



# 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: Building Belonging

## September 7 "Blue Boat Home"

**Rev. KC Marie Pandell & Mary Carter-Vail**

Water is one of the most crucial parts of nature, both around us, and a part of us. It sustains, heals, and nurtures. It also has the power to destroy, harm, and drown. How can we look to water as a way of creating belonging, and nurturing community? Join us for our intergenerational ingathering, our welcoming home. All are welcome to attend, and are invited to share water from their own lives for our water ritual.



## September 14 "Reviving Spirit" (Bring a Friend) Rev. KC Marie Pandell

A revival, in the traditional sense, is about a recommitment to a faith, and a community. It isn't a term often seen in Unitarian Universalism, though that doesn't mean it's something we can't call "ours". What is it about UUism that is worth committing and recommitting to, and how do we claim it as ours to do in Beloved Community. Join Rev. KC and our Hospitality Team for a good old fashioned revival at Santee Lakes, for food, fun, and of course: fellowship.

Note: There will be no Zoom option for this service.

## September 21 "Break to Build"

**Rev. KC Marie Pandell**

When we talk about "belonging," we often think we're making space in the established to invite in the new. But sometimes, our efforts can feel, despite our best intentions, stifling, and may not be as inviting as we intend. Join Rev. KC as we explore what it means to build belonging together, and how reconfiguration can be more inviting than just space.

## September 28

### "Trusting the Flow: Spiritual Lessons from the Improv Stage"

**Steve Hohman, Guest Speaker**

Join us for an exploration of how improvisational acting offers unexpected spiritual wisdom. We'll reflect on improv's core principles—embracing uncertainty, finding opportunity in the unexpected, and flowing with life's spontaneous moments—and discover how these practices can enrich our spiritual lives and help us navigate the beautiful, unscripted nature of our human experience. All participation will be as you are willing and able.



*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 beloved Summit, the last four weeks have simply flown by. I experienced the most extreme humidity I ever wanted to experience, and enjoyed more than one fabulous summer storm, chock full of thunder and lightning. I sampled much delicious food (including Nigerian!), many different beers, even a Cracker Barrel and a Texas Roadhouse. I saw Sojourner Truth's resting place, traversed more miles in Michigan than I can shake a stick at, and basked in the summer sun floating along in the Pacific Ocean. I toasted with friends and family, I pondered sermons during sunset and have begun preparing for my next doctoral course. I count myself incredibly lucky for all of the good things that came my way in August.

And my goodness, did I miss you all.

I have no doubt that the month was full of laughter, love, learning, and reflecting, and I look forward to hearing about it from all of you.

I also know the month was not without some trials – I imagine Duncan's resignation as our Music Director was something of a surprise to us all. I will miss his presence in staff meetings, and the artistry he helped to bring worship. I don't know what is next for him, but I have no doubt that you will all join me in wishing him well on his journey.

Moments like these bring the opportunity to regroup and reimagine, and I look forward to doing so with our Board, Music Committee, and choir as we begin the search for a new Music Director. In the meantime, I beg a little patience: as I've stated before, finding music isn't my strongest skill. I hope to fill the space adequately in the interim, and thoroughly welcome musical input.

Finally, consider this my first of many invitations to join me for some time together this year. I would love the opportunity to meet with folks one-on-one or in small groups of your choosing, just to get to know each other more fully. Some of you I'm blessed to work closely

with and have been lucky to do just that; still, many others I know only as far as I can connect on a Sunday. I would relish the chance to change that. I have coffee, tea, and snacks in my office, if you'd like to sit and have a chat. I would be happy to go on a wander, or sit on a back porch, or meet in any number of other ways. Please feel free to use [my Calendly](#) to book some time or email me directly to schedule. You're always welcome to pop by on a Tuesday or Thursday, but giving me a heads up is preferable, so I can make sure I'm in the office to greet you. Until then:

All my love and blessings,

*Rev. KC*

(714) 869-7645

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

**Minister's Book Club** meets 3rd Sunday in the Library at noon, starting in October.

We will be reading & discussing Octavia Butler's Parable series for the next several sessions.



## 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 enter the fall season (although in San Diego this really feels like the height of summer), our fellowship calendar is filling with great opportunities to play, expand our spiritual lives, and explore life together.

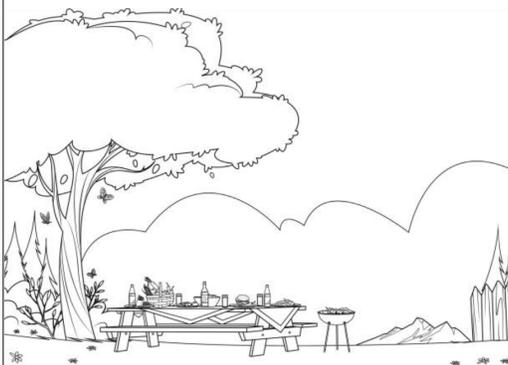
- ◆ 9/6, Saturday, 7pm Irish Jazz Concert, Fred Benedetti and Christopher Vitas
- ◆ 9/13, Saturday, 10:30am D'Arcy Skinner Celebration of Life
- ◆ 9/14, Sunday, 10am Picnic & Service at Santee Lakes
- ◆ 9/21, Sunday after service Twin Babies Shower for our next generation!
- ◆ 9/27, Saturday, 6pm Improv Battle Royale
- ◆ 9/28, Sunday after service Volunteer Fair part 1
- ◆ 10/4, Saturday Bluegrass Concert
- ◆ 10/5, Sunday after service Volunteer Fair part 2
- ◆ 10/12, Sunday after service Volunteer Fair part 3
- ◆ 10/19, Sunday after service Volunteer Fair part 4
- ◆ 11/8, Saturday Summit Auction

Hoping everyone had a wonderful summer, and look forward to seeing you at one if not all of these events!

*Debbie*

The Summit Hospitality Committee announces...

## The Summit Revival Picnic at Santee Lakes



**Sunday, September 14th, Santee Lakes "Area U".**

You can arrive anytime after 6:00 a.m. for good parking and to help set up. We have 14 picnic tables. There will be a short service at 10:00 a.m., and lunch at noon.

Please bring a side dish to share. There will be a sign-up sheet circulated prior to the event.

Contact Roland Garcia at (619) 508-0353 or [techknowledgy@cox.net](mailto:techknowledgy@cox.net) for questions.

We look forward to seeing you, your guests and your kids!!



# LIFESPAN FAITH FORMATION NEWS

MARY CARTER-VAIL, DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

Welcome to the start of the new Religious Exploration year! We are beginning with new themes and new friends. There are lots of fun happenings this month as we start to Build Belonging

together. Read on and make space in your calendar for connection and community fun.

**Building Belonging:** We begin with building belonging by centering connections, new and old. We will be starting the month with our annual water communion service. Each of us will bring a bit of water to the service that has meaning for them. We will then pour our water into a communal vessel to illustrate that we all are a part and belong to each other in sacred community. This is a very special way to connect our community. How do you build belonging in your life?

This month in our Religious Exploration gatherings we will be building belonging through games and activities that center generosity and our connections to each other and the wider world. The first two Sundays we will be with the full fellowship community for the Water Communion service and our Summit at Santee Lakes gathering. We will be building belonging by connecting with the full community in joy and play during the service and at the park. This is a great time to bring friends who you think would enjoy our community! For the second two Sundays we will be exploring belonging together after the story in the service. (See details below.)

**Join us for All Ages Faith Formation at Summit:** VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! We are growing our Religious Exploration program and expanding to an all-ages Faith Formation program. Join us and consider being part of this important part of our congregational life. (Volunteers who work with children will need to be background checked and take Mandated Reporter training.) Contact Mary at [summitdre@gmail.com](mailto:summitdre@gmail.com) to explore ways you can be part of Faith Formation at Summit.

**Our September theme is Building Belonging:** 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.

**September 7 – Water Communion Service–** Join us for this special All Ages service as we renew our connections to community with a water communion. Bring some water to add to our communal vessel as part of the service. As water is the focus of this service, Mary will create an indoor pond to splash and play in, gently, during the service. Rev KC and Mary will be leading the service together.

**September 14 – Summit Revival and Picnic at Santee Lakes –** Bring a friend or two to join us for a short service, BBQ and lots of fun and games in the park. We have a reserved space just for our group. Bring folding chairs or a blanket to sit on.

**September 21 – Generosity “Share What We Have!” –** We will explore generosity through the lens of the harvest celebration of Mabon. Together we will make no bake pumpkin cheesecakes to share. We may be planting some seedlings in the garden for our next harvest as well.

**September 28 – Interdependence: “Notice & Care for the Wider Web!” –** We will celebrate belonging by looking at how we are all connected through the web of life. Our activities will include a very special game and creating salt art together.

*These are the plans at the beginning of the month, and they may be adapted as our community needs change, so please watch the weekly Children’s Religious Exploration Email. To receive the weekly email, send your email address to Mary at [summitdre@gmail.com](mailto:summitdre@gmail.com).*

With deepest love and brightest blessings,

*Mary*

Mary Carter-Vail  
she/they

Director of Religious Exploration

## Children’s Religious Exploration Committee

### Mission Statement:

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

## ❧ WELCOMING & MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE ❧

### Welcoming and Membership Happenings

Greetings Summit! There is not much to report due to the committee taking a hiatus over the summer. I continue to be excited with the increase in numbers of people attending our services this summer. This has remained steady even with people on vacation or busy with other summer activities here in the area. We continue to have visitors stop by to check us out almost every week. Thanks to all the members and friends for making our guest feel welcome. These interactions are important in making our visitors feel welcome. I have found that our presence in the community has brought some of the guests to our services. I still have visitors tell me that they heard about us

at events like the Santee Pride parade; this shows me that our presence in the area is welcomed by many.

Our presence in the east county is needed now more than ever with the current political climate. I feel that our being here gives people a place to come to and find support during this period in our country's history. I want to thank everyone here at Summit for making this the special place it is. If you would like to find out more about what the committee does, join us on September 7<sup>th</sup> at noon in the library. We are always looking for new faces to help the committee with all that we do and come up with new ideas for us.

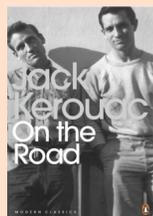
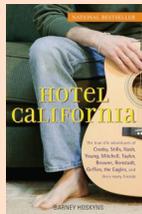
~ Jim Weed (HDSurf@aol.com)

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



On October 7, we will be discussing On the Road by Jack Kerouac.

Everyone is welcome, even new members - either to participate or listen. If you have any questions, please ask Cheryl Smrek at [csmreck@outlook.com](mailto:csmreck@outlook.com)



### GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP Rev. KC, Facilitator

Rev. KC leads a Grief Group for Summitarians and friends who are grieving the loss of a loved one.

The next meeting will be Sept 7 in the Sanctuary at Noon.

### SUMMIT UU FELLOWSHIP PRAYER CIRCLE

Organized by Seraphina Galante

We meet in the Sanctuary on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month from 1pm to 2:30pm

#### Purpose:

- ◆ To come together and share “prayers” (poems, writings, lyrics, prayers, etc.) with each other. And in sharing we encourage spiritual fulfillment & growth by ministering to one another.
- ◆ The group is experiential vs discussion.
- ◆ The Prayer Circle is open to all members & friends of Summit UU Fellowship.
- ◆ Open to people of traditional and non-traditional beliefs: “Skeptics and poets and scientists are welcome here, as are nonconformists and shy and uncertain folk, and all manner of beliefs: Humanist, Christian, Atheist, Agnostic, Muslim, Earth-Centered, Native Peoples.” (from brochure “To the Point”)



# Auction Corner News

## Magical Fairy Garden

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

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

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

Donations are due by October 19th!

Summit Auction  
for 2025



The  
Magical Fairy Garden

## ✧ SOCIAL JUSTICE IN ACTION ✧

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

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

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

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

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

Due to the Summit picnic, in September the SJIA committee will meet on the fourth Sunday,  
September 28 at 12 Noon  
in the Library and on zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/98852027774>

As a Welcoming Congregation, all members, parents, friends, and allies of the LGBTQ+ community are welcome at Summit. We build and sustain relationships with local LGBTQ groups and organizations. For information please reach out to [bkindbstrong@gmail.com](mailto:bkindbstrong@gmail.com)



## AFFINITY GROUPS

### POETRY 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 (this month on 2nd Monday.)

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

**Next meeting is Monday,  
September 8  
10:00 a.m.—12pm**



### BRIDGE CLUB

Come join Summit's friendly and casual Bridge Group

We play Bridge in the Salon on Tuesdays from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Questions? please contact:

Pam Williams at

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



### EVENING WOMEN'S GROUP

Longing for a meeting that suits your needs? Our Women's Group is restarting! All are welcome - come share your wisdom and hang out with other amazing women!

Meet with us the 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, September 30 from 6:30 to 8pm in the library at Summit.

We are a supportive circle of men who share and listen to each other. We invite you to visit with us.

Interested men may contact Mark Weedman for details: [markatpsectrum@hotmail.com](mailto:markatpsectrum@hotmail.com) or (619) 334-5300.

### MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP #2

Summit's Second Men's Fellowship and Support Group meets on the 1st & 3rd Wed, from 7-8:30 pm. We invite you to join us if you wish. We are an "open" meeting in the sense that any man who wants to can participate if he so wishes.

**Our group is going to start meeting in person, in the Library.** If you prefer, you may continue to join us online, too. You can use any Apple or PC/Android device (desktop computer, laptop, iPad or other tablet, smart phone) to access our meeting, but it must have a microphone and a camera. To get the link, please email Denny at [denny.braun@usfamily.net](mailto:denny.braun@usfamily.net).





Join us for a night of family-friendly laughter! Watch as three of San Diego's best improv teams compete for your laughs and votes to claim victory and take home the booty. Each team will make their wager and battle it out using only their wits, creativity, and your suggestions!

(Guaranteed the results will exceed your lowest expectations.)

Featuring some of San Diego County's top improvisers including Kid Goblin Improv, podcasters from Knights of the Rolled Table, and Haus Rules Improv (led by Summit UU's own Steve Hohman).

Fun for all ages: Perfect for kids, adults, and yes, even your Aunt Ida!

*All proceeds benefit Summit UU*

- 📍 **WHERE:** Summit Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
- 📅 **DATE:** Saturday, September 27, 2025
- 🕒 **TIME:** 6:00 PM
- 🕒 **DURATION:** Approximately 1 hour 20 minutes
- 🎫 **TICKETS:** Suggested donation of \$15



We have some great camps coming up this Fall!

For our creative spirits: We have Art Camp 4 Grownups and Music in the Mountains.

Looking for a welcoming family camp? We have Camp Transcend, Pride Family Camp and our annual Thanksgiving Celebration!

Maybe volunteering brings you joy...if so, please join us for our Fall Volunteer Work Weekend!

**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 those who lost their homes or jobs due to the fires? Camp is here to support you!

We aim to make the possibility of Youth and Family camps open to all who feel the need to spend time at camp, regardless of your financial circumstances. Please reach out to us so that we can help get you to camp!

[Click Here for Full Events List](#)

# Denominational News

YOU → Summit UU Fellowship → SD Cluster →

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

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

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

[House Committee Letter Response](#)

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

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

[Sensitive Locations Policy Lawsuit](#)

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

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

[UUA Reaction Skrametti Case](#)



**SIDE WITH LOVE**

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

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

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

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

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





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Santee, CA 92071

#### OFFICE HOURS

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

#### MINISTER

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## September, 2025

#### About SUUF Publications

Please send submissions for the monthly SCENE AT SUMMIT NEWSLETTER  
via e-mail on or soon after the 20th, to  
[summitUUF@gmail.com](mailto:summitUUF@gmail.com)

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Please send submissions for the eNews, the weekly  
announcements, to [SUUFVolunteer@yahoo.com](mailto:SUUFVolunteer@yahoo.com) by Tuesday noon.  
Check the eNews and website for additional news throughout the  
month.

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If you have any questions, call the office, 619-562-0833,  
or e-mail us at [SummitUUF@gmail.com](mailto:SummitUUF@gmail.com).