



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: Generosity

November 5

"The Blessing of Service"
KC Marie Pandell, Minister

With so many opportunities for volunteering and charity, it's hard to not feel like everything each of us has is needed every second. This week, we explore the idea of "Time, Talent, and Treasure" as a spiritual practice, and how we can engage the giving of our time and energy as a way towards spiritual fulfillment. **NOTE: A short Congregational Meeting will follow the service.**

November 26

"Why Do You Have to Feed
The Old Woman?"
Aunt Li-Anne , Guest Speaker

Join us for a morning exploring generosity through folktales, such as "The Baker's Neighbors" from storyteller Aunt Li Anne. Aunt Li-Anne is an Instructor at Mira Costa College Community Ed. Dept. Where she is teaching "The Power and Joy of Oral Storytelling "

November 12

"For Gathering and Gratitude"
KC Marie Pandell, Minister

When we gather together, we do so with intention. But what does it mean to gather, and how do we hold those connections beyond Sunday worship? Today, we explore the importance of coming together, as we gather to celebrate our newest members to the Summit community.

November 19

Sermon by UUA President,
Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt

Our new UUA President, Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt, will be in San Diego this weekend! She will be speaking in person at First UU Church of SD, and we will be watching the service together from our Summit sanctuary. Following her service we'll enjoy Community Gathering time and Sunday Café.



The cover article of the recent issue of UU World is all about Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt.

Mary sat next to our UUA President at the recent LREDA conference in Milwaukee.



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!



KC's Korner

~ KC Marie Pandell, Minister

Greetings, beloved Summitarians and Friends

You continue to enthrall and inspire me with your heart, care, and resilience. It is never easy to come into a new place and new people together, and we have had to weather some pretty heavy storms as a community in my short time with you. I continue to see you hold each other in times of sorrow, and to come together to support one another on the new journeys that begin after times of great change. I see you taking in the ideas and thoughts I bring you, and you spin those threads into gold. I see you holding the pain of the world, and yet, there is hope for something better and beyond us all. It is a joy to share these journeys with you.

It is also a pleasure to constantly be challenged: every time I think I've found my groove, something new and interesting is brought my way, and I'm reminded that our community is one that lives and breathes as heartily as we each do alone. There will be some things to look forward to, in direct response to the wonderings, hopes, concerns, and sharings of our community gathering, our conversations, and emails.

Some of our much sought after Covenant Groups have gotten off to a start – I'm still hopeful to find at least one more facilitator for a group.

I intend to begin an in-person Grief Group by the end of November – we have so much that we have held onto, and I don't believe waiting until after the first of the year is the right choice. Should enough calls come for an online one, that is an option we may explore, as well.

Joy and Sorrows will return soon – slips will be found on Sundays in the hall, though anything we wish to be read can be texted or emailed to me prior to Sunday services – more to come on that, soon.

I hope to begin a Minister's Book group this year, starting with this year's UU Common Read: *On Repentance and Repair* by Danya Ruttenberg. My hope is that we can grapple with big ideas, thoughts, and feelings around tough subjects. Rabbi Ruttenberg's book is a very accessible read, in concise language – I've already begun implementing some of her writing in my professional and personal lives. The book is available in hardcover, paperback, Kindle, and audiobook formats.

As we approach the holiday season, as well as preparing for our Annual Auction, I know things can become chaotic. Let's keep returning to this community and each other. As we witness fresh hardships in the Middle East, and continued ones the world over, may we always remember that we are on the side of love, in every way.

There is always hope, even if it begins as a small spark within ourselves. May we seek it, always, and may we follow the path to love, and the care of souls, whenever possible.

I'll see you all, permanently, in San Diego, November 1st.

Blessings,
Pastor KC



In Memory of our President, Pierre

Dear Family, Friends, and Loved Ones,

It is with the heaviest of hearts that we are reaching out to you all today to let you know that our dear brother, husband, father and friend, Pierre Patrick Vaughn, passed away on Friday October 6th, 2023, at 4:59pm. In true Pierre form, and in contrast to the health journey he so bravely and stoically traversed in life, he left this earth peacefully after experiencing brief complications on Wednesday related to abdominal aneurism. Though sudden and surprising, even for us, we couldn't have asked for a more quiet and graceful passing. His wife Debbie, and his two sons, Brendan and Kyle were by his slumbering side until his last breath.

If you are receiving this message, you are one of the many people who touched this great man's life. To know Pierre was to know a truly extraordinary force. One that dramatically defined the human condition, and at all times, lead with passion, ferocity, brilliance, and most of all, LOVE. At every moment of his time here, Pierre strove to aid his people, empower others, and support all those he met with deeply authentic generosity, compassion, wisdom, and loyalty. He did this in countless ways. Not only through his successful law practice, which he started as a blind attorney in 1982, and which flourishes to this day, but also through numerous endeavors into philanthropy, community outreach, and public service, always keeping in mind the belief in the greater good. Always wanting and striving to give more of himself to as many people as he could.

Though in some ways cut short, as many of you who know, Pierre believed he lived far longer than he ever expected, or even hoped to. And because of this personal belief and understanding, he truly and emphatically treated every single day of life as a cosmic gift, not ever to be wasted or trivialized. Boldy, and with a constantly inspirational sense of human duty, Pierre lived and acted always in alignment with a resolute, and stunningly beautiful personal constitution, forever guided by unshakable moral and ethical conviction. This constitution was rooted in the power of love and service to his family, friends, community and in many ways humanity at large. Pierre fought tirelessly until the very end for "the little guy". Without doubt or deterrence, he believed that we are only as strong as the least fortunate among us, never wavering in the pursuit of justice and equality for all people. In short, he was a hero and an icon to so many, and we are all so grateful and blessed to have had such a loving, powerful titan for good in our lives.

Our hearts, though aching, are very full of love and admiration for our beloved Pierre, and please know we are here to share in your pain at learning of this loss. For now we prefer cards, texts, and emails, until we manage the immediate requirements of a recent passing. Debbie's address for cards is listed below if you so wish, and rather than any gifts, flowers or otherwise,

though very much appreciated, Pierre would wish these be given in the form of an offering to his spiritual community, the Summit Unitarian Universality Fellowship (link below).

There will be a celebration of life service at Summit, probably early in the new year. We hope and pray this news finds you well and thriving in your individual lives, and that despite this sadness, you are able to feel what we feel about our special guy. And more importantly what he would want you to feel... A belief that life is poetically short and mysterious for sure, but ultimately a fantastic and magical gift, that he embraced every second of with intrigue and delight, and that he wished these beliefs for all of you, always. We love you all, as he did, so very much. All our best to you and yours, now and forever... <3

From the bottom of our bruised but love filled hearts,

Debbie, Brendan and Kyle

Link to a donation to Summit Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
(please select "give to in memory of Pierre Vaughn" in drop down)
<https://summituuf.org/giving-overview/donate/>

Dear members and friends of Summit UU,

We at UUFSD in Solana Beach are sorry to hear of Pierre's death. I met him last month at a Zoom Presidents meeting sponsored by the Rev Sarah Milspangh. He was very engaging. It must be quite a loss to your community.

We send our love.

In solidarity,
Mary Anne (Trause)
Board President
UU Fellowship of San Dieguito



There will be a short
Congregational Meeting
immediately after the service on
Sunday, November 5,
to elect a new President for the
Board of Directors.

The Board has put forth
Carol Legard to serve as President

The Summit Board of Directors meets in-person (in the Library) and virtually on the third Thursday of the month at 7 pm.



RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION/FAITH FORMATION NEWS

MARY CARTER-VAIL, DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

Welcome to November and our new theme, the Gift of Generosity. This is an especially timely theme for me as I have been on

the receiving end of much generosity during a very difficult time in my life. Let's take a minute to explore the theme as our children experience it.

The Gift of Generosity: This November we are going to explore the Gifts of Generosity. Each week's exploration will be about what it means to give and to receive as we wonder about what generosity is and how we experience it individually and in community. We will be using multiple angles to explore together as we wonder about the experience of gratitude from the giver and the receiver perspectives.

Soul Work: Have you noticed the Soul Work table in the Sanctuary? Last month, I attended the annual UU Religious Educators conference in Milwaukee where I learned more about Soul Work and how it can bring a dimension of spiritual practice for all ages to experience during a worship service. For some of us, when our hands have something to engage with, like needle work, mandala drawing or crochet, the mind is more receptive to what is being said or shared. Its like a moving meditation that brings a new awareness to what is being experienced in the space. Stop by the table and pick up some stained glass mandalas, an embroidery hoop or choose from the many options available to explore during the service. Finished pieces can be left on the table for Mary to collect and create a community project with at the end of the year.

An Update from Mary: You will not see much of me at the beginning of the month as I am home

healing from my left hip replacement. Know that I will be back as soon as I am cleared by my medical team. This is an extra difficult healing as Paul was going to be helping with everything. I am super grateful to my children and many friends who have been helping me until I'm cleared to drive again.

Id like to express my deep gratitude to all of the Summitarians who have been helping with the Saab Ranch clean up. Thank you to each of you who have contributed in some way! There will be more work gatherings so let me know if you are interested in helping out. Thank you !

Faith Formation Volunteers STILL Needed: We continue to need volunteers who will be Faith Formation Leaders that guide our children and youth as they explore throughout the year. Each group needs two leaders on a Sunday to support them with a story and activities that Mary will prepare in advance. Currently, we still need more volunteers so that folks will only need to help one Sunday a month. All our parents volunteer as well as many young adults who grew up at Summit. It is special when we have adults who are not parents of children in the program share their time with our kids. In the past, we have had up to 45 volunteers each month with ages ranging from 18 to 98! All that has changed since the pandemic, and we are currently rebuilding the program. Please consider being part of this important part of our congregational life. (Volunteers who work with children will need to be background checked and take a Mandated Reporter training.) Contact Mary at summitdre@gmail.com to explore ways you can be part of Faith Formation at Summit.

Our November Theme is The Gift of Generosity. 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 split into age centered groups to engage in our activities in the Religious Exploration area and/or outside (depending on weather conditions). After the service, we will be joining our families in the Salon for sustenance & community social time. Nursery childcare will be available until 12 noon.

Nov 5 – The Gift of Widening Our Love – We will begin to explore generosity by thinking about how we connect to our various circles to widen our love. Our older students may explore the story of the Good Samaritan with a modern twist.

November 12 – The Gift of Connection – We are all connected, like knots in a net. Today we will play with stories and games that challenge us to see how we are connected and depend of the generosity of each other’s Time, Talent & Treasure each day.

November 19 – The Gift of Gratitude– We will be exploring gratitude as we look at what we have and really appreciate the value of everyday acts of love. We will be playing the gratitude game with

M & Ms so there will be something to be extra grateful for.

November 26 – The Gifts of Hope – Finally we will look at ways that we can expand the gratitude in our gaily likes by being agents of love through Random Acts of kindness.

These are the plans at the beginning of the month, and they may be adapted as our community 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.

Sign Me Up!

Would you like to work with our youngest members once a month? Currently, our classes will have 3 to 5 children each to start, more as we grow. We are looking for **8 volunteers per team, 2 adults per class per Sunday**. Yes? Contact Mary Carter-Vail!

**Pre-K through 1st Grade and
2nd through 5th Grade:**

Age-appropriate stories and activities based on the monthly theme.

It Takes a Village!

Middle & High School (combined):

Youth get to help decide what they want to do this year.

One possibility is Crossing Paths, a UU curriculum looking at world religions from a UU perspective.

Remember, since all worship services are available on YouTube, you can watch them later that Sunday or anytime during the week.

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 summitsja@gmail.com. Everyone welcome!

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

New Co-Chairs of the Social Justice in Action Committee (SJAC): November 2023

After several years of dedication, creativity, and heart, Ryn C. will be stepping down as Chair of the Social Justice in Action Committee (SJAC). Ryn, however, will still be a part of SJAC as a member. Al M. and Erin D., long-time members of the Committee will be Co-Chairs beginning in November of 2023. We would like to thank Ryn for his tireless service and unending commitment he provided to the group as well as Summit UU Fellowship.

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.



It's time for your favorite dessert fundraiser for a cause. **We have just opened our 19th annual Mama's Pies Bake Sale!**

What is Mama's Pies? Mama's Pies is a Thanksgiving Bake Sale that benefits Mama's Kitchen – **San Diego's largest provider of home-delivered meals** for individuals & families affected by HIV, cancer, congestive heart failure, type 2 diabetes, and chronic kidney disease.

Each pie purchased from Mama's Pies will help provide 12 meals for a critically ill community member this holiday season. Last year, because of supporters like you, we provided over 50,000 meals to homebound individuals vulnerable to malnutrition across all of San Diego County. Learn more about Mama's Kitchen [here](https://mamaspies.org).



Our pies are baked and donated with love by local bakeries, restaurants, and caterers and will be ready for pickup on Wednesday, November 22nd, at one of our public drive-through locations. **Sales start today, Monday, October 16th, and end on Saturday, November 18th or until supplies last.**

Last year, we sold out early, so get your order in before they're gone!

Order your pie(s) today! <https://mamaspies.org/shopping-cart/>



WELCOMING & MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE HAPPENINGS

Our small but mighty committee is engaged in planning several events and activities in the coming months.

New Member Ceremony November 12th. Summit will be welcoming five new members to the congregation during the Sunday service on November 12th. The new members are not all NEW to Summit, but have recently decided to become members: Barbara Scheidker, Stacy and Glenn Sasaki, and Carolyn and Peter Woodbury. KC Pandell will be officiating and will give the reflection that day. Please join us in celebrating these new members during and after the service in the Salon with cake and the usual Sunday Cafe treats and coffee.

Fellowship Lunch on December 10. The Welcoming and Membership Committee is hosting a lunch after services on December 10th, just for fun. Please mark your calendars and join us. It's still in the planning, so details will be provided in next month's Scene-at-Summit.

Summit Member Support Team. Have you received a call from a member of our Summit Member Support Team? This sub-committee has enthusiastically taken on the task of contacting our members to check on how they are doing and to let them know about things that are happening at Summit UUF. The team, which is led by Nancy Merrill, includes Bets McQuaide, Pat Summers, Barbara Jania-Smith and Margo Mariana. They will soon be making another round of calls, so if you haven't heard from them and would like to, make sure that Nelwyn (the office administrator, summituuf@gmail.com) has your current telephone contact information.

Volunteers for the Sunday Cafe. The Welcoming and Membership Committee helps Juana once a month with the work involved in setting up and cleaning up the Salon for Sunday Cafe after services. We all love the food and coffee Juana prepares for us each Sunday after services AND she can use additional help making the coffee and preparing food for our enjoyment. The Welcoming and Membership Committee usually helps on the fourth Sunday of each month.

The mission of the Welcoming and Membership Committee is to lead the Fellowship in promoting and maintaining a welcoming environment for members and visitors. We are a very active committee where every member plays a role. We meet on the fourth Thursday of the month at 4:30 pm on Zoom. We could use your help. Contact Pam or Jim if you are interested in learning more or would like to join our team!

In Fellowship,
Jim Weed and Pam Williams
Co-Chairs of the Welcoming & Membership Committee
Members

Barbara Jania-Smith, Debbie Kosmicki, Carol Legard, Margo Mariana, Nancy Merrill, Wanjiru Warama

You are always welcome to call or email Jim (HDSurf@aol.com 858-245-8673) or Pam (2400highview@gmail.com 619-867-9120)

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.

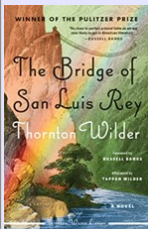
To get the link, please email Denny at denny.braun@usfamily.net.



THE SUMMIT UU BOOK CLUB MULTI-PLATFORM OPTIONS!

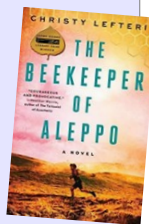
On Tuesday, November 7, at 7 pm, the Summit UU Book Club will be meeting both in person in the Library and via Zoom, hosted by Debbie Wingard.

We will be discussing **THE BRIDGE OF SAN LUIS REY**, by Thornton Wilder



"On Friday noon, July the twentieth, 1714, the finest bridge in all Peru broke and precipitated five travelers into the gulf below." This immortal sentence opens *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*, one of the towering achievements in American literature, winner of the Pulitzer Prize, and a novel still read throughout the world.

In December, we will be discussing **THE BEEKEEPER OF ALEPPO**, by Christy Lefteri



Everyone is welcome, even new members - either to participate or listen. If you have any questions, please ask Cheryl at 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. Our minister, KC Marie Pandell, will be joining us on the 3rd Wed. of the month. Spread the word.

Wednesday mornings 9:00-10:00 a.m. PDT

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

CALLING ALL SUUPER HEROES!



**WE ARE GATHERING AT
SUMMITOPOLIS
ON JANUARY 20, 2024!**

OUR WORLD, FROM THE LOCAL TO THE GLOBAL, NEEDS OUR POWERS OF INTERDEPENDENCE, JUSTICE, GENEROSITY, TRANSFORMATION, EQUITY, PLURALISM AND LOVE *LIKE NEVER BEFORE!*

ARE YOU UP FOR THE CHALLENGE?

Folks at Summitopolis are hard at work gathering donations for the Auction, which will provide us with the means to make our world, near and far, a better place. Have you turned your donation(s) in yet? If not, please print as many copies of the donation form (on the next page) as you need and turn in your donations to the Summit office **by Dec. 31, 2023.**



DON'T KNOW WHAT TO OFFER?



Is there an activity you enjoy you would like to share with others? Go on a hike? Wine tasting? Give a ride to the airport? Share a craft you have made? Host a dinner, or lunch, or brunch? How about a movie night? The possibilities are endless—use your imagination and see what you come up with!

We will have our silent auction bidding open for online bids from January 15-19. On Saturday, January 20, we will gather in-person for the final bidding—both silent and live. We will have appetizers available during the silent bidding from 3-4:30 pm, and desserts available to enjoy during the live auction starting at 4:45 pm. Beer, wine and soda will be available for purchase. Childcare will be available for our younger SUUPER Heroes, too!

SILENT AUCTION
Online Bidding
Jan 15-19, 2024

In-Person Bidding
Jan. 20, 2024

LIVE AUCTION
Jan. 20, 2024
(in person only)



**WHAT IS YOUR
SUUPER POWER?**



CALLING ALL SUUPER HEROES!

**SUMMITOPOLIS
NEEDS YOUR HELP!**



**Gathering on
January 20, 2024**

AUCTION DONATION FORM

Donor's Name(s): _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

DONATION INFORMATION

Fair Market Value: \$ _____ per donation per person Quantity: _____

Description: _____

Restrictions: _____

Expiration Date / Date of Event: _____

Please email a photo of your item or an image to represent your event to:
SummitUUAuction@gmail.com by **January 4, 2024**.

Delivery Method:

_____ Item / Gift Certificate enclosed _____ Auction Committee to create Gift Certificate
_____ Auction Committee to pick up _____ Donor will deliver to Summit UU Fellowship

Donor Signature: _____ Date: _____

THANK YOU!

Summit Unitarian Universalist Fellowship is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.
Donations are 100% tax deductible at their fair market value.

Return Donation Forms to Summit Office: 8778 Cottonwood Ave. • Santee, CA 92071
or email to: SummitUUAuction@gmail.com



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

OFFICE HOURS

Tues, Wed, Fri — 9:30 am to 2:30 pm

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November 2023

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.