



NUUSLETTER

of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula

February Theme: The Ages

Sunday Services begin at 9:30 and 11:15

February 3

“Religious Living in the Digital Age”

Rev. Axel Gehrman & Chris Kage

We are fortunate to live in an age when computer technology is making our lives easier in so many ways. Thanks to advances in computer science, increasingly complex tasks are being accomplished by machines that are endowed with “artificial intelligence.” From global finance, economics and advertising to virtual assistants in our homes that teach us to call out “Alexa!” or “Siri!” before instructing them to do our bidding. Can computers help us distinguish right from wrong?

February 10

“Spirituality and Smartphones”

A Multigenerational Service

Rev. Elaine Gehrman & Corey Brunson

Ah, those handheld devices that seem to be permanent extensions of our arms, which have radically decreased eye contact, dinner conversation, and face to face human interactions. This morning we will consider if it's possible that smartphones are not only curses but blessings as well. Bring your phones!

February 17 — 9:30 a.m. only

“The Meaning of Life — Today!”

Rev. Axel Gehrman & Bob Sadler

For the past several centuries our liberal faith has stood for justice, equity and compassion in human relations. Our guiding principles have put us at the forefront of progressive causes throughout, inspiring us to change ourselves as we change the world. How do we put our principles into practice today?

This Sunday marks the Kick Off for this year's Stewardship Campaign. Our theme is “Make It Meaningful!” Please join us for worship at 9:30 a.m. only, followed by a Gala Fajita (Free) Lunch as part of our Kickoff Celebration. (Read more about our Stewardship plans on page 13.)

February 24

“Headlines, Hearts and History”

Karen Brown & Katie Hamilton

We don't have to know a famous person or be in the middle of a world crisis to be deeply and permanently affected by the news. For folks my parents' age, it was Pearl Harbor. For me it was Kent State. This morning we will be seeking understanding and growth through generational milestones. There will be an opportunity for discussion immediately following the service.

Religious Exploration for Children and Youth

is offered during the second service for kids,
preschool and older.
Quality nursery care is available
during the services.

In This Issue . . .

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Page | 12 Guest at Your Table |
| 2 Minister's Column | 12 Mystery Donations |
| 3 Save the Date! | 12 Musical Offerings |
| 3 Sermon Broadcasts | 13 Make it Meaningful |
| 3 Scheduled Events | 13 Friday Night at the Movies |
| 4 President's Column | 14 Men's Breakfast |
| 5 President's Column cont. | 14 Equal Exchange |
| 5 Join Our Church | 14 Women's Discussion Group |
| 6 A Note from the Intern | 14 Worship Associates |
| 6 Mission Statement | 14 Publication Deadlines |
| 7 Art News | 15 Life Enrichment |
| 8 Religious Exploration | 15 Book Discussion |
| 9 Mission Completed! | 15 Affinity Groups |
| 10 New Member | 15 Q & A About UUism |
| 10 Committee on Ministry | 16 Grapevine |
| 11 February Shared Plate | 16 Coffee With the Ministers |
| 12 Chalice Circles | 17 Social Justice |
| | Staff Listing |



Ministers' Message

Rev. Axel Gehrman

Congregational Meeting News— Strategic Plan Approved!

The congregation voted (79 yes, 11 no) to “enthusiastically approve the Strategic Plan for 2019-2022”

Every day, Elaine and I are grateful to be your ministers. It is a privilege and an honor to serve this congregation. Our work at UUCMP fills us with deep joy. But we are not the only ministers here. We are not the only ones who “do ministry.”

To minister means to serve, to help. There are many ways to do this at UUCMP – to serve our members and our mission - in a wide variety of activities and settings. I would like to highlight two groups in particular: our **Caring Network** and our **Pastoral Associates**.

Under the leadership of Carol Collin, our Caring Network Committee connects members seeking to serve with members in need. They help with rides to church or a doctor’s office, with errands or friendly visits, with short-term child or pet care, with meals or treats for folks recovering from illness.

If you would like to be added to our list of helpers, or if you need help, contact Carol Collin, or send a message to caringnetwork@uucmp.org.

Once a month I meet with our Pastoral Associates, who seek to provide one-on-one relationships with members in times of need: major life changes, isolation, mourning and other challenges. Pastoral Associates are trained in active listening, empathy, and emotional support. Our current Pastoral Associates include Dennis Hamilton, Meredith Harrill, Phil Hawthorne, Karen Judkins, Jean Mansfield, and Darold Skerritt.

If you would like a call or a visit from one of our Pastoral Associates, or know someone who would, please let me know.

But ministry is much more than what these two groups do. I like the way Rev. Gordon McKeeman put it. He was president of Starr King School for the ministry back in the 1980s when Elaine and I were students. He wrote:

Ministry is all that we do—Together
Ministry is that quality of being in community
that affirms human dignity—
beckons forth hidden possibilities, invites us
into deeper, more constant, reverent relationships,
and carries forward our heritage of hope and liberation.
Ministry is what we do together as we celebrate triumphs of our human spirit,
Miracles of birth and life,
Wonders of devotion and sacrifice.
Ministry is what we do together—with one another—
in terror and torment—in grief, in misery and pain,
enabling us in the presence of death
to say yes to life.
We who minister speak and live the best we know with full knowledge
that it is never quite enough . . .
And yet are reassured
by lostness found,
fragments reunited,
wounds healed,
and joy shared.
Ministry is what we all do—together.

To me, these words ring as true as ever. I remain ever grateful for the ministry we do, together.

See you in church,

Axel

Save the Date!!



Mark your calendar for **Sunday, February 17**, at 11:15 a.m. (in place of the second service) for a complimentary (yep, **free!**) *Gala Fajita Lunch* as part of our Canvass Kickoff Celebration as we begin the canvass process for the next fiscal year. *Make it Meaningful* is the theme, Please sign up at the Caring Network table, the greeter tables, or on the bulletin board at church to let us know how much food to order. Be sure to join in the festivities!



UUCMP Sermon Broadcasts:

AMP Media (Channel 24 on Comcast)

Tuesday 8:30 a.m.

Thursday 8:00 p.m.

Sunday 12:00 a.m. (Saturday midnight)

Sunday 12:00 (noon)

Monday 10:00 a.m.

SCHEDULED EVENTS

Anti-Racism Book Discussion Group, Tuesday, February 5, 7 p.m.

Anti-Racism Film Group, Thursday, February 21, 7 p.m.

Board of Trustees meets Wednesday, February 20, at 5:30 p.m.

Book Discussion *Justice on Earth*, Tuesdays, February 5, 12, & 19, 7 p.m. See page 15.

Buddhist Sangha is every Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Community Choir meets Thursdays at 7 p.m.

Dances of Universal Peace is Sunday, February 17, 5-7 p.m. See page 15.

Equal Exchange Coffee and Chocolate are available on Sunday, February 10. See page 14.

Friday Night at the Movies is on February 8, 7 p.m. See page 13 for what's showing.

I-HELP for Men is Sunday, February 10, 5 p.m. Sign up on the bulletin board if you can help.

I-HELP for Women is Sunday, February 24, 4 p.m. Sign up on the bulletin board if you can help.

Membership Committee meets Tuesday, February 5, via Zoom.

Men's Breakfast is Saturday, February 9, 8 a.m. See page 14.

Music Committee meets Monday, February 11, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

NUUsletter deadline for the February issue is Saturday, February 16.

Program Council is every first Tuesday, 12:30 p.m., at UUCMP or via Zoom. For Zoom information contact Lauren Keenan programcouncil@uucmp.org

Sing Along is Wednesday, February 13, 6 –7 p.m. in the Fireplace Room. See page 12 for details.

Social Justice meets Sunday, February 3, 12:45 p.m.

Women's Discussion Group will meet on Thursdays, February 14 & 28 at 2:00 p.m. See page 14 for details.

President's Corner: Don's Den

Emerging from the Darkness after a Super Blood Wolf Moon Lunar Eclipse!



My 57-year life is a remarkable journey. For much of it, it seems like this same remarkable pattern keeps repeating itself. At age 29 my life fell into chaos after having a stroke and then finding out that my wife was cheating on me. The stroke occurred because of a clot in the center of my brain. The right side of my body was dysfunctional, I could not stay awake, and I was out of work for six weeks. Gradually, the clot dissolved and after a time, my brain healed.

But from chaos comes opportunity and maybe glory rising from the ashes or the Phoenix rising. I borrowed my Phoenix from Forrest Gump. We have wings on our shoes, and we run, run, run. During my 8-year tour through a "desert with Moses" relationship, one girlfriend with whom I broke up with actually accused me of running away!

In March of 1992, one year from having my stroke, I ran my first marathon. It was great seeing Mayor Tom Brady and Muhammad Ali start the 1992 race at the LA Coliseum (no hills). If I'd had any idea how hard this was, I certainly would have never tried. But it didn't kill me . . . so it made me stronger? What's next? My older brother opened Tarp's Road House around this time as general manager. He kept talking about the Big Sur

Marathon. I bought a big blue book about endurance training written by Paul Bragg, one of the folks who trained Jack LaLanne. They trained many Iron Man athletes. Note Kona's famous Triathlon, that after swimming and biking 150 miles, the runner ends with a full 26-mile marathon. Who signs up for this stuff? I knew this book would suit me well. It even has recipes in the back for healthy things like barley soup. I learned how to race 26 miles and survive it. I ran the 1993 Big Sur Marathon and finished 53rd out of several thousand, and better yet, I qualified for the Boston Marathon. I didn't just run one; I ran the 98th, 99th and 100th Boston Marathons.

Shortly thereafter I met Christina Zaro! We traveled to New Zealand where I ran the first marathon of the new millennium in Hamilton on New Years' Day, 2000. My last marathon was in Big Sur in 2003, and I qualified again for Boston, but retired from 26-mile races after that. I still run almost every day; I am so blessed.

I talked to Peter Vidmar, US Olympic Gold Medal Gymnast, and asked him "what's next?" He said he started a family, and so did I. Dennis, my older son, was nine months old in April 2003, and the rest is history.

So why do I spend time writing this story for the UUCMP newsletter? Because we are about to begin an incredible journey. We have no idea how hard it will be, and there is much anxiety. Here are some highlights from the past two weeks, where the board listened carefully to feedback received from the draft three-year Strategic Plan. Seventy-four members attended. A good number of board members attended more than one meeting. As president, I facilitated all four meetings.

We all agreed that we have to be in growth mode. Where it grows, God only knows. All agree that having a plan is terrific, and it will test the waters; what is our capacity?

Continued on page 5

Don's Den, continued

This is managed risk. There are three risks: 1) we do not have the volunteer work force to pull this off; 2) we pay for three years of 1.5 FTE ministers, but we do not grow sufficiently to support year four, not to mention pay for a capital campaign, and 3) the \$20,000 spent on feasibility studies results in a yurt.

Why is it a *managed* risk? For one, it is paid for. It reflects standing on the shoulders of those who came before us, accepting that this is not a new or original idea. We left room to retreat and re-start this effort without buying into anything beyond our means, realizing that a cathedral takes 500 years to build.

But if we don't have the capacity, then why try? Because I want to be a part of a community of abundance, not a community that is based on fear of the unknown. I (your president) came to UUCMP to build a better future for my children. Maybe you see yourself in some of these comments. Maybe you see UUCMP running not just another marathon, but the biggest marathon ever to occur. It is enormous. Hold on to your hats, people. Thanks to everyone for working on our Strategic Plan. Emerging from the Darkness after a Super Blood Wolf Moon Lunar Eclipse!

More good work awaits us.

I share all of my Respect and in Love with this amazing community,

President Don Reynolds



Oh, the Places
You'll Go!

Join Our Church!

Our church seeks to be a caring community and a welcoming place. We strive to deepen our religious lives and support the spiritual growth of all who join together here, working to build a better world beginning with ourselves.



If you find you are in sympathy with our principles and you are at least 16 years of age, then we invite you to sign our Membership Book.

There is no one single, right path to membership. But here are a few options: participate in worship and other events; and consider attending one of the two-session Orientations that are offered two or three times a year. Above all, familiarize yourself with our congregation.

Then fill out a Membership Form, which you can find at our Welcome Table in the lobby or in the church office. The form asks for your contact information and provides some information about UUCMP's purpose. After you return the completed form to the church office, you will be contacted by one of the ministers, or someone from our Membership Committee, to set up a time for you to receive additional information about the church, share your thoughts about church involvement, and sign the Book.

Joining the church entitles you to vote at congregational meetings, at which we adopt budgets, elect officers, and direct the course of church programming. Above and beyond that, membership is a personal and public expression of your support of this religious community, the ideals it stands for, and the work it does.

Please join us!

- Revs. Elaine & Axel Gehrman



A Note from the Intern

Amy Carlson

This month's theme is quite broad - "The Ages." It can be interpreted in many ways. It could mean the ages of the earth, the ages of humanity, or the different ages in a life span. I suppose it depends on what scope of history you want to look at. Definitely a lot to explore within the topic!

It did get me thinking about generations, specifically the generation before mine, my generation, and the generation after me and how these generations have been changed by the advance of technology. We have experienced an exponential boom in technology and information sharing in our lifetimes. I don't think any other period of humanity has had to deal with so much advancement and change all at once. How do we deal with this phenomenon? How do we deal with the pace of change? I look forward to the first two worship services in February in which we can explore together the meaning of technology in our lives.

I feel fortunate that I was born in the micro-generation between generation X and the millennials. This group is sometimes called Xennials, sometimes called The Lucky Ones, and even The Oregon Trail Generation (based on the popular 80s computer game). But what makes this micro-group unique is that we were the last generation to experience a childhood free from the Internet boom and the digital information age.

I actually do feel really lucky about this. I'm glad I had a childhood free from portable screens and

social media. I'm glad I didn't have to go through middle school thinking about my image on Facebook, Instagram, and Snapchat. I know what it is like to have a land-line phone only and to pass notes in class instead of texts. I grew up using the card catalog in the school library and using pay phones in the airport.

There are so many benefits to our modern technology in health, science, and global communication. So much can be learned and shared that can save lives and help people lead better lives. And there is no going back! The technology we use is here to stay . . . and will keep evolving.

But sometimes, I get a little wistful for a time without so many screens. As much as I love my smartphone's ability to remind me of upcoming meetings and to help me figure out where to go when I get lost, I also relish my time apart from it. How nice it is to leave it at home, when I get the notion, and to not feel the weight of it in my pocket. How nice it is to put virtual reality on hold for awhile and to step out my door for a stroll in the wonders of the natural world.

Warmly,
Amy

THE MISSION STATEMENT OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF THE MONTEREY PENINSULA

Welcoming all, we worship together with loving hearts and open minds, promoting peace, equality, and respect for the Earth. Questioning, reflecting, learning, leading ... we change ourselves as we change the world.

ART NEWS

January 30 to March 25 The Land That Sustains Us oil paintings by Paola Fiorelle Berthoin



ABOUT PAOLA

Paola's deep commitment to living in the Carmel Valley over the past fifty-four years and tending the land she has lived on for the past thirty-five years has infused her painting, writing, and advocacy for all watersheds of the Earth.

Paola's art encompasses a dedication to protecting what she can, through active caring for the land and through expressing her imagination through creative endeavors. The oil paintings in this show range from the Carmel River Watershed to the Fort Ord National Monument. They have all been painted onsite.

Paola created and designed the book, *Passion for Place: Community Reflections on the Carmel River Watershed*, which features stories, poems, essays and interviews from many community members as well as paintings by Paola and drawings by Pamela Takigawa and Anne Greene. It received a prestigious IPPY (Independent Book Publisher) bronze medal for best regional non-fiction for the Pacific Region.



Paola says, "This project is about inspiration and the possibility of cultural change, understanding what ecological integrity means, and knowing that we are a part of that integrity."

When we live together with a watershed consciousness, we come to understand more clearly how our actions affect the greater whole. Imagine how life and business could be different if more and more people around the world became immersed in their home watershed in this way!

The creative life is not only about making art objects, but about how we as a culture can bring more imagination into all our lives to solve challenges, whether they are social, environmental, or political. Being an artist is about keeping open the creative channels with which we are all born so change can happen in beautiful and constructive ways."



Born in London, England, Paola came to Carmel Valley in 1965 with her mother and three sisters. She is a graduate of Carmel High School and California College of the Arts, where she specialized in printmaking, handmade paper and animal drawing.

Paola's work is in collections nationally and internationally and has won many awards.

The Comments Book is now in the Welcome Hall just outside the sanctuary doors.

-Peggy Olsen

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION



Is Sunday School Really Dying?

When I was a child, my grandmother dropped me off at the Sunday School room to sit at a table with a handful of children my own age, where we read parts of the King James Bible

week after week after week. There were a handful of ladies who served as Sunday School teachers, plus someone to play the piano for two or three hymns. I never knew how the various parts of the Bible related to each other, but there were certain dogmatic statements that were oft repeated.

Meanwhile, my grandmother attended the adult worship service in the sanctuary. I never did experience adult worship, and I can only remember seeing the sanctuary one time. I abandoned that religion at the age of 11.

In 2017, UUA-Credentialed Religious Educator and independent consultant Kim Sweeney, published a paper called *The Death of Sunday School and the Future of Faith Formation* which has been a hot topic among religious educators since then. (The paper can be found on UUA.org; just search within the site for “Death of Sunday School.”)

Sweeney’s thesis is that Unitarians and Universalists have been following a traditional Sunday School model for many years, but many congregations are finding it more and more difficult to recruit volunteers or to keep modern families engaged in the ways they were in previous decades. The tendency is to think we just need to try harder. We need more activities, better curricula, or more (or different) staff. And compared to my childhood experience in Sunday School, we do great things. We respect the need for movement and value trips outside to play or plant irises. Our classrooms are bright and engaging. The children learn from a variety of sources, both secular and spiritual. They also see the inside of our sanctuary almost every Sunday and feel at home there.

All of these changes are important, but are they enough? Improving the basic Sunday School experience doesn’t address the significant societal changes that cause many families to skip Sunday-morning church. Nowadays, birthday parties and sports practice happen on Sunday mornings as well as Saturday afternoons. Families have less time together in general and are reluctant to take on another commitment. More adults identify as “Nones” (as in “none of the above” when asked about their religion) and don’t appreciate what our congregation, or any congregation, could add to their lives.

As UUCMP enters into this phase of exploring ways to increase our numbers and diversity, perhaps it is a good time to evaluate how we, as a church, can better meet needs of modern families. If families feel overloaded and overwhelmed, how can we adapt our programming to support them and to strengthen them? Can “faith formation” be a family experience? Can parents learn alongside their children? Can everyone gain understandings in this community that make a difference in their daily lives? Is traditional Sunday School with its strict age segregation and heavy volunteer load still the best way to support and enrich family life?

Some UU churches find the traditional Sunday School model works just fine. Others have been moving into more multi-generational worship and a less school-like R.E. program. I would guess that no two congregations are exactly alike. The important thing is that we step back to consider how to best serve the families that we all hope will become part of our community.

If you have an interest in exploring these issues, please consider joining the Committee on Family Ministry. Its charge is to guide the religious exploration program of the church and to assure that we are meeting the needs of all kinds of families to the best of our ability. We welcome your insights and energy to imagine an R.E. program that promotes strong, faithful families, and supports UUCMP as a vibrant community of learners and seekers.

Corey Brunson
Director of Religious Education

UUCMP Capital Campaign II: Mission Completed!

It's over! Five long years and \$1,943,220 later, Phase II of UUCMP's Master Building Plan is complete, including paying for it!



2004 Architect's rendering of new Welcome Hall entrance -- now a reality!

All this was made possible by Capital Fund gifts, ranging from \$10 to \$501,018, received from **142** families and individuals -- including both members and friends. Gifts do add up!

And our Endowment Fund is back to its full strength of over **\$400,000**. Board action in December enabled paying off the small remainder due from our Capital Fund for the 2015 Endowment loan which enabled early project completion.

Here's a little historical summary:

February 2003: Our Congregation overwhelmingly approved a 3-phase **Master Building Plan** for our church's 5-acre site.

October 21, 2007: Groundbreaking was celebrated for **Phase I**, which required around **\$1,400,000** in generous gifts and two years to accomplish. All infrastructure for full site build-out was completed: sanctuary foundation, parking lots, driveways, outside lights, excellent well, huge septic system, landscaping -- and construction-ready drawings and permits for the entire 3-phase Master Plan.

May 2013: We decided to move forward on **Phase II** -- completion of a large Welcome Hall and conference room, Fireplace-meeting room, and RE wing, expansion of our kitchen and rest rooms, and remodeling our sanctuary. Members and friends pledged the **\$1,900,000** needed for Phase II construction, to be paid over five years.

May 18, 2014. Ground breaking for east and west expansion wings, with **Phase II** construction completed in July 2015. As with most construction, a bank loan was necessary. Pledge payments were used to pay down the loan until December 2015, when UUCMP's Endowment Fund was borrowed from to pay the loan completely, saving around \$12,000 in interest payments. Continuing pledge payments took that internal Endowment-to-Capital loan balance down to less than \$40,000, with the rest now paid off completely. Now we are ready to move ahead!

Phase III: Our build-out will be completed with construction of a two-story addition on the West to house a great new sanctuary at the Welcome Hall level. The 2003 plan envisioned offices and meeting rooms on the lower level. We have the foundation and the will -- and the rest will follow!

Check out our Board's exciting *Provocative Proposal* and *Strategic Plan* for moving forward with UUCMP's 15-year dream of *Creating Space for Love and Justice*. **Get involved!**



New Member Mary Lou (Lou) Heumann Hacienda Carmel, Carmel

Lou has returned to the Monterey Peninsula where she lived for 14 years before a hiatus of 17 years in Ashland, Oregon. She was a member of the Rogue Valley Unitarian Fellowship in Ashland.



Having become widowed in 2017, she decided to come home to be near her son, Paul Burdick of Carmel. Son Stephen Burdick lives in Walla Walla, Washington, and son James Burdick lives in Austin, Texas. Lou was born and grew up on the banks of Lake Erie in Ohio, attended Muskingum College and graduated from the University of Michigan with a degree in nursing. She and her husband, Harry Burdick and sons moved to Monterey in 1960. She was a school nurse in the Monterey school district for 20 years and bookstore owner in Salinas with her husband for 11 years.

Lou was a board member of the YWCA in Monterey and active in liberal causes for many years. Raised in the Congregational church she was unchurched as an adult until becoming a UU in Ashland in 2001. She attended the UUCMP several times before moving to Oregon when Margaret and Fred Keip were ministers here.

Looking for a way to have an impact on the direction of the church?

We hope so! We are the Committee on Ministry (Carol Galginaitis, chair; Dennis Hickman, Randy May, Bob Sadler, and Kerry Sissem), and we really, truly want to hear from you. We wish to know the good, the bad, and the ugly. And we are so committed to this that we have come up with a proposal to make it incredibly easy for you to tell us what you think.

Within the next month, we hope to post a new type of bulletin board across from the drinking fountain outside the kitchen. This board will have two distinctly different sections. The first will be a place for you to tell us what you think is working really well. For example, if you loved the January 20 service, "It's a Rap" (magnificent, in my opinion), let us know. When people know that you like something, and why, there is a greater likelihood that that type of effort will continue.

The second part of the bulletin board will ask you to provide feedback concerning areas you think need work, or to describe specific events or situations that you think could be improved. For example, if you think there are too few Life Enrichment courses offered during the day (or the evening, or on the weekend . . .), you could post this on the other half of the bulletin board.

In either case, the relevant parties or committees would then post a timely response, outlining thoughts on how a good practice might be strengthened and continued; or how a less-than-optimal practice might be strengthened. This simple, accessible, and quick way to exchange ideas and creatively address vulnerabilities will mean that our church community will continue to reflect the wants, needs, and desires of its congregants. And because comments will be posted in this public space, everyone in the congregation can witness this open exchange of ideas on both our strengths and weaknesses.

So watch for a new bulletin board in the coming weeks, and make your first inquiry or statement to let us know what you think! Questions? Contact any of the members of the Committee on Ministry. We are here to serve you!

— Carol Galginaitis



February Shared Plate Recipient AMP Media

Founded in 1998, Access Monterey Peninsula (AMP) is a nonprofit, community media production house that delivers relevant content - content that mainstream news outlets often don't have time to cover in depth - to you live on television or streaming online. We also provide a video on demand service in case you miss our live coverage.

We are the premier community broadcasting resource for promoting community organizations, enabling local government, and informing the general public, using modern electronic media.

We are the Monterey County community's media organization, supporting non-profit organizations, public agencies and the general public with distributing their message to our broad community. Apart from covering local government meetings and city events, many non-profits use our services to promote their missions.

We provide:

- Broadcast and webcast of video programming on five television stations on Comcast channels 24, 25, and 27 and on channel 99 on AT&T
- Access to training necessary to create video programs to encourage community dialogue, awareness, and expression
- Equipment (field cameras, studios and computer editing systems) to anyone
- Professional video support at very affordable rates

We do this in order to:

- Cultivate freedom of speech and promote creative ideas
- Present local, community-relevant stories, forums, events and culture
- Encourage participatory democracy
- Make media an effective tool for nonprofit, community & municipal organizations

Who are our members?

- Viewers
- Volunteer staffers
- Amateur and professional producers
- YOU!

Need training, equipment or other support for creating your programs? AMP Media offers all this for Community Producers. Training is offered in basic camera operation, video editing and studio productions, for a small fee. And after training, you can reserve/check out our equipment for community projects.

All Monterey County residents and non-profit organizations are invited to present their non-commercial news-and-views through AMP Media's channels on cable TV, live web streaming and video on-demand. There is only a small fee for non-profits and Monterey, Marina, Seaside and Pacific Grove residents to broadcast on AMP Media TV. (Other Monterey County residents are also eligible if they volunteer at AMP Media -- or pay a modest fee.)



Please give generously to this community organization.



We currently have three Chalice Circles (Covenant Groups or Small Group Ministry) providing a way to get to know others while exploring issues of UU importance in a comfortable setting. Contact Rev, Axel or Sharon Miller about joining an existing one or facilitating a new one---materials and mentoring available!



Guest at Your Table

The last collection for *Guest at Your Table* donations will be on Sunday, February 3. There will be a place on the Shared Plate table to leave your donations. Please remember that all gifts of \$125 or more will be matched dollar for dollar by the Shelter Rock congregation. Donations can be made monthly, adding up to \$125 per year.

HELP!

On December 28 some generous soul(s) contributed 2 checks to the church. They were from Vanguard in the amounts of \$472.44 and \$472.45, totaling \$944.89, but we have no record of who it was from or what it was for. We would greatly appreciate your letting us know.

Thanks.

Harry Nagel, Treasurer



Musical Offerings



Come explore the beauty of music with us this month. We offer a variety of ways to express yourself and give back to the community through music.

Currently, the Adult Community Choir meets **every Thursday from 7-9 p.m. in the Sanctuary**. This choir is open to everyone, members and nonmembers alike, to explore singing together. We are currently preparing for two services per month and a special Music Sunday in June.

If you want to have fun with folk songs and popular tunes, come check out our Monthly Sing Along with Shawn Kraut! We are scheduled to meet **Wednesday, February 13, from 6-7 p.m. in the Fireside Room**. This group is open to anyone with any instrument to play or sing along. You can bring music or use the music other people bring. Shawn also helps guitar and ukulele players develop their skills at any level. This group does not perform in our services.

Our children's choir continues to sing and play together each Sunday between services. Students grade 1-5 are encouraged to come out and sing. We meet directly after the first service until 11am in the RE Wing. Currently, we are preparing for a special song in April. Please ask me if you have any questions about this fun opportunity for our children.

If you have any other ways you wish to contribute to the music department, please feel free to contact me! We would love your involvement in this fun program.

— Camille Hatton

COMING SOON: MAKE IT MEANINGFUL CELEBRATION WITH FREE LUNCH



Coming Soon? Watch your snail mail box for a packet announcing our upcoming Operating Fund campaign for UUCMP's July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020 fiscal year. In the packet, you will receive a letter describing the *Make it Meaningful* campaign, a brochure that gives details, and a pledge card.

Make it Meaningful? That's the theme of this year's campaign. Let's make this year's pledges *meaningful* . . . for ourselves and for our community. You decide what a meaningful, from the heart, pledge is for you.

Free lunch? Yep – after the first service  on Feb. 17 (there will be no second service that day). We'll have a short program about the campaign and your role in it. You will be offered the chance to turn in your pledge card right then and be done with it. Those who do turn in their card then will receive a piece of Valentine chocolate (dark or milk, your choice).

Then comes the complimentary, celebratory fiesta-style fajita lunch (back by popular demand). Please sign up ahead of time for the lunch so we can give our caterer an accurate count of attendees  (kids too). Sign-up sheets are on the church bulletin board, the greeter tables, and at the Caring Network table. Or, you can email Carol Collin at pacgrovia@yahoo.com.

See you on February 17 – with pledge card in hand!

— Your Stewardship Committee

FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 7:00 P.M.
~ *HUNT FOR THE WILDER PEOPLE* ~

Filmed in 2016 and written and directed by Taika Waititi, this charming comedy and rousing adventure story, takes place in the New Zealand wilderness. After tragedy strikes, a newly adopted boy and his foster father find themselves subjects of a national manhunt. The newly branded outlaws must face their options: go out in a blaze of glory or overcome their differences and survive as a family. With a poignant, funny, and a deeply affecting message . . . Empire Magazine named it the number one film of 2016.

Doors open at 6:45 p.m. It's free. Family and friends are welcome. Refreshments available for a small fee. See you at the movies!

Men's Breakfast Group

Saturday, February 9,
8:00 a.m.



All men are invited to the monthly Men's Breakfast Group. Please let Marsh Pitman (marshpitman@gmail.com) know if you will attend so we can plan for enough food. Come as early as 7:30 if you want to help.

WOMEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

Unitarian Universalist Church
of the Monterey Peninsula

We welcome all women to our twice monthly meetings—the second and fourth Thursdays.

On February 14th, Phyllis Sokol will lead our discussion of "Gardening and Plants." Feel free to bring a small houseplant to display and discuss.

On February 28th, Star Reiersen will lead our discussion of the question, "What One Possession Would You Take When Fleeing a Disaster?" Bring along a personal treasure if you wish.

Please join us from **2-3:30 p.m.** in the Fireplace Room.

—Nancy Baker Jacobs, Facilitator

EQUAL EXCHANGE PRODUCTS AVAILABLE FEBRUARY 10



Fair trade, organic coffee, tea, chocolate and olive oil will be available between services on February 10. Support sustainable farmer coops and UUCMP at the same time! Cash and checks accepted.

Contact: Janet Shing



WE'RE LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD WORSHIP ASSOCIATES!

We need talented, dedicated UUers who want to contribute to the quality of our worship services. Worship Associates support all Sunday services and sometimes provide leadership at those services as well. If you think you'd like to try your hand at this vital part of church life, please fill out the WA form that can be found digitally at the UUCMP website (under members only) or physically in our foyer, or speak to the ministers.

PUBLICATION DEADLINES

ANNOUNCEMENTS for SUNDAYS in the Order of Service or verbal Welcome and Announcements from the pulpit are due by 9 a.m. on Wednesdays.

ARTICLES for THE WEEKLY NEWS email are due by noon, Tuesdays.

Life Enrichment

The Winter Life Enrichment booklets have been published. Check out all the great groups and activities.

Contact Carol Greenstreet, who is the LE Committee Chair.

Book Discussion on *Justice on Earth: People of Faith Working at the Intersections of Race, Class, and the Environment*

February 5, 12, and 19, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the Fireplace Room

Please contact Amy Carlson (intern@uucmp.org) if you have questions, or plan to attend.

Amy Carlson, our ministerial intern, will be leading a three-session discussion of this 2018-2019 UUA Common Read.

From the UUA website: "At a time when racial justice, environmental justice, and economic justice are seen as issues competing for time, attention, and resources, *Justice on Earth* explores the ways in which the three are intertwined. People and communities on the margins are invariably those most affected by climate disaster and environmental toxins. The book asks us to recognize that our faith calls us to long-haul work for justice for our human kin, for the Earth and for all life. It invites us to look at our current challenges through a variety of different perspectives, offers tools to equip us for sustained engagement, and proposes multiple pathways for follow-up action."

Please have most, if not all, of the book read before the first session. Each session will be focused on a theme and will draw insight from the various essays in the book. (*Session 1* – The Nature of the Problem, *Session 2* – Finding our Religious Ground, and *Session 3* – Embracing Accountability and Becoming Partners.)

Suggested donation — \$5 per session

Life Enrichment Programs Affinity Groups:

Anti-Racism Book Group

First Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m.

Anti-Racism Film Group

Third Thursdays, 7-9 p.m.
in the Fireplace Room

Men's Group Breakfast

Second Saturdays, 8 a.m.
Contact: Marsh Pitman

Women's Discussion Group

Second and fourth Thursdays, 2 –3:30 p.m. Contact: Nancy Baker Jacobs

T'ai Chi Chih Wednesdays

5:30-6:30 p.m.
Contact: Ruth Smith or Jim Eagle

Sangha continues on Wednesday evenings, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Friday Night at the Movies is second

Fridays, 7 p.m. All are welcome.
Contact: John Freeman

Dances of Universal Peace

Third Sundays, 5-7 p.m. in the sanctuary
Contact: Barbara Bullock-Wilson

Questions and Answers on UUism

Would you like to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and this church? Please join our informal Q&A session, designed to answer your questions, whatever they may be.

Our next meeting will be on Sunday, February 3, at 12:30 p.m. following the second worship service, in the Conference Room. Please speak with Revs. Axel or Elaine for more information.



Grapevine

The mission of the Caring Network is to care for members and friends of the church in times of crisis and to acknowledge celebrations or sorrows. We want to strengthen the sense of community at UUCMP. Each month, this Grapevine column highlights events in the lives of different congregants. But what else does your Caring Network do? The Caring Network steering committee is comprised of seven members: Rev. Axel Gehrmann, Carol Collin, Val Gottesman, Phil Hawthorne, Jean Mansfield, Mibs McCarthy, and Gretchen Nicholas. This group meets monthly and confidentially discusses the needs of different persons in the congregation. The actions taken next involve everyone in the UUCMP community, for we are *all* the Caring Network.

What do we ask people to do, and which of your needs can we serve? We offer rides to church services and meetings. We transport folks to and from medical appointments. Folks can receive a visit at home or in the hospital or care facility. If a person is temporarily unable, we can do a few errands, to the pharmacy, the grocery store, the post office, etc. Persons prepare and deliver meals. We can help with short term child or pet care. We can assist with household chores or repairs. (Yes, we “could be handy mending a fuse when your lights have gone.”)

Each Sunday, different items are displayed on the Caring Network table. There are cards for those in times of crisis or mourning. There are birthday cards for those 80 years old and older. (Please let us know if we have somehow missed your birthday.) There are Caring Network participation forms you can fill in to indicate how you might like to be of help to others. You can then be added to the email group of people we contact when others need assistance.

Joy and Sorrows cards are on the table for those who would like a personal Joy or Sorrow read during the service. Just fill one out and hand it to an usher or one of the ministers. There are also brochures which detail what we do and the work of our other Caring Community organization, the Pastoral Associates.

If you need assistance or if you are able to be of help to others, please let us know. You can speak to one of our steering committee members on Sundays, or you can email us at caringnetwork@uucmp.org



FIRST FRIDAY COFFEE WITH THE MINISTERS

Friday, February 1, 2:30 – 4:00 p.m

Would you enjoy a cup of coffee or tea, and the opportunity to chat with the ministers, as well as a few other members and friends of UUCMP? If so, be sure to join our First Friday Coffee. Revs. Elaine and Axel will host a gathering for members and friends in the Canterbury Room of Canterbury Woods, 651 Sinex Avenue, Pacific Grove. Whether you are a resident there, or live elsewhere, please join us for a hot beverage and friendly conversation.



SOCIAL JUSTICE

No More Deaths/No Más Muertes

Four volunteers from the *No More Deaths* ministry of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson are facing prison after leaving food and water at the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge. Undocumented migrants have died in this part of the Arizona desert while trying to enter the United States.

The humanitarian aid volunteers were convicted on Friday, January 18, by Federal Magistrate Bernardo Velasco. They may be sentenced up to six months in prison and fined up to \$500 after they left water and cans of beans in the desert. Natalie Hoffman, Oona Holcomb, Madeline Huse, and Zaachila Orozco were charged with entering a national wildlife refuge without a permit, and abandonment of property, according to a statement from the aid group. Five other *No More Deaths* volunteers face charges for "efforts to place life-saving food and water" inside the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge. They will have trials in February and March.

Hoffman was also charged with operating a motor vehicle in a wilderness area. The offenses are all misdemeanors. A sentencing date will be set in the next week.

"This verdict challenges not only *No More Deaths* volunteers, but people of conscience throughout the country," *No More Deaths* volunteer Catherine Gaffney said in a statement. "If giving water to someone dying of thirst is illegal, what humanity is left in the law of this country?" Cabeza Prieta is Arizona's largest wilderness area, spanning 803,418 acres of isolated and rugged landscape of the Sonoran Desert. A joint investigation was launched by US and Mexican authorities in 2001 after at least 14 migrants died in a single incident after crossing the border in the refuge. *No More Deaths* says 155 migrants have died in the area since 2001.

Velasco said in his ruling that the refuge is "littered with unexploded military (ordnance), the detritus of illegal entry into the United States, and the on-road and off-road vehicular traffic of the US Border Patrol." He also stated that the water and food left by volunteers "erode the national decision to maintain the Refuge in its pristine nature."

One of the volunteers still awaiting trial is Scott Warren, who the group said also faces charges of felony harboring and conspiracy related to his humanitarian aid work. His trial will be in late May.

If you are interested in supporting the work of these UU humanitarian aid volunteers, please consider attending our next Social Justice Committee meeting on the first Sunday in February after the second service, February 3 at 12:45 p.m., or reach out to Dennis Hickman or Altaira Hatton.

— Altaira Hatton

Sources:

CNN <https://www.cnn.com/2019/01/22/us/arizona-aid-volunteers-guilty-trespassing-trnd/index.html>

NoMoreDeaths.org



Unitarian Universalist Church
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Carmel, CA 93923

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 10 a.m.-1 p.m.,
or call for an appointment. Closed Friday.

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Please send NUUsletter submissions as an email attachment by the 16th to newsletter@uucmp.org, and indicate UUCMP NUUSLETTER in the subject line.

Please send submissions for WEEKLY NEWS, the weekly announcements, to office@uucmp.org by Tuesday noon.

Check the WEEKLY NEWS and website for news throughout the month.

If you have any questions, call the office, 624-7404, or e-mail us at office@uucmp.org