



Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula

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

uucspoffice@gmail.com website: uucsp.org

OCTOBER SERVICES, SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM



Sunday, October 5 — *When Compassion Costs Us Something*

Carolyn Bjerke and Alice Henderson

Compassion is not soft sentiment. It is the courage to stand open when the world urges us to close down. It is the willingness to risk tenderness in a time of hardness. This Sunday we explore the October theme by asking what it means to embody compassion when it is most costly, and most needed.

1st Sunday Plate : Interface Children and Family Services
Stone Soup coffee hour

Sunday, October 12 guest speaker Matthew Vestuto and Ellen Deeb

Matthew is the Tribal Chairperson of the Barbareno/Ventureno Band of Mission Indians (Chumash). His mission has been to save the official language of his tribe -misqanaqan - a language that has been extremely endangered. In Matthew's words, "I want to see our culture live." He will share thoughts about his tribe, the land and issues involved with Lulapin, the place that is sacred to the Chumash. His words will be particularly fitting as Indigenous People's Day is then recognized on October 13.

Sunday, October 19 — *The Shape of Our Love*

Carolyn Bjerke and MaryBeth East

Compassion is love made visible. It shows up in the choices we make, the resources we share, and the community we sustain together. On this Canvass Sunday, we reflect on how our collective compassion takes form in this congregation, as justice, as hospitality, as shared ministry, and why this love matters in these times.

Sunday, October 26 — *A Wider Circle of Belonging*

Carolyn Bjerke and Ken Stock

Compassion is the ground from which true belonging grows. It is the force that keeps us at the table when conflict threatens to drive us apart, and the grace that keeps calling us back to community. We will imagine the wider circle of compassion that is waiting for us and, the renewal it offers to a weary world.

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

Message from the Minister

Compassion in Conflict

Think of a time when you were in conflict — maybe with a family member, a co-worker, or even within yourself. What shifted the tension? So often, it wasn't winning the argument. It was compassion, the decision to soften, to listen, to see the other as human. Compassion in times of conflict is not easy. It asks something more of us than comfort or agreement. It asks us to stay present when our instinct may be to walk away or harden our hearts.

Recently, I learned about Zara Bharadwaj, the founder of *Together We Rise*. Zara is a 17-year-old senior in Portola Valley, California, originally from India, and passionate about bridging divides through grassroots storytelling. Her award-winning documentary *Humanity Over Hate* gathers stories of compassion that emerged during the 2020 Delhi riots. Through her foundation, faith panels and workshops for youth, she continues to share these stories of social co-existence and conflict resolution, reminding us that kindness is more powerful than division. As Zara says, we just have to choose it first <https://www.twr.world/>

Here in Santa Paula, I see the same truth. I keep hearing stories of church members and local organizations offering groceries, housing, and support. This is compassion in conflict, people stepping in where division could easily take hold, and instead creating space for dignity and survival.

Compassion does not erase accountability. It does not mean we pretend the conflict isn't real. But it does mean we remember the humanity of the one before us.

As we move into October, our worship services will take up this theme of compassion.

Together we'll ask:

- How do we practice compassion when divisions deepen?
- What spiritual grounding helps us remain open when fear or anger rise?
- What does it mean for us, as a community, to embody compassion in this season?

I hope you will carry these questions with you into daily life. Look for the places where compassion is already alive in you. Practice offering it in small ways. In these times, compassion is not just kindness. It is a form of courage, and it is a path toward healing and peace.

Carolyn Bjerke, Minister

Message from the Worship Coordinator

"Song for Autumn"

Mary Oliver

*Don't you imagine the leaves dream now
how comfortable will be to touch
the earth instead of the
nothingness of the air and the endless
freshets of the wind? And don't you think
the trees, especially those with
mossy hollows, are beginning to look for

the birds that will come -six, a dozen- to sleep
inside their bodies? And don't you hear
the goldenrod whispering goodbye,
the everlasting being crowned with the first
tuffets of snow? The pond
stiffens and the white field over which
the fox runs so quickly brings out
its long blue shadows. The wind wags its many tails. And in the evening
the piled firewood shifts a little,
longing to be on its way.*

On Monday, September 22, 2025, the Sun will cross the celestial equinox at 11:19 a.m. PDT. Throughout 2025 the Sun continues to be in its solar maximum phase. Brilliantly colored auroras have been observed by those fortunate enough to have witnessed this magic across the globe.

Here, in our Universalist Unitarian Community, we have been celebrating one of the Earth's four crucial elements ~ water.

We have honored the meaning that myriad sources of water hold in our lives, sharing these tributes with others here in our congregation during our Ingathering Service.

Now, October, in its magnificence, is nearly upon us. I share author Jerry Wilber's sentiments..."Moan with pleasure as this miracle month with the Harvest Moon unfolds before your eyes." The migration of millions of birds continues unabated, filling the firmament above, a harbinger of the dormant season that lies ahead. The stubble of shorn cornstalks and bundled bales of hay replace the verdancy of fields, now fallow after the harvest.

Some will embrace these abbreviated days, appreciating the silence during the darker hours, the time to reflect, the quintessential flavors and scents of Autumn.

Others may bid farewell to summer with a feeling of regret, longing for its enveloping warmth, its gentler breeze.

We here at the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula will continue to gather, to celebrate all of Nature's gifts, with all of her vagaries and wonders.

Ellen Deeb, Worship Coordinator

Message from Board of Trustees

Welcome to October!

If you've been around our congregation for a while, or if you read last month's Board page in this newsletter (ahem...), you will remember that October is canvass/pledge month. Our theme this year, courtesy of our new minister Carolyn Bjerke, is

Crossing the Threshold.

We know some people may not be familiar with the term "canvass" as it relates here.

It is an older use of the word, and at one time those in charge of funding our church actually canvassed the congregation door to door. That quaint practice has been discontinued – for quite some time, actually – but we here at UUCSP still use the term. Basically you will be asked – we reach out via postal mail – to pledge financial support to the church.

Members and friends of the congregation should receive a letter and pledge card during the second week of October. We ask that, if you are able, you bring your completed pledge card to "Canvass Sunday" on October 19. You can also return your pledge via mail or on a different Sunday if you can't be in Santa Paula on the 19th. However you return your pledge, we ask that you do so as soon as possible, which will allow us to begin the budget process for next year.

Thank you from your Canvass Team:

Mary Beth East, Luisa Haskell, Richard Hauge, Jerry Gray

People and Doings



2024 4th QUARTER 1st SUNDAY OFFERING

October 5, November 2, December 7



Established in 1973, Interface Children & Family Services is the region’s most comprehensive nonprofit social services agency providing direct, responsive, wrap-around services to address the complex needs of clients and our local community.

As a critical safety net for children and families, Interface provides 30 distinct programs across seven core program areas including [mental health & trauma treatment](#), [domestic violence & child abuse prevention](#), [youth crisis & homelessness](#), [human trafficking prevention & intervention](#), [justice services](#), and [211 information & assistance](#) in 31 California counties.

Today, Interface serves tens of thousands of local individuals annually, assists 250,000+ callers through the 211 call center across the state, and continues to earn the respect of individuals, businesses, and foundations, which provide grants, donations, and in-kind services to ensure that the work of Interface is sustained.

Interface works collaboratively with many other service providers. We are the only agency with a presence in all existing, formalized “under one roof” facilities across Ventura County. With collaboration, Interface best provides family support, domestic violence intervention, outreach, and youth activities, as well as prevention and counseling within economically challenged communities. To establish a foundation of violence prevention and mental health, Interface embeds five family-strengthening objectives into its programs:

- Help parents develop resiliency
- Help families develop a support system
- Help families secure practical help when they need it
- Teach parents how to raise healthy children
- Help children to develop socially and emotionally

People and Doings



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.

SIP AND CHECK IN TUESDAY OCTOBER 14 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

There will not be a movie showing this month.

The Social Concerns Action Committee Meeting on October 15th at 3:00 pm!

The mission of House Farmworkers is to promote affordable, safe and stable housing for Ventura County farm workers and their families. Federal immigration law, policy and enforcement are only tangentially related to that mission. The organization also tries to avoid involvement in partisan debate, believing that there are opportunities to work with partners in local government on issues that matter to the community we serve regardless of political affiliation. This worthwhile organization will be featured at our October 15th meeting on zoom! We welcome you to tune in!

Caring Committee will meet on Thursday, October 16 at 4pm in the parish hall

Board of Trustees will meet on Thursday, October 16 at 6:30 pm in the parish hall.

Worship Team will meet pm on Zoom Tuesday, October 21 at 3:00 pm in the parish hall.

Mary A. Livermore Society – Thursday, October 23 at 11:00 am

Mary Livermore Society October 23rd Meeting! Our October meeting will be a picnic held at the lovely home of Jyl Atmore in The Oaks. We will organize a delicious potluck lunch so bring your appetite and your own robust energy. We will start at 11:00 on the 23rd so be prepared to spend several pleasant hours together! We have an informal program planned that includes sharing an interesting adventure we have had in our lives (Part 2). Let Constancia know what delicious dish you plan to bring!

People and Doings

THE SCOUNDRELS ARE AT IT AGAIN !!!!

PHISHING: DON'T TAKE THE BAIT

Someone calls the church office describing an emergency, claiming to be a staff member or leader. They have been robbed and need money wired to them ASAP.

Or congregation members receive emails that are requesting gift card donations for a charitable cause.

Religious groups and congregations are becoming easy targets for these types of scams. Hackers are getting more sophisticated every day. The best defense is to pause and look for warning signs before responding to any unsolicited email.

Phishing is a form of “social engineering,” whereby a hacker with bad intentions sends an email (or text or phone call) pretending to be someone the recipient trusts and asks the recipient to take an action which can have adverse effects. Sometimes, they request money. Other times, they invite the recipient to click a link or open an attachment that can trigger malicious code.

A good rule of thumb with emails you're not expecting is to: (1) reach out to the sender through another channel (call, text, visit website) and (2) not click on a link (or send money, gift cards, etc.) without clarifying from the trusted source. A [gift card scam](#) has been making the rounds of churches of all denominations.

Related scams can include unsolicited telephone calls that try to trick you into sending money or giving your private financial information. If it sounds too good to be true, it is! Be safe.

Phishing is a scam where criminals use deceptive emails, texts, or phone calls to trick victims into revealing personal information or visiting malicious websites, potentially leading to identity theft or financial loss.

Here's a breakdown of what to look for and how to protect yourself:

Recognizing Phishing Attempts:

- **Suspicious Sender:**

Be wary of emails or messages from unfamiliar or seemingly legitimate sources with incorrect or misspelled domain names.

- **Urgent or Threatening Language:**

Watch out for messages that create a sense of urgency or threaten dire consequences if you don't take immediate action.

- **Requests for Personal Information:**

Be cautious of any request for personal information like passwords, credit card details, or social security numbers, especially if it's unsolicited.

- **Spelling and Grammar Errors:**

While AI-generated phishing emails can be sophisticated, look for poor grammar, misspellings, or unusual language.

- **Unusual Links or Attachments:**

Avoid clicking on links or opening attachments from unknown senders, as they may lead to malware or phishing websites.

- **Unrealistic Offers or Deals:**

Be skeptical of emails or messages that promise something too good to be true, like winning a lottery or receiving a large sum of money.

- **Generic Salutations:**

If an email addresses you with a generic salutation (e.g., "Dear Customer" or "Dear User") instead of your name, it could be a sign of a phishing attempt.

JUST FOR FUN

The flowers for October



Marigolds

Marigolds are known for their bright colors and strong odor and have long been associated with death and grief. They are a prominent fixture in Day of the Dead festivities, used to decorate gravesites and home altars.



Cosmos

Cosmos is a symbol of order and balance, peace and innocence. They represent luck and have many medicinal purposes.

There are three supermoons in 2025, occurring on October 7 (Hunter's Moon), November 5 (Beaver Moon), and December 4 (Cold Moon). A supermoon happens when a full moon coincides with the moon's closest approach to Earth, known as perigee, making it appear larger and brighter.

Fun fact: In 2025, October's full Moon is closer to the equinox than September's, so it takes the name Harvest Moon, while September's Moon was called the Corn Moon.

Unlike other full Moons, it rises about the same time for several nights, providing extended evening light. Historically, this extra illumination helped farmers complete their harvests before fall frosts.

For observers in California, the Harvest Moon will be best seen on **Monday, October 6, 2025, during moonrise around sunset**. It will appear full and especially large and bright for several nights, from October 5 to October 7.



People and Doings

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT/MEETING	Zoom/In-person
Thursday	2-Oct	9:30 AM	Yoga with Lisa	In-person
Friday	3-Oct	7am - 1pm	Church Cleaning	
Sunday	5-Oct	10:30 AM	Worship service	both
Tuesday	7-Oct	9:30 AM	Yoga with Lisa	In-person
Thursday	9-Oct	9:30 AM	Yoga with Lisa	In-person
Friday	10-Oct	7am - 1pm	Church Cleaning	
Friday	10-Oct	10:00 AM	Canvass/Finance Committee meeting	zoom
Sunday	12-Oct	10:30 AM	Worship service	both
Tuesday	14-Oct	9:30 AM	Yoga with Lisa	In-person
Tuesday	14-Oct	4:00 PM	Sip & Check In	zoom
Friday	15-Oct	all day	November Newsletter deadline	
Wednesday	15-Oct	3:00 PM	Social Concerns Action Committee meeting	zoom
Thursday	16-Oct	9:30 AM	Yoga with Lisa	In-person
Thursday	16-Oct	4:00 PM	Caring Committee meeting	In-person
Thursday	16-Oct	6:30pm	Board of Trustees meeting	zoom
Friday	17-Oct	7am - 1pm	Church Cleaning	
Sunday	19-Oct	10:30 AM	Worship service	In-person
Tuesday	21-Oct	9:30 AM	Yoga with Lisa	In-person
Tuesday	21-Oct	3:00pm	Worship Team Meeting	In-person
Thursday	23-Oct	11:00 AM	Mary A's meeting	In-person
Friday	24-Oct	7am - 1pm	Church Cleaning	
Sunday	26-Oct	10:30 AM	Worship service	In-person
Tuesday	28-Oct	9:30 AM	Yoga with Lisa	In-person
Thursday	30-Oct	9:30 AM	Yoga with Lisa	In-person
Friday	31-Oct	7am - 1pm	Church Cleaning	

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

Carolyn Bjerke, Minister

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.

office@uucsp.org

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