



NUUSLETTER

of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula

September Theme: Embracing Possibility

Sunday Service begins at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom online meeting app

September 5

"The Possibility of a Healthy Earth"

Susan Panttaja & W.A. Bjorn Nilson

These days, the devastating effects of human activity on our "blue boat home" are everywhere. The problems can seem overwhelming. Yet if we are willing to face the situation, we can join with others to work for a healthier Earth. Today we will acknowledge the challenges ahead and draw strength from our UU faith, which turns love into action.

September 12

"Impossible Dreams"

Rev. Dr. Barbara Wells ten Hove
& W.A. Ray Krise

In the brilliant musical, *Man of La Mancha*, we are challenged by its message to live fully in what is while still dreaming of what could be. It is this collision of the world as it is and the world as it might be that is the spiritual heart of this powerful story. How are we challenged to accept what is while dreaming for something better?



Religious Exploration

is available via Zoom each Sunday
for children (pre K – 11) at 10 a.m. and for
teens (12 – 18) at 12 p.m.

September 19

"Heavenly Possibilities"

Karen Brown & Lee Hulquist

Popular culture, music, film, and books combine with science and world religions to give us many ideas about an afterlife. Our UU faith does not choose for us. This service will offer a look at our individual choices from among the many possibilities and the choice to create our own.

September 26

"Mindset Creates Possibility"

(Shortened) Worship Service & Connections Fair

Susan Panttaja & W.A. Ken Cuneo

"Ask what's possible, not what's wrong," says Dr. Margaret Wheatley. For some of us, this is easier said than done! This morning, we will briefly consider the benefits of being open to possibilities, especially in the service of collaborating with others. We will then celebrate the many possibilities for collaboration as we enjoy lively presentations by this congregation's committees and groups. (See page 11.) Don't miss it!

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See the calendar at
www.uucmp.org



Sabbatical Minister's Message Susan Panttaja

“Change is coming – what do we need to imagine as we prepare for it?” – adrienne maree brown

Our worship theme for September is “Embracing Possibility.” This is an interesting theme for these times, when changes are coming at us faster than ever, even as the ongoing pandemic has us stuck. As the delta variant forces us to rethink our expectations for expanding our interactions with people outside our “bubble,” it is easy to dwell on the negative possibilities. It is easy to get bogged down in weariness, uncertainty, and even distrust. It is easy to dwell on what we cannot do, rather than on what we can.

How do we embrace positive possibilities when the negative feels so close? How do we keep the flame of hope alive, given the state of the world?

In her book *Emergent Strategy*, adrienne maree brown articulates a need for “collaborative ideation.” “It isn’t about having the number one best idea,” she writes, “but having ideas that come from, and work for, more people.”

I see “collaborative ideation” at work in the committees, task forces, and interest groups here at UUCMP. Together, collaboratively, you sustain this liberal religious community. From caring for one another to offering worship and spiritual uplift, to working on social justice initiatives, you continue the important work of this church by bringing yourselves – in so many ways – to the tasks at hand. I am so heartened by the care you show one another!

I believe it is through the processes of collaboration and caring for one another that **hope** is born. Whether you are able to serve on a committee, offer a ride to someone in need, or receive a phone call from another member, this congregation welcomes your ideas, your efforts, your presence, your possibility.

If you are seeking new ways to collaborate and connect within this congregation, be sure to come to the Connections Fair, during the September 26 worship service. There, you will get a sense of what goes on in the many committees and groups in this active place. Be prepared to be inspired! The possibilities are endless!

Yours in faith,
Susan

I dwell in Possibility--
A fairer House than Prose--
More numerous of Windows--
Superior--for Doors--

Of Chambers as the Cedars--
Impregnable of Eye--
And for an Everlasting Roof
The Gambrels of the Sky--
Of Visitors--the fairest--
For Occupation--This--
The spreading wide my narrow Hands
To gather Paradise--
— Emily Dickinson



Rev. Dr. Barbara Wells ten Hove has served congregations in Washington, Colorado, Maryland, and British Columbia. She and her husband Jaco retired in 2017 as Emeritus Ministers from Cedars UU Church on Bainbridge Island, Washington, and are now happily enjoying life in Bellingham, Washington. While Rev. Barbara’s focus in ministry was on worship and UU evangelism, in retirement she preaches, writes, sings, volunteers at Hospice and does “noble chores” at her co-housing community. She and Jaco are good friends of our ministers, Revs. Elaine and Axel Gehrmann.

Life Enrichment

The Fall Life Enrichment catalog will be published soon. We'd love to have your ideas for classes for the fall. If you'd like to teach something or have questions, please get in touch with Carol Greenstreet, LE committee chair.

People of Color Group

Do you identify as a person of color? Join us for conversation and camaraderie! The UUCMP POC (People of Color) Group provides a framework of support and acknowledgment for members and friends of UUCMP who have lived experience as people of color. At our meetings, we will gather as an intentional, accepting fellowship of POC UUs to explore and reflect on our individual experiences, intersectionality, and UUism.



The UUCMP POC Group meets at 7 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Monday of every month, and at noon on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month. Feel free to drop in and join us at any of these times! Meetings will be virtual at <https://tinyurl.com/uwf8rdjf> until in-person meetings at the church resume.

Men's Breakfast Group

Saturday, September 11, at 8:30 a.m.



All men are invited to the monthly Men's Breakfast Group via Zoom. We encourage you to settle in at your computer or phone with a cup of coffee and/or breakfast food and join our conversation.

If you have questions, please contact Douglas McLain dmclain@hotmail.com

Our Zoom Meeting ID is: 161 3331 8951.
Passcode: 490Agua!!! You can join via phone (call 669 254 5252) or via computer - simply click on this link: <https://nps-edu.zoomgov.com/j/16133318951>

PUBLICATION DEADLINES

ANNOUNCEMENTS for SUNDAYS in the Order of Service or 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. Newsletter articles are due the 16th of each month.

SCHEDULED EVENTS

Anti-Racism Book & Film Discussion Group Tuesday, September 7, 7 p.m. via Zoom. See page 8.

Board of Trustees meets Wednesday, September 15, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Buddhist Sangha is every Wednesday at 7 p.m. via Zoom. See page 8.

Community Choir meets Thursdays, 7 - 9 p.m. via Zoom.

Connections Fair is after the shortened 10:30 a.m. worship service Sunday, September 26.

I-HELP for Men and I-HELP for Women is supported now by financial donations to UUCMP. We will still continue to provide monthly meals. If you can help, please consider sending a check to the church or clicking the DONATE button on the UUCMP website and indicating that the donation is for I-HELP.

Membership Committee meets Wednesday, September 22, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Men's Breakfast Group meets Saturday, September 11, 8:30 a.m. via Zoom. See article to the left.

Music Committee meets Wednesday, September 1, 5 p.m. via Zoom.

NUUsletter deadline for the October issue is Thursday, September 16.

People of Color (POC) group meets Saturdays September 4 and 18 at noon, and Mondays September 6 and 20 at 7 p.m. at <https://tinyurl.com/uwf8rdjf> See article to the left.

Program Council meets Tuesday, September 7, 12:30 p.m. via Zoom. For questions contact Lauren Keenan programcouncil@uucmp.org

Sing Along will meet on Wednesday, September 8, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Social Justice meets Sunday, September 5, 12 p.m. via Zoom.

Stewardship meets at 1 p.m. Wednesday, September 1, via Zoom.

Women's Discussion Group meets September 9 and 23, 2 p.m. via Zoom. See page 6.

Zumba meets Tuesdays at 6:45 p.m. via Zoom.

President's Corner — Bud Smith



**“Hold the space.
We are coming.”**

How can love win, beloved? My heart breaks every time I open to what's going on around me. I can't change all of this. It is too much. I am too small. Hear my prayer of lament.

I rest in brokenhearted silence . . .

But out of this silence I hear the call of the future. My great-great grandchildren call to me. My great-great grandchildren are cheering us on.

“You don't have to win everything, just hold the space. Just hold the space. We are coming.”

My work, our work, is maybe not to win, but just to try.

Love wins every time one of us takes one small action in the service of a wider and bigger love.

Maybe love is already winning?

Hear our prayer of hope and possibility.

The foregoing is a slight paraphrasing of the prayer offered by Arif Mamdani and Julica Hermann de la Fuente at the June 27 UUA General Assembly Sunday closing service. I was quite moved when I heard it. To me, the words very eloquently describe what we at

UUCMP are doing in all of our social justice and environmental justice work. Whether we are contemplating metaphorical great-great grandchildren or actual great-great grandchildren, it is difficult not to be concerned about the world we are leaving them, and we worry that we are not doing enough to right the wrongs that we see. But we must persist and we must not despair.

Like the person who plants a tree seedling, hoping and trusting that it will grow, we may not see the full flowering and reward of our work during our lifetimes. But still we must do the work, and we must be confident that we will be like all of the abolitionists and suffragists and civil rights workers who did not live to see the fruits of their labor, but labored anyway, hearing the voices of their great-great grandchildren.

Despite all of the restrictions imposed on our church by COVID, it is heartening to see that the Good Works of UUCMP continue in so many areas, carried out by so many people. Love truly is still winning.



A special thanks to Steve Johnson and the rest of our Reopening Task Force for all of their hard work in getting us closer to the day when we can once again meet in person.

Be well,

Bud

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION



Embracing Possibility: The Multiverse

I love science fiction, and that our current lives are science fiction from 50 years ago. Billionaire space race, iPhones, FaceTime, the internet, and why yes, Mrs. Horn, I do wear a calculator on my wrist. We have hoverboards, self-driving cars, Roombas, and drones that deliver important things (Starbucks coffee) within minutes in some very special places! We have neural nets, cloning, and 3D printed toys, houses, guns, and even body organs! We have lab-grown meat. Yep. And the military has confirmed that UFOs are real; we just don't know what they are. We can even see all the way back to the beginning of our universe with microwave telescopes that show how everything started with a flash of light. The Big Bang AND "Let there be light!"

So, since our current daily lives are beyond the wildest imaginings of the science fiction writers of 50 years ago, though some of their dreams are now our reality, will our science fiction today turn to fact as well in another 50 years? Will mathematicians discover specific equations that open doorways into elsewhere? Will worm hole technology allow our billionaire space racers to take us to the other side of the universe, or beyond? In 2016, researchers in Spain created a tiny wormhole based on magnetism! Will we perfect this technology, or perhaps figure out fold technology and poke through into a completely different universe that is almost like ours? Or one that is so beyond different it would be completely unrecognizable? I love the idea of the multiverse. Layers of universes stacked together and connected like flaky thin layers of phyllo dough in a slice of baklava. Perhaps there are other universes with planets like our Earth! Ones where we have perfected the bad and

righted the wrongs. Where science and religion work together.

Where there is no hatred, no racism, no war, no one is hungry or homeless, the waters are clean, and where they should be. Where the air is clear, trees grow tall, and the Earth breathes free.



What if we could even bring elements of this into our very own universe and down onto our very own Earth, and into this very level of consciousness?

Oh, let it be!

The possibilities are endless when nothing is impossible.

Erin Forstein
Director of Religious Exploration

Young Adult Discussion Group! Ages 18-35

We are starting a new Young Adult Discussion Group! The UUA lists young adults as between the ages of 18 and 35,



and I would like to invite everyone in this age group to come to our new get together over Zoom on Sundays at 1 p.m. PDT! We will discuss current world events, things happening in our own lives, books and movies you have recently seen and want to recommend, the reason you think your favorite coffee shop is supreme, and more! We might even discuss religion, though it is not necessary.

Contact DRE Erin at dre.erin@uucmp.org for more information!



HARMONY AT HOME

Ending violence. Building families.

September Shared Plate Recipient *Harmony at Home*

For 17 years, Harmony At Home (HAH) has served thousands of Monterey County children, youth, and families whose lives have been disrupted and traumatized by violence, abuse, grief, and loss. HAH's trauma-informed counseling, mentoring, and teaching programs are helping children and families to better communicate, to develop empathy and compassion toward others and to make better choices. All the services that HAH provides are in partnership and collaboration with schools, agencies, and the surrounding communities served. Currently, HAH is in partnership with over thirty school districts and agencies combined.

Harmony At Home's mission:

"To end the cycles of violence and abuse by empowering children and young adults with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to lead healthy and productive lives."

Due to shelter in place, HAH's services are more critical to the health of our community than ever, and we are continuing to positively impact children and families throughout Mon-

terey County. Staff is witnessing anxiety and depression increasing in the clients HAH serves. HAH's partners are recognizing how important social and emotional support services are in the prevention of developing more severe mental health issues, especially with the added trauma of COVID-19.

HAH has expanded to South Monterey County, helping to break cycles of violence and abuse for thousands of people by teaching youth and families healthy ways to express their feelings and alternatives to violence. The work Harmony At Home is doing is significantly improving the climate and culture of the communities we serve.

Thank you to the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula for your generous contributions to our work!

With Gratitude,
Julianne Leavy
Executive Director
Harmony At Home

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 from 2-3:30 p.m. We expect to continue meeting via Zoom until the church building reopens. We plan to hold the following discussions in September:

On September 9th, Maureen Brinkerhoff will lead our discussion of "How to Organize Your Life."

On September 23rd, Diana Martinetto will lead our discussion of "Money Shame."

Watch for the emailed notices for these events. They will contain the Zoom link and password.

—Nancy Baker Jacobs, Facilitator

Musical Offerings

Come check out the fun and exciting activities from our music department this month.

Our Adult Community Choir is open to everyone, members and nonmembers alike, to explore singing together. As an ensemble, we prepare special music for various Sunday services. We meet **every Thursday from 7-9 p. m.** For September we are still meeting via **Zoom** for rehearsals. We practice the hymns for services and participants can choose to make audio recordings. We will also be working on *Nella Fantasia* and *A Million Dreams* from *The Greatest Showman*. No experience nor commitment is necessary! We look forward to Zooming with you. If you would like to be a song leader for hymns, let me know!

Our Children's Choir is also open to all children. While it is geared toward children in 1st-8th grades, all are welcome. We meet **every Tuesday from 4:00 – 4:30 p.m.** in the music Zoom room.



Also, if you are looking to just join other voices in a cacophonous karaoke style sing-along, then you are in for a treat. *Sing Along with Shawn* will be available in a fun, interactive manner via Zoom and YouTube. We will meet on the **2nd Wednesday of the month from 5:30-7:00 p.m.**



All music meetings will convene via this Zoom link:

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android:

<https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/8287611715>

Or iPhone one-tap (US

Toll): +16699006833,8287611715# or
+13462487799,8287611715#

Or Telephone: Dial: +1 669 900 6833 (US
Toll)

Meeting ID: 828 761 1715

Password: music (case sensitive)

Our other ensembles will still be on hold until we can resume in person. However, if you like to sing or play an instrument and are willing to try some technological experiments, I am open to hearing from you.

Finally, if you have other ways you wish to contribute to the music here at UUCMP, just let me know! music@uucmp.org

— Camille Hatton

Join Our Church!

Even in these pandemic times - *especially*, in these times - 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 resonate with our principles and you are at least 16 years of age, then we invite you to sign our membership 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.

If you are interested in becoming an “official” member of UUCMP, contact the Membership Committee chair Maren Martin (membership@uucmp.org).

Please join us!

Life Enrichment Programs Affinity Groups

No groups will meet face-to-face in September. Some will meet via Zoom.

Anti-Racism Book and Film Discussion First Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m. via Zoom

Men’s Breakfast Group meets second Saturdays 8:30 a.m. via Zoom Contact: Doug McLain See page 3.

Women’s Discussion Group Second and fourth Thursdays, 2 – 3:30 p.m. via Zoom Contact: Nancy Baker Jacobs. See page 6.

Buddhist Sangha will continue via Zoom on Wednesday evenings, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Contact: Rev. Dennis Hamilton

Friday Night at the Movies will not meet in September. Contact: John Freeman for any questions.

Dances of Universal Peace will not meet in September. Contact: Barbara Bullock-Wilson if you have any questions.

People of Color (POC) meets at 7 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Monday of every month, and at noon on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month at <https://tinyurl.com/uwf8rdjf> Contact: Patty Pai

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.

WE’RE LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD WORSHIP ASSOCIATES

We need talented, dedicated UUs 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 contact the Sabbatical minister.

Environmental Justice Group

Do you remember Darby Moss Worth? She was a long time member of UUCMP who wanted to be buried in her front yard but couldn't get permission. She made collages of herself as a tree and said, "someday I will be soil for the earth." She despised the funeral industry and their predatory practices.



Then she discovered Katrina Spade and the Urban Death Project (now Recompose). Katrina and Darby became good friends. Katrina reasoned that we are running out of room to bury people in the ground or in vaults. She knew the excessive use of fossil fuels and the air pollution caused by cremation. Katrina is an architect and Recompose is the product of a graduate degree project from Washington State University. Darby was one of six persons to be composted in the experimental program. A funeral home in Seaside agreed to pack her body for shipping by plane without embalming, and she was refrigerated until the time when she could begin the composting process. The compost of Darby's body was donated to the Bells Mountain Conservation Forest in Washington, a legally protected natural wilderness that will remain so in perpetuity.

Last December, the country's first funeral home offering natural organic reduction – the formal term for human composting – opened in Washington, the first state to legalize the process. Since then, Colorado and Oregon have passed laws allowing it, and Assembly Bill 501 is moving through the committees of the California legislature.

Natural organic reduction is an eco-friendly alternative to traditional burial or cremation,

in which a human body is transformed into nutrient rich soil. At the Recompose facility, a body is placed inside a metal cylinder along with alfalfa, wood chips, and straw. Over the course of 30 days, during which the mixture receives oxygen and is periodically turned, natural microbes in the body and organic material raise the temperature in the vessel to 150 degrees Fahrenheit and break down the remains, including teeth and bone, into a soft soil. After another few weeks of drying the mixture, it is ready to distribute. The soil created returns the nutrients from our bodies to the natural world.



Katrina Spade with a simulation of the laying-in process.

It restores forests, sequesters carbon, and nourishes new life. Each body that completes the Recompose process creates one cubic yard of nutrient-rich soil amendment.

I have signed up for Precompose (the planning part of Recompose) to be composted when my time comes, and I am making monthly payments. If you would like to know more, contact me at mibsmccarthy@comcast.net or go to the Recompose website. <https://recompose.life/planning-ahead/>

— Mibs McCarthy



Grapevine



Jean Nichols Lee Mansfield, a longtime member of UUCMP, died of ovarian cancer at her home, surrounded by loved ones, on August 5, 2021, ten days before her 86th birthday. Jean was born Luella Jean Nichols in Malvern, Arkansas, on

August 15, 1935, to parents, Jim and Sally Nichols. She had two brothers: Ed, who preceded her in death, and Walter, who is six years her junior and has been a constant presence in her life. The family moved west in 1938 to work the sardine canneries of Cannery Row.

Jean graduated from Pacific Grove High School in 1954 and was attending Monterey Peninsula College when she met Richard R. Lee, a basic trainee at Fort Ord, at the old Methodist Church of P.G. They were married the following year and moved to Germany when Richard was sent there by the U.S. Army. They were stationed there for three years. Their first child, Elizabeth, was born in Germany in 1957, and their second child, Kate, was born in San Diego in 1960. Later that year, the family moved to Tanzania, East Africa for three years. Richard taught English at the University of Dar Salaam. Jean taught the primary grades at an English school.

In 1964, the marriage between Richard and Jean fell apart due to his infidelity, and Richard abandoned Jean and her children at the San Francisco International Airport. Raising a young family as a single mom was one of Jean's greatest challenges. She returned to Pacific Grove and drew heavily from the support of good friends and family. She paid forward the kindness shown to her and to her daughters many times over!

Jean worked as a secretary for the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District for many years, including Monterey High School and Ord Terrace Elementary School in Seaside, where she established a group of lifelong friends.

After she retired, Jean entered Monterey Peninsula College's Gentrain program. It was there that she met Matt Mansfield, the love of her life. They were married in a wedding officiated by her daughter, Unitarian Universalist minister Kate Lore. The seven years they had together before he died were filled with travel and Gentrain classes. They were the happiest years of Jean's life. Matt and Jean served UUCMP as Sunday service ushers and participated in many activities at the church.

People, nature, and books were among Jean's greatest loves. She regularly explored the forests, beaches and trails of the Monterey Peninsula and Big Sur and was always involved in at least one book group. She attended book discussions and other UUCMP classes. Jean joyfully served as a Pastoral Associate for many years and was an active participant in the Caring Network. She will long be remembered for her kindness and caring and for her wonderful smile.

Jean is survived by her partner, Phil Hawthorne, brother, Walter Nichols, daughters Elizabeth Lee and Kate Lore, and four grandsons, Miles, Nathan, David, and Everett.

There will be a virtual Celebration of Life service at 11 a.m. on Saturday, September 4. There will be a Zoom link in the weekly news.

Grapevine is one project of the Caring Network, a group whose mission is to increase and strengthen the sense of community at UUCMP. If you or someone you know is in need of assistance or has something to share, please contact the steering committee at caringnetwork@uucmp.org

Calling UUCMP Committees and Interest Groups!

It is that time of year, and the UUCMP Program Council is once again planning to hold a **Connections Fair**, via Zoom as we did last year! We are planning this event for **Sunday, September 26**, right after the (shortened) church service that morning. We would like to give each committee **exactly 2 minutes** (about 100-150 words) to share whatever it is you would like people to know about your committee.



Some suggestions include:

- a) a brief synopsis of your committee's activities, including your members, when you next meet, and anything exciting that is happening
- b) very brief statements by a couple of your committee members sharing why they enjoy being part of your committee
- c) a brief statement of the role your committee plays in carrying out the mission and strategic plan of the congregation
- d) a poster, vision board, costume, or cake representing your committee
- e) a song and dance routine capturing the essence of your committee
- f) anything else creative you can come up with within your **two minute limit** to instill excitement and interest in your committee

If you want to review what your committee presentation from 2020 consisted of (or that of any other committee) you can find the full recording on our UUCMP website under ABOUT US, Board & Committees, Connections Fair.

The deadline to indicate **your plan to participate** is due to Program Council moderator Lauren Keenan programcouncil@uucmp.org by **Sunday, September 12**, and your completed video is due to Susan Panttaja, Sabbatical Minister, sabbaticalminister@uucmp.org, by **Wednesday, September 15**.

Please discuss this opportunity with your committee and remember that you can call on your sabbatical minister if you would like help or support!

We hope this will again be a successful and fun way to let our congregation (including new members and visitors) know about the many opportunities for involvement that exist at UUCMP! We plan to give people ways to indicate their interest, and also, ways for you to follow up with them afterward.



Women & Religion VIRTUAL Retreat Saturday, September 25, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Zoom Theme: NEW BEGINNINGS

Since the spring retreat went well, we will do it again, but for a shorter time. In addition to learning sessions and affinity circles, Paula Cole Jones will be our keynote speaker on the proposed 8th UU Principle, which articulates a commitment to dismantling white supremacy. (See www.8thprincipleuu.org)

Regular registration is \$25; for women 18-35 and first timers: \$10. Scholarships available.

To be added to the retreat email list, send a blank email to PCDUUwomen+subscribe@groups.io. We'll let you know when registration opens.

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula Building Use Notice

Here is a summary of the policy for use of UUCMP buildings, proposed by the UUCMP Reopening Task Force and approved by the UUCMP Board of Trustees in August of 2021:

- Scheduled meetings up to a specified number of people may use designated rooms in the church.
- A specific point of contact is responsible for the group's adherence to UUCMP standards.
- All participants must wear protective masks covering their mouth and nose while in the building.
- All participants shall maintain social distancing of at least 3 feet from other individuals.
- The meeting room must be well-ventilated, with air exhausting to the exterior, during the meeting.
- The group point of contact will obtain sign-in/waiver signatures from attendees for retention by the church.
- The group point of contact will ensure sanitary wipe-down of high-contact surfaces after the meeting.



In the spirit of inclusivity, our primary concern in any UUCMP group gathering needs to be protecting the safety of the most vulnerable among us. This is of special concern for those with existing health issues, and for unvaccinated children.

The Reopening Task Force has been working on plans for phased re-opening, considering the possibility of groups of adults who are all vaccinated to choose to meet unmasked. This option, however, has been deferred with the recently increased cases of the Delta variant and the local public health recommendation that groups meeting indoors be masked. The Board of Trustees (BoT) has agreed to allow small groups to meet in our building, masked, and maintaining at least 3 feet of social distance, following the maximum capacity determined for each space. Space reservations should be made through the church office, and all attendees will be asked to sign in to allow for possible contact tracing. Until the planned ventilation system is installed, we will have box fans that can be used at windows/doors to exhaust air to the exterior from different rooms. Fans should be blowing out of windows, with other windows/doors left open to draw fresh air in. Spaces will have a 23-hour idle period between uses to allow dissipation of lingering airborne or surface-contact virus.

Susan Panttaja, our sabbatical minister, will work with Timothy Barrett, Erin Forstein, Camille Hatton, and our Worship Associates to develop plans for beginning face-to-face services. We appreciate the input received from 88 congregants who completed the survey about re-opening. The results, including many individual comments, are being used to inform our planning.

Key issues associated with returning to in-person worship include improving ventilation in the sanctuary, guidelines for singing, and protecting our unvaccinated children. The BoT has approved the installation of an upgraded air ventilation system (HVAC), and contracts have been awarded; an installation schedule is being coordinated. Even considering universal masking and upgraded HVAC capacity, prospects for choral activity (by either choir or congregation) remain under review. UUA and CDC guidelines are being closely considered. Similarly our RE staff is considering various options for Sunday programming until vaccines are available to children under 12. Whenever we begin offering services in the sanctuary, we will also be providing opportunities for virtual participation. We will also need to develop a system to manage the number attending in person, to allow social distancing.

We appreciate everyone's patience with this planning process. We are fortunate to have the opportunity to be together virtually on Sundays while we are waiting to be together in person.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

COPA Organizes Institutional Members to Access Rental Assistance

Rental Assistance Enrollment Events Planned for COPA Institutions COPA Lead Organizer, Arturo Aguila, has been working with leaders at four churches to qualify their members in need of rental assistance. COPA has discovered through its work in Breaking the Chain of COVID Infection that, of those eligible to receive rental assistance, very few have been able to qualify because they are unaware of the documentation needed. Consequently, much of the funding remains unspent and there are long lists of incomplete applications. COPA has made a complete list of the documentation required and is working with leaders at San Pablo Episcopal and St. Francis Xavier churches, both in Seaside; and St. Marks and St. John the Baptist Churches in King City to organize enrollment events at each of those institutions. They will have high speed internet and eligibility workers who speak their language at each of these events to be able to complete the applications for individuals and families on the spot.

Leadership Development and Building Core Teams of Institutional Members COPA has institutional members such as churches, synagogues, unions and non-profits, and not individual members. This means that each institution needs a Core Team that can help to organize work within the institution. The members of our Core Team are Karen Judkins, Lauren Keenan, Mibs McCarthy, Rev. Craig Scott, and co-chairs Elizabeth Granado and myself. The enrollment events that are being planned are also designed to help build Core Teams at these institutions two of which are new to COPA, St. Mark's and St. John's in King City.

Building Relational Power Together Elizabeth and I were among approximately 40 attendees from eleven COPA institutions who attended a planning meeting in August for the enrollment events. Arturo did a training on the meaning of relational power and how we build it. He contrasted relational power with unilateral power, or power over. He said unilateral power is not always a bad thing. In the case of an airline pilot in an emergency, the pilot needs to have control. But in the case of relational power that is something we build together by meeting together one on one, talking to

one another. Power is based upon conversation in which both persons can be influenced. If we want to build a different world we must build that power to act together.



Recall Election for the Governor — Please Vote by September 14th

The UUCMP COPA Core Team agreed to post information about the current gubernatorial recall election, ballots for which have been mailed by the county elections office to all registered voters on August 16th.

Kathryn Olmstead, Professor at UC Davis, recently published an Op Ed piece in the New York Times entitled [Deep Blue CA May Elect a Bright Red Governor](#) explaining how California's recall system works. "A recent [poll](#) gives Mr. Newsom only a 3 percent edge among likely voters in the recall election, scheduled for Sept. 14. If he gets anything less than 50 percent, then the top vote getter among his opponents — at this point, the Donald Trump-backing, mask-mandate-opposing radio host Larry Elder, with only about 20 percent support among likely voters polled — would replace him." Please be sure to vote in this recall election. To find out more about the election and how to cast a ballot go the [website of the CA Secretary of State](#)



Illustration by New York Times; photograph by Justin Sullivan/Getty Images.jpg

— Laura Nagel

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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