



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: Awakening Curiosity

May 3

“Curiosity Killed the Cat?”

Rev. KC Marie Pandell

“Curiosity killed the cat,” the adage says, and many of us have been discouraged from asking questions. “But satisfaction brought him back.” Unitarian Universalism encourages the search for truth and meaning, so perhaps we intend curiosity to be a sacred, spiritual practice, in addition to being the catalyst for keeping us informed.



May 10

“A Living Q&A”

Rev. KC Marie Pandell

Life is full of questions, and more often than not, the answers are much harder to come by. Sometimes questions breed more questions, and the answers feel ever more distant. But what if the answer isn't more answers? What if the point is more questions? How does that change how we move in the world?

May 17

“The Awe That Binds Us: Wonder As a Way of Life”

Tom Brower, Guest Speaker

We all know that quiet moment of awe — standing under the stars, on a mountaintop, or holding a newborn child. What if that feeling is the beginning of a spiritual path grounded in reality itself?

May 24

“Lost in Translation”

Rev. KC Marie Pandell

Sometimes, Unitarian Universalism can feel a bit like the "melting pot" of religions: we seek truth and meaning, and recognize that all religions have truth in them, to some extent (how much so is in the eye of the beholder). For some, that makes us a little too fluid, but for others, it gives the chance to see the world through other perspectives (including ones that may no longer serve us, but still guide us). Pluralism is a feature of UUism, one we wear like a badge of honor, but what does it mean, and why do we choose it?



May 31

“Immortality for Skeptics”

Mark Weedman, Guest Speaker

Join a fellow Summitterian in reconsidering an old question. How might we think of human immortality as AI and the Singularity impact organic philosophies and conventional religious notions?



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 May, and if you're *curious* (see what I did there?) about the upcoming month, see some important things to note below:

Firstly, Summit's Annual Meeting is Sunday, June 7, after the service. This is our big one, folks, where we receive a yearly report from myself and a few of our leaders, we look over the budget together, and vote on our slate of candidates for the Board and Nominating Committee. This is a brilliant time to exercise our congregational polity – not every faith community gets to vote on things like this! I also find it a helpful way for newcomers and not-yet-members to get a look at how the sausage gets made: It's not thrilling (though, that's probably a good thing), but it shows how we go about business here, and I highly recommend that even non-members attend. And members: please, please do come to help Summit make these choices for the next fiscal year – your voice and your vote matter!

Secondly: If it helps sweeten the deal, that same Sunday of the meeting is also our beloved Flower Communion, which means it is *also* an intergenerational service; the kiddos will be helping plan the service! If you have family or friends you've been meaning to invite, this is an exceptional Sunday to do so. It remains one of my favorite services of the year and has been so for nearly a decade. Bring some flowers to share!

Thirdly, May 30 is the annual [Santee Pride Festival](#) at the Santee Methodist church. The festival itself is from 10am - 4pm (though I will have to leave around noon for a prior engagement). The walk portion, however, is a 2mi walk beginning at 9am, so if marching for LGBTQ+ folks is important to you, please make note of the time. The festival itself should be a

blast, and I have no doubt the festival and the SUUF booth could use some volunteers.

Finally: This month brings another couple of weeks away for me, as I travel across the country for doctoral courses. I will be away from Summit from May 11 - 22; please remember that we have a fabulous and caring Pastoral Care team for any needs that may arise while I am away. I will not be fully unavailable, but I will be three hours ahead, and in class most days from 9am - 5pm EST – as such, I may be slow or unable to respond, so please be aware; text/email are preferred during this time.

Let's get ready to explore curiosity soulfully, and spiritually, together!

All my love and blessings,

Rev. KC

(714) 869-7645
rev@summituuf.org

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,

I want to apologize for missing several months of Scene messages, and to thank everyone for their well wishes and support, as I recovered from a surgery that had more impact than I expected. All is now good and am I trying to get back to my routines. This experience has reminded me how important the Summit community is to my daily wellbeing. Thanks to you all. ❤️

I love being part of this community and support our shared mission: In spiritual community we commit ourselves to building a compassionate, just, and sustainable world.

As you are all aware, we are in the midst of wrapping up our “Summit Love” pledge drive. Every contribution helps us reach our financial goal which will allow us to fulfill our mission, support our incredible staff (including musicians), and “keep the lights on.” Thanks to everyone who has returned a pledge! If you have not had a chance to return a form, please contact Nelwyn at the office, your steward, or reach out to me ASAP. The Finance Committee will be using this estimated income to develop a budget for the upcoming year. The congregation will meet on Sunday June 7th to vote on officers for the upcoming year and approval of the budget.

With “Summit Love”,

Debbie



LIFESPAN FAITH FORMATION NEWS

MARY CARTER-VAIL, DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

I have been looking forward to playing with our theme for May: Awakening Curiosity. Each week, during our Sunday time together, we are curious. Last month, our children harvested and

planted in the Summit garden. We planted tomatoes, basil and summer squash, harvested kale and beets and shared our bounty with the community. The highlight of the garden time was not the planting or harvesting, it was the critters. We found pill bugs, lizards, spiders, caterpillars and a big white grub. These moments of shared curiosity can be magical. Let's awaken curiosity together this month.

Awakening Curiosity: I am always saying that curiosity and wonder are the spiritual practices of children. This theme invites us all to be curious, to wonder, and to awaken to new discoveries. How will you awaken your curiosity this month? For me, natural spaces are where my curiosity always finds a spiritual wondering. Where do you wonder? What are you curious about? This is an invitation to let your inner questioner come out to play this May.

Free Little Library is Thriving - Our little library is getting some local attention, as we are on the Little Free Library App. Yay! We do need some more books so bring in any gently used titles to contribute. Especially children's books. Our local neighbors, along with many of you, are bringing in books! Last week the library was packed and then it was almost empty – it is being used and appreciated by the local community. 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 DRE@summituuf.org to explore ways you can be part of Faith Formation at Summit.

Our May Theme is Awakening Curiosity

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.

May 3 - Awakening Curiosity - A Bridge to a More Just World – We begin to explore our new theme with curiosity about justice while exploring the story of Star Wars. We will get curious about what justice and equity is and how to recognize it when it's NOT present. Our craft will be making light sabers of justice as we share our curiosity about building a more just world together.

May 10 – Awakening Curiosity - Building a Better World – Have you ever noticed how many different colors, textures and designs are present in a stained-glass window? Like our beautiful world, there are many differences in design. This week we will be exploring diversity through noticing how we are different and what commonalities we share. There will be a nature scavenger hunt and stained glass art as part of this exploration.

May 17 – Awakening Sharing Curiosity – This Sunday we will all bring our curiosity to creating a special Sunday Service for the Flower Communion on June 7. There are several stories and ideas for us to choose from so come with curiosity as we create a very special experience to share with the full Summit Community. Parents are welcome to join us.

May 24 – Awakening Curiosity - A Bridge to a World with Wiser People – What is wisdom and who has it? We are going to be exploring the wisdom that is sparked by curiosity. We will be making "wisdom pots" inspired by a story or holding and sharing community knowledge.



(continued on next page)

May 31 – Awakening Curiosity - A Bridge to The World of Our Future-self - On our last week exploring this theme we are going to jump into the future and be curious about our future selves. Activities include art and lots of games.

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 DRE@summituuf.org.

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



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 Rummage Sale

Saturday, June 27th : 8am-1pm in the Salon

Proceeds benefit the Summit Building Fund

Donations will be received starting after service on Sunday, June 21. Start your spring cleaning and earmark your gently used items for Summit!

Want to Volunteer to help? Contact Mark Weedman at property@summituuf.org

There is still time to turn in your pledge form for the upcoming congregational year!

Our annual generosity 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

The Welcoming and Membership Committee just hosted its latest Getting to Know Us event. I always enjoy getting to know some of our recent visitors better and learning about their journeys to Summit. They all have a lot to contribute to the life of the Fellowship. I also enjoy what long-time members of Summit share about how they came here and why they stay.

For those who have been attending Summit for some time and are not members yet, perhaps now is a good time to join. Being a member provides a framework for the everyday pursuit of meaning through activities, worship, and spiritual and intellectual development. Joining is an expression of commitment to the vision of Summit. In making a public commitment to join with us in practicing and promoting the values reflected in our Principles and Purposes, the effects of your gifts, talents and resources will be multiplied, for the realization of a compassionate, just and sustainable society. Members (of at least 30 days) are eligible to participate in and vote on critical matters that arise during annual and special congregational meetings, and together elect Summit's Officers and the Board of Directors each spring.

Anyone aged 16 or older may be considered a member of Summit by doing the following:

- Acknowledging their sympathy with its missions and programs,
- Actively participating in the life and work of the fellowship.
- Making a written pledge for each year in which they wish to maintain their

membership. A pledge may be a zero-dollar amount or a pledge of time and effort.

-Signing the membership book is the last part of becoming a member. Reverend KC has this, so contact her to sign it when you're ready to become a member.

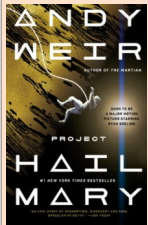
~ Jim Weed, Welcoming & Membership Committee Chair

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 May 5, we will be reading The Razor's Edge by W. Somerset Maugham.



Next month, on June 2, we will be reading Project Hail Mary by Andy Weir.

Everyone is welcome, to 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 May 3rd in the Sanctuary at Noon.



SUMMIT UU FELLOWSHIP PRAYER CIRCLE

Organized by Seraphina

We meet in the Sanctuary on the 1st 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. Everyone welcome!



The SJIA committee meets on the second Sunday of the month;
Our next meeting will be May 10 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.

LEADING WITH LOVE



☞ COMMUNITY EVENTS ☞

Saturday, May 2 at 7pm

The Benedetti Trio Concert in the Sanctuary
See details on page 8

Friday, June 5 at 7pm

Summit Choir Concert in the Sanctuary

Sunday June 7

Congregational Meeting after the Service

Saturday, June 27, 8am-1pm

Summit Rummage Sale in the Salon
See details on page 4

Thursday, July 30

Red Cross Blood Drive in the Salon

Saturday, July 11 at 10am

Soul Collage Workshop 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,
May 4
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



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 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, May 26 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..



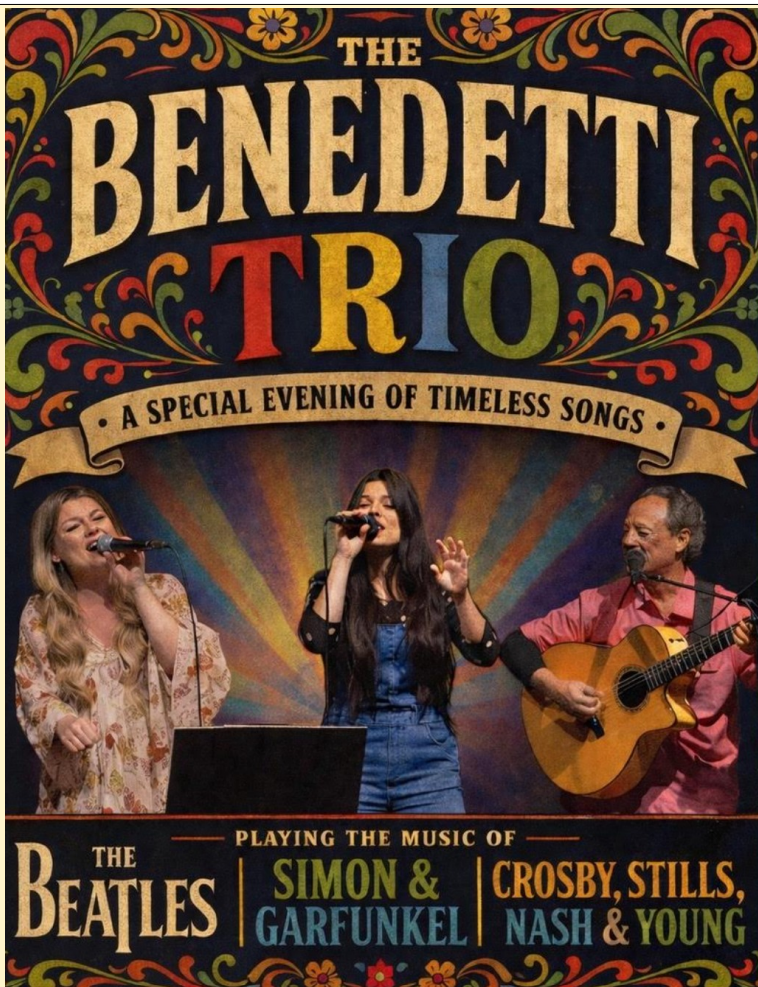


Seeking to connect with like-minded peers in the solitude of the quiet forest? Our camp offers what your heart needs. Here, bonding with others in a loving and safe community happens every day. Want to strengthen your creative mind through art, music, yoga, or theater? Or are you just looking to set 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

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>



Join us for a special night of music!

May 2nd

Concert starts at 7pm

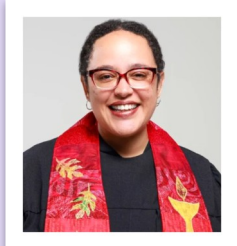
doors open at 6:30

Suggested donation \$20

Denominational News

YOU → Summit UU Fellowship → SD Cluster →

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



Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt is the 10th UUA President, elected at General Assembly in June 2023 for a six year term. Rev. Dr. Betancourt has served Unitarian Universalism for more than twenty years in many roles.

This 39-minute video from President Sofia Betancourt offers an unprecedented view into programs and planning happening at the UUA, with an invitation into deeper partnership. The message is a reflection on this moment in the faith, the challenges and possibilities that lay ahead, and what it means to hold the

heart of Unitarian Universalism today.

[Watch via YouTube](#)



WEEKLY DROP-IN

climate grief support group

FRIDAYS 1-2PM ET/10-11AM PT



UUMFE's Acting Director, Rev. Lauren Levwood, and our team of UUMFE Movement Chaplains, are working alongside UUMFE Movement Chaplain Intern Chelsea to co-facilitate a weekly drop-in Climate Grief Support Group on Fridays from 1-2pm ET/10-11am PT over Zoom.

If you are concerned about the state of our world, worry about how current events are intersecting with climate disturbance, are a parent or grandparent concerned about the coming generations, or a young adult with anxiety about the future of our living world, this Climate Grief Support Group will provide a space for you to process your experiences with others in a ritualized, trauma-informed, and mindful way. We recommend you bring a stone or similar grounding object for our time together. To register, click [HERE](#).

Sunday, May 3, 2026

5 PT • 6 MT • 7 CT • 8 ET

Our beloved Full Moon Gatherings have returned, and we hope to welcome you to our next gathering on May 3rd! We will meet on the Sunday evening closest to each full moon. Info and registration

[HERE](#).





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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DRE@summituuf.org

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May, 2026

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**