

Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula

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

uucspoffice@gmail.com website: uucsp.org

MAY SERVICES, SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM

MAY THEME: Pluralism

*He drew a circle that shut me out-
Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout.
But love and I had the wit to win:
We drew a circle and took him In!
~Edwin Markham*



May 5

Bringing in the May

Rev. Maddie, Constancia Leshin

May Day means different things to different people. From Beltane to International Workers Day, we consider the workers and all of our places in the arc of the agricultural year.
First Sunday Plate to Friends of the Santa Clara River Preserve

May 12

Mothering

Rev. Maddie, Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford

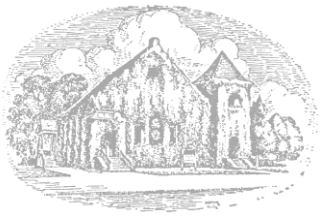
A special service on Mother's Day featuring East Coast pianist Jacqueline Schwab, readings and thoughts on Mothering: being a mother, having a mother and those who may have mothered us

SPECIAL MUSICAL GUEST ON MOTHER'S DAY

Pianist Jacqueline Schwab is delighted to return to share her music at the UU Church of Santa Paula. She spins musical stories out of the myriad strands in the American quilt and with the spirit of community music making at their heart. Her signature playing features in over a dozen of Ken Burns' documentaries, including his Grammy-winning *Civil War*, *Baseball*, *Lewis and Clark*, *Mark Twain*, *The War* and *Benjamin Franklin*, as well as *The Irish in America—The Long Journey Home* and other PBS documentaries. She has performed at the White House for President Clinton and twice on PBS with the *American Pops Orchestra*, and she has accompanied Scottish singer Jean Redpath on public radio's *A Prairie Home Companion* and on CBS's *Late Show with David Letterman*. As a solo pianist, she has performed vintage music in almost every state of the Union. She is well known to the traditional dance world for her groundbreaking playing with the Bare Necessities ensemble. Her recently-released solo album *I Lift My Lamp—Illuminations from Immigrant America* celebrates vintage music from American immigrants. She has recently collaborated with the Alliance for New Music—Theatre, in Washington, DC, for an evening of theatrical readings of plays about the war in Ukraine. Jacqueline graduated from New England Conservatory, majoring in piano improvisation. She grew up in Pittsburgh and has since lived in Boston and on Cape Cod. She is married to UU minister Rev. Edmund Robinson, currently serving First Parish Hingham, MA. Jacquelineschwab.com



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



Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula

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

uucspoffice@gmail.com website: uucsp.org

Tuesday, May 14 7 PM 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. The music will be provided by violinist Christine Snipes Mazor and pianist. Geno Palilla. Rev. Maddie will sing as well. Original poetry by Atul Ranchod.

May 19 Sing Through My Voice Rev. Maddie Sifantus, Ruth Ricards

Sixth in Rev. Maddie's series on Spiritual Practices. The series continues with a consideration of the use of sound and singing as a way to make life more sacred. Our choir sings.

Taboo for All Ages It's A Book by Lane Smith Shared by Ruth Ricards

Choir The Gift of Love, Hal Hopson

When We are Singing, Kevin T. Padworski, Mexican Hymn

May 26 "A Prayer for Permanent Peace" Ellen Deeb, with Ken Stock

On this Sunday morning, the day before the official Memorial Day, we will have an opportunity to commemorate those who have honorably served our nation, especially those who have sacrificed their own lives. While doing so, we will also reaffirm our commitment to forging peace in our hearts and around the world.

We can include our own "Moment of Remembrance" during the meditation.

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

As I am writing this, I am preparing to take some of my last vacation and study leave, visiting friends who live in San Miguel de Allende in Central Mexico. I will be leading worship for the UU Fellowship there in two series thinking about the community ministry I once had and how the arts and music can help build community (not to mention be a lot of fun). I will be talking about this trip at the regular meeting of the Mary A. Livermore Society in person on Thursday, May 23 at 11:30 AM in the Parish Hall. I will be taking a lot of pictures of this beautiful ex-pat community and sharing my experiences.

Meanwhile, I am going through many of my “lasts” with you and hope you will join me for many of the events before I leave my settled ministry here on July 15. Here is a partial list:

May 5, 2024	Last Beltane with Constancia Leshin
May 12, 2024	Mother’s Day Service with Jacqueline Schwab and Rev. Betty
May 14, 2024	Twilight Gathering with Atul Ranchod, Christine Mazor and Geno Palilla
May 19, 2024	Sing Through My Voice, Spiritual Practices Series, with Ruth Ricards
May 19, 2024	Santa Paula Concert Series: Emergence String Quartet
May 23, 2024	Maddie shares her travels at Mary A. Livermore Society
June 1, 2024	Open House Celebration of Ministry from 2-5 PM
June 9, 2024	Last Flower Communion
June 16, 2024	Last service in Spiritual Practices Series, “Write It Down” with Ken Stock
June 23, 2024	Last Earth Based Service: Summer Solstice with Karen Harris
June 23, 2024	Recital with Vincent Sorisio, Maddie and Mariana Franco-Smith
July 3, 2024	Last Meditation Practice Group with Rev. Maddie
July 5, 2024	Last Cruise Night
July 9, 2024	Last Sip and Check In With the Ministers on Zoom
July 9, 2024	Last Twilight Gathering with Atul Ranchod Donna Lynn Caskey and Steve Werner
July 14, 2024	Last Service, “Letting Go In Love” Liturgy of Retirement and ceremony with Roberto Vargas

It is a bittersweet time for me and likely for many of you...but let us go out in joy!

On the path of our faith, Reverend Maddie

Message from Board of Trustees

MEET THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

First up Ann Hewitt, Board Secretary

This has been a busy year for all of us at UUCSP. My role in this busy-ness has been helping with the search for a new contract Minister, along with MaryBeth East, Leslie Nichols, Ken Stock and Judy Triem. What a powerhouse we are! The Board asked me to tell you all a little bit about myself, my history, my hobbies. You probably all know I'm married to Richard Hauge. You may not know we met at a Club Med in Cancun in 1986. I flew down from Canada for the first vacation I'd ever taken; he flew over from California. Eight months later we were married, and I moved to California. Before I met Richard, I grew up in Quebec City with my four sisters, lived in Ottawa, sang lead in a small pop band, studied in England, taught Sociology in the far north of Canada, completed my Ph.D. Then I married Richard in a beautiful UU church on the banks of the Ottawa River. I loved wintertime and snow, so moving to Southern California was a huge adjustment. But I now happily call this part of the world my home.

My hobbies? Of course, my volunteer work isn't a hobby, but it takes up a lot of my time. I volunteer with the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Ventura, Soroptimist International of Ventura and of course, the UUCSP as Chair of the Building and Grounds Committee. My passion otherwise is watercolor painting. This was my retirement/Covid discovery. Mitch Stone, our President, asked me to include a photo of myself in this little bio, but I thought I'd just insert one of my most recent paintings, completed at a workshop in Santa Fe.



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*

May 1 with Jim Cole

May 8 with Rev. Maddie

May 15 with Jim Cole

May 22 with Rev. Maddie

May 29 with Jim Cole

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.

MAY 14, 2024 at 7:00 PM

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

Led by Maddie Sifantus with poet, Atul Ranchod

Guest Musicians, Christine Mazor and Geno Palilla

Free will offering (\$5-20 suggested)

740 E Main Street, Santa Paula

People and Doings

2024 2nd QUARTER 1st SUNDAY OFFERING May 5, June 2

Friends of the Santa Clara River/Nature Conservancy



The Santa Clara Preserve spans almost two miles of this amazing waterway and encompasses nearly 1,000 acres of upland habitat and riverbed.

There are few locations on the Santa Clara River that are accessible to the public. Now with the opening of this preserve, TNC has provided a beautiful space for outdoor education, community gatherings, wildlife viewing and hiking. On the preserve we want to give everyone a chance to connect with the dynamic Santa Clara River. The Nature Conservancy has made major strides in protecting one of the most important and intact river systems in Southern California. The Santa Clara River is a vital source of drinking water for the local community, as well as a key resource for many prosperous farms. It also offers some of the last riverside and freshwater habitat for wildlife in the bustling Los Angeles-Ventura region. Despite its local and regional ecological importance, the lower Santa Clara River is threatened by invasive non-native vegetation, intense levee building, poor water quality, conversion from agriculture to urban land uses and increasing development in the floodplain. In 2005, American Rivers designated the Santa Clara River as one of the most threatened rivers in the nation.

Starting high up in the Angeles National Forest in Los Angeles County, flowing down into Ventura County and into the estuary at McGrath State Beach, the Santa Clara River and its tributaries are surrounded by more than 12 million people. As the population soars, urban sprawl bears down on the river and its watershed, threatening:

- The supply and quality of the region's freshwater, including precious groundwater reservoirs that are fed by the river;
- The farmers whose fields and groves line the river and surrounding lands, making a healthy contribution to the local economy and regional identity; and
- The plants and animals within the watershed that rely on the extensive habitat of the river system, including a staggering 16 species within one mile of the mainstem of the river that are federally and/or state listed as threatened or endangered.

Adding to the pressure, 95% of Southern California's river and wetland habitat has already been lost. In fact, this is one of the last rivers in Southern California that remains relatively natural. Other major rivers in the region, including the Santa Ana, San Gabriel and Los Angeles, have been reduced from lush, flowing rivers to largely concrete channels with very little wildlife habitat.

People and Doings

NEWS FROM AMONG US MAY 2024

- Rev. Maddie continues to visit Mary Nelson at Thousand Oaks Post Acute as well as Cathy Casselman who we were happy to see back at church on a recent Sunday. She thanks Rev. Betty and Ellen Deeb who also visit Mary, as well as Sharon Kufeldt and Rev. Betty who check in with Cathy. Let Rev. Maddie know if you would like a home visit or a meeting in her office.
- 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.

SAVE THE DATE – JUNE 1, 2024

On Saturday June 1, 2024, the congregation of the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula will host a "Celebration of Ministry" for Maddie Sifantus from 2 to 5pm. Come to recognize Maddie's contributions to our church members and the greater Ventura County community as she leaves her role as a settled minister. Organizers Ruth Ricards, Leslie Nichols and MaryBeth East will be your contacts for how you can contribute to the reception.

REV. MADDIE'S OFFICE HOURS

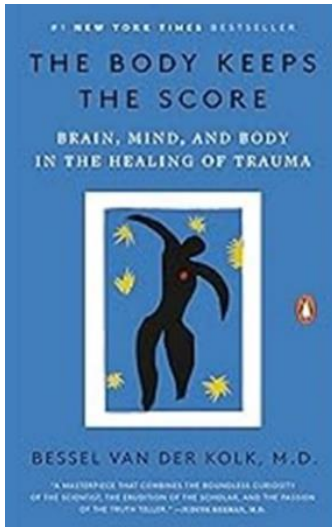
Have a concern or just want to chat during this time of transition? Rev. Maddie's office hours are Tuesdays through Fridays. Her day off is Monday and will respond to Monday emails, phone calls or texts on Tuesday unless it is an emergency. Saturday is her study/sermon writing day. She would love to 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. Unless it is an emergency, please do not text or call after 6 PM.

CARING COMMITTEE

The Caring Committee was revitalized in 2017 and since then has met to consider 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 and will be important during the ministerial transition. 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, May 9 at 1:30 PM in Rev. Maddie's office.* Be in touch with Karen Harris or Rev. Maddie for more information at minister@uucsp.org or 805-525-4620.

People and Doings

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP: THE BODY KEEPS THE SCORE FINAL TWO BOOK DISCUSSION MEETINGS



The Caring Committee has sponsored a book discussion group of *The Body Keeps the Score* by Dr. Bessel van der Kolk this spring. This group is closed to new participants. The final two meetings will be on Thursday, May 9 and June 13 at 3:00 PM in the Parish Hall. 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. Be in touch with Rev. Maddie or Karen Harris, Caring Committee Chair, with any questions.

SANTA PAULA CINEMA SOCIETY

Elia Kazan's 1957 film "A Face in the Crowd" manages to be more just a period piece — it's a chillingly relevant exploration of media manipulation and the rise of demagogues.

The story centers on Lonesome Rhodes (Andy Griffith), a down-and-out drifter plucked from obscurity by a small-town radio host, Beth Lucas (Patricia Neal). His folksy charm and unfiltered honesty resonate with audiences, catapulting him to national television fame. But beneath the folksy facade lurks a manipulative narcissist. Rhodes uses his platform to control public opinion, exploit anxieties, and ruthlessly wield influence.

Kazan masterfully depicts the seductive power of media. We see how Rhodes' unvarnished pronouncements, delivered with an air of folksy wisdom, resonate with a disaffected public. The film doesn't shy away from the dark side of fame, showing how Rhodes' ego inflates with each adoring viewer.

Griffith sheds the good-natured persona we remember from TV entirely, portraying Rhodes as a charismatic villain. Neal is equally compelling as Beth, initially dazzled by her discovery's potential, but ultimately horrified by the monster she helped create.

"A Face in the Crowd" transcends its 1950s setting, anticipating the rise of social media and reality television. It serves as a stark reminder of our vulnerability to manipulation and the importance of media literacy in a world saturated with information and misinformation. The film ends on a bleak note, but it leaves a lasting impact, urging viewers to be critical consumers of media and wary of charismatic figures who promise easy answers. Also featuring Walter Matthau, Anthony Franciosa, and Lee Remick. (2:06)



SANTA PAULA CINEMA SOCIETY

FRIDAY MAY 10, 2024

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

People and Doings

RECITAL BY GENO PALILLA'S PIANO STUDENTS

Saturday, May 11 at 2:00 PM
In the Sanctuary ~ All Invited ~ Free



SIP AND CHECK IN WITH REV. MADDIE TUESDAY, MAY 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/731217775>

Meeting ID: 731 217 7775 Password: uucsp93060

THE SOCIAL CONCERNS ACTION COMMITTEE

will meet by Zoom at 3:00, May 15. New members are welcome.

MARY A. LIVERMORE SOCIETY

May Program for the Mary Livermore Society

Our May program for the "Mary A's" will be on Thursday, May 23rd at 11:30 am in the Parish Hall of the UUCSP.

It is going to be a super interesting and special program featuring our own Rev. Maddie Sifantus sharing the stories of her recent trip to San Miguel de Allende!

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us! Bring your lunch and maybe a goodie. to share! Looking forward to seeing many of you there! All are welcome!

People and Doings

MUSIC NOTES

I would love to have you join us for my last months in Santa Paula! In addition to the last two regular Sundays in May and June, I will be asking folks to join an ad hoc choir to sing at my last service on Sunday, July 14. Stay tuned for details on that. I direct rehearsals take place in the Sanctuary. We are accompanied by our church musician, Vincent Sorisio and take place in the Sanctuary. Please be in touch with me with any questions at minister@uucsp.org or 805-525-4620.

Yours in Song, Rev. Maddie

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, Jason Shelton (with congregation)</i>
July 14		Ad hoc choir for Rev. Maddie's last service <i>Draw the Circle Wide, Gordon Light and Mark A. Miller</i> Stay tune for details

MEMBERSHIP OF UU SANTA PAULA

Do want to be recognized as a *new member* on Flower Sunday, June 9? Are you an *official member* of the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula or thinking of becoming one? Becoming a member of UUCSP is an individual decision, so some people in a family may be member while others are not. While only members can vote on church matters like the budget or calling a new minister, both members and non-members alike are welcome to attend services and other church activities, volunteer, and contribute financially to our congregation. Like many other UU churches, we have dedicated friends who have been active in our congregation, perhaps for years, but have never signed the membership book. Is this your time to make a deeper commitment?

The conditions for membership, according to our bylaws, are these: "This society shall welcome as members any person who is in sympathy with the purpose and program of this church, has signed 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. Membership is open to all persons 13 years of age or older without regard to race, color, gender, national origin, physical or mental challenges, sexual orientation, or gender identification. Members are expected to make an identifiable financial or service contribution.

If you fall into that "friend" (active non-member) category, you might want to consider becoming a member now. If you have never gotten around to signing the book, but want to become an official member now, it's easy—simply arrange with Rev. Maddie to sign the membership book

Santa Paula
Concert Series
presents

Emergence String Quartet

Sunday
May 19
3 PM

*Reflections: Works to Celebrate the Beauty and
History of Ventura County*

*The Emergence String Quartet will present a
concert of pieces portraying our coastal home
including the "Channel Islands Suite" by Santa
Paula's own composer Ashley Hoyer.*



Kerenza Peacock
Karen Long

Pam Gates
Virginia Kron

Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula

740 E. Main Street, Santa Paula

805-525-4647 www.uucsp.org

Donation: \$25, children 5-12 \$15, under 5 free

UUCSP is a registered Ventura County Historical Landmark

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 the 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! This year is all virtual. For more information, costs and registration go to: <https://www.uua.org/ga/registration> Register before March 1 for the lowest rate. Rates will increase on March 1 and again on May 15.

Although anyone is allowed to attend, UUCSP is allowed 2 voting delegates who are appointed by the Board in addition to Rev. Maddie and Rev. Betty. Delegates must register for GA in order to vote. Delegates have two options:

1. Full registration for online events or
2. Business only registration, which provides access to the Delegate Platform for discussion and voting. The latter does not require payment, but a donation is suggested to offset production and platform costs.

More information regarding GA and delegate responsibilities is available at General Assembly: The Unitarian Universalist Association's Annual meeting at www.uua.org.

Margaret Wilson has stepped up to serve as a delegate. We have room for one more. Please let Mitch Stone or Rev. Maddie know if you are interested in serving our congregation in this way.

THE UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN
CHURCH OF SANTA PAULA

740 East Main Street
Santa Paula, CA 93060

Office: 805-525-4647

office@uucsp.org

www.uucsp.org

www.facebook.com/uucsp



Sunday Worship Services at 10:30 am

Rev. Maddie Sifantus, Minister, Choir Director

Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford, Affiliate Minister

Krystal Johnson, Office Administrator

Vincent Sorisio, Church Musician

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
of Santa Paula
740 East Main Street
Santa Paula, CA 93060