



NUUSLETTER

of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula

January Theme: Living with Intention

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

January 2

“Easier Said Than Done”

Susan Panttaja and W.A. Lee Hulquist

Each new year brings the promise of a clean slate. There is a temptation to make resolutions, to hit the re-set button, to start again. Yet we may have unrealistic expectations that leave us feeling dejected after a month or two. Today we will look at living into our intentions, with love and appreciation for our human nature.

January 9

“Living in Tension with Intention”

Rev. Bev Spears and W.A. Kathleen Craig and Sharon Miller

How do we, as people of Faith and Principle, respond with mind and heart to the hard truths and consequences of America’s racist, imperialist history?

January 16

“Pursuing Dr. King’s Vision”

Rev. Craig Scott and W.A. Ann Jacobson

On the day honoring him, we remember Dr. King’s words and actions. He envisioned a universal community based on the power of love. But to get there, he reminded us, we must first confront the truth about how our nation was built. Decades after his death, we have so

much work still to do on the path towards fulfilling his vision.

January 23

“Food for Life”

Micah Forstein and Bjorn Nilson

Do food, taste, nutrition, genetics, social pressure and habit have a spiritual inflection point? If you are what you eat and your body is your temple, then is it wrong to eat but not feed the starving? When are calories not enough? Does quality matter? How can we create food that feeds the soul but also heals the earth? Feed a pup and grow a grin. Feed a child and grow a smile. Join Micah and Bjorn on a journey to explore the aromas of a complex and difficult to prepare dish.

January 30

“The Journey is the Destination”

Susan Panttaja and Ray Krise

It is important to move in the direction of our dreams. Yet the path to attaining them is never as straight as we think, and the actual destination often looks very different than the vision. Today, we celebrate the crooked road, the detours, the discoveries and the companions that get us where we are going – wherever that might be.

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.

In This Issue . . .

Page

- 2 Sabbatical Minister’s Message
- 2 Office Hours
- 3 Life Enrichment
- 3 People of Color Group
- 3 Men’s Breakfast
- 3 Publication Deadlines
- 3 Scheduled Events
- 4 President’s Corner
- 5 We Care, We Share
- 5 Rev. Bev Spears
- 5 Rev. Craig Scott
- 6 Religious Exploration

- 7 Shared Plate January
- 8 Musical Offerings
- 9 Join Our Church
- 9 Mission Statement
- 9 Affinity Groups
- 9 Worship Associates Needed
- 10 Vaccination Requirements
- 11 Save the Date!
- 11 Women’s Discussion Group
- 12 Environmental Justice
- 12 T’ai Chi Chih
- 13 Shared Plate Allocation

See the calendar at
www.uucmp.org



Sabbatical Minister's Message Susan Panttaja

Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.
Alfred, Lord Tennyson

There is much about 2021 we will be happy to let go. 2021 will be remembered as the second year of the pandemic, a year of ever-changing risk levels and safety requirements. It was a year of calculations: Is it safe enough to go to the grocery store, school, the office, a concert? A year of modified everything. A year of masks, vaccinations, breakthrough cases, illness, and death. A year of continued political infighting and division. More vacations foregone and loved ones missed. More fires and floods, with no agreed-upon global climate change plan in sight. It has been a hard year.

On the other hand, 2021 has not been all bad. In fact, there is much to appreciate about 2021. It was a year of small joys. A year of vaccines that brought hope. A year of cautiously venturing out. A year of finding positive ways to connect and care for one another.

I will look back on 2021 with great fondness and deep appreciation for UUCMP. This year with you has brought incredible gifts and opportunities, challenges and growth. I will cherish my memories of our time together.

I hope each of you will take a moment to bring

to mind your positive memories of 2021. Those are the blessings you can carry with you, as you venture into 2022.

The year is going. There is no denying it. Yet as 2022 begins, the challenges of 2021 seem to be continuing, from political infighting to the omicron variant, the latest twist in the pandemic saga. We continue to move toward reopening the church for worship, with caution. I have a vision of offering my final sermon here (January 30) live from the sanctuary, with folks watching via Zoom or maybe even in person. Stay tuned to the weekly e-news, website (uucmp.org), and Sunday announcements for updates.

“Ring out the false, ring in the true.” Perhaps the best we can do is to ring out the false by shaking off some of the fears and worries that don’t do us much good, and to ring in a renewed commitment to the true: the tenets of our UU faith, the blessing of community in this spiritual home, the certainty that, together, this congregation can live out its mission of changing the world.

Wishing you a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Yours in Faith,

Susan

OFFICE HOURS

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

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. No meeting on January 1. 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, January 8, 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

To attend the breakfast, click here [add link](#)

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, January 4, 7 p.m. via Zoom. See page 9.

Board of Trustees meets Wednesday, January 19, 5:45 p.m. via Zoom.

Buddhist Sangha is every Wednesday at 7 p.m. via Zoom. See page 9.

Environmental Justice meets Tuesday, January 11, 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, January 26, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

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

Music Committee meets Wednesday, January 5, 5 p.m. via Zoom.

NUUsletter deadline for the February issue is Sunday, January 16.

People of Color (POC) group will meet Saturday, January 15 at noon, and Mondays, January 3 and 17 at 7 p.m. at <https://tinyurl.com/uwf8rdjf> See article to the left.

Program Council meets Tuesday, January 4, 12:30 p.m. via Zoom. For questions contact Lauren Keenan programcouncil@uucmp.org

Sing Along will meet on Wednesday, January 12, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Social Justice meets Sunday, January 2, 12 p.m. via Zoom.

Stewardship meets Wednesday, January 5, 1:30 p.m. via Zoom.

T'ai Chi Chih meets Tuesdays at 4 p.m. in the sanctuary. See pages 9 and 12.

Women's Discussion Group meets the fourth Thursday of each month at 2 p.m. via Zoom. See page 11.

Zumba meets Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. See weekly e-news for link.

President's Corner — Bud Smith



New Year

January 1. The day many of us wonder about what the new year will bring. If it's anything like the last couple of years, it will bring surprises, although the only real surprise will be if there are no surprises. As I write this, two weeks before the new year begins, the more transmissible omicron variant has appeared. Perhaps you will know more about it by the time you read this.

These have been a busy few months for your Board. Led by our Reopening Task Force, and guided by the results of our reopening survey and by protocols to keep us all safe, we are continuing with our preparations to begin meeting back in person on some sort of hybrid basis. It was very clear from the survey that people feel much more comfortable returning to in-person services if we have a vaccination requirement. Elsewhere in this January newsletter you will find important details on the board-adopted Covid 19 vaccination policy and vaccination requirements for attendance at services once we resume. See page 10,

The upgrade to our ventilation system has finally been completed, and progress continues on upgrading our AV requirements for our hybrid services.

While all of this is going on, your board has adopted a new policy on Shared Plate Recipients to increase our role in helping out the many worthy social and environmental justice

organizations in our area. You can also read the details about this elsewhere in this newsletter.

We were pleased to be able to offer our church for use by I-HELP women and men again beginning in December.

Meanwhile, if you stop by the church you will see the beginnings of an effort to beautify our already spectacular site. Thanks to JT Mason for the wonderful mosaic she has given to the church and to Lauren Keenan and Carol Meyer for their donation of succulents for the entrance to the buildings. Kathleen Craig, Harry Nagel, Lauren Keenan, and Brian Jacobson have begun meetings with Blue Door Garden Design with the goal of developing a long-range plan that will emphasize accessibility and safety as well as landscaping.



JT Mason's mosaic

I know that Thanksgiving is officially long past, but we should all be thankful for the work that is put in every month by so many people . . . church staff, board members, all of our committees, and our wonderful Susan Panttaja.

2022, we are ready for you!

Be well,

Bud

We Care, We Share Continuing in 2022!



On February 16, 2022, the sermon will be about the importance of generosity in keeping our church community financially healthy . . . it will be the kick-off for UUCMP's 2022 Operating

Fund Drive, **We Care, We Share.**

As we think about entering a new year, I suspect most of us will be wondering what this new year will bring! Will we ever be able to stop wearing masks indoors? Will we be able to travel more easily and safely, health wise? Will we be able to gather safely with friends? Will we be able to have our Sunday services in our newly ventilated UUCMP sanctuary as a large group with the choir part of the service?

As chair of the Stewardship Committee, I am hopeful that we will all think about the level at which we can be of support to this our beloved community. There are many ways to be of support to community at UUCMP beyond signing a pledge card and then fulfilling that pledge.

You can help the Caring Network offer support

to members in need, or become a worship associate to have an impact on the quality of worship services, or join the choir, or volunteer to help with a fundraiser, or become a member of the Membership Committee to welcome new members, or join the Stewardship Committee (please!) to help reach out to your fellow congregants to see how they are doing, or say yes when asked to serve on the Board of Trustees.

Jan Vanier pointed out in her book *Community and Growth*: "One of the marvelous things about community is that it enables us to welcome and help people in a way we couldn't as individuals. When we pool our strength and share the work and responsibility, we can welcome many people, even those in deep distress, and perhaps help them find self-confidence and inner healing." At UUCMP, **We Care, We Share** fits this concept well.

Enter the New Year resolved to be of service in whatever way it fits your needs. And thank you!

Konny Murray, for the Stewardship Committee

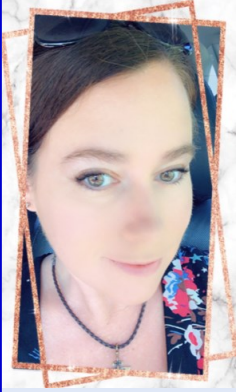


Rev. Bev Spears is an ordained American Baptist Minister, and a member of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Santa Rosa. Rev. Spears is an essayist focused on the intersectionality of contemporary culture, politics, and spirituality. She is a faith-based social justice advocate, and as a Christian Unitarian Universalist she is a teacher and preacher of Evolutionary Spirituality.



Rev. Craig Scott was ordained at the UU Church of Berkeley, CA, and served as minister of the UU Fellowship of Tuolumne County (located in Sonora, in California gold rush country). He and his wife, Karen Paull, in retirement, moved to this area three years ago. Craig is a member of this congregation.

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION



What are your plans?

I am a planner. While some parts of my life can be a bit chaotic, they would be ever more so if I did not plan. I make lists in my Notes app on my iPad for my week, divided

into days, and other specific lists for specific things. It helps me to keep track of what needs to be done, and plan for upcoming events like holidays, birthdays, vacations, school projects and events, work related projects and events, and other random things like a family meal I might be hosting. Each project, event or activity requires planning, and it is so wonderful to check off tasks as they are finished. As far as weekly lists go, there are times that I might need to copy from one day and paste into the next. As much as I intend to do what I put down for the specific day, sometimes everything just can't happen. Sometimes life gets in the way.

Take International Food Day at Estella's school. On her Google Classroom Summary it was marked as December 10th. This was a typo as I would learn after a super frenzied hour putting together ceviche in the back seat of my originally clean car. After the horror on poor Estella's face when she noticed the date (her grade depended on this), I said not to worry, her dad and I would get it done and bring it to the office in time for the event. Then we went to the store and got some tuna and salmon sashimi from the sushi stall, chopped into small pieces, pico de gallo (as the ceviche recipe I looked up was somehow beautifully contained into that one lovely dish) lemon and lime juice, mini frozen shrimp, some corn chips, and some new containers. Then we went back to the car and mixed it up. After closing the lid, and giving it a few good shakes to really mix it, I discovered that the lid was not fully closed and got some ceviche in my ear, on my shirt and in various places in my car. After cleaning up as well as could be expected with a few napkins Micah found in the glove compartment, we

went back to the school only to find out that the date was a typo, it was actually the 17th, not the 10th. Upon returning to the car and explaining this to Micah, we both sat back and began laughing!! Then we enjoyed some delicious back seat ceviche as we drove home. Several items on my list for the day needed to be moved after that interesting morning.

Life happens. It is how we deal with it that really matters. We can yell and scream to the stars about the injustice of canceled cello recitals because of hurricane strength winds blowing waves of rain past our windows, or we can quietly and calmly accept that life happens and will continue to happen. We can plan for events and make lists of what needs to be done, completing everything on the list, not even moving one item to a later date, and then find that the event is canceled because of a teeny tiny virus with giant consequences.

My need to plan will continue, even when event after event is canceled or postponed to an arbitrary later date. At times I feel like I am stuck in the Waiting Place, "where everyone is just WAITING" (Seuss). But I will keep planning, because it is what I do. Now though, I say to my children, "the plan is to do this, let's keep our fingers crossed that we can!" Or, "I intend to take you to this, let me keep my eye on the covid indicator and see if it is allowed when the time comes." What a strange way to teach and learn about patience and resilience.

As much as I plan, I cannot control. I cannot make the people of the world put on a mask or get a vaccine. I cannot stop global warming which is most likely behind all of the insane weather we have been seeing this past year. I cannot perform miracles. But I can be less rigid and go with the flow, laughing at the absurdity of life as I remove ceviche from my ear. I can accept that even though I have a plan, it most likely will not go *as* planned, whatever my intentions might be. And I can live with that.

— Erin Forstein
Director of Religious Exploration



January Shared Plate Recipient *UUSC Response to the 2021 Earthquake in Haiti*

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) is a nonprofit, nonsectarian organization advancing human rights together with an international community of grassroots partners and advocates. They focus their work on intersecting roots of injustice to defend rights at risk due to criminalization and systemic oppression of people based on their identity. They support self-determination and defend the rights of people displaced due to climate, conflict, or economic hardships; and they respond to humanitarian crises as partners with people whose access to aid is most limited.

On August 14, 2021, a 7.3 magnitude earthquake struck southwestern Haiti, killing more than 2,000 people, injuring 13,000, and damaging 130,000 homes as well as public infrastructure. In total, the earthquake impacted 800,000 Haitians, 650,000 of whom needed immediate humanitarian assistance. Just two days after the earthquake, Tropical Storm Grace made landfall in Haiti, exacerbating damage and impeding recovery efforts. These twin crises came in the middle of the COVID19 pandemic and on the heels of the assassination of Haiti's President, Jovenel Moise, in July.

Under the umbrella of its disaster response program (housed within UUSC's Climate Justice portfolio), UUSC staff immediately reached out to grassroots groups on the ground in Haiti, providing emergency support for food, shelter, and other immediate needs. UUSC's current efforts focus on food sovereignty and the rights of peasant farmers, who have limited access to aid due to their remote location, as was the case with UUSC's decade long response to Haiti's 2010 earthquake.

In addition to providing immediate aid, UUSC is committed to long-term recovery and nation-building efforts led by the people of Haiti. For example, UUSC is working in collaboration with

U.S. based allies to support the Commission for a Haitian Solution to the Crisis, a civil society initiative backed by more than 380 Haitian groups, which is building a transitional government grounded in transparency and reform. On December 12, the Commission installed the National Commission for the Establishment of the Transition, a huge step in naming Haiti's new political leadership and recognizing the legitimacy of the consensus-led process.

Like all our disaster response work, UUSC's effort in Haiti follows a Disaster Justice framework (you can find more information about this on the uusdc.org website), which prioritizes community voices and seeks to address existing inequities. This approach is especially critical given the long history of mismanagement and disregard for local efforts that has characterized disaster response in Haiti. Building on a deep history of collaboration with local groups in Haiti, UUSC is working to advance an equitable and sustainable response which follows the lead of grassroots organizations and bolsters Haitian-led solutions.

Your dollars in support of this effort will be used effectively and efficiently to promote a human rights orientation in solving problems created by the recent disasters in Haiti. Please be generous!

For more information on UUSC (a sister organization to the UUA), check out their website (uusdc.org) You can find out about their many grassroots-based initiatives there.

Konny Murray, proud member of UUCMP and of the UUSC Stewardship Circle

Musical Offerings

What is the purpose of music? Does music actually do anything useful, or is it simply a way to pass the time and to be entertained? For me, music is an integral and crucial part of my being. Woven into my earliest memories of melodies heard and of family songsters, music has helped to create the pattern of who I am. My mother had a wonderful voice and sang to me



all the time. Music always played in our home, all kinds of music. A melody plays through my mind and heart to celebrate the joyous things of my life and resonates through the natural world around me. At good times, in peaceful times, it is a melody that choruses like bird song. In times of difficulty or sorrow, it is a comfort like a quiet embrace. In times of fear, it is a fierce solace to shield from pain and conflict. And I am often singing, aloud or simply in my own head. As Frank Ticheli stated in *Earth Song*, "But music and singing have been my refuge, and music and singing shall be my light." So it is for many of us; music is necessary to our very existence, essential to our very being. Out of deep joy and deep grief remarkable and enduring pieces of music have arisen.



Music – and singing – reach all from the very young to the very old.

To quote Karl Paul-nack, pianist and director of the music division at Boston Conservatory, “.

**Sing Along
with Shawn**

2nd Wednesdays
5:30-7 PM



.. music is not part of "arts and entertainment" as the newspaper section would have us believe. It's not a luxury, a lavish thing that we fund from leftovers of our budgets, not a plaything or an amusement or a pass time. Music is a basic need of human survival. Music is one of the ways we make sense of our lives, one of the ways in which we express feelings when we have no words, a way for us to understand things with our hearts when we can't with our minds.” And, “Art is part of survival; art is part of the human spirit, an unquenchable expression of who we are. Art is one of the ways in which we say, "I am alive, and my life has meaning."

**All Meetings
via Zoom**

ID: 828-761-1715

Password: music

All Are Welcome :-)



Music, and singing with our choir, have kept me going and given me joy and peace through these many years. Music has always been something that gives deep meaning to my life.

— Carol Collin, Music Committee chair

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 January. 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 11.

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 January. 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> No meeting January 1. See page 3.

T'ai Chi Chih meets every Tuesday at 4 p.m. in the sanctuary. See page 12.

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.

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 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.

Save the date!!
Zoom Karaoke Party
With professional Karaoke k-jay
Dana Morigan

Saturday, February 12, 2022

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



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

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.

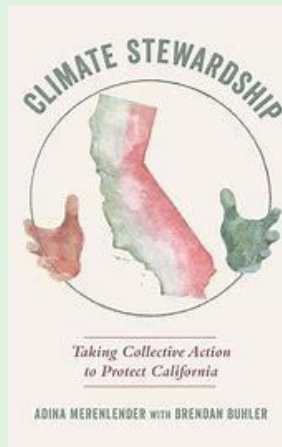
We welcome all women to our monthly meetings, which are held on the fourth Thursday of each month from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., currently via Zoom. Our next meeting will be on January 27th, when Peggy Hansen will lead our discussion of "My Favorite Book of the Last Year." Watch for the emailed notice for 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

Environmental Action News

The Environmental Justice Committee offers opportunities to inspire our congregation, as well as our local and state governments toward more sustainable environmental policies and practices. In this light, we are exploring a variety of books and other media to expand our base knowledge and look to solutions.



One of the books that has most intrigued us is *Climate Stewardship: Taking Collective Action to Protect California* by Adina Merenlender with Brendan Buhler. The authors describe the challenges in California, but more, they relate stories of hope – stories of individuals banding together in numerous ways to address the destruction that, as they say, “will help stave off

climate disruption and make communities and ecosystems more resilient to change.” In seven chapters, the authors focus on particular climate concerns – the wildfires, the compromised San Francisco Bay wetlands, the harmful consequences of large-scale corporate farming, shrinking forests, drier deserts, the Los Angeles metropolis of endless concrete and the rising Pacific Ocean temperatures and changing currents – and then relate stories of communities of environmental activists working to address those concerns.

Would you like to join us to discuss this book? Perhaps you have suggestions of other books/media that look at our environment, sustainability issues, climate change? We would welcome any suggestions! Contact us at environmental-justice@uucmp.org

T'ai Chi Chih Returns to 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



UUCMP "SHARED PLATE" ALLOCATION IN 2022

Members and friends of UUCMP have continued to show their generosity in meeting financial pledge commitments, and in supporting the various organizations we sponsor through Shared Plate collections. Given the strength of our operating fund balance and the missions of our church, the Board of Trustees has voted to change how Shared Plate donations will be allocated in 2022. Rather than a 50/50 split of "collection plate" donations between UUCMP's operating fund and each month's chosen beneficiary, 100% of these donations in 2022 will be allocated to the Shared Plate charitable organization.

As a reminder of how donations are handled:

- a. Checks *made payable* to a Shared Plate organization are sent directly to that organization. Your donation acknowledgement and any receipt for tax purposes will come from the organization.
- b. Personal checks made out to "UUCMP," checks payable to "UUCMP" as generated through your bank's "pay bills" function, and credit card donations through PayPal or other electronic service all allow you to add a "memo" note. Donations by any of these means will continue to be allocated as you direct in that note. A memo line which contains only the Shared Plate organization's name will be 100% directed to the organization.

Another example might be a \$100 check payable to "UUCMP" with a memo line that reads "50% pledge, 25% [shared plate organization], 25% KAZU." The church will deposit the full amount into the UUCMP checking account as follows;

\$50 will be credited toward your annual pledge;

\$25 will be added to the amount the church sends to the Shared Plate recipient at the end of the month; and

\$25 will be held for a KAZU public radio announcement.

You can also specify dollar amounts, rather than percentages, in such a memo note.

- c. Any check payable to "UUCMP" or any electronic transfer with the simple direction "Split" in the memo line will continue to result in a 50/50 split between the church (handled as explained in the next paragraph) and the Shared Plate beneficiary. If you desire something other than a 50/50 split, please enter a more detailed memo as explained above.

- d. Any check payable to "UUCMP" or any electronic transfer *without a note* in the memo line will be credited toward your annual pledge; or if there is no annual pledge, or once your pledge has been fulfilled, will be counted as a general donation to the church's operating fund.

- e. If you want to handle your pledge payments or other directed donations via cash, please deliver the cash and a note with the amount, your name and your intended use of the donation in a sealed envelope, either at the church office during business hours, or (when live services resume) through the collection plate. All cash donations are deposited in the church's bank account for further allocation. Cash received without a note directing otherwise will, in 2022, be allocated 100% to the Shared Plate organization for the month.

**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

On sabbatical leave through January 31

Sabbatical Minister

Susan Panttaja

sabbaticalminister@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*

Carol Greenstreet, *Secretary*

Harry Nagel, *Treasurer*

Lauren Keenan,

Program Council Moderator

Kathleen Craig, Jon Czarnecki, Steve
Johnson, Mike Lovell, Kent Weinstein

Ministers Emeriti:

The Revs. Fred and Margaret Keip

Return Service Requested



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

