



# 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.

July 5

**“History Has Its Eyes on You:  
On America’s 250th Birthday”**  
Rev. KC Marie Pandell



July 12

**“Born This Way”**

Rev. KC Marie Pandell

In times of great trial and tribulation, there's something deeply radical about living our truth. When the status quo demands we fall in line, presenting our authentic selves isn't just a way of moving in the world, it can be revolutionary. How might embracing ourselves and each other help create spaces of thriving, and be a beacon of hope for the future?



July 19

**“Why I’m a DEI-hard”**

Rev. Ned Wright, via Zoom

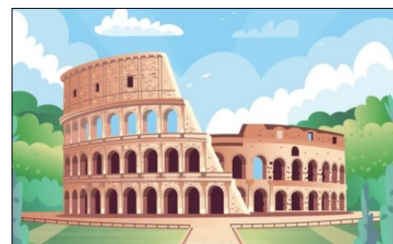
Rev. Ned Wight will preach (virtually). At a time when the current presidential administration has attempted to purge all references to diversity, equity and inclusion from websites, contracts, research programs and public documents, Rev. Ned will argue that these concepts and the values behind them are of critical importance to us as both American citizens and Unitarian Universalists.

July 26

**“To Rome, With Love”**

Rev. KC Marie Pandell

Have you heard the one where a group of Protestants and a Unitarian Universalist walk into the Vatican offices... Join Rev. KC for a recap of her studies in Rome, explore how stories can transcend time, and what it might look like to "heal memory".



*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:

Happy new church year! It is a joy to be able to say that I'll be joining Summit for another three years together. While sometimes I still feel rather like the new kid in class, it is always a joy and a blessing to return to this lovely community. I always look forward to my studies, and in equal measure, look forward to coming home to San Diego and all of you in order to put some elbow grease into what I've learned while I was away.

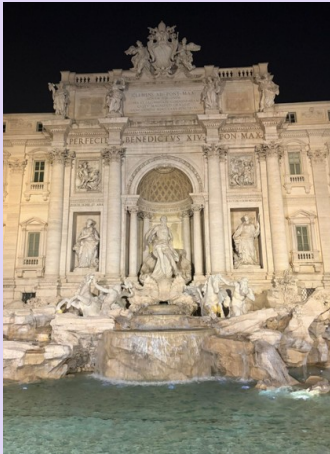
The next few weeks will be full: full of catching up with all of you, full of sermon prep, full of service creation and worship planning, and full with wrapping up three courses, and of course, preparing things for me to be away for what I hope will be a restorative, gratifying couple weeks of vacation. I will send an email before departure outlining the days I will be out, and include Zoom information for drop-in office hours – I will be travelling quite a bit next month, and so will be working remotely for the non-vacation time. But more on that later in the month.

I'm looking ahead to our Autumn together, our Water Communion, our 2nd Annual Revival, our Animal Blessing, the Auction, and before we know it, it'll be Christmas. I look forward to a cracking good second half of the calendar year with you all. In the meantime, please: Enjoy a touch of Rome (trigger warning for artfully displayed human remains – the Capuchin Crypts were a highlight for your spooky 'lil minister). As a note: Highly recommend a visit to the Eternal City, but definitely *not* in June, during a record heatwave.

All my love and blessings (benedizioni!),

*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,

Thanks to everyone who participated in our recent Congregational Meeting! We elected a great set of members to our Board of Directors, Trustees of the Endowment, and the Nominating Committee.

We also heard an excellent, if challenging, presentation about the state of our finances from outgoing treasurer Brenda McGuinness and incoming treasurer Dan Bartholomew. For those who were not able to attend, they presented data demonstrating that our expenses are rising faster than our income. We have transitioned from breaking even, or adding to our savings, to having to use savings to balance our budget. At the current rate, our savings will be depleted within a couple of years.

Members and friends who have pledged are very generous in their contributions, but we have fewer pledging members than in the past. This is true of many congregations in this post COVID era. Our challenge is to identify additional sources of income while growing our pledging membership. Alternatively, we must prepare for the possibility of reducing staff in the coming years.

The Board and Finance Committee will be having a joint Retreat in late July to brainstorm ideas about increasing income and decreasing expenses. If you have ideas, please share them with me or Dan, so that we can add to the retreat agenda.

- Watch for creative solutions in the future.
- Volunteer, as you are able, to assist in those activities.
- Continue to support our "Adopt a Bill" project, anytime you are able.
- If you can, increase your pledge. ♥ Thanks to those who already have! ♥

We will succeed! We will continue to be a loving community committed to building a compassionate, just and sustainable world. I feel so blessed to be a part of this community.

With love,  
*Debbie*





# LIFESPAN FAITH FORMATION NEWS

MARY CARTER-VAIL, DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

Summer is here and it is a perfect time for sacred curiosity. I am writing a curriculum for us to “wonder” together using science, art, cooking, earth science and more. There are

also several guests and new volunteers who are going to be helping for our summer program and getting to know the children at Summit. This is both sacred practice and fun for all ages.

**Summer of Wonder** - For July and August we will be taking a break from our Soul Matters curriculum for some summer fun. We have some fun activities that are great for new children and will build connection with all of our families. Activities will include Fairy Garden Making, a visit from the Rock Guy, Slime Making Sunday and Tie Dye on Rainbow Sunday. There will be two, (or more), family gatherings after the service to connect parents with each other and grow our program. We will have a family Tea Party on July 26 and an End of Summer Celebration Lunch on September 6. Save the dates and invite new families to Summer of Wonder at Summit.

**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. Thank you to our local neighbors, along with many of you, for bringing in books! 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 Religious Exploration at Summit: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!** We are growing our Religious Exploration program and expanding to an all-ages Faith Formation program. Contact Mary at [DRE@summituuf.org](mailto:DRE@summituuf.org) to explore ways you can be part of Faith Formation at Summit.

**Our July & August Theme is Summer of Wonder** 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.

**July 5 – Wondering Together** – Its summertime! We are going to be wondering about our world all summer long. This Sunday we will begin making a covenant and being curious about what we want to do together this summer. Bring your ideas as we begin our summer fun.

**July 12 – Silly Science Sunday** – Science is how we use wonder to discover how our world works! This Sunday we are going to be exploring science experiments that have a big reaction.

**July 19 – Fairy Gardens with Anya** – Its summer and that means Fairy Garden time! Anya will be leading our group this Sunday as we create imaginative gardens of wonder. There will be mini succulents, colorful pebbles, natural materials to use to create a little world for your fairies or imaginative world.

**July 26 – Tea Party Sunday** – We are going to be making tiny tea sandwiches and scones to enjoy with some herbal tea in the garden. We will be practicing connection as we share tea and tasty treats together. Families are invited to join us for tea after the service.

*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](mailto: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.

## THE SUMMIT RUMMAGE SALE WAS A SUCCESS!

Our rummage sale was a huge success, earning over \$2,000 that we will put toward purchasing security cameras for our campus. We'd like to thank everyone who donated items and volunteered to support the event. We were blown away by all the items we collected and by everyone who was willing to sort and price items and help during the event.



That said, we're still hoping to raise an additional \$2,000 to meet our grant requirement and earn our \$8,000 grant, which will cover the full cost of the security cameras. If you'd like to donate directly to our security camera fund, please use the QR code and choose RUMMAGE SALE in the drop-down menu.

# American Red Cross Blood Drive

## *Summit Unitarian Universalist Fellowship*

Salon Room  
8778 Cottonwood Ave, Santee

Thursday, July 30, 2026  
10:00 AM - 04:00 PM

**One hour of your time can save up to three lives.**

Photo ID with birthdate required.  
Questions about eligibility? Call 1-866-236-3276.

Scan the QR code below or visit [redcrossblood.org](https://redcrossblood.org) and enter the sponsor code SummitUUF to schedule your appointment.



**Schedule  
Today!**

*Give blood July 13 to 31 for a Fandango Movie  
Reward by email to see a movie on us!  
[rcblood.org/july](https://rcblood.org/july)*



**Their Story  
Starts With You**

1-800-RED CROSS | [RedCrossBlood.org](https://RedCrossBlood.org) | Download the Blood Donor App



## SUMMIT'S MUSIC PROGRAM

JERRICA STONE, MUSIC DIRECTOR



# SUMMIT CHOIR WANTS YOU!

HAVE YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO SING BUT WERE TOO AFRAID, SHY, INEXPERIENCED?

## SUMMER SING-XPERIENCE

You don't have to perform. You just show up and learn and sing with your friends.



NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED!  
JUST A WILLINGNESS TO TRY!



WEDNESDAYS AT 6 PM.  
IN THE SANCTUARY



## WELCOMING & MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

### Welcoming and Membership Happenings

I have been excited to see some of the different forms of outreach Summit has recently been doing in Santee. These include the music series with guest musicians from San Diego, the voting center and the rummage sale. These are fun and creative ways to introduce Summit to the community. In the case of the last music concert with Fred Benedetti, one of the people who attended was one of the daughters of the family who lived next door to me and her husband. They live in Santee and came to hear Fred. I know of at least one regular visitor who started attending Summit after seeing the Fellowship while voting here. It will be interesting to see if we get people who stop by for our rummage sale who then return later to check us out. Things like this help show the community the diverse type of place we are.

I am looking forward to seeing what inventive ways we can introduce Santee to the special community that this Fellowship is. And it is special because of its members and friends. Thanks for making this the welcoming community it is.

~ Jim Weed, Welcoming & Membership Committee Chair

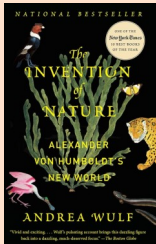


## ADULT LIFE ENRICHMENT

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

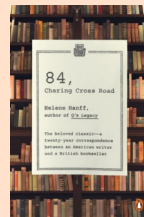
The Summit UU Book Club meets on the First Tuesday, at 7pm. The group meets both in person in the Library and via Zoom, hosted by Debbie.

This month, on July 7, we will be discussing 84 Charing Cross Road by Helene Hanff



Next month, on August 4, we will be reading The Invention of Nature: Alexander Von Humboldt's New World by Andrea Wulf.

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 July 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 July 12 at 12 Noon**  
in the Library and on zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/98852027774>

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### **Social Justice Committee Supports WSWA Back to School Drive on July Sundays**

Western Service Workers Association appreciates your new donations of backpacks, pencils, pens, crayons, 2 inch and 3 inch binders, lined paper(wide and narrow ruled), rulers, erasers, pencil pouches and blunt nosed scissors.

There is a labeled bin in the Greeting Room. Thank you for helping WSWA families and children get a good start for school.

Join WSWA for their 49th Anniversary Dinner on July 11, 2026., 5-8pm  
St. Patrick Catholic Parish, 3585 30th St, San Diego, CA 92104.  
RSVP to 619-238-9763

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, July 11 at 10am**

**Soulful Second Saturdays**

Soul Collage Workshop in the Salon

*Contact Mary for details*

**Saturday, July 18 at 7pm**

Peter Bolland: "Songs of John Denver"

*Doors open at 6:30pm*

**Thursday, July 30, 10am-4pm**

Red Cross Blood Drive in the Salon

*See page 5 for details & to make your appointment!*

**Saturday, July 25 at 10am**

Celebration of Life for Tom Biggart

*Reception to follow in the Salon*

**Saturday, August 8 at 10am**

**Soulful Second Saturdays**

Tie Dye in the RE Garden

*Contact Mary for details*

**Saturday, August 29 at 7pm**

Electrocarpathians Concert

in the Sanctuary

*Doors open at 6:30pm*

# AFFINITY GROUPS

## 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!



## SEASONED SENIORS

A Group for those who are 79 and up!

We meet the **2nd and 4th Mondays**, from 10:30am - 12:00 p.m. in the Summit Library.



For those that can't come in person, you may join by Zoom. If you have questions about our group or want to join on-line with a link, contact Pam W.

## 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)



## 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, July 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.



## 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 feedback 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,  
July 6  
10:00 a.m.—12pm

## 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!

## 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.

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..

# Denominational News

YOU → Summit UU Fellowship → SD Cluster →

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



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](#).

## Buck Moon, July 26, 2026, 5pm

Our beloved Full Moon Gatherings have returned, and we hope to welcome you to our next gathering on July 26th! We will meet on the Sunday evening closest to each full moon. Info and registration [HERE](#).



## Meet the Moment

*Meet the Moment* is a movement-wide framework helping Unitarian Universalists analyze, discern, and take values-based action in response to today's religious, cultural, generational, and political realities.

[Watch the video \(Vimeo\).](#)

## UUA Condemns Noem vs. Al Otro Lado Decision

The UUA condemns the U.S. Supreme Court's recent decision in the Noem vs. Al Otro Lado case, grounded in our moral and religious commitment to the inherent worthiness and dignity of all people, including people who migrate.

[Noem vs. Al Otro Lado Decision](#)



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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#### Board of Trustees

Debbie Wingard—*President*

Laurel Bernstein—*Vice President*

Steve Allen—*Secretary*

Dan Bartholomew—*Treasurer*

Vickie Cottle—*Director*



**July, 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**