



Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula

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

uucspoffice@gmail.com website: uucsp.org

NOVEMBER SERVICES, SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM



NOVEMBER THEME: Generosity

Gratitude is not only the greatest virtue but the parent of all others.

~ Cicero

November 5 [*clocks back one hour*] Lighten Up! Rev. Maddie, Ruth Ricards

Laughter is therapeutic. How can we be generous with our light and love? How can we bring a sense of humor to our daily lives and even the most difficult times.

First Sunday Plate to Interface Youth and Family Services

Talking Circle with Rev. Maddie after coffee hour

November 12 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?

November 14 TWILIGHT 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 November is Generosity. Original poems by Atul Ranchod. The music will be provided by Kevin Fox.

November 19 Thanksgiving Cornbread Communion

Rev. Maddie, Social Concerns Action Committee

On this Sunday before Thanksgiving, we gather in our hybrid way, grateful for those of us who can gather in person and grateful for the technology for all to join us. We kick off our annual Guest at Your Table campaign, *Pursuing Liberation*, for the UU Service Committee and share our cornbread communion in our sanctuary and virtually in our homes.

Our choir sings

Taboo for All Ages Egg Drop Mini Grey

Talking Circle with Rev. Maddie after coffee hour

November 26 Thanksgiving: Turkey, Tradition and Trouble Kate English, MaryBeth East

This Sunday after Thanksgiving, please bring your leftovers to share with us at coffee hour and bring stories from your own tradition to be part of our sharing service. Kate English will give a brief reflection about both the tensions and comforts of a holiday that means so much to some while echoing a problematic mythology for others. All leftover pie is welcome!

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

By now you should all have heard that I will be moving on after this church year, leaving this ministry I have loved for the last nine years. You called me on September 7, 2014, and I returned back East that week to say goodbye to the two churches I had been serving. Wakefield and Milford, Massachusetts as well as my Rites of Passage ministry and my musical career. I began serving you on January 2, 2015. My plan is to be among you doing all the regular parts of ministry that we share together and helping your Board of Trustees and other leadership think about the ministerial transition along with Melissa James from the Pacific Western Area Region of the Unitarian Universalist Association. This will be a transparent process where all voices will be heard, as you look at options for ministry after I leave. But while I am still here, we will celebrate what we have together, I will continue to be present in the activities of the community of Santa Paula and beyond, and day to day life in this small congregation will continue.

Meanwhile, in this month when we celebrate Thanksgiving, I am thinking especially of what I am grateful for, including all that I am grateful for in serving you these last nine years. I am thinking about Generosity, our theme for November and the generosity of spirit we share with each other, our families and friends and the larger community. In no particular order, I am thankful for living in this beautiful valley and my historic home looking out at South Mountain. I am grateful for our Santa Paula Concert Series and the 33 concerts we have produced since 2015. I am grateful for our Spiritual Growth Center with its twice a week yoga classes and the Meditation Group, the Silent Pause, which have been part of my spiritual practice while I have been among you, along with Gatherings, Singing Meditation, Sound Baths and more. I am looking forward to this month's Spiritual Growth Center Silent Retreat on November 4 (see elsewhere in this newsletter for more). I am grateful for our earth-based rituals like the recent Day of the Dead and the upcoming Winter Solstice. I am grateful for our staff, especially our Administrator Krystal Johnson, our Tech Team of Monika Murillo and Giselle Larios and for Albie Alamillo who quietly takes care of our building all the while filling me in on history since she has been here since the 90s. I am grateful for the choir and for working with our church musician, Vincent Sorisio. I am grateful for all the board members and other leadership I have worked with since 2014. I am grateful for the larger reach we now have since the pandemic and the grants we received to upgrade our technology in order to accomplish that. I am grateful for all the relationships I have made with organizations in Santa Paula including those I have stood with on justice issues. And I am grateful for all the Sunday mornings we have spent in worship, the memorial services where we shared our sorrow, and weddings full of joy. And I could go on!

What are you grateful for? What do you love about this congregation and where do you see its future vision pointing? How will *you* be part of that vision making? What I wish for you is that you do the visioning that I have talked about over 9 years and that you create the church you yearn for, bringing transformation in your lives and to the larger world. Meanwhile, let us keep love at the center of all we do in the months going forward.

On the path of our faith, *Reverend Maddie Sifantus*

Message from the Minister

**TALKING CIRCLES WITH REV MADDIE
STAY AFTER COFFEE HOUR TO TALK ABOUT
THOUGHTS AND CONCERNS**



**SUNDAYS
NOVEMBER 5
NOVEMBER 19
DECEMBER 10**

Message from Board of Trustees

Hello members and friends!

Last month the Finance/Budget/Canvass committee sent out our ***Keep on Moving Forward*** annual pledge drive materials. We will soon be working on our 2024 budget for discussion and approval at the Annual Meeting early in the new year. It is important for us to have as much information as possible in order to create a reasonable and realistic budget. If you have already turned in your pledge, ***THANK YOU***. If you have not yet done so, please complete it and turn it in as soon as possible.

Committee chairs: We will need your budget requests soon also. Please be thinking about what your committee, task force, or group want to accomplish in '24 and how much you think it will take, financially, to make it happen.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please let us know. We greatly appreciate your assistance and support.

[illegible]

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

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

MEDITATION PRACTICE GROUP UU CHURCH OF SANTA PAULA IN PERSON or ZOOM and Facebook

November 1 with Jim Cole online

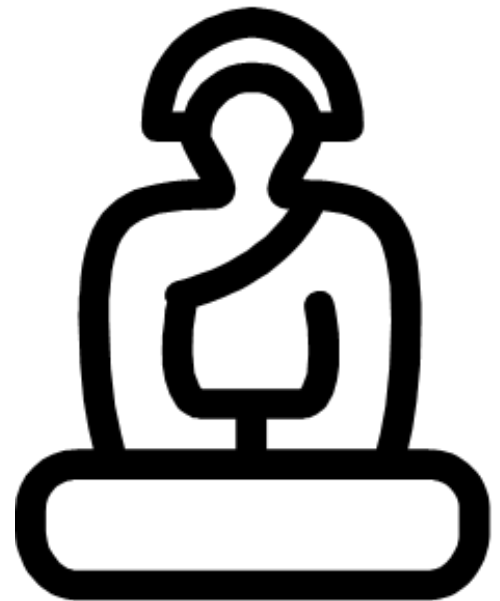
November 8 with Rev. Maddie in person

November 15 with Jim Cole online

November 22 with Rev. Maddie in person

November 29 with Jim Cole online

EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 6 PM



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

For Zoom info, email office@uucsp.org ~Free Will Offering

Spiritual Growth Center

SPIRITUAL GROWTH CENTER SILENT RETREAT

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4

9 AM TO 1 PM

**SANCTUARY, PARISH HALL, AND MEMORIAL ROSE GARDEN
at Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula**



Have you ever gone on retreat?

Want to try to be mostly silent for half a day?

Come deepen your practices with Rev. Maddie,

Yoga Instructor Lisa Hammond,

mindfulness meditation instructor and psychologist Jim Cole,
and others

- Meditation from the teachings of Shinzen Young's Unified Mindfulness (UM)
- Metta or lovingkindness meditation
- Walking Meditation
- Yoga and Chi Gong
- Singing meditation
- Mindfulness Meditation with Jim Cole

Potluck lunch at 12:30 PM

Donation \$10 payable on the day of the retreat

For more information, call Rev. Maddie at 805-525-4620

or email minister@uucsp.org

TWILIGHT GATHERING



NOVEMBER 14 7:00 PM

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

Led by Maddie Sifantus with poet, Atul Ranchod

Guest Musician, Kevin Fox

Pianist Kevin Fox began playing professionally in 1984, performing at restaurants and hotels in Ventura County, California. In 1986, he began performing on cruise ships. In 1990, Kevin moved to New York City. For nearly 20 years, he performed at many of New York's finest hotels, restaurants, and clubs. In 2009, Kevin returned to California where he continues to perform throughout Southern California and the Central Coast.

Kevin is the Music Director of Live Oak UU in Goleta

Free will offering (\$10-20 suggested)

People and Doings

NEWS FROM AMONG US November 2023

- 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. The landline in her room is 805-491-6553. We thank those who helped move her belongings from her old apartment including our friends Peter Parziale and Patti Handfinger as well as two members of UU Ventura.
- Our thoughts are with Eric Johnson who was scheduled for a hip replacement on October 23 and Rev. Betty who was scheduled for a knee replacement on October 31.
- 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, especially at this time. 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.


Pastoral Coverage

Rev. Maddie will be taking some of the remainder of her vacation and study leave from Friday, November 24 through Tuesday, December 5. If you have a pastoral need during that time, please be in touch with Krystal in the office at 805-525-4647 or office@uucsp.org or congregation president Kate English whose contact information is in your Directory.

[illegible]

2023 4th QUARTER 1st SUNDAY OFFERING

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

SANTA PAULA CINEMA SOCIETY

November 10

TBA – please refer to Friday email Blast for details

[illegible]

SIP AND CHECK IN WITH REV. MADDIE

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 14 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 November is Generosity. We aim to be inclusive of everyone present who wishes to talk or ask questions.



Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 731 217 7775 Password: uucsp93060

[illegible]

SOCIAL CONCERNS ACTION COMMITTEE

Social Concerns Action Committee will meet Wednesday, November 15 on Zoom

[illegible]

CARING COMMITTEE

The Caring Committee was revitalized in 2017 and since then has met to consider the activities of the committee and how to care for and with our members and friends. Our current chair is Karen Harris. The committee works in conjunction with Rev. Maddie to serve the pastoral needs of the congregation. Since UUCSP does not have a Membership Committee, they have also addressed some of the functions of a membership committee. Amongst its activities is keeping a list of the Birthdays and Anniversaries of our Members and Friends. Please let us know yours so we can add it. We maintain a Telephone Tree should we need to contact our members quickly. We added pillows for the seats in the sanctuary for those who find them uncomfortable and will hope to add some more. We provide wrapped lozenges at the front door. We have held Lay Ministry Training for those who wish to be on our caring team. We have read books together with the most recent discussion group just ended of Brene Brown's Atlas of the Heart. We sponsor a Blue Holidays service for those who have difficulty with the holiday season. ***The next Caring Committee meeting will be Thursday, November 16 at 2:30 PM in Rev. Maddie's office.*** We will be planning for Blue Christmas which will be Thursday, December 14 at 2 PM in the Sanctuary. Be in touch with Karen Harris or Rev. Maddie for more information at minister@uucsp.org or 805-525-4620.

[illegible]

People and Doings

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. *There will be no Vocal Workshops in November or December.*

Here is the remaining schedule for 2023 (music selections subject to change):

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
December 14	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal	
December 17	9:30 AM	Choir Rehearsal for 10:30 AM Service	
		Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring	J. S. Bach
December 21	7:00 PM	Winter Solstice 2023	
		Here We Come A-Wassailing	
		Sun Turning	
		The Gloucester Wassail	
		The Boar's Head Carol	

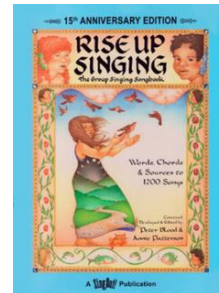
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RISE UP SINGING!

UU CHURCH OF SANTA PAULA

Rise Up Singing will go on hiatus for the remainder of 2023.

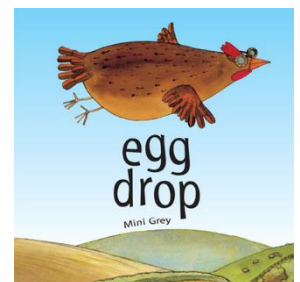
Check back in the new year.

[illegible]

***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, November 19, 2023, we will share “Egg Drop” by Mini Grey. This charming children’s book that takes us on a journey with a curious egg who dreams of soaring through the sky. Despite warnings from other birds, the egg climbs to the top of a tower, only to realize it cannot fly and ultimately falls to the ground. This amusing tale of adventure and discovery has faced controversy and has been banned in some areas due to the book’s ending, which depicts the egg’s inevitable shattering. Critics argue that the conclusion is too harsh and potentially upsetting for young readers, overshadowing the book’s creative narrative and positive themes of curiosity, exploration, and learning from one’s mistakes.

[illegible]

People and Doings

MARY A. LIVERMORE SOCIETY

The November/December meeting of the Mary Livermore Society will be held on Thursday, November 30th at 11:30 in the Parish Hall. You are invited and we will need your RSVP! It will be our 2nd Annual Holiday Tea Party and promises to be great fun!

Mary Livermore was a journalist and activist who helped form the American Woman Suffrage Association and the Women's Christian Temperance Union. She wrote for and edited various newspapers and journals and became a famous lecturer. Our Mary Livermore Society is the oldest women's group in Ventura County!! If you would like to attend our Tea Party, please contact Constanica at constancia47@gmail.com

XX

UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN CHURCH

740 E MAIN STREET, SANTA PAULA

www.uucsp.org ~ 805-525-4647

JOIN US FOR A WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION



Thursday, December 21

7:00 PM

Jollity, Frivolity, Song and Wassail!

*Make the darkest day of the year
a little brighter.*

POETRY BOOK LAUNCH

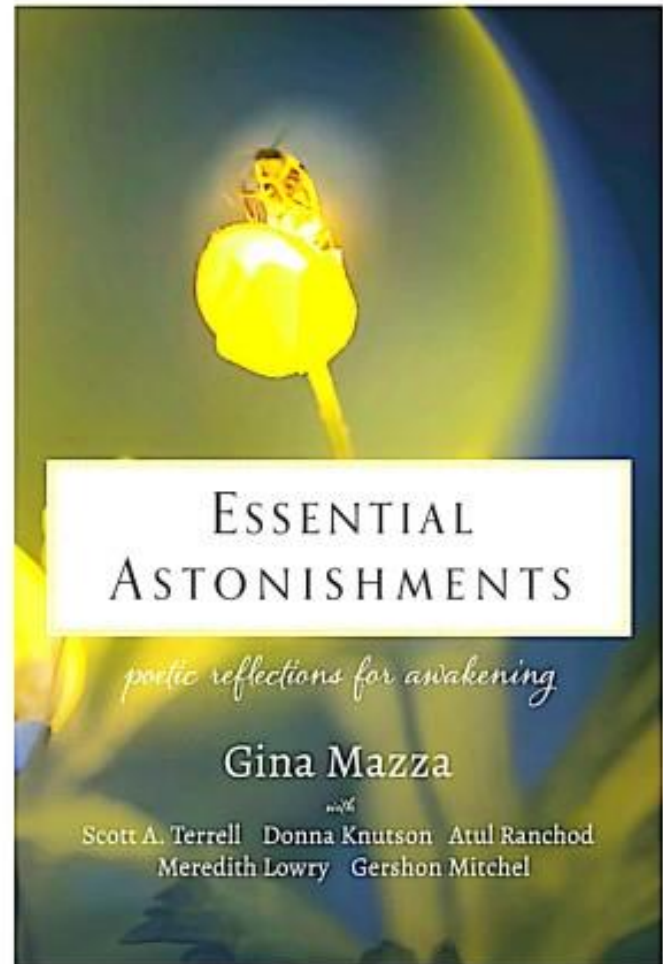
Come celebrate
The poetry book launch
featuring Atul Ranchod

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

When:
Nov. 11 from 5-7 pm

FREE

Live music by
Eduardo del Signore
Readings by Atul Ranchod
Light snacks and refreshments
by Gunsmoke restaurant



People and Doings



The Year To Save The Earth

***A Musical and
Multimedia
Experience by
Composer Jim Scott***

Jim's lyrical songs of ecology
are illustrated by beautiful
and striking projected images

7 pm - Friday, November 10

In Person and Livestream Options!

Mixing powerful songs and beautiful projected images, Scott takes us to a positive vision for the planet.

Prolific composer guitarist Jim Scott brings a warmth and humor with his jazz and world music influenced songs. Formerly a member of the Paul Winter Consort, Jim was composer of their celebrated *Missa Gaia/Earth Mass* and sang their anthem song *Common Ground*. He has toured the world, recorded nine CDs of original music, published a growing line of choral works, and was one of the originators of the "Green Sanctuary" program.

Please see here for more information:

<https://bit.ly/JimScottTheYeartoSavetheEarth>

In person event location at Chalice – 3327 Old Conejo Rd., Newbury Park, CA

Our Mission: *To nurture spiritually courageous people who transform the world through justice and compassion.*

OUR PROGRAM IS FREE BUT DONATIONS ARE GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED

Chalice Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Conejo Valley, forum@chaliceuu.org

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CHURCH OF SANTA PAULA

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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**

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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