



# 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: Embracing Possibility

April 5

**“Holy Liminality, Batman!”**

**Rev. KC Marie Pandell**

Modern Unitarian Universalists aren't often ones for the Resurrection story, not in the traditional sense of Jesus rising from the dead. But what might we learn from the concept of "Holy Saturday," that liminal space in between the Crucifixion and the Resurrection? What does it mean to honor the unknown on the journey?



April 19

**“Sí, Se Puede”**

**Rev. KC Marie Pandell**

Sometimes life can feel pretty impossible -- especially when things don't come as simply or naturally as we think they should. How might the concept of success be holding us back? What if the point of life wasn't about succeeding, but doing the hard things well, even if not perfectly?



April 12

**“Let Your Life Speak”**

**Rev. Arvid Straube, Guest Minister**

Life becomes much more fulfilling if we accept and live from what we uniquely are.



April 26

**“Speak the Speech”**

**Rev. KC Marie Pandell**

Part of the history of Unitarian Universalism includes the tradition of "freedom of the pulpit," which is the opportunity for preaching from the heart, mind, and conscience, without fear of reprisal or censorship, alongside which comes the freedom of the pew: where congregants may respond in kind. What does this mean for us as a faith community, and how might this shape the way we show up in the world, especially in times of great change?

*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:

reachable at [laypastoral@summituuf.org](mailto:laypastoral@summituuf.org).

Beloveds, what a great show of love for Summit with our pledge drive! I so appreciate the efforts of our plucky pledge team, our stewards, and our folks sharing testimonials. It's yet another example of how this community shows love to each other, and to Summit as a whole ("Summit Love" is the most appropriate theme the team could have picked). To see folks show up week after week, creatively showing love and value for each other and this community warms the soul. In days that seem increasingly fraught, knowing we can continue to count on each other makes a world of difference.

While I am away for studies throughout the next couple of months, and some vacation later in the summer, they will be your primary contact for any pastoral care needs, especially while I'm 9 hours ahead in Rome, hanging out with the Methodists & Waldensians in June.

Thanks, folks! As always:

All my love and blessings,

*Rev. KC*

(714) 869-7645  
[rev@summituuf.org](mailto:rev@summituuf.org)

This month's theme is "Paying Attention," which felt weirdly difficult to plan sermons for: When it feels like all we can do is pay attention to All The Things (especially the things we can't control), how the heck was I supposed to find things to encourage spiritual reflection on? How do we pick just a couple things? In the end, a riff on Holy Saturday (the day between the Crucifixion & Resurrection, but with a UU twist), challenge as a spiritual practice, and an exploration about just what we mean when we talk about freedom of the pulpit and pew felt like really good places to puzzle through "paying attention" in ways that felt fulfilling. I hope you will all find it meaningful.

A bit of housekeeping:

Please remember to update your contacts with our new staff emails, which are [rev](mailto:rev@summituuf.org), [dre](mailto:dre@summituuf.org), [music](mailto:music@summituuf.org), [admin](mailto:admin@summituuf.org), and [property](mailto:property@summituuf.org) @[summituuf.org](http://summituuf.org)

We will not be checking our old emails with much regularity moving forward, so please make that change. Also be aware that leadership has chosen to brand across the board, which means to be on the look out for committee emails with the same .org endings. The first to take note of is our Lay Pastoral Care team, who will be

### 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](#)



**April 26 – Embracing the Possibilities in Each of Us**  
– This week, we are exploring how to embrace and identify the unique possibilities in each of us. Our UU faith affirms that we are more capable and powerful than we sometimes think. To help us celebrate that, we will have some fun with National Superhero Day, which is on April 28. We will also learn about an incredibly inspiring UU Christopher Reeves. What is your superpower?

*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

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 friends,

As we step into April, we’re invited into a new theme: *Embracing Possibility*.

One thing I've noticed about Unitarian Universalism is that there are often talks of ongoing transformation, the idea that we are always becoming. Possibility lives right at the heart of that. It asks us to stay open to change, even when it feels uncertain, and to trust that growth is still unfolding within and around us.

That isn’t always easy. Change can be uncomfortable, even overwhelming at times. But we are capable of more than we think. We can do hard things, step by step, breath by breath.

Music invites us into that same practice. Each time we sing, we participate in something unfolding in real time. We listen, we adjust, we trust one another, and something new takes shape. In that way, music becomes its own kind of spiritual practice, one that calls us to be present, open, and willing.

As we move through this month, may we stay open to what is possible, within ourselves, within our community, and within the spaces we create together.

I’m grateful to keep singing with you.

*~ 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!

### Summit’s annual Pledge Generosity Campaign is still going on!

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

If you haven’t turned in your pledge form and you are planning on doing so, please return it to the Summit office **as soon as possible**. Thank you for helping to make our community the warm and welcoming place it is!



Pledge Generosity  
Campaign 2026/7

## WELCOMING & MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

### Welcoming and Membership Happenings

This is a special invitation from Summit UU Fellowship 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 with the response from the Fellowship about the permanent magnetic nametags with the Summit logo now being sold. Just a reminder, these are for Summit members. So, if you're not a member yet and want a nametag, maybe now is the time to join so you can purchase one. The order forms will be by the welcoming table outside of the sanctuary on most Sundays. The cost of the nametag is \$11.

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, on April 7, we will be selecting books for the coming months.

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 April 5th 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 April 12 at 12 Noon  
in the Library and on zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/98852027774>

Summit is a Welcoming Congregation and celebrates our LGBTQ+ family and community. For information about PFLAG meetings and support in East County, please email [eastcountysdc@pflag.com](mailto:eastcountysdc@pflag.com).

# LEADING WITH LOVE



## ☞ COMMUNITY EVENTS ☞

**Saturday, April 25 at 4pm**

Peter Bolland lecture in the Sanctuary

“Liberalism and Faith: Rekindling the Flame of Religious Liberty”

*See details on page 8*

**Sunday, April 26 at 11:30am**

Getting to Know Summit Event in the Library

*See details on page 5*

**Saturday, May 2 at 7pm**

Fred Benedetti Concert in the Sanctuary

**Friday, June 5 at 7pm**

Summit Choir Concert in the Sanctuary

**Sunday June 7**

Congregational Meeting after the Service

**Thursday, July 30**

Red Cross Blood Drive in the Salon



## 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,  
April 6  
10:00 a.m.—12pm

### EARTH-CENTERED SPIRITUALITY GROUP

This group meets on the **Fourth Sunday** of the month at noon in the Sanctuary.

For information, contact Mary Carter-Vail at [dre@summituuf.org](mailto:dre@summituuf.org)



All are welcome!

### 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, April 28 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..





Seeking to connect with like-minded peers in the solitude of the quiet forest? Our camp offers what your heart needs. Here, bonding with others in a loving and safe community happens every day. Want to strengthen your creative mind through art, music, yoga, or theater? Or are you just looking to set your worries aside for a moment, and enjoy all sorts of games and activities here in our mountain retreat, surrounded by friends and family? **Camp de Benneville Pines awaits you!**

**We offer Youth Camps, Camps for Adults, Family Camps, and Church Weekends.**

Get all the details at [www.uucamp.org](http://www.uucamp.org)

**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>



## **LIBERALISM AND FAITH: REKINDLING THE FLAME OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM**

The challenges raised by the ascension of Christian Nationalism are spurring a vigorous response from progressive spiritual communities like Unitarian Universalism and many others. What does it really mean to be a liberal in this time of rising authoritarianism? What role do spiritual communities play in the preservation of all of our liberties?



Peter Bolland is a professor of philosophy at Southwestern College where he has taught world religions, Asian philosophy, and world mythology for thirty-five years. The author of *The Seven Stone Path: An Everyday Journey to Wisdom*, Bolland is also a frequent speaker and workshop leader at life long learning centers and spiritual communities around the country. His YouTube Channel, Substack newsletter, and online guided meditations help people all over the world deepen into their own awakening wisdom. Learn more at [www.peterbolland.com](http://www.peterbolland.com)



**Hosted by: SUMMIT UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP**  
8778 Cottonwood Ave., Santee, CA 92071  
**Suggested Donation: \$20**

**Date:** Saturday, April 25  
**Program:** 4-5:30 pm.  
*Doors open at 3:30 pm.*

# Denominational News

YOU → Summit UU Fellowship → SD Cluster →

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

## PACIFIC SOUTHWEST ASSEMBLY

Striving for Justice Now!



Friday, April 24 - Sunday, April 26, 2026

Pacific Unitarian Church  
5621 Montemalaga Drive  
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA, 90275

Register Today!  
PSW Assembly and Camp's Annual Meeting  
Show Your Support!



SCAN HERE

Now in its fourth year, this annual assembly brings together UU's and affiliates from the 50 churches located in the Pacific Southwest who were once tethered together under the Pacific Southwest District umbrella. Like the assemblies of the past, congregational representatives participate in meaningful exchanges, informative keynote speakers and exciting workshops.

This year's line up of speakers and workshops will be of interest to all UU's and we hope you will join us for this not to be missed weekend. Here are just a few highlights of what we have planned:

Themes include *sustaining ongoing work for justice and opposing authoritarianism with nonviolent resistance*  
Nine workshops and two keynote speakers ([Click here for more information](#))  
A celebration of 65 years of UU history and involvement in social change  
Socialize with secular and interfaith movers and shakers

**Be a delegate for the de Benneville Pines Annual Meeting on Saturday at 10:30am.** You can sign up on your registration form ([Click here for more information](#))

This amazing assembly is available both in person and virtually. We do hope you will attend in person; it's so much better with friends! All programming and meals in person for just \$120, \$100 if you attend virtually.

Please visit our website ([pswassembly.org](http://pswassembly.org)) for full details on this action-packed weekend, including pricing, accommodation options and full weekend schedule. [And register now!](#)

For more information contact Dale Botts: [dale.botts2@gmail.com](mailto:dale.botts2@gmail.com), committee chair, 714.686.2791 (he/him) or [info@pswassembly.org](mailto:info@pswassembly.org).



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**

Rev@summituuf.org

[Calendly Schedule](#)

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**Mary Carter-Vail**

DRE@summituuf.org

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**Jerrica Stone**

music@summituuf.org

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#### Board of Trustees

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**April, 2025**

#### About SUUF Publications

Please send submissions for the monthly SCENE AT SUMMIT NEWSLETTER  
via e-mail on or soon after the 20th, to  
**admin@summituuf.org**

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 **admin@summituuf.org**