



# Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula

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

uucspoffice@gmail.com website: uucsp.org

## AUGUST 2022 SERVICES, SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM



### AUGUST THEME: SUMMER SMORGASBORD

*Our theme-based program takes a break from themes this month and so do we, instead bringing you a smorgasbord of offerings for the lazy days of August.*

#### August 7 “Grace and Justice”

**Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford, Ken Stock**

At first glance, it may seem that the two words in the sermon title have very little connection to each other. But with further investigation, that may not be true. In fact, we may experience that relationship quite often if we keep our minds, hearts, and actions open to all the possibilities around us. What have you got to lose? Maybe everything.  
*First Sunday Plate, Santa Paula Education Foundation*

#### Tuesday, August 9 7 PM Gathering

**Kate English, Mariana Franco Smith**

This is a reflective time in our busy week to hear some inspiring music, share some silence and hear spoken word on a theme which on this evening will be *Night Magic*.

#### August 14 Long To Belong

**Rev. Rod Richards, Ruth Ricards**

Our third Cluster service with a sermon on video by the Rev. Rod Richards of the Unitarian Universalists San Luis Obispo. We are living through a time of deep loneliness, heightened by the necessary precautions we practice in this time of COVID. What is more natural than the desire to belong? Where does that desire lead us? And can it ever lead us astray?

#### August 21 Thoughts from Sabbatical

**Rev. Maddie, Ken Stock**

Come find out what discernment Rev. Maddie had in her four weeks away. What did rest and renewal look like? What did she find in Winslow and Caribou, Maine, the historic home of our founders, the Hardisons? Inquiring minds want to know!

#### August 28 Universalist Pilgrimage

**Rev. Maddie, Karen Harris**

Rev. Maddie continues her series on the history and theologies of Universalism with a look at a Universalist pilgrimage from the East to California when the Universalist Conventions were taken to the Pacific Coast in 1915, thought by many at the time to be a “dangerous if not impossible enterprise.” We look at Frederick A. Bisbee’s memories of that time and wonder how it informed our early years of Universalism in Santa Paula.

Join Zoom Meeting: PLEASE MUTE YOUR MICROPHONE

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/731217775>

Meeting ID: 731 217 7775

Zoom Password: uucsp93060

To phone: +1 253 215 8782 Phone password: 529593

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

As I am writing these words at newsletter deadline, I am preparing to leave for one month of Sabbatical, seeing you again after August 15. By the time you read this, who knows what adventures I will have found...or you have had here in Santa Paula! My Sabbatical ends with a family wedding in State College, Pennsylvania. Once I am back, I look forward to sharing my ongoing research about Universalists in Maine and gearing up for the next concert in our concert series, the return of the Landmark String Quartet. Although this Sabbatical is only one month and is pretty scheduled with singing engagements, doing the eulogy at my best friend's Memorial Service on July 30 and research, I am hoping to use the time to do the kind of discernment ministers need to do from time to time on the state of their ministry and which is difficult to do when engaged in the day-to-day tasks...like writing a newsletter column! During the time I am away from the congregation, should there be emergencies, Krystal Johnson, congregation president Kate English and your Board of Trustees will know how to address them and will inform me should it be necessary. Take note of the Sabbatical Call Chart in this newsletter and that our Affiliate Community Minister for Social Justice, the Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford, will be available for pastoral care if necessary. Please know that I will miss you and will be holding you in my meditation and prayers each morning, sending love to our beloved friends and members here at the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula and the larger community in which I serve.

On the path of our faith,  
Reverend Maddie

## **Pastoral Coverage During Sabbatical**

While Rev. Maddie is away on Sabbatical, if you have or know of a member or friend of the congregation who is having pastoral issues, call the office at 805-525-4647 or email [office@uucsp.org](mailto:office@uucsp.org). Rev. Betty Stapleford will be providing pastoral coverage if needed during this time. Rev. Maddie will be returning to the office on Tuesday, August 16. After that time, she is available to meet with you by appointment or by potluck drop-in to her office which 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. She is normally in the office from Tuesday through Friday. 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](mailto:minister@uucsp.org).

## **PHISHING: DON'T TAKE THE BAIT—A REMINDER**

The crooks don't take Sabbaticals or summer vacations! Always be sure that your email is coming from the correct address from the church or your friends and not one that is made up to look like it might be from someone you know. Someone calls the church office describing an emergency, claiming to be a staff member or leader. They have been robbed and need money wired to them ASAP. Or congregation members receive emails that are requesting gift card donations for a charitable cause. Religious groups and congregations are becoming easy targets for these types of scams. Hackers are getting more sophisticated every day. The best defense is to pause and look for warning signs before responding to any unsolicited email. Phishing is a form of "social engineering," whereby a hacker with bad intentions sends an email (or text or phone call) pretending to be someone the recipient trusts and asks the recipient to take an action which can have adverse effects. Sometimes, they request money. Other times, they invite the recipient to click a link or open an attachment that can trigger malicious code. A good rule of thumb with emails you're not expecting is to: (1) reach out to the sender through another channel (call, text, visit website) and (2) not click on a link (or send money, gift cards, etc.) without clarifying from the trusted source. A gift card scam has been making the rounds of churches of all denominations. Related scams can include unsolicited telephone calls that try to trick you into sending money or giving your private financial information. If it sounds too good to be true, it is! Be safe.

# Message from the Minister

## SABBATICAL CALL SHEET

July 14 through August 15, 2022

**PLEASE CONSULT THE CHURCH DIRECTORY FOR CONTACT INFORMATION**

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Name	Position/Title
Kate English	President
Karen Harris	Vice President
Jerry Gray	Treasurer
Anne Hewitt	Secretary
Donna Hamer	Member At-Large

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Committee	Chair
Building and Grounds Committee	Ann Hewitt
Caring Committee	Karen Harris
Committee on Congregational Life	Judy Triem
Finance Committee	MaryBeth East
Mary A's	Anne Hewitt
Safe Congregation Committee	Krystal Johnson
Social Concern Action Committee	Margaret Wilson, Co-Chair Audrey Vincent, Co-Chair
Worship Team	Ruth Ricards

### rites of passage, membership and newcomer information

To contact Krystal Johnson, Office Administrator, leave a voice message at (805) 525-4647 or send her an email at [office@uucsp.org](mailto:office@uucsp.org).

### PASTORAL CARE

Need/Concern and what to do	Name	Position
If someone becomes ill or is hospitalized, or unexpectedly dies	Krystal Johnson	Office Administrative
Phone Tree and other Caring Committee business	Karen Harris	Caring Committee, Chair

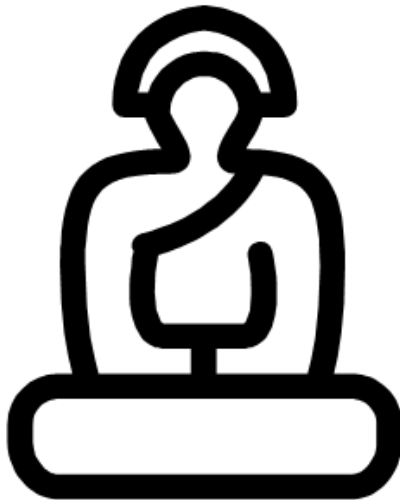
### NEWSLETTER, ORDER OF SERVICE, e-BLASTS

Item	Name	Deadline
Newsletter	Krystal Johnson	15 <sup>th</sup> of month
Order of Service	Krystal Johnson	10 am Wednesday before Sunday Service
e-Blast	Krystal Johnson	Emailed on Fridays

# 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](mailto:minister@uucsp.org)



## 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*

**August 3 with Corrine Carson in person**

**August 10 with Jim Cole on Zoom**

**August 17 with Rev. Maddie in person**

**August 24 with Jim Cole on Zoom**

**August 24 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.*

## SOARING HEARTS YOGA



Soaring Hearts Yoga meets in 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.

# TWILIGHT GATHERING\*



**\*DEFINITION OF GATHERING**

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

## TUESDAY, AUGUST 9 at 7:00 PM

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

*Night Magic*

with Kate English and musician Mariana Franco Smith

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



# People and Doings

## **NEWS FROM AMONG US – August 2022**

- We were very excited to welcome two new members during our service on July 10, Constance Leshin and Atul Ranchod.
- 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 during the time Rev. Maddie is on Sabbatical, you can announce it again in person on Sundays, or send it Krystal Johnson in the office by Noon on Friday and she will get it to the appropriate Worship Host to include in the service. If you are on Zoom, you can write it in the CHAT.
- 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.

## **CRUISE & SING NIGHT**

**Friday, August 5**

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

**SEE THE CLASSIC CARS!**

**TOUR HISTORIC CHURCH!**

**BUY FRIENDSHIP BRIDGE TIPICA!**



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

# People and Doings

## 2022 3<sup>rd</sup> QUARTER 1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY OFFERING

**AUGUST 7 and SEPTEMBER 4**



Our Third Quarter recipient is the Santa Paula Education Foundation (SPEF). The SPEF was established in 1983 and is devoted to raising and managing funds for the purpose of providing scholarships and assistance to Santa Paula Unified School District students and educational programs. You can see more about SPEF at [www.spedufoundation.org](http://www.spedufoundation.org)

### SIP AND CHECK IN

TUESDAYS AT 4 PM ON ZOOM

AUGUST 2 WITH SHARON KUFELDT

AUGUST 16 AND 30 WITH REV MADDIE

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



## SANTA PAULA CINEMA SOCIETY

### The Santa Paula Cinema Society Centennial Silent Comedy Shootout!

This month marks the 100th film in our SPCS series that began way back in March 2012! Who guessed it would go on this long? Since it's had such unexpectedly great legs, this seems like the perfect opportunity for a retrospective, which is taking the form of three films made exactly 100 years ago by the "big three" of silent comedy. Choosing to screen only films made by Chaplin, Keaton and Lloyd in this one, arbitrary year turns out not to be not such a random idea. By the early 1920s dramatic films were already being made at feature length, but nobody then was certain audiences would sit still for an hour or more of comedy. Of the three, Charlie Chaplin was the first to take the chance of making a feature ("The Kid" in 1921), and with its success the following year he released his very last short "Pay Day," and it will be the first film on our triple-bill. Not to be outdone, that same year Harold Lloyd made his first feature "Grandma's Boy," and it comes up second. In 1922 Buster Keaton was a year away from releasing his first two feature films, and so the lineup will feature one of his last shorts, "Cops." Who was the greatest of them all a hundred years ago? That's up to you, but it should be a lot of laughs trying to decide! (Total running time, 93 minutes).



SANTA PAULA CINEMA SOCIETY  
FRIDAY AUGUST 12, 2022

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

# People and Doings

## **WALKING EACH OTHER HOME** TBD

Please refer to the Friday eBlast for updated information.

## **SOCIAL CONCERNS ACTION COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, August 17, 4:00 pm** Social Concerns Action Committee will meet in the Parish Hall to write postcards and letters in support of UU THE VOTE, personally urging fellow citizens to get out to vote in this historic upcoming election. Join us in this good work!

## **COMMITTEE ON CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**

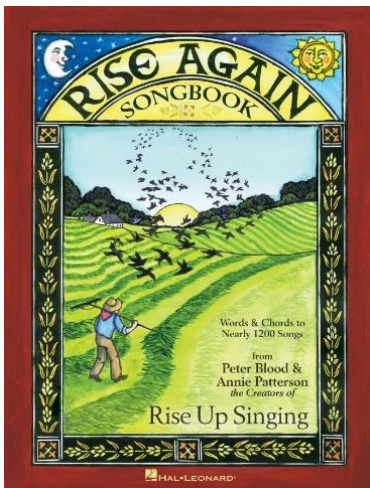
According to the Bylaws of the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula, the Committee on Congregational Life's primary mission to evaluate the overall effectiveness of the congregation's ministry (ordained, staff and laity). The COCL is not a committee of the Board, but a committee of the congregation 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, August 18 at 4:00 PM** on Zoom.

## **MARY A. LIVERMORE SOCIETY**

Like hundreds of cities and school districts across the state, the City of Santa Paula is making a change on how voters will elect City Council members. Beginning in 2024, voters will vote for one City Council member who lives in their district. This will replace the current system of at-large citywide elections in which voters have the ability to vote for all City Council Members.

Everyone is invited to hear more about this timely topic with Lucia Marquez of CAUSE who has been invited to be the August speaker of the Mary A. Livermore Society. There will be information about upcoming community workshops about this timely topic. Mark your calendars now for August 25 at 11:30 on Zoom. Everyone is invited to tune in!



## **RISE UP SINGING**

**UU CHURCH OF SANTA PAULA PARISH HALL  
740 E MAIN STREET**

**FRIDAY, August 19 7:00 PM**

**BRING RISE UP SINGING AND/OR RISE AGAIN BOOKS**

**IF YOU HAVE THEM**

**ALL INSTRUMENTS WELCOME!**

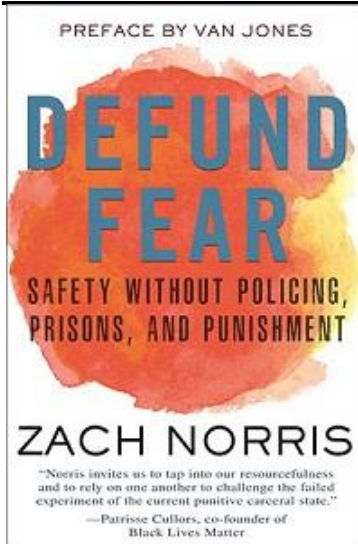
**COMMUNITY SINGING! SONG CIRCLE!**

**FREE WILL OFFERING (\$5 recommended) ALL AGES**



# People and Doings

## 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 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.

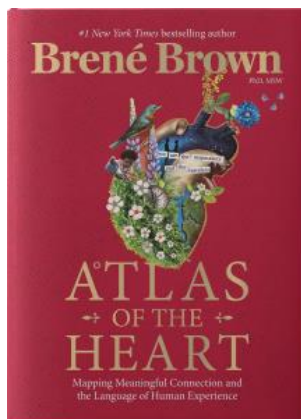
Zach Norris shifts the conversation about public safety away from fear and punishment and toward growth and support systems for our families and communities. In *Defund Fear*, Norris explores what has gone wrong, and why, and who has been most impacted by repressive and racist policing systems. He offers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

## CARING COMMITTEE

Lay ministers play a vital role in our congregation, extending the reach of our professional minister and our Affiliate Community Minister for Social Justice. The Caring Committee will not meet in July but will reconvene on Thursday, August 25 at 4:00 PM. Let Rev. Maddie or Caring Committee chair, Karen Harris, know if you are interested in joining with us. During Rev. Maddie's one month Sabbatical from July 14 to August 15, you can reach out to the Caring Committee if you just want someone to chat with or to Rev. Betty for pastoral care. The current members of the Caring Committee are Karen Harris, Constancia Leshin, Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford and Judy Triem. Their numbers are in your Directory, or you can reach out to Krystal in the office to contact them at 805-525-4647.



Looking to the fall the Caring Committee will sponsor two new things: a small group for those wishing to talk with each other coming out of Rev. Maddie's sermon on aging, "Another Country" and a book discussion group. Our first book will be Brené Brown's most recent book, *Atlas of the Heart: Mapping Meaningful Connection and the Language of Human Experience*.

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

## People and Doings

**SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY, AUGUST 28 3:00 pm**  
*Landmark String Quartet*

SANTA PAULA CONCERT SERIES  
PRESENTS

# Landmark String Quartet



**SUNDAY, AUGUST 28**

**3:00 PM**

UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF SANTA PAULA  
740 E MAIN ST, SANTA PAULA

Office 805-525-4647 [office@uucsp.org](mailto:office@uucsp.org)

tickets: [www.uucsp/sp-concert-series](http://www.uucsp/sp-concert-series)

\$20 for adults ~ \$10 children 12 and under ~ Under 5, free

# 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 as well as issues related to COVID 19 safety. We are currently going through all the recommendations from the UUA in their Guide to Becoming a Safer Congregation. We are continuing to look at the s on Destructive Behavior, Safety and Covenant. Should you wish to see the UUA document, it can be found at: <https://www.uua.org/safe/handbook> In the fall we will be thinking about preparations for another fire or disaster drill. The next meeting of the team is **Wednesday, September 7 at 10:00 AM** in Rev. Maddie's office. The Safe Congregation Team reports and is advisory to the Board.

## **MUSIC NOTES**

Our choir is now on hiatus until the fall. We are so grateful to be back singing together and look forward to increasing our repertoire. And we would love to have some new singers! The choir usually sings once a month for a Sunday Service. Our first Sunday of the new church year will be Water Sunday, September 11. We will rehearse on **Thursday, September 8 at 4:00 PM** and Sunday, September 11 at 9:30 AM. 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! We would love to have new singers.

## **Save the Date: DeBenneville **Channel Islands** **Cluster** Retreat Weekend is back with a new weekend! October 14-16, 2022**

For the health and safety of all, there will be only 77 spaces available to those fully vaccinated (including children), and with a negative rapid test the day they leave to go to camp.

Come commune, worship, hike, create, bring music and life experiences to the mountain and return home refreshed, relaxed and alive with the mountain air. Use attached reservation form. Questions? Email [sharon.damerell@gmail.com](mailto:sharon.damerell@gmail.com).

[file:///C:/Users/uucsp/Downloads/Fall%20Cluster%20Camp%20Registration%20Form%20-%20Google%20D](file:///C:/Users/uucsp/Downloads/Fall%20Cluster%20Camp%20Registration%20Form%20-%20Google%20Docs.pdf)  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1\\_JGDty-vIGXPo81L23-ux-JjlyxD\\_MGR/view?usp=mail](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_JGDty-vIGXPo81L23-ux-JjlyxD_MGR/view?usp=mail)

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1\\_JGDty-vIGXPo81L23-ux-JjlyxD\\_MGR/view?usp=mail](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_JGDty-vIGXPo81L23-ux-JjlyxD_MGR/view?usp=mail)

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THE UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN  
CHURCH OF SANTA PAULA

740 East Main Street  
Santa Paula, CA 93060

Office: 805-525-4647

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

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



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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,

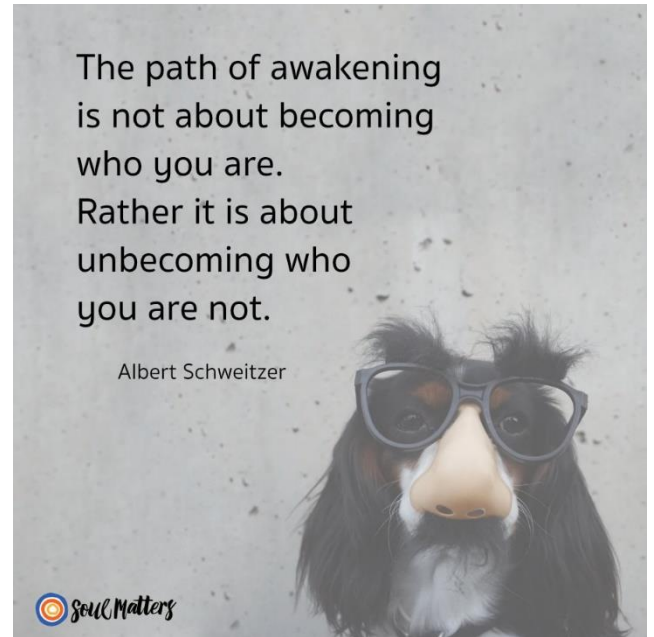
Jerry Gray, Treasurer

Donna Hamer, Member at Large

Tech Support Team:

Evan Holt   Monika Murillo

Giselle Larios   Mitch Stone



**September newsletter deadline August 15**

*Dated Material*  
*Time Value*

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of Santa Paula  
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