



Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula

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

uucspoffice@gmail.com website: uucsp.org

JUNE 2022 SERVICES, SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM



THEME: Celebrating Blessings

Words of blessing are often written as traveling partners, offering us not only hope but guidance for the path ahead. They point to what's possible. They highlight treasures otherwise easily missed. They function as maps, reminders and challenges all rolled into one. They help us get to where we need to go.

June 5 Blessing the Space Between Us **Rev. Maddie, Karen Harris**

The late John O'Donohue believed that "the word blessing evokes a sense of warmth and protection; it suggests that no life is alone or unreachable." Rev. Maddie kicks off the month's theme of celebrating blessings, remembering a favorite song of her father's, "Count your blessings, count them one by one." How can we be a blessing to each other and the world?

First Sunday Plate, UUSC Ukraine Emergency Response

June 12 Blessing of Shared Ministry: **Flower Sunday**

Rev. Maddie, Rev. Betty

Unitarian minister Norbert Capek created the first flower communion for his congregation in Czechoslovakia in 1923. It is traditional for us to have our version of this service, where each of us brings a flower to share, and we go home with a different one.

Our choir sings "We Are the Music"

by Carl Strommen

Tuesday, June 14 Blessing of Gathering Rev. Maddie

This is a reflective time in our busy week to hear some inspiring music, share some silence and hear spoken word on a theme, led this month by Rev. Maddie with poems by Atul Ranchod and music by Steve Werner.

June 19 Blessing of the Season: Summer Solstice **Rev. Maddie, Ellen Deeb**

Our Summer Solstice or Midsummer Celebration celebrates the fullness of lush, growing energy. We honor the day this week when the hours of light are the longest and the darkness is the shortest.

June 26 at 9:30 AM Blessing of UUism: General Assembly Service in the Parish Hall with Brunch! **With Rev. Maddie and Kate English**

We will watch the livestreamed service from the Annual UU General Assembly which is taking place in Portland, Oregon starting at 9:30 AM. We will share a potluck brunch as we watch and some casual time together as we get ready to kick off the summer months. Arrive any time after 9:00 AM and bring something to share, if you can.

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

www.facebook.com/uucsp

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

Message from the Minister

Even though we go year 'round in our congregation, we still are geared towards a church year that extends from Water Communion the Sunday after Labor Day Weekend through Flower Sunday and Summer Solstice in June. Our theme this month is Blessing and for me, one of the greatest blessings of my life is my faith as expressed by the Principles and Purposes as well as the Six Sources of Unitarian Universalism, a faith I discovered in my early thirties that gave me a place and a community to hold all my spiritual explorations and where I found my path to professional religious leadership, first as a Youth Director, then as a UU musician and music director, a community minister and eventually a parish minister. June 16th is the twentieth anniversary of my Ordination at the First Parish in Wayland, a morning that was a joyous celebration that brought together my relationship with First Parish, the Golden Tones elder chorus, my band TVS (The Vocal Section), singers from many UU choirs I had sung with or directed, and important mentors in my life, including Rev. Jane Rzepka and the late Rev. Ken Sawyer who shared the sermon. I carry that blessing of beauty and joy with me every day.



Last month our theme was beauty, and I wrote, “When we carry beauty, it carries us.” I suggested that for the month that you find something to carry with you, in your pocket, your purse or on your person. It could be a pebble, poem, torn piece of paper with a quote on it, a found object which would remind you about beauty that will carry you through as you carry it with you. Even if you didn’t do this for the month, on Flower Sunday, along with a flower to share, you are invited to bring a small object to put on our altar table that reminds you of beauty or a memory of beauty and blessing to share. Those of you joining us on Zoom or Facebook can have a flower and an object with you.

On the path of our faith,
Reverend Maddie

Rev. Maddie’s Office Hours

Rev. Maddie would love to meet with you to hear how you are doing, your thoughts and dreams for our congregation or your family or how you might like to be involved at UUCSP if you are newer. She is usually available in the office by appointment or potluck drop in from Tuesday through Friday. This month both Rev. Betty and Rev. Maddie will be out of town to attend the UU Ministry Days and the UU General Assembly in Portland, Oregon. Rev. Maddie will be gone from June 20-25. For pastoral issues during that time, call the office at 805-525-4647. 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.

Message from the Board of Trustees

Dear UUCSP Community,

I would like to take a moment to honor the lives lost in Buffalo on Saturday, May 14th. I am thinking of the victims, their families, and their communities. I am also thinking of our Black community members here in Ventura County, and all those whose lives have been touched by racism, violence, and hate.

In Buffalo, these lives were lost not only in an individual act of hate, but also within a larger context of white supremacy and structural racism, which we have all inherited and that I believe we all have a responsibility to work on. These racist ideologies may have their roots in the past but are alive and well in the present.

There is a kind of cumulative racialized trauma that builds up in our bodies, but especially in Black and Brown bodies. Some of us may be feeling numb from yet another shooting, while some of our community members may be feeling quite literally terrorized, and perhaps even afraid to go to the grocery store. Perhaps the degree to which we CAN feel numb is directly related to the degree to which our skin color does not make us a target of racist hate. While there is no wrong way to feel, but I hope we as a congregation will reject outright apathy and complacency.

I encourage us again to consider adopting the 8th Principle as a congregation. Whiteness really was socially constructed. As a mostly white congregation, in a mostly Latino city, benefitting here and now from all the segregation and privileging of whiteness in the past and present and the generational wealth that may have given us access to, I believe we have both a moral responsibility and a spiritual calling if you will, to say that Black Lives Matter, to heal the ravages of a system steeped in white supremacy. The 8th Principle encourages to consider that spiritual wholeness requires us to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.

I hope you will take a moment to pause to honor the lives lost and reflect on how this tragedy is impacting you or may be impacting others and consider as a collective action of this church, adopting the 8th Principle.

<https://www.8thprincipleuu.org/>

Yours, Kate English

Spiritual Growth Center

SPIRITUAL GROWTH CENTER

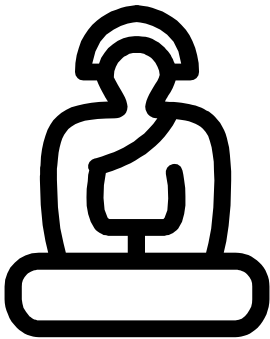
Rev. Maddie created the Spiritual Growth Center at the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula when she arrived in January 2015. During the last two years of pandemic, the only three activities that have continued have been the Gathering, Yoga on Tuesday and Thursday mornings with Lisa Hammond and our Meditation Practice Group with Rev. Maddie alternating with psychologist Jim Cole. In the past, we have offered End of Life planning, Singing Meditation, evenings with teacher Gurdeep Singh, and we were about to add another meditation group on Monday evening as well as hosting some Sound Baths. The Spiritual Growth Center is meant to include our adult religious education offerings and spiritual practices, providing opportunities and programs to awaken and sustain love, compassion, service, and personal transformation. 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. As we prepare to open up more fully, please let Rev. Maddie know what activities interest you and if you know of any local teachers who may wish to provide a one time or series that fits with our UU values. minister@uucsp.org

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## MEDITATION PRACTICE GROUP

### UU CHURCH OF SANTA PAULA

*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*



**June 1 with Rev. Maddie in person**  
**June 8 with Jim Cole on Zoom**  
**June 15 with Rev. Maddie in person**  
**June 22 with Jim Cole on Zoom**  
**June 29 with Rev. Maddie in person**  
**EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 6 PM**

*For information call Rev. Maddie Sifantus, 805-525-4620 or [msifantus@uuma.org](mailto:msifantus@uuma.org)  
Free Will Offering.*

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SOARING HEARTS YOGA



Soaring Hearts Yoga meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays, now for two sessions! You can attend at 9:30 AM or 10:45 AM or both. Bring your own mats and props.

Please contact Lisa Hammond at 831-801-2276 or soaringheartsyoga@gmail.com for more information.

TWILIGHT GATHERING*



***DEFINITION OF GATHERING**

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

TUESDAY, JUNE 14 at 7:00 PM

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

With Maddie Sifantus with Singer-Songwriter Steve Werner

Poet, Atul Ranchod

In person and 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

People and Doings

NEWS FROM AMONG US –June 2022

- Our thoughts and prayers are with two friends of our congregation. Maria Beruman continues to recover in a long hospital stay. Susannah Evans is home after hospital and rehab and will be moving soon from Santa Paula to Oxnard.
- Our joy is with Christine and Isaac Mazar as they welcome their second daughter, Schlomit (Shelli). Christine is the violinist who plays at Gathering and special events of our congregation.
- Rev. Maddie will be marking the Twentieth Anniversary of her Ordination to the Unitarian Universalist ministry by the First Parish in Wayland on June 16.
- Please let us know your birthday if we don't know it already. In these days and times, we need to celebrate our members and friends. We announce birthdays during the Joys, Concerns and Milestones during our Sunday services.
- If you have a joy, concern or milestone you wish to share, you can announce it again in person on Sundays, send it to Rev. Maddie ahead of time or write it in the CHAT on Zoom.
- 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.

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 as well as issues related to COVID 19 safety. The next meeting of the committee is **Wednesday, June 1 at 10:00 AM** in Rev. Maddie's office. The Safe Congregation Team reports and is advisory to the Board.

CRUISE & SING NIGHT

FRIDAY, JUNE 3 from 5:00 to DUSK



SEE THE CLASSIC CARS! TOUR HISTORIC CHURCH!

JOIN IN SINGING! BUY TIPICA!

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

People and Doings

2022 2ND QUARTER 1st SUNDAY OFFERING: June 5



UUSC UKRAINE EMERGENCY RESPONSE

We are longtime supporters of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's work around the world. We are dedicating our Second Quarter of the First Sunday Plate to their Ukraine Emergency Response. Since their beginnings serving refugees displaced by Nazi aggression during World War II, UUSC has been called to respond to unexpected crises and provide resources to communities whose needs are urgent and access to aid is limited. Donating to UUSC's Emergency Response Fund ensures UUSC is always ready to provide relief, including our developing work to protect the

rights of refugees fleeing Ukraine right now.

Those of you on Zoom can give through our website: www.uucsp.org and make a note of UUSC or First Sunday.

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*Please join us for our first concert since the Covid shutdown of 2020  
Únase a nosotros para nuestro primer concierto desde el cierre de Covid de 2020\**

## **CHUCUMITE**



Come and enjoy the exciting folk music of Veracruz, Mexico performed by  
Santa Paula Native John Robles and Chucumite

Ven y disfruta de la emocionante música folclórica de Veracruz, México interpretada  
por el nativo de Santa Paula John Robles y Chucumite

**SUNDAY, JUNE 5  
3:00 PM**

**Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula  
740 E. Main Street, Santa Paula, CA 93060  
805-525-4647      [www.uucsp.org](http://www.uucsp.org)**

**Donation \$20      Children 12 & under free**



# People and Doings

## **SIP AND CHECK IN**

**TUESDAYS AT 4 PM ON ZOOM**

TUESDAY, JUNE 7 WITH REV. MADDIE

TUESDAY, JUNE 24 WITH SHARON KUFELDT

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



## **MUSIC NOTES**

Our last choir rehearsal of this church year will be Thursday, June 9 at 4:00 PM in preparation for singing at the service on June 12 which will be our annual Flower Sunday. We will also look ahead at what we will be singing our first service back in the fall, Water Sunday, September 11.

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](mailto:minister@uucsp.org) or 805-525-4620. All invited to sing!

|                       |         |                 |
|-----------------------|---------|-----------------|
| June 9                | 4:00 PM | Choir Rehearsal |
| June 12 Flower Sunday | 9:30 AM | Choir Rehearsal |
| We are the Music      |         | Carl Strommen   |

## **WALKING EACH OTHER HOME      Thursday, June 9      6:30 PM**

You are invited to a discussion group on the second Thursday of the month at 6:30pm via Zoom. This group is inspired by Beloved Conversations curriculum which is a program for Unitarian Universalists seeking to embody racial justice as a spiritual practice. Our discussions are in hopes of healing the impacts of racism on our lives, in order to get free together. We will be utilizing articles, videos, and our individual perspectives to inspire reflective discussion and self-work. All are welcome.



# People and Doings

## SANTA PAULA CINEMA SOCIETY



If Hollywood history owes any debt to director Mitchell Leisen, it's that both Billy Wilder and Preston Sturges thoroughly detested him. Both became so frustrated with Leisen's indifferent direction of their screenplays that both begged Paramount to be given a chance to direct their own writing. Within a year or so they would get that opportunity, and the movies are far richer for it. Yet, in this collaboration with the journeyman director, Wilder and his writing partner Charles Brackett pulled off one of the great screwball comedies of the 1930s. Wilder later claimed the film came out so well because he demanded that Leisen not muck around with the Brackett-Wilder dialog. That much is probably true (Wilder was a master of getting his way), but it should also be said that the director's trademark obsessions with costuming and set design details also worked in its favor. Had MIDNIGHT not been released in 1939, perhaps the greatest single year in American film, this witty twist on the Cinderella tale might have achieved a more prominent place in film history than the one it enjoys. With Claudette Colbert, Don Ameche, Mary Astor, and John Barrymore. (1:34)

SANTA PAULA CINEMA SOCIETY  
FRIDAY JUNE 10, 2022  
Universalist Unitarian Church • 740 E. Main Street •  
7PM • Free! • Enter Side Door

## SOCIAL CONCERNS ACTION COMMITTEE

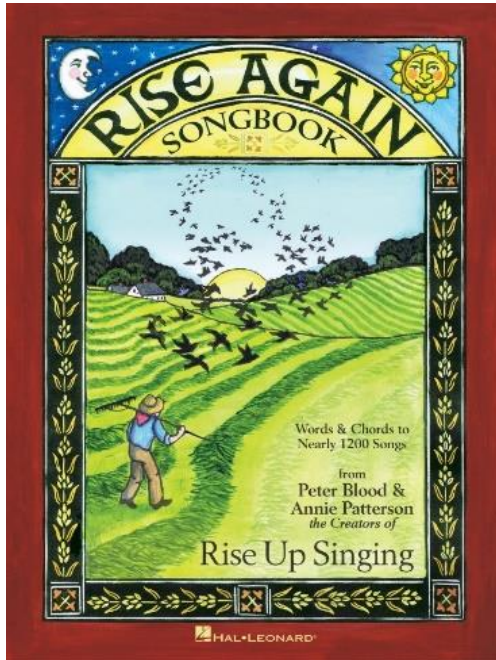
The Social Concerns Action Committee will meet Wednesday, June 15 at 4:00 PM on Zoom

## 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, June 16 at 4:00 PM on Zoom.**

# People and Doings

## **RISE UP SINGING RETURNS**



Our communal singing, song circle Rise Up Singing is restarting. We will meet on Friday, June 17 at 7 PM in the Parish Hall and on the third Friday of each month thereafter. Rise Up Singing is open to singers and instrumentalists of all ages. Free Will Offering (\$5 suggested). Bring your songbooks (*Rise Up Singing*, *Rise Again* or your favorite book) or a song you want to sing. We will have songbooks available to use or buy (\$20). 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)

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MARY A. LIVERMORE SOCIETY **Thursday, June 23 11:30 AM**

Pony Highway Productions is the husband-and-wife team of Bill Yahraus and Robin Rosenthal. They have been immersing themselves in communities that they are curious about since they ran away with the Tarzan Zerbini Circus in 1996. Their award-winning documentaries have aired nationally on PBS and toured internationally.

Their most recent award-winning documentary "Mariposas del Campo" or "Butterflies of the Field", shares the stories of indigenous Mixtec, Zapotec, and Purépecha teenagers from Mexico striving to change their families' destinies in the strawberry fields of Oxnard. Through a stormy year of sanctioned racism and anti-immigrant policies, the documentary captures their journeys—with help from the characters' own intimate videos—as they navigate cultural identity, parental expectations, economic challenges, and the justice needs of their migrant farmworker community. For young people whose lives have always been steeped in uncertainty, it takes a leap of faith to chase a dream.

Join us on zoom, Thursday, June 23rd at 11:30 a.m. for a most inspirational and relevant program featuring Robin and Bill talking about their film! This is a wonderful and rare opportunity!!!

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7312177775>
Meeting ID: 731 217 7775 Password: uucsp93060

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# People and Doings

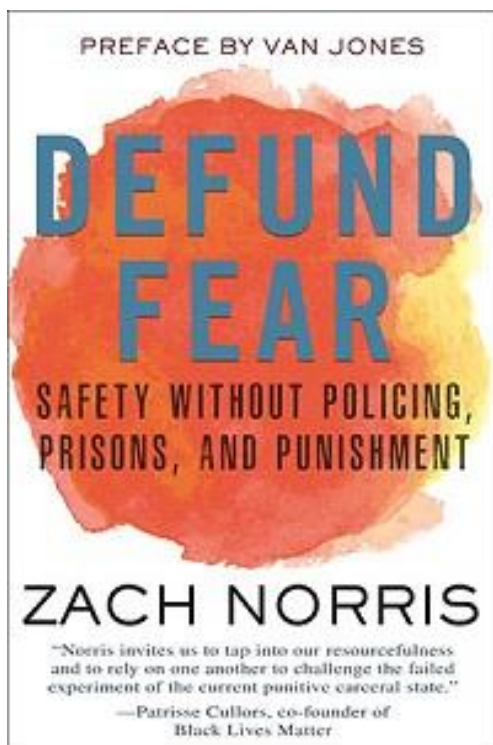
## **CARING COMMITTEE**

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 June 30 at 3 PM on Zoom or with Rev. Maddie in her office. On the agenda will be a preparing for Rev. Maddie's month-long Sabbatical, July 14 to August 15.

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

## **ALL CHURCH READ PART TWO: DEFUND FEAR**



A group of us had an interesting discussion of *Defund Fear: Safety Without Policing, Prisons and Punishment* by Zach Norris (Beacon Press: 2021). We realized that there were others who wanted to read the book and more to discuss. The Social Concern Action Committee has agreed to buy three copies of the book. Please let Rev. Maddie know if you would like a copy. Our next meeting will be at on Zoom on Sunday, August 21 at 1 PM to continue the discussion. We will briefly review the first session and move to discussing what needs to be done to address the harms discussed in the book, building a culture of care and why we as Unitarian Universalists in particular are called to this work.

Zach Norris shifts the conversation about public safety away from fear and punishment and toward growth and support systems for our families and communities. In *Defund Fear*, Norris explores what has gone wrong, and why, and who has been most impacted by repressive and racist policing systems. He offers a new blueprint for public safety that holds people

accountable while still holding them in community. Norris is a lawyer, a community organizer, and Executive Director of the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights in Oakland, California. [Learn about the Center's work](#) and [read his bio](#). The book is available from the UUA Bookstore: inSpirit at <https://www.uuabookstore.org/Defund-Fear-P18793.aspx>

Be in touch with Rev. Maddie with any questions [minister@uucsp.org](mailto:minister@uucsp.org) or 805-525-4620



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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:**

Kate English, President,

Karen Harris, Vice-President

Ann Hewitt, Secretary,

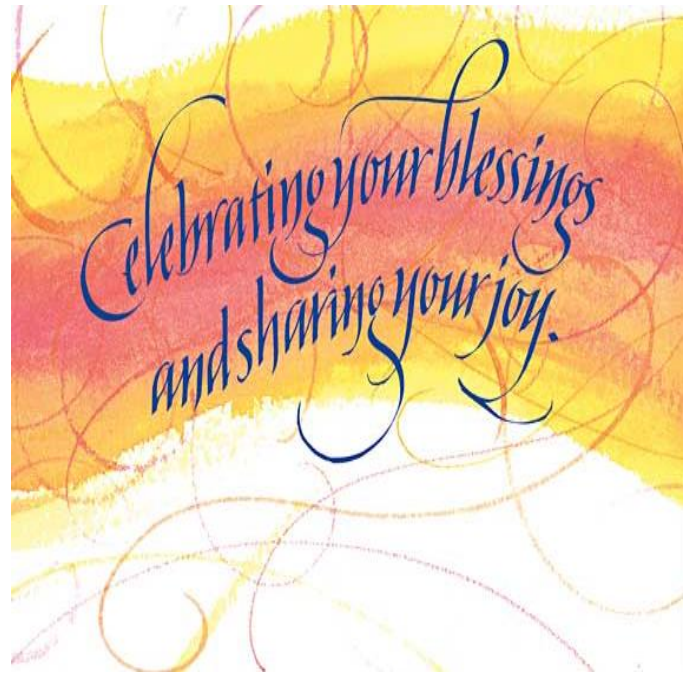
Jerry Gray, Treasurer

Donna Hamer, Member at Large

**Tech Support Team:**

Evan Holt   Monika Murillo

Mitch Stone



**July newsletter deadline June 15**

*Dated Material*  
*Time Value*

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of Santa Paula  
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Santa Paula, CA 93060