



# NUUSLETTER

of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula

June Theme: Celebrating Blessings

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

June 5

**"Music Sunday – A Celebration of Our Community"**  
Camille Hatton, Lucy Faridany, Rev. Elaine Gehrman and the UUCMP Community Choir

Community has been described as having the qualities of membership: a feeling of belonging and mattering; a feeling of making a difference to the group, and the group to its members. This Music Sunday, we will be treated to a number of musical illustrations of community, in person, online, and more. Don't miss this musical feast for the senses!

June 12

**"Empty, Half-Full, or Overflowing?"**  
Rev. Axel Gehrman and W.A. Sue Ellen Stringer

Our lives are filled with a multitude of blessings and burdens. At times we may feel drained by unexpected accidents, troubles and worries. At times we are sustained by gifts initially overlooked, and too easily taken for granted. Yet psychologists and sages say our spiritual well-being is shaped not by external events, but by the way we choose to understand them. Do you see your life as a glass that is half-empty or half-full?

June 19

**"The Blessings and Burdens of New Knowledge"**  
Rev. Elaine Gehrman & JT Mason and W.A. Ann Jacobson

Isabel Wilkerson, in her book *Caste*, compares America to an old house, one that has leaks and damaged areas and weak spots, which you ignore at your peril. In order to repair and reconstruct an old house, it is very helpful to get more information about where the problems lie, and to clearly identify the issues. We too might need to better know and understand some American history, in order to move forward repairing and reconstructing our country.

June 26

**"Blessings of Hard Times"**  
Rev. Craig Scott and W.A.s Ann Jacobson & Corey Brunson

We all experience hard times -- in our own lives and in the world around us. And we might think that nothing good could possibly come from our darkest days. But often we discover that we learned new lessons or discovered new strengths or resources as we struggled through hard times. Today we explore how blessings may come to us even as we face difficult times.

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## Religious Exploration

is available via Zoom each Sunday for children (pre K – 11) at 10 a.m. Both children and teens (12 – 18 ) meet at church in person Sundays for classes following the Story for all Ages during worship.



## Ministers' Message

Rev. Axel Gehrman

As we approach summer and the end of another church year, I find myself filled with a multitude of ambivalent thoughts and feelings. On the one hand I feel a profound sense of gratitude – especially for this congregation, and the many caring members and friends who have made this their church home: a vital place of support and of inspiration, a place of love and justice that encourages each of us to be better people, and to do our best to make a difference in the world. Our annual meeting last month was a case in point. We passed a healthy budget, elected new leaders, and enjoyed our first in-person luncheon social gathering in the church for over two years. The many energized people at church that day provided ample evidence of what a thriving and joyful community this is!

On the other hand, I am aware that even though we have weathered the hardships of the past two years remarkably well – thanks to the hard work and dedication of our leaders, staff, and many caring volunteers – we are not out of the woods yet. The stresses of the pandemic have exacted a cost for all of us. We are still trying to recover. And what challenges the future holds remains uncertain.

For your co-ministers, summer is traditionally the time we take most of our annual vacation and study leave, returning in early August. First, however, we will be attending two important gatherings this month. We will be going to Washington, D.C. to join the march and rally of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival on June 18th. We will be meeting up with other UUs supporting this movement, which is inspired by Rev. Dr. King's 1968 Poor People's Campaign, and has been re-vitalized by the work of Rev. Dr. William Barber II. The aim of the campaign is to address many issues: living-wage laws, equity in education, mass-incarceration, health-care and voting rights, and to connect a diversity of movements, which challenge racism, sexism, anti-Native American policies, ableism and classism. Rev. Barber strives to strengthen this country's moral center, affirming the dignity and humanity of every person.

The following week, we will attend this year's UU General Assembly (GA). GA is an annual gathering of thousands of UUs from around the country for celebration, education, business and social action – which will be taking place in Portland, Oregon, from June 22-26. This year's guiding theme is: *Meet the Moment – Reimagining Radical Faith Community*.

For the past two years, GA was conducted 100% virtually, making good use of online computer technology, and allowing thousands of delegates to gather and interact in new ways. One silver lining of these pandemic adjustments was that now GA has become more accessible and affordable to those of us unable to travel. This year will be the first multi-platform GA, which will allow both online and in-person participation. Elaine and I will be attending virtually (while remaining physically on the east coast), and we encourage you to consider attending as well! (Please see page 6 for more information.)

As we approach summer, I am reminded that we continue to live in "interesting" times. There is so much going on in the world around us and within us. Making sense of what is happening - finding ways to remain reasonably informed and meaningfully engaged – is an ongoing challenge. And we each rise to this challenge in different ways, given our unique gifts, insights, and abilities.

I have mixed thoughts and feelings about all of this. But they all begin and end with gratitude. Gratitude for this church and each and every one of you. When we come together as a caring community, we kindle a spirit of creativity, love, and resilience, which no one can find alone. Truly: "Our individual sparks meet and merge bringing both light and warmth to world." Thank you for bringing your spark!

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. **No meetings on June 4 or 6.**

## Men's Breakfast Group

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

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



If you have questions, please contact Douglas McLain [dmclain@hotmail.com](mailto: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** will meet Thursday June 2, 7 - 9 p.m. in person and via Zoom.

**Anti-Racism Book & Film Discussion Group** Tuesday, June 7, 7 p.m. in the Fireplace Room and via Zoom. See page 12,

**Artist Reception** Sunday, June 12, 11:45 a.m.

**Board of Trustees** meets Wednesday, June 15, 5:45 p.m. via Zoom.

**Buddhist Sangha** is every Wednesday at 7 p.m. in person in the sanctuary and via Zoom. See page 12.

**Environmental Justice** meets Tuesday, June 14, 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, June 22, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

**Men's Breakfast Group** meets Saturday, June 11, 8:30 a.m. via Zoom. See article at left.

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

**NUUsletter deadline** for the June issue is Thursday, June 16.

**People of Color (POC) group** will meet Saturday, June 18 at noon, and Monday, June 20 at 7 p.m. at <https://tinyurl.com/uwf8rdjf> **No meeting on June 4 or 6.** See article to the left.

**Program Council** meets Tuesday, June 7, 12:30 p.m. via Zoom. For questions contact Lauren Keenan [programcouncil@uucmp.org](mailto:programcouncil@uucmp.org)

**Sing Along** will meet on Wednesday, June 8. See weekly e-news for more details.

**Social Justice** meets Sunday, June 5, at noon. in the conference room and via Zoom.

**Stewardship** does not meet in June.

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

## President's Corner — Bud Smith



This will be my last President's Corner message to you. At the end of June, the very able Carol Greenstreet will be taking over the Presidency of the Board of Trustees. She will be a great leader as we begin our new post ( . . . we hope . . . ) pandemic life.

What have I learned during my time as the head of the board? Most importantly, I have come to appreciate anew how fortunate we are as a congregation. We are financially healthy, we maintain a vigorous social and environmental justice mission, our Worship Associates prepare meaningful Sunday services, and we enjoy each other. That last attribute may sound a little silly, but it is to be treasured. In my report included in the Annual Meeting packet I alluded to the meetings I have regularly had with other Pacific Western Region presidents. I have learned that many congregations have suffered from a real deterioration in the relationships of their members as they have attempted to problem-solve their way through the dislocations caused by the pandemic. Meetings have turned contentious, and too little at-

tention has been paid to some of the fundamental UU principles of dignity, compassion, and acceptance.

By contrast, I think we would all agree that our warm relationships with one another are essential to the health of this congregation. Valuing one another allows us to work well together, to freely express our opinions, and to disagree with each other and make sometimes difficult decisions while remembering that we are all "on the same team."

That is what has made this year on the board so fulfilling. What a wonderful group of thoughtful, patient, and conscientious people. We are looking forward to our new members Bjorn Nilson, Susan Holland, and (returning) Mibs McCarthy, even as we know we will miss Jon Czarnecki, Lauren Keenan, and Kent Weinstein. I urge you to consider some day joining the board yourself. Being a board member, or a member of any of our committees, is a way to enjoy church life beyond the spiritual sustenance you receive from our Sunday services.

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The days ahead for this nation and this world will need the involvement of active and effective problem-solving organizations like UUCMP. Working to "change the world around us through love, learning, and service to others" is a high calling. Let us keep at it.

Stay well.

Bud

### Celebration of Life Service

In honor of  
Peggy Olsen

Saturday, June 25, 2 p.m.





## RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION



Hello Friends,

I'm excited to write my first newsletter article to you as the DRE. I'm feeling very blessed to be part of UUCMP in this new role. I first joined UUCMP because I was invited by Camille Hatton, our music director, to try the choir. Everyone was so nice, and it was a lot of fun, so I kept going to choir rehearsal each Thursday and made some sweet friends. DRE Corey Brunson found out I had teaching experience and asked if I wanted to teach the upper elementary class and I said yes! I then volunteered to teach Our Whole Lives, Sexuality Education for grades K—12 (OWL) to the teens, and that was also a rewarding experience. I found many ways to participate in the church and in each way I was able to express my talents. All this is to say my role at the church has definitely evolved and I've enjoyed every part of the journey.

When I was the RE teacher and Erin Forstein was the DRE I had so much fun working to prepare classes for the students. Erin and I had so many great ideas and we worked so well together to have great classes for the kids. We continued to have fun lessons for the classes as we transitioned to in-person. We had our annual Easter egg hunt and the kids found 127 eggs out of 130. We got our hands dirty and planted some herbs for



Earth Day. The kids also celebrated May Day by making flower crowns and baskets. Even some teens joined in the flower crown activity. We celebrated Mother's Day by making

some sweet cards during class. In the teens' class Warren led the teens in wonderful discussions about Nurturing Beauty. On Mother's Day the teens discussed the idea of God as a mother or a father. They also discussed how finding beauty can help in times of stress. We also had the kids participate in the beautiful Multigenerational Service in May. The ministers and Erin worked hard to prepare the multigenerational service to celebrate the volunteers and teachers. Erin prepared activities for all the congregants to participate in creating a board of rainbow hearts. The children also passed out prisms to everyone in person. I'm looking forward to more fun times with the children!

I will be honest, getting started in this new role while everything is starting up back in person has been A LOT of work. There are many details to remember and things to consider, but I'm totally up for the challenge. I am ready. I'm ready to get this thing started! Not only am I ready but I am completely confident that we will have a wonderful Religious Exploration program and that we will continue to grow.

One thing I am also certain about is that I absolutely cannot do it all by myself. I couldn't even if I wanted to because it takes a community to help build a program. It takes teachers in the classrooms that support our children. Our program takes volunteers to help get things done. It takes new ideas and solutions to things that need rethinking and change. It does take a lot of effort, but it is well worth it. We come together to help but we also learn, evolve, and build a safe space for our own growth and the children's growth.

— Elizabeth Granado  
Director of Religious Exploration

## Fun Fundraising Plans!

Mark your calendar! Start saving items to offer for sale at our UUCMP **Super Flea!** Super Flea will return to an in-person sale this year on **September 2-3**. We will use the same format as before COVID; each seller prices their own items, displays and sells them, and takes away their own items at the end of the sale. All proceeds go to UUCMP.



Our **Services Auction** is on the UUCMP calendar!

Our first ever virtual Services Auction last year was loads of fun and highly successful.

We surpassed our fundraising goal because of the many, many creative and unique items offered by all of you! And all of the enthusiastic buyers were critical to that success as well.



There are people in the congregation who are willing to help you at each step of the way. More information will be shared as the date



gets closer. Contact Mibs McCarthy [mibsmccarthy@comcast.net](mailto:mibsmccarthy@comcast.net) with questions. Looking forward to finding unexpected treasures at the sale!

The Silent Auction portion of the auction will be virtual and will take place the week of October 15-21.

Saturday, October 22, will be the culminating event and will have multiplatform options, meaning folks can congregate in person or participate via Zoom.

Planning has just begun. so if you are interested in joining the Services Auction team, please

## Join our General Assembly -- June 22-26, 2022!



## UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY MULTIPLATFORM / PORTLAND • 2022

General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we conduct business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles. In addition to business sessions GA offers a multitude of workshops, lectures, and worship and witness opportunities. Participants worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process.

This year we will have the option of attending online or in-person! For those who enjoy the convenience and accessibility of remote participation, General Assembly will offer virtual attendance with robust programming and enhanced delegate discussion tools. Join us June 22 - 26, 2022 online or in-person in Portland, Oregon. To check out the many offerings and details, please visit [www.uua.org/ga/](http://www.uua.org/ga/) for more information. (UUCMP is entitled to five delegates; if you would like to serve as one of them, please contact Bud Smith, board president, or either of your co-ministers.)

## Getting Started with Text Giving

Receive personalized help to set up your own personal Kindrid text-to-give account for making donations, contributions, and payments of all types to UUCMP at a special Zoom session on Wednesday, June 8, at 7:00 p.m.



Please join us at this link:

### Text-to-Give Help Session

You'll learn how to TEXT your one-time or recurring donation, contribution, offering, or pledge payment to the church via [KINDRID](#), our new giving platform.

If you'd prefer to try it yourself using your cell phone, it's easy! Here is how it works:

1. Text the word **GIVE** (or **Give** or **give**) to **(831) 534-3577**.
2. You will immediately receive a text reply from that number with a web link.
3. Click on that web link to set up your donor account. You can give with a bank account, a credit card, or a debit card.
4. Select the tab for "One-time" or "Recurring," then choose the Fund, any Sub-Fund and/or Special Designation, the Amount, and how you'd like to pay. Then just click the red "Submit" button. (NOTE: If you also check the box to "Add 2.9% to help covers the costs of processing, it is a really BIG help!")
5. You will receive a reply text message confirming your transaction and thanking you for your donation.

The amount of your donation is recorded by the church and will appear on your next statement.

*Stuck? Confused?* Text or call Robert Brunson at (214) 395-1706 or send an email message to [finance@uucmp.org](mailto:finance@uucmp.org) for technical support.

### **Best Ways To Give**

**Set Up Recurring Transactions** – Choosing this option helps you stay consistent with your giving. Your gift is processed on a schedule you choose.

**Use Your Bank Account** – Withdrawing from a bank account substantially lowers the processing fee our church is charged, so while we do also accept credit and debit cards, we encourage you to select "ACH - Bank Account" when possible.

**Don't Go Into Debt!** – We do not wish to see anyone go into debt by giving with a credit card.

**Thank you in advance for your continued support and generosity!**

## We Know You Have Stories to Tell!

The Worship Associates at UUCMP bring a variety of experiences and perspectives to our weekly services! If you think it might be fun to help plan and participate in worship services, please talk to one of our ministers about joining our team. Enthusiasm is required, experience is not.

*Expand Your Comfort Zone!*

*Have fun while helping UUCMP!*

*Be a Worship Associate!*

Who are those people who are not ministers, yet who get to help present worship services every Sunday? They are Worship Associates, a tradition at UUCMP that goes back to around 1989.

Our team of Worship Associates works closely with the ministers to choose our monthly themes and weekly topics throughout the church year. Individuals then volunteer to participate in the services that they feel a connection to. The Worship Associates' big contribution to the typical service is a five-minute personal reflection on that week's topic. They don't need to do research or have a divinity-school degree because they talk about their own experiences, on which, they are the experts.

Worship Associates meet by Zoom just once a month to plan upcoming services and receive customized training prepared by our ministers to improve speaking skills and better understand the means and ends of UU worship. They get to know and work closely with the ministers and with each other in a friendly and supportive environment.

Everyone has life experience that can be crafted into reflections! If working creatively with a team of interesting people and having multiple opportunities to share your thoughts with the congregation appeals to you, please contact the Revs. Gehrman to discuss whether this opportunity would be a good fit for you.

Many hands make light work, and many voices encourage extraordinary worship experiences for us all. Won't you please consider joining in?

— Corey Brunson

### UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF THE MONTEREY PENINSULA POLICY ON COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

UUCMP encourages members and friends to *remain aware of COVID-19, and to take sensible precautions against further spread of the infection*. Wearing of face masks to limit airborne spread of infectious disease is encouraged, but not required at this time.

See this link [<https://uucmp.org/unitarian-universalist-church-of-the-monterey-peninsula-uucmp/>] for UUCMP's current policy and procedures.



# Musical Offerings

One of my biggest joys is directing our community choir. Members suggest wonderful repertoire each season, everyone voices their opinions for the proposed songs, then Lucy and I learn the music in order to help the choir master their notes and contribute to the interpretation and production of the music. Finally, allowing their voices to be showcased in our services is always awesome.

However, I think it's the community behind the making of the music that resonates my joy so deeply. Beyond the six walls of our Sanctuary and our combined efforts to swirl sound together in kaleidoscopic, sonic experience, the choir is a long-standing covenant group. Members dog-sit for each other, take each other out for food, celebrate birthdays and important life events together, help run errands, provide childcare, clean each other's homes, offer space for one another's guests, take walks together, and find a multitude of ways to be in community well beyond singing together. There is a warmth and welcoming in the choir which is magnetic. The members embody the definition of "community" fully, and for this I am grateful.

Please join us on June 5th for our Annual Spring Music Sunday service. We will include two choral pieces, children's choir, a reflection from choir member, Be Astengo, and guest cellist Linda Mehrabian. Our centerpiece features our long-time accompanist, Lucy Faridany, performing the first movement of Edvard Grieg's Piano Concerto in A minor. This service will conclude our children's choir and adult choir rehearsals until August. You may join Shawn for a Sing-Along in the 2nd week of June; please see the weekly news for specifics. Please feel free to reach out with any questions you may have.



— Camille Hatton  
Music Director



## June Shared Plate Recipient *USA for International Office of Migration*

World Refugee Day is an international day designated by the United Nations to honor refugees around the globe. It falls each year on June 20 and celebrates the strength and courage of people who have been forced to flee their home country to escape conflict or persecution. World Refugee Day is an occasion to build empathy and understanding for their plight and to recognize their resilience in rebuilding their lives.”

<https://www.unhcr.org/world-refugee-day.html>

We act to engage our UU Principles 1, 2, 6, and 7 by honoring World Refugee Day through our shared plate partner for the month of June, USA for IOM. This US arm of the acclaimed humanitarian aid group International Organization for Migration, is responsible for supporting their work and mission through partnerships and fundraising.

We may not often consider the experience of the refugee, but with the Ukraine conflict fresh in our minds, we are privileged to understand their needs in a way that may feel closer to our own lives and identities than any other conflict since WWII.

“Conflicts, armed violence, disasters, epidemics, pandemics and other crises force millions of people to leave their homes and communities, sometimes for years or even decades. More than 82 million people are currently living in displacement within and across borders with disasters displacing around 25 million on average each year. Economic downturns, political instability and other drivers also compel large population movements.

As the leading UN agency working on migration, IOM is committed to saving lives and helping populations move out of harm’s way. They protect and assist those displaced or stranded by crisis, and support populations and their communities to recover.

The Organization is among the world’s largest humanitarian actors and one of the few international organizations directly impacting programmes

across the humanitarian, development and peace nexus to provide comprehensive responses at all phases of crises.”

<https://www.iom.int/crisis-response>

I can personally attest to the excellent work done by IOM in areas in conflict, most recently in their excellent response to the need for refugee camp



staffing in Poland. They can be relied on to provide well-trained, culturally sensitive staff who are prepared with an attitude of honest helpfulness. They also proactively responded to the need for human trafficking awareness, and distributed translated materials in camps and at border points.

Historically, the US has not provided much support for IOM outside of government funding, and that funding has ebbed and flowed with the political leanings of each administration. Outside of Europe their life-saving work is not often recognized, and they are not supported by a grassroots fundraising movement. I think that the time for that to change has come, and I hope our community’s small token of support helps to spark that shift. Please join me in supporting their work.

— Altaira Hatton

Further reading: <https://rovienna.iom.int/stories/living-life-pause-millions-ukrainians-face-protracted-displacement>



## Art News



### *Forest Dreamings*

by Bonnie Rose Fernandez

June 11- August 13, 2022

Most paintings will be for sale; 20% of sales goes to UUCMP. Paintings purchased during the UUCMP show must be made available October 22-December 15, 2022, for the Pacific Grove Art Center show.

I began the practice of art, unknowingly, as a way to express my painful inner world after a young life filled with extreme traumatic experiences. Over the years while learning to draw, paint and deepen my artistic expression, I discovered that making art brought me healing, spiritual connection and wholeness. In addition to making my own art, my M.A. project in Depth Psychology (2010) focused on the value of expressive and symbolic arts for people struggling with posttraumatic stress. At the core of all my work is a passion for nature, wildlife, color, and in particular the magnificence of trees. I feel supported by trees, they inspire me to be simultaneously grounded and rooted, yet also expansive, generous, and supportive of others. My love of mountain biking and hiking throughout the Fort Ord National Monument and many other amazing



Higher Visions



Sunset at Mud Hen Lake

places is the inspiration for my latest series *Forest Dreamings* that showcases my living relationship with nature and beauty.



Woodland She

There will be a reception after church on  
June 12, 2022, 11:45 AM  
Come and meet the artist and enjoy fresh  
fruit and conversation!

## 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](mailto:minister@uucmp.org))

Please join us!

## Life Enrichment Programs Affinity Groups

**Some groups will not meet face-to-face in June. Some will meet via Zoom.**

**Anti-Racism Book and Film Discussion** First Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m. in the fireplace room and 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 15.

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

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

**Dances of Universal Peace** will not meet in June. 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 p. 3. **No meetings June 4 or 6.**

**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.





## Grapevine



**Peggy Miller Olsen** was born July 17, 1937, in New York City and raised in Los Angeles. She died May 14, 2022, at Canterbury Woods care center.

Peggy graduated with a BA from Pomona College in 1959 and went on to get a master's in

social work from Columbia University in New York. Returning to the San Francisco Bay Area, she worked as family counselor for seven years.

Peggy met her husband, Hebard, on a Sierra Club boating outing on Tomales Bay. They were delighted to move to the Monterey Bay area when Hebard became a science teacher at Seaside High School. Peggy stayed home with their two children, to whom she was devoted.

Throughout her life, she was a lover of cats from Tabby, Sassy, to Sweetie, whom she even wrote poems to. As a teen, she played piano and while at Pomona College she played folk guitar. Later in life she became an avid fan of opera. She discovered an interest in art and began oil painting at age forty.



Cypress by the Sea

Peggy felt lucky to become a member of Carmel Art Association in 1986. She has had seven solo shows and has been a top seller for many years. She continued to paint throughout her life up until the very end. A breast cancer survi-

vor of 30 years, Peggy had her share of health challenges.

Peggy loved to travel, and she and Hebard were able to make many wonderful trips together throughout the world. She was supportive of Hebard's retirement career as volunteer videographer for local Monterey Peninsula events, including taping Sunday services and other events for UUCMP. Peggy's concern for social inequities was developed through her membership in Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. She was an avid listener to KPFA radio and Democracy Now.



Seaside Symphony

For many years, Peggy chaired the UUCMP Art Committee, working with the Art Association to identify artists to show their work in the church, first in the sanctuary and later in the Welcome Hall. She wrote a column for the newsletter detailing the artists' lives and work and helped to schedule receptions for each one. A portion of the sales from these shows went to the church. Art was always very important to her.

There will be a memorial service in her honor at UUCMP on Saturday, June 25, at 2 p.m.

*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](mailto:caringnetwork@uucmp.org)*

## Environmental Justice News

### Farmworker Reality Tours Are Back

Some of you may remember taking a Farmworker Reality tour, led by Dr. Ann Lopez, several years ago. Others of you may not have been aware of the wonderful opportunity to visit a working organic strawberry farm, discuss immigration issues and more with farmworkers and even share a homecooked meal with folks who work so hard to bring delicious organic strawberries to market.



The Center for Farmworker Families was the February 2022, recipient of our UUCMP shared plate collection.

The tours are now back, starting Sundays in June, with the first tour on Sunday, June 5, 2022, from 3 p.m. - 7 p.m. The cost is \$20, and includes a homemade Mexican dinner.

If you are interested in attending this informative, fun, and eye-opening tour, please contact [environmentaljustice@uucmp.org](mailto:environmentaljustice@uucmp.org) More information will be forthcoming once we know how many of us will be attending.

The state of California is responsible for producing 1/3 of the nation's vegetables and nearly 2/3 of the nation's fruits and nuts including 90% of the strawberries grown in the U.S. California's Corporate Agribusiness is an annual \$50 billion per year industry. Although over one-half million farmworkers are responsible for this enormous food supply, in California, the

world's 5th largest economy, they remain an invisible, impoverished, voiceless underclass.

Come and meet the farmworkers that are responsible for the fruits, vegetables and nuts that most of us consume daily. Hear their stories and learn about their lives along the Central Coast of California. We will visit their homes and learn about the many obstacles they face in their heroic day-to-day struggle to survive and raise their families.

We will visit Crystal Bay Farm and learn about different farming practices. On the farm we will also meet a family and hear their story about a life-threatening walk through the desert at night to reach the U.S. They will also demonstrate the skill set required to pick strawberries. We will then visit the Buena Vista Migrant Camp and hear more farmworker stories, including stories of our recent successful efforts to modify/end the 50-mile regulation that has been a requirement of migrant camp life. This is a regulation of the California Department of Housing and Community Development that requires farmworkers to leave state-subsidized housing provided to migrant labor and move at least 50 miles away in order to be eligible for housing the following year. We will conclude the tour with a visit to a substandard home rented by a very hard-working farmworker and excellent cook. She will provide us with a delicious traditional Mexican meal while we discuss immigration reform and the needs of California's farmworker population.



Submitted by the Environmental Justice Committee



## SOCIAL JUSTICE

On Wednesday, May 18th, more than 25 COPA Clergy and Executive Directors met for lunch and a program at First United Methodist Church in Watsonville, co-chaired by Rev. Vicky Elder and Rev. Elaine Gehrmann, and hosted by Rev. John Song. Supervising Organizer Tim McManus led a teaching on organizing teams, and stories were shared about a recent Housing Civic Academy, the Catholic Synod Process, the Project Vida Extension, and the upcoming Santa Cruz Candidate Accountability Assembly. The Clergy and Executive Directors plan to meet three times a year, to stay updated and connected, to hear one another's stories, and to strengthen their COPA ties.

### UUCMP Religious Exploration Library

**OPEN** anytime you're in the building, before & after church, or by appointment.

**SEARCH** with the catalog : [librarycat.org/lib/uucmp](http://librarycat.org/lib/uucmp)

**BROWSE** by Source (S1, etc.) or Principle (P1, etc.) or OWL or UU.  
Signs and a list of principles are posted.

**CHECK OUT** using the clipboard on the table.

**RETURN** books when you come to church or when done. Put them back in the right place or leave them on the bottom shelf below P8.

**HELP?** Questions? Delivery? Easy! Ask Karen 831- 917-2042 [karenb1115@yahoo.com](mailto:karenb1115@yahoo.com)



— Karen Brown

### 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 June 23rd, when Diana Martinetto will lead our discussion of "Critical Race Theory." Watch for the emailed notice for this event. It will contain the Zoom link and password. This will be the last meeting of WDG for this session.

If you wish to be added to the WDG email list for this final meeting, contact either Nancy Baker Jacobs at [pgauthor@comcast.net](mailto:pgauthor@comcast.net) or the church office.

—Nancy Baker Jacobs, Facilitator



**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](mailto:office@uucmp.org)

**Co-Ministers**

**the Revs. Elaine and Axel Gehrman**  
[minister@uucmp.org](mailto:minister@uucmp.org)

**Director of Religious Exploration**

**Elizabeth Granado**  
[dre.elizabeth@uucmp.org](mailto:dre.elizabeth@uucmp.org)

**Church Administrator**

**Ray Krise**  
831- 624-7404 x 2105  
[admin@uucmp.org](mailto:admin@uucmp.org)

**Office Assistant**

**Karina Briseno**  
831- 624-7404 x 2104  
[office@uucmp.org](mailto:office@uucmp.org)

**Music Director**

**Camille Hatton**  
624-7404 x 2101  
[music@uucmp.org](mailto:music@uucmp.org)

**Caring Network**

[caringnetwork@uucmp.org](mailto:caringnetwork@uucmp.org)

**NUUsletter Editor**

**Carol Collin**  
[newsletter@uucmp.org](mailto:newsletter@uucmp.org)

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June 2022

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

Please send submissions for WEEKLY NEWS, the weekly announcements, to [office@uucmp.org](mailto: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](mailto:office@uucmp.org)