



# 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: Paying Attention

**March 1**

**“Growing Pains”**

**Rev. KC Marie Pandell**

We lovingly refer to Unitarian Universalism as a "living tradition," which means it can change and grow as we do. As our community grows, so too do we, but what does that mean for the "what now"? Join us for an extended service including an exploration of the spirituality of this community's current moment, and a time of conversation with each other as we vision who we are, and where we're going."

**March 8**

**“Belief Manifest”**

**Rev. KC Marie Pandell**

As most of us have experienced in the last half decade, it's easy to get bogged down in the negative. When we're surrounded by pain, fear, and anxiety, it's easy to feel like it's a hole we'll never get out of. But what if we could flip the script? Can we "pay attention" something new into being? What if what we give out attention to is what we become?

**March 15**

**“For the Love of Summit”**

**Rev. KC Marie Pandell**

As we look ahead to our annual Pledge Drive, we ponder how what we pay attention to grows when we're generous, of our time, talent, and treasure. As we explore what such generosity means, come hear words from fellow

Summitarians on what this community means to them. Please plan to stay after the service for a brief tree dedication, with trees courtesy of the Our Sacred Canopy campaign from California Interfaith Power & Light.

**March 22**

**“The Beatitudes in Minneapolis ”**

**Peter Bolland, Guest Speaker**

How Jesus, Krishna, Tolstoy, Thoreau, and Ghandi speak to us in this moment. Peter will expound on what these historic figures say as he addresses this topic.

**March 29**

**“Is it Truly Impossible if You are Paying Attention ”**

**Aunt Li-Anne, Guest Speaker**

Description: If the ruthless king sets an impossible task, people get killed. Who can pay close enough attention to outsmart him? Does the Beast really want another dead merchant in his rose garden? Why didn't the other suitors listen to the old woman? And more importantly, what do traditional stories from many cultures tell us about paying attention in our own lives? Aunt Li-Anne will tell us some stories and discuss what we might glean if we pay attention to them."



*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:

It's that time of year where we blink and wonder "Excuse me, it's MARCH? Wasn't it JUST New Year's?" But time flies when you're having fun, and it sure has been a LOT of that since returning from studies, and getting to know and work alongside our new Music Director, Jerrica. She has taken to Summit & Unitarian Universalism like a bird to flight, and I'm so thrilled to have yet another person working alongside me who is as generous of spirit as she is talented. Jerrica truly understands the power of music, from a place of genuine love, and it's a delight to consider her a colleague. She has said more than once how much Summit feels like home, and is looking forward to growing and changing with us. It's such a pleasure to welcome her home!

Speaking of growth and change, our theme this month is "Paying Attention," and I'm looking forward to how paying attention to things can help us on our journey: the journey of growth, the journey of belief, and the journey of love that makes Summit the wonderful place you all have come to know and adore. It's also Pledge Season, and wouldn't you know it: It's all about Loving Summit, and Summit loving us. For those of you for whom this season is new, it's a chance to hear from various community members about what this wonderful place means to them, and how we can support it together (more on that in another letter).

Also worth noting this month is a bit of a change that we're implementing: in an effort to streamline communication, and a bid to hopefully help stymie any scammers emailing anyone as "staff," all staff members will have new emails going forward. I know this is a bit of a headache at the start, but we all agreed the growing pains were worth it in the end. We'll all be reachable by our new "@summituuf.org" emails going forward: rev, dre, music, admin,

and property – look for an email from Nelwyn officially announcing the change soon.

As always, any questions or concerns (heck, even if you just want to chat for the fun of chatting! Laura P took me up on that a few weeks ago, and it was a blast – and now I've read almost an entire new book series because of her!), please let me know. I'm on campus T/Th from 10am-4pm most weeks, and available by appointment most other days – I do always ask you to reach out to me before popping by the office, in case I'm away on other various business, or in a pastoral or class session. I'm always happy to meet in person or on Zoom, depending on the day.

As always:  
All my love and blessings,

*Rev. KC*

(714) 869-7645  
[summitminister@gmail.com](mailto:summitminister@gmail.com)

### MINISTER'S OFFICE HOURS

Reverend KC is delighted to receive your calls and emails. Her regular day off is Monday. She checks email on a limited basis on Friday, her study day. She is available for one-on-one meetings by appointment.

#### In Office Hours:

Tues: 10 am to Noon    2 pm to 5 pm  
Thurs: 10 am to Noon    1pm to 5 pm

#### Zoom/Call/Etc (Zoom preferred):

Wed: 10 am to Noon    1 pm to-3 pm

Schedule an appointment: [Calendly Schedule](#)



## LIFESPAN FAITH FORMATION NEWS

MARY CARTER-VAIL, DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

This month we are paying attention to our garden at Summit. The baby seedlings are growing into young plants with water from all the rain and the

compost we added to the soil nurturing them to become food for us all. Our congregation is also a place of growth and for nurturing each other as we pay attention to being in community together.

**Paying Attention:** I remember hearing “Pay Attention!” from teachers in school many times as a child. I tended to daydream and create stories in my mind when I lost my focus on the lesson. Why is Paying Attention our theme for this month? Rather than ignoring our inner wonder and curiosity, what would it be like to pay attention to that inner voice? What about paying attention to the moment as it is happening rather than thinking about what is next or what was in the past? How about paying attention to the blessing of clean water each day? Or the impact we have on each other? We will be exploring these ideas and more this month as we engage with this theme in our Religious Exploration program. Let us all pay attention as we aspire to bring much needed love and joy to each other and the world.

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

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

### Our March Theme is Paying Attention

We will be gathering in the Sanctuary at 10 am on Sundays for Religious Exploration. Our children and youth will participate in the service until after the “Invitation for All Ages” story. We will then split into age centered groups to engage in our activities in the Religious Exploration area and/or outside (depending on weather conditions). After the service, we will be joining our families in the Salon for sustenance & community social time. Nursery childcare will be available until 12 noon.

**March 1 – The Power of Paying Attention to Our Impact on Others** – We begin to explore our new theme by looking at how we impact others. We each have our own “Cup” of positivity or negativity that we bring along each day. What happens when our cup spills? How does this impact our family, friends, community, etc.? We will be decorating our own cups as we play with paying attention to our impact on others.

**March 8 – The Power of Paying Attention to Inequality** – This week we be seeing if we can use our skills of “Paying Attention” as a way to notice inequality. We will be exploring the UU value of equity as we learn stories of UU women who overcame unequal challenges in education and leadership. What is the difference between equality and equity? Join us as we discover the answer together through games and activities.

**March 15 - The Power of Paying Attention to the Present Moment** – Sometimes it is hard to pay attention to the moment we are in. This week we will be making mindful stones and learning bubble breathing as we practice being in the moment. Rather than thinking about yesterday or worrying about tomorrow, we will be in the now. Being together at this time is a gift. That’s why it is called the present

**March 22 – The Power of Paying Attention To Our Relationship with Water** – Our bodies need water every day to live. Our connection with water reminds us of our connection to each other and our beautiful planet, Earth. Today we will be “Paying Attention” to water thru art, making lemonade and making our own filter to clean muddy water.

*(continued on next page)*

**March 29 – The Power of Paying Attention to The Wisdom Within** – Do you have a voice of inner wisdom? Maybe you have a wise body that helps you each day. This Sunday we will be listening to our bodies and our hearts to discover our inner wisdom. Come play games and make art as we pay attention to our inner knowing.

*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.



## SUMMIT'S MUSIC PROGRAM

JERRICA STONE, MUSIC DIRECTOR



Hello Summit friends,

It feels good to be with you again as we enter a new month together. Lately, I've been reflecting on our March theme of *Paying Attention*, and how much intention that simple phrase holds. A colleague recently shared with me how easy it is, especially in difficult times, to focus only on what is frightening or disheartening in the world. There is certainly no shortage of that. But attention is powerful. Our attention is so valuable, in fact, that entire industries compete for it.

That alone tells us something about its worth.

So what happens when we choose, gently and deliberately, where to place it?

In my own life, paying attention sometimes looks very small. It looks like making time for coffee with friends and putting our phones away so we can truly see one another. It looks like noticing when a melody softens a room, or when a shared breath before a hymn gathers us into the same moment. Music, at its best, teaches us how to be here. A choir piece asks us to listen as closely as we sing. A hymn centers us not only in harmony, but in presence. Song draws our attention not just to itself, but to the stories, people, and hopes it carries.

March offers us particular chances to practice this kind of attention. On International Women's Day, we listen for the voices of women who have long carried wisdom, courage, and song into the world, and for those still finding their way forward. At Ostara, the earth itself teaches us to listen as light slowly lengthens its song. And for those observing Lent, this season opens space for a quieter rhythm, one that asks us to notice what is most honest and most needed.

As I prepare music for us this month, I find myself asking not only what we will sing, but what we will notice together. Where is courage already humming among us? Where is hope waiting to be heard? Where might our attention itself become an act of care?

I'm grateful to practice that kind of listening with you, and to keep singing side by side.

*~ Jerrica*

**If you're wanting to join the choir, we rehearse Wednesdays 6-7:30p. No singing experience is needed, just a willingness to raise your voice with us!**

## WELCOMING & MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

### Welcoming and Membership Happenings

This is a special invitation from Summit UU Fellowship for a chance for you to “Get to Know Us” better for the new people who have been recently attending Summit to learn more about us. After the service on Sunday, April 26th, at 11:30 am we will be gathering in our Library. This will be an opportunity for you to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and Summit UU Fellowship, its history, and programs. Finally, you will have a chance to get to know some of the people in our community better.

We will be serving a light lunch during the event. The only commitment required from you is to let us know you are coming so we will have enough food for everyone! Please email me back if you plan to attend or tell me at the visitors’ table. My name is Jim Weed and my email address is HDSurf@aol.com. We look forward to seeing you there. Bring your questions!

I’m also excited to let the Fellowship know that the Welcoming and Membership Committee is ready to start taking orders for the permanent magnetic nametags with the Summit logo on them for Summit members. The cost of the nametag will be \$11. Look for the order forms at the welcoming table outside of the sanctuary on Sundays. I’m hoping for a quick turnaround on getting them to the people after the order is placed. Look for more information on this process in the upcoming eNews.

Take Care,

*Jim*

Welcoming & Membership Committee Chair

## ADULT LIFE ENRICHMENT

### THE SUMMIT UU BOOK CLUB MULTI-PLATFORM OPTIONS!

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



This month we will meet the second Tuesday, on March 10; we will be discussing The Vanishing Half by Brit Bennett.

Everyone is welcome, even new members - either to participate or listen. Please contact Cheryl S. with questions.



### 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 March 1st in the Sanctuary at Noon.



### SUMMIT UU FELLOWSHIP PRAYER CIRCLE Organized by Seraphina

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

## ☞ SOCIAL JUSTICE IN ACTION ☞

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

The SJIA committee meets on the second Sunday of the month;  
Our next meeting will be February 8 at 12 Noon  
in the Library and on zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/98852027774>

East County PFLAG meetings are held monthly. Email  
[eastcountysdc@pflag.com](mailto:eastcountysdc@pflag.com) for dates and times.

# LEADING WITH LOVE



## ☞ COMMUNITY EVENTS ☞

**Saturday, March 14 at 7pm**  
A Celtic Evening Concert In the Sanctuary  
*Doors open at 6:30pm—details on page 7!*

**Sunday March 29 at 11:30am**  
Get Out the Vote Postcard Writing in the Salon

**Sunday April 12 at 11:30am**  
Get Out the Vote Postcard Writing in the Salon

**Saturday, April 25 at 4pm**  
Peter Bolland lecture in the Sanctuary  
“Liberalism and Faith: Rekindling the Flame of Religious Liberty”

**Sunday, April 26 at 11: 30am**  
Getting to Know Summit Event in the Library

**Saturday, May 2 at 7pm**  
Fred Benedetti Concert in the Sanctuary

**Saturday, June 5 at 7pm**  
Summit Choir Concert in the Sanctuary

## Blackthorne's Maritime Band

Formed in 1988 to play at Seaport Village, Blackthorne's Maritime Band has also performed regularly at the San Diego Sea Chantey Festival on the Star of India and the West Coaster Toy Soldier Show in Irvine. The group specializes in 19th-century maritime music from Celtic cultural areas, fused with other old-time styles such as klezmer, polka, and milonga.



(pictured) Beatriz Basile, Rachel Amov and Jeff Pekarek

Concert at Summit on March 14, 7pm  
Doors open at 6:30, \$20 suggested donation

Summit's annual Pledge Generosity Campaign is kicking off on Sunday, March 15 at Sunday Service!

This annual campaign is the major source of funding for Summit, and we need everyone to do their part to support our wonderful community!



Pledge Generosity  
Campaign 2026/7

Look for pledge materials to be emailed out the week before the kickoff.

# AFFINITY GROUPS

## POETRY WORKSHOP

Led by Margo Mariana

Come play with words! Discover the poet within.

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

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



Please call Margo M. if you have questions and/or to register.

**Next meeting is Monday,  
March 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:  
Pam W.



## WOW—WOMEN OF WISDOM EVENING WOMEN'S GROUP

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

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

Call or text Stacey S. for more information,

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 R. or Marianne Z. at  
[SUUFwomensdaygroup@yahoo.com](mailto:SUUFwomensdaygroup@yahoo.com)  
for more info.



## THE SUMMIT TUESDAY NIGHT MEN'S GROUP

We are 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 31 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 W. for more information.

## 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 B..





**Happy New Year from Camp de Benneville Pines!**

The entire 2026 calendar of events is ready for you!

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

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

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

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

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

[SCHOLARSHIP REQUEST](#)

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

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



# Denominational News

YOU → Summit UU Fellowship → SD Cluster →

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

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

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

2026 Pacific Southwest Assembly  
April 24 - 26, 2026

Pacific UU Church  
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA



"Blue Sapphire Anniversary"

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



## Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth

Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth is a seedbed for spiritual grounding and education that inspires deep practices of Earth care, justice and flourishing for all.

UU MINISTRY FOR EARTH  
**FULL MOON  
GATHERINGS**  
sunday evenings  
nearest each full moon

Join UU Ministry for Earth to ground, re-center, and sustain ourselves for the work of climate justice. There are readings, a short reflection, time for individual contemplation, and sharing in small groups.

[Register to Attend](#)

We will meet on the Sunday evening closest to each full moon at 8pm ET/5pm PT.



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

#### OFFICE HOURS

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

#### MINISTER

**Rev. KC Marie Pandell**

SummitMinister@gmail.com

[Calendly Schedule](#)

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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](mailto:summitUUF@gmail.com)

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.

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