



Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula

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

uucspoffice@gmail.com website: uucsp.org

June Theme: Freedom

Don't get caught in the past, because the past is gone.

Don't get upset about the future, because the future is not yet here.

There is only one moment for you to be alive, and that is the present moment.

Go back to the present moment and live this moment deeply, and you'll be free.



JUNE SERVICES, SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM

Sunday, June 1 *Trans-Figuration: Finding God in Transition*

Thomas Weisbecker and Ariel Alexander with Ruth Ricards

Various Christian cultures throughout history have envisioned Jesus in ways that reflect their deepest hopes for justice and liberation—across races, nations, and traditions. In honor of Pride Month, we invite you to an exploration of transgender theory, transgender experience, and the recognition of a “third,” transcendent, non-binary way of being. Today’s American media is filled with unchecked misconceptions about transgender lives, making compassionate theological reflection more necessary than ever. As the embodiment of divine transformation, Jesus calls us beyond binaries—always toward broader horizons of love, justice, and understanding of ourselves and others.

1st Sunday offering: Food Share Stone Soup Sunday coffee hour

Sunday, June 8 *Flower Sunday and New Member Recognition* Thomas Weisbecker & MaryBeth

Join us in celebration of our annual Flower Communion—a Unitarian Universalist tradition honoring the beauty of diversity and community. On this day we’ll recognize our newest members and participate in the shared ritual of exchanging flowers. We invite all members and friends in attendance to please bring a flower for the communion service.

Sunday, June 15 *Our Desert Fathers: Paul of Thebes & Antony of Egypt*

Thomas Weisbecker and Ken Stock

Join us for a special Father’s Day service as we reflect on the lives and legacies of two of Christianity’s earliest monastic figures—Paul of Thebes and Antony of Egypt. These early Desert Fathers, who sought solitude and spiritual growth in the Egyptian desert, offer profound insights into faith, perseverance, and the search for meaning in a chaotic world. This service invites us to explore their wisdom while honoring the nurturing and transformative roles of fatherhood.

Sunday, June 22 *Summer Stories – Past, Present and Future*

Ruth Ricards and violinist Christine Snipes-Mazur

We will honor the longest day of the year, Summer Solstice, with the traditional calling of the Four Directions, plus we will have the opportunity to listen to Carol Hardison, MaryBeth East and Thomas Weisbecker share tales and thoughts on summer’s past, present and future. Special music will be provided by Christine Snipes Mazur, violinist.

Sunday, June 29 *Remember the Stonewall Riots*

Thomas Weisbecker, Ellen Deeb

On the anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, join us as we reflect on the historic events of June 28, 1969, and their lasting impact on the LGBTQ+ rights movement. This service will explore themes of resistance, resilience, and the ongoing fight for justice and equality, honoring the spirit of those who bravely stood up for their rights.

While we celebrate the progress made, we also recognize the challenges we still face today—such as the continued struggle for the recognition of a third gender, transgender rights, and full acceptance of all identities. Together, we will renew our commitment to inclusivity and acceptance for all, standing in solidarity for a more just and compassionate future.

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

Message from Congregational Director

Dear Friends,

As we step into the summer month of June, I'm filled with gratitude—for our community, for our beautiful historic church, and for the journey we've shared together this spring. I continue to be so inspired by you, our members and friends, who generously share your presence and time, talents, and treasure. Thank you for being YOU—and for being the heart of our beloved congregation.

I'm truly excited about what's ahead for our community, especially as we prepare to welcome our new minister, Carolyn Bjerke. It has been my hope and prayer to serve at our new minister's right hand, and I'm pleased to share that the Board of Trustees has affirmed this call. As the details of my new responsibilities unfold, I trust they will be shared promptly and transparently.

In May, our theme of Imagination invited us to see the world—and our place in it—with new eyes. We explored the moral mythos of *Star Wars* with Mayor Pedro Chavez, we honored the visionary 12th-century wisdom of Hildegard and Elisabeth on Mother's Day, renewed our commitment to LGBTQIA+ inclusion and peace in preparation for Pride month, and last but not least, we beheld the powerful witness of our own veteran Sharon Kufeldt.

Now, as we enter June—Pride Month—our theme turns to Freedom. Let us reflect on what it means to live authentically and freely, with integrity, and in community. Pride invites us to celebrate the vibrant diversity in our midst, while also acknowledging the continued work of building a world grounded in belonging and justice. This month's services will include reflections on transgender experience and theology, spiritual freedom in the desert tradition, the legacy of the Stonewall Riots, and the joyful rituals of the Summer Solstice.

We'll also celebrate Father's Day, welcome our newest members, and honor the stories that shape us—past, present, and future—during our annual Flower Service.

As always, I'm especially grateful to our office staff, worship team, guest speakers, musicians, lay leaders, and volunteers, whose dedication makes all of this possible.

May you and yours be well this June—grateful to be free, and proud to be you!

With gratitude,

Thomas J. Weisbecker

Congregational Director

Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula

Message from Board of Trustees

Dear Members and Friends of the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula,

I am so honored and filled with joy to introduce myself as your new minister beginning September 1st.

When I first stepped into your beautiful sanctuary, I felt a sense of connection - of history, spirit, and welcome. It is a true privilege to be joining you for this next chapter of our journey together.

Some of you may already know me through shared connections or neighboring congregations, and for others, we will be meeting for the first time. My name is Carolyn Bjerke, and I come to you with a heart shaped by music, ministry, and a lifelong call to deepen our shared spiritual life.

For over a decade, I served as the Music Director at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura, and for the past year and a half, I've had the joy of serving as an intern minister at the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara. I've also worked as a hospice chaplain and with the Ventura County Fire Department, offering spiritual support in tender and transformative moments. I currently serve on the board of Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice, an interfaith organization committed to advocacy around homelessness, immigrant rights, and environmental justice.

I grew up in Minnesota but have long called California home. I've raised three wonderful children, the youngest will head off to college this Fall, and I'm partnered with my husband, Mike. I find deep joy and renewal in the natural world, whether hiking, camping, or simply spending time outdoors.

I enter this ministry with reverence for the sacred work you've already been doing and with curiosity about the stories, hopes, and dreams that live within your congregation. I bring with me a commitment to justice, a love for collaborative ministry, and a strong belief in the transformative power of spiritual community. My greatest call in ministry is to help people connect: to themselves, to one another, and to something larger than us all. I believe in the power of spiritual community to hold us through sorrow and joy, to call us toward justice, and to remind us that we are never alone.

What drew me to Santa Paula was the sense of possibility and heart I sensed in this congregation, your history, your care for one another, and your presence in the wider world. I feel truly honored to be walking this path with you.

In the coming months, I look forward to getting to know each of you, in worship, over coffee, and in moments of reflection. I promise to show up with an open heart, a listening ear, and deep respect for this beloved community.

With gratitude and excitement,
Carolyn Bjerke



Spiritual Growth Center

SPIRITUAL GROWTH CENTER

Discover a deeper sense of connection, purpose, and transformation at our Spiritual Growth Center. Through engaging programs and practices, we cultivate love, compassion, service, and personal growth—empowering individuals to enrich their lives and create a more just and peaceful world.

Our core offerings include:

- Yoga – Energize and restore with weekly classes.
- Meditation – Find stillness and clarity every Wednesday evening.

For more details about any of our offerings, or to bring your ideas for spiritual growth to life, contact the church office.

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 PRACTICES GUIDED ZEN BUDDHIST MEDITATION

Experience authentic zazen with Buddhist Master Rev. Seikai Luebke from Pine Mountain Meditation Center. First Wednesday of each month in the Parish Hall.

Free Will Offering.

June 4



MEDITATION PRACTICE

Find your center with on Wednesday night Zen practice, in person and on Zoom with Thomas Weisbecker.

Check the church calendar for details.

Contact Thomas Weisbecker

at 805-856-8120 or

congregationaldirector.uucsp@gmail.com

Free Will Offering.

June 11, 18, & 25

People and Doings



2025 2nd QUARTER 1st SUNDAY OFFERING June 1

This month, our First Sunday plate offering will support Food Share of Ventura County, a vital nonprofit dedicated to feeding those in need. Food Share provides meals to thousands of individuals and families facing food insecurity, relying on corporate and small business support, individual donations, and federal funding. This year, a \$400,000 federal funding cut—equivalent to eight truckloads of food—has significantly impacted Food Share's ability to serve the community. With an annual budget of \$8 million carefully planned in advance, this reduction poses a serious challenge. While only 10% of their funding comes from the federal government, the majority is sustained by the generosity of donors like you.

Sip And Check In with Sharon Kufeldt Tuesday, June 10 at 4 pm on Zoom

Each month, on the second Tuesday, Sharon Kufeldt graciously offers members of the congregation an opportunity to connect with one another on Zoom. This unstructured segment of time (between 4 and 5 p.m.) gives those who do check in, whether regularly or occasionally, a chance to share. Oftentimes one doesn't wish to express anything directly, yet it is another avenue for fellowship with one another.



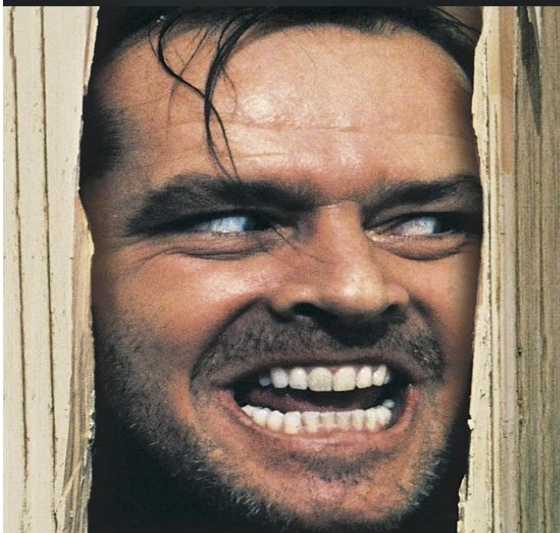
Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 731 217 7775 Password: uucsp93060

SANTA PAULA CINEMA SOCIETY

THE SHiNiNG



It's been a while since we showed a scary movie at SPCS, and this 1980 film from Stanley Kubrick is certainly one scary movie. But because it's Kubrick, "The Shining" is more ambitious than your run-of-the-mill genre scare-fest flick. Film critic Roger Ebert pointed out that Kubrick was essentially messing with our sense of reality by creating a film populated by unreliable witnesses. It isn't really a ghost story; it's a closed-room mystery. Is anyone in this story telling us the truth about what happened in the isolated box where the story takes place? Are these events all occurring within the tortured imagination of one of the characters? And if so, which one? Kubrick isn't going to give us any clues – he's using the film medium to manipulate our sense of reality. This movie is memorable and effective at creating unease not only for its arresting imagery (which is spectacular), but because it never explains, never provides us with a pat answer to the basic "what happened?" question. Because it is so non-literal, it exists more in our minds than on the screen. With Jack Nicholson, Shelley Duvall, Danny Lloyd, and Scatman Crothers, and based on a novel by Stephen King.

SANTA PAULA CINEMA SOCIETY
FRIDAY JUNE 13, 2025

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

People and Doings

The Social Concerns Action Committee – Wednesday, June 18

Universalist Unitarians have a long-standing commitment to issues like human rights as well as environmental and social justice issues. Our Social Concerns Action Committee (SCAC) has long been concerned with issues about immigration, detainees, DACA, Dreamers, farmworkers housing and other relevant issues. We meet on zoom the third Wednesday of each month at 3:00 pm. You are each invited to tune in!

Knowledge is power! Our country and the world are in the midst of rapid change, some of which is directly affecting our population in Ventura County. Come and learn about what is going on and what you can do at the next meeting of the Social Concerns Action Committee! Our June meeting will be held on zoom on Wednesday, June 18th at 3:00!

SCAC Bike Giveaway

The Social Concerns Action Committee sponsored an event in partnership with Ventura Bike Club on Saturday, May 24 at the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula.

11 deserving children were given a refurbished bike of their choice and were fitted with a safety helmet.

Thank you to volunteers Gabino Aguirre, Nina Danza, Audrey Vincent, Maureen Kimberling, Ellen Deeb and Thomas Weisbecker



People and Doings

Caring Committee meeting on June 19 at 4pm in the parish hall

UUCSP Board of Trustees

Will meet on Thursday, June 19 at 6:30 pm in the parish hall.

Worship Team

Will meet Tuesday, June 24 at 4:00 pm on Zoom

Mary A. Livermore Society - Thursday, June 26

Mary Livermore was a woman's rights activist, educator, journalist/editor, and nurse who lived during the late 19th Century. Our Mary A. Livermore Society ("Mary A's") has held meetings for over 100 years and is the longest standing women's group in Ventura County. We meet in the Parish Hall on the 4th Thursday of each month at 11:00 am. Our programs are interesting and relevant! Attendees bring their lunches and often there are delicious goodies available. Come join us!

Our June meeting to be held on Thursday, June 26th at 11:30, will feature Mary Ann Krause who will speak about "Santa Clara Valley Together", a community action group concerned with equality and justice in the Santa Clara Valley. The group meets the 4th Thursday of each month at the Santa Paula Community Center. Plan to join us at 11:00 in the UUCSP Parish Hall and bring a sack lunch!

JUST FOR FUN !! JUNE



On June 11, 2025, the Full Strawberry Moon will light up the night sky. June's full Moon—typically the last full Moon of spring or the first of summer—has traditionally been called the Strawberry Moon. While strawberries certainly are a reddish-pink color and are roundish in shape, the origin of the name “Strawberry Moon” has nothing to do with the Moon's hue or appearance, despite the evocative imagery (shown in the artist rendering below). A Moon

usually appears reddish when it's close to the horizon because the light rays must pass through the densest layers of the atmosphere. Here's a fun fact: In the Northern Hemisphere, it will be the lowest Full Moon seen until 2043, staying unusually close to the horizon. When the Moon is low in the sky it appears especially big.

June Moon Folklore

- *A growing Moon and a flowing tide are lucky times to marry.*
- *Days following both the New and Full Moons are most likely to be rainy or stormy.*
- *Crabbing, shrimping, and clamming are best when the Moon is full.*

Fun Facts of June

- *Birthstone:* Pearl, Alexandrite, and Moonstone
- *Season:* Summer in Northern Hemisphere, Winter in Southern Hemisphere. The summer solstice marks the longest day of the year, while the summer equinox marks the point where day and night are of equal length.
- *Notable Holidays:* Juneteenth (US), Father's Day (many countries),
- June is National Safety Month in the United States, promoting awareness of safety and injury prevention.
- The Arctic Circle experiences 24 hours of daylight around the summer solstice in June.
- The June birth totem animal in Native American culture is the deer.
- June is Pride Month, celebrating LGBTQ+ communities worldwide.

continued

People and Doings

- June 14th is Flag Day in the United States, commemorating the adoption of the U.S. flag.
- *Flower: Rose and Honeysuckle.* Roses are among the most recognizable flowers, often given as a sign of affection because they have long been a symbol of love. The honeysuckle, with its tubular flowers, is a magnet for hummingbirds and represents happiness and positive energy.



SAVE THE DATE

Universalist Unitarian Church
of Santa Paula
Spiritual Growth Center

**Sound Bath &
Tipica Sale to Benefit
Friendship Bridge**

July 19, 2025
1:00-2:30 p.m.

740 E Main Street
Santa Paula, CA

\$30 suggested donation

Can't attend but want to help?
Make a donation online at
www.friendshipbridge.org



People and Doings

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT/MEETING	Zoom/In-person
Sunday	1-Jun	10:30 AM	Worship	both
Tuesday	3-Jun	9:30 AM	Yoga with Lisa	in- person
Wednesday	4-Jun	6:00 PM	Meditation with Rev Seikai	both
Thursday	5-Jun	9:30 AM	Yoga with Lisa	In-person
Friday	6-Jun	7am - 1pm	Church Cleaning	
Sunday	8-Jun	10:30 AM	Worship	both
Tuesday	10-Jun	9:30 AM	Yoga with Lisa	In-person
Tuesday	10-Jun	4:00 PM	Sip & Check In	zoom
Wednesday	11-Jun	6:00 PM	Meditation - Thomas Weisbecker	both
Thursday	12-Jun	9:30 AM	Yoga with Lisa	In-person
Friday	13-Jun	7am - 1pm	Church Cleaning	
Friday	13-Jun	9:30 AM	Finance Committee meeting	zoom
Friday	13-Jun	7:00 PM	SP Cinema Society	zoom
Sunday	15-Jun	all day	July newsletter deadline	
Sunday	15-Jun	10:30 AM	Worship	both
Tuesday	17-Jun	9:30 AM	Yoga with Lisa	In-person
Wednesday	18-Jun	3:00 PM	Social Concerns Action Committee mtg.	zoom
Wednesday	18-Jun	6:00 PM	Meditation with Thomas Weisbecker	both
Thursday	19-Jun	9:30 AM	Yoga with Lisa	In-person
Thursday	19-Jun	4:00 PM	Caring Committee meeting	In-person
Thursday	19-Jun	6:30pm	Board of Trustees meeting	in-person
Friday	20-Jun	7am - 1pm	Church Cleaning	
Sunday	22-Jun	10:30 AM	Worship	both
Tuesday	24-Jun	9:30 AM	Yoga with Lisa	In-person
Thursday	24-Jun	4:00 PM	Worship Team meeting	zoom
Wednesday	25-Jun	6:00 PM	Meditation with Thomas Weisbecker	both
Thursday	26-Jun	9:30 AM	Yoga with Lisa	In-person
Thursday	26-Jun	11:00 AM	Mary A's meeting	In-person
Friday	27-Jun	7am - 1pm	Church Cleaning	
Sunday	29-Jun	10:30 AM	Worship	In-person

THE UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF
SANTA PAULA

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www.facebook.com/uucsp



Sunday Worship Services at 10:30 am

Thomas Weisbecker, Congregational Director

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

Rev. Maddie Sifantus, Minister Emerita

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

*Dated Material
Time Value*

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