



# THE SCENE AT SUMMIT

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

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

Theme: Home

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**August 6**

**Songs of Solidarity:  
Reflections of a Protest Singer  
Marshall Voit, Guest Speaker**

Join us for a service filled with uplifting music that celebrates unity, empathy, and collective strength, led by social justice folk singer and First UU Music Director, Marshall Voit. Come ready to sing along as Marshall shares songs and stories from some of the social justice movements he's been a part of, as well as some favorite UU hymns.

**August 13**

**Walking Each Other Home  
Peter Bolland, Guest Speaker**

The idea of home runs deep through all of us. On one hand it simply means the house where we live, or the hometown we come from. But the idea of home has deeper and broader meaning when seen through the lens of religion. Home means belonging. It means being seen, being known, being loved. In this way, religions, at their best, are maps that lead us to this sacred homecoming, this re-integration with the sacred source, and with our own essential natures. In this way, the idea of home stands as a singular metaphor of wisdom, transcendence, and ultimate unity. As Ram Dass said, "We're all just walking each other home."

**August 20**

**A Skeptical Believer  
Rev. Carolyn Owen-Towle, Guest Minister**

From a young age Rev. Carolyn could not accept things at face value and swallow them whole. She had to ask why and how? Ultimately, this led her to a deep and lifelong commitment to Unitarian Universalism where she could become both skeptic and believer.

**August 27**

**The Joy of Congregational Singing  
Barbara Scheidker, Guest Speaker**

A fun service with lots of congregational hymn singing assisted by the Summit Choir. Together we will make a "Joyful Noise!" Barbara Scheidker will play and talk about the beneficial effects of hymn singing. It facilitates slow, deep breathing, helps reduce blood pressure, and brings us together in harmony. This service will include a musical breathing meditation.

*The Mission Statement of Summit  
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship*

*In spiritual community, we  
commit ourselves to building  
a compassionate, just and  
sustainable world.*



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

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## Ministerial Musings *from the desk of KC Pandell*

Greetings, Summitarians & Friends

I can hardly believe the time is upon us – as I write this at the dining room table, mere days before I step into my new role with you, it seems a lifetime ago that I was introduced to this fellowship, and here we are, on the brink of officially beginning our ministry together. I have gratefully carried your warm welcome home in my heart since we met in early June, and I am thrilled to find a place with you all, at Summit, and in San Diego County. The transition southward is proving to be the only glacial thing this summer, though you have been on my mind in much of my movements, as I have begun the transition from seminary student into contract ministry. Every book I read, worship I plan, conversation I have, I think on how I can add things to the learning and growing we will do together.

I thought particularly of you all throughout General Assembly, wondering after your questions & concerns surrounding the Article II amendments and voting, wishing I could be there to walk alongside you as we made the momentous decision as a faith to continue the discussion and work over the coming year. I am eager to see our faith through your eyes, to learn your consolations, your desolations, and your hopes for the future, both our future as the Summit community, and as Unitarian Universalists as a whole, and to share mine with you.

My plan for getting to know this merry band of UUs is simple, though no small feat: Very soon, you will have access to my Calendly, which will have slots available for folks to choose to set up time to speak with me – this will always be the most up to date availability for us to meet, a sort of Virtual Tea Time, if you will (tea not required). There are no expectations in these teas, simply a block of time for us to get to know each other. There is no rush to book a time – Tea Time will always be available throughout the week, and once I'm settled, will vary from virtual, phone, or in person. For now, though, I look forward to seeing as many of you on Zoom as I can.

May the coming weeks bring you joy, full of laughter, friends, family, good food and good fun (and please stay cool!)

I will see you all, with bells on, in September, at a pulpit near you.

With gratitude and a joyful heart,

KC  
Minister



# Message from the President of the Board

Hello Fellow Members and Staff,

I want to start off by once again thanking the Search Committee and the previous Board (which includes 7 members of the current Board) for finding and contracting with KC Pandell as our first full-time minister in three years. Over the last year we have not even had a part-time minister, except for pastoral care. This is a new day that is dawning.

KC is beginning half-time this month. In September, she will start in full-time status, with her first sermon on September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Most of us are anticipating what she can bring to our community, and the programs that may be reinvigorated by her presence. I am among you! Yet, I give you a word of caution. If you have withdrawn a little in the past, or you have done more than ever, this is a time when we must demonstrate hospitality to our new minister. This includes the use of your time and talent wherever it may be needed. To coin a phrase, ask not what your minister can do for you, but ask what you can do for your minister.

There are many areas where assistance will help reinvigorate our feeling of community, even beyond where it is today. These areas include covenant topics, special social events, music diversity at services, and Sunday services which include other medias of art. In the past, we have had services that include dance, theater, and art. I can imagine a service comprised almost entirely of poetry. Let KC know if you have any talents to share in these or any other areas.

With love to all,  
*Pierre*

The Summit Board of Directors meets virtually on the third Thursday of the month at 7 pm.



Summit is a community of volunteers—  
by volunteers, for volunteers, with the  
*support* of our amazing staff.

Where will your place(s) be in the  
Summit community this year?

*We welcome YOUR participation!*



## RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION NEWS—FOR ALL AGES

MARY CARTER-VAIL, DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

I am home after a month of back-and-forth travel from Summit to Camp DeBennville Pines. July was a VERY busy month! We had children go to sleep over camp for their first time and some of our young adults served as program staff for both Elementary and Sr High Camp. We also launched our first post-pandemic Our Whole Lives program. For me, it finally felt like a normal summer. It felt like home.

**Home:** Our theme for August is an invitation for each of us to explore the theme of Home. In our RE program, our children and families create home thru the connections they make with each other as they explore, play and create together. This month we will be exploring home in Religious Exploration with activities to connect us as a community that can bring in all ages. We will start by sharing the Arcade that our children have been working on in July and then have some special Sundays planned as we celebrate the theme of Home: Back to School Blessings Sunday, Tie Dye Sunday, & Creating Our Home Sunday. (See details below.)

**Our Whole Lives is Back at Summit:** For the first time since the shutdown, we are once again teaching in-person OWL classes. Our Whole Lives is a comprehensive, age-appropriate, sexuality education program for **all** ages. We have started the early elementary program for our Kinder to 1<sup>st</sup> grade children, with 5 families enrolled. This class centers on healthy body image, boundaries, consent and learning about babies and birth. We have a “Dream Team” of volunteers partnering with me to lead the classes and I am so glad that our children and getting this experience. We have plans to offer the upper elementary program winter/spring and will be working on scheduling additional levels based on congregational interest. Let me know what you are interested in, and I can begin the advanced planning to make it happen. OWL levels include: Jr & Sr High, Young Adult,

Adult, & Sr or Golden OWL.

### **Lessons from Sr High Camp - Rebirth of Youth Leadership:**

The last week in July I was at Camp as part of the Sr High “Dean Team”. I feel called to share a bit of my experience with the congregation as it is something that we can all draw strength and wisdom from. First, some background. At Summer Camp 2019, we had 120 registered campers, with 30+ on a wait list. The staff was led by two youth deans in partnership with adult deans. The youth deans lead the youth staff, and they were in charge of all programming while the adult staff help the safety container and supported their work. Youth in these leadership positions had been mentored for up to 8 camps prior through the Chrysalis leadership training program, (I was a leader in this program), or by being an understudy on the prior camp’s staff. There was a leadership pipeline for youth where they learned the skills needed to run the camp for their peers. It was a youth lead camp and one of the only youth lead UU camps in the country that I know of. The shutdown crumbled the foundation of our youth lead camps. Last Summer we tried to have our first youth in-person camp and a COVID outbreak post-GA took out our adult staff pool and some youth leaders so, after much scrambling, we had a four-day mini-camp with one youth leader and much adult support. Winter Camp was all adult led, I was Dean, with an invitation for any youth to take on a piece at the camp so they could begin to learn how to make camp happen. We had a big leadership conversation and asked the youth community what they wanted and supported the revision of what our youth camps could be going forward. (We did not want to assume that they wanted to take the lead again after the past pandemic years.) The youth community at camp decided that they DID want the challenge of running this camp, summer 2023, themselves. They called it Camp ForwUUrd. The idea being to bring forward the things that were loved about youth lead camps while creating what is next together.

**Camp ForwUurd:** Two High School seniors were chosen as Youth Deans, by their peers to lead this first fully youth-lead camp at that meeting last winter. They partnered with the two Adult Deans, me, and Patti, who had been a youth dean and is now a professional coach. We have been working with them all spring to plan and it was hard to get them to focus on the work in advance of the camp, even with much guidance that this would help to ease the camp experience for them. (There is a gentle dance of coaching, teaching, mentoring, and guiding new leaders as they discover their ability to lead and finally gain confidence in their skills and the trust of the community.) At the beginning of the week there was tension as we had to balance the needs of the camp safety container, rules, etc., with the desire of the youth leaders to do the fun stuff and leave the challenging decisions to the adults. We held them to the vision of youth lead camp as they leaned into the tension, stumbling a bit to find their way through schedule changes, programing challenges and curfew check-in process problems. Mid-week the youth Deans said they wanted a youth-only staff meeting without adults. Patti and I said to go for it. The Youth Staff felt we were trying to control them and what we were really doing was working to get them to take control and own their camp. At the next all-staff meeting, with youth and adults, the Youth Deans said they were promised an All Youth-Led Camp and that they wanted adults to let them lead! They thought that they were challenging the adults – Patti had tears in their eyes, and I was beaming with pride as I said, “We have been waiting for this!” There was a huge release of tension from the youth as they realized that they had our complete trust in creating the camp they wanted – they had always had it – we just had to work together. From that point on, they led on every decision with confidence, asking questions when they wondered about options, and checking in with us on anything big. It was AMAZING to see them finally own their camp experience once again. They rebuilt their home, and it was beautiful.

**Why do I share this long story?** It is the story of leadership in covenantal community spaces. I sometimes feel this tension here at Summit as well.

We had a similar experience in Religious Exploration as we created our Family Service last May on a much smaller level. Now, it is time to lean into creating our new Religious Exploration program for the Fall and that starts with gathering a group together who, like the youth leaders at camp, are willing to play together to create what is next. I am ready to partner with you. This process can be the most rewarding experience for all who participate as we come together to create a vision and bring it to life. Who wants to come play, create and rebuild our spiritual home with me? Let us look forward together and rebuild our home.

### **Our August Theme is Home.**

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.

### **August 6 – Collaborative Cardboard Creations**

**Arcade Party** – This will be our final day to finish and share our Collaborative Cardboard Creations! We will be testing out our games, adjusting as needed and getting to play them. We will set them all up in the RE area and invite the congregation to come visit after the service and play the games. Come join in the fun.

### **August 13 – Back to School Blessings Sunday**

– As many of you are getting ready to go back to school, we will take the time to celebrate the transition to a new year. We will make charms to hang on your book bags, water bottles or lunch bags and then create our own blessing ritual together so that each child or youth is ready for the new school year with “positive vibes”.

**August 20 – Tie Dye Sunday** – This Sunday is time to bring your cotton items to dye. T-shirts, socks, skirts, pants, scarves, and dresses, we have done them all. Bring something that is cotton or mostly

cotton to tie dye this Sunday. We will be getting a bit messy so wear clothing that can get messy. Mary will have dyes and screens ready to go. We will be working outside so bring water bottles to stay hydrated.

**August 27 – Creating Our Home Sunday** – Let’s Get Creative with our Religious Exploration Spaces and make some art for the walls, decorate the rooms, maybe even rearrange the furniture with some adult help. This is our space and this Sunday we will be “feathering the nest” as we make it our home to get ready for fall classes to start in September.

*These are the plans at the beginning of the month, and they may be adapted as our community’s 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](mailto: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.

## 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](mailto:RynCorbeil@gmail.com). Everyone welcome!

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



**EAST COUNTY  
PFLAG IS BACK!**

**PFLAG**

IN PERSON MEETINGS WILL BE HELD  
MONTHLY STARTING JUNE 20

FOR LOCATION INFORMATION, EMAIL:  
[EASTCOUNTYSDC@PFLAG.COM](mailto:EASTCOUNTYSDC@PFLAG.COM)

Sponsored by the Social Justice in Action Committee, PFLAG meetings continue on the third Tuesday of the month. All parents, friends, and allies of the LGBTQ+ community are welcome to attend.

For times and location please contact Ryn Corbeil or email [eastcountysdc@pflag.com](mailto:eastcountysdc@pflag.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](mailto: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.

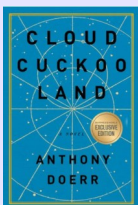
Our group is going to start meeting in person, in the Library. If you prefer, you may continue to join us online, too. You can use any Apple or PC/Android device (desktop computer, laptop, iPad or other tablet, smart phone) to access our meeting, but it must have a microphone and a camera.

To get the link, please email Denny at [denny.braun@usfamily.net](mailto:denny.braun@usfamily.net).



## THE SUMMIT UU BOOK CLUB MULTI-PLATFORM OPTIONS!

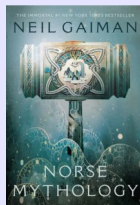
On Tuesday, Aug 1, at 7 pm, the Summit UU Book Club will be meeting both in person in the Library and via Zoom, hosted by Debbie Wingard. They will join the Zoom folks with an "owl" - a camera that turns to face the speaker. The people in the Library will be able to see and hear the people on Zoom, and vice-a-versa.



We will be discussing **CLOUD CUCKOO LAND**, by Anthony Doerr

Dedicated to "the librarians then, now, and in the years to come," **Cloud Cuckoo Land** is a hauntingly beautiful and redemptive novel about stewardship—of the book, of the Earth, of the human heart.

In September, we will be discussing **NORSE MYTHOLOGY**, by Neil Gaiman .



Everyone is welcome, even new members - either to participate or listen. If you have any questions, please ask Cheryl at [csmreck@outlook.com](mailto:csmreck@outlook.com)

— Cheryl Smrek

## WEDNESDAY MORNING CONVERSATIONS



We meet on Zoom and discuss what is in our hearts and on our minds. We are open to new folks joining. It's informal, bring a topic you'd like to discuss, or just come in to hang out. It's a good chance to hang out with other Summitarians that you might not get to see otherwise.

Wednesday mornings 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. Pacific Daylight Time

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://zoom.us/j/93838510596>

Meeting ID: 938 3851 0596  
One tap mobile  
+16694449171,,93838510596# US  
+16699006833,,93838510596# US (San Jose)

If you would like a reminder on Tuesday evening with the zoom link, let Pam know:  
[SuufVolunteer@yahoo.com](mailto:SuufVolunteer@yahoo.com)



Summit Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
8778 Cottonwood Ave.  
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## August

### About SUUF Publications

Please send submissions for the monthly SCENE AT SUMMIT NEWSLETTER via e-mail on or soon after the 25th, 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**.