



Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula

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

uucspoffice@gmail.com website: uucsp.org

JULY SERVICES, SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM



JULY THEME: Freedom and Responsibility

The freedom of the mind is the beginning of all other freedoms. ~ Clinton Scott Lee

July 2 Swimming to the Other Side Carolyn Bjerke, MaryBeth East

In our journey towards building a beloved community, we are reminded of the profound power of love. Love has the extraordinary ability to transcend boundaries, bridge differences, and create space for all. Are there ways we can challenge ourselves to dismantle the barriers that inhibit love's transformative power?

We host UU ministry Candidate Carolyn Bjerke. She is the longtime music director at UU Ventura, seminarian and doing her internship at the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara.

First Sunday Plate to Spirit of Santa Paula

July 9 Faithfully Becoming UUA General Assembly , Kate English

Portions recorded from the Sunday Worship at the 2023 General Assembly with Worship Host Kate English who attended it in person in Pittsburgh in June.

July 11 GATHERING Kate English

This is a reflective time in our busy week to hear some inspiring music, share some silence and hear spoken word.

July 16 Creating Memories Rev. Rod Richards, Ruth Ricards

A CLUSTER service with Rev. Rod Richards of Unitarian Universalists of San Luis Obispo and Worship Host Ruth Ricards. It turns out that memory is less a recording of past events than a creation of the present moment based on past events. Each time we access a memory, we are creating it anew.

July 23 Showing Up Boldly, Failing Forward Rev. Betty, Ken Stock

Inspired by a quotation from Stacy Abrams, this Sunday's service is about risk-taking for social justice in ways that help us learn and grow into a brighter future for all. Fasten your seat belts!

Taboo for All Ages The Story of Ferdinand by Munro Leaf

July 30 Lammas / Lughnasadh Rev. Maddie, Constancia Leshin

A celebration of the beginning of the harvest. One of the eight major annual sabbats or festivals of our earth based friends and members.

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

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,

As we move into the summer months, I come back, as I often do, to poetry and especially one particular poem by Mary Oliver, “A Summer Day:

Who made the world?

Who made the swan, and the black bear?

Who made the grasshopper?

This grasshopper, I mean—

the one who has flung herself out of the grass,

the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,

who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down—

who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.

Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.

Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.

I don't know exactly what a prayer is.

I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down

into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,

how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,

which is what I have been doing all day.

Tell me, what else should I have done?

Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?

Tell me, what is it you plan to do

with your one wild and precious life?

I wish for you this summertime to contemplate the nature around you, take a stroll through the fields or your neighborhood, pause to hear the sound of the early morning birdsong or the twilight Mockingbird, and space for planning “what it is you plan to do with your wild and precious life.”

And I hope you will join me as we celebrate the life of our longtime member Jan Shepherd on Friday, July 7 at 11 AM, one who had a wild and precious life among us.

On the path of our faith, Reverend Maddie Sifantus

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



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 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

EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 6 PM

July 5 with Jim Cole online

July 12 with Brenna Book in person

July 19 with Jim Cole online

July 26 with Brenna Book in person

*For information call Rev. Maddie Sifantus, 805-525-4620 or minister@uucsp.org
Free Will Offering.*

TWILIGHT GATHERING*



***DEFINITION OF GATHERING**

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

TUESDAY, JULY 11
7:00 PM

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

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 July 2023

- Constanica Leshin is healing well from her recent fall and hip replacement surgery. She is hoping to be back driving soon and is making great strides.
- Rev. Maddie attended the graduation of her granddaughter Pascale Sifantus from John Marshall High School in Los Feliz at the Greek Theater on June 12 along with her family and about 800 other graduates.
- 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.

Welcome Our Newest Members!

On Sunday, June 11 as part of our Annual Flower Communion Service, we recognized the newest members to sign the Membership Book to be official members of UUCSP: Karen Fort and Kerstie and Samantha Lewis. Karen and her husband Norm have been attending the church since just after we began opening up after COVID. Kerstie and Samantha have been attending for many years. Rev. Maddie, Worship Host Atul Ranchod and congregation Vice-President Ken Stock welcomed them and offered the Right Hand of Community. As we get to know our new members better, Karen Fort offered an original poem, “Favorite Rose”. You can look forward to learning more about them in future newsletters.

Favorite Rose By Karen Fort

I chose you to be in my garden.
Then I released you,
Realizing I have no control.

Soft, delicate, velvety—fiery, deep red
Lovely strong fragrance.

I drink you in!
All my senses alive with your presence.
Here for just a moment—
you teach me so much.

Your brief blooming opened me to reality—
Immersed in just this moment—
At ease with Impermanence, old age, sickness, and death.

There was no forcing you to bloom.
No clinging, no pleading, no cajoling
could make you stay.

Today you are leaving.
Red petals fall softly to the ground.
Your fragrance fainter
Here for just a moment,
You give me such joy!

This is just how it is,
My favorite rose won't last forever, Nor will I...
But the poet says,
“Kiss the Joy as it flies....”



Photograph by Atul Ranchod

People and Doings

You Are Invited to a Celebration of Life for Jan Shepherd



Rev. Maddie will be leading a Celebration of Life for our long-time member Jan Shepherd on Friday, July 7 at 11 AM in our Sanctuary with a reception following in the Parish Hall.

She will be missed!

Come celebrate Jan's inimitable spirit.

REV. MADDIE'S OFFICE HOURS

Rev. Maddie will be away on vacation and study leave from July 1-3 and again July 9-25. During that time she will be taking a break from most email, texting and phone calls. If you have a question regarding Worship, be in touch with Worship Team chair, Ruth Ricards. For all other urgent issues, be in touch with Krystal Johnson in the office at 805-525-4647 and office@uucsp.org or congregation president Kate English. Ruth and Kate's contact information is in the Directory. From July 4-8 and again after July 25, Rev. Maddie will be available in the office by appointment. 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.

OUR ALTAR TABLE

HELP PUT FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY

Choose a Sunday to remember someone, like Rev. Maddie remember her mother and grandmothers on Mother's Day, celebrate a birth, acknowledge an anniversary or achievement, champion a cause or anything that gives you joy or sorrow. There is a signup sheet on a clipboard on the information table in the Parish Hall. Be in touch with Rev. Maddie or Ruth Ricards, Worship Chair, with any questions.

COFFEE HOUR

It is sometimes joked that Coffee Hour is the Unitarian Universalist sacrament. Whether or not that is true, we certainly do enjoy our coffee hour at the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula, especially now that we are back from the pandemic! Each week a different person, family or friend has the opportunity to host our coffee hour. Please consider hosting a coffee hour, signing up on the clipboard on the Parish Hall. Note that you don't have to provide anything fancy because it is the hospitality and chance for conversation with each other that is the main point of coffee hour. Making sure the coffee is going and bringing some sweets and/or savory prefab offerings is fine! And you are also in charge of cleanup or finding volunteers to do so. Bon Appetit!

People and Doings

CRUISE NIGHT



FRIDAY, JULY 7

5:00 to DUSK

**SEE THE CLASSIC CARS!
GREET REV MADDIE AND
KEN STOCK
TOUR HISTORIC CHURCH!**

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

2023 THIRD QUARTER 1st SUNDAY OFFERING **July 2, August 6, September 3**

WILL BENEFIT SPIRIT OF SANTA PAULA's HARVARD SHELTER

At no time since the shelter opened have they been in greater need than now. A key source of funding recently expired. Let's be among those who stand with "the least among us" and do our fair share of support to help bridge the gap.

Make checks payable to UUCSP with memo line: "Spirit of Santa Paula"

SIP AND CHECK IN WITH REV. MADDIE

**NO MEETINGS IN JULY
NEXT MEETING AUGUST 15**



People and Doings

SANTA PAULA CINEMA SOCIETY July 14



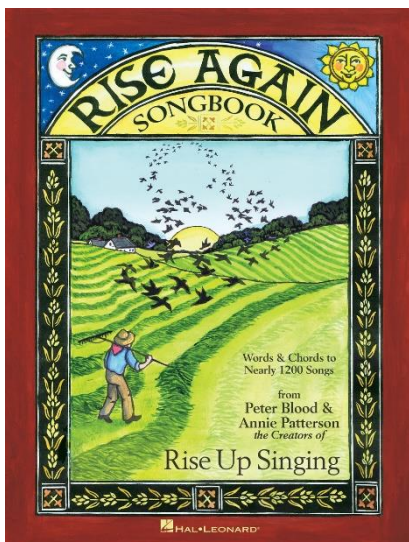
Charles Plumpick (Alan Bates) is a hapless World War I British soldier ordered by his commander to disarm a booby-trap bomb set in a French village by the retreating German Army. What he doesn't know is just about everything, including that the entire population has abandoned the town, the gates of the local insane asylum were swung open, and the former inmates are now posing as villagers. In the midst of war who can tell the difference between the sane and the insane? The premise of this comic antiwar fable is just about as slim as it sounds — definitely not deep, but charmingly carried out in the hands of French director Philippe de Broca. "King of Hearts" was a flop when it was first released in the U.S. in 1966, but found an audience when it was picked up by an art house distributor in the early 1970s. Since then it's established a kind of cult status, which is to say far more people have heard about this film than have actually seen it. Also with Jacques Balutin, Daniel Boulanger, and Geneviève Bujold. (1:46)

SANTA PAULA CINEMA SOCIETY
FRIDAY JULY 14, 2022

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

SOCIAL CONCERNS ACTION COMMITTEE -NO MEETING THIS MONTH

Social Concerns Action Committee will be dark. VACATION!



RISE UP SINGING!

UU CHURCH OF SANTA PAULA

PARISH HALL ~ 740 E MAIN STREET

FRIDAY, JULY 21 AT 7:00 PM

BRING RISE UP SINGING AND/OR RISE AGAIN BOOKS
IF YOU HAVE THEM

ALL INSTRUMENTS WELCOME! COMMUNITY SINGING!

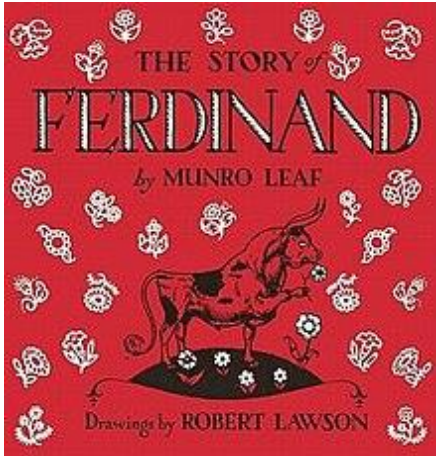
FREE WILL OFFERING (\$5 recommended)

LED BY MEMBERS OF RISE UP SINGING ~ ALL AGES

People and Doings

TABOO for All Ages

(AKA Time for All Ages)



Once a month beginning in June, during Time for All Ages, we will share a children's picture book that has been challenged or banned. We have decided to call this special, once a month Storytime, ***TABOO for All Ages***.

On Sunday, July 23, we will share "The Story of Ferdinand," written by Munro Leaf. This classic picture book has been challenged for "promoting a pacifist agenda." Ferdinand, thought to be the fiercest bull in all the land,

turns out to be the most peaceful. Three months before the book was published in 1936, civil war broke out in Spain. With fears of a wider conflict in the world, interpretations of the book ran from Fascist or Communist propaganda to satire making fun of strikes to a mockery of peacemakers to promoting homosexuality by portraying Ferdinand as effeminate. Adolf Hitler ordered the book burned in Nazi Germany. It was not published in Spain until after Francisco Franco's death.

MARY A. LIVERMORE SOCIETY

July meeting

Our July meeting will be an in-person meeting in the Parish Hall on **Thursday, July 27th at 11:30 a.m.** We are working on an interesting program to share with all. Details when you arrive! Do come with a picnic lunch and your own good energy! Everyone is invited!

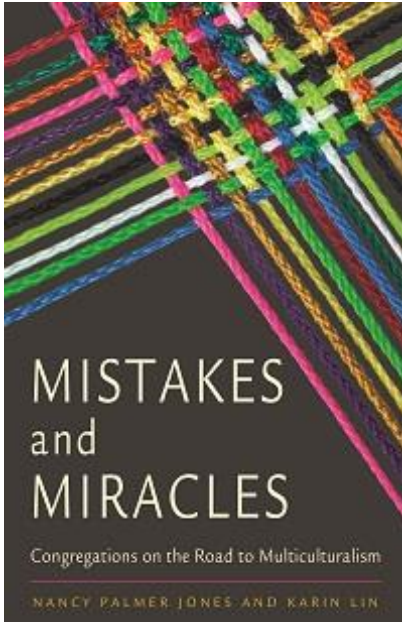
COMMITTEE ON CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

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 Ken Stock, the Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford and Leslie Nichols. This is the group who considers and evaluates the shared ministries of the congregation. Members and friends of UUCSP 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, July 27 at 6:00 PM in person at Rev. Maddie's home.**

People and Doings

ALL CHURCH READ: MISTAKES AND MIRACLES

JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT SESSION SUNDAY, JULY 30 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. Our first discussion was held on March 26 facilitated by Rev. Maddie with the theme of *Every Congregation Has a Story*. The second was held on April 30, facilitated by Rev. Betty, with the title of *Let's Talk About Power*. The third discussion, *History and Hope*, was facilitated by Rev. Maddie on June 4. Our next session is *Strategy and What's Next* will be Sunday, July 30 after coffee hour. It is not too late to join us. Come be part of this important conversation.

The authors of this book, Nancy Palmer Jones and Karin Lin—a white minister and a lay person of color—explored five UU congregations' journeys toward Beloved Community. In ***Mistakes and Miracles: Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism*** (Skinner House Books, 2019), they shared the joy, disappointment, and growth these congregations found. The book is available from the UUA Bookstore at <https://www.uuabookstore.org/Mistakes-and-Miracles-P18521.aspx> or from Amazon where an Audible version is available. There is one copy ready for borrowing on top of the bookcase in the Parish Hall.

SHARING OUR WATER

Each fall we share together a Water Communion where we collect water from our members and friends in a common container as part of our ingathering service. After the service, it is boiled and used for child dedications and other special occasions. This year our service is on September 10. Those of you who attend in person will bring water as usual, gathered from your travels around Ventura County or beyond...or from the tap in your garden. Those who are joining us from home, have some water near you.

People and Doings

MUSIC NOTES

The choir is now off for the summer. Looking ahead to the fall, we would love to have some new singers join us! 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 we choose music for the level of difficulty our singers are capable of. All are welcome to join our choir, including our young singers who are able to read music, those just learning to read music (or wanting to) 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 or 805-525-4620. Here is the fall schedule (music selections subject to change):

Tuesday, August 29	Noon	Vocal Workshop
Thursday, September 7	4:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, September 10	9:30 AM	Choir Rehearsal for 10:30 AM Service
	Down in the River to Pray	arr. Sheldon Curry
	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wGPJWclWkpk	
Thursday, October 26	4:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, October 29	9:30 AM	Choir Rehearsal for 10:30 AM Service
Thursday, November 16	5:00 PM	Rehearsal
Sunday, November 19	9:30 AM	Choir Rehearsal for 10:30 AM Service
Thursday, December 14	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, December 17	9:30 AM	Choir Rehearsal for 10:30 AM Service
Thursday, December 21	7:00 PM	Winter Solstice

NEW! VOCAL WORKSHOP ONCE A MONTH WITH REV. MADDIE!
NO WORKSHOPS IN JUNE AND JULY
WORK ON VOCAL SKILLS, READING MUSIC AND MORE
ALL INVITED ~ CHOIR AND FRIENDS
TUESDAY, AUGUST 29 FROM NOON TO 1:00 PM

DE COLORES MULTICULTURAL FOLK ART
**FREE SUMMER ART
CLASSES!**

*An Intergenerational
Art Workshops
For Seniors and Youth*



July 12 - September 6
10am-12pm

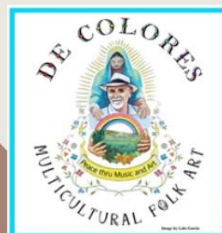


Santa Paula Senior Center



**SENIORS! We encourage you to bring
a young family member or friend
between the ages of 8 to 19 years old
to a series of 10 art classes.**

For registration
contact
De Colores
(805) 525-8261



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:

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

Join our Facebook page at

www.facebook.com/uucsp

Dated Material
Time Value

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