



NUUSLETTER

of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula

February Theme: Widening the Circle

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

February 6
"262,800 Minutes!"

Revs. Axel and Elaine Gehrmann

We're back! Your co-ministers Axel and Elaine had a terrific 6-month sabbatical, and we'd like to give you a taste of what we experienced, learned and were inspired by. This Sunday service will give you some initial sense of how we spent our 262,800 minutes!

February 13
"Who Needs Us?"

Rev. Elaine Gehrmann and W.A. Robin Jensen

This Sunday marks the kickoff of our annual Stewardship campaign. Theme: **We Care, We Share**. We will consider our role in the community, and the world, and reflect upon the importance of our mission.

February 20
"Imagining Beloved Community"

Rev. Axel Gehrmann and W.A. Ann Jacobson

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. popularized the notion of "beloved community." According to Coretta Scott King, he envisioned a world in which all people can share in the wealth of the earth, and all forms of discrimination, bigotry and prejudice will be replaced by an all-inclusive spirit of love. Can you imagine what this world

Religious Exploration

is available via Zoom each Sunday for children (pre K – 11) at 10 a.m., for teens (12 – 18) at 12 p.m. and young adults (18-35) at 1 p.m.

would look like? Can you imagine how it would feel?

February 27
"Disappearing Horizons"
Ray Krise and Bjorn Nilson

This month's worship theme has been Widening the Circle. Today we celebrate circles, which seem to call out for inclusiveness. Meeting in a circle it is always easier to see the others in the group, to commune with others and to share. Problematic straight lines end in fences, national borders, and social estrangement. If we climb the highest mountain and look about, the circularity of the horizon can be uplifting. But today's astrophysics asks us to live in a seemingly horizonless universe. The circle has widened so far that it seems to have disappeared. As individuals, how do we moor ourselves ethically, socially, politically and spiritually in this open life. And together, can we now become one people, everywhere?

In This Issue . . .

Page

2 Ministers' Message	9 Making New Connections
3 Life Enrichment	9 T'ai Chi Chih
3 People of Color Group	10 February Shared Plate
3 Men's Breakfast	11 Join Our Church
3 Publication Deadlines	11 Mission Statement
3 Scheduled Events	11 Affinity Groups
4 President's Corner	11 Worship Associates Needed
5 Religious Exploration	12 Vaccination Requirements
6 It's That Time Again	13 Zoom Karaoke Party!
6 Office Hours	14 Environmental Justice
6 Women's Discussion Group	15 Social Justice — COPA
7 JT's Mosaic	
7 On Our Sabbatical	See the calendar at
8 Musical Offerings	www.uucmp.org



Ministers' Message

Rev. Axel
Gehrman

We are so happy to be back home, and back at UUCMP! We are eager to catch up and hear what has happened in your lives these past months, and share stories of what we have been up to. (We kept in touch with Susan Panttaja and were heartened to hear a few highlights of church life. How fortunate we are to have benefited from the fine leadership and support of Susan, the Board, and other key leaders!)

As you know, the purpose of a sabbatical is rejuvenation. Like the Sabbath day, it is intended to be a time of rest and renewal. Along these lines, our plan was to take time to travel, visit other UU congregations, read, and feed our spirits. We hoped to drive across the country and also visit family and friends in Germany. And – amazingly – in the midst of a global pandemic, and unanticipated delta and omicron surges - that's just what we did! . . . And we returned home healthy and well, and enormously grateful for our home and religious community here on the beautiful Monterey Peninsula!

“Rest and renewal” was a central theme for us. But our ever-evolving plans also kept us plenty busy. Finding ways to convey even a small sampling of our many worthwhile activities and experiences will be an ongoing challenge in the weeks and months to come. Where to even begin?

So many wonderful memories: visiting state parks up and down the west coast, from the Olympic peninsula, to Montaña de Oro south of Big Sur; and national parks from Death Valley and Yellowstone to the South Dakota Badlands, all the while getting lots of practice setting up and taking down our trusty tent; visiting memorials from Santa Fe to New Orleans, from New York City to Memphis, TN; and historical sites from Selma, AL, to Monticello, VA; a brand-new First Americans Museum in Oklahoma City, and a small historical museum in the ancient Zuni Pueblo, NM. We visited with friends and family members we hadn't seen for years; and were able to

see our children, Noah and Sophia, in Chicago and Philadelphia, respectively. Our travels also took us to our own childhood homes and the cemeteries of our ancestors in Pennsylvania, upstate New York, and Germany . . . and more!

Our minds and hearts are filled with a kaleidoscope of powerful impressions: visiting countless new places of natural beauty, of historical significance, and of cultural meaning - and re-visiting places of personal importance, and seeing many people dear to us . . .

Also, every Sunday throughout our summer and sabbatical we visited UU congregations around the country, some of them via virtual live-stream, and many in-person. We were impressed by the wide variety of styles and approaches we witnessed. Each congregation found its own unique way to join together in communal worship and fellowship, reflecting their own distinct social sensibilities and collective tech abilities, thoughtfully balancing differing ways of providing safety, a welcoming spirit and well-designed efforts of inclusion. We can't wait to help implement UUCMP's version of in-person and/or multi-platform worship!

These past few months have been remarkable. So much has happened in each of our lives. So much has happened in the world. It has been an enormous privilege to be granted this time of rejuvenation, and to reflect deeply on the meaning of it all.

We look forward to sharing our respective insights and experiences in the weeks ahead, and joining together, once again, in the shared work we are called to do: questioning, reflecting, learning, leading . . . changing ourselves as we change the world.

It's great to be back!

See you in church,

Axel

Life Enrichment

The Life Enrichment catalog is currently on hiatus. If you 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, February 12, 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

You join us with your phone or computer.
Zoom Meeting ID is: 975 5961 1965. Passcode: 408070

On a phone (call 669-900- 9128)
With a computer - simply click on this link:
<https://zoom.us/j/97559611965>

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

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

Anti-Racism Book & Film Discussion Group Tuesday, February 1, 7 p.m. via Zoom. See page 11.

Board of Trustees meets Wednesday, February 16, 5:45 p.m. via Zoom.

Buddhist Sangha is every Wednesday at 7 p.m. via Zoom. See page 11.

Environmental Justice meets Tuesday, February 8, 3:30 p.m. via Zoom.

I-HELP is supported by financial donations to UUCMP, providing monthly meals. 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, February 23, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Men's Breakfast Group meets Saturday, February 12, 8:30 a.m. via Zoom. See article at left.

Music Committee meets Wednesday, February 2, 5 p.m. via Zoom.

NUUsletter deadline for the March issue is Wednesday, February 16.

People of Color (POC) group will meet Saturdays, February 5 and 19 at noon, and Mondays, February 7 and 21 at 7 p.m. at <https://tinyurl.com/uwf8rdjf> See article to the left.

Program Council meets Tuesday, February 1, 12:30 p.m. via Zoom. For questions contact Lauren Keenan programcouncil@uucmp.org

Sing Along will meet on Wednesday, February 9, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Social Justice meets Sunday, February 6, 12 p.m. via Zoom.

Stewardship meets Wednesday, February 2, 1:30 p.m. via Zoom.

T'ai Chi Chih meets Tuesdays at 4 p.m. in the sanctuary. See page 9.

Women's Discussion Group meets the fourth Thursday of each month at 2 p.m. via Zoom. See page 6.

President's Corner — Bud Smith



Be Bamboo

Bamboo? My reflection on bamboo began the other morning when I looked out my window and noticed all of the trees outside swaying slowly in the wind, and I thought to myself, "There's a metaphor here for us." A little research into flexibility led me to bamboo and my suggestion that we all be like bamboo during these unsettled times when we are faced with forces over which we have limited control.

Two characteristics of bamboo make bamboo a worthy model for us. The first is its ability to bend and be flexible when being pushed and pulled. That is one of the reasons that bamboo can survive when more rigid trees will break in the face of strong winds or heavy snowfall. As snow piles up, bamboo will actually bend into an inverted "U" shape until it shakes off the snow and springs back up again. We, too, are being pushed and pulled by the ebbs and flows of Covid. It seems as though we're in a pattern of two steps forward, one step back in our attempts to return to some sort of normalcy. We, too, must spring back up every time Covid knocks us down.

The second characteristic of bamboo that makes it resilient is its strong root system. Because it is a grass, its roots grow horizontally, intertwining with the roots around it. Growing from interconnected roots means that bamboo tends to grow in tropical and sub-tropical forests, rather than in isolation. This interconnect-

ing root system to anchor it, and the tendency to grow as part of a surrounding community, means that bamboo is able to withstand the forces aboveground seeking to pull it over. In a similar way, our deep connections with each other here at UUCMP provide a community which strengthens us and helps us weather the uncertainty and dislocations of these strange times.



So . . . be bamboo.

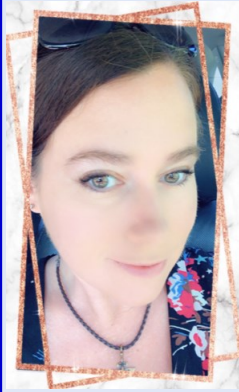
As always, thanks to all of you who continue to prepare our Sunday services and provide a gathering place for us each week. Thanks also to those of you working "behind the scenes" on our behalf getting our sanctuary ready for us to return some day. Not for the first, and not for the last, time, thanks especially to Steve Johnson and the Reopening Task Force for the many hours they have put in.

And, hoping she will hang around and read one last monthly newsletter, we want to express our gratitude to Susan Panttaja for being our ideal intern minister and our ideal sabbatical minister. It was wonderful to work with her. She provided sensitive and thoughtful guidance, and we know that she will provide inspiring leadership to a future lucky congregation. Bon voyage, Susan!!

Let us all be well, and be bamboo.

Bud

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION



Traditions and Transitions

Micah was practicing the song “Tradition!” from *The Fiddler on the Roof* the other day, as he is singing in the opening number of an upcoming production. Can you hear Micah singing this? His deep voice is resonating and echoing throughout our house, into the yard, perhaps across the entire town? Tradition! If you do

not know the song, I recommend that you watch a presentation of *The Fiddler on the Roof*, either live or the movie version, or at the very least look up the song on YouTube.

Tradition! Listening to his voice echo in my thoughts, I began to switch the lyrics. I do this a lot. I’ve always made up new lyrics to songs for various reasons, I learned this from my mother, and I’ve taught some fairly complicated science concepts to my preschoolers by adding new lyrics to tunes they knew well. I actually think in music at times. It is a language, after all. So, while listening to Micah, “Tradition!” became “Transition!”

“TRANSITION” is spelled out in bright red capital neon letters across the front of my brain. I feel that the letters are so large and bright that anyone looking in my direction would be able to read it clearly. While “tradition” is all about keeping things the same, “transition” is letting go of those things, those traditions, those comforts, that I have grown to know and cherish. Transition is moving from the known into something else. Perhaps something once known, but feels new again. Perhaps the once known something is very cherished, but it’s just been gone a while. Perhaps the once known something has been terribly missed and it’s return anticipated with joy! But the transition also means that with the return of that special thing, another very special thing has to move on. In order to embrace the new, we have to let go of something equally loved. Transitions kind of suck.

In most schools, children have a new teacher each year and get used to the transition from one teacher to an-

other as they go through their young lives. They learn valuable new skills and concepts from each new teacher, just in their interactions with the new person. They might pick up a new mannerism from one, a new expression of a slightly raised eyebrow here, or a certain phrase there. The children learn new and interesting non-academic things from each, as well as how to transition, how to deal, when it’s time to move on. Some are better at it than others.

I’m not that great with transitions, but I can handle them. I am going to miss our beloved Intern-turned-Sabbatical Minister, Susan Panttaja. She has been with us for a very long time, guiding us through some dark days of the pandemic with the most warm and thoughtful words and peaceful soothing mannerisms. I was worried when our co-ministers left on sabbatical, but not terribly so, as I felt comfortable in the presence of Susan, and knew that she would continue to guide our church through the murky pandemic waters. And she did a fabulous job! Her sermons were comforting, with warm hugs of spirituality. I can still hear her sing:

Loosen, loosen, baby
You don’t have to carry
The weight of the world
In your muscles and bones
Let go, Let go. Let go.
(Loosen Loosen, A. Halpert)

No, I’m not great with transitions, but I am handling them. As I say goodbye to Susan, and wish her journey ahead to be smooth and full of sunshine, I also jump up and down with delight that Elaine and Axel are back! Transition!

Transitions are a bit of an emotional rollercoaster. Oh how dizzy the ups and downs can be! The track shall smooth out soon, and we shall settle back into the comfort of the once known and new again. The mannerisms we may have picked up from Susan, the specific way of saying a word, a phrase, will be noticed with a smile of remembrance as we reconnect and continue on our path with our returned and beloved co-ministers.

— Erin Forstein
Director of Religious Exploration



IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!

Many activities are going on in the background to prepare for the 2022/23 Annual Operating Fund Campaign (*We Care, We Share*) which officially begins with a kick-off sermon on February 13. By then, you will have received a pledging packet that includes a pledge card for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022. Please be on the lookout for it in your mail.

This campaign asks who needs us and how we need each other. We do interact with and care about others in the congregation of UUCMP,

and we lend support to our community and the larger world. We feel that it is important to lend support to this organization, this church. The Rev. James Ishmael Ford said, "We find our completeness in knowing that we are woven out of each other and the cosmos itself." How is our existence woven out of each other and all that is?

There are many ways to give to this congregation, through our actions and financially. Please give serious consideration on how you want to support our community financially. Mail in your pledge card or drop by the UUCMP office before March 30, 2022. Your pledge is vital.

Thank you for your consideration and generosity!

Your Stewardship Committee



During the COVID-19 pandemic, the UUCMP office is open for limited hours: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays. However, you can email the office or leave a telephone voicemail message at any time and we will get back to you as quickly as we can. Thank you for your patience.

— Ray Krise

WOMEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula

The Women's Discussion Group fosters friendship and sharing of ideas among women in UUCMP and the wider community. To enrich our lives, we explore a variety of interests and experiences in an open and accepting atmosphere and cover a wide range of topics.

We welcome all women to our monthly meetings, which are held on the fourth Thursday of each month, currently via Zoom. Our next meeting will be on February 24th, when Star Reiersen will lead our discussion of "What Things Do You Collect?" Watch for the emailed notice for this event. It will contain the Zoom link and password.

If you wish to be added to the WDG email list, contact either Nancy Baker Jacobs at pgauthor@comcast.net or the church office.

—Nancy Baker Jacobs, Facilitator

JT Mason's Mosaic



JT Mason is a woman of many interests and multiple talents.

Many of you know that JT loves animals, that she is passionate about social justice, loves her family, and that she worked in radio. You may not be aware that she is also a very accomplished mosaic artist.

When JT retired from radio, she started taking art classes at MPC and was especially drawn to the many possibilities offered when creating a mosaic. Over the eight years that she has been exploring mosaics, JT has been most delighted with the outcome when she uses mir-

ror, iridescent glass, and other materials that reflect light in the finished piece, though she also employs organic materials like stones collected in meaningful locations.

For all who come to marvel at and appreciate JT's wonderful mosaic, you will know what she means about how reflecting light changes the piece, depending on the time of day and the direction one is moving as they pass by.

Her large mosaic, depicting the natural world of the peninsula, is mounted on the exterior wall of UUCMP between the welcome hall and the conference room. Before starting this weeks long project she did not sketch out the overall design—the vision existed solely in her mind's eye, with her strong hands doing the work of making that vision a reality.

This is the only piece of art JT has ever signed.

We at UUCMP are forever grateful for JT's generous contribution. Her mosaic certainly enhances our campus and warmly welcomes all who visit us.

We are also very grateful to Skip Kadish, who took such care in mounting JT's mosaic.

— Lauren Keenan

"What Axel and Elaine Did on Their Six-Month Sabbatical"

Sunday February 6th, 4 p.m. on Zoom—

Join Axel and Elaine on Zoom for an hour-long presentation highlighting their sabbatical experiences, with time afterwards for Q&A and discussion. There'll be lots of photos, recommendations, and tales of adventure; sharing insights, inspirations, and more.

Please join us!

<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/95474967829>



Musical Offerings

Somewhere along the lines of inclusion and exclusion exists some “standard” to define inherently incorporated participation, and an invitation for something different. Curiously, in order to widen a circle, we both leverage held power and influence in order to include diversity, while simultaneously opening up vulnerabilities towards the unfamiliar or uncomfortable. Ultimately, this widening requires a lot of

physically singing has been revitalizing and sustaining for people, even in solitude. We have continued to have community members and church members alike join their efforts together to create beauty greater than themselves.

Everyone

who has participated in the virtual choir experience over the course of the last 22 months has improved as a singer. We have transformed ourselves and one another through the spirit of resilience and the power of music.

Can we transfer these qualities to widening our church circles? Can we exercise such resilience and vulnerability to include greater diversity? Can we seek to include more expressions of existence and lived experiences, for the betterment of us all? Can we leverage privilege, not to make space for those who may not have it, but because we know everyone takes space in their own way, and we wish to converge with spaces less familiar to ourselves in order to normalize that lived experience for everyone?

faith, integrity, grounding, personal reflection, radical welcoming, flexibility, honoring of experience, and intentional curiosity and wonderment.

Our choir has embodied this practice, to one degree, during the pandemic. When the fundamental qualities of our meeting were named to be listed among the most dangerous of activities, the choir had to dig deep and determine what was important and why.

We anchored to the fact that choir is about community, and we kept meeting both for Zoom rehearsals and various virtual and small in-person social gatherings. The practice of



**Sing Along
with Shawn**

2nd Wednesdays
5:30-7 PM



**All Meetings
via Zoom**

ID: 828-761-1715

Password: music

All Are Welcome :-)

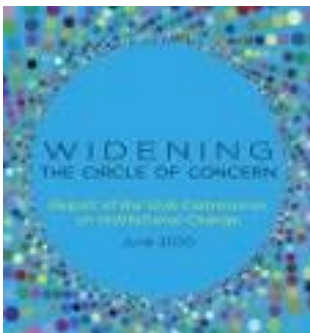


Thank you for your consideration of my musings this month. Feel free to join us for any of our regular music meetings or reach out to me for other musical offerings.

— Camille Hatton

MAKING NEW CONNECTIONS

Over the course of the past year your Board of Trustees has been reading and discussing *Widening the Circle of Concern*, a report of the UUA Commission on Institutional Change. The



Commission was charged with conducting an audit of the power structures and analyzing systemic racism and white supremacy culture within the UUA. Sadly, but not surprisingly, at least to those

who have been UUs for a while, the Commission found numerous instances of oppression within our power structures as well as ample evidence of both systemic racism and white supremacy culture. However, they also offered numerous ways in which we, as UUs, might start to overcome these failings. Among their many recommendations were calls to encourage donations to organizations led by people of color (POC) and indigenous people who are working on justice issues and to deepen and strengthen connections with Black, indigenous, and people-of-color-led organizations.

Following up on their recommendations, we asked our own POC group if they were aware of any organizations or individuals that would meet those criteria. They suggested The Village

Project, located in Seaside. The Village Project (TVP) was founded to help meet the needs of the under-served African American community. Among the many services it provides is the Mae C. Johnson Education and Cultural Enrichment Academy, whose goal is to prepare at-risk students for academic success. When we dug a little deeper we found that several members of our congregation were already working with that group and one long-term member enthusiastically endorsed them, offering to put us in touch with their director. In December the Board voted to make a one-time donation of \$5,000 to TVP and to budget another \$5,000 in the coming year's budget. Our long-term goal is to not only support this group financially but to partner with them in furthering their work. Board members are in the process of meeting with TVP leaders to discuss how our church can make a meaningful connection with them.

One of UUCMP's long term goals is to become a more diverse congregation. It really doesn't look like we're making much headway in meeting that goal. Perhaps if diversity isn't beating a path to our door we might get there by beating our own path to its door. We are looking forward to making new enriching and rewarding connections with groups like TVP. We are walking the walk and, in so doing, helping ourselves live our faith more fully.

— Harry Nagel

T'ai Chi Chih in the UUCMP Sanctuary

T'ai Chi Chih sessions continue in person at the church Tuesdays at 4 p.m.

Led by certified teacher Julie Anongos, T'ai Chi Chih is a mindfulness moving meditation. The movements are gentle, flowing and easy to learn. The benefits may include peace of mind, better health, and joy.

No experience is needed, and newcomers are welcome.

Each person is requested to donate \$5 to the church for use of the building. All Covid protocols will be observed.

For questions, Contact Mary Kay Hamilton, marykayhamilton@att.net





February Shared Plate Recipient *Center for Farmworker Families*

The purpose of the Center for Farmworker Families is to promote awareness about the difficult life circumstances of binational families while proactively inspiring improvement in binational family life, both in the United States and in Mexico.

The past two years in California have been the worst years for farmworkers that I have experienced in over 20 years of working in the central coast farmworker community. Forty-six thousand farmworkers have died of Covid-19 in the state, western wildfires created ash in the fields and unsafe, polluted air, and finally, the drought forced many growers to stop planting vast acreages of their land because there was not a sufficient water supply to grow the crops. The result has been that farmworker wages were approximately only one-half of their normal impoverished income.

We partnered with organizations in the community to take positive action. The Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County provided rental assistance for literally hundreds of at-risk farmworker families. The Hispanic Federation and the Latino Community Foundation as well as other organizations and many donors from as far away as England provided funds for food, household goods, clothing and other essential items.

We partnered with doctors at Dominican Hospital to set up three Covid vaccine clinics and an additional booster clinic.

I have met too many farmworker families who have children who have been exposed to pesticides and are suffering from cancer, ADHD, autism spectrum disorder and learning disabilities. I question why the extent of this epidemic is normalized?

We started a group that we call CORA (Campaign for Organic Regenerative Agriculture). The goal is for all of Santa Cruz County to be converted to organic, regenerative agriculture; no more pesticide use!

For 2022, we will continue organizing to rid Santa Cruz County of toxic pesticides. We will work with local organizations to raise funds for farmworker family rent relief. We will continue to partner with Second Harvest Food Bank to provide monthly donations of food for hundreds of farmworker families. We will continue our computer classes for farmworkers, and provide farmworkers with needed computers. Finally, we will continue to work with environmental advocates to provide opportunities for farmworkers to visit the many beautiful ecosystems of our unique region, plus a visit to the Monterey Aquarium.

Thank-you so much for your support!
Dr. Ann Lopez, Director
Center for Farmworker Families



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

Most groups will not meet face-to-face in February. 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 meets on fourth Thursdays via Zoom. Contact: Nancy Baker Jacobs. See page 5.

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 February. Contact: John Freeman for any questions.

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

POC (People of Color) 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 at <https://tinyurl.com/uwf8rdjf>. See page 3.

T'ai Chi Chih meets every Tuesday at 4 p.m. in the sanctuary. See page 7.

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 ministers.

VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS FOR IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE AT UUCMP WORSHIP SERVICES AND EVENTS IN THE BUILDING

December 15, 2021

As an expression of care for our community, and in recognition that the health and well-being of everyone are interconnected, UUCMP now requires COVID-19 vaccination, or documentation of a recent negative test for COVID-19, for anyone aged 5 or above who enters the building for Sunday worship services or other church-sponsored events.



Volunteers will confirm vaccine status as people arrive for in-person Sunday services. The church will keep a list of those who have shown evidence of vaccination – once your name is registered, you will be pre-cleared for building entry. You will not need to sign in for Sunday services; attendance notes will be kept by the entrance volunteers in case contact tracing is needed later.

To get yourself on the list of vaccinated folks, please do one of the following:

IN PERSON: show your vaccination card, or a photograph of the card, as you enter. Your name will be added to the “vaccinated” list at that time.

ONLINE: email a legible photograph of your vaccination card to UUCMP’s special email address, vaccinations@uucmp.org.

Unvaccinated folks can enter the building if they present official documentation of a negative test for COVID-19, taken within the preceding 72 hours. Home-test kit results will not count. Monterey County Health Department publishes an online list of approved testing sites:

<https://www.co.monterey.ca.us/government/departments-a-h/health/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19/covid-19-testing-locations>

UUCMP still requires people in the building to wear facial masks and maintain social distancing from others not in their household.

You can read the full COVID-19 Vaccination Policy document, which was updated on January 19, 2022, on the church web site, <https://uucmp.org/unitarian-universalist-church-of-the-monterey-peninsula-uucmp/>

Thank you for helping make UUCMP safe for all who enter, and for supporting the health of the wider community.

Zoom Karaoke Party

With professional Karaoke deejay Dana Morrigan

Saturday, February 12, 2022

A family-friendly event for all ages. Invite your friends to join us!

6 p.m. PST – 9 p.m. PST

There will be a requested donation to attend. Please check the *Events* section of the UUCMP website for the concert link.

[\(https://uucmp.org/congregation-news/events/\)](https://uucmp.org/congregation-news/events/)

Suggested Donation: \$10 for adults, \$15 per family



Try your hand (and voice) at performing musical pieces.

Log in and join the fun!

Environmental Action News

Update on County-wide Residential Food Waste Composting

by Kathleen Craig

Here we are again, finding that the topic of Monterey County residential composting is an important issue in need of review and updating. My grandmother used to refer to difficult situations as “trying to make a silk purse out of a sow’s ear,” and when talking about compost, I think that modern waste management is the proof that 15th century proverbs aren’t always accurate. It turns out that something as ubiquitous as kitchen scraps is a valuable resource. We now know to be fact that, with modern sustainable commercial processing, much of what was destined for the landfill in the past can be sustainably repurposed and turned into a valuable resource. Also, by eliminating it from our garbage cans, we can actively participate in protecting our environment from the devastating effects of methane in the atmosphere. There is another benefit to putting our kitchen scraps in the yard waste bins: Monterey Regional Waste Management District (MRWMD) has the facility to windrow compost at the landfill which means our local resources are kept local.

We have all seen the advertisements about the changes that are now in effect about how to deal with our kitchen scraps. Starting January 1, 2022, we are supposed to be putting all of our

kitchen waste into our green yard waste bins with the exception of raw meat, liquids and grease, and paper or plastic food wrappers. (So called “compostable” products like plastic bags and single use takeout supplies do not fully break down in the composting “windrows.”) They have to be sorted out of the waste before being composted, using more valuable resources, because they leave behind microplastics. Some people are concerned about the “ick” factor of putting kitchen waste into the yard waste bins. Simple actions will reduce the “ick” factor. Keep leaves or other garden trimmings close to green bin so that you can cover kitchen waste after depositing it in the bin. After your bin is emptied, make a layer of yard waste in the bottom before adding kitchen scraps. Most communities are giving away kitchen compost buckets free of charge. You can contact your city’s sustainability manager for more information.

If you have questions, you can visit Monterey Regional Waste Management District online at <https://www.mrwmd.org/composting/faqs/>

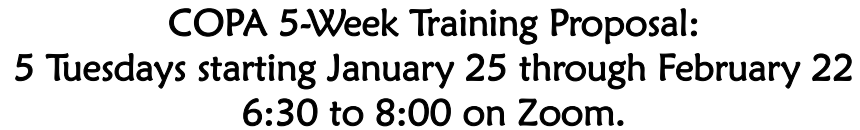
Contact the UUCMP Environmental Justice Committee if you would like to be involved in this and other sustainability projects we are working on.

environmental-justice@uucmp.org





JUSTICE



https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcrf-mrrT0qGd2Teo1sRfcNQXqhu1sSgA_1

- What is COPA?
 - o 28 Dues paying Institutions - a rich mix of religion, ethnicity, class, geography
 - o We raise our own money - we own the organization
 - o We do not work on a single issue; we decide what we want to work on.

- Importance of Mediating Institutions
 - We need to build power to be effective
- Levels of Power
 - What do we mean by power?
 - Who has power?
 - How do we build power?

- If we are not growing we are dying
 - o Recruitment is organizing
 - o Relational Power
 - o Trust, relationship before accountability

- Identify issues,
- Identify leaders
- Energy

- Qualities of a Leader
 - What are the qualities of effective leaders?

Page 15

**Unitarian Universalist Church
of the Monterey Peninsula
490 Aguajito Road
Carmel, CA 93923**

Office Hours

During the COVID-19 pandemic,
the office is open for limited hours: 10 a.m.
to 1 p.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays.
Email to office@uucmp.org

Co-Ministers

the Revs. Elaine and Axel Gehrman
minister@uucmp.org

Director of Religious Exploration

Erin Forstein
dre.erin@uucmp.org

Church Administrator

Ray Krise
831- 624-7404 x 2105
admin@uucmp.org

Office Assistant

Karina Briseno
831- 624-7404 x 2104
office@uucmp.org

Music Director

Camille Hatton
624-7404 x 2101
music@uucmp.org

Caring Network

caringnetwork@uucmp.org

NUUsletter Editor

Carol Collin
newsletter@uucmp.org

Board of Trustees

Bud Smith *President*
Kathleen Craig, *Secretary*
Harry Nagel, *Treasurer*
Lauren Keenan,
Program Council Moderator
Jon Czarnecki, Carol Greenstreet, Steve
Johnson, Mike Lovell, Kent Weinstein

Ministers Emeriti:

The Revs. Fred and Margaret Keip

Return Service Requested



February 2022

About UUCMP Publications

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