vote to adopt our 2022 operating budget. We will hear from our Minister, and several committees will augment their written reports. Those written reports, the budget and complete agenda, along with the minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting (the "packet") will be sent via email to members after the Board of Trustees accepts the budget submitted by the Finance Committee, which should happen at the January 13 regular board meeting.

During the Zoom Annual Meeting – and we will reiterate this at the time – folks will be muted, except for the designated speaker. There is just no way to hear more than one person at a time. Of course, we are not literally silencing anyone! Our technology team will be watching for questions, nominations, raised hands and such, and there is the chat feature on Zoom.

If you are one who normally blocks their camera during services, we will need you to be visible during the meeting so that we know who is in attendance. Our bylaws require a quorum be present at any meeting of the congregation, and we will be using screen view to verify that everyone is who they seem to be. Thank you for your cooperation.

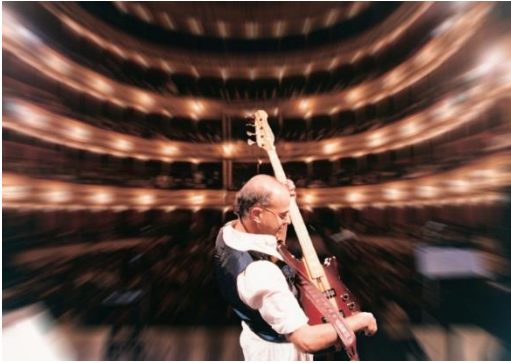
If you require a printed packet, be mailed to you, please advise our Office Administrator Krystal. It should arrive by post with plenty of time for you to familiarize yourself with it. Emailed packets should arrive about a week prior to the meeting. Please make sure that the church office has your current address.

Those who submit reports for the Annual Meeting packets should all have been notified that the deadline is again earlier this year. If you haven't already done so, please send your report in Microsoft Word or plain text format to Krystal by the first week of January.

We ask those who give verbal reports at the meeting to not repeat what is in their printed reports, but to make any additional comments or answer any queries from the congregation. Thank you again for your understanding.

These remain different times, and we are all doing what we can to bring some clarity and sanity... and to conduct business! If you have any questions, please contact any Board member.

GATHERING*



*DEFINITION OF GATHERING

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11

7:00 PM

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

Led by Maddie Sifantus with Atul Ranchod

Special Guest, Eduardo Del Signore

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 731 217 7775

To phone:+1 253 215 8782 US (Seattle)

Password: uucsp93060

~or~

www.facebook.com/uucsp

Free will offering to UUCSP, 740 E Main St, Santa Paula, CA 93060 with Gathering in memo line

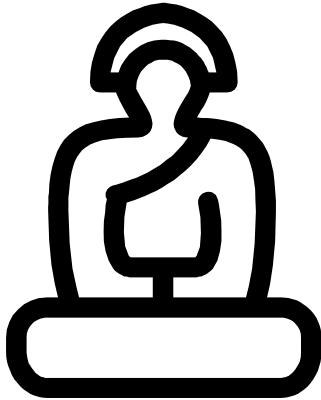
Spiritual Growth Center

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



MEDITATION PRACTICE GROUP

UU CHURCH OF SANTA PAULA

IN PERSON or ZOOM and Facebook

January 5 with Jim Cole

January 12 with Rev. Maddie

January 19 with Jim Cole

January 26 with Rev. Maddie

EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 6 PM

For information call Rev. Maddie Sifantus, 805-525-4620 or msifantus@uuma.org.

Free Will Offering.

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

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

NEWS FROM AMONG US - January 2022

- We congratulate Judy Triem for her recognition by Rotary International.
- Rev. Maddie receives notes with some regularity. After December's Gathering she received this note with a donation, saying in part: "I always look forward to an evening of "The Gathering". I enjoy listening to Geno playing the piano, Christine playing the violin, your singing and Atul reading poetry. Oh my, it is all so beautiful. Your program truly does provide moments to reflect and gather a much-needed sense of peace. For all this I thank you. May you be blessed with a lovely holiday season and a wonderful New Year. I'll continue to pray that in the near future there will be many more enjoying these special evenings as I do!"
- Peggy Poehler writes us from her new home in Oregon that she is well settled in and is happy to be near her family. She tells us that "she truly loves living here—it has real weather!" Her full note is posted on the bulletin board near the kitchen.
- Jan Shepherd had many family visiting Christmas Eve, including her son who lives in New York City. Others had smaller celebrations with perhaps only immediate family.
- On Christmas Eve we saw in person some folks we haven't seen in some time, including the Krause family, Angele Blanton, Virginia Johnson, the Ricards family and more. We had some new folks on Zoom and Facebook.
- 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 JANUARY 4 AND 18 AT 4 PM ON ZOOM

Grab your favorite beverage and join Rev. Maddie on Zoom.

We will light a chalice, have a reading,
and check in with each other.

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 731 217 7775

Password: uucsp93060



People and Doings

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, January 12 at 10:00 AM in Rev. Maddie's office. The Safe Congregation Team reports and is advisory to the Board.

COMMITTEE ON CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

According to the Bylaws of the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula, the Committee on Congregational Life's primary mission to evaluate the overall effectiveness of the congregation's ministry (ordained, staff and laity). The COCL is not a committee of the Board, but a committee of the congregation in special relationship to the Board. It consists of three members serving staggered terms of two years each, with no member serving more than three consecutive terms. Current members are Judy Triem, Ken Stock and the Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford. Members are encouraged to let Rev. Maddie or one of the members of the committee know if there are any issues of the ministries of the congregation of which they should be aware. The next meeting of the COCL will be **Thursday, January 13th at 4:00 PM on Zoom.**

SANTA PAULA CINEMA SOCIETY

Bullets over BROADWAY

This glorious sendup of gangsters and the Great White Way set in Prohibition-era New York City is one of Woody Allen's most hilarious and wickedly satirical films. It also happens to feature one of the finest of his ensemble casts, including John Cusack, Diane Wiest (Academy Award), Jack Warden, Jennifer Tilly, Chazz Palminteri, Mary Louise Parker, Rob Reiner, Tracey Ullman, Jim Broadbent, and Edie Falco. It also happens to feature one of the most memorable tag lines in the history of film. You'll laugh, you'll cry, you'll duck for cover! But whatever you do, please don't... (1994, 1:39)

SANTA PAULA CINEMA SOCIETY
FRIDAY JANUARY 14, 2022

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



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, January 18 at 7:00 PM on Zoom. For more information, please be in touch with Rev. Maddie at minister@uucsp.org or call her private line the office: 805-525-4620.

SOCIAL CONCERNS ACTION COMMITTEE

The Social Concerns Action Committee will meet Wednesday, January 19 at 4:00 PM on Zoom.

JOIN US TO SING!

Our next choir rehearsal will be Thursday, January 20 at 4 PM in the Sanctuary. We will be singing at the Worship Service on Sunday, January 23, the day of our Annual Meeting. Please come ready to sing at 9:45 AM.

The choir usually sings once a month for a 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!

MARY A. LIVERMORE SOCIETY

The Mary A. Livermore Society, affectionally known as the "Mary A's" invites all who are interested in a lively and informative discourse to join us on Thursday, January 27th at 11:30 on Zoom for our first meeting of the year! We will feature an interview with Mary Ann Krause former Mayor of Santa Paula who has a great deal of experience with relevant community issues. She is currently using her strong voice in opposition to the proposed reopening of the wastewater treatment plant that exploded in 2014.

Join us on Zoom!

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

Meeting ID: 731 217 7775 Password: uucsp93060

People and Doings

CARING COMMITTEE

Lay ministers play a vital role in our congregation, extending the reach of our professional minister and our Affiliate Community Minister. Would you like to help keep in touch with our members and friends? Would you like to discuss issues of care in our congregation with some loving folks. Let Rev. Maddie or Caring Committee chair, Karen Harris, know of your interest. The next meeting of the Caring Committee will be on January 27 at 3 PM on Zoom.

PHONE TREE

Our phone tree is used to help check on our folks or to get information out rapidly by telephone. We could use one or two new people willing to make occasional phone calls. Please let Rev. Maddie know if you are interested and willing. 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.

SPIRIT LEVEL MATCHING GRANT

Last spring Rev. Maddie applied for a grant from the Spirit Level Foundation, a non-profit that funds UU congregations and initiatives in Southern California. It is a Matching Grant and was approved for the full requested amount of \$10,000, meaning that once we have raised the full \$10,000 match, we will have \$20,000 to work with to upgrade our technology, sound, and lighting as well as replace our old hearing enhancement system. This will improve our web presence as well as the experience of hybrid services and events, including the restart of our Concert Series, Spiritual Growth Center which includes yoga, meditation, Rise Up Singing, educational and other programs, as well as have upgraded capabilities to use with our community partners.

As of December 28, members and friends of our congregation have contributed \$5,875. Our hope is that all members of our community will contribute something to this effort that benefits all of us and will bring our Mission beyond our walls. To contribute to our Spirit Level Matching Grant Technology Effort that will enable us to better minister and collaborate with our congregation and community, send a check to UUCSP, 740 E Main Street, Santa Paula, CA 93060 with Spirit Level in the memo line. Or visit our website and click on the "Donate" link.

GUEST AT YOUR TABLE

Return your Guest at Your Table box by January 16



We passed out the 2021 boxes during our service on November 21. Family members put change or bills in the box at mealtimes or other times. You can also write a check to the UUSC in lieu of putting money in the boxes. Checks made out the UUSC can be put with your offering in the plate on a Sunday or sent to the church to be collected together. We are longtime supporters of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee and its Guest at Your Table program.

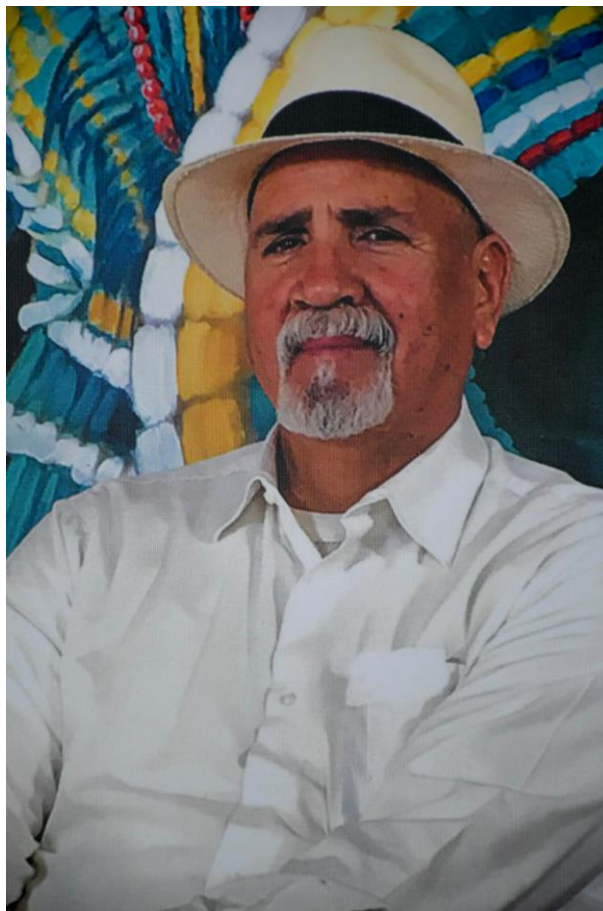
What is Guest at Your Table?

Guest at Your Table is the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's annual intergenerational program to raise support for and awareness about key human rights issues. Since UUSC works in over 25 countries, with over 75 grassroots partners, there are thousands of individuals involved in and who benefit from the work that our members make possible. The program is an opportunity to celebrate grassroots partnership, support human rights, and learn about just four of these individuals – the "guests" in Guest at Your Table.

2022 1st QUARTER 1st SUNDAY OFFERING

January 9, February 6, March 6

DECOLORES MULTICULTURAL FOLK ARTS



The newly formed De Colores Multicultural Folk Arts Inc. is an artist-centered, nonprofit corporation that continues the legacy of Xavier "Big X" Montes & his vision of a world of racial & economic equality, by inspiring youth, artists, culture makers & culture bearers through the arts espousing his philosophy of peace & social justice. We recently participated in their Los Posadas event which began at our church. Hear more about it at the January 9th service, one week later than the "First Sunday"

THE UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN
CHURCH OF SANTA PAULA

740 East Main Street
Santa Paula, CA 93060

Office: 805-525-4647

office@uucsp.org

www.uucsp.org

www.facebook.com/uucsp



Sunday Worship Services at 10:30 am

Rev. Maddie Sifantus, Minister, Choir Director

Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford, Affiliate Minister

Krystal Johnson, Office Administrator

Vincent Sorisio, Church Musician

Albie Alamillo, Custodian

Board of Trustees:

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



February newsletter deadline January 15

Dated Material
Time Value

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