

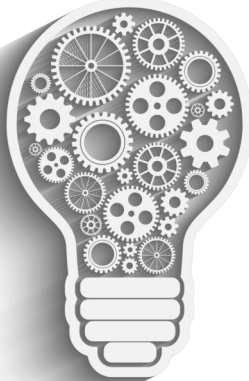


THE SCENE AT SUMMIT

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

Multi-Platform Sunday Services begin at 10:00 a.m.

Theme: Creativity



This month, as we explore the theme of Creativity, we will hear from several of our own Summitarians, sharing with us their diverse creative processes.

What sort of creative play feeds your soul? Cooking ... gardening ... drawing ... problem solving ... painting ... quilting ... innovating ... writing ... sculpting ... making music ... building ... photography ... or ...?

May 7

**“Creativity as a Spiritual Practice”
Shelley Lekven, Guest Speaker**

Shelley will share with us her creative process when working with clay and polymer clay. (Sadly, Sara DuVall was to also speak about her artwork in pottery, yet is unable to attend this Sunday.) Also, the Choir is back!

May 14

**"Nurturing, It's What's for Dinner"
Rebekah Milhoan , Guest Speaker**

This Mother's Day we celebrate all the nurturing that happened last year and we get creative around ways to up the nurturing ante from dinner to beyond.

May 21

**"Form as the Language of Creativity—
What Inspires Us?"**

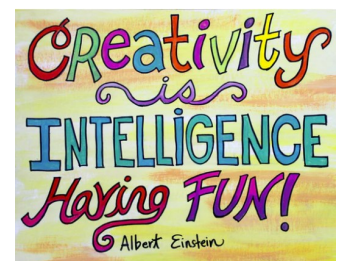
Alix Hart and Jenny Saar, Guest Speakers

Inspiration—to be inspired—comes from communion with spirit. To create in any form requires listening, hearing and receiving. Whether we know it or not. Alix and Jenny will share their creativity in 2-D and 3-D art mediums.

May 28

**"Ways to Improve Creativity"
Ryn Corbeil and Tom Biggart, Guest Speakers**

Ryn is a retired software engineer, and now works as a part-time library worker, poet and activist. With a background in neural networks, fuzzy logic, iambic pentameter, and book banning protests, Ryn will make it all clear to you. He has all the answers. (Description provided by ChatGPT)
Tom will share with us some things he does when he needs a boost in his work.



If you missed a service, or would like to see it again, you can watch it on our [SUUF MEDIA](#) YouTube Channel!



Save the Date!

We will have a time to meet KC on Sat., June 3.
Watch for details!

-Board of Directors

The Ministerial Search Committee and Board of Directors are delighted to announce that we have found a warm and energetic young woman to serve as Summit's new minister! The Ministerial Search Committee met KC Pandell by zoom and in person, interviewed her references - who spoke highly of her, and listened to many of her sermons - which were dynamic and meaningful.



KC Marie Pandell hails from a spiritual, yet nonreligious background, and found Unitarian Universalism by way of theatre, becoming a member at UUC Fullerton in 2017, formerly serving as Worship Chair, and Board of Trustees member. A lifelong actor, she has her Bachelor's degree in Theatre from Chapman University (2012), and graduates with her Masters of Divinity from Meadville-Lombard Theological School in just a few short weeks, as a St. Lawrence grant recipient. KC has served as contract minister at UUC Anaheim, as well as Intern Minister at Tapestry UU through the 2023 church year; she seeks ordination with the UUA, with sights set on a long career in parish ministry. She has a special place in her heart for death care ministry, and weddings.

Full time dog mom to Zeus, Vulcan, Artemis & Lily, and housemate to cat Persephone, she enjoys reading, writing, singing in her car, Marvel movies, and daydreaming about traveling the world.

Minister KC will be available to start part-time late this summer and begin full-time service early September. She will be on a one-year renewable contract, with the hope on both sides that it will develop into a long-term relationship. (*Given that KC is just finishing Seminary, she is not able to sign a long-term contract at this time.) We are scheduling a Saturday sometime soon, where members can meet her in person. KC has a website if you would like to listen to a sample of her sermons. <http://www.kcmarieministry.com/>.



RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION NEWS—FOR ALL AGES

MARY CARTER-VAIL, DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

As we begin the month of May, the hills around my home are covered in a riot of wildflower colors from the native and invasive species responding to the winter rain and spring sun. It is nature's creative canvas and reminds me of making flower chains as a child and of our spiritual theme for the month.

Creativity: I have been looking forward to playing with this theme all year. Creativity has been a spiritual practice for me for as long as I can remember. When I was a child, I created games, toys and art using found objects that I collected in my daily adventures. I was always figuring out how to make something work, to make do when we lacked a resource or to create something from my imagination when storytelling with friends. I guess those skills served me well as I grew into adulthood and became a religious educator. When I find myself feeling stuck, I tap into my inner creative child and am reminded of that spiritual practice of imagination and creative wonder. Sometimes I go for a walk, visit my craft area, scroll through Pinterest or whatever is accessible in the moment and just give my creativity some time to play. As we explore this theme together, I invite you to discover ways that you are creative. This may look similar or very different from what I have shared. Several members of our Summit community will be sharing how they engage with creativity during the services this month and we will be playing with creativity with our families in RE. I invite you to come get creative with us.

Mary is Back: My right hip surgery on April 3rd was successful and I am learning to use my new joint each day. I am still taking it easy as my muscles learn to work in a new way and, hopefully, I will be back up to speed by the end of the month. I will be having my second hip surgery this fall and will keep you all updated as we get closer to the next "installation".

With Gratitude to All: It takes a whole Fellowship to replace a hip! I am so appreciative of all the support and help at Summit and the cards, calls, emails, and visits at home. Many of our families helped to keep RE going with activities and by just being part of the community. Abby, Cathy, and Nick cared for all of our kiddos in RE each Sunday and supported the parents leading the lessons as needed. I so appreciate the Sunday services team for working with me to pre plan the stories so that we had beautiful moments to share for Time for All Ages each week. Thank you to all who were so supportive during this time.



OUR MAY THEME IS CREATIVITY.

We will be gathering in RE at 10 am on Sundays for Religious Exploration on Sundays for our activities. Our children and youth will participate in the service until after the “Time for All Ages” story. We will then engage in our activities in the Religious Exploration area and/or outside (depending on weather conditions). We have a special snack provided by one of our families after our exploration time that we share outside under the shade canopy until we are finished at 11:30 am.

May 7 – Creativity Helps Us Transform Things

– We will begin the month by exploring what creativity is and how we can transform things by being creative. We will play some games and use our creative powers to transform our RE classroom space as we reclaim the classrooms post shelter and carpet cleaning. We will also have some time to go to the garden and plant the tomato seedlings that Mary has been growing at home all May so we can enjoy yummy cherry tomatoes this summer!

May 14 - Creativity Helps Include Everyone:

Our families have asked to plan a service for June, so we are going to begin to create a service that includes everyone! This will be a family lead service for the whole congregation. We will also be making some special Mama’s day goodies to share. Watch for details in the RE news.

May 21 – Creativity Helps Us Practice

Originality – This week we will have a very special guest, clay artist Sara Duvall! She will be bringing some clay for us to get our hands

dirty as we can create our own original pieces, or we can make a piece to add to a community piece. We will also learn about some of the community art in San Diego and at Summit.

May 28 – Creating Together to Share &

Delight – This week we will continue to create and practice our very special family service to share with the whole congregation on Sunday, June 11. I am so excited to see what we come up with and know that it will be sure to be a delight.

These are the plans at the beginning of the month, and they may be adapted as our communities needs adapt so, please watch the weekly Children’s Religious Exploration Email. To receive the weekly email, send your email address to Mary at summitdre@gmail.com.

With deepest love and brightest blessings,

Mary

Mary Carter-Vail
she/they

Director of Religious Exploration



Children’s Religious Exploration Committee

Mission Statement:

Our Mission is to create a safe and welcoming spiritual home for children & youth through creative exploration of the Unitarian Universalist Principles and Sources.

Message from the President of the Board



Dear Summitarians and Friends,

I can't believe it is already May!

I am looking forward to meeting **KC Marie Pandell**, our new minister! She will start working with us part-time in August, and full time in September. I hope you will join us on June 3rd for a Saturday meet-and-greet at Summit. I want to thank our Search Committee team for their *tireless dedication*: Amy Carstensen and Debbie Wingard (co-chairs), Jamie Cleland, Pam Kerr and Pam Williams. ♥♥♥♥♥

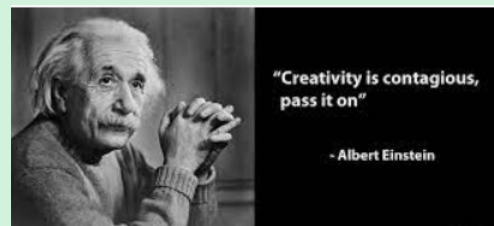
Next month we will have our **Congregational Meeting on June 11**, following RE's worship service. At this meeting we will elect our new representatives for the Board of Directors, the Endowment Committee and the Nominating Committee, as well as approving our budget for next fiscal year (July 2023 through June 2024). The largest part of the budget goes towards paying our amazing staff—Mary Carter-Vail, Mark Weedman, Nelwyn Del Frate, and soon KC Marie Pandell. As you all know, prices have been going up—a lot—and it is important that we give our staff cost of living increases. Our family increased our pledge by 17%, towards this goal.



If you have not yet filled out your pledge form for next year, or would like to modify your pledge, please do so as soon as possible! The budget we vote on in June is based on the amount that members and friends have pledged to our Fellowship, and we are still waiting to hear from many of you. For your convenience, you can find the form at the end of this issue of the Scene. For those of you who have already turned in your pledges, **THANK YOU!!**

Over the past three years, we have creatively been keeping Summit going and it is time to start imagining what is next for us. As we build back to having more and more in-person and online activities, what would you like to have included? Writing groups? Spiritual practice groups? Classes and discussion groups for adults? Put on your thinking caps, let your imagination run wild! Start pondering and making note of what you come up with!

Peace,
Elinor Weed
She/They
(meweedy97@gmail.com)



The Summit Board of Directors meets virtually on the third Thursday of the month at 7 pm. If you would like to attend, please email Elinor to request the link at meweedy97@gmail.com.

Excerpt by request from Rev. Don Stouder's eservice in April, "How to Survive the End of the World" which talked about global warming, the extractive economy, and much more.

As Rachel Taylor pointed out: "The secret is that you don't get a break to build a better world. You have to do it while still surviving in this one." But here is another secret, from the Movement Generation. The way we truly survive is by investing in all of the alternatives that starve the extractive economy. The way we truly survive is by demanding big change AND finding small daily ways to live the world we seek to create.

It is as simple and as difficult as that. Wherever you can, fight the extractive economy. Demand its dismantlement at the seats of power, and find ways to starve it where you live.

And then, wherever you can, opt in to deep community. That is how we survive. It is how life survives. We tear down the walls. We grow roots for another way inside the world that is crumbling. ...

So, inspired by all those referenced above, and all my colleagues and frontline teachers, here is my not at all joking, totally serious list of how to survive the end of the world:

- ◆ Get to know your neighbors. Feed them. Let them feed you. Watch each other's kids, grandkids, pets.
- ◆ Develop the muscle of generosity like you are training for a giving ultra-marathon. Share everything you can with anyone who asks, and ask for what you need.
- ◆ Get in touch with your body. You will need it, and it knows things. Pay attention to what is happening above AND below your neck.
- ◆ Tell the truth. Tell it to yourself first.
- ◆ Sit at the feet of your most vulnerable neighbors and your own most vulnerable places. They have the most to teach you about survival, if you listen.
- ◆ Remember your ancestors, and the things they survived. Find the resilience that is your birthright and the courage that made way for your life.
- ◆ Practice taking risks. Show up in every struggle where someone is fighting for their dignity, because that is how we will all survive.
- ◆ Learn to be tender. Refuse to be hardened. Let your heart be moved. Every damn time.
- ◆ Root in the place you are. Learn its history. Learn its culture. Learn its geography. Learn its seasons.
- ◆ Sing. A lot. And dance. Make art. Rest luxuriously. Eat pie. Love people, not things.
- ◆ Finally, lean into the whispers of the wind, and listen for the words of Jacques Cousteau:

This is our hope: that the children born today may still have, twenty years hence, a bit of green grass under their bare feet, a breath of clean air to breathe, a patch of blue water to sail upon, and a whale on the horizon to set them dreaming.

In your many holy names we pray, Amen.

SOCIAL JUSTICE IN ACTION

Social Justice in Action meetings are held the 2nd Sunday of the month. If you would like to learn more, contact our Chair, RynCorbeil@gmail.com. Everyone welcome!

General meeting — May 13, 12:30 pm <https://zoom.us/j/98852027774>

PFLAG is the nation's first and largest organization dedicated to supporting, educating, and advocating for LGBTQ+ people and those who love them.



The Social Justice in Action committee is restarting the East County PFLAG chapter. In conjunction with Lakeside Amity, we have recruited new facilitators trained by PFLAG San Diego, and will be meeting on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. *Watch for details about when our group will start meeting.*

WELCOMING & MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE HAPPENINGS

Getting to Know Us: An Orientation for Newcomers to Summit

Sunday, May 7, 2023 at 11:30 am, in the Summit Library

Would you like to learn more about our Fellowship and Unitarian Universalism? The Welcoming and Membership Committee is hosting a relaxed conversation about Unitarian Universalism, the Summit Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (Summit UUF) and their histories. Led by co-chairs Pam Williams and Jim Weed, along with Elinor Weed, President of Summit, Mary Carter Vail, Director of RE, and the Welcoming and Membership Committee.



This "Getting to know us" session will give newcomers and new members a better understanding of Unitarian Universalism and Summit UUF which we hope will provide an avenue for deeper involvement with the denomination and Summit. This session is also an opportunity to get to know both long-time members and other newcomers to the Fellowship. Drinks and croissant sandwiches will be served.

If you are interested in joining the Fellowship, people who sign the Membership book by May 11 will be eligible to vote at our June 11 Congregational Meeting.

Questions or RSVP with Pam Williams at 619-867-9120 or 2400highview@gmail.com.

ADULT LIFE ENRICHMENT—AFFINITY GROUPS

THE SUMMIT WOMEN'S GROUP

This multi-generational group is open to all interested Summit women and their friends. The group will meet via Zoom. If you would like to be added to the e-mail list to get the Zoom link, please contact Carolyn Woodbury at cbwoodbury@gmail.com if you have questions.

Contact Carolyn to find out the date of our next meeting.



MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP #2

Summit's Second Men's Fellowship and Support Group meets on the 1st & 3rd Wed, from 7-8:30 pm. We invite you to join us if you wish. We are an "open" meeting in the sense that any man who wants to can participate if he so wishes.

Our group is going to start meeting in person, in the Library. If you prefer, you may continue to join us online, too. You can use any Apple or PC/Android device (desktop computer, laptop, iPad or other tablet, smart phone) to access our meeting, but it must have a microphone and a camera.

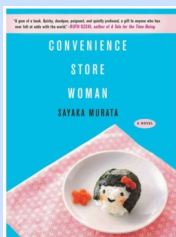
To get the link, please email Denny at denny.braun@usfamily.net.



THE SUMMIT UU BOOK CLUB - MULTI-PLATFORM OPTIONS!

On Tuesday, May 2, at 7 pm, the Summit UU Book Club will be meeting both in person in the Library and via Zoom, hosted by Debbie Wingard. They will join the Zoom folks with an "owl" - a camera that turns to face the speaker. The people in the Library will be able to see and hear the people on Zoom, and vice-a-versa.

We will be discussing **CONVENIENCE STORE WOMAN: A Novel**, by Sayaka Murata.



This novel is the English-language debut of one of Japan's most talented contemporary writers, selling over 650,000 copies there. **CONVENIENCE STORE** is the heartwarming and surprising story of thirty-six year-old Tokyo resident Keiko Furukura.

In June, we will be discussing **DARWIN'S BLADE**, by Dan Simmons.



Everyone is welcome, even new members - either to participate or listen. If you have any questions, please e-mail Cheryl at csmreck@outlook.com

– Cheryl Smrek

Denominational News

YOU → Summit UU Fellowship → SD Cluster →

Pacific SW Service Area → Pacific Western Region → Unitarian Universalist Association

CALL FOR DELEGATES

Summit gets to have three delegates represent our congregation at General Assembly, June 21-25, 2023. Delegates can attend in person in Pittsburgh, or from the comfort of home, virtually. If you would like to represent SUUF, please contact Elinor Weed!

For more info, go to <https://www.uua.org/ga>

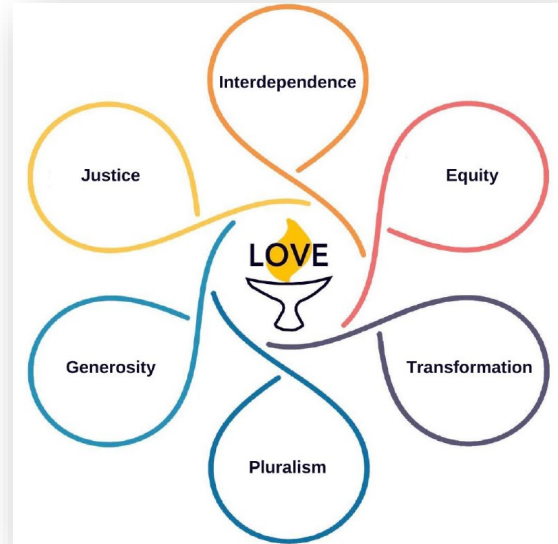
Article II Commission has been assigned the task of re-evaluating and re-forming our guiding principles. Here is their draft—in a nutshell. It will be voted on at General Assembly, in June.

Image Description: This image is of a chalice with and overlay of the word love over the flame, with six outstretched arms that create a circle around each of the core values and form a six-petal flower shape. Each arm is a different color and clockwise they are: Interdependence (Orange), Equity (Red), Transformation (Purple), Pluralism (Dark Blue), Generosity (Teal), and Justice (Yellow).

Interdependence. We honor the interdependent web of all existence. We covenant to cherish Earth and all beings by creating and nurturing relationships of care and respect. With humility and reverence, we acknowledge our place in the great web of life, and we work to repair harm and damaged relationships.

Pluralism. We celebrate that we are all sacred beings diverse in culture, experience, and theology. We covenant to learn from one another in our free and responsible search for truth and meaning. We embrace our differences and commonalities with Love, curiosity, and respect.

Justice. We work to be diverse multicultural Beloved Communities where all thrive. We covenant to dismantle racism and all forms of systemic



oppression. We support the use of inclusive democratic processes to make decisions.


Transformation. We adapt to the changing world. We covenant to collectively transform and grow spiritually and ethically. Openness to change is fundamental to our Unitarian and Universalist heritages, never complete and never perfect.

Generosity. We cultivate a spirit of gratitude and hope. We covenant to freely and compassionately share our faith, presence, and resources. Our generosity connects us to one another in relationships of interdependence and mutuality.

Equity. We declare that every person has the right to flourish with inherent dignity and worthiness. We covenant to use our time, wisdom, attention, and money to build and sustain fully accessible and inclusive communities.

See the full report: https://www.uua.org/files/2023-01/a2sc_rpt_01172023.pdf





Camp de Benneville Pines

uucamp.org

UU ELEMENTARY SUMMER CAMP
Sun, July 9 – Sat, July 15, 2023
“Circles of Connection”
Dean: Kathleen Moscato

Our lives are connected by circles –in family, in friendship and in community. Draw your circle wider during a wonderful week in the mountains. Camp is a perfect place to feel “part of a circle” as UU’s, friends and community members. How are we alike? How are we different? When should we expand our circles to allow wonderful experiences to flow in, and when should we make our circles smaller? Each day we will explore the circles in our lives and connect with each other through exploration outdoors, games, arts & crafts, community connection and most importantly through FUUN!

Children who spend time at Camp de Benneville Pines experience the sacred in fun and kid-friendly ways. They sing, create, run, play, hike, listen to a story, build a fort, roast marshmallows on the campfire, or just take the time to be a friend. There is so much to unite them at camp, AND so many ways to find that which is special.

UU JUNIOR HIGH SUMMER CAMP
July 16 – 22, 2023
“Free to Learn Together”
Dean: Patrick Daley

Join us for a fantabulous summer of activities as we invite you up the mountain to the magical grounds of Camp de Benneville Pines. This summer magic captivates us and reminds us of the awesome power in friendship, community, belonging, acceptance, and togetherness. Reopening camp last summer was simply “beyond belief” and a huge success. We hope this summer brings even more campers back into the loving space of de Benneville Pines in what will be a celebration of our freedom to learn together about what is true and fair.

Whether you are a returning camper or new to camp, this is a place for you to bring your authentic self and fall in love with our mountain sanctuary. At UU Junior High Summer camp, we will bring back the programs that help build individual confidence, personal and religious identity, and friendship bonds that cross generations and last a lifetime. Enjoy meals together, discover freedom of self-expression, cultivate a community of love and explore UU principles.

UU SENIOR HIGH SUMMER CAMP
July 23 – 29, 2023
“Camp ForwUUrd”
Youth Deans: Jillian Abes, Bryan Knapp
Adult Deans: **Mary Carter-Vail, Patti Buck**

Come join us at Camp ForwUUrd in the beautiful San Bernardino mountains for an unforgettable week filled with fun, friends, and favorite camp activities. As we move forward, we will reignite our passion and love for our sacred mountain home. During the week, we’ll participate in camp classics such as swimming, archery, capture the flag, the dance party, and create new traditions as we rethink what camp means to us. Diving into leadership and community, we will take time to rebuild the community we know and love.

At Camp ForwUUrd, campers will explore what their community means to them now and discover what their camp of the future will look like. They will form lifelong bonds and friendships while having a bit of time away from everyday life. Many classic camp traditions will be offered such as the beautiful hike to Jenks Lake, nighttime activities such as the auction and variety show, craft projects such as tie dying, and other music activities!

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



Pledge Form

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

July 2023 through June 2024

Email: summituuf@gmail.com

Phone: 619-562-0833

Financial pledges are essential for the continued operation of our fellowship, and will also be essential to indicate that we can support a new minister. Your pledge, however, only indicates an *intention* to contribute the amount you write in; this information helps us plan for the coming year. We understand that circumstances may change, and you can increase, reduce, or cancel your pledge at any time.

For Summit members, your completion of this pledge form is required each year in order for you to be counted

as a voting member. However, if a financial contribution is not possible for you this year, you will still qualify to be a voting member with a pledge of zero dollars together with a pledge of time and effort.

So we ask you to pledge financially as you are able, and to give generously – financially and in other ways – whenever possible. Thank you for all of your gifts. They are greatly appreciated, and some may even be tax deductible!

From Your Summit Board of Directors

MY/OUR ANNUAL COMMITMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-24

Name 1: _____ Name 2: _____
Email 1: _____ Email 2: _____
Phone 1: _____ Phone 2: _____
Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Part A: Please indicate your pledge below by providing the following information (check all that apply):

- I/We commit to support Summit Unitarian Universalist Fellowship with gifts of time and effort.
- I/We commit to support Summit Unitarian Universalist Fellowship's annual operation in FY 23-24 with financial contributions totaling \$ _____.

Signature 1: _____ Date: _____

Signature 2: _____ Date: _____

Part B: Automatic Payments

- I/We would like to have payments automatically withdrawn from our bank account:
From the same account as last year's pledge, for the same amount and frequency.

From a different account or for a different amount or frequency than last year, fill out the attached withdrawal form and mail it to the Summit Office.

Part C: Have You Considered Making a Planned Gift?

- I/We have named Summit UU Fellowship as a beneficiary in my will, of an insurance policy, retirement plan, or life income plan (e.g. Charitable Gift Annuity or trust).
- I/We would like to find out more about how to include Summit in my/our estate planning.



When completed, please email your form to the Summit Office: SummitUUF@gmail.com,
or mail to SUUF, 8778 Cottonwood Ave., Santee, CA 92071

The commitments on this pledge form only indicate an intention to contribute for purposes of budgetary planning. It is not a legal document and will not be considered or enforced as such.



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

OFFICE HOURS

Tues, Thurs, Fri — 9:30 am to 2:30 pm

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The Rev. Tania Márquez

RevTaniaMarquez@gmail.com

619-245-1476

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About SUUF Publications

Please send submissions for the monthly SCENE AT SUMMIT NEWSLETTER via e-mail on or soon after the 24th, to **SUUFSceneNuus@gmail.com**.

Please send submissions for the eNEWS, the weekly announcements, to **SUUFVolunteer@yahoo.com** by Tuesday noon. Check the eNEWS and website for additional news throughout the month.

If you have any questions, call the office, 619-562-0833, or e-mail us at **Summituuf@gmail.com**.