



NUUSLETTER

of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula

April Theme: Awakening

Sunday Service at 10:30 a.m. in person and via Zoom online meeting app

April 3

“Aha Moments: Our Unexpected Awakenings”
Rev. Axel Gehrmann and W.A. Sue Ellen Stringer

Paul was on the road to Damascus, Siddhartha sat under the bodhi tree, Elijah cowered in a cave, Helen Keller was getting water - all of these are stories of sudden insight and inspiration. While perhaps not as dramatic and not as widely known, we each can experience such moments. What might it take to open our eyes? And once our eyes are open, what will we see?

April 10

“Wake Up, Wake Up, Wake Up!”
Rev. Elaine Gehrmann and W.A. Kathleen Craig

We know that the clock is ticking for our planet's environmental health, and we need to wake everyone up to this reality and work together to find solutions. We will explore ways that we can make a difference, locally and globally.



Religious Exploration

is available via Zoom each Sunday for children (pre K – 11) at 10 a.m. Teens (12 – 18) meet at church in person Sundays for classes following the Story for all Ages during worship. Young adults (18-35) meet via Zoom at 1 p.m.

April 17

“How We Are Reborn”
Rev. Axel Gehrmann and W.A. Ray Krise

The season of spring, as well as the religious and secular holidays that have sprung up this time of year - stories of saviors' resurrections, of a religious people's liberation, of gods returning to earth, and furry, long-eared harbingers of spring - all of them offer perspectives on perennial questions: How might we imagine our own personal growth and spiritual rejuvenation? After an extended period of winter (and pandemic) dormancy we ask: How can we come back to life?

April 24

“I Am Awake”
Rev. Dennis Hamilton and W.A. Bjorn Nilson

I have been waking up all my life. That is to say, I have been half asleep all my life. Sometimes waking up is an aha! moment when I see the world in a different light. More often it is when I see myself in an unflattering light and it is a painful awakening. The question is how awake are we, personally, as a global community, a species? And what is it like to be fully awake?

In This Issue . . .

Page	
2	Ministers' Message
3	People of Color Group
3	Men's Breakfast
3	Publication Deadlines
3	Scheduled Events
4	President's Corner
5	Religious Exploration
6	Text Giving
6	Regeneration Book Discussion
7	We Care, We Share
7	Women's Discussion Group
8	Excitement Continues
9	Help Get Out the Vote
9	Office Hours
9	Celebration of Life Service
10	Musical Offerings
11	April Shared Plate
11	Myth of Closure book discussion
12	Children's RE Library
13	Join Our Church
13	Mission Statement
13	Affinity Groups
13	Worship Associates Needed
14	Vaccination Requirements
15	Grapevine — Ned Budlong
16	Environmental Justice
17	Social Justice — COPA

See the calendar at
www.uucmp.org



Ministers' Message

Rev. Axel
Gehrmann

Sunday, March 13, was a remarkable day in the life of our church. It was the first time we gathered for worship in the sanctuary since March 8, 2020 - that's over two years!

What an amazing feeling it was to see forty-six of us in the same room - physically and in-person! After two years of careful distancing and painstaking separation, after more conversations on the phone, and more Zoom meetings than I can count, welcoming so many of you - not as disembodied voices, not as faces on a computer screen - but as real people, three-dimensional, physical bodies, was breathtaking!

Standing outside the sanctuary before the service, I felt I could safely take off my mask, and greet folks arriving. And how wonderful that was! Seeing many of you walk up to the entry, seeing so many big smiles, bumping fists with some of you, shaking hands with others . . . and exchanging careful hugs with a few . . . the experience left me so joyful, I felt giddy, almost dizzy!

It was an especially precious gift to see several of you, who hadn't been able to participate in our Zoom gatherings these past years. There you were, back at church, among the first in line to get back in!!

And then being back in the sanctuary, with our new high-powered air-exchange system doing its amazing work, and with chairs thoughtfully placed 3 feet apart, it was an amazing experience to worship together. Right there in the room with us was Lucy playing her beautiful music, and Camille leading us in song (and also providing additional musical rhythmic support on our new church drum kit!), and Karen Araujo pitching in, too. What a joy!

And it was amazing to experience our first attempt to provide a hybrid worship service, for folks both in the sanctuary and those present via Zoom (44 devices that day), as well as worship leaders who participated virtually from around the peninsula and as far away as Kansas! We will continue to fine-tune and improve technical details, but despite small glitches the service felt like a big success.

And when it was time for our "Joys and Sorrows," and folks were invited to drop pebbles into our shared waters of love and support - I was surprised and moved to see

how many of you rose from your seats and patiently stood in line to participate in this treasured ritual. What a powerful and meaningful tradition this is: the simple act of thoughtfully placing a few pebbles into water, mindful of each and all! It is a profound expression and symbol of our caring community.

I remain profoundly grateful for so much, and so many. The members of our Re-Opening Task Force (Steve Johnson, Chair, Andrea Rivas, Warren Finch, and Jon Czarnecki) have been working long and hard to develop policies and procedures to guide our efforts, and establish new routines for gathering together as safely and inclusively as possible. And on March 13th, they were at church busy setting up and staffing our welcome tables, helping us all learn our new and evolving Sunday routines.

Our church staff and Worship Associates Team have been doing an amazing job maintaining church operations, and providing high-quality worship experiences these past two years - and now as we are shifting our routines, once again, they have been super helpful navigating our newest transitions. And above all, we are grateful to our tech-volunteer-extraordinaire, Fred Hamilton, whose expertise, dedication, and unbelievable amount of time and attention devoted to our computer and audio/visual needs has been the unquestionable and crucial backbone of our efforts.

Of course, the pandemic is not over. And we are nowhere near "back to normal." We continue to be in a process of transition and adjustment. We will continue to face challenges and changes, which will try our patience and test our nerves.

Nevertheless, it seems we are entering a new phase of our congregational life, with new possibilities for engagement and connection, and new ways to strengthen our communal bonds. I am excited and deeply grateful to embark upon this renewed adventure with all of you.

See you in church,

Axel

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, April 9, 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)

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, April 5, 7 p.m. via Zoom. See page 13.

Board of Trustees meets Wednesday, April 20, 5:45 p.m. via Zoom.

Buddhist Sangha is every Wednesday at 7 p.m. via Zoom. See page 13.

Environmental Justice meets Tuesday, April 12, 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, April 27, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Men's Breakfast Group meets Saturday, April 9, 8:30 a.m. via Zoom. See article at left.

Music Committee meets Wednesday, April 6, 5 p.m. via Zoom.

NUUsletter deadline for the May issue is Saturday, April 16.

People of Color (POC) group will meet Saturdays, April 2 and 16 at noon, and Mondays, April 4 and 18 at 7 p.m. at <https://tinyurl.com/uwf8rdjf> See article to the left.

Program Council meets Tuesday, April 5, 12:30 p.m. via Zoom. For questions contact Lauren Keenan programcouncil@uucmp.org

Sing Along will meet on Wednesday, April 13, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Social Justice meets Sunday, April 3, 12 p.m. via Zoom.

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

T'ai Chi Chih meets Tuesdays at 4 p.m. in the sanctuary. See page 13.

Women's Discussion Group meets the fourth Thursday of each month at 2 p.m. via Zoom. See page 7.

President's Corner — Bud Smith



A Shout Out, and Thank You

"I feel like shouting out to each person as they walk by."

Those were Ann Jacobson's words in the chat box as she Zoom-watched her fellow



UUCMPers filing by the video camera on their way to drop a pebble or two during the Joys and Sorrows time at our first in-person service March 13. And those words are a perfect expression of the joy each of us feels as we begin to reconnect in person in our Sanctuary. I was able to attend the March 20 service, and it was a wonderful sensation to see and speak with



everyone "in the flesh." To paraphrase that day's guest musician Joanna Wallfisch (She really exists!), it's great to see folks in three dimensions. Although multi-platform, in-person and online, services are here to stay for many UU congregations, and might be for us, I think we all fervently look forward to the day that COVID will subside sufficiently to allow us to relax our protocols so that everyone can comfortably choose to attend in person again, maskless and singing our hearts out.

With the return to "normal," whatever that will look like, there will be many opportunities for more people to reengage with the important work of the church, including supporting our social and environmental causes, designing our worship services, caring for each other through the Caring Network, and getting involved in church governance. (Want to be the first to know? Join the Board!) There will be many other opportunities to serve the church's mission.

Something else to look forward to is our adoption of an exciting landscaping plan to beautify and make more accessible the front of our building. See details on page 8 in this newsletter.

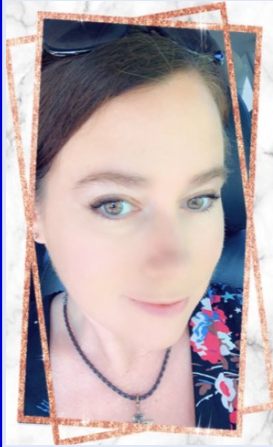


Thanks, as always, to all of you who have worked so hard to make this return to our Sanctuary possible. Your imagination, expertise, trouble-shooting skills, and countless hours of work are much appreciated by all of us.

Be well.

Bud

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION



Spring!

I think that Spring has actually finally arrived!! I hear hundreds of wild birds chirping and singing outside of my windows, and see new leaves and new buds beginning to grow on winter brown and bare trees. The air is fresh, scented by the moving earth as animals and insects wake up and burrow up to the surface, turning and lifting the earth, and bringing the scents of roots and moisture with them.

I can feel Spring in the air, and see it in the faces around me! My soul is warmed by the rays of sunshine flowing out from the smiles and excitement I see as the world moves by. There is hope! There is joy! In some areas, masks are coming off and smiles can be seen again in public places! While this quite honestly makes me a little bit nervous, it also makes me feel a little bit relieved. Normalcy is maybe, actually, possibly on the horizon! I'll probably always have a mask ready to go in my purse or pocket, just in case though.



Our RE classes are ready to go back to being in person once again! New friends that were made in the Zoom classroom can finally meet face to face! At our church! I am brought back to the last Sunday in March, two years ago, right before we closed our doors. The classrooms were booming, an RE pizza party was planned for the upcoming Thursday evening. I was planning a Multigen service based on *Free To Be You And Me*, and was also already thinking about and planning for the RE Sunday service. In fact, I believe that the box of

plush owls I purchased for the graduating middle school OWL class might still be sitting in my office.

Everything changed so fast! And now, everything is changing fast again. For someone that doesn't particularly like change, and prefers a nice slow transition, change can be a little traumatic. However, there are times when it is important to just rip off the band-aid, and now is the time to do it.

We have the memories of what once was, now is the time to make new memories. Now is the time to bravely step inside the classroom doors and welcome our new friends into our midst. Show them how fun it is to race pinecones down the slide! Warn them about the occasional poison oak plants! Show them your pictures and artwork that are still in the RE wing! And, please feel free to take any of your artwork home, we will need the room for new art! Now is the time to plan for the future with your new friends! In fact, we have an RE Sunday Multigen service coming up, once again, that I am definitely looking forward to!!



Let me welcome you back to the RE classrooms! There are new friends to be made, and new games to be played. And with every new day, there are new things to be learned and explored!

"Come, come, whoever you are!
Wanderer.
Worshipper.
Lover of leaving.
Ours is no caravan of despair.
Come, yet again, come."

— Erin Forstein
Director of Religious Exploration

Launching Text Giving at UUCMP!

First, thank you for your continued generosity in support of UUCMP! Our church has weathered the two-year COVID-19 pandemic extremely well, financial speaking, and we are in much better fiscal shape than some other UU churches around the country. That said, we are excited to announce the roll out of the ability for you to give to UUCMP using text-to-give functionality!

Text giving through Kindrid, a non-profit donation platform, offers a new, safe way to donate or make pledge payments to UUCMP from your cell phone and ensures we're providing you with the most convenient methods possible to offer a gift of support to the church. We hope this will be more convenient than mailing a check to the church, though, of course, you are certainly welcome to continue to do that if you prefer.

Through our new online giving platform, you have the ability to give one time or to set up automatic recurring gifts from a credit/debit card or through a bank ACH transaction. UUCMP does pay a small transaction fee to process each online payment, but we feel this nominal fee is well worth the added convenience. If you so choose, you are also able to cover that fee for the church at the same time you make your donation.

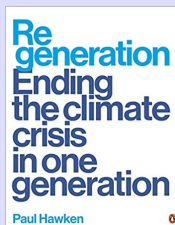
We believe these new tools will allow us to continue to serve the UUCMP community well. We want you to know how much we appreciate you and the generosity of heart you demonstrate through your continued support of UUCMP and our various ministries and initiatives.

Stay tuned for the how-to details on text giving in the upcoming issues of the UUCMP Weekly News!

Robert Brunson
UUCMP Finance Committee chair

Book Discussion: *Regeneration: Ending the Climate Crisis in One Generation* by Paul Hawken

Dates: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays
(April 12 - May 24)
Time: 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. via
Zoom



Rev. Elaine will be leading a four-session discussion of Paul Hawken's book, *Regeneration: Ending the Climate Crisis in One Generation*, which was published last year, and favorably reviewed. The SF Chronicle said it is a "rational, pragmatic and well-researched clarification call. It's a catalog of best practices for re-

generation"... covering "an impressively broad range of topics from food safety to the war industry, electric vehicles to mangroves, which serves to demonstrate how all-encompassing the challenge is. But it's prescriptive, too, featuring reasoned calls to action from writers, activists, scientists and numerous other experts."

Please acquire a copy of the book and read the first three sections (pp 1-93) for our first virtual session, on April 12.

Please contact Rev. Elaine if you have questions, need help with Zoom, or plan to attend.



We Care, We Share

Many good things are happening now at UUCMP! We have partly reopened, with hybrid Sunday services and other onsite activities. People are thrilled to move into Spring actually seeing each other in person. We are planning new activities as the church opens further, financed by a budget drawn on promised donations and pledges.

The We Care, We Share operating fund drive came to "an end" on the 30th of March. As of this writing, 85% of the total number of pledgers from last year have pledged, and those who pledged have increased their average pledge by 2%. We know you want to be an active part of the reopening and renewal of our faith community. If you haven't had a chance to make your pledge, you'd be a better part of our community by making your pledge as soon as possible. On May 1 at our Annual Meeting, mem-

bers will vote on our vision and plans for the year that are more accurate and achievable, if we can include your pledge.

You have several easy options:

1. Call Konny Murray, Stewardship Chair, if you have questions or want to know more about the plans at 831-595-7853. She can send you a pledge card or provide any help to complete your pledge.
2. You can also pledge online at the UUCMP website; click the red DONATE button and scroll down to "PLEDGE ONLINE." Click on the Pledge Form,

Please remember EVERY SINGLE DOLLAR MATTERS to our budget. EVERY SINGLE CONGREGANT MATTERS to our caring/sharing community. It's never too late to pledge.

Thank you for caring and sharing.

Konny Murray
831-595-7853

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 April 28th, when Maureen Brinkerhoff will lead our discussion of "Our Favorite Birthdays." 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

The Excitement Continues at UUCMP

As we reopened for our first hybrid Sunday service on March 6, what a joy it was to be among friends again, together in the sanctuary, then gathering outdoors to chat in-person after so long!

While outside, many congregants were able to appreciate JT's fabulous mosaic up close for the first time. They were also able to enjoy the nearly 20 beautiful ceramic pots filled with thriving succulents, many of them donated by Carol Meyer, and all planted by our UUCMP Soil Mates group.



There are other exciting developments in the works to ensure safe and improved access to our buildings, such as: a new less steep, paved and lighted path leading from the parking/classroom entrance to the Fireplace Room/Foyer area; low steps from that same area to the door of the Fireplace Room; a higher, safer and more attractive fence around the top side of the foundation; improved ADA access near the Welcome Hall doors (that also require less upkeep than the decomposed granite that we have now), plus an added automatic door opener on one of the Welcome Hall doors.



Additionally, our goal is to encourage and enable small groups to gather comfortably outdoors after church to reflect on the morning's service, for committee work or book discussions or to just catch up with friends. To those ends, there will initially be three intimate seating areas, with improved grading and native plantings to enhance usage. We envision the first gathering spot near classroom entrance, the next outside of the Welcome Hall, then one at the far end of our

someday enlarged sanctuary.

There will also be several benches around perimeter of the foyer drop off to allow for comfortable seating as folks wait to be picked up after services or other group functions.

Aside from improving safety, accessibility and outdoor usage options for our congregants, these enhancements will make UUCMP a more desirable location for community groups to gather, for weddings or other celebratory events to occur on our campus, both raising our visibility in the community as well as revenue.



The board has engaged a state licensed landscape contractor to make these dreams real. At the March board meeting the board endorsed these plans to move forward. Due to the continuing financial support of this congregation through the past several years of isolation, UUCMP continues to be on a substantially firm financial footing and we have unspent budgeted funds. Thus, blessedly, the cost of approximately \$80,000 fits into our current budget. The congregation will be able to view this exciting project in our next newsletter.

Help Get Out the Vote



Would you like to serve the voters of Monterey County at the June 7, 2022, Primary Election by working as a polling place election clerk? In exchange for a four-hour shift, you will receive a \$25 stipend and the satisfaction of assisting in the conduct of a fundamental process of democracy. The \$25 stipend is yours to keep or donate as you see fit.

The League of Women Voters is recruiting registered voters to work as election day clerks. Monterey County allows non-profit organizations to manage polling places under the "Team Up for Democracy" program. In return for handling the recruitment, the Elections Department allows the organizers to divide the workday into four-hour shifts instead of the all-day commitment.

As an election clerk you may be issuing ballots to qualified voters, collecting vote-by-mail ballots that voters are dropping off, greeting voters, or receiving the completed ballots. Experience is not necessary. All clerks must attend a mandatory two hour and 30-minute instructional class. Further, on election day, you will be working with experienced colleagues.

Fifteen training classes are available in Monterey from May 16 through May 20. Classes are presented at 10 a.m., 2 p.m., and 6 p.m. 15 classes are available in Salinas from May 23 through May 27 at the same hours. It is not known yet if an on-line class will be available.



Those who are interested can contact Dennis Mar, (831) 372-9388, DennisRMar3@yahoo.com

Celebration of Life Service

In honor of
Edwin Conrad Budlong ("Ned")

Sunday, April 10, 2022
2 p.m.



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.

OFFICE
HOURS

Musical Offerings

Recently, I thought of the Time for All Ages Erin lead on January 30, 2022. She invited us to bring awareness to the here and now. She guided us through a sensory meditation to ground us in the present and bring centering calmness to our experience. While I could certainly stay present in the activity, there was one echoing tune that hummed along all the while. My mind sang hymn number 298 *Wake Now My Senses*. It was both fitting and diverting from the activity at hand.

Like many UU hymns found in the *Singing the Living Tradition* (or fondly referred to as the “Gray Hymnal”), we have borrowed the music from a popular

via a multitude of converged experiences. *Wake Now My Senses* toggles between our sense of grounding and literal awareness juxtaposed with our inner mind and heart. It

cries out to be present in the earth, the web of creation, the history and wisdom of past times,

the awareness of existing suffering and hardships, the rights to exercise privilege in order to work towards a more just world, and the role we play both individually and collectively in all of this work. I love the play on the word “senses” (and similarly in the original the play on the word “vision”) to actually bring us to our senses. There is humility and intention in our spiritual practice. There is a calling within each of us; if we can only wake and come to our senses.

If you would like to explore this in a musical manner, I invite you to check out any of our existing ensembles or email me with any ideas you may be awakening.

Sing Along with Shawn

2nd Wednesdays
5:30-7 PM



A collage of six small video frames showing members of the UUCMP Community Adult Choir. The members are of various ages and are all smiling or singing.

**UUCMP
Community Adult
Choir**

Thursdays
7-9 PM

No experience necessary

Christian hymn and modified the words to better align with our Unitarian Universalist values. The hymn *Be Thou My Vision*, is a beloved hymn in many protestant denominations. Each verse alludes to various texts in the scriptures. Each verse affirms that the love and guidance of God shall be present whether in sleep, wake, ordinary life, war, or whatever shall come. God provides the vision and God is the vision.

I am fascinated by the word play in both the traditional hymn and our UU version. The text implores and explores our understanding of the divine purpose

All Meetings via Zoom

ID: 828-761-1715

Password: music

All Are Welcome :-)



A collage of four small video frames showing members of the Children's Choir. The members are young girls, all smiling and singing.

**Children's
Choir**

Tuesdays at 4pm

All Are Welcome :-)

— Camille Hatton
Music Director

For over 26 years, RotaCare Monterey Clinic has remained an essential safety net for Monterey County, offering free medical care to uninsured residents in our community. The first clinic was established in 1989, and there are now ten clinics located throughout the greater bay area. Our patients are vital members of the community and local work force who are ineligible for Medi-Cal, Medicare, or Covered California and do not receive employer-sponsored healthcare. This population is vulnerable to disparities in healthcare, and these patients often delay seeking medical care to avoid loss of income or potential termination of employment. With the generous support of our many community partners, RotaCare Monterey Clinic provides a comprehensive healthcare program to keep our patients healthy and productive by preventing potential complications that could devastate their well-being and economic viability.

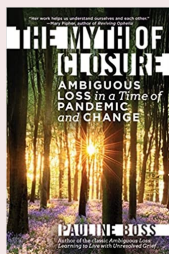
The clinic normally operates out of the Seaside Family Health Center. Our team of volunteers is

composed of medical providers (doctors, nurse practitioners and physician assistants), nurses, physical therapists, registered dietitians, clerical staff, Spanish interpreters, and a stress counselor. Patients with urgent and chronic conditions (including diabetes, high blood pressure and high cholesterol) are provided free medical visits, including diagnostic testing through the generosity of Community Hospital of Monterey Peninsula, as well as medication management, diabetic supplies, blood pressure monitors, body weight scales, specialty and social service referrals, all at no cost. Each week a team of medical providers, as well as nurses, interpreters, clerical and IT staff, and the Clinic Operations Manager provide telehealth visits. Currently we are preparing to resume in-person visits for patients needing hands-on evaluation and care.

Please donate generously to this worthy organization.

Book Discussion: *The Myth of Closure*

Dates: 1st, 3rd and 5th Tuesdays (April 5 - May 31)
Time: 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. via Zoom



Rev. Axel will be leading a five-session discussion of Pauline Boss's book, *The Myth of Closure: Ambiguous Loss in a Time of Pandemic and Change*, which was just recently published, and well-reviewed by the New York Times and NPR. It is a quick read and provides an interesting psychological perspective on the challenges of recent years, and how we might cultivate resilience and hope for the future.

An excerpt from the book jacket: "The COVID pandemic has left many of us haunted by feelings

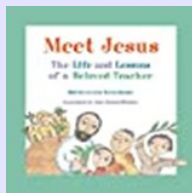
of anxiety, despair, and even anger . . . vague feelings of distress caused by ambiguous loss, losses that remain unclear and hard to pin down, and thus have no closure . . . This book provides many strategies for coping: encouraging us to increase our tolerance of ambiguity and acknowledging our resilience as we express a normal grief, and still look to the future with hope and possibility."

Please acquire a copy of the book and read the preface and first chapter for our first session, on April 5.

Please contact Rev. Axel if you have questions, need help with Zoom, or plan to attend.

UUCMP Children's Religious Exploration Library

The Children's Religious Exploration Library will be open before and after church services and at other times on request. The library now has over 400 items. Then can be searched and covers seen through our online catalog. Enter our location in your browser: librarycat.org/lib/uucmp You can search by subject or key words in the title or author or by Principle (P1, P7, etc.) or by Source (S1, etc.) To browse the whole collection, use the arrow to see Advanced Search and enter "your library" at the bottom. The books are organized by Principles, Sources and a few other topics. Contact Karen Brown karenb1115@yahoo.com 831-917-2042 for more information, to arrange other times, to get delivery, or to help. Here are a few of entries for books we have.



[Meet Jesus: The Life and Lessons of a Beloved Teacher](#)

by [Lynn Tuttle Gunney](#)

Hardcover, 2008

Tags [S4 C](#), [Jesus](#)



[Accept and Value Each Person \(Learning to Get Along\)](#)

by [Cheri J. Meiners M.Ed.](#)

Paperback, 2006

Tags

[P3](#), [Acceptance](#), [Friendship](#)

Collection

[Your library](#)

Series

[Learning to Get Along](#)

Call number

P3

[Goodness Gracious: A Gratitude Book for Children](#)

by [Kathleen A. Green](#)

Hardcover, 2019

Tags



[P2](#), [Gratitude](#), [Music](#), [Prayers](#).

Collection

[Your library](#)

Call number

P2

[At Break of Day](#)

by [Nikki Grimes](#)

Hardcover, 1999

Tags

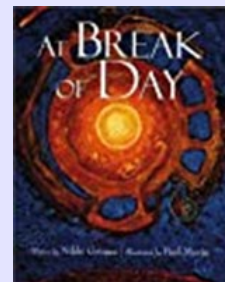
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S4 C



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 ministers. (minister@uucmp.org)

Please join us!

Life Enrichment Programs Affinity Groups

Most groups will not meet face-to-face in April. 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 7.

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 April. Contact: John Freeman for any questions.

Dances of Universal Peace will not meet in April. 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.

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

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.



In Memoriam

Edwin Conrad Budlong (“Ned”) passed away peacefully at home on January 15th, 2022. Ned was born in Minneapolis on December 29, 1933, to Richard and Evelyn Budlong. They moved to Webster Groves, Missouri, a suburb of St. Louis, where Ned and his brother, Rich, spent their childhood.

Ned graduated from high school in St. Louis and later Grinnell College in Iowa. After graduation, he studied at Chicago Theological Seminary and completed seminary work at Eden Theological Seminary. He was ordained as a Congregational Minister; however, he served throughout most of his career as a licensed marriage, family and child counselor (MFCC), helping families and those with substance abuse and chemical dependency. Late in his career he was a clinician for severely emotionally disturbed children.

Ned and Carol Budlong (predeceased) had two sons, Peter and Andrew Budlong, who reside in Northern California and Arizona. Ned married Celia Barberena in 1986 and they spent 35 wonderful years together residing in various places in California’s Central Valley, Hayward and Monterey County, before retir-

ing in Pacific Grove, California.

Ned and Celia traveled extensively, but they also loved the simple pleasures of life on the Monterey Peninsula: frequently visiting the beach just a few miles away, watching the surf, the birds, the scenery, and attending concerts at Sunset Center.

Ned lived a life that was devoted to helping others. He was a member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula, liberal in his thinking and community-minded. He wrote many charming short stories that were enjoyed by friends and colleagues, as well as at Canterbury Woods, the tight-knit retirement community that was their home for several years.

The family wishes to thank Hospice of the Central Coast for their wonderful care. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Blind and Visually Impaired Center, 225 Laurel Avenue, Pacific Grove, CA 93950.

A memorial to celebrate his life will be held on April 10th at 2 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula. The interment of his ashes will occur on Monday, April 11, at 9:30 a.m. at Carmelo Cemetery, Pacific Grove, California.

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

Environmental Justice News

Communities for Sustainable Monterey County Works to Meet Climate Challenge

by Cathy Rivera, President, Communities for Sustainable Monterey County

Red Alert! Climate change is not distant concern; it is a crisis that is impacting us all now. For most everyone reading this article, this is not news, given the protracted drought, wild fires, power disruptions, ocean plastic pollution, and species losses (like monarchs) we are all now experiencing here in Monterey County. Since 2005 the nonprofit organization, Communities for Sustainable Monterey County (CSMC) has endeavored to help all county residents meet these challenges and more.

Through eight local action groups throughout Monterey County, our CSMC volunteers implement climate action initiatives and programs that have been prioritized at the community level as having the greatest impact on addressing the climate crisis in regenerative, sustainable, and socially just ways. These efforts include education outreach, advocacy and projects that effect plastic pollution reduction, watershed protection, wise water use, solar power and electrification in housing and transportation, local food gardens and pollinator habitats, food waste disposal, and land use that reduces car use, increases affordable housing, and enhances access to non-motorized commuting and recreation.

Over seventeen years, CSMC has joined with many like-minded organizations, as well as city and county governments, leveraging financial and human resources in partnership on these efforts. In April, four of CSMC's local action groups will host celebrations of this work in commemoration of Earth Day.

In Big Sur on **April 14th**, there will be a community gathering from **5 p.m.-8 p.m.**, with potluck appetizers and a discussion of the extreme drought condition, water, and fire safety. If not out on a fire call, the Fire Chief will be on hand to take part. The gathering will take place at the Big Sur Grange Hall, right off Highway 1, 25 miles south of Carmel. For more information about **BSage (Big Sur Advocates for a Green Environment)** and their Earth Day event contact

Jessica: winterkoning@gmail.com or

LaVerne: lavernemcleod@gmail.com **Sustainable Marina** will join with co-sponsors including the Sierra Club,



City of Marina, and Monterey Peninsula Regional Parks District (MPRPD) at the **Oak Woodland Community Garden** (190 Seaside Circle, Marina). There will be volunteer projects including wind screen repair, planting, transplanting, watering, food bed planting and harvesting, weed removal, mulching, painting of a shed, food for all and toys for the kids. For more information about the Earth Day event in Marina, contact Bruce: bdelgado62@gmail.com

Sustainable Del Rey Oaks will host an event at their **Butterfly Garden**, which is located next to the Del Rey Oaks Garden Center and the city tennis courts, on **April 23, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.** Activities will include a trash timeline game, trash pickup, native seed planting, and selfies with butterflies and bees. Partner exhibitors will include Monterey SEA (storm water protection), Our Water, Our World (safe pest control), Del Rey Oaks Garden Center (Native nectar plants), and Monterey Regional Waste Management District (vermiculture). For more details please contact Kim: kshirley@delreyoaks.org

You can spend a whole day with Sustainable Seaside and a host of co-sponsors on **Saturday, April 30th**, starting with a park pollinator garden workday at **Highland-Otis Park at 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.** with a ceremonial rededication of the park at **11:30 a.m.** Then the activities move to the lawn and parking lot of **Seaside City Hall (440 Harcourt Avenue)** for the 11th Annual Earth Day Celebration, **from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.** The in-person event will include an **Electric Vehicle Ride, Drive & Display Fair** with Ecology Action and Central Coast Community Energy. Activities and events are planned all afternoon, including live music by Palenke Arts youth ensembles, a Trashion Re-Fashion Show, educational exhibits, booths and displays, hands-on fun activities for families and kids, food by Big Sur Taco, and a free raffle for eco-friendly items. City Councilmember Dave Pacheco will emcee. For more details please contact Catherine: cm_crockett@sbcglobal.net

Join in to celebrate and get inspired to move from anxiety to action on the climate crisis!

Communities for Sustainable Monterey County
Contact: info@csmc.eco

Visit: www.sustainablemontereycounty.org

SOCIAL



JUSTICE



Two weeks of intensive organizing by COPA (Communities Organized for relational Power in Action) has won a nine-month, \$1.59M extension of the VIDA community health worker (CHW) program in Monterey County.

The vote was 4 to 1 at the Board of Supervisors' meeting on March 8th, extending the VIDA program at current levels to the end of 2022. Had the board failed to act, VIDA would have been reduced from 48 to 18 CHWs as of March 31st.

This victory was the result of two weeks of intense effort by COPA and its allies to organize support for the extension. Teams of COPA leaders each met with their district supervisor, telling stories about the impact of VIDA and asking their supervisor to support the extension. COPA hosted an online event attended by over 100 COPA leaders, as well as Dan Baldwin, Executive Director of the Community Foundation of Monterey County, Supervisor Luis Alejo, Supervisor Wendy Root Askew and Kim Stemler, Director of the Grape Growers and Vintners Association.

Speakers told stories of how the CHWs have been effective in limiting the spread of COVID. One woman who speaks only Mixteco, an indigenous language of Mexico, was able to get her questions about vaccination answered, because Claudia, one of the CHWs, speaks both Mixteco and Spanish. Claudia then helped this woman register for a vaccination appointment. Weeks later the woman contacted Claudia because some of the people in her household had COVID symptoms. Claudia came to the house, administered rapid tests, and helped the infected family members to quarantine.



Fr. Lucas, a priest from King City, told of how he had narrowly avoided infecting 200 parishioners at a weekend retreat. Maricela Acevedo, one of the CHWs, and a member of his parish persuaded him that everyone should be tested for COVID, before spending so much time indoors together. Maricela administered the rapid tests, and when one of the women on the kitchen crew was found to be positive, Maricela went with her, to her house, to test other family members.

The Monterey County Hospitality Association, and Salinas Valley Chamber of Commerce spoke at the supervisors' meeting in support of the extension.

COPA first proposed the VIDA program to the Monterey County Supervisors, who voted unanimously in December of 2020 to allocate \$4.9M to hire 100 CHWs. The VIDA program is administered by the Community Foundation of Monterey County.

**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

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Return Service Requested



April 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