



# Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula

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

uucspoffice@gmail.com website: uucsp.org

## MARCH SERVICES, SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM



MARCH THEME: Vulnerability [Women's History Month]

*Vulnerability is the birthplace of love, belonging, joy, courage, and creativity. It is the source of hope, empathy, accountability, and authenticity. ~ Brené Brown*

March 5 Ecotones Chaplain Michael Eselun, Ruth Ricards

Michael Eselun, UCLA oncology chaplain and popular guest speaker, will explore those liminal spaces in which we sometimes find ourselves on life's mysterious journey--- thresholds that are neither one reality or another, and yet may open a path to our deepest truths. Possibly even the sacred.

Michael Eselun, serves as the chaplain for the Simms/Mann-UCLA Center for Integrative Oncology. Two-time TED-X speaker, Michael speaks extensively to healthcare professionals, patient populations and faith communities across the country. He's also worked as an activist/educator addressing anti-LGBTQ bias in the larger community for over 30 years. Michael was recently inducted into the UCLA-Semel Institute Eudaimonia Society, in recognition of having lived a meaning-driven life. He has 4 volumes of CD's available for purchase—contact Michael through his website--[www.michaeleselun.com](http://www.michaeleselun.com)

*First Sunday Plate to the Isabella Project of Santa Paula*

### *Daylight SavingsTime – Spring Forward 1 Hour*

March 12 The Path of Vulnerability

Rev. Maddie, Karen Harris

Our theme for March is Vulnerability. Wendell Berry writes, “It may be when we no longer know what to do, we have come to our real work.” How do we lean into vulnerability? Should we?

*Our choir sings Prayer for Peace by David Haas ~ clocks FORWARD one hour*

Tuesday, March 14 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 which in March is Vulnerability. Poetry by Luzma Espinosa. The music will be provided by harpist John Robles from Chucumite.

March 19 Spring Equinox [Ostara]

Rev. Maddie, Constancia Leshin

An earth-based service on the occasion of the Spring Equinox. The Spring Equinox is the point of perfect balance on the journey through the Wheel of the Year. Night and day are of equal length and in perfect equilibrium - dark and light, masculine and feminine, inner and outer, in balance. The natural world is coming alive.

March 26 UUSC Justice Sunday

Rev. Maddie, Rev. Betty

We are longtime supporters of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. Today we take part in their Justice Sunday which complements their annual Guest at Your Table, taking a broader look at their mission and programs.

*UUs of Our Past with Leslie Nichols*

### Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 731 217 7775 Password uucsp93060

1+ 669 900 9128 to call in by phone Phone password: 529593

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

Dear members and friends,

At this time of year, we can feel the spring getting ready to come in, even as today when I am writing this, I am wearing two sweaters! How are you preparing for spring? I know I am sweeping up the dirt that all the rains spread in my courtyard, trimming back my geraniums, and doing some fertilizing and thinking about when I can put my white cushions back on my outdoor furniture. I am thinking ahead to springing forward my clock so that Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup> the service will feel earlier than usual, and the light is growing more. And I am planning with Constancia Leshin for our next earth-based service for the Spring Equinox or Ostara as it is called in pagan, neo-pagan, wiccan, and other circles. Ostara is all about celebrating balance, growth, and new beginnings. Winter has finally ended, and each day slowly gets a bit warmer. Tiny little buds are pushing their way up through the earth and blossoming into a rainbow of colors. We will be marking the Spring Equinox on March 19<sup>th</sup>.

This month our theme is Vulnerability which we will explore in different ways in our services, Gathering and activities. Wendell Berry wrote:

*It may be that when we no longer know what to do  
we have come to our real work,  
and that when we no longer know which way to go  
we have come to our real journey.  
The mind that is not baffled is not employed.  
The impeded stream is the one that sings.*

To get you started thinking about vulnerability, here are some questions you might explore:

- Was vulnerability celebrated, encouraged, modeled, shamed or punished in your family of origin?
- What did your family of origin teach you about asking for help? Does that teaching still shape you today?
- Has vulnerability gotten easier or harder as you've grown older?
- What was your greatest "leap of faith"?
- What is your favorite failure? i.e., which of your failures ended up leading you to a gift?
- Has a past betrayal ever left you more protective than you need to be?
- What scares you?
- How would your life be different if you had trusted in vulnerability earlier in life?

One hope I have for our congregation is that it can be a place where we can share our vulnerabilities with each other, and we can feel a sense of new beginnings and renewal as we move toward spring.

On the path of our faith, Reverend Maddie Sifantus

# Message from Board of Trustees

Dear UUCSP Beloved Community,

Your board of trustees joyfully welcomes Ken Stock and Mitch Stone to the table and entrusted care of this congregation for the next two years! Ken Stock will serve as Vice President this year and Mitch will serve as our member at large.

This year we have big plans! Stay tuned for an event, perhaps in April, to bring all of our committees together for a Committee-palooza of sorts. Rather than a board retreat this year, we are planning a half day event to do a deep dive with all of our committees on deck, to see where there is overlap and where there are gaps, where there are needed redundancies and where we might be able to combine forces and simplify. As we consider the ongoing vibrancy of our church we will ask ourselves how to ensure that church serves our hearts while we serve in the ways we feel called to, and in ways that do not feel like "work" (of course, except for those of us who LIKE to work).

We are deeply grateful for the service and time that Karen Harris & Donna Hamer gave to the board and this congregation. You are both loved and appreciated!

Yours,

Kate English  
President  
UUCSP Board of Trustees



# 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. We host a Meditation Practice Group, the Silent Pause, on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 PM alternating between in person with Rev. Maddie and online with Jim Cole. We are adding occasional Sound Baths and other activities. 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. 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)



### **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.

## **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*

**March 1 with Jim Cole online**

**March 8 with Rev. Maddie in person**

**March 15 with Jim Cole online**

**March 22 with Brenna Book in person**

**March 29 with Jim Cole online**

**EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 6 PM**

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

# GATHERING\*



**\*DEFINITION OF GATHERING**

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

**TUESDAY, MARCH 14**  
**7:00 PM**

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

Led by Maddie Sifantus with poet Luzma Espinosa

Special Guest Musician, harpist John Robles

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 March 2023

- A number of you have recently lost long time “fur babies” and at least one couple have adopted a new one. The loss of a pet is strongly felt for those who have been vulnerable enough to love them, all the while knowing their short life spans. Looking to the fall, we will hope to once more have a Blessing of the Animals on October 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Although life at the church has opened up a lot, some are still staying home. If you are feeling isolated, be in touch with Rev. Maddie at [minister@uucsp.org](mailto:minister@uucsp.org) or leave a message on her office phone, 805-525-4620. If it is an emergency call her mobile phone.
- If you have a joy, concern, or milestone you wish to share, you can announce it in person on Sundays, or send it to Rev. Maddie 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.

## Rev. Maddie's Office Hours

There are two times in March that Rev. Maddie will be out of the office: March 2-6 for vacation and March 20-24 to attend a ministers meeting. While she is gone, issues should be addressed by calling the office at 805-525-4647 or contacting our congregation president, Kate English. Otherwise, Rev. Maddie would love to meet with you to hear how you are doing, how you are nurturing your spirit, 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. 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](mailto:minister@uucsp.org).

## **2023 1st QUARTER 1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY OFFERING** **MARCH 5**

Our 1st quarter plate offering will go to the Isabella Project of Santa Paula. Dr. Gabino Aguirre explains that the goal of this project is to help secure funding to provide preschool to all Santa Paula children within the next few years. Ninety percent of brain development happens in the first five years so education during these years sets a child on a pathway to lifelong success.

Project Isabella is contributing funds to existing local programs as well as starting new ones in the local elementary schools. Santa Paula is eligible to receive 80% of the needed funding from State and Federal sources. To receive this funding, Santa Paula needs to secure facilities and qualified staff.

The program currently has more than 100 new openings for students. Our donations will help fund the effort to recruit students by funding community health workers and outreach materials.

*As a kindergarten and 1st grade teacher, I saw firsthand the difference preschool education makes for children. We are supporting an extremely worthwhile project. Thank you for contributing.*

*~ Ariel Alexander*

# People and Doings

## MUSIC NOTES

The choir sings once a month for a Sunday Service and occasionally for special events like our Winter Solstice. Most of the choir are not great readers; we will work with you to help you be successful and choose music for the level of difficulty our singers are capable of. Coming take part in the joy of singing with other people! 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 and take place in the Sanctuary. 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!

Here is the upcoming schedule (music selections subject to change):

Thursday, March 9 at 4 PM	Rehearsal
Sunday, March 12 at 9:30 AM	Rehearsal
Prayer for Peace	David Haas
Thursday, April 6 at 4 PM	Rehearsal
Sunday, April 9 at 9:30 AM	Rehearsal
All Things Bright and Beautiful	John Rutter

## WALKING EACH OTHER HOME

Thursday, March 9 at 6:30pm via Church Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85431120105> Passcode: uucsp93060

As part of our congregation's commitment to racial justice, UUCSP hosts the Walking Each Other Home discussion group on the second Thursday of each month. Our discussions are aimed at healing the impacts of racism within ourselves, our congregation and beyond. We will use prompts and our individual perspectives to inspire reflective discussion and self-work. All are welcome.

To be added to the email list and calendar invite, or for more information, call or email Kate English at 805-207-5013 or [lonikate@gmail.com](mailto:lonikate@gmail.com).



## SANTA PAULA CINEMA SOCIETY



**GRAND HOTEL**

SANTA PAULA CINEMA SOCIETY  
FRIDAY MARCH 10, 2023

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

Featuring seemingly everybody who was anybody in 1932, Grand Hotel became a prototype film in more ways than one. Delivering top Hollywood talent was already M-G-M's calling card. No other studio could assemble so much star power in one film, and audiences began to expect no less. But even more than being a glossy vehicle for its upmarket cast, the film's use of loosely interlocking stories played by an ensemble cast spawned a movie genre, one that reappeared for decades. Adapted from a stage play based on a novel by Vicki Baum, the film incidentally captures something of the flavor of Berlin in the days immediately before the Nazi takeover (a subject addressed far more directly in an obscure 1945 remake). With Greta Garbo, John Barrymore, Joan Crawford, Wallace Beery, Lionel Barrymore, and Lewis Stone, among others. "Nothing ever happens" at the hotel, laments Stone's world-weary character at the start. Then, a great deal proceeds to happen, mostly behind closed doors — where Garbo, forever etched in our collective memory, still wants to be alone. Running time, 1:52.

# People and Doings

## **SIP AND CHECK IN WITH REV. MADDIE ON ZOOM TUESDAYS AT 4 PM**

**LED BY REV. MADDIE ON MARCH 14  
LED BY SHARON KUFELDT MARCH 21  
LED BY REV. MADDIE ON MARCH 28**

### **WHAT IS SIP AND CHECK IN, YOU MIGHT ASK?**

It is a chance to check in with a small group of members and friends.

After a few minutes of casual chat as people arrive, the facilitator (Sharon or Rev. Maddie) will light a chalice with a reading and then invite people to take turns checking in about what's going on for them. If there is still time left after the individual check-in's, the group will chat about topics of shared interest to them all or the monthly theme. We aim to be inclusive of everyone present who wished to talk or ask questions.

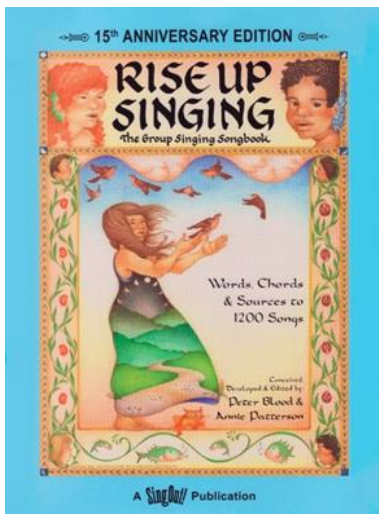
**Join Zoom Meeting** <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7312177775>

Meeting ID: 731 217 7775 Password: uucsp93060



## **SOCIAL CONCERNS ACTION COMMITTEE**

SOCIAL CONCERNS ACTION COMMITTEE (SCAC) will meet Wednesday, March 15, 3:00 pm on Zoom.



## **RISE UP SINGING**

Come sing with our communal song circle, Rise Up Singing. Lately we have added a number of instrumentalists from Songmakers of California, another communal singing group. Their motto is "Keeping Homemade Music Alive." We will meet on **Friday, March 17 at 7 PM** in the Parish Hall with Rev. Maddie leading us. We will certainly sing some Irish songs! Rise Up Singing is open to singers and instrumentalists of all ages. Bring your friends and neighbors! 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. Free Will Offering (\$5 suggested). For more information, call Maddie Sifantus at 805-525-4620 or email her at [minister@uucsp.org](mailto:minister@uucsp.org).

## **MARY A. LIVERMORE SOCIETY**

**March 23, 2023 Zoom Meeting**

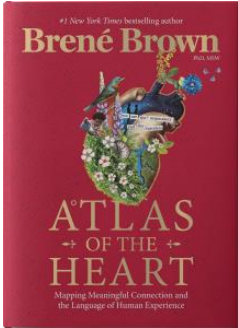
**Pedro Chavez**

Our March meeting will feature our newly elected City Council member, **Pedro Chavez**! The City Council serves as our city's policy-making body, taking action on all legislative matters involving the approval and adoption of all city ordinances, resolutions, contracts, and matters requiring policy decision and leadership. What was Pedro's motivation for being on our City Council? What are his goals? Lots of questions will be asked! Join us! The program will be on **Zoom on Thursday, March 23rd at 11:30 a.m.** and let's welcome Pedro to the Council!



# People and Doings

## CARING COMMITTEE BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



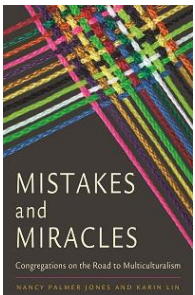
The Caring Committee began a book discussion group based on Brené Brown's most recent book, *Atlas of the Heart: Mapping Meaningful Connection and the Language of Human Experience*. We have nine members which is a complete group but could take one more person if someone missed out. We will have sessions monthly discussing parts of the book on the third Thursdays at 3:00 PM in person. The next session will on Thursday, March 16 in the Parish Hall. We covered the introduction in February. Please read the first two chapters in preparation: #1 Places We Go When Things Are Uncertain and #2 Places We

Go When We Compare. For more information email [minister@uucsp.org](mailto:minister@uucsp.org) or call Rev. Maddie at 805-525-4647 or her mobile phone.

### PHONE TREE

Our phone tree is used to help check on our folks or to get information out rapidly by telephone. Rev. Maddie is in the process of redoing the existing Phone Tree. 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



**JOIN US FOR OUR FIRST SESSION SUNDAY, MARCH 26 AFTER COFFEE HOUR  
BRING A BAG LUNCH!**

Every year we participate in the UUA's Common Read which we call the All Church Read. The 2022–2023 UU Common Read is ***Mistakes and Miracles: Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism*** by Nancy Palmer Jones and Karin Lin, published by Skinner House Books. The Common Read builds community in our congregations and our movement by giving diverse people a shared platform for reflection and a shared focus for action. Rev. Maddie preached about this book when it was first released

several years ago and is a natural fit for us as we think about how to welcome our neighbors to our activities and services and be involved with our community here in Santa Paula. It is available from Amazon or other online bookstores, order it from your favorite bookstore or from InSpirit (the UUA Bookstore): <https://www.uuabookstore.org/>

What calls Unitarian Universalists to create multicultural, antiracist Beloved Community? What do congregations need when they embark on this journey? What common threads run through their stories? In *Mistakes and Miracles*, Nancy Palmer Jones and Karin Lin—a white minister and a lay person of color—share how five diverse congregations encounter frustrations and disappointments, as well as hope and wonder, once they commit to the journey. ***We will be reading through the book together and will plan future sessions at the March 26 at Noon meeting. For that meeting please read the Introduction: The Power of Stories at a Crucial Time (xv-xxxv), Some Words About Language (xxxvii-xlvii) and Chapter One: The Call of Our Faith (1-25).***

# Santa Paula Concert Series

**SAVE THE DATE**

## **A Musical Romance**

**featuring Jeff and Lisa Linsky**

**(guitar and piano)**

**Sunday, April 23, 2023**

**3:00 PM**

This will be their first duo concert in 2023.

Ticket reservations \$20  
\$10 for 12 and under, under 5, free.

Follow the link below to make your reservation(s) with PayPal; your name will be on a list at the door on the day of the concert.

Or you can call the office at 805-525-4647 to make a reservation and pay at the door on the day of the concert.

<https://uucsp.org/events/1780/a-musical-romance-featuring-jeff-and-lisa-linsky/>



## **UPCOMING CONCERTS IN 2023**

- ❖ SUNDAY, MAY 21 AT 3 PM HONEYSUCKLE POSSUMS  
All female bluegrass band
- ❖ SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 AT 3 PM CHUCUMITE  
Veracruzian music for Mexican Independence Day

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:

Kate English, President,

Ken Stock, Vice-President

Ann Hewitt, Secretary,

Jerry Gray, Treasurer

Mitch Stone, Member at Large

Tech Support Team:

Monika Murillo Giselle Larios Mitch Stone

## HOW TO CONNECT WITH UUCSP

**JOIN US SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM IN PERSON,  
ON ZOOM OR ON FACEBOOK**

Read our newsletter which you can find at

<https://uucsp.org/newsletter/>

Contact our office if you want to be added to our  
Friday email and our monthly newsletter email or  
want to have a nametag for in person events.

Visit our website to see more about UUCSP and see

what's new at [www.uucsp.org](http://www.uucsp.org)

Join our Facebook page at

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

*Dated Material*  
*Time Value*

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