



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: Practicing Resistance

January 4

“Literature & Resistance”

Miles Beauchamp, Guest Speaker

Miles will discuss literature in general, and as it relates to resistance and the authors who have paid the ultimate price.



January 11

“Has Disrespect Won?”

Gregg Ward, Guest Speaker

No matter where we stand on society, politics, and religion, we can't avoid reality: public disrespect is up, way up, and driving increasing stress levels, discord, and conflict. Gregg Ward, Founder and Executive Director of the Center for Respectful Leadership dives deeper into this phenomenon and how it's impacting our lives and communities, and what we can do about it.

January 18

“In the Dark of the Night: On Rest as Resistance”

Rev. KC Marie Pandell

In a world that feeds on our energy, when corporations' main goal is output for profit, and the expense of us all, there is power in simply saying "not today". Join Rev. KC in an exploration of rest, not as a selfish practice, but one that builds resilience and strength. Note: This sermon is pre-recorded, as Rev. KC is returning from study leave; please feel free to gather in person to share fellowship together.

January 25

"Wolves in Wolf's Clothing: on Resisting Tyranny"

Rev. KC Marie Pandell

As we continue to see rapid, harmful policy changes, as our neighbors keep being "disappeared" off the streets, and American trust and international partnerships are eroded day by day, how do we, the everyday citizen, affect any sort of resistance in the face of tyranny. When we are no longer accurately represented by the people charged to do just that, how do We, The People, show up and say, loudly, "no more!"



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 know I've spoken over the last year, sort of ad nauseum, about the importance of resistance and resilience, so I was pretty stoked when I saw that our Soul Matters theme this month was on the subject. There were some really juicy-juice sermon seeds, and it was kind of tough to choose just two, especially knowing that I could come back from my study leave with some really exciting things to share with you all (after all, my classes are about guiding communities through trauma, and on prophetic leadership – no doubt, there's something to preach on almost as soon as I return).

Resistance, I think, in the way we'll be touching on it, is something most of us never thought we'd have to live through, not in the United States, at least. I certainly never thought so, even growing up in post-9/11 America. Sometimes I wonder if we've been so comfortable that resistance is a practice we might not be adept at. But then I look at the ways people show up, every single day – these acts needn't be massive to scale, I'm not talking about organizing huge rallies or anything grand. But an act as simple as pushing back an incorrect narrative can make a lot of difference. I think we hear "resistance" and think about the historical subversion in Nazi-occupied Germany. But what if our resistance was as every day as the books we put in our Little Free Library? What if our resistance is in the rest we take, in the stories we tell, in the food we share together, the books we read (and discuss!). What if it is in the simple telling of the truth?

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said *"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."* Resistance is a practice that holds firm and says "Not today, not on my watch." It's one of the ways we protect each other, especially those who are from marginalized communities. It's a part of how we build

community together, holding firm together. When we choose to resist that which seeks to hold any one of us down, we are choosing each other, even when it feels too big, or too scary. But there are far more of us than there are of them. In the words of Captain America: "The price of freedom is high. But it's a price I'm willing to pay."

May we all find ways, big and small, to add to that resistance, not just to reclaim that which is being bulldozed, but to help create the future we deserve.

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](#)



LIFESPAN FAITH FORMATION NEWS

MARY CARTER-VAIL, DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

Welcome to January and 2026. We will begin this year with the theme of Practicing Resistance. This may look different for children and adults.

Children practice resistance when they learn to resist peer pressure and to work together to solve problems. We will be exploring and practicing as we discover how to respond as our values guide us. Finally, we will be planning our spring seeds in the garden as a way to resist the high cost of fresh food while helping our community to be resilient together.

Practicing Resistance: What does the practice of resistance mean to you? Many of us have been called to engage in actions of resistance as we are witnessing the erasure of the values that we hold for each other and our neighbors. Some of these actions are loud and call us to pay attention to what is happening. Some of these acts are small and quiet like planting a vegetable garden to feed the community around us. By practicing together, we all build our muscles so that we are prepared to go from resistance to resilience in challenging times. Are you practicing resistance? What does that look like to you? Take a moment to imagine ways that you can engage with this practice solo and in community. This may look different to each of us and that is just fine. Bring your heart and your values to explore this theme together this month.

Free Little Library is OPEN! – Thank you to all who have brought books to contribute. Our little library is getting some local attention and we are being added to the Little Free Library App. We do need some more books so bring in any gently used titles to contribute. Bring book donations to RE so our children can add in the bookplates and enjoy filling the library. Thanks again to all who have supported this fun project!

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 Practicing Resistance:

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 “Invitation 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 4 – Resisting the Pressure to Fit In – We begin to explore our new theme by exploring our values and how peer pressure can impact the way we model them. Sometimes we set our values aside to “fit in” with the crowd. As we play with this theme, we will go on a values scavenger hunt and make our own “status socks” to discover how we can resist the pressure to be like someone we are not.

January 11 – Resisting the Unhealthy Parts of Screen Time and Social Media – This can be a big topic for kids and families. We will be exploring the challenges of living in a digital world rather than engaging in person with each other without a screen between us. We have games that will lead into a discussion of different ways that we can use a screen to connect and notice how screens can keep us from being in community with others. We will then play some interactive card games, and the kids may choose to help plan a screen free event for the community.

January 18 - Resisting Racism – This week we will be looking at how we can resist racism through story, a group art piece and games. The activities of the day will be centered on the ages of the kids here this week as some are for older and some are for younger children. Together, we will be practicing resisting racism.

(continued on next page)

January 25 – Practicing Resistance: Grow a Garden of Resilience – This week we will be talking about being calm as an act of resistance during anxious times. We will be working together to plant our garden with lots of veggies and herbs to care for our community through sharing from the garden. All ages are welcome to join in as we get seeds and seedlings in the ground to nurture each other with healthy food & community.

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.

With deepest love and brightest blessings,

Mary

Mary Carter-Vail
she/they

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, January 17 at 7pm

John Bosley Concert in the Sanctuary
Doors open at 6:30pm

Sunday, February 15 at 12:30pm

Deirdre Sullivan Harp Concert in the Sanctuary

Sunday, January 25 at 11am

SUUF Congregational Meeting in the Sanctuary

Saturday, March 14 at 7pm

A Celtic Evening
In the Sanctuary
Doors open at 6:30pm

Thursday, January 29

Red Cross Blood Drive in the Salon
Details on page 6



SUMMIT’S MUSIC PROGRAM

JERRICA STONE, MUSIC DIRECTOR



Please welcome our new Music Director, Jerrica Stone!

The SUMMIT CHOIR meets Wednesdays at 6 pm in the sanctuary.

We welcome anyone who would like to sing- no experience required. We would love to have your voice join ours!



❧ WELCOMING & MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE ❧

Welcoming and Membership Happenings

It was exciting to be part of the new members recognition ceremony that was part of the December 14th service. Each new member brings a special and unique gift for the Fellowship. I want to thank Mary, the RE kids and the others that helped get the chalices that were part of the gift bag given to the new members ready, which the kids also helped distribute. Here is picture of the cake that we enjoyed in the salon after the service.



One of the things that makes the Fellowship such a welcoming and inviting place to attend is its members and friends who are at the service week in and week out. A consistent comment I get from visitors is how friendly and

welcoming the people here are. Another recent comment I got was that they liked attending the Fellowship because it felt like an intentional community of people who wanted to be here. The more that I thought about this, the more it made sense to me. After attending 1st Unitarian Universalist Church in San Diego starting in elementary school, I made a deliberate choice to start attending Summit with Elinor after a tragic life event we had. Until this event, I thought I'd be attending 1st Church as long as I lived in San Diego. Many of the members and regular friends at Summit have similar stories of what brought them here. And it's these stories that make Summit the special place it is.

I'm looking forward to seeing what exciting things will be happening at Summit during 2026. I know that with this community at Summit, it will be another great year.

Jim

Welcoming & Membership Committee Chair

❧ 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 January 6, we will be discussing The Nickel Boys by Colson Whitehead.



On February 3, we will be discussing A Fever in the Heartland: The Ku Klux Klan's Plot to Take Over America, and the Women Who Stopped Them by Timothy Egan



Everyone is welcome, even new members - either to participate or listen. If you have any questions, please ask Cheryl Smrek at 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 next meeting will be February 1st in the Sanctuary at Noon.



SUMMIT UU FELLOWSHIP PRAYER CIRCLE

Organized by Seraphina Galante

We meet in the Sanctuary on the 1st Thursday of the month from 1pm to 2:30pm.

All are welcome!

∞ SOCIAL JUSTICE IN ACTION ∞

The Social Justice in Action Committee meets regularly 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 SJIA committee meets on the second Sunday of the month;
Our next meeting will be January 11 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



Summit is hosting a blood drive in the Salon!

**Thursday, January 29, 2026
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

One hour of your time can save up to three lives!
Make an appointment by scanning below, or go to redcrossblood.org and use sponsor code **SummitUUF**



Scan here to make
an appointment

Come give blood 1/26-2/28 for a
\$20 e-gift card to your choice of
merchant. See rcblood.org/heart



Scan here to learn
how donors help

1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

AFFINITY GROUPS

POETRY WORKSHOP

Led by Margo Mariana

Come play with words! Discover the poet within.

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 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:

Pam Williams at

2400highview@gmail.com



WOW—WOMEN OF WISDOM EVENING WOMEN'S GROUP

Longing for a meeting that suits your needs? All are welcome - come share your wisdom and hang out with other amazing women!

Meet with us the 3rd Monday of every month, at 7:00 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, January 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 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.





Happy New Year from Camp de Benneville Pines!

The entire 2026 calendar of events is ready for you!

Registrations are open for UU Elementary/Family Winter Camp and Camp Transcend Family Camp.

Registrations open soon (mid - January) for UU Middle School and Family Winter Camp, UU Women's Spring Retreat, Yoga Camp, and Camp de Benneville Pines Reunion Camp 2026!

Scholarships are available! Have you or a family you know been affected by the fires in LA? Did you know that Camp de Benneville Pines has scholarship funds available to support those who lost their homes or jobs due to the fires? Camp is here to help!

Our goal is to make the possibility of Youth and Family camps available to all who feel the need to spend time at camp, regardless of one's financial circumstances. Reach out! Help us get campers to camp!

Feb 14-16	UU Elementary and Family Winter Camp
Mar 27-30	UU Middle School and Family Winter Camp
Jul 5-11	CIT Camp (for those training to be a counselor)
Jul 6-11	UU Elementary Summer Camp
Jul 12-18	UU Middle School Summer Camp
Jul 19-25	UU High School Summer Camp
Jul 26-Aug 1	UU Family Summer Camp

[SCHOLARSHIP REQUEST](#)

Registrations for the Summer Camps will be opening at 7 am, Saturday, March 7, 2026!

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

Save The Date for the Pacific Southwest Assembly, April 24-26, 2026, at the Rancho Palos Verdes, Pacific Unitarian Church campus.

In the spirit of the former district assembly, we invite UUs and affiliated people to join in our **Blue Sapphire** reflection--65 years of UU history, with a look ahead as we strive for Justice. In the pursuit of justice for all let's learn from history and blend our voices with our ever-current arc toward Justice. The assembly is a unique creation of workshops, music, and keynote speakers, and we invite you to provide event planners with your ideas and suggestions for workshops and activities.

2026 Pacific Southwest Assembly

April 24 - 26, 2026

Pacific UU Church
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA



"Blue Sapphire Anniversary"

For more information and to provide your ideas, contact Dale Botts: dale.botts2@gmail.com, 714.686.2791 (he/him)



SIDE WITH LOVE

This year's **30 Days of Love** invites us to slow down and return to the heart of how we do our organizing work faithfully. Our theme, Reimagining the World as It Could Be, calls us to root ourselves in spiritual discipline and creative possibility,

trusting that how we show up for the work will shape the world we are building.

Each week beginning January 19, we will reflect on and offer practices inspired by how our Side With Love team organizes our work and practice:

- **Imagining Thriving** – nourishing our freedom dreams and expanding what we believe is possible.
- **Grounding in Context** – understanding the histories, conditions, and truths that shape our communities and this moment.
- **Nurturing Community** – tending to relationships, belonging, and the sacred web that holds us.
- **Mobilizing for Action** – moving together with courage and strategy, allowing action itself to be a teacher.
- **Exploring Possibilities** – opening ourselves to emergence, creativity, and transformation as we make the future together.

Each Monday during 30 Days of Love, our weekly offering will be available at 9am Eastern and can be accessed from the [30 Days of Love 2026 landing page](#).

Over these five weeks we will move from imagination to action, returning again and again to the spiritual practices that keep us on a faithful path and resist the ways these times can corrupt the spirit. At a time when fear, violence, and extraction dominate our politics and our planet, we practice another way. We cultivate a love that is not fragile—it is fierce. It grounds our organizing, fuels our imagination, and sustains our communities.



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*

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714-869-7645
SummitMinister@gmail.com
[Calendly Schedule](#)

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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.