



# NUUSLETTER

of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula

November Theme: Change

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

November 6

**"The Seasons They Go Round and Round"**

Rev. Elaine Gehrmann and W.A. Lauren Keenan

Our seasons change based on the position of our Earth in relation to our Sun. We mark these changes in our gardens, in the light and darkness of our mornings and evenings, and in our created human rhythms of society. Weather patterns, elections, celebrations, and daily life, all wax and wane, year in and year out-- how do we best deal with our ever-changing seasons of life?

November 13

**"If Change Were Inevitable"**

Rev. Axel Gehrmann and W.A. Kathleen Craig

Some say humankind can be divided into two distinct groups: Those of us who resist change, and those who embrace or even relish change. In my experience, most people fall into the first group. (I do.) We tend to be creatures of habit, who cherish the familiar. However, regardless of our personal preferences, changes are perpetually taking place within us and around us. How might we skillfully embrace the inevitable?

November 20

**"Our Changing Celebrations"**

Rev. Elaine Gehrmann and W.A. Ann Jacobson

Holidays, traditions and rituals are a central part of being human. The many ways we mark time and seasons and important events are notable for their consistency, and yet they are also changing, and sometimes very rapidly. How do we keep up with our changing celebrations? How can we maintain their significance while adapting to and even embracing the changes that are occurring?

November 27

**"Small Change - the Nickels and Dimes of Transformation"**

Ray Krise and Bjorn Nilson

In the Western world we tend to see change as the broad strokes of history: the medieval dark ages, the Enlightenment, the Reformation, the Industrial Revolution, the Age of Information. That's great for the history books but it's not how we experience change. We live change in the small incremental steps of each day, the kindness of a helping hand, a shout out for justice, the bending of history toward hope with a positive word. The small experiential changes of love, justice and hope can lead to a great transformation.

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See the calendar at  
www.uucmp.org

## 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.



## Ministers' Message

Rev. Elaine  
Gehrmann

As many of you know, Axel and I are big Star Trek fans. We watched the original series when we were kids, and then the Next Generation series as young adults, as well as many of the other sequels and prequels and spinoffs, and all the movies too. I have a special place in my heart for the OG Captain James T. Kirk, played unforgettably by William Shatner.

In his new memoir, *Boldly Go*, William Shatner describes his experience as he finally made an actual voyage into space, last October, at 90 years of age. He said, "Everything I had thought was wrong. Everything I had expected to see was wrong . . . I saw a cold, dark, black emptiness. It was unlike any blackness you can see or feel on Earth. It was deep, enveloping, all-encompassing. I turned back toward the light of home. I could see the curvature of Earth, the beige of the desert, the white of the clouds and the blue of the sky. It was life. Nurturing, sustaining, life. Mother Earth. Gaia. And I was leaving her . . ."

Shatner told NPR reporter Enrique Rivera that, "he had been excited to travel to space, and had thought about it for nearly 60 years, but didn't think he'd be overwhelmed with sadness, or that he'd go through 'the strongest feelings of grief' that he's ever experienced."

Shatner later learned that he was not alone in this feeling. It is called the "Overview Effect" and is not uncommon when someone travels to space and views Earth from orbit, "as a sense of the planet's fragility takes hold in an ineffable, instinctive manner." Author Frank White first coined the term "Overview Effect" in 1987, saying: "There are no borders or boundaries on our planet except those that we create in our minds or through human behaviors. All the ideas and concepts that divide us

when we are on the surface begin to fade from orbit . . . The result is a shift in worldview, and in identity."

Shatner said, "I discovered that the beauty isn't out there, it's down here, with all of us. Leaving that behind made my connection to our tiny planet even more profound . . . It reinforced tenfold my own view on the power of our beautiful, mysterious collective human entanglement, and eventually, it returned a feeling of hope to my heart."

Frank White says that space travelers tend to return to our planet with "a greater distaste for war and violence, and a desire to do something to improve life back on the surface, because they've seen the truth of our situation."

In these days of human division, war, violence, partisan divides, pandemics, and ecological collapse, I am grateful for Captain Kirk's testimony of the Overview Effect, a vivid reminder that our salvation is not out there in space somewhere, but right here on earth. We have all the tools and motivation we need, if we can only muster the big picture view of it all, keeping in our mind's eye the preciousness of what we have right here, its fragility and its incredible value and worth. Let us continue to work together to protect and nurture this incredible treasure, our common home. In the words of the second greatest Star Trek Captain Jean-Luc Picard—"Make it so."

See you in church!

*Elaine*

## 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](mailto: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, November 12, 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](mailto: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, November 1, 7 p.m. in the Fireplace Room and via Zoom. See page 7.

**Board of Trustees** meets Wednesday, November 16, at 5:45 p.m. via Zoom.

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

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

**I-HELP for Men** is Sunday, November 13, 5 p.m. Sign up on the bulletin board if you can help. See page 13.

**I-HELP for Women** is Sunday, November 27. Contact Lee Hulquist if you can help; see page 11.

**Membership Committee** meets Wednesday, November 30, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

**Men's Breakfast Group** meets Saturday, November 12, 8:30 a.m. in person and 9 a.m. via Zoom. See article at left.

**Music Committee** meets Wednesday, November 2, at 5 p.m. via Zoom.

**NUUsletter deadline** for the November issue is Wednesday, November 16.

**People of Color (POC) group** will meet Saturdays, November 5 and 19 at noon, and Mondays, November 7 and 21 at 7 p.m. See article to the left for meeting details.

**Program Council** meets Tuesday, November 1, 12:30 p.m. via Zoom. For questions contact Mibs McCarthy [programcouncil@uucmp.org](mailto:programcouncil@uucmp.org)

**Social Justice** will meet on Sunday, November 6. at noon in the Sanctuary and via Zoom.

**Stewardship** will meet Wednesday, November 2, 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



### Communication

I managed to get myself into three book clubs, so I am reading a wide cross-section of authors and subjects and trying to finish them all on time. One club reads nature books, often with subjects close to home. I recently finished Diane Ackerman's *Moon by Whale Light*. I was not enthusiastic about every chapter (bats, crocodilians), but was very much taken by the role of sound and song in each of the four animal families described, which ended with whales and penguins. Each class of animals communicated with members of its environment with vocalizations and songs. We all know about bird-song since we can hear it in our everyday life, but others we might never encounter, or could not hear without a technological intervention.



The author interviewed Dr. Roger Payne, who spent his career studying whale song. I was particularly enchanted by the "Songs of the Humpback Whale" which was released in a vinyl recording in 1970. Now on YouTube, I have been listening to its oth-



erworldly (underwaterly?) sounds. While scientists have been studying the songs of whales for decades, they still do not understand what they are communicating. Ornithologists can theorize that different bird calls communicate territory, send warnings of predators, advertise for mates, or tell parents that they are hungry. Different species may communicate across inches to miles. Many whale songs can transmit for hundreds of miles, utilizing channels of water within the ocean. Some songs remain monotonous to our ears; some are similar within a pod but differ to other pods. Some recorded songs may sound the same to us for years. There is so much that we don't yet understand about the ocean that is just outside our doors: and the creatures, microscopic to leviathan, that live within it and around it. It makes me reflect on two different but related topics: our need for environmental awareness and justice, and the magic of music and sound that surrounds us daily.

Our species is such a small part of this earth, but our impact upon it is massive. As we approach the holidays, I hope we can ponder our relationships to each other and to mother Earth, as well as revel in the music that we and other species use to communicate to each other.



Cheers,  
Carol



## RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION



Hello Everyone,

Thank you for catching up with RE this month! October was very eventful and we are looking forward to a nice holiday season in November and December. We are planning the Multigenerational service that our RE program will present on December 11. Stay tuned, because there will be a place for the congregation to participate during the service too!

Thank you to Don Reynolds and Christina Zarro who were available for the teens class. We continue to need volunteers in the classrooms. I would like to have more parent sign ups. Our teachers are wonderful at preparing the lessons and materials for each class. As a volunteer, you would be a second adult in the class. So your presence is what we need most.

Our October theme of the month was Courage and we had a lot of fun with Ms. Sharyn as our kids' class teacher. She planned several fun games and activities. We played Jeopardy and even painted Diyas for Diwali. The teens discussed land acknowledgement and restorative justice with Altaira and Warren. Thanks again to Don who joined the teens class as a volunteer. The teens enjoyed having Don in class and even invited him back!



Our apple picking event was exciting! I would love to make it a yearly UUCMP event. All were welcomed.

We had Laura Nagel join along with two RE families, the ministers, my partner Martin, my friend and myself. We got carried away picking



apples because it was so much fun then we ended up with some heavy bags to carry! We had freshly pressed apple juice and apple turnovers. I hope you can join us next year!

We have two monthly events where all are welcome. Our RE UUCMP Parent Group and luncheon is November 13 after the service. Childcare is provided so parents can enjoy their lunch and have a relaxing discussion while getting to know other parents. Anyone interested in RE or who wants to learn more about how to help can come join us for lunch.



Our next First Friday Family game night will be November 4, at 7 p.m. Come join Andrea Rivas, our October game night host, for a night of games and fun. All are welcome.

Elizabeth Granado  
Director of Religious Exploration

# Musical Offerings

What does change sound like? I can imagine pennies dropped in a jar sounding different than quarters or even bills. I can imagine a change in genres of music presented in a symphony hall not only changes the demographic audience but impacts the orchestra membership. I also hear change in the form of rallies and protests and policy makers dismantling systems of oppression. Of course, I even imagine the individual changes: a person's voice over the course of their life, the sounds of classrooms changing from one year to the next, the pitter-patter of paws newly added to a family home.

I actually think this question indicates more about levels of perception and focus than it does about a true phenomenon of change. I hear Molly Bajgot's words, "change is coming. What do we need to imagine?" as a guiding track for facing change. "I know from brokenness there's whole" accepts the breaking open in order to make room for growth. Then Bajgot recognizes that fear is a common emotional outcome in the face of change. However, I think she is suggesting that imagination offers liberation from the fear of change.

Imagination can serve as the little seeds for positive change. Curiously, no amount of control can truly prevent change. However, any amount of imagination can sway our perspective away from fear or critique or brokenness, toward anticipation or acceptance or wholeness.



In this way, I want to lean into the changes of this life and recognize that every breath and moment and hour and day is change in motion.

If you are interested in exploring the potential for change in your musical life, I invite you to join us as music-makers. 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 singing songs



and 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. This group will not perform in services. All are welcome to bring an instrument or come to sing along. We will have our first meeting on Thursday, November 17, from 6-7 p.m. in the sanctuary. If you play an instrument and would like to occasionally accompany hymns on Sunday morning, please let me know.

Finally, if you have other ways you would like to share in music making at UUCMP, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Warmly,  
Camille

## 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 November. 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 November. Contact: John Freeman for any questions.

**Dances of Universal Peace** will not meet in November. 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.





## November Shared Plate Recipient *Josephine Kernes Memorial Pool*

Welcoming and warm, the Josephine Kernes Memorial Pool (Kernes Pool) helps people of all ages and abilities renew and maintain their well-being, mobility and quality of life. Kernes Pool has been an integral part of the Monterey Peninsula since 1972 and is the only facility on the Central Coast that enables fully supported, physical expression for people with special needs regardless of income or duration of need. Founded by Edith and Herb Perry to teach swimming to individuals with disabilities, the new pool was built in 1992 and named after Mrs. Perry's mother, who exemplified the value and reward of service to others.



Personal instruction at Kernes Pool helps each person reach their full potential in range of motion, flexibility, strength, ambulation and coordination. For seniors, this can extend

independent living and quality of life. There is help for those with arthritis and with other problems. For severely impacted adults or those with long-term conditions, warm water

exercise reduces the incidence of secondary problems such as heart disease, diabetes, and obesity. For children, learning and playing at Kernes Pool builds life skills and confidence, and provides fun opportunities for progressive achievements and success.



From three months old to 103 years young, Kernes Pool is a place where everyone is welcomed and encouraged. Our programs are provided regardless of ability to pay or duration of need. Fees for instruction cover approximately one-fourth of the cost. The remainder relies on generous community support.

Please give generously to this worthy organization.

### **Welcome to New Members Maren Christensen and Daniel Miltz**

Maren Christensen and Daniel Miltz have rejoined as members of UUCMP! They were born



and raised in this congregation and grew up together as good friends here until their high school graduation in 2002. They now return to us as an engaged couple, and they're looking forward to making their commitment to each other official on August 5, 2023, right here, where they first met as little kids. Their parents, Carl Christensen, JoAnn Novoson, and Lue Miltz, could not be happier. Maren is an attorney and happy to be working as the Dean of Clinical Education at Monterey College of Law. Daniel's work is road work quality control, and you might catch him playing trombone around Northern California in his soul band and reggae band. Maren and Daniel are thrilled to be back at church, looking forward to getting to know all the new names and faces, and continuing to support the community that raised them.



## Art News



### REGINA LISKE

Resident Quilt Maker

#### Tis the Season Again

November 13 to December 30

Artist Reception November 13, 12 - 2 p. m.

While Lori Hughes' graphics are still delighting viewers in the Welcome Hall gallery, Regina Liske, Resident Quilt Maker, is putting the last few stitches into one of her new quilts.

Following a tradition of displaying Regina's quilts around the holidays in the UUCMP Sanctuary and Welcome Hall, she now presents her "Tis the Season Again" exhibit. This show, *Early and New Quilts*, opens November 13, 2022, with a reception noon to 2 p.m. to meet and greet the artist. Music will be provided by Celtic Roads with Paulette Lynch playing the hammer dulcimer.



Counting Sheep

Early Quilts, Regina says, are those made in the 1980's and 1990's. Many of these quilts tell a story of people in search, in conversation or in actions of pleasure or pursuit. A photo collage of "Earlies" in this show includes landscapes, hexagon variations, fabrics that inspired the design and the Flaming Chalice, Keeper of Fire and Light.



Home and Heart



A River Ran Through It

Most of Regina's Early Quilts have found new owners while on exhibit at quilt shows and art fairs, and at family reunions where family members were given first choice.

Holiday and Christmas Quilts will replace the November Early and New Quilts show during the month of December.

A special birthday reception is planned for Sunday, December 11, to celebrate Regina's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday with Paulette Lynch again providing hammered dulcimer music.



Intrepid

Connecting her passion for our precious natural world, her embodiment through years of hiking and cycling, and after her long journey of recovery from a family system of addiction and violence, making art is Bonnie's spiritual communion. The magnificence of trees inspires her to be grounded, rooted, expansive, and generous. In *Forest Dreamings*, Bonnie also celebrates the joy of life through her love of color, land, wildlife, and sky.

Nov. 4 - Dec. 15, 2022

**Opening Reception:** Friday, Nov. 4, 2022, 7-9 pm

**Pacific Grove First Friday:** Dec. 2, 2022, 7-9 pm

Pacific Grove Art Center

568 Lighthouse Ave, Pacific Grove, CA 93950

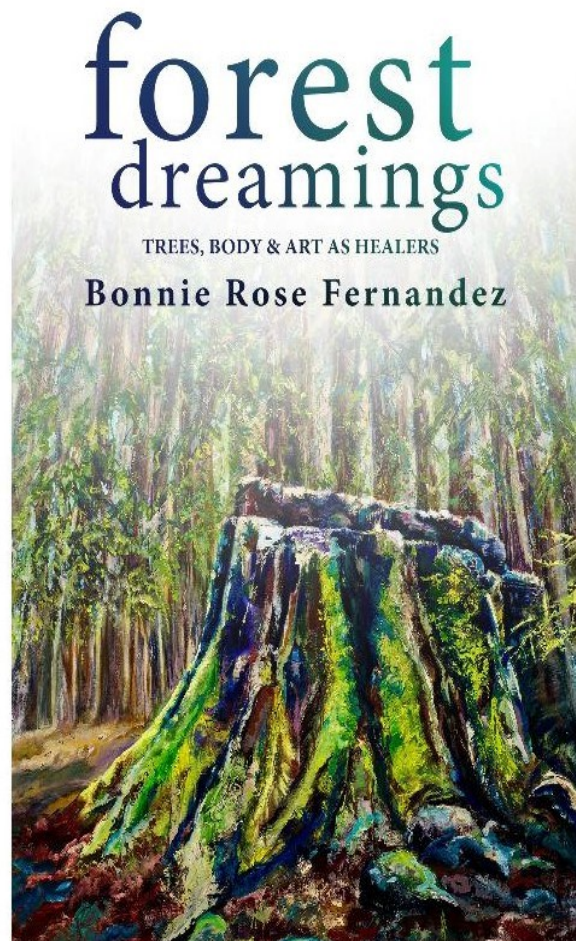
831-375-2208

Hours: Wed - Sat 12-5 pm and Sun 12-4 pm

[bonnierosestudio.com](http://bonnierosestudio.com)

IG: [brosienow](https://www.instagram.com/brosienow)

[bonnie@bonnierosestudio.com](mailto:bonnie@bonnierosestudio.com)



## Art Committee

A desire to keep the Welcome Hall full of eye-appealing decor leads me to seek art lovers to join me, Karen Hunting, on the UUCMP Art Committee.



**Sunset at Mud Hen Lake**

Bonnie Rose Fernandez

There is a joy in being a part of the creative process and knowing you helped put beauty on the walls. The few tasks include interacting with artists to schedule and hang their shows.

Please join me. Reach out to Karen

Hunting [karen@karenhunting.com](mailto:karen@karenhunting.com) or 831-594-0421. All inquiries answered.



**Asilomar Beach**

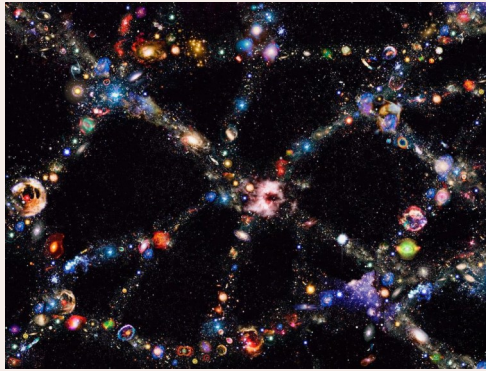
Mary Kay Hamilton



**Sunlit Canopy**

Karen Hunting





# Stargazing!

Our annual service auction has successfully concluded.. We received 121 generous donations of goods and services, which our hard-working team compiled into a sorted catalog of marvelous offerings. The week of the online silent auction bidding ran from Saturday, October 15. to Sunday, October 23, with a virtual live auction on Saturday, October 22. Some people attended the live auction via Zoom and a few intrepid bidders joined the watch party at the church. A good time was had by all, sharing star-themed refreshments, watching the nine amazing acts in the prerecorded talent show, having a chance to win one of the 7 super door prizes, and bidding on the six live auction items. Such fun!

The auction raised an amazing \$11,782. Notices have been sent out to let donors and winners alike know the results. You can pay via Auctria if you have pre-registered a credit card (click the Checkout button on your emailed statement). Otherwise, you can pay by cash or check (mail/deliver to church office), or PayPal (link at [uucmp.org](http://uucmp.org)); if using these, add a memo or note with "Auction 2022, Item # nnn" and list the item number(s) covered by the payment.

We give thanks to all who participated by donating, bidding, watching the proceedings, or generally cheering everything on. We hope that everyone will enjoy all the items they won, from delicious foods and dinner gatherings, and get-together activities, to an assortment of goods and services. If you have any questions, please contact Lauren Keenan or Steve Johnson, [serviceauction@uucmp.org](mailto:serviceauction@uucmp.org).

The Auction Team included Lauren Keenan, Steve Johnson, Fred Hamilton, Karen Judkins, Mibs

## Seeking Volunteers for the I-HELP Women's Program Once a Month

Please join UUCMP members and friends to welcome women in the Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Program (I-HELP). We provide a warm meal donated by the volunteers, and a safe place to spend the night once a month on the fourth Sunday.

Volunteers arrive at the church at 4:45 p.m., set up for the evening meal, and greet the women when they arrive at 5:30. The meal is served buffet-style and we join the women for dining and conversation. We are usually done by 6:30 p.m.

Currently, we are planning the meal for 6 - 8 people. Examples of meal items include main dish, salad, dessert, fruit, breakfast, or beverages. Volunteers who are not able to join the women in the evening may bring an item for the meal and leave it in the church kitchen after the Sunday service.

Please contact Lee Hulquist (she, her) if you would like to volunteer to greet the women, provide food/dishes for the meal, and/or join us for dinner on the fourth Sunday of the month. 831-917-3179, [lmhulquist@gmail.com](mailto:lmhulquist@gmail.com), [hulquist@redshift.com](mailto:hulquist@redshift.com)



## Environmental Justice News

Voting day is just around the corner!

The UUCMP Environmental Justice committee is urging every voter to keep each of our UU principles in mind when selecting the candidates and ballot measures to support.

We hold up and highlight our foundational principles: “the inherent worth and dignity of every person,” justice, equity and acceptance, the free and responsible search for truth, support for the democratic process, the goal of peace and liberty for all and “respect for the interconnected web of all existence of which we are a part” every time we fill out our ballots.

Many holiday gatherings will be upon us soon! Happily, some of them may be taking place at UUCMP for the first time in several years. Hur-ray! The Environmental Justice committee would like to remind the congregation that UUCMP has committed to exclusively using reusable items\* such as dinner and dessert plates, bowls, glassware and utensils.\*\* And we have plenty of each of these items in our very organized kitchen cabinets. Every cabinet and drawer is clearly labeled. Everything has a place and everything is in its place! Please strive mightily to return what you use to its intended location! Life is so much easier when kitchen towels are found in the drawer labeled “kitchen towels” and bakeware is found in the bakeware cabinets. Enjoy the kitchen and thank you for supporting our positive environmental stewardship efforts.\*\*\*

\*Exceptions are for paper napkins and paper towels.

\*\*We do not have take-out containers for leftover food. Please supply your own reusable or compostable take-home containers when planning a gathering.

\*\*\*Please take all food stuffs with you at the end of your event.

## Oak trees in Autumn



Photo taken along Carmel Valley Road by Paola Berthoin

Some people might be concerned about the current infestation of oak tree moths in their trees during this time. Oak tree moths are a natural phenomenon. A healthy oak will leaf out not too long after all the leaves have been eaten by the caterpillars. The frass left by the caterpillars provides nutrients for the oak trees. The caterpillars and moths are food for birds and insects. Spraying oaks with insecticides is harmful to the ecosystem balance. Protect the health of your oaks by leaving oak leaves on the ground as mulch to decompose. Oak trees have evolved with winter rains and dry summers.

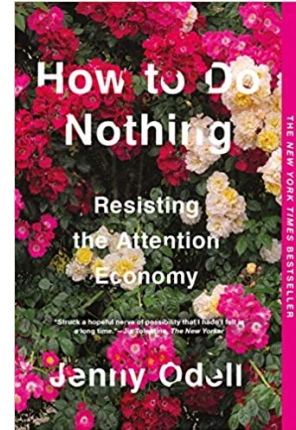
## A Book Discussion for Our Times: “How to Do Nothing”

Second and Fourth Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Join Rev. Axel for a discussion of *How to Do Nothing: Resisting the Attention Economy* by Jenny Odell, an artist and writer who teaches at Stanford and lives in Oakland, CA. This 2019 New York Times Bestseller (now available in paperback and as an eBook) grew from a lecture Odell gave on “how to do nothing,” which examined the impact of modern life’s ceaseless demands on our time and attention. She explores how we might learn to assume a different perspective, one that allows us to see familiar things in a new way, and in the process find momentary relief.

Informed by the sensibilities of both a contemporary artist and a political activist, Odell offers a compelling and timely case for mindfulness and engagement. Her ideas are particularly relevant during our current period of re-orientation and re-connection and provide worthwhile food for thought and conversation.

The final three sessions of this six-session discussion will be Nov. 8, Nov. 22, and Dec. 13. For more information on meeting and reading details, please contact Rev. Axel ([minister@uucmp.org](mailto:minister@uucmp.org))



## Men’s I-HELP Dinner Program Update

There have been changes to the men’s I-HELP dinner program. We are now providing cooked meals and shelter for the men in the church community I-HELP (Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Program) program. The congregation can contribute food for our dinners by signing up on “Men’s I-HELP Dinner” food contribution list posted on the News and Activities bulletin board. Also, some of us will be cooking and prepare hot meals in the kitchen. Consequently, we will need some volunteers to cook, prepare, and setup the dinner. A list to sign up to volunteer is also posted on the News and Activities bulletin board.

Join us, either by contributing food or volunteering to help, and help these deserving men as they try to overcome their situation and improve their lives. The I-HELP program has helped many homeless men and women improve their lives. In fact, one of our previous I-HELP men has started his own successful business. Please remember that this is about more than providing meals; it helps people to rebuild their lives.

For further information or questions contact Steve Smaby at [pilot.smaby@gmail.com](mailto:pilot.smaby@gmail.com) or 831-233-1014.



# SOCIAL JUSTICE



October 21, 2022

To the organizations and leaders of the West/Southwest Industrial Areas Foundation:

Last Friday afternoon, our network had the rare opportunity to visit with Pope Francis at the Vatican.

An interfaith delegation of 20 leaders and organizers from the West/Southwest Industrial Areas Foundation met with him to share our collective work of broad-based organizing at a time when the Pope is guiding the global church in a historic Synod listening process. The Holy Father sat side by side with us in his residence, thanking us for inconveniencing ourselves to come see him. What ensued was a true dialogue, a 90-minute conversation in Spanish with lots of back-and-forth engagement. The encounter was filled with many graced moments about both the joys and the struggles of our work, and the work of the church, past, present, and to come.

This invitation to meet was in large part due to the recognition of our work by local Bishops, in particular those involved with the Recognizing the Stranger strategy, which is dedicated to formation and leadership development of immigrant parishioners. As well, our involvement to support the Synod process in multiple dioceses has helped to bring those in the margins to the center of the synodal dialogue.

As we shared our experiences of organizing, we were struck by how carefully he listened, asked questions, and engaged with lots of humor. Early on, he reflected back to us, “Usaron mucho las palabras ‘ver’ y ‘escuchar,’... Me impresiona que ninguno de ustedes es parte de alguna teoría. Ninguno dice ‘leí un libro y me interesó eso.’” (You constantly use the words “to see” and “to listen. I am impressed that none of you start with any theory. No one says, ‘I read a book and that interested me.’) “El peligro es intelectualizar el problema” (The danger is when you intellectualize a problem.)





# SOCIAL JUSTICE

He stressed the importance of being with people and paying attention to their reality, emphasizing Amor Concreto, love concretely in action, saying that he understood our work as seeing and hearing of injustice in the real lives of our people, acting to change the situation, and being changed ourselves as a result. He expressed his appreciation for our focus on what we are doing, rather than to complain about what is not being done or to disparage anyone. “Ustedes no menospreciaron a nadie.”

Before concluding, he thanked us for our visit, saying that although he had never known of IAF before, he was glad that he knew us now, and he welcomed further conversation around our continuing work with the Synod process.

Some in our delegation were able to meet also with others at the Vatican, including leadership in the Dicastery for Integral Human Development, the General Secretariat of the Synod, and the Pontifical Commission for Latin America. It was a trip that opened many doors.

We are grateful to all of you for your support of this historic visit. Many of you contributed with your prayers, advice, encouragement, and financial investment. We spent a full day in advance of the meeting with Pope Francis by conducting our own synodal process. We all felt our obligation to you and those who came before us in making this pilgrimage possible. We teach that power recognizes power. For Pope Francis, “el verdadero poder es el servicio,” (“true power is service”). Recounting the Good Samaritan, he clearly stated that the Gospel cannot be understood without acting with those who are suffering. He recognized the leaders and organizations of the IAF and the powerful work that is happening every day at the margins. He referred to the IAF as “Good News for the United States.”

We are humbled to represent the many decades of work from those who preceded us, and we are encouraged in the continuation of our work into the future. Please feel free to share this announcement among member institutions and others. We will be reflecting more from this encounter in the weeks to come.



Photo Credits: Rabbi John A. Linder, Temple Solel, Valley Interfaith Project in Phoenix, Arizona

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