



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: Liberating Love

Jan. 7

"To Thine Own Self Be True: When Self Love is an Act of Rebellion"
KC Marie Pandell, Minister

In a world where we're surrounded by pictures of perfection, and the pressures of other's perceptions, it can be a radical act simply to love ourselves. Join Pastor KC in a exploration of liberating self-love can be, and how it may become part of our daily spiritual practice.

Jan. 14

"God Bless the Outcasts"
KC Marie Pandell, Minister

It is no secret that religion and God have been used in ways to "other," to condemn and strike fear into those viewed as less than.

Today, we examine liberation theology from an LGBTQ perspective, and how it has shaped and reclaimed faith for so many.



Jan. 21

"The Present of Presence"
KC Marie Pandell, Minister

They say it takes a village to raise a child. Today, we explore what it means to make a commitment to a child, as parents, as leaders, and as a community of love. Please join Pastor KC and our leadership for our annual Child Dedication Ceremony.



Jan. 28

"Songs That Mean a Lot to Me"
Lisa, Laurel, Sandy, Suzanne, Stacy, Laura & Ryn

Summit musicians will play and sing from the heart.

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

I hope we have all seen warm, loving holiday seasons thus far. It was a delight to share this first holiday season with you all.

It was an absolute joy to spend three Sundays with the kiddos, witnessing their enthusiasm to plan a service for our community. It was so wonderful to get the opportunity to start getting to know them the same ways I've been lucky enough to get to know some of you, and it's my pleasure to get to see them for who they are. Getting to see them participate full-bore in the unboxing was truly a sight to behold – thank you, all of you, for participating with so much gusto (and indulging me my Christmas donkey).

I look forward to another intergenerational service with them in the not-too-distant future. I hope it becomes something our children will always look forward to.

It was also my pleasure to help bring back the first in-person candlelight Christmas Eve service since 2019 – sharing in the space with all of you, standing in the warm glow of our community together warmed my heart, and I'm grateful to carry it with me into the second half of the church year. My deepest gratitude to Karen and the congregation for being able to pivot when things don't quite go according to plan – live worship! Anything can happen.

I look forward to joining you all for some upcoming events, including the Ministerial Start-Up with Rev. Sarah Gibb-Millsbaugh from the UUA on **January 7**. A potluck will follow the service (please bring your favorite dish!), followed by the start-up at noon, in the Sanctuary.

Our first grief group will be **January 14** at 12:30pm in the Library.

Minister's Book group, on Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg's *On Repentance and Repair* (the 2023/2024 UUA Common Read) will be **January 21** at 12:30pm in the Salon.

Please join us for two extra special events:

Our **Summitopolis Auction** on **January 20**

Our next **Child Dedication Ceremony** on **January 21**

Here's to a wonderful 2024, which I hope will be filled with love, joy, and comfort for all.

Looking forward to the possibilities this year will bring to our community; thanks for choosing me to be a part of it.

Blessings,

Pastor KC

(714) 869-7645

summitminister@gmail.com

[Calendly Schedule](#)



Message from the President

Dear members, friends,
and staff of Summit,

Happy New Year! The new year is a time to reflect on where you've been, where you might be headed, and with whom you share this journey. As the new Board President, I am seeing the functioning of Summit with fresh eyes. I have been made to feel very welcome to the Board and am so impressed my fellow Board members; their dedication to Summit, their intelligence, and their open generous hearts. We at Summit have been through a lot this last year, and it feels like we have much to look forward to in 2024.

In spiritual community, we commit ourselves to building a compassionate, just and sustainable world. This is Summit's mission statement, adopted 2012. Erik Walker Wikstrom, in his book "Serving with Grace," argues that if your congregation's life is really centered around its mission, its purpose in the world, then each and every issue that comes before each and every Board, committee, task force, and working group will relate in one way or another to this central statement. With this in mind, and working closely with our Minister, KC, the board's overarching goal is to accomplish the vision of the Fellowship by adopting processes, policies and practices that enhance effective and efficient

functioning of the Fellowship. That is, to work with our Minister in enabling our committees and working groups to do their work --- centered around building a compassionate, just, and sustainable world!

In the next few months, the Board will be working with the Finance Committee and others on the 2024-2025 budget, which must be approved by the Board before going for a vote at the congregational meeting in June. We will continue providing what guidance we can to the volunteers planning the Interfaith Shelter and the annual Pledge Drive. We will also be working with the Personnel Committee to finalize an employment contract for our Director of Religious Education, Mary Carter Vail. As we move through 2024, we will be working on revisions to the bylaws, and working with our committees and members to improve the functioning of the Fellowship and to help KC be successful as our spiritual leader.

I am so happy to be sharing this journey with all of you at Summit. Here's wishing you peace, good health, and love in 2024.

Carol

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 the new year! We begin 2024 by starting with a deep dive into the values that we center as a faith

community. These are all part of the article two commission that the UUA and community congregations, including ours, have been working on for 4+ years. We will begin with our center value: Liberating Love.

The Gift of Liberating Love: Love is a powerful feeling that we are fortunate to experience in a faith community like Summit. This January we are going to explore how love liberates us by pulling us toward wholeness, healing, and connection. We are excited to use the concept of magnets as all the Gift Box reflection objects this month and to highlight how, like a magnet, our faith calls or pulls us toward actionable or liberating love. The idea of liberating love vs comforting love might be confusing for children, so this month, we are excited to offer a different take on the Introduction and Gift Box section as a way of explaining it! Sessions 2-4 will all have a short story and an object lesson to help give kids a visual way of understanding how liberating love can show up in our lives! Join us for each session, see details below, for the full experience of Liberating Love.

Soul Work: Our Soul Work Table will continue this month with the theme of Liberating Love. Pick up a heart from the table and create your own design to add to our community art on the wall as we replace the tree from the fall with a community heart. The stained-glass coloring pages and embroidery hoops are still available as well. Take something to your seat as you listen to the service. The Soul Work Table and Cozy Corner are for all ages so

please enjoy!

Join us for All Ages Faith Formation at Summit: We are growing our Religious Exploration program and expanding to an all-ages Faith Formation program. (Watch your email for more details.) Join us and consider being part of this important part of our congregational life. (Volunteers who work with children will need to be background checked and take Mandated Reporter training.) Contact Mary at summitdre@gmail.com to explore ways you can be part of Faith Formation at Summit.

Our January Theme is The Gift of Liberating Love.

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.

January 7 – Love Pulls Us: The pull of love can feel like a magnet if we are open to it. We will begin to explore how love is at the center of our faith and how it pulls us together as a spiritual community here at Summit and beyond. We will be doing some crafts and games as part of this session.

January 14 – Love Pulls Us Up Stream – This week we will explore the pull of love to work together for solutions to community problems. As it is MLK Day on Monday, we will share a

story about how the liberating love for all that Dr. King envisioned is a continued inspiration to each of us to take action by serving our community as a spiritual practice. We will do some garden clean up and create a magnet game to play.

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.

January 21 – Love Pulls Us Back to the Table – What feels more like love than a bowl of comforting soup? This Sunday we will share a version of the traditional story and then make our own Stone Soup to share during café time. This will be a yummy day!

With deepest love and brightest blessings,

Mary

Mary Carter-Vail
she/they

Director of Religious Exploration

January 28 – Love Pulls Us Toward Self-Acceptance – For our final Sunday of the month we will be exploring how love calls us to love and accept ourselves even when we are being fed messages of “not enoughness”. We will be exploring the trap of perfection by discovering examples of success from failure and making imperfect cupcakes.

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.

THE SUMMIT TUESDAY NIGHT MEN'S GROUP IS now hosting open house meetings on the last Tuesday of each month. Any and all men in the Summit community are invited. The next OPEN HOUSE meeting is Tuesday January 30th in the library at Summit.

We are a supportive circle of men who share and listen to each other. We invite you to visit with us. Interested men may contact Mark Weedman for details, (619) 334-5300 or markatpsectrum@hotmail.com.

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.



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.



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

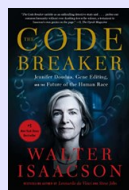
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/93838510596>

Meeting ID: 938 3851 0596

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

THE SUMMIT UU BOOK CLUB MULTI-PLATFORM OPTIONS!

On Tuesday, January 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.



We will be discussing **THE CODE BREAKER: JENNIFER DOUDNA, GENE EDITING, AND THE FUTURE OF THE HUMAN RACE**, by Walter Isaacson

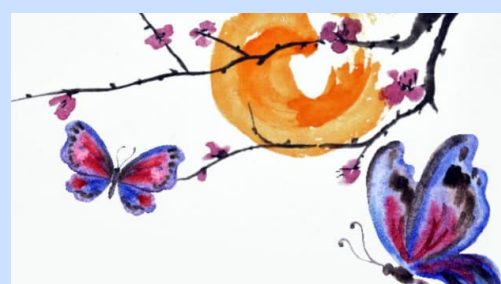
After helping to discover CRISPR, Doudna became a leader in wrestling with the moral issues around gene editing and, with her collaborator Emmanuelle Charpentier, won the Nobel Prize in 2020. Her story is an "enthraling detective story" (*Oprah Daily*) that involves the most profound wonders of nature, from the origins of life to the future of our species.

In February, 2024, we will be discussing **ELEANOR OLIPHANT IS COMPLETELY FINE**, by Gail Honeyman



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



GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP Pastor KC, Facilitator

KC is starting a Grief Group for Summitarians and friends who are grieving the loss of a loved one. Meeting will start at 12:30 pm on Sun., Jan. 14, in the office conference room. (Future months will be in the Library.)

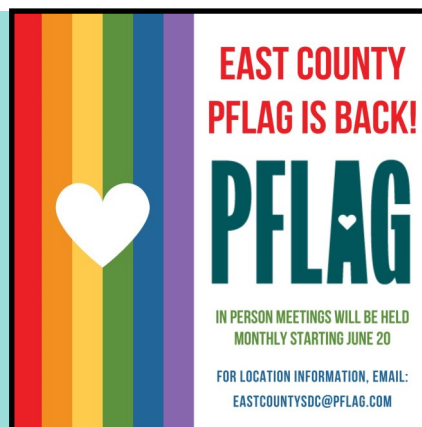
SOCIAL JUSTICE IN ACTION

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 — January 14, 12:30 pm in the Library and <https://zoom.us/j/98852027774>

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.



NEWS ABOUT THE SHELTER:

Dan and Melanie Bartholmew have joined the Shelter Task Force and are training as Co- Coordinators. *(Thank you, Melanie and Dan!)*

This year Summit is hosting the **Interfaith Shelter Network's** guests from March 9th until March 23rd. Please consider being a volunteer this year, especially doing overnights.

For more information about the Shelter, join us at our next meeting on Sunday, January 14th at 12:30 pm. We are meeting in conjunction with the Social Justice in Action monthly meeting.

For more information, contact Al Mork, Liz McHugh or Erin Doherty.

Thanks,
Al Mork





CALLING ALL SUUPER HEROES!

**WE ARE GATHERING AT
SUMMITOPOLIS**

ON JANUARY 20, 2024!

3-4:30 PM: SILENT BIDDING & APPETIZERS

4:45 PM TO ... LIVE AUCTION & DESSERTS!



ONLINE BIDDING AVAILABLE FROM JAN 15-19, 2024.

ALL OF THE PERTINENT AUCTION WEBSITE
INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND [HERE](#)



**FOR SALE (PRICE REDUCED) 2002 SUBARU OUTBACK, L.L. BEAN EDITION
(donated to Summit by the Estate of Mark & Pat Bryning)**

- ◆ 159K miles
- ◆ Engine H6.30
- ◆ Transmission 4-speed automatic
- ◆ Excellent maintenance record
- ◆ Moonroof, sunroof, leather seats
- ◆ VIN 4S3BH806427654126
- ◆ Asking \$4900



Contact Ryn Corbeil with questions ryncorbeil@gmail.com, 619-368-0432

WhaleCoast Alaska - A More Authentic Travel Experience



Two unique, exciting fundraising tours organized by 4 Alaska UU congregations are being offered again next summer by WhaleCoast Alaska. Experience majestic scenery, wildlife, Denali National Park, Alaska Native culture, glaciers, and UU homestays. For 30 years, WhaleCoast Alaska tours have been the BEST way to visit Alaska. Register now for this amazing experience!



Details: www.WhaleCoastAK.org Questions: whalecoastak@gmail.com



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

OFFICE HOURS

Tues, Wed, Fri — 9:30 am to 2:30 pm

MINISTER

KC Pandell

SummitMinister@gmail.com

[Calendly Schedule](#)

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

Mary Carter-Vail

619-562-0833, ex 205

SummitDRE@gmail.com

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Nelwyn Del Frate

619-562-0833, ex. 202

Summituuf@gmail.com

PROPERTY STEWARD

Mark Weedman

markatspectrum@hotmail.com

WEEKLY ENEWS EDITOR

Pam Kerr: SUUFVolunteer@yahoo.com

SCENE AT SUMMIT NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Elinor Weed: SUUFSceneNuus@gmail.com

Board of Trustees

Carol Legard—*President*

Jenny Saar—*Vice President*

VACANT—*Secretary*

Brenda McGuinness—*Treasurer*

Directors;

Ryn Corbeil, Seraphina Galante,
Sally Jackson, Al Mork, VACANT



January, 2024

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.