



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: Justice & Equity

Feb. 4

**“Service is Our Prayer:
Interfaith Shelter Sunday”**
Social Justice In Action Committee

Last year's Summit Homeless Shelter was a rousing success with 100% of our Guests finding housing after they left Summit. Come join us this week for Interfaith Shelter Sunday! Past volunteers and members of the Interfaith Shelter Task Force will tell of their experiences and share how you can help make this year's Shelter a success. Nachos will be served after the service. (Donations to support the shelter welcomed).

Feb. 11

“The Justice We Can Touch”
KC Marie Pandell, Minister

There is much injustice in the world, and sometimes it feels suffocating how small people can feel on the larger scale of Injustice. Today, we explore the meaningful ways we can help work towards justice in our own backyards, when a little can go a long way.

Feb. 18

“A Theology of Black Presence”
KC Marie Pandell, Minister

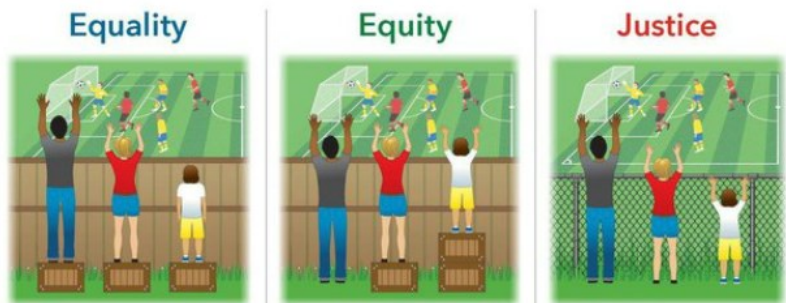
Up next in our Liberation Theology series, Pastor KC will explore Black theology, touching on the meaning-making and life-giving ways this deeply American theology has helped combat oppression for Black Americans.

Feb. 25

“Suffering and Justice”
Guest Speaker, Rev. Seth Clark

When we pursue justice, sometimes it hurts. Yet, hope is sure. Hope is real.

Rev. Seth will explore these aspects of justice using historical examples as well as personal experiences. Personal examples from working across cultures and across borders.



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

Dear Summitarians and friends,

What a start to the New Year it has been! By now, our Auction will have come and gone, and I hope everyone who attended had a joyful time celebrating our Summitopolis! We were able to celebrate our first Child Dedication ceremony together, and we are looking eagerly ahead to our Pledge Drive! We know that Summit is a self-sustaining community, and we require the time, talent, and treasure of everyone in this community not only to keep us alive, but to help propel us into the future. Your generosity is always deeply appreciated, and if you're interested in assisting with the Pledge Drive, please reach out to Pam Williams and Sandy Berstein – I know they'd love to help you find a role!

We've begun a new grief group, and I want to reiterate: ALL grief is welcome. Whether it's a decades old grief you still carry, or a fresh wound you're learning to live with. Whether a death, a loss of a relationship, or pain of a major transition, your grief is welcome. There is space for holding and healing of all griefs in our group. The meeting days and times have been a little up in the air, so please reach out directly, and keep an eye on the weekly emails for changes to date/room location – Our next meeting is **February 11, noon, location—td.**

Our next minister's book group read is *An Indigenous People's History of the United States* by Roxanne Dunbar Ortiz; I'm very much looking forward to diving into it with you all. I'll see you in the **Library, on February 18, 12:30pm.**

A reminder that we have re-added our Joys & Concerns back into the service. Joys & Concerns can be emailed or texted to me prior to Sunday service, OR can be handwritten on a slip found at the front of the Sanctuary, and I, or a service associate, will read it aloud during worship.

Whether spoken or unspoken, please always feel free to light a candle for what you hold.

As a note: I will be available for meetings/pastoral care via Zoom and phone the week of February 7th, but will be out of the office for the majority of that week; I will, however, see you from the pulpit that Sunday. Please contact me with any needs.

Beloveds, we are already halfway through our first year of ministry together, can you believe it?! We have learned and grown and stretched so much! It has been my joy to do so alongside you. We'll blink, and it will be the summer, and I can't wait to see what incredible things we do together between then and now.

What sort of magic are you hoping we'll create in the next 5 months?

My blessings and love to you all,

Pastor KC
(714) 869-7645
summitminister@gmail.com
[Calendly Schedule](#)



Message from the President

Dear members, friends, and staff of Summit,

When my partner Charlie and I moved to Santee 9 years ago, we started attending Summit because we enjoyed the Sunday services. We came from All Souls UU Church in Washington DC, which is a beautiful huge UU church in the heart of the city. We both participated in activities there, but it was such a large place that I didn't really get to know people there, at least not well.

Summit UUF was a big change for us. As a smaller congregation, it was easy to participate. We knew what was going on in people's lives through the sharing of joys and sorrows and the many lay-led services. We both got to know people better by joining a covenant group and the Social Justice committee. As a member of Summit, I appreciated – and continue to appreciate -- the shared values of people here. Summit is a liberal religious enclave in a broadly conservative community. An oasis from the harshness of the world. A refuge for those weary of intolerance and injustices. A place where people care about and want to change the suffering of others.

My original covenant group was made up mostly of women older than I. I loved hearing their stories, the arcs of their lives; this older generation sharing their struggles and passions. I learned so much from those ladies and grew to love them. As time went on, the group changed and then ended, and I am now with a new covenant group – younger but equally interesting and filled with love. Time goes on and things change, and while change is hard, it is a good thing. We at Summit are experiencing a lot of change, and it is for the better. As we get to know our new Minister, she brings with her great ideas for Summit, like renewing small group activities, and the revival of covenant groups and discussion groups that will bring us together.

The people we meet at Summit are among our closest friends. We share a commitment to living the UU principles and purposes. We love that Summit is committed to making the world a better place. We gain inspiration from the Sunday services, those given by our Minister, guest speakers, and the members and friends of Summit who take a turn at the pulpit. Music Sunday on January 28 was filled with joy. The gift of that music, shared by members of our congregation, filled me with gratitude that I have found a home here at Summit.

This is why Charlie and I have been members of Summit since 2015. This is why we pledge every year to help sustain this remarkable community.

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

Happy February! Last month we explored Liberating Love and brought out our inner Superhero at the Auction.

This month we are engaging with the superhero qualities of Justice and Equity. We do our best to live into these values as part of the practice of being a Unitarian Universalist. As we take a deep-dive in Religious Exploration and prepare for the upcoming Interfaith Shelter at Summit we have the blessing of expanding our understanding of these gifts.

The Gifts Justice and Equity: Our new theme is inspired by the Article II values that we continue to explore this year. Article II defines these values as follows:

***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 within our congregations, our Association, and society at large.*

***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.”*

These are big concepts for our youngest children so we will be exploring them in age-appropriate ways. We will start with creating our own understanding of these values and then dive a bit deeper as we work towards the promise of Beloved Community.

Soul Work: Our Soul Work Table will continue this month with the theme of Justice & Equity. We will be building a new piece of wall art to add to as we continue to explore themes in worship. 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. 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 February Theme is The Gifts of Justice and Equity.

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.

February 4 – What is Equality, Equity, and Justice?

In this session, we explore the differences between the words “equity” and “justice.” In addition, we add the word “equality” since that may be a familiar word to the children. We will share the story of the Platinum Rule and play Unfair Candyland as we begin to experience these values in action.

February 11 – The Gift of Building Better Relationships

– This week we will explore the power of a kind act and how it ripples out to the world. After our story and reflection, we will be making valentines to share with others. Each card is like a ripple in the pond to spread love to others and build better connections through compassion.

February 18 – The Gift of Building a Better World

– This week, we explore how we build a better world so that justice and equity are a part of society. Last week, we focused on bringing justice

and equity into our personal relationships, now we are focusing on bringing justice and equity to our societal structures. And since this month is Black History Month, we get at this by focusing on how African-Americans have led the way in bringing justice and equity to our country and how uncovering the unjust parts of our US history is also a way of addressing the harm of our US past. We will be using LEGOs to build a bigger and stronger structure together as a way of exploring our stories together.

February 25 – The Gift of Joy and Beloved Community– For our final Sunday of the month, we explore how justice and equity can move us to Beloved Community. We will be playing a game from the Article II team called: Changing the Weather. This relay race game is all about adapting to support the beloved community and it looks like lots of fUUn!

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.

Lifespan Faith Formation – for All Ages

MOVIE NIGHT!

The Lifespan Faith Formation team is starting with the first of a Movie Series. We plan for these movies to sometimes be family friendly, and sometimes for adults only. We are looking for movies that give us something to think about/discuss from our Unitarian Universalist perspective. If you have suggestions, please share them with Mary Carter-Vail, Elinor Weed, and our minister KC Marie Pandell.

Our first movie will be **Barbie!**

(Rated PG-13)

Whether you have seen the movie before, or not, we hope you will join us to watch this movie by (raised UU) director Greta Gerwig.

Date: Saturday, February 10, 2024

Time: Gather at 5 pm for Costco pizza and Popcorn in the Greeting Room (Donations to cover the cost of food welcome.)

Movie Starts: 5:30 pm in the Salon.

Following the movie, either Saturday night or in the Salon on Sunday, we can share what UU principles, values, programs, etc. we saw portrayed in the movie!



🌀 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 summitsjia@gmail.com. Everyone welcome!

Interfaith Shelter-specific meeting where we will discuss volunteer status, preparation and logistics — **Sunday, February 11, 12:30 pm** in the Library and <https://zoom.us/j/98852027774>

LATEST NEWS ABOUT THE SHELTER

The Interfaith Shelter is coming to Summit March 9th to March 23rd. Last year, all of the guests who were sheltered at the Summit facility were able to find subsequent long-term housing. What a wonderful outcome!

We are recruiting volunteers for this year's effort both in person, starting with Shelter Sunday Service on February 4th, and online starting **NOW** across a variety of positions. To sign up online, please click [HERE](#). You can find volunteer roles and other information outlined there as well.

Please consider helping. Service is our prayer, and we appreciate your consideration.

For more information contact

Dan Bartholomew

Cell: (619) 606-4632

E-mail: dmbartholomew@cox.net

Sincerely,

The Interfaith Shelter Network Team



INTERFAITH
SHELTER
NETWORK

NETWORK

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.

The PFLAG logo features a vertical rainbow bar on the left side. A white heart is centered over the rainbow. To the right of the heart, the text "EAST COUNTY PFLAG IS BACK!" is written in red, and "PFLAG" is written in large, bold, teal letters. Below this, smaller text reads "IN PERSON MEETINGS WILL BE HELD MONTHLY STARTING JUNE 20" and "FOR LOCATION INFORMATION, EMAIL: EASTCOUNTYSDC@PFLAG.COM".

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"A New Beginning" Photo Contest!

We are off on "A New Beginning". We have a new full time minister, KC Marie Pandell. We are back in person with growing attendance for Sunday Services while we will continue to provide online participation.



We are challenged, but we continue to meet our challenges. We can't just return to our old ways of doing things. Therefore, we are announcing **"A New Beginning" PHOTO CONTEST**

Please share with us your best pictures reflecting our fresh start. We know you are great photographers and have taken many beautiful pictures, yet these contest pictures should relate to Summit. **Contest will run through mid February**, We would like to have some new pictures soon to celebrate our new beginning. *You can submit as many times as you wish.*

Submit your pictures to Pam Williams,
email: 2400highview@gmail.com or text:(619) 867-9120

WELCOMING & MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE HAPPENINGS

HAVE YOU BEEN THINKING ABOUT JOINING SUMMIT?

Joining this congregation means becoming a member of a religious community that is grounded in the long history of Unitarian Universalism. It is also an affirmation of principles such as universal human dignity, justice and compassion in human relations, and respect for the inter-dependent web of which we all are a part, as a foundation for every individual's free search for truth and meaning.

Being a member provides a framework for the everyday pursuit of meaning through activities, worship, and spiritual and intellectual development. Joining is an expression of commitment to the vision of Summit. In making a public commitment to join with us in practicing and promoting the values reflected in our Principles and Purposes, the effects of your gifts, talents and resources will be multiplied, for the realization of a compassionate, just and sustainable society.

I hope that you will experience the supportive community that comes with being part of an intentional spiritual community that seeks to include anyone who is interested in helping to build a happier, healthier world.

If you have any questions about how to do this, you can contact me, Jim Weed at HDSurf@aol.com or our minister at KC Marie Pandell at summitminister@gmail.com.

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, February 6, at 7 pm, the Summit UU Book Club will be meeting both in person in the Library and via Zoom, hosted by Debbie Wingard.

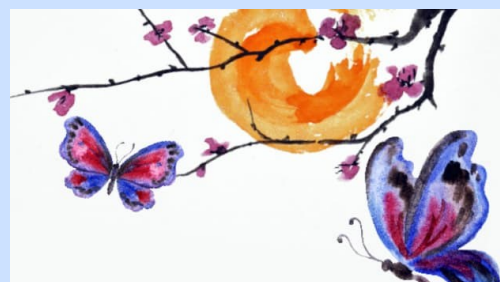
We will be discussing **ELEANOR OLIPHANT IS COMPLETELY FINE**, by Gail Honeyman

“Beautifully written and incredibly funny, *Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine* is about the importance of friendship and human connection. I fell in love with Eleanor, an eccentric and regimented loner whose life beautifully unfolds after a chance encounter with a stranger; I think you will fall in love, too!”



—Reese Witherspoon

Everyone is welcome, even new members - either to participate or listen. If you have any questions, please ask Cheryl at cs mre ck@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.)

AFFINITY GROUPS

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 markatpspectrum@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.



Special Event

Summit Potluck and Music Concert!

Come join us at Summit for an evening of food, fellowship, and live music.

Our musical guest will be PETER BOLLAND!

When: Friday February 23rd, 2024, 6 to 8 p.m.

Where: Summit Salon for potluck and music
Drinks and dessert will be provided. Bring a dish to share.



To RSVP, contact Mark Weedman markatspectrum@hotmail.com or 619-334-5300. Let Mark know the dish you would like to bring.



CALLING ALL SUUPER HEROES!

**THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO MAKE OUR
RECENT EVENT A HUGE SUCCESS!**

**SO FAR, WE HAVE RAISED OVER
\$17,000!**

QUESTIONS? CONTACT SUMMITUUAUCTION@GMAIL.COM

OUR NEXT AUCTION WILL BE IN RETURNING TO ITS PREVIOUSLY
SCHEDULED TIME OF THE FALL 2024,

**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
- ◆ Now asking \$4,000



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

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February, 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.