

Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula

740 E. Main Street, Santa Paula, CA 93060 (805) 525-4647 uucspoffice@gmail.com website: uucsp.org

SEPTEMBER SERVICES, SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM

SEPTEMBER THEME: Welcome

If you are a dreamer, a wisher, a liar, A hope-er, a pray-er, a magic bean buyer. If you're a pretender, come sit by my fire...

~ Shel Silverstein



September 3 We Labor In Love Rev. Maddie, Karen Harris
One of Rev. Maddie's favorite events in Santa Paula is the Labor Day Parade. She reflects today on those who labor to live and what it means for all of us.

First Sunday Plate to Spirit of Santa Paula

September 10 Ingathering: The Spirit of Water Rev. Maddie, Ellen Deeb It is traditional for us to come back together the first Sunday after Labor Day Weekend with our Water Communion Service, sharing water from our summer travels and close to home. Let us rejoice in our beloved community.

Our choir sings

September 12 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 September is Welcome. The music will be provided by Christine Snipes Mazor, violin and Geno Palilla, piano. Original poetry by Atul Ranchod.

September 17 Autumn Equinox/Mabon Rev. Maddie, Ken Stock

Continuing the theme of the eight Sabbats of earth-based theology, we come to Mabon which is a harvest festival that is celebrated on the Autumnal Equinox which is later this week. It is the time when night and day stand equal in duration and a time to express gratitude, complete projects and honor a moment of balance.

Taboo for All Ages

September 24 How We Fight For Justice Rev. Everett Howe, MaryBeth East

Throughout our history, Unitarian Universalists and our spiritual ancestors have fought for justice, sometimes by building bridges across divisions and sometimes through direct conflict. In this service we'll explore the tension between these two approaches to how a "gentle, angry people" can build a beloved community in the face of oppression.

Everett Howe (he/him) is a UU minister based in San Diego. Rev. Howe continues to spend half his time with his first calling: research mathematics. He and his wife Isabella Furth have been members of the First UU Church of San Diego since 2005.

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 September is WELCOME! Welcome back if you have been away. Welcome for the first time if you have been meaning to attend but are just getting around to it. Welcome to the restart of the choir which sings from September through June one Sunday a month. Welcome to new ideas we hope you will share. Welcome to the events of our Spiritual Growth Center and to our next Santa Paula Concert Series event on September 16, Chucumite, in celebration of Mexican Independence Day when we hope to welcome many of our neighbors to our Sanctuary with its fantastic acoustics. Welcome to those who work behind the scenes and those who are looking for a way to contribute their time and treasure. Welcome one and all.

We do many things here at the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula and we hope you will take part in as many as makes sense to you. One of the central parts of our congregation for generations has been Sunday Worship—our service at 10:30 AM—and I love some words that Barbara Pescan wrote about what happens there in UU congregations during Worship so I am quoting her this month. She starts by asking a question that many of you have asked, "How on earth do Unitarian Universalists worship when we have no creed, espouse a range of theological beliefs and hold no object at the center of our worship?" She goes on to say that "it is part of our good news that UUs agree to struggle together—to develop reliable vocabularies of reverence, to practice rituals that lift up the importance of life passages; to keep asking the deeper questions, and to work continually to bring our values and our actions together. All of these practices honor the breadth and depth of human experience."

The Old English words, *weorthscipe*, translated as worth ship, meaning the practice of holding in view that which is of worth, gives a clue to our Sunday morning practices. The words of the service might touch on world events, science, or the environment; speak of personal experience, the wisdom of sages or world religions; use Humanist, Jewish, Christian, Islamic, or Buddhist teachings or honor Earth-centered cultural traditions as we will on September 17 for the Autumn Equinox also named Mabon.

I plan our worship year to include sermon series, lift up holidays and holy days, and address the whole of our lives together. As Pescan has said, "From time to time we are all in the need of healing or of being exhorted to reach beyond complacency with how things are to see what yet may be. Public worship reminds us that each individual's life is part of a larger whole across time and culture and nature. Worship at its best allows us to rest for a moment in awe at this interdependent web of life."

I hope to see you in church Sunday mornings or on Zoom...or at any of our many activities. You are welcome! All are welcome.

On the path of our faith, Reverend Maddie Sifantus

Message from Board of Trustees

UUs Welcome Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt as UUA President

It is with great enthusiasm that the Unitarian Universalist Association welcomes the Rev. Dr. Sofía Betancourt as the tenth UUA President! We also note that this is not the first time the Rev. Dr. Betancourt has served as leader of the Association. She was appointed co-president for an interim period in 2017 and provided guidance and care during a significant moment in our history. This time, she will be in the presidential role for a six-year term and we are eagerly anticipating her leadership, working together to continue to advance Unitarian Universalism and live our values deeply in the coming years.

Her presidency comes with a number of historic firsts: she is the first openly queer person and first woman of color to be elected UUA president. She has served Unitarian



Universalism for more than twenty years as a religious educator, minister, scholar, and member of the UUA national staff and many volunteer committees at the regional and denominational levels. She most recently served as Resident Scholar and Special Advisor on Justice and Equity at the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

Rev. Dr. Betancourt holds a Ph.D. in Religious Ethics and African American Studies from Yale University as well as an M.Div. from Starr King School for the Ministry, where she also served on the faculty. She is the author of Ecowomanism at the Panamá Canal: Black Women, Labor, and Environmental Ethics (2022). You can learn more about her in a new Q & A with UU World magazine, including how early life experiences shaped her path to ministry.

As significantly, she also brings to the role theological depth, a commitment to communal care, and a pledge to continue to organize for justice. She has also expressed an appreciation for the diverse voices and leaders in our community as well as for the hard work that UUA staff does every day. We know that Unitarian Universalists across the country and UUA staff will all benefit from her experience, wisdom, and sense of care.

Carey McDonald, our Executive Vice President, expressed his keen anticipation in this way: "We are excited to have the Rev. Dr. Sofía Betancourt at the helm as UUA President to lead us in the next chapter of our faith's journey. We are already inspired by her deep theology and commitments to community care and imagining the way forward together."

We are entering an exciting time for both the UUA and Unitarian Universalism. Rev. Dr. Betancourt's presidency and the General Assembly vote by delegates to continue consideration of changes to the Article II bylaws mark a key moment in our faith tradition. With her leadership, we are positioned to move forward in faithful community, in recognition of our shared values and the important work ahead.

Follow Rev. Dr. Betancourt on Facebook and help us warmly welcome her as the tenth President of the UUA!

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

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.



Image by Lynn Holbein

MEDITATION PRACTICE GROUP

WEDNESDAYS AT 6 PM

Sit with Rev. Maddie in person or online and on alternating Wednesdays, join Jim Cole online, Zoom or Facebook livestream

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7312177775 Meeting ID: 731 217 7775 Passcode: uucsp93060 www.facebook.com/uuscp

September 6
September 13
September 20
September 27
September 27
September 27
September 27
Jim Cole
Rev. Maddie

MEDITATION POTLUCK ON SEPTEMBER 13

Meditation Practice Group members or those interested are invited to attend a Potluck in the Parish Hall at 7 PM on Wednesday, September 13. Come to meditation at 6 PM or just come at 7 PM. Bring a dish to share (salad, main or dessert). Beverages provided. Help plan activities including a half day meditation retreat in the 2023-2024 church year.

Spiritual Growth Center

TWILIGHT GATHERING*



*DEFINITION OF GATHERING

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

SEPTEMBER 12, 2023 at 7:00 PM

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

Led by Maddie Sifantus with poet, Atul Ranchod

Guest Musicians, Christine Mazor and Geno Palilla

Free will offering (\$10-20 suggested)

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

NEWS FROM AMONG US September 2023

- Our thoughts are with Ellen Deeb and Michael Wood who continue to recover from the injuries from falls and we rejoice in the recovery of Constance Leshin from her fall in the late spring.
- Our thoughts are with Mary Nelson who also had a fall and as of this writing is at Thousand Oaks Post-Acute Care located at 93 W Avenida De Los Orboles, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360.
- Please be aware that COVID is still around and take appropriate measures for your health. If you are sick, with COVID or something else, please quarantine yourself until you are no longer contagious.
- 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

Rev. Maddie's office hours are Tuesdays through Fridays. Her day off is Monday and will respond to Monday emails, phone calls or texts on Tuesday unless it is an emergency. Saturday is her study/sermon writing day. She would love to meet with you on office hour days 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 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"

CRUISE NIGHT

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1
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



MUSIC NOTES

Fall is upon us and 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):

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

Tuesday, September 26 Noon Vocal Workshop Tuesday, October 24 Noon Vocal Workshop 4:00 PM Choir Rehearsal Thursday, October 26 Choir Rehearsal for 10:30 AM Service Sunday, October 29 9:30 AM Thursday, November 16 5:00 PM Rehearsal Sunday, November 19 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal for 10:30 AM Service Tuesday, November 28 Noon Vocal Workshop 7:00 PM Thursday, December 14 Choir Rehearsal Sunday, December 17 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal for 10:30 AM Service Thursday, December 21 7:00 PM Winter Solstice

VOCAL WORKSHOP MONTHLY WITH REV. MADDIE!

WORK ON VOCAL SKILLS, READING MUSIC AND MORE

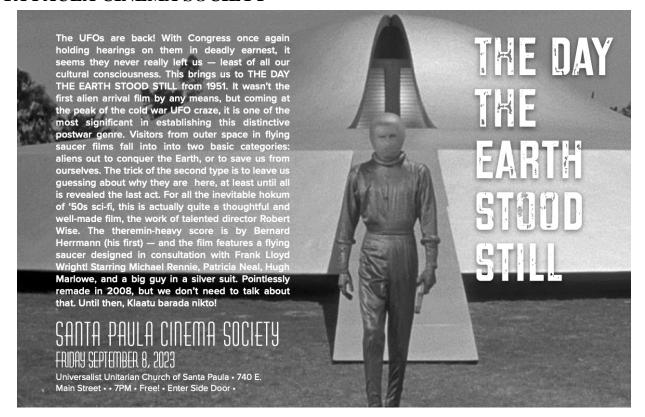
ALL INVITED ~ CHOIR AND FRIENDS

TUESDAYS, SEPTEMBER 26, OCTOBER 24 AND NOVEMBER 28

NO WORKSHOP IN DECEMBER

FROM NOON TO 1:00 PM

SANTA PAULA CINEMA SOCIETY





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.

SIP AND CHECK IN WITH REV. MADDIE TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 12 AT 4 PM ON ZOOM

WHAT IS SIP AND CHECK IN. YOU MIGHT ASK?

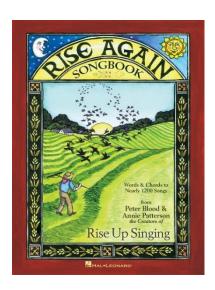
It is a chance to check in with a small group of members and friends. After a few minutes of casual chat as people arrive, we light a chalice with a reading and then invite people to take turns checking in about what's going on for them, answering the question, "How is



it with your spirit today?" 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, which in September is Welcome.

We aim to be inclusive of everyone present who wishes to talk or ask questions. NOTE: SIP AND CHECK IN IS CUTTING BACK TO ONCE A MONTH

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



RISE UP SINGING!

UU CHURCH OF SANTA PAULA PARISH HALL ~ 740 E MAIN STREET FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 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

The Santa Paula Concert Series presents Chucumite

In celebration of Mexican
Independence Day on
Saturday, September 16 at 3 PM
in our Sanctuary with its
outstanding acoustics. Poet
Laureate Luz Maria Espinosa will
read two poems for the occasion.
Ticket reservations are now available
at https://uucsp.org/events/1898/santa-paula-concert-series-presents-chucumite/ or by calling the church
office at 805-525-4647.

Admission for adults is \$25, children 12 and under \$12, under 5 free.

There will be some reserved pro bono reservations for this concert especially for youth, children or those of limited means. Please be in touch with Rev. Maddie or the office to be put on the list.

This concert is "in person". Should it sell out ahead of time, we will export it to Zoom.

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

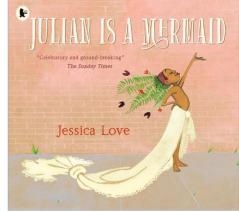
Chucumite is a quartet of musicians who play 'son jarocho', the folk music of the southern portion of the Mexican state of Veracruz, on the Gulf coast of Mexico. Chucumite is comprised of John Robles, who plays 'arpa jarocha', or Veracruz folk harp; Robert Perales, who plays 'jarana jarocha'; Sean Hutchinson, who plays 'leona', a large, 4 stringed instrument plucked with a plectrum of cowhorn. Robles and Perales have been performing together for over twenty-five years and are described by folklorist and son jarocho scholar Rafael Figueroa Hernandez as "exponents of son jarocho for many years, who as good creative musicians belong to the jarocho tradition but whose music, at the same time, has been influenced by that which is happening around it". Hutchinson joined the group in 2009. A fourth musician will be announced. Chucumite's self-titled CD was released in 2009 and rapidly found a warm reception among lovers of world music, and it has sold in many countries all around the the globe. A fourth musician will be joining them for this special event.



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, September 17**, we will share "Julian is a Mermaid" by Jessica Love. This picture book sparked controversy and debate in a Connecticut town after it was included in a second-grade class curriculum. "Julian is a Mermaid," tells the story of a boy who wants to become a mermaid and take part in Coney Island's famed Mermaid Parade. Come listen to the story during our TABOO for All Ages to learn how the district superintendent handled the controversy.



SOCIAL CONCERNS ACTION COMMITTEE

Wednesday, Sept. 20, 3:00 pm Social Concerns Action will meet on Zoom

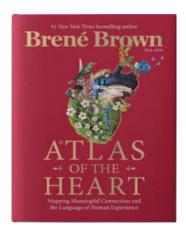
CARING COMMITTEE

Are you interested in being part of the team who thinks about caring for our members and friends? You would be welcome to join us! Be in touch with Karen Harris, chair or Rev. Maddie. The Caring Committee's next meeting will be in person in Rev. Maddie's office on **Thursday, September 21 at 1:30 PM**. The book discussion we sponsor has two more sessions for those enrolled, September 21 and October 19. On the agenda will be updating what the Caring Committee does, thoughts of a next book discussion group and more. It will be followed by the second to the last discussion of Atlas of the Heart at 3 PM

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.

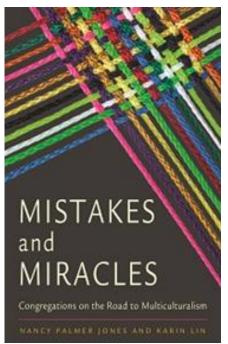
CARING COMMITTEE BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



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, September 21 from 3-4:30 PM** in the Parish Hall to discuss the next two chapters: Chapter 11, Places We Go When Life Is Good and Chapter 12, Places We Go

Chapter 11, Places We Go When Life Is Good and Chapter 12, Places We Go When We Feel Wronged. This group is closed at ten participants and will meet once a month through October when our final meeting will be October 19 which will be a Wrap Up and Celebrate meeting and consideration of Chapter 13: Places We Go to Self-Access.

ALL CHURCH READ: MISTAKES AND MIRACLES JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT SESSION SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 AFTER COFFEE HOUR



Every year we participate in the UUA's Common Read which we call the All Church Read. The 2022–2023

UU Common Read is <u>Mistakes and Miracles: Congregations</u> on the Road to <u>Multiculturalism</u> by Nancy Palmer Jones and Karin Lin, published by Skinner House Books. Our next discussion will take place after coffee hour on September 24 and will be led by Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford. 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 <u>Mistakes and Miracles: Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism</u> (Skinner House Books, 2019), they shared the joy, disappointment, and growth these congregations found. The books 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.

MARY A. LIVERMORE SOCIETY

The September Meeting of the Mary A. Livermore Society will be held in the Parish Hall on Thursday, September 28 at 11:30 AM. Bring a sack lunch. will The feature the program Reverends Phoebe and Seiki from the Pine Mountain Buddhist Temple which relocated from Pine Mountain to Santa Paula over a year ago. You can see about the temple more https://pinemtnbuddhisttemple.org/





TO BENEFIT FRIENDSHIP BRIDGE

SATURDAY 23 1:00-4:00PM

HOSTED BY
ANNE STEHLY & ANDY SOBEL
1236 BRUCE DR, SANTA PAULA, CA

Featuring fine handcrafted wines by local winemaker, Clos des Amis, delicious finger foods prepared by the Antelope Valley Friendship Bridge Support Circle, and beautiful textiles, handicrafts, and jewelry handmade by the talented artisan clients of Friendship Bridge.

\$20 - RSVP: Anne Stehly (805) 625-1847 / annestehly@yahoo.com or Constancia Leshin (661) 478-3213 / constancia47@gmail.com



WWW.FRIENDSHIPBRIDGE.ORG

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

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> 740 East Main Street Santa Paula, CA 93060

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