



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.

August 2
“A Place at the Table”
OJ Mozon

A tale of reconciliation and inclusiveness.

August 9
“Community, Connection, and Compassion”
Loralisa Rocca, Doug Kaye, Vickie Cottle

Have you ever wondered what Covenant Groups are all about? Summit members Loralisa Rocca, Doug Kaye, and Vickie Cottle will be talking about what a Covenant Group is and their experiences with them.



August 16
“Healing Through Transformation”
Tiffany Brown

Join Tiffany Rose as she shares her deeply personal journey from sudden, life-altering illness to healing, purpose, and service. Through story and a gentle, heart-centered guided meditation, you'll be invited to open the heart, embrace the present moment, and deepen your connection with one another.

August 23
Music Sunday

Join us for Summit's Music Sunday!



August 30
“How Creativity & Spirituality go Hand in Hand”
Jan Phillips

This talk addresses creativity as a sacred gesture—one that involves collaboration with the Unknown Mystery as a primary element of self-expression. Imagine that Spirit is seeking to create through us, to regenerate sacredness and compassion into this culture, Spirit/Word waiting to be made flesh through our creative expressions. Imagine yourself the vessel of transmission, one chosen to birth the sacred in word, song, clay, image.

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:

Greetings from Michigan! It's warm and humid, but weirdly, not too far off from what I happened to leave. What a full and energetic month we've just left: I want to thank everyone in particular who showed out for the Otay Mesa Detention Collective vigil – we helped raise well over \$500 towards the collective, which will help detainees make phone calls to lawyers & family, and can be used towards items at the commissary. It was extremely powerful to hear from a former detainee that, yes, our neighbors inside CAN hear the vigils happening weekly. I highly recommend anyone and everyone who can attend a vigil do so – sometimes the next, most faithful step is just showing up.

I will be away from Summit for the month of August, though not entirely on vacation. I'm sort of sprinkling vacation into work time: Steve & I are visiting his family, and then I'll be on a ship with my mom later in the month. As such, some days will be family days, and other days are working days, but it's a little up in the air except for August 5-6, and 8. If you need to reach me, please feel free to email or text me: if I don't respond, it's a vacation day (I know that's not a perfect solution, I apologize). I'll return correspondence on my next working day. Mondays, however, will remain my sabbath day, as they have been the last 3 years.

If you have any pastoral care needs, we always have our lay team: Mark Weedman, Stacey Sasaki, and Tom Brower. They'd be happy to help. If you'd like to meet with me on Zoom, or via phone, let me know, and we'll find a time to do so.

I will return to Summit the week of September 1, with my first Sunday back on September 6. Our annual Water Communion will be September 13, and our Revival and potluck style picnic at Santee Lakes will be September 20 – so lots to look forward to in September!

Until then: my blessings,

Rev. KC

(714) 869-7645

rev@summituuf.org



For **pastoral care in August**, reach out to our Lay Pastoral Care Team by email at LayPastoral@summitUUF.org, or by phone:

- ♦ Tom Brower (858) 245-6593
- ♦ Stacey Sasaki (619) 850-7553 (text preferred)
- ♦ Mark Weedman (619) 334-5300



PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS

~ DEBBIE WINGARD, BOARD PRESIDENT ~

Dear Friends,

The new Board of Directors and Finance Committee had a very productive joint retreat at the end of July.

Our main topic of discussion revolved around our use of savings over the last few years to balance the annual budget. This past year our total cash (in checking, money market and CD accounts) declined by \$65,698 reflecting spending that exceeded income. At this rate of use, we will deplete our savings by early 2030 (4 years).

We are exploring a variety of ways to increase our income and decrease our spending, including increasing membership, renting space, grants, additional fundraising (i.e. reviving the craft fair) and staff reductions. The good news is that we paid off our mortgage years ago and have savings to help us for the short term.

Based on these discussions, the Board set the following short- and long-term goals. Feel free to discuss these goals and any suggestions with any board member; Debbie Wingard, Laurel Bernstein, Dan Bartholomew, Vickie Cottle and Steve Allen. We welcome your input!

Strategic Goals for 2026-27

- Work towards financial stability
- Establish/reactivate Committee of Right Relations and review Covenant
- Develop long term strategic plan (5-10 year)

Strategic Goals within 2-4 years

- Achieved financial stability (no use of savings for operating expenses)
- Supporting a fulltime minister through annual pledging (instead of savings)
- Increased membership responsibly
- Maintained our facility
- Known for our values in East County

Looking forward to a productive year of spiritual growth and beloved community, while supporting our values at home and the world at large.

With love,

Debbie

WANT TO HELP WITH SUUF CAMPUS SECURITY?

Our rummage sale in June 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 have received additional donations towards the \$2,000 we need to meet our grant requirement and earn our \$8,000 grant, which will cover the full cost of the security cameras—if you have already donated, THANK YOU!! We still have a little ways to go to meet the goal, so 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.



LIFESPAN FAITH FORMATION NEWS

MARY CARTER-VAIL, DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

We are enjoying a Summer of Wonder at Summit for our Children's Religious Exploration program. This is a time when we live our Unitarian Universalist values through community and play.

We are building connections between our families. Last month we had a Tea Party for our family gathering. Join us for our next family connection time at the end of the Summer on September 6.

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 our families. We began July by creating our summer covenant or our agreement as to how we want to be together and support our "Summer of Wonder." July activities included making Fairy Gardens & Science Sunday. For the last Sunday in July our kiddos made tiny sandwiches as they prepared a garden tea party for their families after the service. Our August activities include pretzel making, a visit from the Rock Guy, Slime Making Sunday and Tie Dye on Rainbow Sunday. Our families are invited to an End of Summer Celebration Lunch on September 6. Save the dates and invite new families to Summer of Wonder at Summit.

Back from High School Camp - I had the honor of being part of the Camp Chaplain Team with Rev. KC up at Camp DeBenneville Pines in July. The adults who serve at this camp are chosen by the youth to be there, so this is really special. Rev. KC and I use this time to build our pastoral care muscles as we support the well-being of teen age campers and adult staff. We also spend time planning and preparing for the next 6 months at Summit. Many Summit youth have been part of the camp community where they have built their leadership and spiritual identity as a part of the UU community. In the past, we have had a robust youth group at Summit and many of the current Summit young adults are alumni of that group and of camp. Unfortunately, the pandemic interrupted this group's connection, and it has been difficult to bring in new youth when we only have one or two interested as they are looking for a group to join. My hope is that we can once again have Middle and High School youth groups at Summit.

If you have youth in your family who are in these age groups

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 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.

August 2 - We Knead Each Other (Pretzel Making)

- Mary will bring the dough for us to make soft pretzels. They will be shaped, boiled and baked so that we can enjoy them hot from the oven. We hope to have enough to share with the whole community in the Salon following the service.

August 9 - Rainbow Sunday (Tie Dye) - Bring something cotton to tie and dye on Rainbow Sunday. There will also be chalk art and more rainbow crafts to enjoy together. There will be some pillowcases & tea towels available to tie dye.

Continued on next page

August 16 – Water Wizards – This week we will be getting wet as we play with water, bubbles and Orbies. Participants are encouraged to wear clothing that can get wet and to bring a change of clothes so they can be dry on the way home.

August 23 – Lets Rock! (A visit from the Rock Guy) – John Saap, our resident rock expert, will be our guest as he shares his love for rocks and minerals. This is always a very special Sunday as John brings many samples to share and even some to take home.

August 30 – Slime Sunday – By popular request we are going to get messy! There are many types and textures of slime that we will be learning to make ourselves. Paige Beauchamp will be our guest expert slime leader this week. Wear clothes that

can get messy for this week. There will be gloves available for participants who need less mess on their hands.

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.



Soulful Second Saturday at Summit August 8, 10 am to 12 noon—join us for Tie Dye

Our first Soulful Second Saturday was a great success. In July, we had 11 Summitarians join Mary for Soul Collage, where we made collage cards as a personal reflection activity.

These Saturday events are an opportunity to experience a creative space with the Summit community. For our August Tie Dye Saturday, all ages are welcome. Bring cotton items to tie dye. Mary will have a rainbow of quality dyes to choose from as you create a bit of wearable art.

We are requesting a \$10 donation to cover the cost of materials. There are scholarships available as well. *Register at this link:* [REGISTRATION](#)

Interested in joining a Covenant Group? Let us know!

Covenant groups are small groups that meet monthly for meaningful topic discussions and offer opportunities for growth, caring and connection within our fellowship.

Summit has several existing groups that are open to new members, and new groups can be formed based on interest and availability to begin meeting in September.

Covenant group interest forms can be filled out in the Summit office, or contact Loralisa Rocca, who is coordinating covenant group signups at 619-307-1684 (call or text) or Lgainsborough@yahoo.com





SUMMIT'S MUSIC PROGRAM

JERRICA STONE, MUSIC DIRECTOR



Our Music Sunday is August 23rd!

This is where Summitarians get to showcase their talents!

We welcome all kinds of music; instrumentalists, singers, dancers, bands, anything!

And this time we are also looking for poets and storytellers.

Please contact Jerrica (music@summituuf.org) to let her know you're interested in participating!

If you want to participate but need help picking a song or want to discuss your performance, she can help with that too!

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

The 2nd Annual Summit Fall Revival Picnic will be Sunday, September 20th at Santee Lakes!

There will be an "all hands on deck" call when I return from surgery. In the interim, you can email me, Roland, at techknowledgegy@cox.net or call and leave a message at (619) 508-0353.

If we can get a lot of folks to help, it will be even better than last year. Looking forward to everyone participating!



WELCOMING & MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Welcoming and Membership Happenings

Greetings Summit members and friends. I'm Jim Weed, the chair of the Welcoming and Membership Committee. On top of my involvement at Summit, I also volunteer once a month at the San Diego Model Railroad museum; on the Sundays I am away from Summit, either another member of the Committee or Joey covers the visitors table for me. Having someone at the table is the most visible thing the committee does, though it's not the only thing it does to



The committee periodically hosts a Getting to Know Us event where recent visitors get an opportunity to learn more about Summit and Unitarian Universalism. We are also involved with the New Member Ceremony- this periodically occurs during a service to acknowledge new members, followed by a reception in the Salon. Committee members also volunteer on the 4th Sunday of the month in the Salon to help ensure that the fellowship has a welcoming place to socialize after the service.

The committee is always looking for people to help either at the visitors' table or in the Salon. If you are interested in either of these, you don't have to be a member of the committee to see what it's like. Feel free to talk to me at Summit or email me. My email address is in the Summit directory. I also want to thank everyone again who attends Summit for making it the special place it is!

~ Jim Weed, Welcoming & Membership Committee Chair



ADULT LIFE ENRICHMENT

THE SUMMIT UU BOOK CLUB MULTI-PLATFORM OPTIONS!

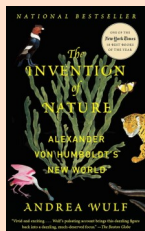
The Summit UU Book Club meets on the First Tuesday, at 7pm. The group meets both in person in the Library and via Zoom, hosted by Debbie.

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



Next month, on September 1, we will be reading The Giver of Stars by Jojo Moyes.

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 Summaritarians and friends who are grieving the loss of a loved one.

The Group is on hiatus for the month of August.



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 SocialJustice@summitUUF.org. Everyone welcome!

The SJIA committee meets on the second Sunday of the month;
Our next meeting will be August 9 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, August 8 at 10am
Soulful Second Saturdays
Tie Dye in the RE Garden
Details on page 5

Sunday, September 20
SUUF Summer Revival Picnic at Santee Lakes
See page 6

Saturday, August 29 at 7pm
Electrocarpathians Concert
Details on page 9

Saturday, October 17
Celebration of Life for John McQuaide

Saturday, September 12 at 10am
Soulful Second Saturday—topic TBD

Saturday, November 7
Summit Auction

Calling all Crafters!



What is your medium? Yarn, clay, paint, fabric, stone and wire, wood, or...?

Would you be interested in helping to organize a **Summit Craft Fair** for the beginning of December? We used to have one, and haven't in years! Our previous Craft Fairs had 80% of earnings go to the crafter and 20% to Summit. If you would like to help organize this event and participate in it as a vendor, please let us know!

~ Elinor Weed (MeWeed97@gmail.com) &
Mary Carter-Vail (DRE@SummitUUF.org)

SUMMIT UU FELLOWSHIP CONCERT SERIES PRESENTS:

THE ELECTROCARPATHIANS

SATURDAY, August 29, 2026 @ 7:00 PM

Doors open 6:30



Formed in 1988, The Electropathians are an East European folk rock fusion band, blending traditional styles like klezmer, polka, czardas, and Balkan folk music with classic rock, Latin rhythms, and surf punk.

SUMMIT UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
8778 COTTONWOOD AVENUE, SANTEE, CA

SUGGESTED DONATION \$20
CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE
(CASH OR CHECK AT THE DOOR)

www.summituuf.org

∞ 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

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



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, August 25 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,
August 3
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



Sturgeon Moon, August 30, 2026, 5pm

Our beloved Full Moon Gatherings have returned, and we hope to welcome you to our next gathering on August 30th! We will meet on the Sunday evening closest to each full moon. Info and registration [HERE](#).



The BLUU logo, which includes a stylized flame icon and the text 'BLUU Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism'. Below it is a blue button that says 'PRESENTS'.

Releasing Respectability: Embracing Self-Determination

A poster for Black August. It features a stylized background with a red sky, a yellow sun, and two raised fists in the foreground. The text 'BLACK AUGUST' is written in large, bold, black letters.

A portrait of Rev. Naomi Washington-Leapheart, a Black woman with short dreadlocks, wearing a dark patterned top.

August 16, 2026
4 PM ET | 1 PM PT
www.blacklivesuu.org

WITH SPECIAL GUEST
Rev. Naomi Washington-Leapheart

What's Black August, and why is it important we don't forget it? What makes challenging respectability a crucial requirement of aligning with Black freedom fighters?

Our special guest speaker for this Black August program is Rev. Naomi Washington-Leapheart. Let's gather together for a time of learning, reflection, and connection.

This event is open to the public and people across all racial identities. We encourage BLUU partners and supporters to join us for this important discussion.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



The UU Origins of Civil Disobedience
On the 180th anniversary of Henry David Thoreau's arrest, we explore the theological roots of civil disobedience found in Unitarian Universalist history.

[Civil Disobedience](#)



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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August, 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**