



NUUSLETTER

of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula

December Theme: Wonder

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

December 4

"The Wonder of a Child"

Rev. Axel Gehrmann and W.A. Corey Brunson

The winter holiday season, leading us into the longest nights of the year, will likely evoke a diversity of feelings and associations for each of us. A multitude of secular stories and religious observances, social conventions and family traditions strike different chords for all of us. Many of them can be traced back to the human experience of miracle and magic – a sense of wonder that often eludes us, and seems more accessible to a child.

December 11

"Little Drummer"

Revs. Axel & Elaine Gehrmann and DRE Elizabeth Granado

Join us for a multi-generational holiday pageant celebrating the spirit of the season, the blessings of love, and the gifts we each have to offer.



Religious Exploration

Children (pre K - 11) and teens (12-18) attend our worship service on Sundays and go to their respective Religious Exploration classes following the Story for All Ages.

December 18

"Winter Dreaming" -- Music Service

Rev. Elaine Gehrmann, Music Director Camille Hatton

For our annual winter holiday Music Sunday, Camille Hatton, Lucy Faridany and our UUCMP Community Choir will share an inspiring assortment of "dreamy" music, reminding us that in the winter darkness, new dreams can be born.

December 24

"Christmas Eve Candlelight Service"

One service at 5:00 p.m.

Revs. Elaine & Axel Gehrmann, Ray Krise & Robin Jensen

Join us for stories of the season, carols and candlelight. All ages are welcome! And please bring a plate of cookies to share.

December 25

NO WORSHIP SERVICE

Have a wonderful Christmas Day!

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See the calendar at
www.uucmp.org



Ministers' Message

Rev. Axel
Gehrmann

I can't believe it's December, the last month of the year! 2022 is already coming to an end - whether with a whimper or a bang, I'm not sure.

December, for me, is always an auspicious time of year, packed as it is with holiday activities and observances, some of them ancient and almost timeless, others newly invented and unprecedented – and everything in between.

The commerce and the commotion of the holidays, the excesses in advertising and entertainment, are not my favorite part. They often strike me as superficial, corny or crass, and yet they are part of the season.

I think of these trappings as bright flashing warning signs, like the ones set up on the highway when road crews are at work, alerting us to pay attention to what lies ahead: something important happening just around the next bend, something we might otherwise miss. Without the flashing lights, the arrows and traffic cones, we would surely speed by obliviously at a dangerous speed.

The signs and signals convey a sense of urgency and immediacy, encouraging us to be watchful. Look around! Open your eyes and ears, and you will sense something more subtle and sublime.

Notice the waxing and waning of daylight hours. Notice the sun's daily trajectory, as we barrel toward the winter solstice and the longest, deepest night of the year. Notice the angle of sunlight and shadow. Notice the dusk. Notice the dawn. Because whether we pay attention or not, they affect us all.

"Seasonal Affective Disorder" is the medical

term we have assigned to those most sensitive to these things. But I think this is a misnomer. There is nothing disorderly about the changing seasons and their effect on us.

The motion and momentum of earth circling sun affects everything that lives and moves on this planet. It is the ultimate order of things, more ancient than life itself. And it touches us more deeply than we know.

The multitude of holiday observances – the symbols and stories and countless traditions – each seek to bring the universal to a personal level, to help us make sense of it all, and ideally instill a spirit of peace and goodwill within us.

That's what I find, when I light candles, exchange holiday gifts and greetings, and sing familiar seasonal songs. I am moved and deeply affected by these simple rituals. They remind me to pay attention amidst the rush and roar of our days, and rediscover profound truths: Our world is full of beauty. Every season of life has its blessings. Our hearts should be filled with gratitude and wonder.

Whatever your favorite holiday observances may be in the days and weeks ahead, I hope they help you do just that: observe. May they open your eyes and ears. May they open your minds and hearts. May you be inspired by the solstice season, and may you truly find the spirit of hope, love and joy reborn again.

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 UU's 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 until in-person meetings at the church resume. Due to recent tech issues, please contact Patty Pai singerpattypai@gmail.com to be included on an email list and receive meeting reminders and any last-minute updates to the meeting link.



Men's Breakfast

Saturday, December 10, at 8:30 a.m.



The men's monthly breakfast is continuing as hybrid. Our next meeting is Saturday, November 12, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., in the Fireplace Room. People will bring in food of their choice to the in-person meeting. If you prefer, you can join us via Zoom from home at 9:00 a.m.

Zoom Meeting ID is: 975 5961 1965. Passcode: 408070
On a phone (call 669-900- 9128)
Or with a computer - simply click on this link:
<https://zoom.us/j/97559611965>

The breakfast is open to all who identify as male or gender fluid. Our conversation is confidential. If you are joining us in person please RSVP to Mike Lovell lovellmike50@hotmail.com so that we will have an idea of how much food to bring. If you have any dietary restrictions please bring your own food. Hope to see you there.

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 at 7 p.m. in person and via Zoom.

Anti-Racism Book & Film Discussion Group Tuesday, December 6, 7 p.m. in the Fireplace Room and via Zoom. See page 7,

Board of Trustees meets Wednesday, December 21, at 5:45 p.m. via Zoom.

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

Children's Choir meets Sunday, 10 a.m. in the conference room.

Environmental Justice meets Tuesday, December 13, 3:30 p.m. via Zoom.

I-HELP for Men is Sunday, December 11, 5 p.m. Sign up on the bulletin board if you can help.

I-HELP for Women is Sunday, December 25. Contact Lee Hulquist if you can help.

Membership Committee meets Wednesday, December 28, 5p.m. via Zoom .

Men's Breakfast Group meets Saturday, December 10, 8:30 a.m. in person and 9 a.m. via Zoom. See article at left.

Music Committee meets Wednesday, December 7, at 5 p.m. via Zoom.

NUU's letter deadline for the January issue is Friday, December 16.

People of Color (POC) group will meet Saturdays, December 3 and 17 at noon, and Mondays, December 5 and 19 at 7 p.m. See article to the left for meeting details.

Program Council meets Tuesday, December 6, 12:30 p.m. via Zoom. For questions contact Mibs McCarthy programcouncil@uucmp.org

Social Justice will meet on Sunday, December 4. at noon in the Sanctuary and via Zoom.

Stewardship will meet Wednesday, December 7, 1:30 p.m. via Zoom.

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

President's Corner — Carol Greenstreet



Change and Wonder

The November theme was Change, and it is an appropriate message as we look out of our windows and see and feel the embrace of autumn as the rains are returning and the air gets chilly. I must admit that I got a little teary a few weeks ago when our guest musician, Rick Chelew, sang Joni Mitchell's *Circle Game*. I cannot think of a more perfect, and hopeful, song to represent the passage of time and the change of seasons, and the changes that we see in ourselves. As the circle of this year winds down, I reflect upon the changes that this year has brought to my life. As the pandemic ends, or at least my wariness of it, I have felt comfortable enough to travel and catch up on long delayed activities. I visited my two brothers and their spouses in New Jersey for the first time in three years. The rain pushed the Labor Day barbeque indoors, so we sat and talked, catching up on our lives. I was struck by how much more my two brothers resemble each other than I had ever no-



ticed. Now both have close-cropped, graying hair, so that their facial similarities become more obvious. Mannerisms too: since I had not seen them for so long, maybe I was studying their expressions and faces more than I had in the past. I have already planned a trip to New Jersey again next year, so that I do not let so much time pass between visits.

One of Axel's sermons focused on *The Serenity Prayer*, of which I should remind myself frequently. Perhaps I can internalize a few early New Year's resolutions: talk to, meet with, or correspond with friends and family frequently. Embrace the changes that I see in myself and others. Accept that as time passes, there will be things that I cannot change. A high priority for me should be identifying those that I can, and I should direct my energies towards those people and ideals that are important to me. I pulled out my Gratitude Journal which was gathering dust, and noticed that my last entry was June 11, 2022. Alas, too long. I added a new entry; we will see if that resolution continues. Perhaps reflecting on the positive aspects of my life will help me appreciate my life and focus on looking forward as well. It is a nice juxtaposition that the December message is Wonder. Now I can ponder how to combine these two into ideas and action.



Carol

Welcome to New Member Sally Belk



Sally Belk is from Richmond, Virginia, where she received her B FA (Art Education) and MA (Art History) at VA Commonwealth University. She has lived in Rome, Paris, and New York where she served as an editor at *House & Garden*, *House Beautiful*; and *Bon Appetit*. Sally moved to Bozeman, Montana, where she lived for 20 years. In the mountains she studied Buddhism and has taken her refuge vows twice. Sally is a certified yoga instructor and has made pilgrimages to India and Bhutan. She was born into a devout Presbyterian household but has always been curious about other faiths. She followed *A Course in Miracles* for many years. She is thrilled to live in California and teaches ESL at Monterey Adult School. Sally is very happy to have found UUMCP.

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION



Hello Everyone,

I hope you all are having a wonderful and safe holiday season. Religious Exploration has been going along great! In November we hosted our monthly game night and we had a great time. We also had our Second Sunday Family luncheon for RE families and anyone interested in our RE program. Don Reynolds and Martin Levi made a great team grilling hotdogs outside for our families. I want to say thank you to these awesome people for helping make our families feel welcome and connected. I also want to thank our parents who helped with setting up and even brought some delicious food too. If you are interested in what's going on in RE come by the RE wing any time after the service.

We are gearing up for our Multigenerational Service on December 11th. We plan to also have a great time so I hope you can make it. The kids and youth will present an interactive Christmas pageant and this year's theme is *The Little Drummer*. We are getting our costumes ready and finalizing our script. The kids are looking forward to presenting it to you.

Our Committee on Family Ministry continues to meet once a month. We've come up with a list of some great ideas on how we can grow our RE program. We love new families and hope we can increase the number of kids and youth in our program.

Come visit our RE table in the welcome hall on Sundays. Volunteer to bring snacks or even join in on one of our fun classes someday. Sign up to join our committee or just catch up and learn about how much fun RE is.

Thank you for catching up with our Religious Exploration program. Wishing you a happy holiday season and looking forward to catching up in the new year.

Elizabeth Granado
Director of Religious Exploration

Baby Shower -- Don't Miss it!!



Use this link to RSVP! <http://evite.me/YvdfcCj3KA>

Musical Offerings

It's the most wonder-filled time of the year. This is the season of wonder – remember how it felt when you were a child? The lights? The holiday cookies? The festivities? The candles? The gifts?

Wonder is when curiosity meets surprise. To be truly in a state of wonder we must have found ourselves in an unexpected moment, and we must want to engage with it; to experience it fully, maybe to take it apart – to learn how to recreate it.

Wonder often proceeds joy. Like a good joke, or a good pepper, the shock of surprise primes our endorphins for a rush of “happy.”

I remember a holiday morning at my grandmother's. I was maybe 4? Or 5? The night before a surprise snowstorm had come in, and we awoke to a thick blanket of white silence. I wandered out into it in my



pajamas and was totally amazed by the crunchy wet coldness. Our breakfast of blintzes made with a warm berry compote stays in my memory; the contrast of reassuring coziness with the outdoors – a transformed wintry world.

When have you experienced wonder? When have you created it for others? What is wonderful for you?

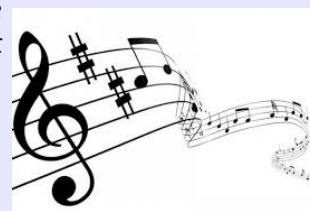
Join us to explore the wonder of music. Our UUCMP Community Choir is open to all; no auditions, no experience needed. We meet every Thursday from 7-9 p.m. in the sanctuary. We are currently working on repertoire for our annual winter Music Sunday service on December 18th.



Our Children's Choir meets every Sunday from 10-10:20 in the conference room. We are playing hand chimes for the upcoming annual RE Sunday Service on December 11th.



Additionally, we are starting a monthly jam session to just play through songs. We will meet on Thursday, December 8th, from 6-7 p.m. in the sanctuary. This group will not perform in services. All are welcome to bring an instrument or come to sing along. If you play an instrument and would like to occasionally accompany hymns on Sunday morning, please let Camille know. music@uucmp.org



Altaira Hatton, Music Committee Member

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

Some groups will not meet face-to-face in December. 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. in person at church and at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom. Contact: Mike Lovell. See page 3.

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 December. Contact: John Freeman for any questions.

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

POC (People of Color) Group meets via Zoom 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. See article on page 3 for meeting link.

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 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.



December Shared Plate Recipient *Housing Resource Center of Monterey County*

HRC's Mission

The mission of the Housing Resource Center (HRC) of Monterey County is to provide a continuum of housing resources for homeless prevention and affordable housing opportunities. HRC fosters community stability, stronger communities, and personal economic empowerment through education, advocacy, counseling and services.

Summary of Services

The Housing Resource Center of Monterey County is a non-profit organization founded in 1984 with the goal of helping homeless families and individuals find and maintain permanent housing. Our organization provides a series of financial services to the homeless community, including: payment of outstanding utility and eviction debt, security deposit assistance, rental assistance, and application fee assistance. Our team also focuses on teaching families how to budget monthly, make housing goals, how to be responsible for rent, how to speak to landlords and where to look for housing given their income and location.

Recently, we've taken part in the First Time Home Buyer Education course where individuals looking to purchase a home for the first time can learn what it takes to be a home owner. As we continue and grow as an organization, we strive to be a resource tool for those in all housing phases. We pride ourselves in teaching others how to become independent while also acknowledging the need to ask for help when needed. We believe everyone deserves shelter and a place to call their own.

Success Photo



Success Story:

"With the help of Monterey County Gives, HRC would like to be able to return that landlord support by offering to financially subsidize minor repairs. It is our hope that with your generous donation, HRC could contribute to the Lead Me Home 10-year plan to end homelessness and bring stability to the community. This is another way that HRC intends to give back to the community and encourage landlords to participate in helping to rapidly re-house homeless families in Monterey County.

In October, 2021, my seven-year-old daughter and I were homeless for the first time. We were living in hotels and on friend's couches. While I was homeless, I cried a lot while my daughter was asleep because I honestly thought it was going to be impossible for me to get out of that situation alone. It's only because of the help from HRC, that I now have a home to raise my daughter and we are beyond grateful for the support and encouragement we had along the way." - Anonymous

Please donate generously to this worthy organization.

Congregational Covenant Progress

Approximately 25 of us participated in the Covenant Workshop on October 1 with UUA Pacific Western Region staff person Annie Scott. Based on the statements generated by workshop participants, a small covenant crafting team came up with the below draft, which was then circulated to workshop participants, who made minor suggestions which were then included. We invite you to review this draft covenant, and in January we will have one (or more) after church gathering(s) (in-person and on zoom) to discuss your thoughts and responses. You can also forward your thoughts and responses to Rev. Elaine at minister@uucmp.org.

UUCMP Congregational Covenant (Draft)

We, the Members and Friends of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula have a mission to welcome all with loving hearts and open minds. Our vision is a welcoming, respectful, and vibrant environment where we support one another, comfort and challenge one another, and inspire our work in the world. This covenant of right relations supports our mission and vision, providing a set of guidelines to help us maintain a healthy and spirited community. It encourages us to bring our best selves to our relationships with one another and to grow in spirit, deepening our connections with each other. Every member and friend of the UUCMP community is encouraged to join in these promises to ensure that this institution thrives and can accomplish its mission and vision in the world.

To Encourage Respectful Interactions

- *We will listen deeply without judgment or a rush to respond*
- *We will speak thoughtfully and respectfully, to share our truth and lived experience*
- *We will trust that others have good intentions*
- *We will be mindful of our impact, despite our good intentions*
- *We will provide honest, constructive feedback*
- *We will be willing to learn and grow, especially when it challenges us*

To Cultivate a Caring Community

- *We will practice kindness and compassion, respecting our similarities and differences*
- *We will hold ourselves accountable for our words and actions*
- *We will resolve conflicts directly, with openness and compassion, seeking reconciliation through forgiveness and making amends*
- *We will view each other with the spirit of love, expressing joy, humor, and a generous spirit*
- *We will continue to work toward true equity, inclusion, diversity and acceptance*
- *We will participate as fully as we are able, and share the ownership of the congregation*

We will support those who struggle on their path, as fellow travelers on our human journey, sharing our joys, comforting each other's sorrows, learning, growing, and responding with patience and empathy for our individual fallibility. We will forgive ourselves and others when we fall short and fail to keep these promises, calling one another back into right relations with compassion, beginning again in love.

Draft created by Covenant Crafters Steve Johnson, Mike Lovell, Page Galloway & Elaine Gehrmann, November 2, 2022 (with slight edits made by participants of Covenant workshop, updated Nov. 10, 2022).



All We Need Is Love

COMING SOON TO AN INBOX NEAR YOU!! Information on our annual Operating Fund Campaign – this year the theme is **ALL WE NEED IS LOVE**. With the challenges and happenings in our lives, we continue to come to UUCMP as our place of love and justice whose inspiration we can carry into the world. We continue to show our love by working for justice and healing in our community and throughout the world. We continue

to work for the rights of those who are in need or in jeopardy. With love, we celebrate the worth and dignity of us all. That is a lot of love!

We'll introduce you to the exciting details of the upcoming campaign in the January newsletter. In the meantime, it is never too early to consider what you will be pledging for the 2023/24 church year! Our community needs your support as we emerge from the pandemic and continue to create our place within the larger Monterey area community. **ALL WE NEED IS LOVE**, and your financial support! The official kick off will be in February.

Environmental Justice News

Our UUCMP Environmental Justice group recently discussed the 11/2/2022 Monterey Herald article on whales ingesting micro plastics (the size of a period character) and can be as much as 95 pounds a day - from the krill & organisms they eat. The last part of the article says, "Action is needed now to reduce society's dependence on plastics."

The article goes on to say, "A large amount of plastic in ocean comes from synthetic fibers, like polyester, in clothes and textiles - that when washed, shed tiny threads that go through wastewater treatment plants into ocean and bays. Consumers can buy filters to place on washing machines to catch fibers -- or use special bags to wash synthetic clothes. France has recently passed a law requiring all new washing machines sold by 2025 to be equipped with the filters."

[nytimes.com/wirecutter/blog](https://www.nytimes.com/wirecutter/blog)

The laundry bags mentioned in the link might be the most practical solution for most people



since installing the washing machine filter may present challenges for many whose washing machines are in small spaces.

An additional quote from the article was also alarming: "Although scientists first found synthetic microfibers in the ocean (which pulled the focus to the impact of laundry), more recent [research](#) now shows that our clothes shed almost as many microfibers into the air."

Our EJ group supports the conclusion from the above article that the more natural fibers we surround ourselves with the better. We don't have to throw out everything that is synthetic, but we can start being more aware of what we purchase in the future, and we can find ways to more safely clean what we have.



It's time for "Guest at Your Table"

Guest at Your Table (GAYT) is the UU Service Committee's (UUSC) annual intergenerational program to raise support for, and awareness about, key human rights issues. Since UUSC works in more than 20 countries, with over 50 grassroots partners, there are thousands of individuals involved in and who benefit from the work that our members make possible. The program is an opportunity to celebrate grassroots partnership, support human rights, and learn about just four of these individuals—the "guests" in Guest at Your Table. From supporting migrant workers facing unjust conditions in U.S. meat processing plants to helping revolutionize farming practices and gender justice in Nicaragua, this year's featured partners -- the "guests" in Guest at Your Table -- are on the frontlines of advancing change in their communities.

This year's theme is Hope, Courage, Action. The injustices and crises of the past year have underscored the importance of our shared goal—a world free from oppression, where all can realize their full human rights. They also have emphasized just how big a task that is.

Guest at Your Table may be celebrated in your home by saving spare change during the months of November and December and converting that to a check made out to UUCMP with Guest at Your Table in the memo line or by just by writing such a check. Or you can donate online, either one time or monthly at this secure link:

<https://donate.uusc.org/give/75595/#!/donation/checkout> Donations to Guest at Your Table help advance

community-led human rights initiatives around the world. Donations of \$150 or more are eligible to be matched by the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock in Manhasset, NY.



Guest at Your Table

Hope. Courage. Action.

Guest at Your Table is the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's annual intergenerational program to raise support for and awareness about critical human rights issues. This year—focusing on the theme *Hope, Courage, Action*—we are highlighting the following leaders from UUSC partner organizations:



Ineza Umuhoza Grace is amplifying the voices of youth as they petition governments around the world to take meaningful action for climate justice.



Zsolt Szekeres is providing legal assistance and social resources to people fleeing Ukraine who are seeking safety in Hungary following the Russian invasion.



Ian Zdanowicz is coordinating community care for LGBTQIA+ people recently released from U.S. immigration detention.



Naw Wah Ku Shee is working with ethnic minorities in Burma to share their experiences of being targeted by the military junta.

Learn more about our grassroots partners by visiting:

UUSC.ORG/GUEST

Art News

'Tis the Season Again
To show quilts made by
REGINA LISKE
All of December, 2022



Regina's Holiday and Christmas quilts

A special reception and celebration of Regina's
90th birthday
Sunday, December 11
From noon to 2 p.m.

With music by Celtic Roads with Paulette Lynch along
with Las Cuerdas del Corazon, Heartstrings.

Unexpected Pleasure



This quilt show is a celebration of the season, the art of quilting, old and new,
of family, music, and birthdays with red velvet cake.

This occasion will also be marked by the bagpipe's call to enter the house and
meet family, friends, and guests and celebrate the season, again . . .



Quilts were fondly named by Regina's late husband Jack.

UUA News



What is the UUA?

The mission of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) is to equip congrega-

tions for health and vitality, to support and train lay and professional leaders, and to advance Unitarian Universalist values in the world.

The UUA is the central organization for the Unitarian Universalist (UU) religious movement in the United States. The UUA's 1000+ member congregations are committed to Seven Principles that include the worth of each person, the need for justice and compassion, and the right to choose one's own beliefs.

Article II of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Bylaws, Principles and Purposes, is the foundation for all of the work of our UUA and its member congregations and covenanted communities. It is the covenant to which all of our congregations and covenanted communities pledge themselves when they become members of our UUA.

Our current Principles and Purposes were last revised in 1987. At General Assembly (GA) 2017, there was discussion of amending the Principles to add an 8th Principle, addressing racism, and an amended 1st Principle, addressing non-human life. The 5th Principle was the subject of a report in 2009, which dealt with the ways in which GA and other Unitarian Universalist (UU) gatherings do and don't embody an inclusive democratic process. The 7th Principle has also been the subject of discussions about possible amendments.

It is time for us to do a review and make changes so that we are living into the Unitarian Universalism of the future, a Unitarian Universalism that holds us in times of great need and ethical, moral and spiritual crises. We are in

one of those times now.

The following is the proposed draft:

The Unitarian Universalist Association shall devote its resources to and exercise its organizational powers for religious, educational, and humanitarian purposes. Its primary purposes are to equip congregations for vital ministry, to support and train leaders both lay and professional, to heal historic inequities, and to advance our Unitarian Universalist values in the world. We will transform the world by our liberating love.

Values and Covenant. Love is the enduring force that holds us together. As Unitarian Universalists in religious community, we covenant, congregation-to-congregation and through our association, to support and assist each other in engaging our ministries. We draw from our heritages of freedom and reason, hope and courage, building on the foundation of love. Love inspires and powers the passion with which we embody our values. Inseparable from one another, these shared values are:

Justice. We work to be diverse multicultural Beloved Communities where all people thrive. We covenant to dismantle racism and all forms of oppression within individuals and our institutions. We are accountable to each other for this work.

Generosity. We cultivate a spirit of gratitude and hope. We covenant to freely share our faith, presence, and resources. Compassionate generosity connects us one to another in relationships of mutuality.

Evolution. We adapt to the changing world. We covenant to collectively transform and grow spiritually and ethically. Evolution is fundamental to life and to our Unitarian Universalist heritages, never complete and never perfect.

-- continued on page 14

UUA News, continued

Pluralism. We celebrate that we are all sacred beings diverse in culture, theology, and experience. We covenant to learn from one another and openly explore the depth and breadth of our many wisdoms. We embrace our differences and commonalities with love, curiosity, and respect.

Equity. We declare that every person has the right to flourish with dignity and worthiness. We covenant to use our time, wisdom, attention, and money to build and sustain a fully inclusive and accessible community of communities.

Interdependence. We honor the sacred interdependent web of all existence. With humility we understand our place in the web. We covenant to care for and respect the earth and all beings by fostering relationships of mutuality. We work to repair the bonds we have broken.

Inspirations. As Unitarian Universalists, we draw upon, and are inspired by, the full depth and breadth of sacred understandings, as experienced by humanity.

Grateful for the religious lineages we inherit and the pluralism which enriches our faith, we are called to ever deepen and expand our wisdom.

Inclusion. Systems of power, privilege, and oppression have traditionally created barriers for persons and groups with particular identities, ages, abilities, and histories. We pledge to replace such barriers with ever-widening circles of solidarity and mutual respect. We strive to be an association of congregations that truly welcome all persons who share our values. We commit to structuring congregational and associational life in ways that empower and enhance everyone's participation.

Freedom of belief. Nothing herein shall be deemed to infringe upon the individual freedom of belief which is inherent in the Unitarian Universalist heritages or to conflict with any statement of purpose, covenant, or bond of union used by any congregation unless such is used as a creedal test. In expressing our beliefs, we do so in the spirit of love, in ways that further Beloved Community.

The Worship Associates Are at Work

Ever wonder how the monthly worship service themes and individual Sunday worship topics are chosen? These issues are determined by the Worship Associates Committee supported by our Music Director and Religious Exploration Director and approved by our co-ministers. Decisions concerning the order of service are similarly decided. Worship Associates meet monthly on the first Wednesday of each month and also have a retreat semiannually to review the monthly themes for the coming six months and discuss individual Sunday topics. The next retreat will be held on December 10th. Our church subscribes to a service called Soul Matters which provides monthly themes and background materials in support of each month's topic. Here are the monthly topics for the first six months of 2023:

January – Finding Our Center
February - Love
March – Vulnerability
April – Resistance
May – Creativity
June – Delight

Your thoughts about the order of service and worship topics are always welcome. Email Worship Associates chair, Molly Lewis (wa@uucmp.org) and she will place your ideas on the committee's agenda for consideration at the December 10th meeting. Your help is always greatly appreciated.

Living the Eighth Principle

Free Movie sponsored by BLAAC

December 7th, 2022

Lighthouse Theater in Pacific Grove

Doors open at 6 p.m.– Movie Starts at 7 p. m.

BLAAC's next movie, "The Great Debaters," directed by and starring Denzel Washington, produced by Oprah Winfrey, is a rich account of a rarely known part of American history.

A drama based on the true story of Melvin B. Tolson, a professor at Wiley College Texas. In 1935, he inspired students to form the school's first debate team, which went on to challenge Harvard in the national championship.

The film depicts the Wiley Debate team beating Harvard College in the 1930s. The real Wiley team instead defeated the University of Southern California, who at the time were the reigning debating champions. Though they beat the reigning champions, Wiley was not allowed to officially call themselves champions, because they were not full members of the debate society; black people were not admitted until after World War II."

[Reserve My Free Movie Seat](#)

Learn about this amazing film here:

[The Great Debaters](#)

Movies are offered to our community by: Black Leaders and Allies Collaborative

www.blaac.org



Movie Accolades

Won: [Image Award](#) for Outstanding Motion Picture

Won: [Image Award](#) for Outstanding Actor in a Motion Picture: [Denzel Washington](#)

Won: [Image Award](#) for Outstanding Actress in a Motion Picture: [Jurnee Smollett](#)

Won: [Image Award](#) for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Motion Picture: [Forest Whitaker](#), [Nate Parker](#), [Denzel Whitaker](#)

Won: [Stanley Kramer Award](#)

Nominated: [Golden Globe Award](#) for Best Motion Picture – Drama^[1]

Nominated: [Image Award](#) for Outstanding Director in a Motion Picture: [Denzel Washington](#)

Nominated: [Golden Reel Award for Best Music Sound Editing in a Feature Film](#)



SOCIAL



JUSTICE

It Takes a Community to Solve a Problem



Many issues affect our families, from COVID-19 to healthcare for undocumented workers. COPA helped create solutions to these problems by listening to people, sharing stories, and then using our collective power to achieve important results.

Developing and Training the Next Generation of Civic Leaders www.montereycountygives.com/copa

COPA is a non-partisan, broad-based organization



SOCIAL JUSTICE

Mission

COPA's mission is to build leadership capacity in local institutions, enabling them to collaborate to solve community problems and to revive and reinvigorate civic culture.

COPA is a non-partisan, broad-based organization of almost thirty religious congregations, labor unions, schools, and nonprofits. We organize across institutions to bring together a diverse cross-section of the region around mutual interests to achieve change for the common good.

The Big Idea

A healthy democracy depends upon vibrant, community-based institutions and leadership across diverse groups of people. COPA develops and nurtures community leaders within local institutions to identify problems facing their neighborhoods. COPA then builds communal power to take effective action on the issues and bring about measurable and lasting change.

We start by sharing our stories, building relationships, and developing trust. Most COPA meetings are bilingual. The issues we take on evolve from our stories and experiences. We then work together to address the economic, social, political, and cultural pressures on our families and neighborhoods.

"COPA strengthened my leadership skills, along with Mujeres en Acción, so I was able to chair a meeting with Monterey County Supervisor Lopez. Even though it was nerve-racking, I did it. I gained confidence and started to believe more in myself. It felt good to be supported by other COPA leaders, and to know that I was trusted. I've learned how to receive constructive criticism and know that it's not personal. COPA showed me how to have effective one-on-one relational meetings, and how to hold "house meetings" to learn what people care deeply about, and to build community support. These skills have made me a better coordinator on the VIDA (COVID-19) program at Mujeres en Acción. I have learned how to be more accountable, transparent, and to give clear direction to the community health workers."

**Unitarian Universalist Church
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Carmel, CA 93923**

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December 2022

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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