



# 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: Pluralism

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May 5

“Nothing Dies That’s Remembered”

Rev. Tom Owen-Towle, Guest Speaker

As Rev. Tom negotiates a permanent move to Santa Barbara in the ensuing months to be near his daughter, Erin, and her family, he feels honored to share some farewell words of tribute to his beloved Summitarians.

Rev. Tom will be sharing magic tricks for the kids in Time For All Ages.

May 12

“A Mother’s Influence”

KC Marie Pandell, Minister

Motherhood is no easy feat; it takes courage and strength to do Mom’s work. Today, join Pastor KC as we celebrate the mother figures in our lives, and share our hopes for the mothers yet to come .



May 19

“All Are Valuable”

Aunt Li-Anne, Guest Speaker

Aunt Li-Anne takes a look at pluralism through a Traditional Story Lens. What’s the difference between “A Melting Pot” and Stone Soup? If everyone decides that their own contribution is unimportant what does that do to the community? A Bhutanese Story gives us a chance to see that we can work together while valuing all our differences.



May 26

“London Calling”

KC Marie Pandell, Minister

A Unitarian Universalist and five Episcopalians walk into a pub... Pastor KC shares her experience on Bexley-Seabury seminary’s “Learning from London” course, and the unexpected faith journey it brought.

*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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## KC's Korner

~ KC Marie Pandell, Minister

Dear Summitarians and Friends,

My goodness, my goodness, is it May already? Where has the year gone? A blink, and I will be away from our Summit home for the summer months.

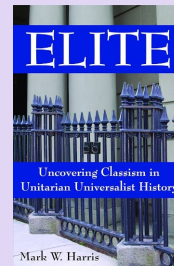
We've seen some spectacular things happen in the last month, from Summit being given the Spirit Award from the Interfaith Shelter coalition, to a wonderfully successful Pledge Drive, and all sorts of goodness in between. What a delight it's been to share in these triumphs with you. As I recently passed my Ministerial Fellowship Committee interview, where the powers that be have invited me into the next steps of UU ministry, it is with gratitude to this wonderful community that I take the next steps: a major part of my growth as a young minister has been possible because it has been my joy and honor to serve Summit.

Looking ahead, we have a couple of wonderful guest speakers: Summit's beloved Rev. Tom Owen-Towle for his farewell sermon, and the much-requested Aunt Li-Anne. I'll also be making some appearances, celebrating our Mothers and those who mother, as well as sharing my experience on the Learning from London course last year with my much-loved Episcopalian friends (did you know that THIS year is the 50th anniversary of the Philadelphia Eleven – the day the first female Episcopal priests ever ordained, despite not having denominational support? It's a great story!)

While we missed Grief Group last month (my sincerest apologies), we will be meeting on May 12, at noon. Come as you are. I realize that's Mother's Day – come as you can!

In May, we will be skipping the Minister's Book Group, but will be back for one final book of the year in June, reading one of my favorite historical Unitarian Universalist texts: *Elite: Uncovering Classism in Unitarian Universalist*

*History* by Mark W. Harris. I hope you'll join in for this illuminating, deeply important read and discussion.



We also have our next SUUF Community gathering coming up May 18, at 5pm: A potluck with our children, and game night! Please mark your calendars – Mary & I look forward to hosting you in the Salon.

Our next RE Lunch is May 26, after service – please join us in planning our next RE Sunday, which coincides with Flower Communion.

Lastly, but certainly not least: Please mark your calendars to join us in celebrating the life of storied, and much missed Summitarian, Pierre Vaughn, on May 25, 11am.

Blessings, and all the good thoughts,

*Pastor KC*

(714) 869-7645

[summitminister@gmail.com](mailto:summitminister@gmail.com)

[Calendly Schedule](#)

### MINISTER'S OFFICE HOURS

Pastor KC is delighted to receive your calls and emails. Her regular day off is Monday. She checks email on a limited basis on Friday, her study day. She is available for one-on-one meetings by appointment.

#### In Office Hours:

Tues: 10 am to Noon 2 pm to 5 pm

Thurs: 10 am to Noon 1pm to 5 pm

#### Zoom/Call/Etc (Zoom preferred):

Wed: 10 am to Noon 1 pm to-3 pm

Schedule an appointment: [Calendly Schedule](#)



## Message from the President of the Board

Dear Members, Friends, and Staff of Summit:

From the Unitarian Universalist Hysterical Society...

How many UUs does it take to screw in a lightbulb? It Takes 300:

- 12 to sit on the board which appoints the nominating and personnel committee.
- 5 to sit on the nominating and personnel committee which appoints the House committee.
- 8 to sit on the house committee which appoints the light bulb changing committee.
- 4 to sit on the light bulb-changing committee which chooses who will screw in the light bulb.
- 3 of those 4 then give their own opinion of “screwing in methods” while one actually does the installation.
- After completion it takes 100 individuals to complain about the method of installation, another 177 to debate the ecological impact of using the light bulb at all, and at least one to insist that back in her day the lit chalice was quite enough.

If you’ve ever tried to get anything significant done at Summit, you’ll relate to this joke. It’s wonderful to be part of a congregation that gives a voice to all members and is committed to the democratic process in decision-making. On the other hand, democracy is a slog; it takes time and patience. The Board and I are anxious to grow our community – to reach out to the many people in East County that are looking for a spiritual home that embraces diversity. Doing so is a multifaceted process that requires the work of many committees and individuals. Over the next year, we will see an expanded social media presence, updates to the website, new adult RE offerings, and a revitalized music program. We will be reaching out to members, visitors, folks we haven’t seen in a while, and neighbors we have not yet met.

KC has been our minister for 9 months now. She has served us very well and, even though we do not have the money to pay her what she fully deserves, she has led our congregation with enthusiasm and love. As we adjust to KC’s style and she adjusts to ours, I recommend that we all remain open to change, take a deep breath, and share any desires and concerns with KC with kindness and an open mind. KC is helping us grow as a congregation. Growth and change are hard but necessary if we are to become a more vibrant and diverse community.

Wishing you all peace and well-being,  
Carol



## LIFESPAN FAITH FORMATION NEWS

MARY CARTER-VAIL, DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

We are growing and grooving in our religious exploration program. We had new families joining our Sunday program and

we have begun our upper elementary OWL program with several new to Summit families. We celebrated Interdependence last month and our garden was the focus, and it is growing along with our children. This month we have a new theme to explore: Pluralism. Let's get started!

**The Gift of Pluralism:** Our new theme is inspired by the Article II values that we continue to explore this year. Article II defines Pluralism as follows:

“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.”

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

This month we will be exploring Pluralism or the gifts that we share as we “search for what is true” for each of us. What does that look like for children and families? It is learning from each other and discovering through play and experience. This month we are having our first Game Night so that we can play together, and we will have an RE lunch at the end of the month that all are welcome to be part of. Gathering with all ages is a way that our youngest Summitarians can learn and grow in community. Let us play and learn from each other as we explore pluralism this month.

**Soul Work:** Our Soul Work Table has new content this month with the theme of Plurality. There will

be weaving as we explore the weaving of ideas together that is part of plurality. 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!

**OWL – Our Whole Lives for Upper Elementary has started!** It is very exciting to have upper elementary OWL happening here at Summit for the next two months. Our 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade participants and their families, some of which are new to Summit, are learning about what to expect as they begin the journey of growing up.

### **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](mailto:summitdre@gmail.com) to explore ways you can be part of Faith Formation at Summit.

### **Our May Theme is The Gift of Pluralism:**

We will be gathering in RE at 10 am on Sundays for Religious Exploration 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.

**May 5 – Many Views: “We Need Each Other to Perceive The Whole!”** In this session, we begin to explore pluralism, exploring how each of us may see something different even while looking at the same thing. We will then create some art as we share our different ways of seeing and how each of our ideas is part of the whole.

**May 12 - Many Sources: "We Are Made of Many Roots!"** The many sources of the UU faith will be our focus this week as we explore them in story as the roots of our faith tree. Then we will each make our own tree and play with the values that are at our roots.

**May 18 – GAME NIGHT for All Ages at Summit: 5 pm Potluck Dinner & 6 pm Games.** All are invited to enjoy a meal and play games on this Saturday evening. Bring family and friends as this is a great way to get to know Summit and build connections. Family friendly games are welcome.

**May 19 – Many People: "No One Gets Left Out!"** We will be exploring welcoming through games that include and talking about what it's like to be left out as a way to build our empathy muscles. Reverse musical chairs anyone?

**May 26 – Many Things to Celebrate Plus RE Lunch together:** This Sunday we will be preparing for our RE lunch by making a salad from our garden and celebrating the many things we have discovered

together this year as we begin to plan our RE Service for June 9<sup>th</sup>. After the service, we will share lunch with the community, and celebrate the pluralism by being together.

*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](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.

## ∞ COMMUNITY EVENTS ∞

### Summit Community Game Night

Saturday, May 18 in the Salon

Dinner at 5 pm

Games at 6 pm

All ages are invited to join us for a night of friends, fellowship and fun as we have our first Summit Game Night! KC will be providing lasagna, and Mary is bringing bread. Bring something to add to the table as we share a meal before we get to the games. Family friendly board games are welcome as this is an all-ages event.



## WELCOMING & MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

One of the Unitarian Universalist principals is the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large. At Summit, we practice this principal at our annual meeting, coming up this June. At this meeting, members will vote on the budget, board members for the next year and other important issues that affect the running of the Fellowship. If you want to be able to vote and have a say in Summit's direction, you need to be a member for 30 days before the meeting. So, if you want to participate in this and are not a member, feel free to contact KC or me and learn how to become a member.

Jim Weed, Chair, Membership & Welcoming Committee  
[HDSurf@aol.com](mailto:HDSurf@aol.com).

### SOCIAL MEDIA AS A WAY TO GROW SUMMIT!

Unitarian Universalism is the best kept secret. Yet we have something amazing to offer so many people! We are launching our Social Media Committee so Summit can have a team working in a coordinated effort to get the word out about our community. This includes preparing items to post and keeping our website up to date. If YOU are interested in working on these kinds of projects, please contact Elinor Weed at [meweew97@gmail.com](mailto:meweew97@gmail.com).

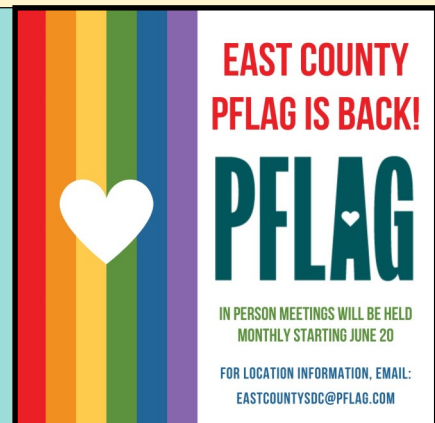
## SOCIAL JUSTICE IN ACTION

Starting March, 2024, Social Justice in Action meetings are held the 2nd Sunday of the month, starting at 12 Noon (Earlier time) in the Summit Library. A hybrid format utilizing Zoom will still be available. If you would like to learn more, contact [summitsjia@gmail.com](mailto:summitsjia@gmail.com). Everyone welcome!

The next SJiA meeting will be Sunday, May 12, at 12 Noon  
in the Library and on zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/98852027774>

Sponsored by the Social Justice in Action Committee, PFLAG meetings continue on the third Wednesday 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).



## Pierre's Celebration of Life

Debbie and her sons would like to thank everyone for their continued support as we adjust to life without Pierre. Please come celebrate with us:



Pierre Patrick Vaughn  
Celebration of Life  
Summit UU Fellowship  
11am on Saturday May 25<sup>th</sup>

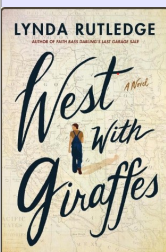
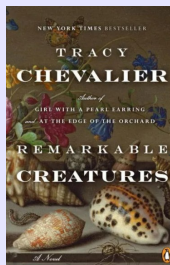
As everyone knows, Pierre loved singing and especially participating in the Summit choir. If anyone would like to make a donation in Pierre's honor, we know he would have appreciated it going to the Summit music program. If you are so moved, there is a dedicated link on the Summit website donation page. Thanks again to everyone.

## ADULT LIFE ENRICHMENT

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

The Summit UU Book Club meets on the First Tuesday, at 7 pm. The group meets both in person in the Library and via Zoom, hosted by Debbie Wingard.

May 7 we will be discussing  
**Remarkable Creatures**,  
by Tracy Chevalier



Next month, on June 4  
we will be discussing  
**West With Giraffes**,  
by Lynda Rutledge

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



### GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP Pastor KC, Facilitator

KC leads a Grief Group for  
Summitarians and friends who are  
grieving the loss of a loved one. The  
group will meet on the 2nd Sunday  
(on May 12) in the Sanctuary at Noon.

# 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, or if you have questions, please contact Carolyn Woodbury at [cbwoodbury@gmail.com](mailto:cbwoodbury@gmail.com)

*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 Wednesday 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](mailto:SuufVolunteer@yahoo.com)

## 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 May 28<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:denny.braun@usfamily.net).





# Denominational News

YOU → Summit UU Fellowship → SD Cluster →

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



## UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY VIRTUAL GA • JUNE 20 - 23, 2024

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY REGISTRATION IS OPEN LOVE UNITES, STORIES IGNITE

In a world filled with division and challenges, the theme for this year's General Assembly is a powerful reminder of the core principles that unite us as Unitarian Universalists. "Love Unites, Stories Ignite" celebrates the profound impact of love as a binding force that transcends boundaries and fosters connections within our faith community and beyond.

Our faith has always been rooted in the power of storytelling, and this year we'll explore how our stories can ignite change, inspire compassion, and help us build a more just and equitable world. Through storytelling, we share our experiences, our dreams, our struggles, and our triumphs. It is through these stories that we can find common ground, deepening our understanding of one another and the world around us.

The 63rd General Assembly will take place virtually Thursday, June 20 through Sunday, June 23, 2024. [Registration](#) is open – through May 15 it is \$315 and provides access to over a hundred workshops, special lectures, worship services, and (new) cohort groups – over a dozen groups where you can virtually gather with others interested in similar areas of congregational life. Or you can register to attend the business sessions-only for a donation. If you would like to vote in the business meetings, contact Carol Legard to ask about being a Delegate for Summit (we get 3)!

You may now [view the GA schedule](#) to see the lineup of informative workshops, inspirational worship services, and more!



Summit can have three delegates at General Assembly. If you are interested in being a delegate, please contact Carol Legard **before** the May 16 Board Meeting.

The Board will select the delegates for Summit.



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

**OFFICE HOURS**

Tues, Wed, Fri — 9 am to 2 pm

**MINISTER**

**KC Pandell**

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SummitMinister@gmail.com

[Calendly Schedule](#)

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**May, 2024**

**About SUUF Publications**

Please send submissions for the monthly SCENE AT SUMMIT NEWSLETTER via e-mail on or soon after the 20th, to [summitUUF@gmail.com](mailto:summitUUF@gmail.com)

Please send submissions for the eNews, the weekly announcements, to [SUUFVolunteer@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:SummitUUF@gmail.com).