



# Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula

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uucspoffice@gmail.com website: uucsp.org



## AUGUST SERVICES, SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM

### **August 3 Does Everything Really Happen for a Reason?**

**Kate English and Ken Stock**

When life turns upside down, many turn to the idea that “everything happens for a reason.” But is that comforting idea always true—or helpful? Grounded in psychological research on meaning-making and the Unitarian Universalist value of spiritual growth, this service invites us to explore how we make meaning in times of chaos or grief. We’ll reflect on coherence, significance, and purpose—not as givens, but as spiritual practices we build together.

### **August 10 I Will Write Peace on Your Wings and You Will Fly All Over the World**

**Ellen Deeb and Ken Stock**

On August 6 and 9 it will have been eighty years since the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki respectively. These remain, to date, the only times that nuclear weapons have been used during an armed conflict. Today, nine countries are in possession of nuclear weapons. As we reflect on the devastation of August 6 and 9, 1945 in Japan, let us recommit to our work towards a more peaceful world.

### **August 17 Believe In Miracles? Dr. Rev. Betty Stapleford and Ruth Ricards**

In these chaotic times, many of us can sink into a sense of despair. And magical thinking is not a true solution. So, why am I proposing that we could believe in miracles? It is because miracles may not just be the result of supernatural forces but of our own actions. So, I invite you to come imagine and create a real dream with me this morning - one that we can all share.

### **August 24 The Jewish High Holy Days of Fall: Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur**

**Rabbi Michael Lotker and Marybeth East**

The most sacred days in the Jewish Calendar come in the fall with Rosh HaShanah (the New Year) and Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement). The 10 “Days of Awe” that fall between the two holy days are a time of introspection and seeking forgiveness from people we know and from God. Rabbi Lotker will explain the history and significance of these days with a focus on how the Judaism practiced today developed and differs from Biblical Judaism. He will also bring and sound his shofar, the animal horn traditionally heard on these days. In addition, he will have copies of his book, A Christian’s Guide to Judaism, for purchase.

### **August 31 At the Threshold Carolyn Bjerke and Ruth Ricards**

As summer begins to turn, we find ourselves standing at a threshold, not quite where we’ve been, and not yet where we are going. In this first service of our shared ministry, we will mark this beginning, honor the grief still present among us, and open our hearts to what may emerge. Together, we will begin to shape a season of becoming, rooted in love, courage, and deep listening.

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

## Message from the Minister

*Dear ones,*

*As summer unfolds in longer days and lighter evenings, I hope you are finding moments of rest, joy, and connection. Whether you're soaking up the sun, tending a garden, or simply enjoying a slower rhythm, this season invites us to pause and breathe a little more deeply.*

*This time also holds transition. As many of you continue to grieve the loss of Thomas Weisbecker, I want to honor his presence in this community and the imprint he left through his ministry. Grief moves differently for each of us, and I know that healing comes in waves—often accompanied by memory, story, and quiet reflection. May this congregation be a place where all of that is held with tenderness.*

*As I prepare to begin my time with you, I'm filled with anticipation. I'll be in the office starting August 11, and my first Sunday in the pulpit will be August 31. That service, titled "Crossing the Threshold," will begin a four-part worship series exploring how we navigate change, individually and collectively, with honesty, courage, and care. I hope it will offer grounding as we step into this new season together.*

*I look forward to meeting those I haven't met yet, listening deeply, and discovering together what ministry can look like here and now. I trust that wisdom and care already flow strongly at UUCSP, and I am grateful to be stepping into that stream with you.*

*Until then, may your summer days be spacious and your hearts well-tended.*

*With care,  
Carolyn*

# Message from Board of Trustees

Board President's Message: Pleas, bees, and more!

First, the plea: Recently, the board began asking for the congregation's help (and especially those who have been issued church keys) with opening and closing the church on Sundays. The board has been covering this duty for some time, but it became something of a burden since the board member had to arrive early and be the last to leave church on every Sunday in three months of the year. We called it "A Month of Sundays" because this is what it demanded.

The solution the board implemented is a signup list similar to what we already have for Coffee Hour. We now call it "Sunday Stewardship," and made these duties a lot less onerous. No one person has to be responsible for "a month of Sundays" — and nobody will be required to both open and close (unless they choose to do both).

"Opening" means arriving at the church by 10:00 a.m., setting out the sandwich board sign, checking the lift operation by the side entrance, then standing at the front door to greet, hand out orders of service, and ask guests if they would like to sign our mailing list. You will generally not need a church key to open, as the Worship and Tech teams will already be there. "Closing" means being the last person out the door, making sure the sandwich sign is taken in, and all of the doors, gates, and windows are closed and locked, lights are off, and heat turned off. You will need keys to close.

The signup list is on a clipboard on the table in the Parish Hall, next to the Coffee Hour signup list. Thanks to everyone who has already taken a Sunday Stewardship opening or closing, and to everyone who signs up in the future!

Now, the bees. Some of you surely noticed last month that we had a beehive established in our building. The bees entered through a ventilation grate on the east side, near the gate. This situation was discovered when Krystal and Eric found dead and live bees in the sanctuary. It turned out the bees were falling down from the hive through the wall cavity to a grate on the inside near the sanctuary floor. After having two beekeepers look at the situation, we found one who was able to remove the grate and the beehive. It was enormous!

A couple more items: We will soon be scheduling a deescalation training session with the Santa Paula Police Department. Discussion on this with SPPD began late last year after our encounter with an individual who seemed hostile one Sunday. This situation has so far not reoccurred, fortunately, but this gives us an opportunity to be better prepared for such incidents in the future. I am told the training is an hour or two. Date and time TBA. I will see if I can get a Saturday for this, but it will more likely be on a weekday during the day.

One final plea: if you have a meeting scheduled, either live at the church or on Zoom, please let Krystal know so it can be added to the church calendar and we can avoid scheduling conflicts.

With gratitude to all,  
Mitch



# 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 –Our Meditation Practice Group is currently on hold.*

*Please stay tuned for future offerings.*



## 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](mailto:soaringheartsyoga@gmail.com) for more information.



## JUST FOR FUN

The birth flowers for August



**Gladiolus**



**Poppy**

**Gladiolus**, a symbol of strength and love, provides height to the garden and a splash of much-needed color in the final full month of the summer season.

The **poppy**, known best for its red color and made famous by a poem written more than a century ago, has long been associated with those lost during times of war.

# People and Doings

## RIDDLE ME THIS

- 1) I follow the sun, my petals are gold, and I stand tall and bold. What am I?
- 2) I bloom in spring with a trumpet so bright, my colors are yellow, a joyful sight. What am I?
- 3) I am born of a flower grown without seeds, yet I flock to the heavens with ease. I bring tears, though there's no cause for mourning, but I am undone by a breeze. What am I?
- 4) In gardens and ponds, I stand with such grace, my petals are white, a serene, gentle place. I rise up so tall, both calm and so silly, what am I?
- 5) All but two are roses, all but two are tulips, all but two are daisies. How many flowers are in the bouquet?

*Answers found at the bottom of the next page.*

## 2025 3rd QUARTER 1st SUNDAY OFFERING August 3, September 7



*Providing short-term financial relief to  
undocumented residents.*

Before disaster hits, 805 UndocuFund works with a lean team that focuses on developing community partnerships, advancing inclusive policies for immigrants in disaster, and helping shape local and state disaster planning, community preparedness, and long term recovery work.

When disaster hits, we distribute emergency one-time financial relief to undocumented residents in Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties, and we work with key stakeholders to share critical information with our community. Much of our work is possible thanks to the invaluable support and leadership of hundreds of bilingual and trilingual immigrant volunteers who deeply care and wish for better treatment and opportunities for their community members.

<https://www.805undocufund.org/>

## SIP AND CHECK IN TUESDAY AUGUST 12 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.

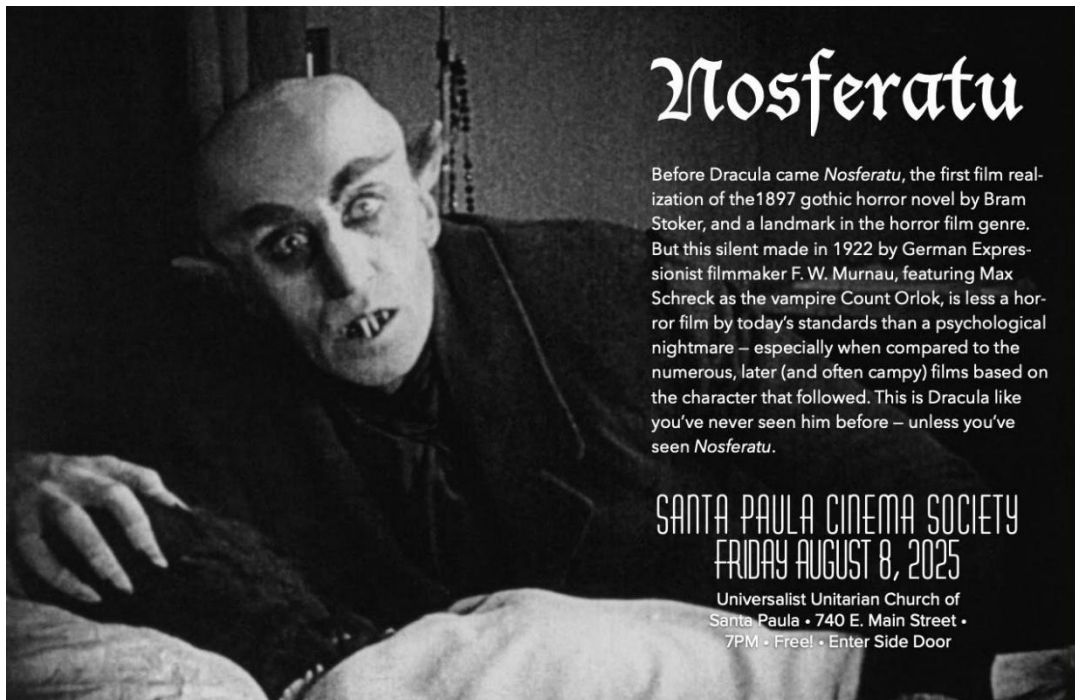
**Join Zoom Meeting** <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7312177775>

Meeting ID: 731 217 7775 Password: uucsp93060



# People and Doings

## SANTA PAULA CINEMA SOCIETY



### **The Social Concerns Action Committee – Wednesday, August 21st at 3:00**

ICE activities are increasing throughout Ventura County and beyond. Our neighbors and friends are beginning to be affected and afraid to go out of their houses to shop, go to work or school. Come to the next Social Concern's Meeting on Zoom to hear the latest and what we can do!

### **Caring Committee meeting on Thursday, August 21st at 4pm in the parish hall**

**Board of Trustees will meet on Thursday, August 21st at 6:30 pm in person.**

**Worship Team will meet pm on Zoom Tuesday, August 26 at 4:00 pm on Zoom**

### **Mary A. Livermore Society – Thursday, Thursday, August 28th at 11:00**

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!

At a very early age, Ellen Deeb shares that she exhibited a very inquisitive mind. Her insatiable curiosity, aligned with her quest for adventure and discovery, has affected her life in many ways....both locally and worldwide. Our August meeting of the Mary A's will feature Ellen who will captivate us with the stories of her life. Join us in the Parish Hall at 11:00 for conversation and then at 11:30 for Ellen's story! As usual bring a bag lunch!

*Riddle answers: 1) Sunflower, 2) daffodil, 3) dandelions, 4) lily, 5) three*

# People and Doings

DATE	TIME	EVENT/MEETING	Zoom/In-person
1-Aug	7am - 1pm	Church Cleaning	
3-Aug	10:30 AM	Worship service	both
5-Aug	9:30 AM	Yoga with Lisa	In-person
7-Aug	9:30 AM	Yoga with Lisa	In-person
8-Aug	7am - 1pm	Church Cleaning	
8-Aug	7:00 PM	SP Cinema Society	zoom
10-Aug	10:30 AM	Worship service	both
12-Aug	9:30 AM	Yoga with Lisa	In-person
12-Aug	4:00 PM	Sip & Check In	zoom
14-Aug	9:30 AM	Yoga with Lisa	In-person
15-Aug	all day	August Newsletter deadline	
15-Aug	7am - 1pm	Church Cleaning	
15-Aug	10:00 AM	Finance Committee meeting	zoom
17-Aug	10:30 AM	Worship service	both
19-Aug	9:30 AM	Yoga with Lisa	In-person
20-Aug	3:00 PM	Social Concerns Action Committee meeting	zoom
21-Aug	9:30 AM	Yoga with Lisa	In-person
21-Aug	4:00 PM	Caring Committee meeting	In-person
21-Aug	6:30pm	Board of Trustees meeting	zoom
22-Aug	7am - 1pm	Church Cleaning	
23-Aug	5:30 PM	Geno Palilla recital	In-person
24-Aug	10:30 AM	Worship service	In-person
26-Aug	9:30 AM	Yoga with Lisa	In-person
26-Aug	4:00pm	Worship Team Meeting	zoom
28-Aug	9:30 AM	Yoga with Lisa	In-person
28-Aug	11:00 AM	Mary A's meeting	In-person
29-Aug	7am - 1pm	Church Cleaning	
31-Aug	10:30 AM	Worship service	In-person

THE UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN  
CHURCH OF SANTA PAULA

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[www.uucsp.org](http://www.uucsp.org)

[www.facebook.com/uucsp](https://www.facebook.com/uucsp)



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Sunday Worship Services at 10:30 am

Board of Trustees:

Mitch Stone, President,

Ken Stock, Vice-President

Ann Hewitt, Secretary,

Jerry Gray, Treasurer

Margaret Wilaon, Member at Large

Krystal Johnson, Office Administrator

Vincent Sorisio, Church Musician

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](http://www.uucsp.org)

Join our Facebook page at

[www.facebook.com/uucsp](https://www.facebook.com/uucsp)

*Dated Material*  
*Time Value*

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