



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.

July 6

“In the Eye of the Hurricane”

Rev. KC Marie Pandell

Anxiety isn't a bug, but a feature -- part of anxiety's purpose can be to act as an alarm bell when something needs our attention. But unchecked anxiety can't be a forever function; it erodes relationships, holds systems hostage, and wreaks havoc. How do we manage anxiety, our own, and that within systems, in ways that are healthy and life giving. What does it mean to become a "non-anxious presence," and how do we use it in our justice work?

July 13

“Yes, and...”

Rev. KC Marie Pandell

In a living tradition like Unitarian Universalism, inspiration can be found just about anywhere. Join Rev. KC on a peek into how creativity has informed her faith journey, and explore some ideas on how we can use creativity to live into our own.



July 20

“Animal Crackers: The Circus of Life”

Rev. KC Marie Pandell

Sometimes, life can feel a little like a traveling circus: With various rings filled with all manner of animals, each one bringing its own needs and complications, how do we traverse the roars of lions, the trumpets of elephants, the honks of clown horns? Did anyone even ask if we wanted to be at the circus in the first place? And yet, the circus can be so wonderfully bizarre and magical, even if we're walking the tightrope. Join Rev. KC for a journey through life as a circus as we ask the question: How do we navigate a life that is unceasingly like a circus, full of sights and sounds, amazing and mundane, and how do we enjoy the show along the way.

July 27

“Exploring the Opportunities from the Pandemic Shutdown”

Elinor Weed & Summitarians

In mid-March 2020, the country shut down as COVID cases were climbing fast. Shelter in Place. Telework if you can (unless you are an essential worker). Maintain distance and mask up. Those were unusual times! Join us as several of our Summit members share how they found ways to stay connected with others, and what opportunities they created in those unusual times.

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:

My utter gratitude for the ability you have given me to travel to Cambridge a few weeks ago – Such lovely weather, and such incredible collegial relationship building and co learning, it almost felt like a mini vacation! It was a delight to see some history up close, including the pubs that Watson & Crick (The Eagle), and CS Lewis & JRR Tolkien (The Pickerel Inn) frequented, as well as (reportedly) the apple tree under which Newton understood gravity. A punt down the River Cam was much needed soul service, I must admit. And, yes, I did manage to fit in a play on my return to London.

How exciting it is to be one course closer to that degree, and even more thrilling to know I've already learned things I can (and have!) brought back to this community.

I realize I may not have described in much detail what this degree entails, so now is as good a time as ever!

A Doctorate of Ministry is a practical degree that can be directly applied to the ministerial context which the student serves. While there are certainly research components to the scholarship, it is much less research focused than a typical PhD program. I thought for a few years whether I was interested in this work or not, and when I heard that little call to this step in my ministry, it was extremely important to me to choose the degree that would benefit my skills as a minister. The scholarship is necessary (and fun for me), but the direct possibilities this degree affords me were my priority – how can this work serve you, my beloved Summit. So, thank you again for your enthusiasm; I'm excited to bring you on this journey! Thank goodness for online classes and in-person intensives – I can continue to serve you full-time and tend to my course work over the next two years, with my third year focused on my thesis (which I have, to this point, managed

to avoid as a student; I couldn't run from them forever!)

As for everything else, I look forward to a few more weeks in your midst before I leave on vacation for the month of August.

There will be some lay pastoral care folks who can tend to needs while I'm away, and we hope to have a minister on call for more severe needs. I have every faith our blossoming lay care team will take good care of you, as I know you all will of and for each other. I am deeply blessed to serve such a kind, compassionate, loving community.

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,

As we start a new fiscal year, I want to thank everyone who helped make the past year so rewarding! Many volunteers helped keep the place running, from supporting everyone's spiritual growth, facilitating our social justice activities, caring for those experiencing challenges, helping our children to flourish, and all those practical tasks which include ushering, Sunday salon, and finances.

This year has also been filled with the joy of sharing one another's company! In addition to our weekly Sunday salon gathering, there have been music concerts, movie nights, book club, bridge club, and numerous auction events in one another's homes. We have participated in two potlucks with liberal friends from Santee's Methodist and Lutheran congregations and look forward to getting to know them better. This coming September 14th Summit will gather at Santee Lakes for a Sunday picnic. Mark your calendars and consider bringing a friend!

The Board was delighted to receive 39 responses to the recent Talents and Skills Survey. It was wonderful to see so many people willing and eager to share their talents in support of our

wonderful community! We are in the process of connecting those with common interests, and potential volunteers to relevant committees or specific events (including the upcoming picnic).

If you missed the survey, we would still love to hear from you. You can complete it online using the following link or pick up a paper copy at Summit:

Link: <https://forms.gle/tdS4WwPsZEjU1vHw8>

Finally, I am pleased to announce that we have hired a Social Media consultant as part of a generous outreach grant from the Spirit Level Foundation. This person will help us reach out to one another and the community at large. There are many people in East County who are like minded but have no idea we are here!

Wishing everyone a wonderful rejuvenating Summer!

Debbie



SUMMIT'S MUSIC PROGRAM

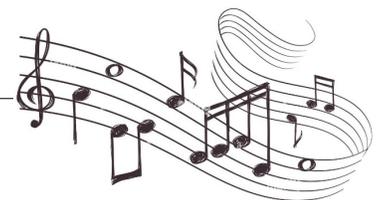
DUNCAN MATTHEW, MUSIC DIRECTOR



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 are on hiatus for the summer and will return in August

Contact Duncan.matthew49@gmail.com for more info.





LIFESPAN FAITH FORMATION NEWS

MARY CARTER-VAIL, DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

We are fully in summer mode in our Summit Religious Exploration program. It is also Camp Season for our kiddos and me. As a summer RE theme,

we are going to play with Creativity. Yay! This will be our theme for both July and August. Does this sound like fun? Come play with us! All ages are welcome.

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 ways. I have planned our first month and will be looking to our children to choose the activities for August. We want to play and create together. Have an idea? Are you an artist or creative person? We would love to have you as a guest artist. Come join in the fun and play with us this summer!

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 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.

July 6 – Creativity: Crafting Covenant – We begin our summer by crafting a covenant. This is our agreement of how we will be in community together for a creative summer. Our covenant will be crafted on a painted mural, big and bold, as we plan to be boldly creative all summer long. Bring some painting clothes to wear as we play together.

July 13 – Creativity: Pop Art – We will continue to get creative with Bubbles! Have you ever painted with bubbles? Come join us as we mix science with art to see what we can manifest. You may be surprised and delighted as we create art that pops!

July 20 – Creativity: Getting Messy – This week we will be making "fancy paper" by finger painting and using watercolors. This will be a sensory playtime and we will have options for folks who want to keep their hands paint free.

July 27 – Creativity: Rip & Tear – Last week we made fancy paper. This week we will see what we can create with it by making collages. Come ready to rip and tear to create interesting shapes that will inspire a new story.

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

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

Monday, July 7 at 10am
Poetry Group in the Library



Sunday, July 13 at 12pm
Social Justice in Action Committee meeting in the Library

Saturday, July 19
San Diego Pride Parade in Hillcrest
see details on page 7

Sunday, July 27 at 1pm
Joe Ferrara Concert
see details on page 10

Saturday, September 6
Christopher Vitas & Fred Benedetti Concert

Sunday, September 14
SUUF Picnic at Santee Lakes

Saturday, October 4
Bluegrass Concert

Saturday, November 8
Summit Auction
See details on page 7

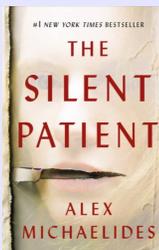


ADULT LIFE ENRICHMENT

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 July 1, we will be discussing [A Patchwork Planet](#) by Anne Tyler.



On August 5, we will be discussing [The Silent Patient](#) by Alex Michaelides.

Everyone is welcome, even new members - either to participate or listen. If you have any questions, please ask Cheryl Smreck 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 group will meet on the 1st Sunday (on July 6) in the Sanctuary at Noon.

WELCOMING & MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Welcoming and Membership Happenings

The Welcoming and Membership Committee could use some help on the Sundays I am not at Summit. During Covid, I started working on a model train layout in our garage. It was a creative outlet for me being at home all the time. I have outgrown this space as I acquired some of the larger Lionel trains during this time as well. I became involved with the San Diego Model Railroad Museum and try to volunteer on the third Sunday of each month at the layout that is focused on Lionel trains. I find this time rewarding as I see the smiles of both the young and old as they are watching us have fun with trains. I get to meet people from not only different parts of the country, but from all parts of the world. I see a universal joy in the faces of the visitors in our room seeing the trains running and the volunteers having a great time. The museum is also a nice escape for these people and myself from the chaotic world we live in at this time, and I am glad I can support the museum in this way.

I've also become a community activist of sorts because of this involvement. The city of San Diego has been in a budget crisis for the last several years. This year a plan is being discussed to start having visitors pay to park in Balboa Park as one of the ways to make up the budget shortfall. While I sympathize with the situation the city is in, I disagree with this solution. I believe that you should not be able to get prime parking based on your ability to pay. I was also concerned that employees and volunteers might have to start paying as well since this was not made clear one way or another during the discussion on this proposal that I've heard so far. The park is there for everyone to use no matter what your financial circumstances. So far, my activism has been writing letters to my council member and the mayor, but I continue to monitor the situation. And right now, I have heard mixed signals of how the parking proposal is moving forward. I will decide what to do next with what the city does next. So doing something as innocuous as volunteering at the park has evolved into something more.

So, if you are thinking about trying or doing something at Summit, consider helping at the Visitors table on a Sunday morning, especially one when I'm not at Summit. If you're interested in helping with this, stop by the table some time and talk with me. By helping me at the table, you won't be expected to join the Welcoming and Membership Committee, though if you want to check out the committee, we'd love to have you join us for one of our meetings. We are taking a break over the summer and resuming our meetings in the fall.

I would like to add that the supportive community at Summit is also a great place to try and do something new as well. When I started attending here, I never thought or expected to chair a committee. Yet I took a chance to try something new and with the support from the Fellowship I got, here I am the chairperson of this committee. So, I hope that Summit members and friends will look to grow here and try something new.

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



Auction Corner News

The Theme of the 2025 Summit Auction is —

Magical Fairy Garden

November 8th, 2025

Mark your Calendar!



We are now collecting donations for the auction—

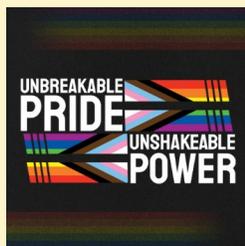
Business Donations form [HERE](#)

Personal Donations form [HERE](#)

Printed forms are available on the Greeting Room table

Stamp donations needed for letters and thank you notes!

∞ SOCIAL JUSTICE IN ACTION ∞



There will be a UU contingent in the **San Diego Pride Parade** this year on **Saturday, July 19th** in Hillcrest.

Details as to joining the UU float will be provided about a week before the event. Contact Sandy Bernstein sbernstein@sdsu.edu if you have questions.

For event information: <https://sdpride.org/event/san-diego-pride-parade/>.

Pride is more than a moment—it's a movement. In 2025, we invite you to invoke the undeniable spirit of Stonewall as we march forward with **Unbreakable Pride and Unshakeable Power**.

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, July 13 at 12 Noon
in the Library and on zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/9885202774>

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



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,
July 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



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, July 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.



Camp de Benneville Pines

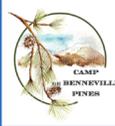


Registration is open for Summer Camp at Camp de Benneville Pines!

Get ready for an unforgettable summer with us at Camp de Benneville Pines! Whether you have a young explorer, are an adult seeking new experiences, or a family yearning for quality time together, our array of camps has something for everyone. Our diverse lineup promises excitement, learning, cherished memories, and community.

We can't wait to see you!

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



Bring a NEW Friend to Camp and SAVE!



You and your NEW friend EACH save \$50

*Applies to all UU Youth Summer Camps, Family Camp and Adult Summer Break Camp

Both Inviter and Invitee please name each other in the comments section when registering so we can apply the credit!

Contact: registrar@uucamp.org or 909-654-4769

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

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>



Joe Ferrara in concert at Summit, July 27, 1:00 pm.

Joe Ferrara has been entertaining audiences from Santa Cruz to San Francisco since his first gig at the Grog and Sirloin in Los Gatos in 1968. Throughout the seventies he played the steak house circuit, developing his interactive performance style. Joe first formed his reputation as “Mr. Request” at the original Garret in Campbell, where he played from 1971 to 1981. In 1976 Joe moved to Santa Cruz and immediately found a home at The Grapesteak in Capitola, where he played for thirteen years until the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake closed the business. In 1990 Joe did a “fill in” gig at The Cats restaurant in Los Gatos that ended sixteen years later when the place closed in 2006. In April of 2007, Joe found a new home at the Shadowbrook restaurant in Capitola, where he performed every Friday night until the covid shutdown in 2020. In January 2022 Joe returned to The Cats Restaurant and Tavern when it reopened its doors.

An avid Giants fan, Joe had the privilege of performing the national anthem for San Francisco every year between 1982 and 2012, a string of thirty-one years!

Joe has owned his comic bookstore, Atlantis Fantasyworld, in Santa Cruz for 49 years! For more information visit <https://atlantisfantasyworld.com/>

He is a twenty year survivor of prostate cancer and sits on the board of the local and state prostate cancer support group organizations. Joe has been married to Dottie for 38 years. They have four children, seven grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Denominational News

YOU → Summit UU Fellowship → SD Cluster →

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

Happy 200th Anniversary, American Unitarian Association!

The 200th anniversary of the American Unitarian Association offers Unitarian Universalists an opportunity to ground in our deep religious roots in America, explore some of the early and radical theological ideas at the core of our faith, and consider where we go from here

[Watch the video \(YouTube\).](#)

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](#)



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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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July, 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**.