



Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula

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

uucspoffice@gmail.com website: uucsp.org

MARCH SERVICES, SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM

MARCH THEME: Transformation

Let mystery have its place in you; do not be always turning up your whole soil with the plowshare of self-examination but leave a little fallow corner in your heart ready for any seed the winds may bring, and reserve a nook of shadow for the passing bird; keep a place in your heart for the unexpected guests, an altar for an unknown God.

~ Henri-Frederic Ariel



March 3 Learning from Butterflies Rev. Maddie Sifantus, Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford, Worship Host
Maya Angelou wrote: “We delight in the beauty of the butterfly, but rarely admit the changes it has gone through to achieve that beauty.” Our theme this month is transformation. What changes do we need to go through to transform?

First Sunday Plate to Poder Popular

March 10 Swinging Both Ways...Ambivert! Rev. Maddie Sifantus, Ruth Ricards

How do extraverts and introverts live together? Which are you? How do we fit together in the puzzle of life? Perhaps you are a little of both, which, come to find out, is called an ambivert!

We move our clocks forward one hour.

Tuesday, March 12 7 PM Twilight Gathering Rev. Maddie Sifantus

This is a reflective time in our busy week to hear some inspiring music, share some silence and hear spoken word. Rev. Maddie will be joined by musician Eduardo Del Signore and poet Atul Ranchod as she has been many times over her ministry at UUCSP.

March 17 Ostara Rev. Maddie Sifantus, Ellen Deeb

This is the fourth in Rev. Maddie’s Spiritual Practices series when we will address Celtic Spirituality, the Spring Equinox and the importance of ritual in our spiritual practices on this St. Patrick’s Day.

Taboo for All Ages Big Bad Bun by Jeanne Willis and Tony Ross shared by Ruth Ricards

March 24 “Building Homes, Creating Community”

Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford, Jan Meslin, and Douglas Pillsbury

Last April, Rev. Betty joined other UUs, local residents, and master builders in Tijuana in a project to build a home for a family who worked with the group to realize their dream. During this service, you will see their time together in pictures – including the finished product. And some of those people will tell you what they learned from their experience, how it inspired and changed them, and how you can connect with a similar opportunity this April, sponsored by the UU Justice Ministry of California. Don’t miss it!

March 31 Halle, Halle, Halle Rev. Maddie Sifantus, Karen Harris

Easter has come around again with the coming of spring, new life and the possibility of transformation. We will share a few Good Eggs and mark the International Transgender Day of Visibility.

Our choir sings Halle Halle Halle, Hal Hopson, arr.

UUs of Our Past with Leslie Nichols

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

Message from the Minister

‘Tis the time of year! New things are blooming. Days are lengthening. The warmth is coming back, all the while with the hills being alive in green after the wonderful rain. The promise has been fulfilled: the world has made its turn around the sun and springtime has come once more. It is time to celebrate! It is time to sing *Halle! Halle! Halle!* as the choir will on Easter Sunday. It is time for spring cleaning and re-visioning how we live our lives.

A favorite poem for me at this time of year, written by UU poet Lynn Ungar, which works for both Ostara and Easter is “Breaking Ground”:

Living in the violence of Spring
Living in a time
where shells are cracking
and shapes alter
Who can afford to risk
forgetting the danger
forgetting the moment
the crocus bulb breaks ground
Never knowing whether
snow or sun or ice
awaits in warm or jagged welcome
There are no choices here
No careful path or
reasoned way
No holding in reserve for
some more settled,
more propitious time
But only the unconsidered
faith of the crocus
whose saffron petals echo
or demand the sun

I wish you a Happy Easter and however you celebrate the spring holidays, even if it is just a walk around the neighborhood. The tilt of our hemisphere toward the sun revives not only the flowers and grasses, it has a heartening effect on old plans. It is not necessarily “out with the old, in with the new”—tradition is important too. But we know that lives—and congregations—can be transformed by new directions and fresh possibilities. Alleluia! Halle, halle, halle! As my colleague Janet H. Bowering said, “We draw on that perennial source of life and hope presented by the returning sun—and if we name what happens to us resurrection, we will not be far off the mark.”

On the path of our faith, Reverend Maddie

Message from Board of Trustees

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 Rev. Maddie and Jim Cole. We host 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
Call church office for the Zoom address and password.
Like the FB page: Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula*

March 6 with Jim Cole

March 13 with Rev. Maddie

March 20 with Jim Cole

March 27 with Rev. Maddie

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, MARCH 12

7:00 PM

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

Led by Maddie Sifantus with Atul Ranchod

Special Guest Musician, Eduardo Del Signore from A Call To Peace

FREE WILL OFFERING TO A CALL 2 PEACE

In person at the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula

740 E Main Street, Santa Paula

OR ON ZOOM

People and Doings

NEWS FROM AMONG US MARCH 2024

- Our newest member Vanessa Acosta has moved out of the property she had been renting in the Oaks and is currently traveling. She is reachable on her cell phone and email as usual. She will be receiving her snail mail at 827 Roger Road, Santa Paula, CA 93060.
- 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

Have a concern or just want to chat? 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 will be out of town to attend the Pacific Western UU Ministers meeting in March, leaving after the Sunday Service and coffee hour on March 17. She will be back in the office on March 26. For concerns during this time, leave a message on the church office line: 805-525-4647. 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.

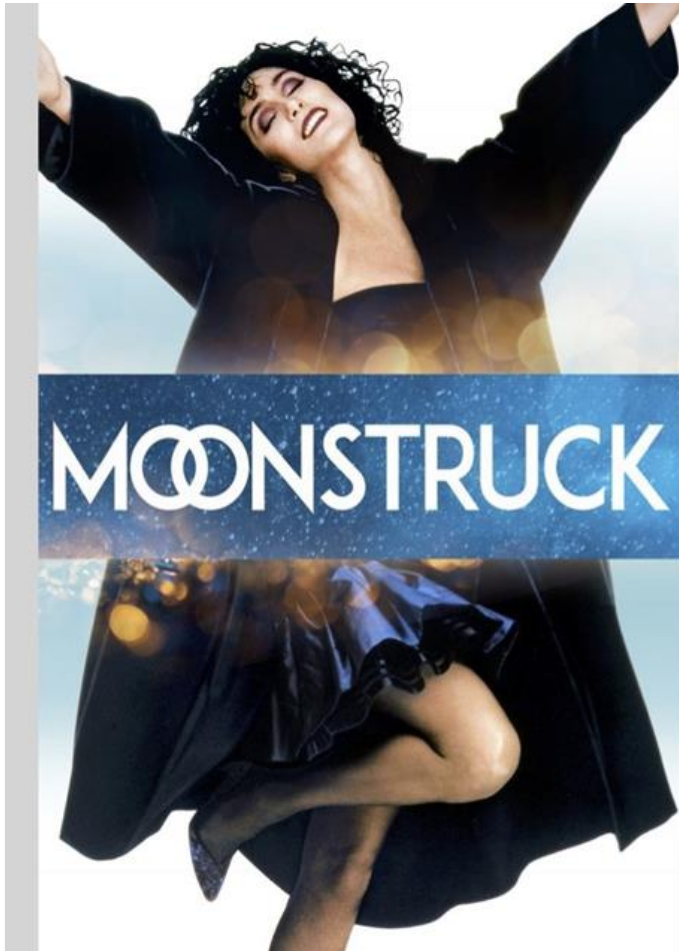
2024 1st QUARTER 1st SUNDAY OFFERING March 3

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.

STONE SOUP SUNDAY-MAR. 3, 2024: Join our UUCSP congregation every first Sunday of the Month Coffee Hour by bringing in something to share. It can be simple or expansive. A bowl of chips, little sandwiches, hardboiled eggs, home-baked or store-bought pastry, a casserole, or salad are suggestions. If you bring your offering plated, then you can whisk it away without washing it or stay and help with the cleanup. Get to know our/ your kitchen. Who knows? You might be emboldened to do a whole coffee hour yourself.

People and Doings

SANTA PAULA CINEMA SOCIETY



Loretta Castorini (Cher) receives a proposal of marriage from Johnny Cammareri (Danny Aiello), but the wedding can't take place until he returns from a last visit to his dying mother in Sicily. While Johnny is away she falls hard for his tortured younger brother Ronny (Nicholas Cage). Meanwhile, her plumbing contractor father Cosmo (Vincent Gardenia) is having an affair, which his long-suffering wife Rose (Olympia Dukakis) knows about as she contemplates one of her own with the suave college professor Perry (John Mahoney). It's difficult to keep track of all the romantic entanglements in this film without a scorecard (or a libretto). Who will end up with who? Only *la bella luna* knows!

Is *Moonstruck* (1987) a movie about an opera or opera about a movie? We do get some *La Bohème*, but otherwise the film has all the melodrama of opera, without the singing. It finds a space somewhere in between these two worlds, and this is one of its many charms. Created by the prolific director and producer Norman Jewison (who passed away earlier this year) and written by John Patrick Shanley, *Moonstruck* is a throwback of sorts to the romantic comedies of Hollywood's golden age. It lives in a place that neither exists nor is completely imaginary, an Italian-American Brooklyn that seems real only in the film. You might say it's a place that we hope exists, at least in our imaginations — and isn't this where movies live, after all? Academy Award winner for Cher, Dukakis and Shanley. (1:42)

SANTA PAULA CINEMA SOCIETY

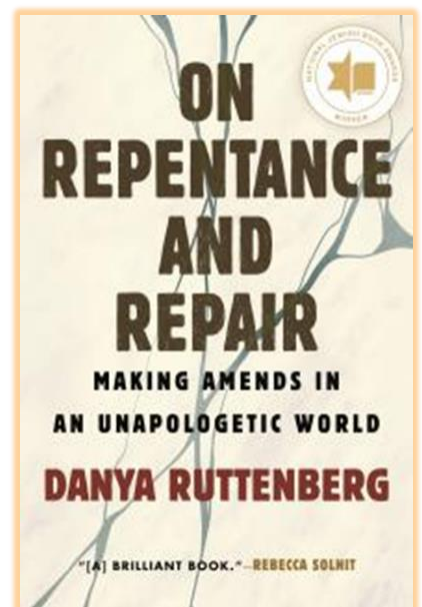
FRIDAY MARCH 8, 2024

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

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 continue our discussions after church and coffee hour on Sunday, March 10 in Rev. Maddie's office. Please read the first three chapters. The book is available from the UUA Bookstore at <https://www.uuabookstore.org/On-Repentance-and-Repair-P19765.aspx>



People and Doings

SIP AND CHECK IN WITH REV. MADDIE TUESDAY MARCH 12 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/731217775>

Meeting ID: 731 217 7775 Password: uucsp93060

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP:

THE BODY KEEPS THE SCORE

The Caring Committee's new Book Discussion group is now closed to new participants. The book is The Body Keeps the Score: Brain, Mind, and Body in the Healing of Trauma by Dr. Bessel van der Kolk. Be in touch with Rev. Maddie or Karen Harris, Caring Committee Chair, with any questions.

SCHEDULE

Second Thursdays from 3:00-4:30 PM

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



SOCIAL CONCERNS ACTION COMMITTEE

Social Concerns Action Committee will meet Wednesday, March 20 at 3:00 via Zoom.

MARY A. LIVERMORE SOCIETY

On March 8, 1908, women workers in the needle trades marched through New York City's Lower East Side to protest child labor, sweatshop working conditions, and demand women's suffrage. Beginning in 1910, March 8 became annually observed as International Women's Day.

Come to the **March 28th** meeting of the Mary A's and share your thoughts about what you have experienced/accomplished to further the rights of yourself/women. We will meet in the **Parish Hall at 11:30!** Bring a sack lunch. You never know what goodies will be served! All are invited!

People and Doings

MUSIC NOTES

I would love to have you join us for my last six months in Santa Paula! 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.

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>Over the Rainbow</i>	
		<i>Words, E. Y. Harburg, Music, Harold Arlen</i>	
May 16	5:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal	
May 19	9:30 AM	Choir Rehearsal for 10:30 AM Service	
		<i>The Gift of Love, Hal Hopson</i>	
		<i>When We Are Singing, Kevin T. Padworski, Mexican hymn</i>	
June 6	5:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal	
June 9	9:30 AM	Choir Rehearsal for 10:30 AM Service	
		FLOWER SUNDAY AND NEW MEMBER RECOGNITION	
		<i>We are the Music, Carl Strommen</i>	
		<i>Life Calls Us On</i>	<i>Jason Shelton</i>

COMMITTEE ON CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

According to the Bylaws of the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula, the Committee on Congregational Life's primary mission to evaluate the overall effectiveness of the congregation's ministry (ordained, staff and laity). The COCL is not a committee of the Board, but a committee of the congregation in special relationship to the Board. It consists of three members serving staggered terms of two years each, with no member serving more than three consecutive terms meeting with the minister. Current members are the Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford, chair, Kate English and Leslie Nichols. This is the group who considers and evaluates the shared ministries of the congregation including in this time of transition. Members and friends of UUCSP are encouraged to let Rev. Maddie or one of the members of the committee know if there are any issues of the ministries of the congregation of which they should be aware. The next meeting of the COCL will be **Thursday, March 28 at 6:30 PM in person at Rev. Maddie's home.**

People and Doings



April 4-7, 2024

Tijuana, Mexico

UU Justice Ministry of California

**Join Unitarian Universalists
Help a Family Build Their
Dream Home!**

Come help build a home with us! Team up with 20 other UU congregants throughout the state.

UU Justice Ministry of California and UURISE (UU Refugee and Immigration Services and Education) have partnered with Casas de Luz, a non-profit which has organized building small homes in Tijuana for 18 years.

1. Local master carpenters guide the project. There are easy jobs and more skilled jobs to choose from.
2. IMPORTANT NOTE: You will need a current passport or global entry pass.
3. For more information and to register, and/or donate, go to UUJMCA website <uujmca.org> and open “Pilgrimages to the Border” and click on “Building Homes, Creating Community.”
4. Detailed itinerary: <https://uujmca.org/event/building-homes-creating-community/>
5. The total cost to build this home, including materials, room, board, and transportation is about \$10,000. Lots of fundraising is happening to make it affordable for anyone who wants to build.
6. FUNDRAISING: Donate at UUJMCA website or donate at the February 25 worship service in SLO or the March 24 worship service in Santa Paula.

SANTA PAULA CONCERT SERIES
PRESENTS

THE ROWAN BROTHERS



Join Us for an Evening of Acoustic Roots Music with a Dash of Americana & Bluegrass, as We Welcome Chris and Lorin Rowan back to the Santa Paula Concert Series! Come enjoy their Trademark Tight Harmonies and Haunting Melodies!

Sunday, April 14th at 3:00 p.m.

Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula

740 E. Main Street, Santa Paula, CA 93060

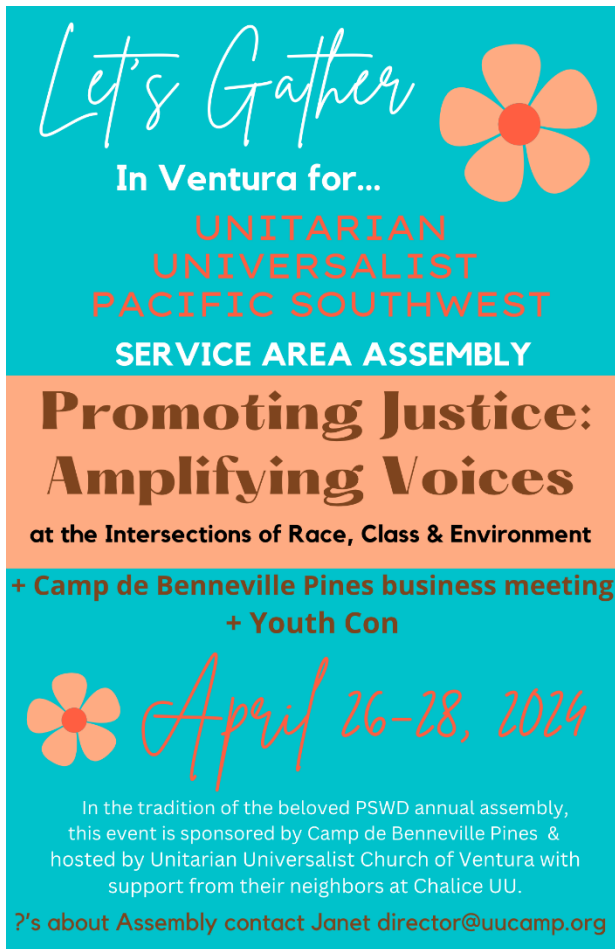
805-525-4647 – www.uucsp.org

Donation \$25.00 Children 12 & Under \$10.00

Free for Children 5 and Under

UUCSP is a Registered Ventura County Historical Landmark

People and Doings



Let's Gather

In Ventura for...

**UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
PACIFIC SOUTHWEST
SERVICE AREA ASSEMBLY**

**Promoting Justice:
Amplifying Voices**

at the Intersections of Race, Class & Environment

+ Camp de Benneville Pines business meeting
+ Youth Con

April 26-28, 2024

In the tradition of the beloved PSWD annual assembly, this event is sponsored by Camp de Benneville Pines & hosted by Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura with support from their neighbors at Chalice UU.

?s about Assembly contact Janet director@uucamp.org

Join us to share what's going on in your congregation and enjoy meaningful keynote topics, an assortment of workshops, youth con activities, music, worship, meals and more!

Highlights of the weekend program include:

Keynote speaker Hop Hopkins, who has been organizing for over 25 years at the intersections of race, class, gender, and the environment. Most recently, he was the director of organizational transformation at the Sierra Club, where he was instrumental in helping the organization evolve into a commitment to anti-racism.

Kenote speaker Lucas Zucker, co-executive director of CAUSE (Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy) whose mission is to create grassroots power through community organizing, leadership development, coalition building, civic engagement, policy research, and advocacy to attain social, economic, and environmental justice for working-class and immigrant communities in California's Central Coast.

Emma's Revolution, a camp and UU favorite, will perform for us. Emma's Revolution is an American folk music and social justice activist duo, consisting of songwriters Pat Humphries and Sandy Opatow (a.k.a. Sandy O).

PSSWSAA Youth Con, a weekend youth conference and overnight gathering for UU youth in grades 8th through 12th!

Camp de Benneville Pines Annual Business Meeting, learn about what's happening up at our spiritual mountain top home. Please sign up to be a delegate representing your congregation when you register.

There are two ways to attend this Assembly: In Person or Virtually via Zoom. The keynote speaker presentations, camp's business meeting and the Sunday worship service will broadcast virtually. We have a two-tier pricing structure. Level 1 pricing helps cover the basic cost of attending. Level 2 pricing helps support others who need financial assistance to attend.

In Person Attendance Pricing

Level 1 = \$85
Level 2 = \$110

Virtual Attendance Pricing

Level 1 = \$60
Level 2 = \$85

If you have questions about registration, contact Laura Chamberlin @ fundraising@uucamp.org. If you're interested in serving as a delegate and would like additional information, please contact Dale Botts, vice president of camp's board of directors at dale.botts2@gmail.com.

Our Contact Information

Camp de Benneville Pines
PO Box 82
Angelus Oaks, CA 92305-0082
(909) 794-2928
<http://www.uucamp.org>

VIRTUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JUNE 20 - 23, 2024



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2024—ALL VIRTUAL

General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we conduct business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles. Please join us online Wednesday, June 20 through Sunday, June 23, 2024, for this 4-day immersive experience where we participate in inspirational worship services and informative workshops, reconvene with friends and colleagues, and explore our virtual exhibit hall. GA is an unforgettable experience for the thousands of UUs who participate. You'll leave with renewed energy and innovative ideas to share with your congregation and community-at-large! In addition to Rev. Maddie and Rev. Betty, UUCSP is allowed 2 voting delegates who will be appointed by the Board. Anyone is allowed to attend. This year is all virtual. For more information and costs go to: <https://www.uua.org/ga/registration>

Registration

Registration is available at [UUA.org/GA](https://www.uua.org/ga). Register before March 1 for the lowest rate. Rates will increase on March 1 and again on May 15.

There are those who may find it more manageable to spread out their GA registration fee in smaller, periodic installments rather than one lump sum. When you register, you may now choose to pay with a payment plan option to spread out your payments over several months. Registration can be paid in installments, with as little as \$50 down.

THE UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN
CHURCH OF SANTA PAULA

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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:

Mitch Stone, President,

Ken Stock, Vice-President

Ann Hewitt, Secretary,

Jerry Gray, Treasurer

Margaret Wilaon, Member at Large

Tech Support Team:

Monika Murillo Giselle Larios

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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