



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: Trust

March 2

“Moving at the Speed of Trust”

Rev. KC Marie Pandell

Doing the work of trust means moving on a timeline that isn't always our own. Whether new trust in new relationships, or repairing trust after we break it, it is human need to take trust on Spirit's time. Join Rev. KC as we reflect on what trust means, and how we can engage in a practice of moving at the speed of trust.

March 9

“Pie Stakes”

Rev. KC Marie Pandell

Join Rev. KC for our annual Pledge Drive Launch, where we explore the importance of each of us being our own slice of the Summit pie; there is no Summit without YOU!



March 16

“This One Beautiful Life”

Rev. KC Marie Pandell

We're all living life for the first time; as far as we know, this is the one, beautiful life we get to live, and we're all learning as we go. Sometimes, we have to trust that we have everything we need to learn the lessons we need. Join Rev. KC for an exploration of trusting the life we live.

March 23

Social Justice in Action Sunday

Various speakers from our Social Justice in Action committee will speak about trusting our government and trust pertaining to other issues of Social Justice, including the unhoused, reproductive rights, etc.



March 30

“A Call to Compassion”

Rev. KC Marie Pandell

The Dalai Lama tells us compassion is a necessity, not a luxury, but compassion can feel like a rare commodity when we are burnt out and over extended. Join Rev. KC on an exploration of how we can be more compassionate, even when the world feels uncontrollable.



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:

A few people have asked me over the last few weeks how we're supposed to deal with the constant barrage of bad news. My answer has been something of a deadpan response, where I shrug a little and say "Well. I inform myself as much as I can until my anxiety ramps up. Then I watch cute animal videos and snuggle my dogs."

This is not to sound flippant, or to trivialize real fears and uncertainties. Rather, I think it's important to contextualize and humanize our responses. Being informed is important and necessary work – we as Unitarian Universalists have a time-honored tradition of bearing witness, at the foundation of our faith. But there is also something to be said for caring for ourselves and our communities, and there's only so much witnessing we can do before we verge on burning out. There is only so much hot rage that can burn before we wither away.

As we see continued attacks on our fellow Americans, the dismantling of our systems that are meant to be lifelines for those in need, and unsubstantiated claim after unsubstantiated claim, there is always work to be done, and we know acts of resistance, such as economic blackouts and protests, have a place. We must also continue the work of rest and rejuvenation. We should be leaning into the simple acts of care and community:

- Sharing resources, such as food donations to Gizmo's Kitchen, or clothing donations to Naomi's Closet
- Getting engaged with local events, such as beach or park clean ups, food

banks, soup kitchens

- Donating our time, talent, or treasure where able – I'm a big fan of donating blood to the Red Cross, and do so regularly

Just to name a few. Even something as simple as checking in on each other and making the effort to be kind, generous, caring, and loving will go a long way to helping us all stay grounded, centered in love, and ready to take on a new day.

There are very real, very concerning things happening in the world, and in our country, *and yet*, there is beauty, joy, and love that cannot and will not be destroyed. May we all find our ways towards building communities of love and resilience and share them joyfully with one another. May we all find our way to the homes and communities we are bolstered and held by in care.

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,

2025 seems to be moving extremely fast and full of uncertainty. I am comforted, however, knowing that our beloved community is there to support one another, and is following our mission “in spiritual community we commit ourselves to building a compassionate, just, and sustainable world.”

Please follow the eNews for updates, and join us on Sundays, as we navigate this time together. Social Justice in Action is working on several fronts. They will be bringing information and options for action that we can do alone or in groups. Remember to take time for yourself as well. Summit will continue to host potlucks and concerts, to enjoy one another’s company and refresh our spirits.

Please also plan to join the fun kickoff for this year’s generosity pledge drive “Sharing the Pie” on Sunday March 9th! Watch for coming details...

Wishing everyone a safe and healthy spring,

Debbie



SOCIAL MEDIA AS A WAY TO GROW SUMMIT!

Unitarian Universalism is the best kept secret. Yet we have something amazing to offer so many people! We are launching our Social Media Committee so Summit can have a team working in a coordinated effort to get the word out about our community. This includes preparing items to post and keeping our website up to date. If YOU are interested in working on these kinds of projects, please contact Elinor Weed at meweeder97@gmail.com.



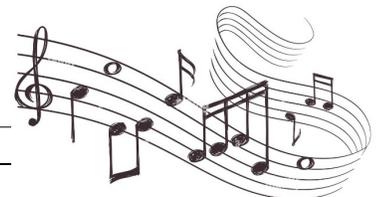
SUMMIT’S MUSIC PROGRAM

DUNCAN MATTHEW, MUSIC DIRECTOR



The Summit Choir is singing on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. We would love to have more singers - please join us! We sound pretty good, we would sound even better with you!

Rehearsals are in the sanctuary on Wednesday nights from 6:30-8:00 p.m





LIFESPAN FAITH FORMATION NEWS

MARY CARTER-VAIL, DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

Spring is always one of my favorite times of the year to be in San Diego. The hills are just starting to green up as the seeds, hydrated by our recent

rains, spring to life. Birds are gathering nesting materials in my back yard and the hummingbirds are eagerly waiting for me to fill the feeders. I breathe in the warming air and trust in the natural cycles that are occurring all around me at this time.

Trust: Our theme for this month is [*Living Love through the Practice of Trust*](#). This month we will play with the theme by exploring ways to build trust with ourselves, others, and ways to repair trust when an “oops!” happens. At the end of the month, we have a special project for the community to participate in for Transgender Day of Remembrance. We will be making cards to send to Point of Pride to be included with care packets for the transgender community.

Your Spiritual Practice of trust: How is this a powerful spiritual practice for you? How do you lean into trusting yourself? How does it feel to trust others or a group? What ways do you engage in repair when trust is broken? Is trust difficult or easy for you? Why?

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 March Theme is the Practice of Trust:

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.

March 2 – Trust is Like a Seed – Trusting Ourselves & Garden Planting

– We begin this month by exploring ways to trust starting small with seeds and baby plants in the Summit Children’s Garden. A seed contains all the genetic “magic” needed to become a whole plant that we can eat and share. As we connect with nature and nurture seeds, plants, soil and the garden critters, we are building trust with each other and the natural world. We will be preparing and planting our spring garden together. Our garden is a way of inviting and including our neighbors as well, building community care and trust.

March 9 – Trusting Others– As we continue to explore the spiritual practice of Trust, we will be checking our garden to see what has sprouted and what is still waiting below the ground. We then have group games to foster trust in each other to play together and build our connections.

March 16 – Trusting Life – This week we will be exploring ways in which we trust things to work out. We will be taking a “leap of faith” together by jumping over pillows and playing other games. We will also use our artistic side to use watercolors to paint ways that we trust life while using the Summit gardens as inspiration.

(cont. on next page)

March 23 - Fixing Broken Trust – This week, we look at what it takes to fix broken trust. In addition to discussing the skills of making a sincere apology and forgiveness, we will also get into feelings and explore how it feels when people lie to us or don't keep things private. We will be making marshmallow bridges, calm down kits and explore ways to engage in repairs when trust is broken. Parents are welcome to attend as well.

March 30 - Trusting Our Inherent Worth: Transgender Day of Visibility Faith in Action Project – In this final week, we look at trusting our inherent worth and how part of that is also about helping others trust *their* inherent worth. This will lead us into how we can support those voices in each other's heads that says, "I deserve to be treated with respect." With this as our focus, we have the wonderful opportunity to honor Transgender Day of Visibility with a Faith in Action project. We will be making cards that will be

discreetly mailed by [Point of Pride](#) alongside support packages to trans people with barriers in accessing healthcare.

These are the plans at the beginning of the month, and they may be adapted as our community needs adapt, so please watch the weekly Children's Religious Exploration Email. To receive the weekly email, send your email address to Mary at summitdre@gmail.com.

With deepest love and brightest blessings,

Mary

Mary Carter-Vail
she/they
Director of Religious Exploration

Children's Religious Exploration Committee

Mission Statement:

Our Mission is to create a safe and welcoming spiritual home for children & youth through creative exploration of the Unitarian Universalist Principles and Sources.

∞ **COMMUNITY EVENTS** ∞

Saturday, March 1 at 7pm
Fred Benedetti concert in the Sanctuary

Sunday, March 9
Summit's Annual Pledge Drive Kickoff!
(see details on page 6)

Sunday, March 30 at 11:30am in the Library
Getting to Know Us event, sponsored by the Welcoming & Membership Committee
(see details on page.7)





SHARING THE PIE

Summit Unitarian Universalist Fellowship is excited to announce that our annual pledge drive will take place throughout the entire month of March. We hope you will join us in celebrating and supporting this year's stewardship campaign: Sharing the Pie!

What does stewardship mean to you?

Stewardship is a profound expression of our commitment and responsibility to uphold and nurture the values and mission of our congregation. It is an opportunity to invest in the future of our fellowship, ensuring that Summit continues to be a place of community, support, and spiritual growth for all.

What does Summit mean to you?

Summit is more than just a gathering place; it is a vibrant community where bonds are formed, and lives are touched in deep and meaningful ways. It is a sanctuary where we can explore our beliefs, find support, and contribute to something greater than ourselves.

Our financial goal for the 2025-2026 pledge drive is to increase contributions from members and friends by 10% over last year. The Board of Directors has also set an important goal for each member and friend of the congregation: review the information packet you receive from the Board, consider what level of financial support you can provide, and make a pledge that will make you feel good.

The campaign will kick off with a special celebration on March 9th.

We invite everyone to join us in the Salon for a slice of pie after services on Sunday, March 9th. In a nod to Pi Day, we will be enjoying a variety of delicious pies!



We will need a lot of pies for the celebration, so if you would like to help by bringing a pie to the Salon on March 9th, please email Suzanne McQuaide at suzannemcqu@gmail.com.

We look forward to your participation in this important campaign and the joy of shared community as we work together to meet our goals.



WhaleCoast Alaska - A More Authentic Travel Experience

Two unique, exciting fundraising tours organized by four Alaska UU congregations are being offered again next summer by WhaleCoast Alaska. Experience majestic scenery, wildlife, Denali National Park, Alaska Native culture, glaciers, and UU homestays.

For 31 years, WhaleCoast Alaska tours have been the BEST way to visit Alaska. Register now for this amazing experience!

Details: www.WhaleCoastAK.org

Questions: info@whalecoastak.org

ADULT LIFE ENRICHMENT

THE SUMMIT UU BOOK CLUB MULTI-PLATFORM OPTIONS!

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

This month, on March 4, we will be discussing
and selecting our books for the next year.
Join us!

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 March 2) in the Sanctuary at Noon.

WELCOMING & MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Greetings Summit!



The Welcoming and Membership Committee invites you to join us at Summit at the end of March. The event is Getting to Know Us: An Orientation for Newcomers to Summit.

Learn more about our Fellowship and Unitarian Universalism at this event.

This will happen on Sunday, March 30th at 11:30 AM in the Summit Library. If you are unable to attend in person, a zoom link will be available to take part virtually. More information about the link will be available the week of the event.

Our minister Rev. KC, Summit leadership, and members of the Welcoming and Membership Committee will be in attendance. There will also be food and beverages available as well.

I'm looking forward to meeting and getting to know our regular visitors as well as Summit members better during this time. I enjoy hearing the different stories about their journey which led them to Summit. I often become aware of something new about my own journey hearing their stories.

If you are interested in attending you can RSVP Jim Weed. My email address is HDSurf@aol.com.



☞ SOCIAL JUSTICE IN ACTION ☞

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



The Social Justice in Action Committee meets at noon in the Summit library on the second Sunday of each month. All members and friends interested in taking action on enhancing justice, freedom and the environment are invited to join us. If you would like to learn more, contact summitsjia@gmail.com. Everyone welcome!

The next SJA meeting will be Sunday, March 9, 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



The UUA Disaster Relief Fund

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

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

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



AFFINITY GROUPS

POETRY GROUP

Led by Margo Mariana

Please feel free to bring a short piece you have written to share with the group to get some feed-back support.

We meet in the Summit Library the first Monday of each month.

Please call Margo Mariana at (619) 312-0903 if you have questions and/or to register.



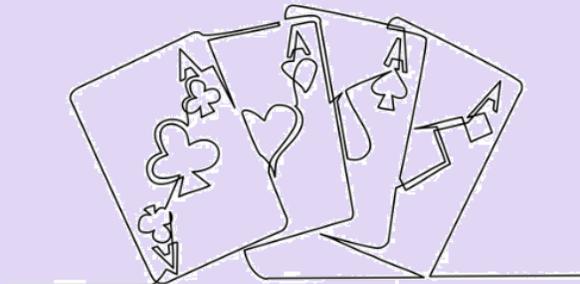
Next meeting is
Monday, March 3
10:00 a.m.—12pm

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; jamie.cleland@gmail.com



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.

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 March 25 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, (619) 334-5300 or markatpspectrum@hotmail.com.





Do You Love Camp de Benneville Pines?

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

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

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



2025 PSWSA Assembly

Friday, April 25 to Sunday, April 27, 2025

First UU San Diego

Unitarian Universalism: Now More Than Ever

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

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

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

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

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

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

UU Summer Camps
Registration Opening March 8th!

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




Our Contact Information
Camp de Benneville Pines
PO Box 82
Angelus Oaks, CA 92305-0082
(909) 794-2928 Voice Messages Only
<http://www.uucamp.org>

Denominational News

YOU → Summit UU Fellowship → SD Cluster →

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



SIDE WITH LOVE

“What is love calling you to do?”

[Side with Love](#) is a public advocacy campaign that seeks to harness love’s power to stop oppression. It is sponsored by the [Unitarian Universalist Association](#) and all are welcome to join. [Subscribe to get updates.](#)

Uplifted by care and support from their own Unitarian Universalist community, Lea Morris wrote the song, "Together," for UUs to sing and share. This offering is shared in support of the work UUs are doing to build Beloved Community during Side With Love's of 30 Days of Love. [Watch the Video](#)

In times of rising nationalism, racism, transphobia, and patriarchy, faith leaders play a critical role to guide our communities toward justice. The Grounded, Resilient & Responsible Toolkit is designed to provide practical support, strategic guidance, and spiritual sustenance as we navigate an increasingly chaotic and urgent landscape. [Get the Toolkit](#)



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.



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

OFFICE HOURS

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

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March, 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.