



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: Story

January 5

“Who Lives, Who Dies, Who Tells Your Story?”

Rev. KC Marie Pandell

The stories we tell matter; the stories told about us, do, too. Stories can transform, for better or worse. Part of being in community is learning to build relationships, and storytelling is a crucial part of such connection. How we see ourselves and others is a necessary part of the human experience. What story would you tell about you?

January 12

“Whispers of the Past”

Rev. KC Marie Pandell

The stories we tell ourselves through life sometimes have roots in the stories and happenings of others as they have left imprints on us. Today, join Rev. KC on an exploration of some of the whispers that make up Unitarian Universalism, and be ready to circle into small groups for connection



January 19

“The Things They Carried”

Rev. KC Marie Pandell

Everything is a story, in the end, but some stories are heavier or more painful to bear. The trick with stories, though, is that they needn't define us. Join Rev. KC as we explore truth and fiction, and how stories can change the shape of the world.



January 26

“Do You Want to Hear a Story?”

Aunt Li-Anne

Aunt Li-Anne will bring us a “Service of Stories.” Stories Interspersed with our hymns. What do the stories we are drawn to say about who we are as a community? Does it matter who is telling the story?

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

~ Reverend KC Marie Pandell

Dear Summitarians and Friends:

I am constantly surprised at how often I think of the old adage, "Time flies when you're having fun!" By the time this reaches each of you, the bell welcoming in 2025 will have been tolled, and we will have begun another calendar year, with all the brilliance and possibility many folks hope to see in our sights. We are basically halfway through our congregational year and have so much in store for you in the coming days.

But before looking ahead, a moment to look back: What a joy it was to watch our young ones thrive during our recent RE Sunday Service; the kiddos worked hard to help bring you Amor & Charlie, and what a delight it was to see our congregation embrace whimsy and our UU values all at once! What do you have me for on a Sunday, when they knock it out of the park?!

I want to extend gratitude for the support I've received as I embark on the journey of extemporaneous preaching – anything that makes a Sunday worship service feel more real, more experiential, and more meaningful is always worth a go, and the trust you all have displayed in encouraging the exploration of an unscripted, moved-by-Spirit sermons is not unnoticed, and is deeply appreciated. I knew Summit would be a place to help stretch my wings, but I must admit, I didn't think this would be how!

Two brief mentions of upcoming opportunities for learning and connection:

- The Minister's Books Group will begin January 19th, in the Library, at noon. Please join me, and UU's across the country in exploring our UU Common Read, Authentic Selves: Celebrating Trans & Nonbinary People and Their Families by Peggy Gillispie. This series takes place over 4 sessions, so please plan to commit to all four.

- UU Wellsprings has generously donated their curriculum *Love at the Center: UU Values & Covenants*. Mary Carter-Vail, Elinor Weed and I are thrilled to bring you the chance to connect with yourselves, each other, us, and this beautiful faith in a series of eleven 2-hour sessions exploring what makes us Unitarian Universalists. We will begin promptly in the last week of January, and space is limited to a maximum of 27 people over 3 groups, so please contact me soon if you'd like to participate.

May your New Year be filled with gentleness, promise, and above all: Love.

Blessings,

Rev. KC

(714) 869-7645

summitminister@gmail.com

[Calendly Schedule](#)

MINISTER'S OFFICE HOURS

Reverend 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](#)



PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS

~ DEBBIE WINGARD, BOARD PRESIDENT ~

Dear Friends,

We have had quite an eventful year, and are only half way through the fiscal year!

- Our beloved minister KC was ordained and will be fully participating in GA this year.
- Duncan Matthew, a talented and enthusiastic musician, joined us as Music Director, and our Choir is back, growing in size, and sounding great!
- We have several new members, and new families in our Religious Exploration program. It is wonderful to see the children, who did a great job on the holiday play.
- We had a very exciting and financially successful Auction! Weren't those Lion Dancers amazing?

The Board has been very active reviewing our ByLaws, not the most exciting work but very important for the health of our fellowship. We will be having a special Congregational Meeting in late January or early February to vote on changes. Watch your email for details.

While most changes are clarifications to match our current practices, a few are substantive changes that we hope will help Summit function more smoothly. For example:

- It is sometimes difficult to get a quorum for voting, since there are people on our membership list who have not been seen for quite a while. While we are able to remove membership status, sometimes we are hoping they are just temporarily gone. We are proposing a new category of "inactive members" who will not have voting privileges. If they become active, they can easily be moved back to active status and be able to vote.
- Given our current fellowship size, we have found it difficult to recruit leadership for the Board and key committees. Those volunteering are spread thin or having to choose between activities. Therefore, we are recommending we reduce the size of our Board of Directors. This will make it easier for our Nominating Committee to find volunteers, and existing volunteers can focus on activities in which they are most interested. We believe the Board will be just as effective with a smaller number of members.

Wishing everyone a wonderful New Year!

Debbie



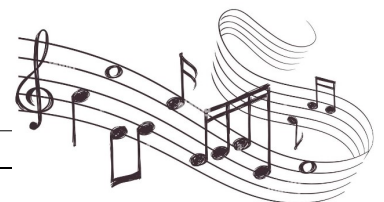
SUMMIT'S MUSIC PROGRAM

DUNCAN MATTHEW, MUSIC DIRECTOR



The Summit Choir is singing on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. We would love to have more singers - please join us! We sound pretty good, we would sound even better with you!

Rehearsals are in the sanctuary on Wednesday nights from 6:30-8:00 p.m





LIFESPAN FAITH FORMATION NEWS

MARY CARTER-VAIL, DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

Welcome to a new year and the beginning of a new month. We begin with the theme of Story as a spiritual practice. This is one of my favorites because

sharing a story is a powerful personal spiritual practice. How is story a part of your life? I invite you to explore that question as we share our stories this month.

Story: Our theme for this month is the *Practice of Story*. Story is not just another monthly theme Summit. It is also the underlying framework that all of Our Religious Exploration materials are built on. We use story to help us bond with each other as well as build our identities. At our core is the idea that human beings are storytelling creatures and stories give us hope and help us grow.

We have a couple of goals in this practice: We will help our children understand and explore that we are made of two different types of stories, collective stories and individual stories, and that we use both to build our identities as individuals and communities. We will also center that our stories inspire the stories of others. Hearing others bravely tell their stories, we all gain the courage to share and proudly embrace our own. Finally, this month is all about remembering that stories help us make sense of our world. Without them, we would literally be lost.

Your Spiritual Practice of Story: How is this a powerful spiritual practice for you? Think of the stories that you have shared or received in your personal experiences. What stories do you choose to be part of? We all create stories every day. This is an opportunity to engage in storytelling, seeking stories that bring hope, love and joy and witnessing stories of loss and sadness so that we can heal together. This is an invitation to deeper connections.

Soul Work: Our Soul Work table will continue to be part of the cozy corner in the Sanctuary. We will have mini story books to fill with art or written words. If you have an idea to share, let Mary know so we can expand some of the

activities on the table. Meanwhile, there is always something available to work with during the service. 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: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! 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 January Theme is the Practice of Story:

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.

January 5 – Stories and Friendship: The practice of building meaningful connections – We begin playing with storytelling by playing some story games and beginning to make our journals to use over the month. We will be drawing story pictures and more.

January 12 – Stories and You: The practice of building your unique identity – We all have our own stories that we create each day. We will be finishing making Journals, playing games including using the story cubes to create a group story.

(cont. on next page)

January 19 – Stories and Social Change: The practice of building the future we hope for (MLK Day). – We will reflect on the dream of MLK’s speech by exploring what has come true and what has not. Then we will play future Jenga as we add to and create new dreams together.

January 26 - Stories and Religion: The practice of building our UU identity – We will finish our month of story by exploring our identities as UU’s through games and the story of the Platinum Rule. How do we want to be treated or how do others want to be treated? We will talk about the differences and create art that centers LOVE 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.

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.

“Love at the Center: UU Values and Covenants”

A small group curriculum, starting at the end of January!



This Winter/Spring, join us on an exploration of our UU values through a series of small group sessions from UU Wellspring, exploring UU theology, spiritual practice, and deep listening.

Each session runs two hours and will be led by one of three facilitators: Rev. KC, Mary Carter-Vail, or Elinor Weed. Groups are capped at 10 participants, including the facilitator, so don't miss out!

Please contact Rev. KC for further details.

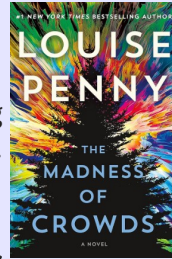
We look forward to exploring this beautiful faith, and all of you, together!

ADULT LIFE ENRICHMENT

THE SUMMIT UU BOOK CLUB MULTI-PLATFORM OPTIONS!

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

January 7 we will be discussing
The Madness of Crowds, by Louise Penny.



Next month, on February 4, we will be discussing Three Weeks with My Brother, by Nicholas Sparks.

Everyone is welcome, even new members - either to participate or listen. If you have any questions, please ask Cheryl at esmreck@outlook.com



GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP Rev. KC, Facilitator

Rev. KC leads a Grief Group for Summitarians and friends who are grieving the loss of a loved one. The group will meet on the 1st Sunday (on January 5) in the Sanctuary at Noon.



Auction Corner News

Thank you to everyone for making our Auction such a resounding success!!

If you have not paid your auction balance, you should have received an invoice from Auctria (our auction software) in your email. If you would like to pay by credit card, please log in to your Auctria account and pay your outstanding balance by clicking the link in your invoice. If you want to pay with cash or check, you can deliver it to the office; once it is received, it will be logged in Auctria and you will receive an emailed receipt.

If you have physical items to pick up, you may pick them up during Nelwyn's office hours (Tuesday/Friday 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Wednesday 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.). Please call or email first to make sure she will be there when you come. Nelwyn's email is summituuf@gmail.com



☞ SOCIAL JUSTICE IN ACTION ☞

The Social Justice in Action Committee meets at noon in the Summit library on the second Sunday of each month. All members and friends interested in taking action on enhancing justice, freedom and the environment are invited to join us. If you would like to learn more, contact summitsjia@gmail.com. Everyone welcome!

The next SJiA meeting will be Sunday, January 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.



☞ WELCOMING & MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE ☞

Greetings Summit!

As chairperson of the Welcoming and Membership Committee, I receive online connection cards that are filled out by people who are curious about Summit. Many of them mention they are looking for a spiritual community that is welcoming and open-minded. They also mention they are looking for a spiritual group that's interested in issues with which we are involved, such as Social Justice in Action.

In the coming years, I know that our Fellowship will continue to be a strong voice for people and groups who may be marginalized. I also think that people who live in the area will continue to look for spiritual support both online and in person. I know that we will welcome these new visitors as they look at us for a safe place to find the support they need.

If you are interested in getting involved, feel free to contact me, Jim Weed, at HDSurf@aol.com or look for me at Summit on most Sundays.



WhaleCoast Alaska - A More Authentic Travel Experience

Two unique, exciting fundraising tours organized by four 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 31 years, WhaleCoast Alaska tours have been the BEST way to visit Alaska. Register now for this amazing experience!

Details: www.WhaleCoastAK.org

Questions: info@whalecoastak.org

AFFINITY GROUPS

POETRY GROUP

Led by Margo Mariana

Please feel free to bring a short piece you have written to share with the group to get some feed-back support.

We meet in the Summit Library the first Monday of each month.

Please call Margo Mariana at (619) 312-0903 if you have questions and/or to register.



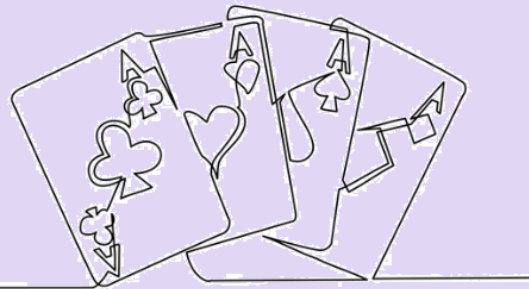
Next meeting is
Monday, January 6
10:00 a.m.—12pm

Bridge Club

Come join Summit's friendly and casual Bridge Group

We play Bridge in the Salon on Tuesdays from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Questions? please contact:
Jamie Cleland; jamie.cleland@gmail.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.

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. This month the OPEN HOUSE meeting is Tuesday January 28 from 5:30 to 8pm 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.



Denominational News

YOU → Summit UU Fellowship → SD Cluster →

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



If you're experiencing a crisis and are seeking immediate support, please find [crisis resources \(scroll to the bottom of that page\)](#).

[Register for the trans/nonbinary+ gathering.](#)

[Register for the pastoral care group space.](#)



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

BALTIMORE • JUNE 19 - 22, 2025

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Participants worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend; congregations must certify annually to have voting delegates.

From June 18 - 22, 2025, the 64th UUA General Assembly will be a multi-platform event with the main stage at the Baltimore Convention Center in Baltimore, Maryland.

Registration is now open! Click [HERE](#) to register.

An Invitation to Exhibit from the UUA:

We are reaching out to personally invite you to become an Exhibitor or Sponsor at General Assembly 2025 in Baltimore. If you or someone you know is leading an innovative program, running a nonprofit, designing curriculum, conducting research, or offering products or services that align with the values of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), we would love to have you join us.

Please visit <https://www.uua.org/ga/exhibit/exhibiting> or contact Rev. Dr. Kimi Floyd Reisch at [kreisch@uua.org](mailto:kreich@uua.org) with any questions.



Summit Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
8778 Cottonwood Ave.
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OFFICE HOURS

Tues & Fri — 9 am to 3 pm
Wed.— 9am to 1pm

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January, 2025

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

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.