



Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula

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

uucspoffice@gmail.com website: uucsp.org

OCTOBER SERVICES, SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM



OCTOBER THEME: Heritage

To acknowledge our ancestors means we are aware that we did not make ourselves. ~ Alice Walker

October 1 Blessing of the Animals Rev. Maddie, Ken Stock

In honor of Saint Frances of Assisi—patron saint of the animal, birds and ecology—Rev. Maddie will be performing a blessing of pets. To participate, pets must be socialized, contained, or restrained by leash or animal carrier. Guests are encouraged to bring a picture instead for larger animals or those not suitable/comfortable for the indoor space in the Sanctuary. To honor pets who have passed away, we invite animal lovers to bring pictures for a memorial altar and send pictures for inclusion on the screen.

First Sunday Plate to Interface Youth and Family Services

October 8 Keep on Moving Forward Rev. Maddie, Ellen Deeb

As we kick off our Canvas for 2023-2024, Rev. Maddie thinks about our vision for the coming year and how we can keep on moving forward with our vision, our missions, and our dreams for the future of our beloved community, keeping in mind the heritage we have inherited from our past.

October 10 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 October is Heritage. Poetry by Luzmaria Espinosa. The music will be provided by Eduardo Del Signore

October 15 UU Evangelism Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford, MaryBeth East

Why are many of us so reluctant to share our UU beliefs with other people? Maybe we are afraid they will think we are trying to proselytize like some of those “other” people. But if we have found the “good news” of our religious tradition meaningful, others might too. What have we got to lose? See you in church!

Taboo for All Ages The Librarian of Basra by Jeanette Winter

October 22 Addiction and Grace Rev. Maddie, Atul Ranchod

What is the relationship between addiction and spiritual awareness? How can we support ourselves and family members in the many addictions not only to alcohol and drugs but to work, sex and more?

October 29 Day of the Dead/Samhain Rev. Maddie, Constancia Leshin

Our annual service that lifts up the many traditions of this time of the year: Dias de los Muertos, Day of the Dead, Samhain, All Saints Day and All Souls Day. Those who will attend in the sanctuary can share objects and photographs on our altar table. Those on Zoom and Facebook can send photographs to minister@uucsp.org for a slide show. Let us remember those gone from our lives this year and years past. Following the service, we will share some words and song with the roses in our Memorial Garden including the dedication of Jan Shepherd’s rose.

Our choir sings.

UUs of Our Past

The mission of the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula
is to practice inclusiveness, seek justice and foster spirituality.

Message from the Minister

This time of year always makes me nostalgic for the change of seasons in New England where I am from, where there is much more to see than the variety of pumpkin pastries and coffees at our local stores. There is nothing like the colors of the sugar maples and the soft, depth of pine needles underfoot in my old yard and gardens, where the flowers and vegetables were normally killed by frost by early October. I remember the wild turkeys that would be pecking through the pine needles and the squirrels rushing about storing the bounteous crop of acorns for the winter ahead. In New England this is a bittersweet time of year. On the one hand, one is surrounded by the spectacular beauty that only a New England autumn can bring; on the other, we know that colder and messier days are on the way, ice on the roads and snow to shovel. I have to say I love our weather here in Santa Paula, but I also do miss the change of seasons and the variety that they can bring.

Here in our congregation, we will mark our fall with a traditional Day of the Dead service on October 29, which is our Unitarian Universalist version of what our friends may mark as All Soul's Day or All Saint's Day, coming at the same time as Halloween. It is a sort of hodge-podge mixing of Christianity, the secular, and age-old rituals celebrating the deaths of ancestors. And many of us participate with friends in Santa Paula in their celebrations of Dias de Los Muertos, visiting ofrendas in their homes or making our own. Here in our Sanctuary, we will create an altar of pictures and artifacts that remind us those who came before us. I know I will be bringing once again pictures of my late parents, Harold and Lina MacNeill. And I know my ofrenda at home holds more pictures each year as more dear ones have passed on from my life.

Life is a complicated combination of happiness and sadness, joy, and sorrows. That is not news to any of us. I like to think that our weekly sharing of joys, sorrows and milestones goes a long way towards holding us, caring for us and making us truly seen by each other. And I am aware each week of those in our community who are not in the sanctuary whose joys and concerns we also hold, even though they may be unspoken.

Please bring a picture or a favorite object of a loved one on October 29 or email pictures to me at minister@uucsp.org for use on our screen. And stay after the service as we dedicate a rose to our member Jan Shepherd who died earlier this year and rededicate all the roses in our Memorial Rose Garden. May we share our memories of loved ones and share our love here with each other.

On the path of our faith,

Reverend Maddie Sifantus

Message from Board of Trustees

Pledge Drive 2024

October 8th is our annual pledge drive kick off. It is the time of year we recommit financial support and contributions to our UUCSP congregation. Our canvass theme is "Keep on Moving Forward" inspired by the song of Pat Humphries. Your pledge card will be mailed mid-October and please respond by November 3rd. As always, thank you for your support.

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Annual Notice of Membership Requirements for the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

- A. Any person who is in sympathy with the purpose and program of this church may become a member by signing the membership book, subject to acceptance by a majority vote of the Board of Trustees or the members present at any legal meeting of the congregation.
- B. Membership in this church shall be open to all persons 13 years of age or older without regard to race, color, gender, national origin, marital status, physical or mental challenges, sexual orientation, or gender identification.
- C. Once a person has been accepted as a member, membership rights shall continue as long as they indicate, when asked, the intention to continue as a member, and make identifiable financial or service contributions.
- D. The Board of Trustees shall give written notice of membership requirements in the newsletter in October/November of each year and shall review the membership roll every November/December. Any member who, during the preceding fiscal year, has not met the conditions for continuing membership as stated in the preceding paragraph may be moved to inactive status. Any member who dies or who submits a letter of resignation to the Board of Trustees shall be removed from membership at the next regular meeting of the Board. Any inactive member who again meets the requirements for continuing membership shall be restored to active status by the Board of Trustees at its next regular meeting.
- E. All active members, age 16 and over, are eligible to vote at any legal meeting of the congregation. Active members ages 13 through 15 may vote only on issues that are youth-related. However, active members under age 16 are welcome to voice their ideas and opinions on any issues before the congregation. Inactive members are not eligible to vote.

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

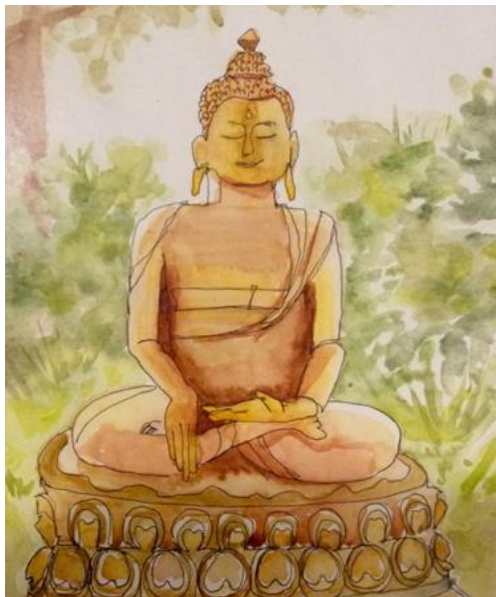


Image by Lynn Holbein

WEDNESDAYS AT 6 PM

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

October 4	Jim Cole
October 11	Rev. Maddie
October 18	Jim Cole
October 25	Rev. Maddie

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7312177775>

Meeting ID: 731 217 7775

Passcode: uucsp93060

www.facebook.com/uucsp

TWILIGHT GATHERING*



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10
7:00 PM

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

Led by Maddie Sifantus with poetry by Luzmaria Espinosa

Special Guest Musician, Eduardo Del Signore

from A Call To Peace

FREE WILL OFFERING TO A CALL TO PEACE

In person at the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula

740 E Main Street, Santa Paula

People and Doings

NEWS FROM AMONG US October 2023

- Rev. Maddie had a nice visit with Allan Atmore where he lives in Ventura in the memory unit at the Ventura Townhouse.
- Our thoughts continue to be with Mary Nelson who is now at Thousand Oaks Post-Acute. Cards may be sent to her there at 93 W Avenida De Los Arboles, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360 or you can call her on her cell phone.
- 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 4th QUARTER 1st SUNDAY OFFERING October 1, November 5, December 3

At Interface we believe that everyone should have the opportunity to be safe, stay healthy, and thrive. Since 1973, Interface has provided responsive and life-changing support for children, teens, individuals, and families through our diverse service portfolio utilizing 30+ evidence-based practices to support those who are struggling with domestic violence, human trafficking, homelessness, incarceration, child abuse, mental health concerns, and trauma-related challenges. Our prevention and intervention programs equip children, teens, and adults to identify, intervene, and disrupt harmful behaviors and prevent them from happening in the future. Each year, hundreds of thousands of callers across 38 counties (nearly 1/3 of all Californians!) are connected to the resources and assistance they need during times of crisis through Interface's 211 Call Center, the leader in service delivery statewide.

As we look to the future during our 50th anniversary year, we are committed to embracing our role as a community leader and innovator in social services, building bridges in our community to expand our responsiveness and collaboration, continuing to provide best-in-class services, and centering equity in all that we do.

People and Doings

LAST CRUISE NIGHT 2023

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6

5:00 PM-Dusk

SEE THE CLASSIC CARS!

TOUR HISTORIC CHURCH!

Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula, 740 E Main Street



SANTA PAULA CONCERT SERIES

presents a fundraiser for

De Colores Multicultural Folk Arts

so they may continue offering free art classes to underserved youth, seniors and homeless in Ventura County.

A Tardeada with Conjunto Alma Grande

Join us for an afternoon concert with the Familia Moraza and friends a Celebration of Mexican Music Rancheras, Boleros y Sones

Sunday, October 8

3:00 p.m.

Universalist Unitarian Church 740 E. Main Street, Santa Paula



Tickets are \$25.00 per person
RSVP (805) 616-8272 or (805) 525-8961

People and Doings

SANTA PAULA CINEMA SOCIETY

will be dark this month. Stayed tuned for the November selection.

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**SIP AND CHECK IN WITH REV. MADDIE
ON ZOOM
OCTOBER 10 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.

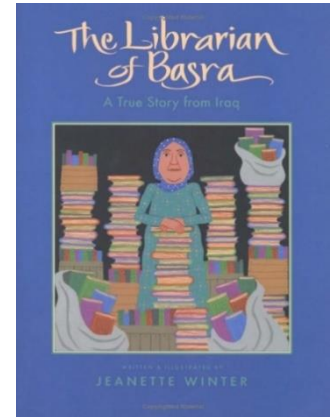
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***TABOO for All Ages* (AKA Time for All Ages)**

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,

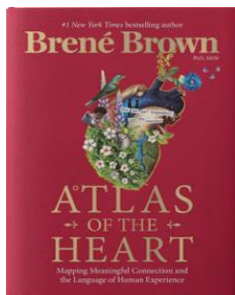
On Sunday, October 15th, we will share “The Librarian of Basra” by Jeanette Winter. This true story of an Iraqi librarian trying to protect the books in her library was challenged in Duval County, FL in 2015 for "promoting a non-Christian religion" and "being too violent for young readers." It was later challenged at Johnson City, NY schools for having a violent storyline and illustrations.

Come listen to the story and see if you agree if the book should be banned from libraries.

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SOCIAL CONCERNS ACTION COMMITTEE

The Social Concerns Action Committee will meet Wednesday October 18, 3:00 pm on Zoom

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CARING COMMITTEE BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

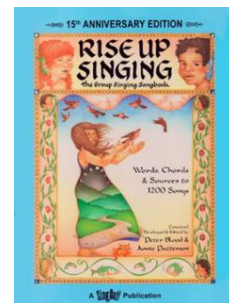
Our Caring Committee has presented a successful book discussion group since last winter based on Brené Brown's most recent book, *Atlas of the Heart: Mapping Meaningful Connection and the Language of Human Experience*, facilitated by Rev. Maddie. The ten participants will meet for the last time on **Thursday, October 19 at 3 PM** for a Wrap Up and Celebrate meeting and consideration of Chapter 13: Places We Go to Self-Access.

People and Doings

RISE UP SINGING!

UU CHURCH OF SANTA PAULA
PARISH HALL ~ 740 E MAIN STREET
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20 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



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One of the events on this day will be a **self-guided Walking Tour of historical sites** and the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula will be one of the sites. If you would like to join Rev Maddie in welcoming guests through our beautiful building, please be in touch with the office at office@uucsp.org or minister@uucsp.org.



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ENGAGING OUR TRADITION AND THE PATH TO MEMBERSHIP

Are you new to Unitarian Universalism? Do you want to know more about how things work around here and the history of our building and congregation? Please join Rev. Maddie and others in her office after our service and coffee hour on Sunday, October 22 for casual introduction to engaging Unitarian Universalism and the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula. Hear about our history as a congregation and how it fits into the larger movement of Unitarian Universalism. Bring your questions about how we do things around here. Who makes decisions? What about Social Justice? What about Faith Formation? Who is the Caring Committee or the Committee on Congregational Life? What is the path to membership? Inquiring minds want to know. Please come if you have been around the place for a while or if it is your first day in the door.

People and Doings

MARY A. LIVERMORE SOCIETY

The October meeting of the Mary A Livermore Society will be held in the Parish Hall on Thursday, October 26th, at 11:30 am.

Please bring a sack lunch and your own good energy!

Our program is still in the planning stages!

Join us! We always have a good time!

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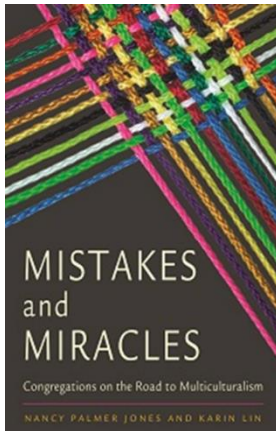
MUSIC NOTES

There are many benefits of singing in a choir, from physical, to keeping mental acuity, socialization and the joy of making music with other people and for our congregation. 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):

October 24	Noon	Vocal Workshop
October 26	4:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
October 29	9:30 AM	Choir Rehearsal for 10:30 AM Service
		The Last Rose of Summer arr. Greg Gilpin
November 16	5:00 PM	Rehearsal
November 19	9:30 AM	Choir Rehearsal for 10:30 AM Service
		All Things Bright and Beautiful John Rutter
November 29	Noon	Vocal Workshop
December 14	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
December 17	9:30 AM	Choir Rehearsal for 10:30 AM Service
		TBA
December 21	7:00 PM	Winter Solstice 2023
		Here We Come A-Wassailing
		Sun Turning
		The Gloucester Wassail
		The Boar's Head Carol

VOCAL WORKSHOP MONTHLY WITH REV. MADDIE!
WORK ON VOCAL SKILLS, READING MUSIC AND MORE
ALL INVITED ~ CHOIR AND FRIENDS
TUESDAYS, OCTOBER 24 AND NOVEMBER 28
NO WORKSHOP IN DECEMBER
FROM NOON TO 1:00 PM

People and Doings



**ALL CHURCH READ:
MISTAKES AND MIRACLES DISCUSSION**

ALL CHURCH READ
FACILITATED BY REV. MADDIE
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29 AT NOON
REV. MADDIE'S OFFICE

[illegible]

NOVEMBER SATURDAYS FROM THE SPIRITUAL GROWTH CENTER

SAVE THE DATES!

Spiritual Growth Center Retreat

Saturday, November 4

9 am – 1 pm

Meditation Sessions, Yoga, Walking Meditation, Singing Meditation

Potluck Lunch

More details in the Friday emails and the November newsletter

Atul Ranchod Book Launch

Essential Astonishment: Poetic Reflection for Awakenings

Saturday, November 11

5pm - 7 pm

Readings from the book, special guests, refreshments

More details in the Friday emails and the November newsletter

THE UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN
CHURCH OF SANTA PAULA

740 East Main Street
Santa Paula, CA 93060

Office: 805-525-4647

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www.uucsp.org

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

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