



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: Joy

April 6

“Joy as an Act of Resistance”

Rev. KC Marie Pandell

When we talk about "joy as an act of resistance," it's not simply a claiming of power and ownership over ourselves, but a declaration of our worth and dignity in this life: Joy is ours, and we deserve it simply because we exist. In a world that seeks to keep folks in line, what happens when we reclaim joy as not a dream to be chased, but a given part of our journey through life.



April 20

“From Regions Beyond...”

Rev. KC Marie Pandell

While Easter is a time of recognizing the Resurrection of Christ, it isn't necessarily a practice that Unitarian Universalists always engage in. Rather, this year, Rev. KC will lead us in a ritual of remembrance of lost loved ones, and reflect on how we can embrace Easter in a more UU way.



April 13

“Joy as Reparative Rehumanization”

Ari Honarvar, Guest Speaker

Joy as reparative rehumanization is the process of reclaiming our humanity through communal practices, like sharing joy, singing, dancing, and creating together, while personally rehumanizing the parts of ourselves that have been oppressed and neglected. By nurturing what restores our humanity, we disrupt the forces that diminish us and reclaim our wholeness.



April 27

PSW Regional Assembly Worship

At First UU

with in-Sanctuary Zoom option at Summit

Speaker: Meg Riley

Rev. KC Marie Pandell



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:

As more and more uncertainty crops up every day, sometimes every hour, I find myself thinking about the intersection between grief and joy. I've spent a lot of time *saying* that joy is resistance, but that might be hard to come to terms with when we're overwhelmed, anxious, angry, and, yes, grieving. What does it mean to use joy as resistance?

In the early days after my late partner died, I was consumed by the suffocation of grief, so much so that even the tiniest glimmers of joy, when they would find a way through the cracks, brought feelings of guilt: how dare I be joyful when someone else isn't here to experience the same? It took a long time, and a lot of reflection, to flip the script and be able to say, "Joy is part of living... isn't living kinda the point?" Joy as a spiritual practice might seem like a tall order when many things feel so perilously close to being on fire, but I do truly mean that it's a practice worth engaging.

My spiritual director asked me this afternoon how I was doing, holding the anxieties of the world, while trying to live a life of joy, love, and compassion. I told her that when it gets tough, and I start feeling dysregulated, I make a cup of coffee and go sit with my dogs. It's the simplest of practices (one that I was reminded was definitely a spiritual one!), but it makes a difference. It brings me back into a space of not "what if," "oh no," "what now" but one of "Yes, and." It's grounding and brimming with joy and love.

I encourage you, this month, and always, to find those small connections. When I say "joy," I don't mean weddings, babies being born, college graduations (but those joys count!). I mean the wonder of a sunset, the warmth of a hug, the satisfaction of a good book, the laugh of a beloved. These are the things that sustain us:

the everyday miracles that we are blessed to experience, even in (and perhaps, most importantly during) the darkest, most troublesome days. These are the things that build resilience, the things worth living and fighting for.

The beauty of humanity is our ability to find wonder in the mundane, and hope in the hopeless. It is a gift I relish, and one I am honored to share in your presence. May we always find the joys worth celebrating.

All my love and blessings,

Rev. KC

(714) 869-7645

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,

We have heard a lot lately about sharing our **TREASURE**. Thanks to everyone who has already returned a pledge form! We have so many generous members and friends. ♥ Returning a form really helps our

Finance Committee and Board plan for the coming year, so if you haven't done so already, please return one soon.

As the pledge drive wraps up, let's turn our thoughts to also sharing our **TALENTS!** You will soon receive a survey 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



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 meweeder97@gmail.com.



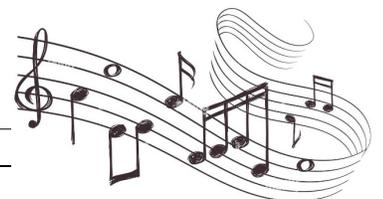
SUMMIT'S MUSIC PROGRAM

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

One of the natural events that brings me joy each year is the return of the Hooded Oriels to my palm trees. As I am writing this, the female Oriels are

debating over nest building space with flapping wings and bird chatter. Each day I go out and spend some time just witnessing and enjoying their antics. This is a Joyful spiritual practice for me. How do you experience Joy?

Joy: Our theme for this month is the *Practice of Joy*. Joy is a state that many children experience when they are playing. This month we will be experiencing joy together through laughter, music, nature and remembering together. There will also be joy at our annual Spring Egg Hunt. Come join us in joyful community.

Your Spiritual Practice of Joy: How is this a powerful spiritual practice for you? In what ways do you actively seek the experience of joy? Explore this practice and find ways to expand your Joy this month and beyond.

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 to explore ways you can be part of Faith Formation at Summit.

Our April Theme is the Practice of Joy:

We will be gathering in RE at 10 am 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.

April 6 – Joy Found in Foolishness (For the Fun of It!) – We begin this month by getting silly and giggling together. Think of fun, silliness, jokes, and the good-hearted frivolity that makes us happy to be alive. We will be taking inspiration from the

well-loved and widely used saying, “For the fun of it!” This session will also give us a chance to celebrate and have fun with April Fool’s Day.



April 13 – Joy Found in Music (Make a Joyful Noise) – Last week, we explored finding joy in foolishness, and this week, we look at how joy can be found in music. We will be taking inspiration from the well-loved and widely-used saying, “Make a joyful noise!”

And we will most certainly be literally making a bunch of joyful noises ourselves!



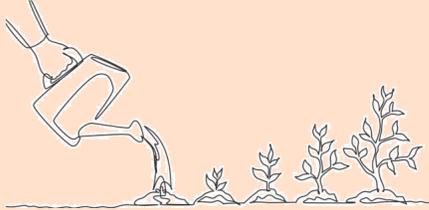
April 20 – Easter Sunday – Remembering with Joy

– This week we will be joining the congregation for our Easter Sunday service. This will be a special service to remember loved ones who have passed. I will be creating a table for children and adults to craft memory art to honor loved ones, including pets, who have passed. After the service, we will have a Spring Hunt for eggs and treats for the kids.



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April 27 - Joy Found in Nature, (Stop and smell the roses! & Nature is the best medicine!) – We will finish our month in the Summit Children’s Garden as we connect nature once again. This Sunday, we turn to how joy can be found in nature, with a special nod to Earth Day. We will be making Bug Houses for our garden critters and tasting our first harvest of the garden.



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.

∞ COMMUNITY EVENTS ∞

Saturday, April 5

9am—1pm

Summit is co-sponsoring a **Craft Fair** with a local scout group in our parking lot. All are welcome!

Friday, May 16

**Mark Montijo & Lenny Bole Concert
In the Sanctuary**

Sunday, June 8

**Summit Congregational Meeting
After Sunday Service**

Sunday, July 27

**Joe Ferrara Concert
In the Sanctuary**



SHARING THE PIE

Summit's Annual Stewardship Campaign 2025-2026

Thank you to everyone who has already pledged financial support for Summit for the next fiscal year. Yet, as the formal Pledge Drive concludes, we still require further pledges from members to achieve our goals.

Our goal for the 2025-2026 stewardship campaign is \$270,000. By April 1st, we have received 49 pledges totaling around \$157,000, ranging from \$120 to \$23,000. These are uncertain times, and we understand that there may be reasons for hesitation. Remember that a pledge is not so much a commitment as setting an intention; sharing what you expect to be able to contribute over the course of the year. We encourage everyone who has not yet pledged to review the Board's information packet and consider making a pledge that will positively impact you and the congregation.

Thank you for your participation in this important campaign, both through financial pledges and the donation of so many delicious pies. We appreciate your help in celebrating the joy of a shared community as we work together to meet our goals.



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

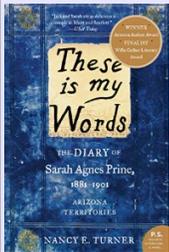
Questions: info@whalecoastak.org

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 April 1, We will be discussing David Grann's best seller The Wager, A tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny and Murder.



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

Everyone is welcome, even new members - either to participate or listen. If you have any questions, please ask Cheryl at 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 April 6) in the Sanctuary at Noon.

WELCOMING & MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Getting Involved at Summit

It's been exciting to recently see valued members returning to services on Sunday as well as a consistent number of visitors who come by to see what we are about. Many of these visitors are returning regularly, with some looking to become more involved in the life of Summit. I am hearing visitors comment that Summit's welcoming, supportive, and friendly atmosphere is something that draws them in and keep them coming back. These are some of the things that drew me to Summit in the first place and why I continue to attend and help where I can.

As our attendance continues to increase, the need for people to volunteer increases as well, to help ensure the smooth running of the Fellowship on Sundays. One thing that I love about Summit is the willingness of our members and friends to step up and help when needed. One area that continues to need help is the Sunday Café – perhaps you would like to participate in helping set up one a month. Or maybe greeting members and visitors on Sunday morning once a month interests you. If there is a way you would like to help out and get involved, feel free to stop by the visitors' table on a Sunday and let me know.

I hope everyone can find a way to become involved in the life of Summit. It's a great way to get to know our members and friends better and develop a deeper relationship with the fellowship.

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

☞ SOCIAL JUSTICE IN ACTION ☞

The Social Justice in Action Committee is collecting foodstuffs, easy open cans and small toiletries for homeless students at Grossmont College through the Gizmo's Kitchen program. Please use the bin for donations in the Greeting area. Thanks!



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, April 13, at 12 Noon in the Library and on zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/98852027774>

As a Welcoming Congregation, all members, parents, friends, and allies of the LGBTQ+ community are welcome at Summit. We build and sustain relationships with local LGBTQ groups and organizations. For information please reach out to bkindbstrong@gmail.com
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The UUA Disaster Relief Fund

The UUA stands with its congregations and is ready to provide assistance to help congregations and their communities recover in the aftermath of disasters.

The [Disaster Relief Fund](#) disburses grants to UU congregations and recognized UU non-profit entities.

For those looking to support disaster relief through the UUA, including CA wild-fire relief, you can donate online by clicking [HERE](#).



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,
April 7
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



SUMMIT 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 6:00 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 April 29 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: markatpspectrum@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.





Do You Love Camp de Benneville Pines?

Here is a chance to experience it in early April, from the 4th to the 6th.

The UU Fellowship of San Dieguito in Solana Beach is hosting the weekend and it is always fun for everyone. There will be singing, crafts, games, hikes, discussions, improv and more for all ages. We arrive on Friday beginning at 4pm, check in and get acquainted. Then on Sunday around noon we all head back down the mountain.

If you have any questions, please email Betsy Gilpin at betsygilpin01@gmail.com.
To register, use this link: <https://uufsd.org/connection/community-life/cdpwreg/>



2025 PSWSA Assembly

Friday, April 25 to Sunday, April 27, 2025

First UU San Diego

Unitarian Universalism: Now More Than Ever

Come join Unitarian Universalists and other like-minded individuals as we gather together this April in San Diego to explore how we can better cultivate a culture of love and put these beliefs into action.

It's going to be a weekend, full of amazing keynote speakers, informative workshops, great music and food and most of all, having time to connect with old friends and make some new ones!

We are also offering Youth FUUN at Assembly is for K-5th and 6-12th graders. Bring your school-aged

youth to the Assembly for camp-themed activities with trained UU camp leaders. No infant or non-potty-trained childcare will be available. Parent or Guardian must be on site at Assembly. Learn more on the website.

Sign up to represent your congregation when you register! If you have any questions about becoming a delegate, please contact Dale Botts, PSWSA Assembly planning co-chair and Vice President of the Board of Directors for De Benneville Pines, Inc. Dale can be reached at dale.botts2@gmail.com.

There's a lot happening at the Assembly. You'll find more detailed descriptions about the activities and speakers as well as information on hotel lodging options and the Walking Tours by clicking on the QR Code below or by going to Camp's website uucamp.org.



**UU Summer Camps
Registration Opening March 8th!**

- UU Elementary Summer Youth Camp:** Jun 29 - Jul 5
- UU Counselor-in-Training:** Jun 29 - Jul 5
- UU Junior High Summer Youth Camp:** Jul 6-12
- UU Senior High Summer Youth Camp:** Jul 13-19
- UU Family Camp:** Jul 20-26



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.

The banner for 'The Gathering' features a background photo of three people smiling. The title 'The Gathering' is written in a mix of cursive and bold sans-serif fonts. Below the title is a yellow brushstroke. The tagline 'Fortifying Ourselves for the Long Road Ahead' is centered with heart symbols on either side. At the bottom, the Unitarian Universalist Association logo is on the left, the schedule 'Second Monday of Every Month 8pm ET / 5pm PT' is in the center, and the 'SIDE WITH LOVE' logo is on the right.

The
Gathering

♥ Fortifying Ourselves for the Long Road Ahead ♥

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION

Second Monday of Every Month
8pm ET / 5pm PT

♥ SIDE WITH LOVE

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:

- ◆ Spiritual Grounding – Strengthening our hearts and spirits for the work ahead
- ◆ Political Analysis – Understanding the threats to democracy and justice
- ◆ Collective Action – Organizing with others to counter anti-democratic forces and build a just and loving world

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.](#)



SIDE WITH LOVE



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

OFFICE HOURS

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

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April, 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.