

THE SCENE AT SUMMIT

**Newsletter of Summit Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
8778 Cottonwood Ave., Santee, CA 92071**

Vol. 26 No. 12

December 2016

Monthly

Summit's services and programs are held at the address above, phone number, 619-562-0833. Our website is www.summituuf.org, where the Newsletter & Sermons can also be read. Mail should be sent to the office at the above address.

Office hours: Mon. 9:00 am - noon, Tue. - Fri. 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Services begin at 10:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

December 4th: *"Come, Whoever You Are"* Rev. Frank Placone-Willey

There are openings in our Summit Community for those interested in making a fresh start. Faith is mandatory. A capacity to forgive is required. Caring action is essential. As we move into this Season of Light, there is no better time to begin working at bringing your life back into balance. Come interview our minister about what makes our life and work together so worthwhile and important. Then after the service, browse and buy at our annual arts and crafts fair for special treasures and gifts.

December 11th: *"Christmas in the Forest"* Lead by: Summit Children and Youth

Come, one and all to the annual Holiday service lead by Summit's children and youth. This year our youth have written an original play that is inspired by a true tale of opposing forces coming together during a time of division to discover that they have more in common than they thought. The story has a very creative "spin" that may tickle your funny bone while dealing with a serious subject. Though we may see the world through different viewpoints, each of us shares a desire for connection and community. This will be a touching service that is sure to bring hope during this darkest time of the year.

December 18th: *"Welcoming the Stranger"* Rev. Frank Placone-Willey

In this Season of Solstice and Posadas Navidenas, we gather to affirm the spiritual and moral value in welcoming the stranger. Who might that stranger be? How might they have something to teach us about ourselves and the world in which we live? As a welcoming community we are committed to including all who might wish to join us in our individual and communal practice of the principles and purposes of our Unitarian Universalist Association, in the cultivation of compassion, the realization of justice, and the work of sustainability.

December 24th: (5:00 p.m.) *Christmas Eve: "Here in the Flesh"* Rev. Frank Placone-Willey

What is it you and I incarnate? What visions of light and hope shall we bring to the dark and troubled places in our world? At this festival of readings and carols we will recollect our Christmas hopes, and invoke the Spirit of Faith, Love and Joy for the crowning of the Year.

December 25th: *"Christmas 3.0"* Rev. Frank Placone-Willey

This Sunday we will gather for an intimate service of singing, meditation, reflection and sharing to welcome the Christmas light. The roots our UU Living Tradition in Earth Centered Spirituality, Hebrew and other Ancient Near Eastern Traditions, the teachings and example of the Rabbi Jesus, will be acknowledged and honored in this Christmastide celebration.

December 31st: "Meditation Vigil for Peace and Harmony in The New Year"

Summit Members and Friends

Beginning at 5:00 p.m., Rev. Frank will join with Members and Friends in our Summit Community to keep the Sanctuary Light burning as we meditate, pray, and plan for how we will individually and collectively be bearers of love and justice in 2017. Anyone willing to sign up to help keep the vigil through the night may call the Summit Office (619) 562-0833 to register for an hour or more of sitting meditation. Readings and music will be offered throughout the night to bolster courage and strengthen our resolve as we prepare to be peacemakers and agents of justice in the New Year.

January 1st: "Living in the Light"

Rev. Frank Placone-Willey

For new life to flower, darkness is necessary and light is essential. How will we be instruments and bearers of this light? This service of celebration will mark the culmination of our New Year Meditation Vigil for Peace and Harmony.

Summit's Office Information

Minister: Dr. Frank Willey: UUFrankPW@aol.com

Emergencies and appointments: 619-562-0833

Office Schedule: Tues. - 12:00 noon - 5:00 p.m.

Thurs. - 12:00 noon - 5:00 p.m.

Children's Religious Exploration: DRE, Mary Carter-Vail, 619-562-0833, ex. 205 / summitdre@gmail.com

Office Admin.: Linda Peck, 619-562-0833, ex. 202 / summitunitarian@sbcglobal.net

President: Laurel Bernstein, laurelbernstein@yahoo.com

Property Steward: Mark Weedman, markatspectrum@hotmail.com

—ATTENTION—

*The Scene at Summit's **January 2017** edition*

deadline will be *Mon., Dec. 19th.*

FROM THE MINISTER'S ROLLTOP:

"The Crowning of the Year"

*"People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.*

Make your house fair as you are able,

Trim the hearth and set the table.

People, look east and sing today:

Love, the guest, is on the way."

—From the Hymn by Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965)

For some of us, the holiday seasons of December and the (Euro-American) New Year provide peak experiences of time off, warm gatherings of family and friends, and the giving and receiving of gifts given in a spirit of generosity and love. Such experiences are powerful. Such is their power that media, advertisers, and religious groups shape and work hard to capture and project them into our minds and society via sentimental imagery and music. In December, the dominant collective mythology witnesses the wheel of the year turning toward its glorious fulfillment in “the Crowning of the Year.”

But beyond the appearances of such celebrations, there is for many, another kind of “crowning,” one that is more akin to the slang-use of the word meaning a sharp and stunning blow to the head. Many travel hundreds of miles, through snarled airports and along crowded and sometimes icy roads, to spend a few days with difficult people, watching sports, engorging ourselves, and giving presents we feel compelled to give in order to maintain the social exchange status-quo in our family circle.

And then there are those who have few, if any, positive associations with the holidays whatsoever, and no family or friends with whom to celebrate them. Each new holiday season only dredges up and re-traumatizes them with painful memories of hurt and disappointments from years past.

And, in this troubled post-election season, many are living in a new and unfamiliar kind of darkness, in their prayers and work, invoking a power sufficient to liberate the world from the principalities and powers that are now so blatantly and unnecessarily driving the course of humankind in the direction of ever more human-caused and human allowed suffering. So many of the people in our world are now getting “crowned” in these ways and others, suffering—often in isolation and silence—so as not to ruin the positive experiences of others or to avoid having others chastise them for being so critical, negative or cynical. Such people need and deserve a welcoming hearth, a listening ear and an understanding heart, unconditional regard for and acceptance of the reality of their holiday wounds and the historical events which caused them.

...And I would like to offer us all yet a third way to think about “crowning” as we move into the holidays. A way of thinking, that in the long-term, moves us all in a direction of creating a positive, united experience within the diversities of associations the holidays inevitably bring. “Crowning” is what happens when birth is imminent. A birthing infant’s head “crowns,” leading the way into this world we all share, a world replete with opportunities both peak-full and painful.

Dear Summit friends, a blessed Solstice, merry Christmas, happy Hanukkah, and peace on earth, good will to all.

~ Rev. Frank

FROM OUR SUMMIT LEADERSHIP

President's Report

LET US LOOK FIRST TO THE RESPONSE OF LOVE

In these hard times, let us look first to the response of love.

In the midst of challenge, may our chalice flame bear witness to the inherent worth and dignity of every human being.

In the midst of uncertainty, may our chalice be a beacon of encouragement, that our values may guide our choices.

Let us look first to the response of love.

~ Rev. Maureen Killoran, UU Fellowship of Gainesville (FL)*

These words spoke volumes to me when I read them. This, this is what I have been trying to articulate since the presidential election. While my brain was whirring and whirling, sending messages of “what do I do, what do I do?” in response to the changes facing us and our country, my heart was telling me to do what I hope to do always - stand on the side of love, and let compassion be my guide. While I sometimes feel hopeless in my inability to fix what I perceive as a potentially disastrous outcome for our country and so many of its residents, there is always something I can do. I can reach out to my Muslim neighbors, whose kids and mine were in school together, and give them pomegranates from my tree; I can listen deeply to people in my community who express fear for their rights and their safety; I can be a caring ally to those being mistreated or harassed simply due to their identity; I can speak up.

I am not suggesting that we should not take public actions- that we should not go to the March on Washington, or sign petitions, or call our representatives. They can be powerful ways to enact change, and to be heard. But whether or not we are able to do those things, there is power in what we do simply by treating those around us, and ourselves, with love and kindness on a daily basis. Change can also start through a smile or a one-on-one interaction. I feel so fortunate to be part of our strong, compassionate Summit community, where we already do such a good job of looking out for each other. If we turn this strength and compassion toward our wider community as well, just imagine what can happen!

~ Laurel

*P.S. I have deep ties to the UU Fellowship of Gainesville (UUFG), though I have not met the Rev. Maureen Killoran, who wrote the reading above. UUFG was my parents' congregation for three decades and my father served as president of their Governing Board (the apple does not fall far from the tree!). Rev. Killoran did not know my parents, but I reached out to her to thank her for her words and to let her know of my ties to the UUFG community. She responded with gratitude as well as assurances that my parents are remembered with love. The interdependent web is a wonderful thing... as is the internet!

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION FOR ALL

Adult Religious Exploration

Memoir Writing Group: Next meeting – Dec. 9th, (second Friday), 10:00 am – noon. All are welcome. Joanna Jones, jnajones@yahoo.com

Poetry Workshop: Saturday, Dec. 17th, at 10:00am at a member's home. Please contact Margo Mariana if you interested in participating. All levels of writing experience are welcome.

Summit Sangha

The Sangha meets every Sunday from 2:00-3:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. We begin with 20 minutes of silent or gently guided meditation, listen to a 30 minute dharma talk and conclude with a discussion which can include questions about practice. Summit Sangha is a community of practice, learning, and support open to all who find a Buddhist path meaningful, and to all who would like to learn more. Namaste

Children's Religious Exploration News

The darkest nights of the year are here and it is feeling like winter in San Diego. It has been a month of healing for me with awesome support by our Religious Exploration families, volunteers and Summit staff. My heart is filled with deep gratitude for all and the support of this beloved community during this past month and beyond.

Mary's Ankle

My ankle surgery was on Oct 31. What was thought to be a simple removal of scar tissue turned into a tendon transplant. The original, injured tendon was entirely gone. The surgeon used the tendon that is responsible for curling my big toe to replace the damaged tendon. Because this was a more extensive surgery than planned, I needed to be non-weight bearing for four weeks and cannot drive for eight to ten weeks. Now when my brain thinks "curl the right toe", my right ankle flexes. Physical therapy will be beginning soon and my brain and foot will learn how to work together so that I can be hiking the mountains again.

RE Holiday Play

Our youth group had an idea last summer for a holiday play. They worked together to research and write a really unique, touching and fun play to share with the congregation on Dec 11th. They have asked me not to give too much away other than to say that it was inspired by true events. The contents seem even more appropriate in the current political climate as they remind us that no matter how different we all seem, there is much that we have in common. Save the date, Dec 11, and bring your friends!

Bright Blessings,
Mary Carter-Vail

Summit's Children's Religious Exploration Mission Statement

"To create a safe and welcoming spiritual home for our children and youth through creative exploration of Unitarian Universalist principles and sources."

SUMMIT MINISTRIES

What is the Caring Committee?

We are a group of volunteers who organize and participate in a network of Summit members who support those in the Fellowship who find themselves in need. We would like to remind everyone that Juana Page is the "ride coordinator" for our committee. If you need assistance with transportation to Summit or medical appointments, call her, preferably a few days ahead of time.

Loving Hands Ministry

The Loving Hands fiber arts group **will meet** on Saturday, Dec. 3rd at 10:00 a.m. in the Summit library. Please join us if you knit or crochet, or think you might want to learn. For questions or more info, please contact Laurel Bernstein.

Amnesty International...

Due to low attendance and lack of interest, our local amnesty international chapter is on indefinite hiatus. (Last month was our last planned meeting). We are considering several different alternatives, and we will keep you up to date on progress. For more information, talk to or contact Renée Altson.

Social Action Committee

Currently, SAC is focusing on Holiday gifts for 3 African refugee families. If you'd like to help out with this project or are interested in working on the SAC team feel free to come to our next meeting on Dec. 11th at 11:30am in the Summit Library. Contact Jerilyn Harris if you have any questions.

WITHIN THE CONGREGATION

Member & Friend News

Please keep the following people in heart and mind:

- ♥ For Kyle, Lynne and John Slaughter; may they find the respite and healing they need right now.
- ♥ Harriet Nissenbaum, for continued support, love, encouragement, and adequate help.
- ♥ Renee Altson as she recovers from surgery
- ♥ Chris Wetzel, and her son Peter, as she remains fairly restricted to home.
- ♥ Val Sims as she recovers from a fall and continues to live her life to the fullest.
- ♥ Margo Mariana has a new hip and a wonderful new home.

- ♥ Mary Dessel, as she continues to heal from a broken foot.
- ♥ Michele Mattingly, for support as she searches for a new place to live.
- ♥ Bob and Mary Dryden, as Mary recovers from illness and hospitalization.
- ♥ Erin Collins, as she endures separation from her family until her move.
- ♥ Gloria Gelineau, who has just undergone another surgery and who is living life to the fullest.
- ♥ All in our community who are struggling with grief and loss and all manner of separations from loved ones.
- ♥ All in our community who are worried about how to make ends meet, how to find fulfilling work, and how to provide for their families in these difficult economic times.
- ♥ And, love always.

Member to Member

Hi Everyone!

Summit is a busy, interconnected place these days. We all love to share our books, etc., with one another and it seems like the easiest place to leave things for other Summitarians is the Fellowship office. Which is great but things get in the way of the office volunteers at the desk and we wind up with things just setting around. There is a great solution. We have a tall book shelf across from Rev. Frank's office door that will be labeled "**Member to Member.**" So, when you want to drop something off for another member that's the place to put it. It is your responsibility to contact your recipient to let them know where the item is located. Also, the shelves below that one are another lost-and-found.

Summit's Memorial Garden

It's the patio area under the Chinese Elm Tree between the office wing and the Salon. Families can have a paver stone in this garden dedicated to their departed Summit member, by purchasing the engraving for \$150. For this fee the first and last name and the month and year of birth and death would be put on the stone. The letters would be 1 1/2" high. Please contact Suzanne McQuaide if you would like to have a paver stone carved for your loved one.

Notes from the Music Committee

Summit's Music Committee is here to enhance and coordinate all things musical at Summit (Sunday services, concerts, special events, etc.). We will meet next on Tues., December 15th (the second Tuesday of the month) at 4 p.m. in the conference room in the Summit Office. We welcome new members and visitors, as well as your input and suggestions. For more information, please contact Laurel Bernstein.

Choir Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm. If you like to sing, come join us! Choir Director: Carly Newman carlynewman1021@gmail.com.

Freethinkers...

...won't be meeting in December. However, in January we will begin a series of workshops on the brain and how to repair your memory, as well as, diet and health. Keeping watching for further information!

Book Club

The Summit UU Book Club will meet in the Summit library on Tuesday, December 6th at 7:00 pm to discuss Naomi Ragen's "The Sisters Weiss."

This novel provides an in -depth look at life in an ultra-Orthodox Jewish family living in Brooklyn. Focusing on the two Weiss sisters, their stories begin as teenagers in the 1950's and span the next forty years. The two sisters follow very different paths, causing heartache and separation, but ultimately ending in reconciliation.

Monthly PFLAG Meeting at Summit

Our next meeting will be on December 12th, from 7:00-8:30 PM. I highly encourage all of you who are interested in bringing about a safer and more respectful society for the LGBTQ+ community to attend this meeting so we can share ideas, beyond just continuing the monthly meetings, about how we can work together and more effectively achieve this goal by reaching more families who might be in need of the healing and life-saving services that PFLAG offers.

If you have any questions you may contact Mar Cardenas - PFLAG Facilitator.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Summit's Seasonal Sing-Along

Please join us on **Saturday, December 17th**, starting at **7:00 p.m.**

All Summitarians are invited to a family friendly Seasonal Sing-along at the home of Jana Spring and family.

The Springs live in the Mt. Helix area of La Mesa, the address is in the paper directory. Parking is limited, so carpooling is encouraged. Maps will be available -- do not trust MapQuest or Siri!

Leading the singing will be pianist extraordinaire Drew Massicot, famous for his delightful song accompaniment and his passion for holiday music. Bring a plate of cookies to share, and your enthusiasm for singing holiday songs, both secular and sacred.

This gathering is co-sponsored by the Music and Hospitality Committees.

Questions? Contact Laurel Bernstein

Cards for Zimbabwe Villagers

We are collecting Holiday cards and letters which will be hand carried by Alix and Mark to

Summit's adopted village, Rundogo, Zimbabwe.

Unsigned cards are available for your use in the Greeting Room at Summit. Please feel free to take a few cards, sign them, include a message if you like, and return them to the "Signed Cards" basket.

Or, if you have unused cards at home, sign a few for the villagers and place them in the "Signed Cards" basket. If you would like a reply, please put your return address on the envelope.

We need all cards returned by December 18th.

**Come see the film *Jerusalem*
on Wednesday, December 21st at 2:00 p.m.,
in the Summit Sanctuary**

JERUSALEM immerses audiences into one of the world's most beloved cities. Discover why this tiny piece of land is sacred to three major religions through the stories of Jewish, Christian and Muslim families who call Jerusalem home.

Join renowned archaeologist, Dr. Jodi Magness, as she travels underground to solve some of this city's greatest mysteries. Find out why, after thousands of years, Jerusalem and the Holy Land continue to stir the imagination of billions of people. Unprecedented access to the city's holiest sites, as well as rare and breathtaking aerial footage of the Old City and the Holy Land, combine to make [JERUSALEM](#) a unique and stunning cinematic experience.

This event is free and open to the public. If you would like to attend, please RSVP by calling the Summit Office: 619-562-0833

ADDITIONAL INFO

Summit's ONLINE DIRECTORY Needs YOU!

Is your info already in the printed Summit directory? Great! It should be on our new website, too.

Register online & upload your photo:

1. Go to www.summituuf.org
2. Select MEMBER LOGIN
3. Click the red REGISTER link
4. Fill out the Registration form
5. When done, click the blue REGISTER button at bottom of form.

Your Profile Photo

You can add your photo to your profile in the Membership Directory after you have registered (once your registration has been activated). Here's how:

1. Select the photo you want to use and place it on your computer desktop.
2. Log in on www.summituuf.org and you will find yourself in the Member Area.
3. Select "Your Profile" to access the Member Profile page.
4. You'll see "Upload" under the shadow of an image. Click "Upload" to upload your photo from your desktop. **Note:** If you want to change your photo at a later date, just repeat this process with a different picture.

Need help? Email Don Jania-Smith at donjaniasmith@me.com.

About the eNews:

The newsletter you are currently reading is our monthly *Scene at Summit*. If you wish to receive our weekly source for Summit information, the eNews, in your email, contact Pamela Kerr at **Suuf_volunteer@sbcglobal.net** .

If you want to contribute an article, or classified ad, or 'something of interest' to the eNews:

- ⊕ Include your information in the body of the email. Do Not Send attachments.
- ⊕ Send your item by early Wednesday morning.
- ⊕ Only programs, initiatives and events that are sponsored by an established committee or group at Summit may be featured in the main body of the eNews.
- ⊕ Services and goods, jobs wanted, or services offered, or, for sale, and ads relating to member businesses may be featured in the "Classified Ads" and "Bulletin Board" sections of the eNews, at the discretion of the eNews editors.
- ⊕ Respond to the contact person noted in an article, do not just "reply."

Now you can find the eNews on our website <http://summituuf.org/>; log in as a member, you'll see "ENEWS" at the top of the banner to the right, click that and it will take you to another page that will give you a link to the current eNews.

Thanks! ~ Pamela Kerr

About Summit's Directory -

This directory is for the use of the Summit UU Fellowship congregation, its minister and members, and those affiliated with this Fellowship. Do not use it for any commercial or political purposes or for any unsolicited messages, such as jokes, advertisements, SPAM, etc. Our members and friends trust one another, as well as the SUUF staff, with their personal information. **Any other use is a violation of this trust.**

Calendaring Events!

When scheduling a new event at Summit, please contact Linda about the availability of rooms and to get your event on the master calendar. Please also consider possible conflicts with offsite Auction events. A calendar of Auction events is posted in the office by the main

calendar, is posted on the web, and copies are available by the reception desk.

While Linda is ultimately the one who decides which on-campus events can be scheduled and at what time, the responsibility for setting and coordinating Summit-related on-campus events with off-campus events (e.g. Auction dinners) and avoiding unwanted conflicts in booking, lies with the organizers of these events, and not with Linda Peck or any other members of the Summit Staff.

Let There Be (Less? More?) Light

At Summit we are aware of everyone's need to be comfortable so we all can enjoy the Sunday service together. But we do have a wide range of sensitivities within the congregation. Several of us are extremely sensitive to florescent lights, while many of us don't see well and need more light to read the hymnals. What we've started doing is turning down the lights in the center of the Sanctuary. The lighting is brightest on the east (Library) side of the room and the back tiled area. Please take note of this as you choose your seats on Sunday, so we can all be comfortable. ~ Linda

Flowers for Sunday Services

The flowers at our Sunday services always add a soft spirit to the room. If you would like to provide flowers for any service you can sign-up by calling the office at 619-562-0833. This is a lovely way to commemorate a personal special occasion or honor a loved one. ~ Thank you!

"Shake, Rattle, then you can Roll!"

This is Summit's slogan to remind everyone about making sure all doors are locked before you leave the campus. The doors must be pushed and pulled to verify they are actually locked in place. Please be mindful of this.