



Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula

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

uucspoffice@gmail.com website: uucsp.org

JANUARY SERVICES, SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM



JANUARY THEME: Liberating Love

Joy is the gift of love. Grief is the price of love.

Anger is the force that protects that which is loved. ~ Valarie Kaur

Sunday, January 7

Burning Bowl

Jerry Gray, John Nichols

The Burning Bowl is an annual ceremony we perform each January. We will learn what John has been thinking of late and will talk about the meaning of ritual and the history of the Burning Bowl ceremony. We will then collectively perform the ritual. It is a cleansing and healing ceremony to get the New Year started off right.

First Sunday Plate to Poder Popular

Tuesday, January 9

7 PM

Twilight Gathering

Rev. Maddie, Geno Palilla and Christine Snipes Mazor

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 Christine Mazor and Geno Palilla.

Sunday, January 14

Side With Love

Rev. Maddie, Ellen Deeb

The UUA's Side With Love campaign sponsors 30 Days of Love which goes from Martin Luther King, Jr. Day through Valentine's Day. On this day before the official Martin Luther King Day, we consider the spiritual nourishment, political grounding, and shared practices of faith and justice proposed by Side With Love.

Sunday, January 14 4:00 PM

MLK Jazz Requiem

Santa Paula Ministerial Association

We host the Jazz Requiem in honor of Martin Luther King Day and in memory of musician Larry Cossid and Pastor Lupita Alonso Redondo.

Rev. Maddie leads the music with members of Larry Cossid's former band Studio C.

Sunday, January 21

Lean Into It

Rev. Maddie, Rev. Betty

Rev. Maddie continues her series on Spiritual Practices, considering those which help us move and stretch, our bodies, and our minds.

Taboo for All Ages

Sunday, January 28

Countercultural

[Annual Meeting]

Rev. Maddie, Ken Stock

Congregations by their very nature are countercultural. On this day of our Annual Meeting, how do we claim the power of the local congregation to lean into the "We" rather than the "I"?

UUs of Our Past with Leslie Nichols

Choir

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

Message from the Minister

MESSAGE FROM REV. MADDIE: WELCOME TO LIBERATING LOVE

Here we are starting another new year together, all of us in this beloved community. It starts my tenth year with you since my arrival on January 2, 2015. One of the many things we have experienced together was the move over the years to subscriptions to UU theme-based resources, first with Touchstones and the last several years with Soul Matters. Our Soul Matters theme for January 2024 is Liberating Love. Here is their reflection on the theme to help us in our own reflections as individuals and this faith community:

Love, it sits in the chest,
at least at the start.
It's what makes our heart beat again after being broken,
and our lungs breathe again after being closed off in the dark for far too long.

For some, it came in the form of our grandfather's eyes
which saw us as carriers of something bigger and more precious
and older
than our little bodies disclosed.
For others, it arrived as we pressed hard
against our mothers' warm skin
and heard a speechless whisper say
we can always come home.

We recognize love as the thing that allowed us to finally remove our masks,
or that which said I don't want you to take it off, until you are ready.
We were taught love by those who arrived in the midst of our fear
and shook as we shook, instead of simply trying to make our trembling stop.

But here is the secret. The inevitable awakening.
The wonder that each of our lives is meant to reveal.
Love doesn't just love us;
It asks us to become it.

That's why those metaphors of comforting quilts
which wrap us in their warmth will never do.
True love is always a thunderstorm
that cracks us clean open
so the echoes of other breaking hearts
can make their way in.

Yes, it wants us to be whole and strong.
But love's deepest longing is that we will use that strength
to tear down the structures that leave others bloodied and bruised.
We must always remember what Selma's prophet of peace regularly preached:
Love and power are always rightly wed.

And maybe this is where the second secret comes loose.
As I shake the walls to let others free,
I learn that the ones I've liberated include me.

On the path of our faith, Rev. Maddie Sifantus

Message from Board of Trustees

The Annual Meeting of the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula will be held via Zoom at 12:30 p.m. on January 28, 2024 - after the Sunday Service and a short break. Election of two Board Trustees, one Cash Reserve Fund Trustee, one Committee on Congregational Life member, and next year's Nominating Committee team will occur.

In addition to these elections, we will vote to adopt our 2024 operating budget. We will hear from our Minister, and several committees will augment their written reports. Those written reports, the budget and complete agenda, along with the minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting (the "packet") will be sent via email to members after the Board of Trustees accepts the budget submitted by the Finance Committee, which should happen at the January 18 regular board meeting.

The Building Preservation Fund Trustees and Building and Grounds Committee have worked closely with the Board of Trustees to propose updates to Amendment III of our church's bylaws. The Amendment, showing proposed changes, will be sent as part of the packet prior to the Annual meeting.

During the Zoom Annual Meeting – and we will reiterate this at the time – folks will be muted, except for the designated speaker. There is just no way to hear more than one person at a time. Our technology team will be watching for questions, nominations, raised hands and such, and there is the chat feature on Zoom. All who wish to speak will be heard.

If you are one who normally blocks their camera during services, we will need you to be visible during the meeting so that we know who is in attendance. Our bylaws require a quorum be present at any meeting of the congregation, and we will be using screen view to verify that everyone is who they seem to be. Thank you for your cooperation.

If you require a printed packet to be mailed to you, please advise our Office Administrator Krystal. It should arrive by post with plenty of time for you to familiarize yourself with it. Emailed packets should arrive about a week prior to the meeting. Please make sure that the church office has your current address.

Those who submit reports for the Annual Meeting packets should all have been notified that the deadline is again earlier this year. If you haven't already done so, please send your report in Microsoft Word or plain text format to Krystal by the first week of January.

We ask those who give verbal reports at the meeting not to repeat what is in their printed reports, but to make any additional comments or answer any queries from the congregation. Thank you again for your understanding.

If you have any questions, please contact any Board member.

Kate English, President

Ken Stock, Vice President

Ann Hewitt, Secretary

Jerry Gray, Treasurer

Mitch Stone, Trustee

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

January 3 with Rev. Maddie in person

January 10 with Jim Cole online

January 17 with Rev. Maddie in person

January 24 with Jim Cole online

January 31 with Rev. Maddie in person

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

TWILIGHT GATHERING*



***DEFINITION OF GATHERING**

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2023

7:00 PM

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

Led by Maddie Sifantus

Guest Musicians, Christine Mazor and Geno Palilla

Free will offering (\$10-20 suggested)

Spiritual Growth Center

Universalist Unitarian Church
of Santa Paula
Spiritual Growth Center

Sound Bath & Tipica Sale to Benefit Friendship Bridge

January 27, 2024
1:00-2:30 p.m.

740 E Main Street
Santa Paula, CA

✉ office@uucsp.org

🌐 www.uucsp.org

\$30 suggested donation

www.friendshipbridge.org



People and Doings

NEWS FROM AMONG US January 2024

- Wishes for quick healing to Atul Ranchod who was laid low by the flu in December. And congratulations to him on the success of the book *Essential Astonishments* which includes his poetry and which we celebrated with a book launch in 2023.
- Wishes for healing to our newest member Vanessa Acosta after planned shoulder surgery. And to Karen Fort to her recovery from knee surgery.
- Our thoughts continue to be with Mary Nelson who is living at Thousand Oaks Post-Acute. Cards may be sent to her there at 93 W Avenida De Los Arboles, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360.
- We are thinking of our members who have recently had COVID, including Ken Stock and his wife Annie Reynolds as well as Luisa Haskell. 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

As 2024 begins, Rev. Maddie will be working in the office all day January 3 through Meditation in the evening. Then she will be back in the office as usual from Tuesday, January 9. 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.



Annual meeting will be held via Zoom on Sunday, January 28, 2024.

Committee reports are due to Krystal by January 5.

People and Doings

2024 1st QUARTER 1st SUNDAY OFFERING

The Social Concerns Action Committee has decided to give the 1st Sunday Plate to **"Poder Popular"**. This organization serves many of our local farmworkers who will benefit from our generosity.

Return your Guest at Your Table box by January 9



We kicked off the initiative for the annual Guest at Your Table at our service on November 19. You write a check to the UUSC in lieu of putting money in the GAYT boxes we used to use. Checks made out the UUSC can be put with your offering in the plate on a Sunday or sent to the church before January 9 to be collected. We are longtime supporters of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee and its Guest at Your Table program.

What is Guest at Your Table?

Guest at Your Table is the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's annual intergenerational program to raise support for and awareness about key human rights issues. Since UUSC works in over 25 countries, with over 75 grassroots partners, there are thousands of individuals involved in and who benefit from the work that our members make possible. The program is an opportunity to celebrate grassroots partnership, support human rights, and learn about just four of these individuals – the "guests" in Guest at Your Table.

SIP AND CHECK IN WITH REV. MADDIE TUESDAY JANUARY 9 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.



People and Doings

NEW BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP: THE BODY KEEPS THE SCORE

The Caring Committee is sponsoring a discussion of The Body Keeps the Score: Brain, Mind, and Body in the Healing of Trauma by Dr. Bessel van der Kolk. The first session will be Thursday, January 11 at 3:00 PM. We will meet in the Parish Hall. This book was chosen by the group who read Atlas of the Heart and met for 8 months to discuss it. This #1 New York Times Bestseller is billed as essential reading for anyone interested in understanding and treating traumatic stress and the scope of its impact on society. This book is widely available from your favorite booksellers. Be in touch with Rev. Maddie or Karen Harris, Caring Committee Chair, with any questions.



SCHEDULE

Second Thursdays at 3 PM starting January 11

January 11 Part One: The Rediscovery of Trauma

February 8 Part Two: This is Your Brain on Trauma

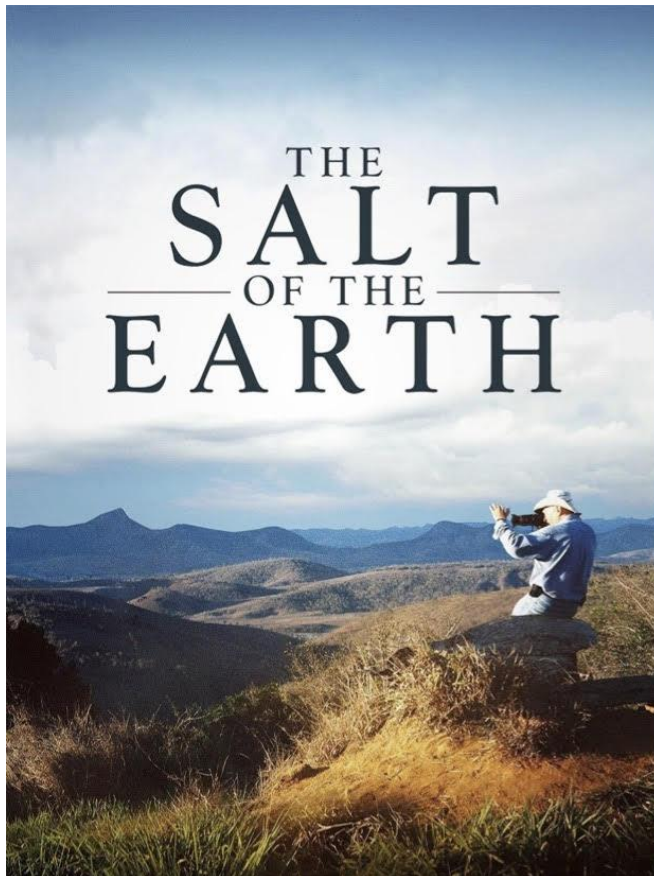
March 14 Part Three: The Minds of Children

April 11 Part Four: The Imprint of Trauma

May 9 Part Five: Paths to Recovery

June 13 Wrap Up

SANTA PAULA CINEMA SOCIETY



Our first film of the year is the haunting 2014 documentary on the work of famed Brazilian photographer Sebastião Salgado, directed by Wim Wenders and Salgado's son, Juliano Ribeiro Salgado.

The film covers four decades of Salgado's epic work as a photographer, beginning during the early 1970s when he gave up a career as an economist in France to pursue his newfound passion. His mission became documenting conflict, famine, refugees, and landscapes, as they are both preserved and trampled by human beings. After many years of virtually obsessive global travel, Salgado became so disheartened by what he'd witnessed and photographed around the world, he retired to back to his family ranch in Brazil. There he began a project to restore the rainforests, starting on his own land. Ultimately this effort reignited his hope for humanity and drew him back to photography with new purpose — to document this project, as well as the native peoples of Brazil.

The film is beautifully illustrated by Salgado's stunning work and in the narration by Wenders and his son Juliano Salgado. A visual treat, and thought-provoking as well. Winner of the 2014 Cannes Film Festival Special Prize. (1:50)

SANTA PAULA CINEMA SOCIETY

FRIDAY JANUARY 12, 2024

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

People and Doings

SOCIAL CONCERNS ACTION COMMITTEE

Our Committee is committed to living our values of peace and social justice. . At each of our monthly meetings, we review a very complete Minister's Report by Rev. Maddie as well as an information packed Affiliate Minister's Report by Rev. Betty Stapleford.

For our January meeting, we will be discussing our February 3rd Climate Event in conjunction with Groundhog Day. We will also review the Guest at your Table project. Also concerning to many of us is the escalating situation in the Middle East and the unfolding drama in Guatemala.

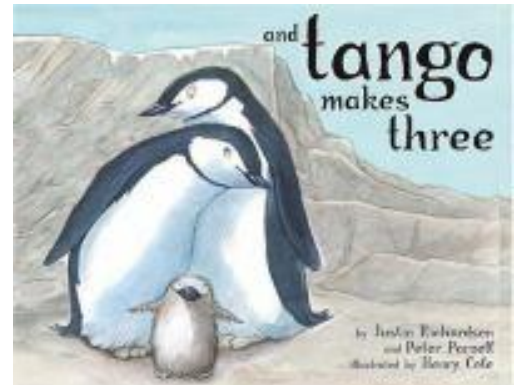
Join us on Wednesday, January 17th at 3:30 on Zoom!



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, January 21, 2023, we will share "And Tango Makes Three" by Justin Richardson. One of the most challenged books in the U.S., this true story about two male penguins and their foster chick at New York Central Park Zoo has also been removed from libraries in the U.K. and Singapore. In 2006, it was removed from libraries in the Calgary Catholic School District, A.B. due to homosexual themes. It has also been challenged for promoting a political viewpoint.



MARY LIVERMORE SOCIETY

The island of Cuba has a colorful and lively culture influenced by its rich mixture of native, African, and European decedents. Its history is reflected in vibrant art, music, food, and language.

The January meeting of the "Mary A's" will feature a program on Cuba!

Sharon Kufeldt and Rev. Betty have each traveled there and will talk about their experiences and reflections. A special added bonus will be traditional "*Pastelitos de Guayaba*" or little pastries filled with cream cheese and guava paste!

Join us on Thursday, January 25th at 11:30 in the Parish Hall!

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.

Here is the schedule, subject to change for the rest of 2023 and through June 2024:

January 25	5:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal	
January 28	9:30 AM	Choir Rehearsal for 10:30 AM Service	
		<i>The Path We Walk Upon</i>	<i>Catherine Dalton</i>
		<i>We Bid You Welcome</i>	<i>Richard Gilbert, Wally Kleucker</i>
February 15	5:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal	
February 18	9:30 AM	Choir Rehearsal for 10:30 AM Service	
		<i>Beloved, Let Us Love One Another</i>	<i>Arthur Foote, Jason Shelton</i>
March 28	5:00 PM	Rehearsal	
March 31	9:30 AM	Choir Rehearsal for 10:30 AM Service	EASTER
		<i>Halle Halle Halle</i>	<i>Hal Hopson, arr.</i>
April 11	5:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal	
April 14	9:30 AM	Choir Rehearsal for 10:30 AM Service	
		<i>The World is Full of Poetry from Earth Songs</i>	
		<i>Words, James Gates Percival, Music, David L. Brunner</i>	
May 9	5:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal	
May 12	9:30 AM	Choir Rehearsal for 10:30 AM Service	MOTHERS DAY
		<i>Still, Still With Thee</i>	<i>Fred Gramann</i>
		<i>The Gift of Love</i>	<i>Hal Hopson</i>
June 6	5:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal	
June 9	9:30 AM	Choir Rehearsal for 10:30 AM Service	FLOWER SUNDAY
		<i>Let There Be Music, Gordon Young or We are the Music, Carl Strommen</i>	
		<i>Life Calls Us On</i>	<i>Jason Shelton</i>

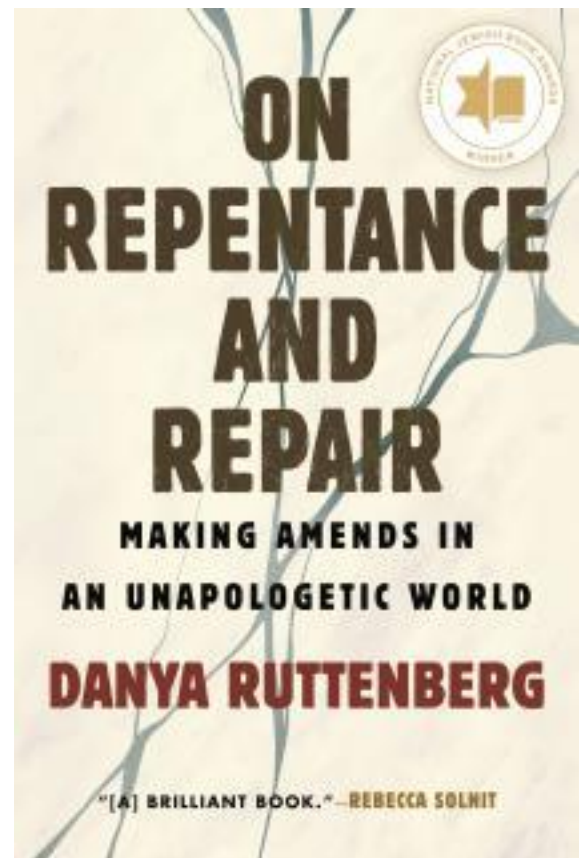
People and Doings

COMING: Sunday, Feb. 4 STONE SOUP SUNDAY

You remember the story of how a fine soup was made by tricking villagers into contributing a delicious thing they had at home to the pot of water heating up in the town square. Well, SP UUs are not into tricks, but we are appreciative of a delicious spread after the service. We're beginning a new tradition this first Sunday in February (and most first Sundays after) by inviting our attendees to bring something to share that day. We know not everyone has the time to accomplish a whole coffee hour on their own, so the first Sunday is the day you can bring your favorite cookies, that casserole you have in the freezer, a salad from the greens you didn't have time to eat, that leftover bag of chips- whatever! Just one thing to share! Bring it plated (or plate when you get here) and then, take it away with you. We celebrate together with what we have. Not everyone, every Sunday, and not anyone who likes to do the shebang, but sometimes. And, also, pitching in with the cleanup at the end is appreciated any Sunday.

ALL CHURCH READ

When we do a UU Common Read together, we share in reflection, learning, and action. A UU Common Read can take us on a powerful journey into what it means to be human and accountable in a world filled with both pain and joy. The Common Read of the Unitarian Universalist Association for the year is [*On Repentance and Repair: Making Amends in an Unapologetic World*](#) by Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg (Beacon Press, 2022). This Common Read offers a glimpse into one of our faith's foundational sources, Judaism. Readers explore our own call to be accountable in these modern times as we follow Rabbi Ruttenberg into a framework for making amends offered by the 12th century Jewish physician and scholar, Maimonides. *On Repentance and Repair* invites readers of any faith to explore practices for accountability that can bring us into wholeness and really make a difference in our personal, community, and national relationships. We will begin our discussions after church and coffee hour on Sunday, February 9 Rev. Maddie's office. It is available from the UUA Bookstore at <https://www.uuabookstore.org/On-Repentance-and-Repair-P19765.aspx>



People and Doings

Please stay tuned to our Friday Blast emails and website,
www.uucsp.org , for further details

Jazz Requiem and Tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr.

Sunday, January 14, 2024 - 4pm



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THE UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN
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

Universalist Unitarian Church
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