



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: Freedom

June 1

Music Sunday

Rev. KC Marie Pandell

Duncan Matthew, Music Director



June 8

“Hope in Bloom”

Rev. KC Marie Pandell

Unitarian Universalism's Flower Communion is a tradition that welcomes in the new life of spring and allows gentle farewells to the congregational year. Its roots go deeper, however, reaching back into WWII, and the bloom of hope against the perils of authoritarianism. Today, we honor the communion's past and consider how it can continue to bring hope in today's climate, in this intergenerational service. Please feel free to share flowers (from your own garden, Trader Joe's, or wherever you feel moved).

SUUF's Annual Congregational Meeting will follow the service.



June 15

“The Road to Freedom”

Rev. KC Marie Pandell

"Until we are all free, we are none of us free." It can be easy to feel that we live in a time and place where we share equal freedom, when not all of us face the same struggles. Join Rev. KC on an exploration of what freedom really means, who receives it, and how we can authentically seek it for all. This service will have a prerecorded sermon from Rev. KC, who will be away studying at Wesley House at Cambridge University.

June 22

UUA General Assembly Closing Service

In Sanctuary option to view the GA worship, broadcast from Baltimore.



June 29

“A Free Faith” (Bring a Friend Sunday)

Rev. KC Marie Pandell

Unitarian Universalism comes from the tradition of being a "free faith," which is to say the valuation of free thought, conscience, and religious practice. It is one of the cornerstones of modern Unitarian Universalism and is at the heart of how we live our values. Invite a friend to learn more about this occasionally peculiar faith, and how it can be uniquely inviting.

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 love a good surprise, and it's joyful to share that I will get to spend more of my summer with Summit, which is as much a surprise to me as to anyone (including the worship team, who now have fewer pulpits to fill for the summer). While I expected to be gone through July and August, Spirit has other ideas that will keep me on my toes for the next few years, and because of a change in my schedule, I'm thrilled to be able to spend most of the month of July with you all!

I appreciate being in this community, where I can continue to grow my own learning, and be able to bring it back to this wonderful space to you all. I know I am held in enthusiasm and curiosity as I embark on my doctoral degree starting in a few short weeks. I've decided it was really important to me to obtain this degree from a school outside of a Unitarian Universalist context – my entire faith journey over nearly a decade has been centered in UUism, and it feels like the right move to make connections in more interfaith ways, especially as we look ahead to needing to solidify community in various different ways, if we want to be resilient. I've been accepted to the Doctorate of Ministry program at Wesley Theological Seminary in DC, a Methodist school, where I'll be traveling a few times a year to attend intensive courses. The track is known as *Wesleyan Leadership in a Broken World*, and broken does it often feel – I look forward to a different liberal faith's perspective alongside my own. The point of a Dmin (the colloquial term for the degree, which, if said aloud, delights me) is to be a program I can work while tending to my full-time ministry, and one I am able to integrate with my regular Summit duties with ease. It's a tall order, as I am still in Preliminary Fellowship with the UUA, so will be doing continuous learning for the next three years – although, I hardly think being open to new learning and experience is a bad thing. Indeed, I see them as regular spiritual practices,

even if academia can feel a far distance from soul work. It was also something of a personal goal of mine to become "Rev. Dr." before I turned 40, and it looks like that is a strong possibility.

All that said, this means I won't be taking a long summer. I will be away for a week for my first course in a few weeks and will have two 2-week intensives next year (DC in January and Rome in June). I will also be away for the month of August on vacation. This will change the rhythm of the year for me somewhat, though it excites me to see how that informs the new congregational year.

As always: I am grateful to work for and co-create alongside a community that encourages personal growth in all aspects, and one with whom I can be endlessly curious and enthusiastic about possibility together. It is humbling to be in such a supportive community.

All my love and blessings,

Rev. KC

(714) 869-7645

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](#)

summitminister@gmail.com



PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS

~ DEBBIE WINGARD, BOARD PRESIDENT ~

Dear Friends,

Probably from the many years I spent teaching at the UCSD School of Medicine, June always feels more like the end of the year than December. I find myself reviewing past year accomplishments and anticipating a change of pace over the summer - at work, in my personal life, and even at Summit. In all three, this has been a full year.

At UCSD most of my work is in DEI related activities, especially around the support of junior faculty. We have seen a dramatic loss of funding, resulting in loss of over half our staff and most of the faculty in the division of faculty affairs have had their hours cut. Some students are losing funding, and some foreign students are not able to stay in the US. Faculty and staff remain committed to helping all students succeed, and appealing cuts where they can. Personally, I am still trying to close Pierre's law practice and probate, which has proved challenging. Combined with the social and political events happening on a daily basis, it sometimes feels overwhelming.

I find Summit is my place of refuge. This is where I find friends of like minds, spiritual solace,

opportunities to resist the social changes I disagree with and opportunities to still enjoy life with friends. This has been a good year for Summit. We are completing our second year with Rev. KC and developing strong bonds. We are returning to more social activities, including potlucks, concerts and a picnic planned for September. I am delighted to see many old friends in-person on Sunday, and also delighted to meet so many new members and friends who are jumping right into life at Summit!

Hope to see everyone at the Congregational Meeting on Sunday June 8th when we will vote on the budget and members of the Board and Nominating Committee. The annual UUA General Assembly meeting, June 19-22, is always inspiring, and you can participate either in-person or by zoom.

Wishing everyone a wonderful rejuvenating Summer!

Debbie



SUMMIT'S MUSIC PROGRAM

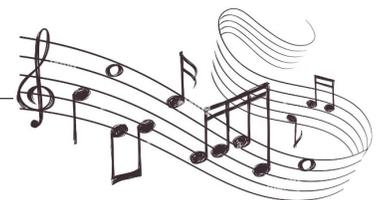
DUNCAN MATTHEW, MUSIC DIRECTOR



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

This month is the final theme of our Soul Matters 2024-25 year: The Practice of Freedom. It is an interesting time to explore this value and our

experiences of freedom. Our children will be looking through the lens of stories and celebrations like Pride, Juneteenth and the Summer Solstice. We will also be participating in our annual flower communion and get creative with an art Sunday at the end of the month.

Freedom: Our theme for this month is the *Practice of Freedom*. All month long, we will be looking at and exploring some of the things we may be finding ourselves trapped in and needing to get free from. This module explores freedom from oppression and having to hide who you are, using the occasion of Pride Month as a focal point. There will also be a celebration aspect to our experience of freedom as we look to our past and how our ancestors fought for us to be able to experience it. How will we protect and expand our freedoms going forward?

Your Spiritual Practice of Freedom: How is this a powerful spiritual practice for you? In what ways do you actively acknowledge the practice of freedom? Many of us or members of our community, and beyond, are experiencing the contraction of their freedoms at this time. How will you respond? How will we respond?

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 June Theme is the Practice of Freedom:

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.

June 1 – Freedom & Pride – This weekend is the third annual Pride Festival in Santee. We will be celebrating the freedom to be yourself while also taking time to acknowledge that this year's Pride activities and efforts may feel different. Join us as we use celebratory ribbons and explore the freedom to be our unique selves.

June 8 – Flower Communion Service – During this very special service we will be celebrating the freedom in diversity by sharing flowers with each other. All ages will be in the service with an activity space for busy hands and minds. Join us and learn the story of this uniquely UU ritual.

June 15 – Freedom, Summer Solstice & Father’s Day – We will be celebrating the longest day of the year a bit early so that Mary can be there to make Ice Cream with the kids. Join us for a sun celebration with Ice Cream and all the fixings as we welcome the warmth of the summer and end of the school year.

(cont. on next page)

June 22 - Freedom & Juneteenth – This Sunday we will learn the story of Opal Lee and Juneteenth. This is the celebration of the day that the message of freedom reached the enslaved people of Texas, years after they were emancipated by the US government. We will share the story and celebrate together. (Mary will be at the UU General Assembly in Baltimore.)

June 29 – Freedom to be Creative – On our last Sunday we will be exploring the freedom to create art. Art can be a way of expressing our ideas, so we are going to be working with Miss Abby to get artsy. Watch for more details via mail the week before.

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** ∞

Friday, June 6 at 6:30pm
Interfaith Potluck at Santee Methodist Church

Sunday, June 8, after Service
Congregational Meeting

Saturday, June 28 at 2pm
Celebration of Life for Rod Orth

Sunday, July 27, after Service
Field Trip to the Wonder Museum

Sunday, July 27
Joe Ferrara Concert

Saturday, September 6
Christopher Vitas & Fred Benedetti Concert

Sunday, September 14
SUUF Picnic at Santee Lakes

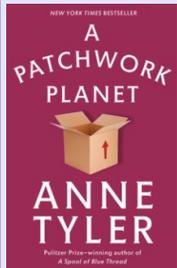
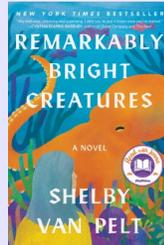


ADULT LIFE ENRICHMENT

THE SUMMIT UU BOOK CLUB MULTI-PLATFORM OPTIONS!

The Summit UU Book Club meets on the First Tuesday, at 7pm. The group meets both in person in the Library and via Zoom, hosted by Debbie Wingard.

This month, on June 3, we will be discussing Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt.



On July 1, we will be discussing A Patchwork Planet by Anne Tyler.

Everyone is welcome, even new members - either to participate or listen. If you have any questions, please ask Cheryl at esmreck@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 June 1) in the Sanctuary at Noon.

WELCOMING & MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Welcoming and Membership Happenings

Last month was an exciting one at Summit as we welcomed 15 new members. It was impressive to see the front of the chancellery full of the new members we welcomed. I am looking forward to the new energy and ideas they will bring us.

During the May 11th service, Reverend KC and the board presented a talent and interest survey, and I saw many people filling them out. I would like to add that the supportive community at Summit is 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 I got, here I am the chairperson of this committee. So, I hope that other members and friends will look to grow here and try something new.

If you are thinking about trying or doing something at Summit, consider helping at the Visitors table on a Sunday morning. The Welcoming and Membership Committee could use some help on the Sundays I am not at Summit. I am involved with the San Diego Model Railroad Club and try to volunteer on the third Sunday of each month. 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. The museum is also a nice escape for people from the chaotic world we live in, and I am glad I can support the museum this way. If you're interested in helping with this, stop by the table sometime 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 wanted to check out the committee we'd love to have you join us for one of our meetings.

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

☞ SOCIAL JUSTICE IN ACTION ☞

National Day of Action: June 14—Flag Day



In America, we don't put up with would-be kings. NO KINGS is a national day of action and mass mobilization in response to increasing authoritarian excesses. We've watched as they've cracked down on free speech, detained people for their political views, threatened to deport American citizens, and defied the courts. They've done this all while continuing to serve and enrich their allies.

On Saturday, June 14, we're gathering and building a movement to support and strengthen our community

The flag belongs to us. We're not watching history happen. We're making it.

On June 14th, we're showing up everywhere—to say no thrones, no crowns, no kings.

For more information, click [HERE](#)



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, June 8, 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



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,
June 2
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, June 24 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!

PUC & Monte Vista UU Church Family Retreat: Jun 6-8

Illuman Men's Retreat: Jun 11-15

Blood Disorder Association of Nevada: Jun 17-20

Camp Bravo Theatre Arts Camp: Jun 22-28

UU Elementary Summer Youth Camp: Jun 29-Jul 5

UU Counselor-in-Training Program: Jun 29-Jul 5

UU Junior High Summer Youth Camp: Jul 6-12

UU Senior High Summer Youth Camp: Jul 13-19

UU Summer Family Camp: Jul 20-26

First Baptist Church of Redlands Family Retreat: Aug 1-3

Summer Break Camp for Adults & Singing in the Pines: Aug 7-11

Misty Mountain Wars Year 2 (Live Action Role-Play): Aug 15-17

Young Adults Camp: Aug 15-17

Camp Bravo (Private School Camp): Aug 29-Sep 1

Art Camp 4 Grownups: Sep 4-9

Santa Monica UU Family Retreat: Sep 12-14

Camp Transcend Family Retreat: Sep 19-21

Rainbow Family Camp: Oct 24-26

Music in the Mountains Folk Music Retreat: Nov 7-9

[Click Here for Full Events List](#)



Our Contact Information

Camp de Benneville Pines

PO Box 82

Angelus Oaks, CA 92305-0082

(909) 794-2928 Voice Messages Only

<http://www.uucamp.org>

Denominational News

YOU → Summit UU Fellowship → SD Cluster →

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



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

BALTIMORE • JUNE 19 - 22, 2025

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Participants worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend; congregations must certify annually to have voting delegates.

From June 18 - 22, 2025, the 64th UUA General Assembly will be a multi-platform event with the main stage at the Baltimore Convention Center in Baltimore, Maryland.

Registration is now open! Click [HERE](#) to register.

Happy 200th Anniversary, American Unitarian Association!

This is an historic year for Unitarian Universalists. May 25, 2025 is the 200th anniversary of the chartering of the American Unitarian Association (AUA), one of the founding organizations that makes up today's Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). In 1961, the Universalist Church of America, founded in 1793, and the American Unitarian Association, founded in 1825, consolidated to become the UUA.

In preparation for the 200th anniversary, *UU World* has developed stories that connect with different aspects of UU history and our Unitarian heritage. In their curated collection you'll find an exploration what Channing's Baltimore Sermon means for us today, a brief and humorous retelling of the day the AUA was chartered, Frances Ellen Watkins Harper's 19th century challenge to Unitarians and other Christians, and much more.

[UU World Story Collection](#)



It is a happy coincidence that the American Unitarian Association and the British and Foreign Unitarian Association were founded 200 years ago, on the same day. This message from Liz Slade, Chief Officer of the UK Unitarians and the Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt, UUA President, celebrates this special international connection.

[Watch the Video](#)



Early Unitarian beliefs, sermons, civic leadership, and writings formed the intellectual underpinnings of many core American values that are currently under threat. Women's advocate, writer, and leader in the Transcendentalist movement, Margaret Fuller provided theological and ethical grounding for concepts of individual rights and liberties which are key ideas for how we think about "civil liberties" today. Learn more about Fuller and other early Unitarian ideas that continue to shape American culture and activism.

[In Good Faith blog](#)



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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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June, 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**.