



# 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: Imagination

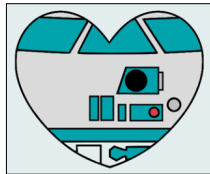
May 4

**"May the Fourth be With You"**

**Rev. KC Marie Pandell &**

**Mary Carter-Vail, DRE**

We begin our new monthly theme with an exploration of "The Force" as Love, the Center of our Unitarian Universalist values. But what might "living the Force" actually look like? Bring your sacred curiosity and join our Dir. of Religious Exploration Mary Carter-Vail and Rev. KC for an intergenerational service which will include opportunities for embodied spiritual exploration. Service will include a welcoming ceremony for our new members.



May 11

**"Practicing the Future"**

**Rev. KC Marie Pandell**

Inspired by the likes of Black sci-fi author Octavia Butler, adrienne maree brown says that "science fiction is simply a way to practice the future together." What does "practicing the future" look like outside of fiction, in the real world we currently inhabit, and how do we do it together in faith communities?



May 18

**"Dangerous Minds"**

**Rev. KC Marie Pandell**

Sometimes imagination gets the better of us, and the things we imagine in our mind can far exceed the truth of something. Imagination can both liberate, and imprison. How do we hold the line between imagination when it might do more harm than good?

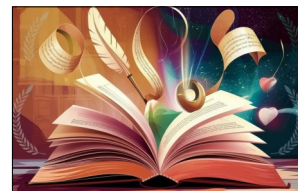


May 25

**"The Beauty & Bounty of Poetry"**

**SUUF Poets**

Poetry is part of a universal language. Summit poets will share some of their own poetry and that of well-known poets to show how poetry is a full part of every aspect of human experience.



*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:

One of the things that initially attracted me to Unitarian Universalism (and, I imagine, some of you, as well) is the upholding of the democratic process in our faith community. The idea that we run ourselves, not some unknown figurehead all the way in Boston, is pretty darn cool, and something I personally love telling folks about when asked "What's Unitarian Universalism?"

If Summit is your first, or only, UU community, you may not be aware of just how far reaching our democratic process extends. You'll see it exhibited in June during our Congregational Meeting, of course. If you attended this year's Pacific Southwest Service Area's 3rd Annual Assembly at First UU at the end of April, you saw a little bit of the process on a larger scale. But even more exciting, especially if you're a "seeing how the sausage is made" type, is General Assembly, our annual gathering of ALL Unitarian Universalists globally. While last year proved to be a big one (we were, after all, talking about rewording some things that feel deeply sacred to UU's), this year still brings another opportunity to exercise our right to shape our faith's future, and that includes you (yes, YOU!).

GA is in Baltimore this year, with Mary and I ready and set to spend a week with UU's from all sorts of places, and all walks of life. This will be my first *in person* GA since becoming a UU almost nine years ago, and I am unbelievably stoked about all the beloveds I will finally see face to face.

GA is open to anyone wishing to attend, and there are both in person and virtual options. It comes with the opportunity to attend lectures, workshops, and daily worship, in spaces crafted for people who think and love like us. Most crucial, though, is the opportunity to vote: Summit, as a congregation of about 100 folks, receives 5 GA votes: Mary and I, as religious professionals, with the remaining three allotted

to members. If having a real say in the future of this faith is something that interests you, *please* reach out to Debbie or me, and let's have a chat! If you're not into attending the whole shebang online, and can't attend in person, there is a business-only attendee option we'd love to help get you signed up for.

Being able to have a say in what we do as a faith is one trillion times cooler than most things I've ever gotten to do.

In these uncertain times, I hope a few of you would like to join us in shaping the Good News of UUism to come.

All my love and blessings,

*Rev. KC*

(714) 869-7645

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

### 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,

This month's message is an update of last month, as the message is still timely. We have heard a lot during the pledge drive about sharing our **TREASURE**.

Thanks to everyone who has already returned a pledge form! We have many generous members and friends.♥ We are still waiting to hear from several of you, however, and we are still significantly short of our goal. At this point the Board and Finance Committee are struggling to figure out where we can cut expenses or if we will need to use some of our savings to have a balanced budget. So, if you haven't done so already, please return a pledge form ASAP! If you have returned one, thank you! If there is any way you might be able to increase your pledge, please let Nelwyn know.

As the pledge drive wraps up, let's turn our thoughts to also sharing our **TALENTS**! In about two weeks you will receive a survey asking about your talents and where you might like to share them with our beloved community. That might be volunteering for a committee (very UU!) or helping Mark maintain our Summit grounds (maintenance or gardening) or volunteering for a one-time project or task force (revising our website). As they say, it takes a village!

We also want to share our talents and treasure with the wider community. Watch for suggestions from the Social Justice in Action Committee or join them to help plan and organize events!

Wishing everyone a wonderful Spring,

*Debbie*

### An Announcement from the Summit Board:

#### **We Love Animals, however....**

Some members and friends have allergies. Some are afraid of dogs, maybe because they have had an unfortunate interaction or are a child much smaller than many dogs! Some animals are not good with other animals (or small children). Finally, animals on campus increase Summit's potential liability. Upon reflection, the Board has set the following policy:

#### **Sunday Services:**

Service animals always welcome.

Well-behaved family animals welcome at animal blessing services (once or twice a year) as long as under leash control or in a pet carrier.

#### **Committees and Meetings:**

Service animals always welcome.

Well-behaved family animals welcome, if all participating agree.



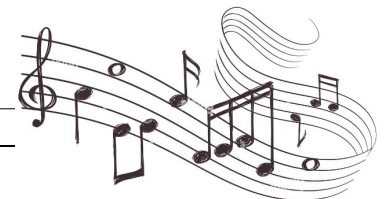
## SUMMIT'S MUSIC PROGRAM

**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

Last Sunday our Religious Exploration group made bug or fairy houses out of natural materials found in the Summit Garden. We were exploring the joy in

nature and using our imagination to create whimsical structures for our bug friends.

Imagination is one of the gifts that young children share with us when we are willing to take the time to witness their magic. Welcome to our month of exploring imagination.

**Imagination:** Our theme for this month is the *Practice of Imagination*. Our goal this month is to highlight how imagination enhances so many aspects of our lives. Imagination is not just an escape from “real life.” It also brings new life to our everyday lives. Imagination is an invitation to spiritual practice when we take the time to make meaning of the wonder and awe in our everyday lives. There will be an opportunity for each of us to explore new spiritual practices at the RE service on May 4<sup>th</sup>. There will be Imagination Stations to explore as a way to find new practices to expand or affirm personal spiritual practices.

**Your Spiritual Practice of Imagination:** How is this a powerful spiritual practice for you? In what ways do you actively seek the experience of Imagination? Be open to the gifts that imagination has to offer and take some time to dream and imagine this month.

**Soul Work:** Our Soul Work table will continue to be part of the cozy corner in the Sanctuary. 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](mailto:summitdre@gmail.com) to explore ways you can be part of Faith Formation at Summit.



### Our May Theme is the Practice of Imagination:

We will be gathering in RE at 10am on Sundays for our 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 4<sup>th</sup> – May the Fourth be with You: Imagine the force of Love as we explore spiritual practice together** – We begin our new monthly theme with an exploration of “The Force” as Love, the Center of our Unitarian Universalist values. But what might “living the Force” actually look like? Bring your sacred curiosity and join our Dir. of Religious Exploration Mary Carter-Vail and Rev. KC for an intergenerational service which will include opportunities for embodied spiritual exploration.

**May 11 – Using Imagination to Help Others & Find Hope** – This week we use our imagination to explore ways to inspire hope. Mother’s Day was originally created as mothers acted for peace. We will create a Peace Banner and use our imaginations to envision a world where all are valued and loved.

**May 18 - Using Imagination to Think Outside the Box** – This week we turn to how we can use our imaginations to think outside the box. It will be a time of engaging our creative problem-solving skills and celebrating the deeply human love of figuring out puzzles, both actual puzzles and “life puzzles.”

*(cont. on next page)*

### May 25 - Using Imagination to Understand –

Today, we turn to how we can use our imaginations to help us understand other people. We have several games to play and a special snack to create together as we celebrate our differences as strength.



*These are the plans at the beginning of the month, and they may be adapted as our community needs change, 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 ❧

Friday, May 16

Mark Montijo & Lenny Bole Concert

In the Sanctuary: doors open 6:30pm; Suggested donation \$20

*Details are in the weekly eNews! email*

Saturday, May 31

Santee Pride

Friday, June 6 at 6:30pm

Interfaith Potluck at Santee Methodist Church

Sunday, June 8

Congregational Meeting after Sunday Service

Sunday, July 27

Joe Ferrara Concert

In the Sanctuary

Sunday, September 14

SUUF Picnic at Santee Lakes

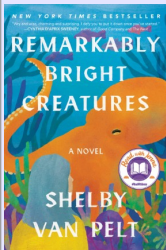
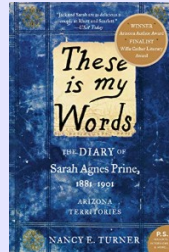


## ADULT LIFE ENRICHMENT

### 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.

This month, on May 6, we will be discussing These is My Words: The Diary of Sarah Agnes Prine, 1881-1901 by Nancy E. Turner.



On June 3, we will be discussing Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt.

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



### 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 May 4) in the Sanctuary at Noon.

## WELCOMING & MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

### Getting Involved at Summit

Summit continues to be exciting! It has been great to see the sanctuary filling up with members, friends and visitors. Many of our new visitors are families with children. I enjoy watching them integrate with us as they continue to return. Our recent "Getting to Know Us" event had 22 people in attendance, including Summit members and guests. I'm also inviting everyone to join us at our May 4<sup>th</sup> service, as we welcome a group of new members.

Summit runs on its volunteers - without them, it would not be the place it is. If you would like to get more involved in the life of Summit, consider finding a place to help on a Sunday. Or perhaps you would like to explore or try something new about developing your spirituality. Throughout the year there will be opportunities to do this outside of the regular service.

You could also give Summit's leadership ideas of what you would like to see happening at Summit. This might include classes and activities you'd like to see for everyone to enjoy. The bottom line is that Summit won't happen without you and your input. Thanks to everyone for their role in making Summit what it is.

~ Jim Weed (HDSurf@aol.com)  
Chair, Welcoming & Membership Committee



## ✧ SOCIAL JUSTICE IN ACTION ✧

Summit's Social Justice in Action Committee invests in microloans through the Kiva organization, typically to women in third world countries working in plant-based agriculture. These loans are repaid and reinvested on a regular basis. Here is information on one recent loan of \$100 made to Inés Carolina.



### **Inés Carolina's story**

Inés is a young entrepreneur. Her warmth and her interaction with the youth in her community have made her a natural leader. Like her parents, Inés works growing cacao, a job she learned from them as a very young girl. This is how she makes a living. She is promoting organic farming among the youth, so that they care for their crops without the use of chemicals that alter their production and quality. Inés wants to expand her crops. For that reason, she seeks a loan to buy agricultural supplies that will help her further boost organic farming, and acquire land. Her dream for the future is to have financial stability in order to provide a better future to her child.

### **More about this loan**

This loan is part of VisionFund Ecuador's effort to reach vulnerable populations located along Ecuador's frontier with Colombia. This region generally lacks access to financial services and is populated by many Colombian refugees seeking asylum from guerrilla warfare. This loan is designed to help these vulnerable populations improve their lives and set up sustainable businesses.

### **About VisionFund Ecuador:**

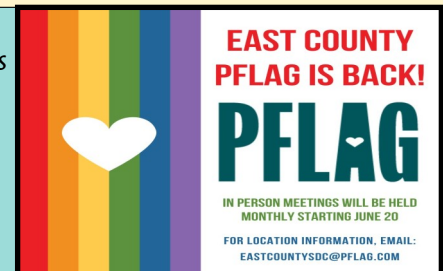
VisionFund Ecuador is a microenterprise development fund that supports groups of entrepreneurs who lack access to formal financial systems. The organization works with vulnerable populations, especially women, in the marginalized urban and rural sectors of Ecuador. Its clients work in a variety of sectors including agriculture, artisan crafts, and the commercial and service sectors. Kiva lenders' funds are used to expand the organization's services to the poor living in more rural parts of Ecuador.

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](mailto:summitsjia@gmail.com). Everyone welcome!

**The next SJiA meeting will be Sunday, May 11, at 12 Noon**  
in the Library and on zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/9885202774>

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).



## 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,  
May 5  
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 at

[jamie.cleland@gmail.com](mailto:jamie.cleland@gmail.com)



### EVENING WOMEN'S GROUP

Longing for a meeting that suits your needs? Our Women's Group is restarting! All are welcome - come share your wisdom and hang out with other amazing women!

Meet with us the last Monday of every month, at 5:00 PM, at different houses.

Call Stacey Sasaki for more information,  
619-850-7553.  
See you there!

### DAYTIME WOMEN'S GROUP

The Summit Daytime Women's Group meets the last Friday of the month from 1-2:30pm.

Contact Shari at 619-840-3612 or Marianne at 541-510-8263 for more info.



### 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 May 27 from 6:30 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: [markatpsectrum@hotmail.com](mailto:markatpsectrum@hotmail.com) or (619) 334-5300.


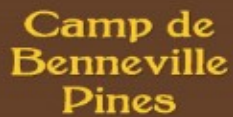
### MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP #2

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).







## Camp de Benneville Pines

### Registration is open for Summer Camp at Camp de Benneville Pines!

There is also a training opportunity for high school youth during Elementary Camp. Your camper may now be old enough and inclined to apply to become a Counselor-in-Training during Elementary Camp. Please read all about it ([link below and also found on UU Camp calendar](#)) Feel free to share with others in the high school age range who enjoy working with younger people. Applications due soon!

We count on new youth counselors (and adult volunteers) to make camp possible for future campers. Come and join us!

<https://www.uucamp.org/camps-retreats/youth-camps/2025cit/>

#### UU Counselor-In-Training Program

June 29-July 5, 2025  
Camp de Benneville Pines

*Join Us This Summer!*



### There are always amazing events happening at Camp for Kids, Families, AND Adults!

UU Women's Spring Retreat: May 2-4  
Yoga Camp for Adults: May 16-18  
Bravo Camper Reunion: May 23-26  
First UU San Diego Retreat: May 30-Jun 1  
PUC & Monte Vista UU Church Family Retreat: Jun 6-8  
Illuman Men's Retreat: Jun 11-15  
Blood Disorder Association of Nevada: Jun 17-20  
Camp Bravo Theatre Arts Camp: Jun 22-28  
UU Elementary Summer Youth Camp: Jun 29-Jul 5  
UU Counselor-in-Training Program: Jun 29-Jul 5  
UU Junior High Summer Youth Camp: Jul 6-12  
UU Senior High Summer Youth Camp: Jul 13-19  
UU Summer Family Camp: Jul 20-26  
First Baptist Church of Redlands Family Retreat: Aug 1-3  
Summer Break Camp for Adults & Singing in the Pines: Aug 7-11  
Misty Mountain Wars Year 2 (Live Action Role-Play): Aug 15-17  
Young Adults Camp: Aug 15-17  
Camp Bravo (Private School Camp): Aug 29-Sep 1  
Art Camp 4 Grownups: Sep 4-9  
Santa Monica UU Family Retreat: Sep 12-14  
Camp Transcend Family Retreat: Sep 19-21  
Rainbow Family Camp: Oct 24-26  
Music in the Mountains Folk Music Retreat: Nov 7-9

[Click Here for Full Events List](#)



#### Our Contact Information

Camp de Benneville Pines  
PO Box 82  
Angelus Oaks, CA 92305-0082  
(909) 794-2928 Voice Messages Only  
<http://www.uucamp.org>

# Denominational News

YOU → Summit UU Fellowship → SD Cluster →

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



## 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.



Part camp, part conference ... all magic! Eliot is an inclusive, all ages vacation for families, couples, and individuals. Gatherings are held four times a year – three times each summer and once over New Year's Eve – at

beautiful Seabeck Conference Center in Western Washington. Tall cedar and fir trees shelter the conference grounds on the edge of Seabeck Bay, with awe inspiring views of the Olympic Mountains.

One fee covers everything: the program and activities, comfortable lodgings (at your choice of price points, basic to deluxe), and three meals each day. Generous scholarships and volunteer credits are available.

Eliot Institute is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to operate camps and conferences promoting personal and spiritual growth for Unitarian Universalists, their families, and friends. Every camp creates and supports an inclusive community of celebration, friendship, exploration, relaxation, and joy. Learn more. Register for upcoming camps at [eliotinstitute.org](http://eliotinstitute.org)



The Gathering is a new monthly virtual event from Side With Love, created to ground, inform, and mobilize UUs and partners in this critical moment. Each month, we come together for: Join us every Second Monday of the month at 8 PM ET / 5 PM PT. Our next gathering is April 14, 2025. [Register now and be part of the movement here.](#)



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

#### OFFICE HOURS

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

#### MINISTER

**Rev. KC Marie Pandell**

714-869-7645

SummitMinister@gmail.com

[Calendly Schedule](#)

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**Mark Weedman**

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**May, 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](mailto:summitUUF@gmail.com)

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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.

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If you have any questions, call the office, 619-562-0833, or e-mail us at [SummitUUF@gmail.com](mailto:SummitUUF@gmail.com).