



Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula

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

uucspoffice@gmail.com website: uucsp.org

AUGUST SERVICES, SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM



AUGUST THEME: Summer Smorgasbord

Church is the place where you get to practice what it means to be human.

~ James Luther Adams

August 6 Report from General Assembly Rev. Maddie, Kate English

This year we had four people attend the UUA General Assembly, whether in person or virtually. Kate English, Margaret Wilson, Rev. Betty and Rev. Maddie will share their experiences and what we have learned that can inform our life at UUCSP.

First Sunday Plate to Spirit of Santa Paula

August 13 Poetry Sunday Rev. Maddie, Atul Ranchod

What is the power of poetry to nurture our wholeness? Atul Ranchod and Rev. Maddie Sifantus consider the power of words through hymn lyrics, a Time for All Ages, poems and the drive to express ourselves in word.

August 15 Twilight Gathering

This is a reflective time in our busy week to hear some inspiring music, share some silence and hear spoken word. The music will be provided by harpist Laurie Rasmussen, poetry by Atul Ranchod.

August 20 *The Rights of Rocks & Ponderings on the Personhood of Mother Earth* Kate English

In evolving our relationship to our UU principles, lay leader Kate English explores the intersection of the democratic process and the interdependent web of all existence in this reflection about lessons learned from Native and Indigenous communities as well as nations like Bolivia who has declared the rights of Mother Earth in its National constitution. What does it mean to shift from a framework of "resource" to one of "relationship"?

Taboo for All Ages

August 27 Everything Possible Rev. Maddie, Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford

Strong and bold, or quiet and kind, every one of us is unique and filled with possibilities. Our service today is based on Fred Small's iconic folk song that became an anthem for generations. *Everything Possible* celebrates love and friendship, encouraging us to dream our own dream and choose our own path, wherever it may take us.

UUs of Our Past

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

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,

Our theme for August when our Soul Matters theme makers take their annual break is Summer Smorgasbord. When you think of the word smorgasbord, you may think of a buffet table with many offerings to choose from, soup to nuts. We can also think of it as a wide range of something, a variety. I have been thinking of my time away from Santa Paula for vacation and study leave as a sort of smorgasbord. My buffet table had opportunities for reading for ministry (future sermons and workshops) and just for fun. It had some work attending Ministry Days and General Assembly as well as revisiting the Sandy Island YMCA Family Camp to present Sunday worship in a torrential downpour followed by getting totally drenched in an open boat being ferried back to my car. It had a selection of visiting cousins, friends and colleagues as well as a family wedding on Nantucket. It had a joyful performance of my longtime band TVS (The Vocal Section) which turned out to be the last performance with that formation of personnel due to health issues of two of our musicians. It had hot and humid weather, rain and some sun and some time to reflect on the coming year(s) and so much more.

I wonder what is on your buffet table this summer? Where have you found spaces for reflection? What are you letting go of to create space? What is speaking to you? What are you learning? As a favorite writer, Joyce Rupp, has said, “All of life can be our teacher if we choose to be open to everyday experiences. There we realize more about who we truly are and grow in accepting both our positive qualities and undesired flaws. When we learn to balance joys and sorrows that inevitably visit us, peace of mind and heart ripen in us like the fruits and vegetables in August gardens and orchards.”

As we go into August, the dog days of summer, I hope to see you in church and that perhaps you invite a friend or neighbor to join you, which is the best way to interest new people in our beloved community.

On the path of our faith,
Reverend Maddie Sifantus



Message from Board of Trustees

Dear UUCSP Community,

Our wonderful Office Manager, Krystal, who helps me so much more than is in her job description... reminded me today of the value of gratitude and so I would like to take a moment to share some gratitude for our memorial rose garden.

Our memorial rose garden began long ago before my time at UUCSP, and I always appreciated it but as I have lost members of this beloved community this garden has grown more and more meaningful to me.

Each new rose has added to the beauty and creates a living testament to those among us who have gone to greet the mystery. I sometimes chat with Susie's rose when no one is around and think of what she might say and smile. With my mom, Patricia, buried so far away in Joshua Tree, her rose means so much to me as I come through that back gate and get that primal reminder of her life and gifts to me and the church and all she knew... These roses I think help to keep the memories and love alive from past generations.

I am so grateful to those who began this rose garden long ago and all those who have tended it since. Especially to Ruth Ricards years of dedication to the garden, and now to the new tenders MaryBeth East and Leslie Nichols who are donating so much of their time to care for our memorial garden, which is WORK during these hot summer days. I am grateful to those of you who donate your finances to our church which contributes to the sustaining water that nourishes our sweet roses and all they bring to each of us.

In gratitude and wonder,
Your Board President,
Kate English (they/she)



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

August 2 with Rev. Maddie in person

August 9 with Jim Cole online

August 16 with Rev. Maddie in person

August 23 with Jim Cole online

August 30 with Rev. Maddie 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, AUGUST 15
7:00 PM

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

Led by Maddie Sifantus with poet, Atul Ranchod

Special Guest Musician, Laurie Rasmussen

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 August 2023

- Our thoughts are with Ken Stock and his wife Annie Reynolds as she recovers from a two-week hospital stay.
- Our thoughts are also with Ellen Deeb who took a spill on July 13th and wound up with a fractured upper femur/hip. She had a surgery one week ago today, and now is at Valley Presbyterian Rehab Hospital undergoing therapies.
- Finally, more thoughts go to Michael Wood who had a fall on July 19th and has a compression fracture in his back.
- 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

In August Rev. Maddie will be taking the four days she gave up in July to do Jan's Shepherd's Memorial Service as vacation and study leave to attend the SpiritRest Silent Retreat, a UU Meditation Retreat, at the Mary and Joseph Center in Rancho Palos Verde. From Sunday evening August 6 until Noon August 11, she will be taking a break from most email, texting, and phone calls. For any 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. Rev. Betty will be offering pastoral coverage during those days for any emergency. Before or after those days, Rev. Maddie would love to meet with you to hear how you are doing, your ideas for our congregation and whatever is on your mind. 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.

2023 THIRD QUARTER 1st SUNDAY OFFERING 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"

People and Doings

CRUISE NIGHT

FRIDAY, AUGUST 5

5:00 pm 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

SANTA PAULA CINEMA SOCIETY

A movie poster for the film 'Loving'. The background is a photograph of a man and a woman standing in a field, holding hands. The man is wearing a light-colored short-sleeved shirt and pants, and the woman is wearing a white dress. The title 'Loving' is written in a large, white, serif font in the upper left. Below the title is a paragraph of text. At the bottom left, the text 'SANTA PAULA CINEMA SOCIETY' and 'FRIDAY AUGUST 11, 2023' is written in a white, sans-serif font. At the very bottom, a line of text provides the location and time: 'Universalist Unitarian Church • 740 E. Main Street • 7PM • Free! • Enter Side Door'.

Loving

This beautifully understated 2016 film from Jeff Nichols relates the story of Richard and Mildred Loving (Joel Edgerton and Ruth Negga), the couple whose interracial marriage became a test case for overturning anti-miscegenation laws in Virginia and nationwide. Their name might have been immortalized in the 1967 Supreme Court case that declared these laws unconstitutional, but the Lovings were not in it for immortality — or even for a cause. They were quiet and private people who only wanted to live their own lives. Nichols had the great good sense to tell the story from their point of view, and it plays with much greater impact for it. Though this film was made only a few years ago, today it is even more compelling as an illustration of the power of courts to impact the lives of everyday Americans. Ruth Negga was Academy Award nominated for her performance.

SANTA PAULA CINEMA SOCIETY
FRIDAY AUGUST 11, 2023

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

People and Doings

SIP AND CHECK IN WITH REV. MADDIE

AUGUST 15 at 4 PM

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

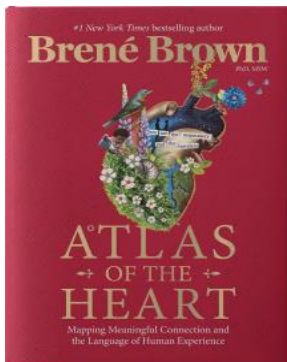
We will light a chalice, check in with each other,
and share thoughts on the monthly theme.



SOCIAL CONCERNS ACTION COMMITTEE

Social Concerns Action Committee will meet Wednesday, August 16, 3:00 pm. on Zoom

CARING COMMITTEE BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



Our Caring Committee continues to present 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*, facilitated by Rev. Maddie. The ten participants will meet on **Thursday, August 17 3:00-4:30 PM** in the Parish Hall to discuss the next two chapters: Chapter 9, Places We Go When We Search for Connection and Chapter 10, Places We Go When Our Heart is Open. This group is closed at ten participants and will meet once a month through October.

RISE UP SINGING!

UU CHURCH OF SANTA PAULA

PARISH HALL ~ 740 E MAIN STREET

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18 AT 7:00 PM

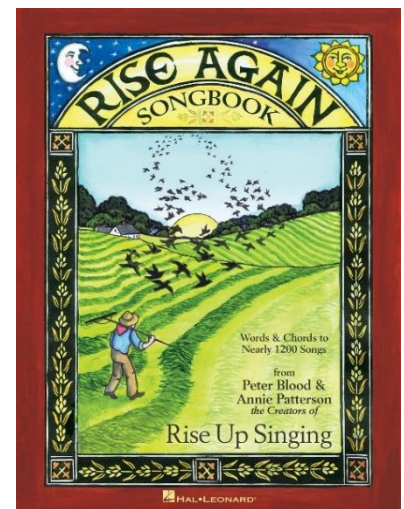
BRING RISE UP SINGING AND/OR RISE AGAIN BOOKS

IF YOU HAVE THEM

ALL INSTRUMENTS WELCOME! COMMUNITY SINGING!

FREE WILL OFFERING (\$5 recommended)

LED BY MADDIE SIFANTUS ~ ALL AGES



People and Doings

Dear Members and Friends of Our Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula,
The Food Gang of Four-Mary Beth East, Ruth Richards, Margaret Wilson, and Leslie Nichols are planning a series of intimate dinners over the next year to fundraise for our church.



The first is set for Saturday, August. 19 at 5:30 and is called **LET IT BEE**. It is *National Bee Day*. **The Dinner** will include a 3-course dinner plus a signature cocktail-**The Bees Knees**. Wine and non-alcoholic beverages will be served.

Chicken or a vegetarian entree will be available. The cost is \$50.00 per person, and we promise a buzzy good time.

Because seating is limited, we encourage you to make your **reservations** early by calling or emailing **Mary Beth East** with your questions or reservations: mb526e@gmail.com or 805.341.8809 This dinner is open to anyone as long as there are seats available. Reservations are essential. Feel free to bring a friend and, if not this time, there will be more dinners to come.

WHERE: Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula 740. E. Main St., Santa Paula

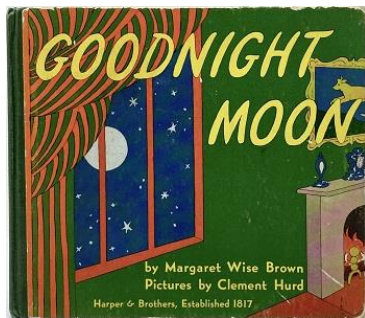
WHAT: Let It Bee Dinner for 16

WHEN: Saturday Night, Aug. 19, 2023 5:30 pm

HOW: Contact Mary Beth East for info or reservations 805.341.8809 mb526e@gmail.com

TABOO for All Ages (AKA Time for All Ages)

Once a month during Time for All Ages, we will share a children's picture book that has been challenged or banned. We call this special, once a month story time, **TABOO for All Ages**.



On Sunday, August 20, we will share "Goodnight Moon," written by Margaret Wise Brown. Once upon a time there was... A telephone. A red balloon. A comb and a brush, and bowl full of mush. Not much of a story, you say? So said Anne Carroll Moore, the children's librarian at the New York Public Library, who banned "Goodnight Moon" from her shelves for 25 years. In fact, she thought it was a bowl full of mush. "Unbearably sentimental," she called it. It wasn't until 1972 that the New York Public Library deigned to put the book in its card catalog.

That didn't stop "Goodnight Moon," from celebrating its 75th anniversary and becoming one of the most beloved of all children's books.

MARY A. LIVERMORE SOCIETY

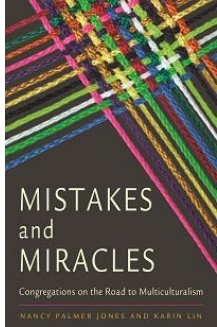
August Program

The August Meeting of the Mary Livermore Society will be held in the Parish Hall on Thursday, August 24th at 11:30 a.m. The program will feature Pamela Fuller, former restaurant owner and creative chef! (Please note that this program was previously scheduled earlier in the summer but had to be canceled.) Bring a sack lunch! Cool drinks and perhaps a dessert provided!

People and Doings

ALL CHURCH READ: MISTAKES AND MIRACLES

**JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT SESSION SUNDAY, AUGUST 27 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. The discussion continued on July 30 with a session, *Strategy and What's Next*. We will continue with another session after coffee hour on August 27. What about the Article II Revision? Adopting the 8th Principle? It is not too late to join 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.

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.

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

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.

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. Shelden 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

Please join us for a concert
in celebration of Mexican Independence Day

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

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16
3:00 PM

Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula
740 E. Main Street, Santa Paula, CA 93060
805-525-4647 www.uucsp.org

People and Doings



Chalice
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
Fellowship of the Conejo Valley

Please join us for this Virtual Community Forum
Friday, August 4th - 7:00 p.m. PT (via Zoom)

Being White Today:

A Roadmap for a Positive Antiracist Life with

Shelly Tochluk

Professor of Education, Mount Saint Mary's University - Los Angeles



Topics to include:

- What a healthy, positive, antiracist White identity looks like
- How to avoid conflating terms: White people, White Culture, and Whiteness
 - Tips for talking with friends and family about race

Co-sponsored by Chalice's Racial and Cultural Justice Team

Please register for the forum in advance here:

<https://bit.ly/BeingWhiteTodayRoadmapforaPositiveAntiracistLife>

Registration is free but donations are gratefully accepted.

Contributions will be shared with the non-profit organizations represented by our presenters and to support future Chalice Community Forum programming.

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