



# 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.

---

**August 3**

**“In This Moment”**

**Rev. KC Marie Pandell**

Part of our Unitarian Universalist heritage asks us to meet the moment -- to rise up, speak truth to power, and to bear witness to the ills of the world. What does it mean to be living through "historic times," and how do we keep the pace for the long haul, to continue meeting this, and future moments?

**August 17**

**“The Summit Love Tune-up”**

**Cath DeStefano**

We tune our cars, they work better. We tune our pianos, they play better. We tune us, we work, play and live better. “I had a LOT to learn about love and what I’ve learned, I hope it helps you, reminds you and touches your heart.” -Cath

**August 10**

**“Ancient Hints of the Moral Arc: A Bible Study for UUs”**

**Tom Brower**

Based on its billions of copies, thousands of translations, and profound impact on religion, art, literature, law, and history over two millennia, the Bible is the most well-known and influential book of all time. Join me on a short journey of discovery into one of its most memorable stories, a story with very real implications for our current day. Along the way, we'll uncover both the fascinating and the inspiring.

**August 24**

**“Measuring the Marigolds”**

**Rev. Everett Howe**

What is the most good that we can do? The “effective altruism” movement claims to give us a way to think about this question — but somehow it has led to people ignoring human misery and urgent global problems in favor of far-fetched plans to fill the universe with computers that simulate human consciousness. I will look at some of the fundamental flaws of effective altruism, and suggest ways of avoiding them.

**August 31**

**“Native Plants to Encourage Insect & Bird Activity”**

**Stephanie Mood**

Stephanie Mood will share her love for native plants to help restore a natural setting in an urban environment



*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:

Beloved Summitarians, we have reached the end of our second congregational year together, and I can't possibly express the level of gratitude and joy I have for this faith community. It is a joy to consistently grow alongside and because of this community, and it is an honor to journey with you as you do the same. We are not the same little community we were two years ago, though we proudly bear the markings of who we've been as we eagerly journey forward together.

My unending thanks to our staff, lay leaders and volunteers. If there's anything that I do that looks particularly easy from the outside, I can promise you, there are many folks whose wisdom, thoughts, knowledge and support were woven into the work. I can only be the minister I am with the blessings you all bestow on me. I truly am blessed to be a part of Summit's history, present, and future.

It's a weird time to be going away for so long, but I promise, you will be in good hands. Tom Brower, Stacey Sasaki, and Mark Weedman have all generously and enthusiastically agreed to work as the beginning of our Lay Pastoral Care Team – they will be the first folks you contact for needs in my absence (in August, and beyond, such as my study leave in January). Greater needs will be referred to our beloved Rev. Everett Howe, who is pleased to provide care if needed.

I will think fondly of you all as I bebop around Michigan for a few weeks, and will

toast you lovingly while I celebrate my doctoral acceptance and birthday on a cruise to Mexico immediately after. It will be an exercise for me in letting go and letting love, and I await enthusiastically to hear from all of you how you enjoyed the month of August. Until then: many blessings on the ministry and life of Summit for August.

All my love and blessings,

*Rev. KC*

(714) 869-7645

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

For **pastoral care in August**, reach out to our Lay Pastoral Care Team by email at [SUUFcareteam@gmail.com](mailto:SUUFcareteam@gmail.com), or by phone:

- ◆ Tom Brower  
(858) 245-6593
- ◆ Stacey Sasaki  
(619) 850-7553 (text preferred)
- ◆ Mark Weedman  
(619) 334-5300

**Rev. Everett Howe** will also be on call for pastoral care in August. To reach him, you can email him at [rev.everett.howe@gmail.com](mailto:rev.everett.howe@gmail.com), or call or text his pastoral care number: 619-648-9287. If your call gets sent to voicemail, please leave a message!



# PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS

~ DEBBIE WINGARD, BOARD PRESIDENT ~

Dear Friends,

Summit has a shared ministry model, in that the Minister, Staff and the Congregation run the fellowship together.

Congregational input is through the Board, a variety of committees, and congregational vote. While most committee responsibilities are clear (membership, caring, finance, landscaping), there are a few that are less obvious from their titles and/or have changed over the years. I have received a number of questions about the Committee on Ministry, which is currently inactive, so thought it might be helpful to share some thoughts.

UU congregations have used the Committee on Ministry (COM) in a variety of ways. Congregations with a new minister might have the COM assist the minister in getting to know the congregational culture and serve as a conduit between the congregation and the new minister. This is how we used our COM in Rev. KC's first year and in the early years of our other ministers. Other congregations have their COM monitor how the congregation is functioning, through surveys, cottage meetings and the like, and then recommend activities or changes in practices to better serve the needs of the congregation. Some COMs serve as the committee that handles conflicts and disputes, such as described in our Covenant of Right Relations. Other COMs assist

the minister in handling issues of pastoral care. There are probably as many versions of COMs as there are congregations!

Rev. KC and I have been discussing these various functions and how they are served at Summit. We now have two groups that help with pastoral care. The Caring Committee assists in practical support for members and friends in need, including calls and visits, organizing food support after life events or at Celebrations of Life, and rides to appointments. The newly formed Lay Pastoral Team will be helping with spiritual and emotional support when Rev. KC is unavailable. They have all taken the UU Lay Pastoral Training program. The Board has discussed forming a Covenant of Right Relations Team, which can assist members who are experiencing conflict. Until that team is in place, members can reach out to Rev. KC or to any Board member for assistance. For the past year, the Board of Directors has been monitoring the overall functioning of the congregation, but considering whether establishing a new COM for this purpose would be beneficial.

As you can see, this is a work in progress! Comments and suggestions are welcome.

Hoping everyone is enjoying their summer,

*Debbie*



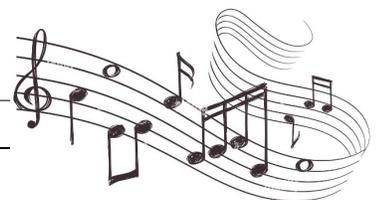
## SUMMIT'S MUSIC PROGRAM

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 will resume on August 24. Rehearsals will now be before service on Sunday mornings, at 9am.**

Contact [Duncan.matthew49@gmail.com](mailto:Duncan.matthew49@gmail.com) for more info.





# LIFESPAN FAITH FORMATION NEWS

MARY CARTER-VAIL, DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

We continue to play with Creativity this month for our Summer Religious Exploration. Creative play is a form of spiritual practice for many of us. I invite you to discover how you engage with creativity in your life. This may be by making something or it could be a way you approach challenges. Creativity is what we do as each of us creates in our own way. (See an invitation below.)

**Creativity:** Creativity can be a personal spiritual practice. This may involve art supplies or not. You get to choose how to explore creativity in a way that feels authentic to you. This might be trying to paint or draw. It could be playing with clay or collage. It could also be singing a new song or trying out an instrument. It could be playing with words or listening to a podcast that gets creative thoughts going. It's a "name your own adventure" way of engaging with a new spiritual practice. Make the space to create, without judgement, and let yourself PLAY!

**Summit's Creative Summer 2025:** For our Summer RE program, we are going to get creative together. Each Sunday we will be playing with creative mediums in new and creative ways. Come join in the fun and play with us this summer!

**July Guest Artists:** Sara Duvall was our guest artist for July. She brought clay and inspiration for us to play and create with. She has fired the pieces made and we painted them on the last Sunday in July. Are you an artist or creative person? We would love to have you as a guest artist. Reach out to me if you are interested.

**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 July and August Theme is Creativity:** We will be gathering in RE at 10 am 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.

**August 3 – Creativity in the Garden**– It is time to get ready to plant our seeds & seedlings for the fall garden. We will be getting creative as we craft some Bee Waters and a Bug House for the beneficial insects that pollinate the flowers & help our garden grow.

**August 10 – Creativity: Tiny Little Library** – We have a lovely library to add to our Summit Gardens. Thank you to Scott Sieburth for building us this beauty. This Sunday we will be decorating the outside so that we can get it installed on the property.

**August 17 – Creative Cardboard Construction** – Last summer this was a very popular activity. Let's transform cardboard into something new! It could be a new game, a whole village or a robot. Bring your ideas and some extra cardboard to create with. We will have tapes of various kinds and many objects to create with.

**August 24 – Creativity: Cartoon Art with Nick Orr** – Many of you may not know that Nick is an amazing cartoon artist! He is going to take the lead this Sunday to share some of his drawing skills with us. Nick leads drawing workshops for elementary age up at camp so it's super exciting to have him as our guest artist.

**August 31 – Creative Science with Bubbles** – Be ready for some bubble fun in the parking lot this week as we play with soap and structure for some good clean fun. We will have different ways to create bubble and bubble makers as we experiment together. After much play, we will challenge each other to build a bubble sculpture.

*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.

## WELCOMING & MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

### Welcoming and Membership Happenings

It's been exciting to see the numbers of people attending the services at Summit continue to increase over the last few months. The circle for the closing circle song has become large and reminiscent of what it was like before we shut down for Covid!

With the increase of people attending on Sundays now, this also means that the need for people to help increases. Summit runs on its volunteers. There has been a core group of members and friends who have been doing this since we reopened. But now, more people being available to help on a Sunday would be helpful in some areas. An example is with the Visitors table. Before we shut down for Covid, we had two people at the table to greet newcomers and visitors. When we reopened, one person was enough to greet everyone. Now one person is not always enough to do this. The Visitors table is not to just welcome our guests, but to also welcome regular members and friends as well. And by helping at the table, you aren't required to join the Welcoming and Membership Committee.

The other area on Sunday that the committee helps with is with the Salon. We do this on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month. Members arrive between 9 and 9:15 in the morning to help Juana set up and then stay as things wind down to help clean up. There is always room for additional help. If not that Sunday, perhaps another Sunday would work for you.

The committee takes a hiatus over the summer and will resume meeting in September. We meet at Summit on the first Sunday each month at noon in the library. Our meetings generally last around an hour. If you are interested in learning more about what the committee does, check us out at one of our meetings. There will be no obligation to join the committee.

I'm excited to see what will happen at Summit in the fall. I'm also looking forward to seeing what new things and ideas the members, friends, as well as Reverend KC, have in store for us. Thanks to everyone who helps make Summit the special place it is. Have a great rest of your summer.

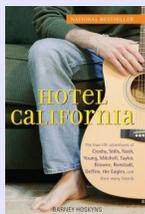
~ Jim Weed (HDSurf@aol.com)  
Chair, Welcoming & Membership Committee

## 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 August 5, we will be discussing The Silent Patient by Alex Michaelides.



On September 2, we will be discussing Hotel California by Barney Hoskyns.



Everyone is welcome, even new members - either to participate or listen. If you have any questions, please ask Cheryl Smrek at [csmreck@outlook.com](mailto:csmreck@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 not meet in August, but will be back Sept 7 in the Sanctuary at Noon.



# Auction Corner News

## *Magical Fairy Garden*

The 2025 Summit Auction will be November 8th  
Mark your Calendar!

Calling all fairies, pixies, and gnomes to reach out to your favorite business to donate to this year's event. Printed donation forms are available on the Greeting Room table.

Business Donations form online [HERE](#)  
Personal Donations form online [HERE](#)



## ∞ SOCIAL JUSTICE IN ACTION ∞

### DO YOU KNOW WHICH GROSSMONT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT AREA YOU VOTE IN?

There are lots of petitions going around for people to sign regarding the trustees of the local school board, but you have to know WHICH Area you vote in in order to sign the right one.

If you are interested in more information, please visit [recallthetrustees.com](http://recallthetrustees.com) where you can read about the current board, donate, volunteer, or request a petition form be mailed to you.

Here is an easy link for you to use to find that voting information: <https://www.sdvote.com/content/rov/en/voter-info-lookup.html> All you need to do if fill in your house NUMBER only (not street), your birthday, and your zip code. You'll see a list of DISTRICT INFORMATION, and Grossmont will be listed with an Area number.

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, August 10 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](mailto:bkindbstrong@gmail.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,  
August 4  
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:

Pam Williams at

[2400highview@gmail.com](mailto:2400highview@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, August 26 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).



## ∞ COMMUNITY EVENTS ∞

Saturday, September 6  
Christopher Vitas & Fred Benedetti Concert



Saturday, September 13 at 10:30am  
Celebration of Life for D'Arcy Skinner

Sunday, September 14  
SUUF Picnic at Santee Lakes

Saturday, September 27 at 6pm  
Improv Night at Summit

Saturday, October 4  
Bluegrass Concert

Saturday, November 8  
Summit Auction  
*See details on page 6*



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

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

## Unitarian Universalist Association Responds to U.S. House Committee on Homeland Security

The UUA responds to an inquiry received by the U.S. House Committee on Homeland Security by asserting that as a moral and religious commitment, UUs reject any violations of the human rights and dignity of immigrants, regardless of citizenship status.

[House Committee Letter Response](#)

## UUA Joins Multifaith Lawsuit Asserting that ICE Policy Violates the First Amendment

The UUA is proud to announce we are a plaintiff in the sensitive locations policy lawsuit. We join a multifaith coalition to challenge the ending of ICE's policy, and oppose any interpretation of law which would allow immigration raids in houses of worship and religious ceremonies.

[Sensitive Locations Policy Lawsuit](#)

## The UUA Condemns U.S. Supreme Court's Decision in the United States v. Skrametti Case

The Supreme Court's ruling will irreparably harm transgender youth by denying them access to necessary medical care. Unitarian Universalists believe that embracing transgender, nonbinary, intersex and gender diverse people is a fundamental expression of our religious values, and we will continue to advocate for these shared values.

[UUA Reaction Skrametti Case](#)



**SIDE WITH LOVE**

## Side With Love Denounces IRS Undermining of the Johnson Amendment

In a time when the line between church and state is under attack, the IRS has signaled a dangerous shift—suggesting clergy should be allowed to endorse political candidates from the pulpit. Though no official policy has changed yet, the implications are serious.

**The UUA has long held a clear position:** faith leaders must remain prophetic, not partisan. Side With Love and UU the Vote continue to provide guidance and resources to help congregations speak boldly on the moral issues of our time while staying within the bounds of 501(c)(3) law.

We call on all people of faith and conscience to defend the separation of church and state—an essential safeguard against rising authoritarianism and white Christian nationalism.

[Read the full statement and access resources »](#)





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

#### OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday & Thursday — 9 am to 5 pm  
*Please call before coming in to make sure  
someone will be in the office*

#### MINISTER

**Rev. KC Marie Pandell**

714-869-7645

SummitMinister@gmail.com

[Calendly Schedule](#)

#### DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

**Mary Carter-Vail**

619-562-0833, ex 3

SummitDRE@gmail.com

#### MUSIC DIRECTOR

**Duncan Matthew**

719-568-3832

Duncan.matthew49@gmail.com

#### OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

**Nelwyn Del Frate**

619-562-0833, ex. 1

SummitUUF@gmail.com

#### PROPERTY STEWARD

**Mark Weedman**

markatspectrum@hotmail.com

#### WEEKLY ENEWS EDITOR

**Pam Kerr:** SUUFVolunteer@yahoo.com

#### SCENE AT SUMMIT NEWSLETTER EDITOR

**Nelwyn Del Frate:** summitUUF@gmail.com

---

#### Board of Trustees

Debbie Wingard—*President*

Ryn Corbeil—*Vice President*

Dan Hand—*Secretary*

Brenda McGuinness—*Treasurer*

Miles Beauchamp—*Director*



## August, 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)

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).