



NUUSLETTER

of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula

Theme: Heritage

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

October 1

“Finding Your Best Place”

Rev. Elaine Gehrmann and Worship Associate Kathleen Sullivan

At the edge of land and sea, numerous living creatures find themselves exposed to crashing waves, air & sun, predators, and changing tides. It is a marvel how each being, with their unique characteristics, finds their best place from which to deal with these challenges and thrive. This morning will include our annual Connections Fair, where you too can find your best place in our ever-changing church environment.

October 8

“Cherishing Our Challenging Heritage”

Rev. Axel Gehrmann and Worship Associate Corey Brunson

On national holidays and religious holy days, we are encouraged to celebrate historical highlights and heroes, the forebearers who built this great land, the ancestors who gave us life. As the moral arc of the universe bends towards justice, we imagine ourselves involved in the process – on the “right” side of history. A closer look, however, often reveals more complicated stories.

October 15

“The Heritages We Embrace”

Rev. Elaine Gehrmann and Worship Associate Ann Jacobson

What makes a heritage "ours" to claim? Birthright, deep knowledge, community, a willingness to learn, an invitation, an affinity? This morning we will explore the challenges and complications of our modern search for heritage and meaning, and our efforts to appreciate and not appropriate.

October 22

“Our Religious Histories”

Rev. Axel Gehrmann and Worship Associate Shannon Morrison

An adult education curriculum well-known in UU circles is called “Building Your Own Theology.” It is based on a central tenet of our religious tradition, namely that we each have the freedom to choose our religious beliefs, and the moral responsibility to put them into action. Our shared faith, however, was not invented by us today. But rather, we stand on the shoulders of those who have come before us. Who are the people, and what are the principles that have shaped our faith?

This is “Bring a Friend Sunday.” We encourage you to reach out to folks you know who might appreciate our religious community, and invite them to church today!

October 29

“Am I My Mother's Daughter or My Father's Daughter?”

Celia Barberena and Worship Associates Katie Hamilton and Kathleen Sullivan

Some of us inherit accumulated wealth from our matriarchal or patriarchal lines or from both of them. These provide opportunities to attend good schools, travel, and expand our horizons easily. Some of us do not have these benefits of birth. Born rich or not, we are each a repository of faculties either contained in our DNA or learned from those who raised us. They pass on values, behaviors and beliefs that we hold dear or rebel against. In the end, who are we? Who am I? How did each one of us become the amalgamation of qualities, properties, physical appearance and behaviors that make us who we are?

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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. Axel Gehrman

I am still thinking about the events, the energy and the ideas generated during our *Imagining Weekend* in September. Our regional staff person, Annie Scott, guided us through a variety of exercises and activities all designed to help us articulate our hopes, and share our dreams for the future of UUCMP.

The weekend's main event was the congregational workshop Saturday morning. Over 40 of us gathered that morning – most in person, some by Zoom – sharing stories and aspirations.

Annie began by encouraging us to think about our experiences at UUCMP, instances when the congregation nourished our spirits or changed our hearts. And then, after sharing our respective meaningful moments in small groups, we were invited to say how these moments were reflections of this congregation's greatest strengths.

Each group captured these strengths in a few words, wrote them on newsprint and posted them on the wall. The strengths included:

Humor, Community, Respect for all ages, Music as a spiritual language, Giving and receiving support, Creating family, Playing together, Broadening view of spirituality, Empathy, Welcoming, Kindness, Deep connection, Action, Listening, Justice, Providing opportunity for connection, Collective faith that keeps us going, Individual sincerity, Generosity of time & treasure, Caring for the larger community.

After further conversation and reflection, our small groups were reshuffled. Then folks were invited to ponder and then articulate their vision for UUCMP, their high hopes for what this congregation might be and do in the years to come. Of the many dreams shared, each group agreed on the ones that were most compelling and widely shared. Once again, words were written on newsprint and posted on the wall.

Our final exercise involved prioritizing our many ideas. Everyone was invited – with the help of a few stickers – to mark which of the many ideas were most important and ideas they were willing to actively support.

In the end, the list of ideas and initiatives generated was impressive, and left those participating feeling energized, inspired and very hopeful. Not surprisingly, the majority of the visions and votes involved increasing our connections – within and beyond our walls.

The conclusion of the workshop, however, was not the end of our planning process, but rather the beginning. All the ideas gleaned have been gathered up and given to the Board. The Board is forming a small committee charged with continuing this congregational planning process - organizing and publicizing our ideas, inviting feedback and further prioritization of our aspirations, developing goals and action steps, and ultimately a new strategic plan that will be presented to the congregation for approval.

This is not the first time we, as a congregation, have engaged in a process like this. Ever since this church was founded 70 years ago, we have repeatedly gathered together to dream and draft plans to make our dreams come true. We haven't always accomplished everything we set out to do. However, looking back over these 70 years, there can be no doubt that – thanks to countless hardworking and generous members and friends – we have come a very long way.

Where will this congregation be 70 years from today? It's hard to imagine. But one thing is certain: It's up to us!

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 the third Monday of every month at 7 p.m. via Zoom. There is also an in-person potluck meeting at church on the 3rd Sunday of each month after the service. Feel free to drop in and join us.



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, October 14 at 8:30 a.m.



The men's monthly breakfast is continuing as hybrid. Our next meeting is Saturday, October 14, 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 Welcome and Announcements from the pulpit are due by 9 a.m. on Wednesdays. ARTICLES for THE WEDNESDAY WEEKLY NEWSLETTER email are due by noon, on Tuesdays. MONTHLY NUUWSLETTER articles are due by the 16th of each month.

SCHEDULED EVENTS

A Course in Miracles meets Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Conference Room.

Adult Community Choir meets Thursdays 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary and via Zoom.

Board of Trustees meets Wednesday, October 18, at 5:45 p.m. via Zoom.

Buddhist Sangha is every Wednesday at 7 p.m. in person in the Sanctuary. Zoom is also available. See page 9.

Environmental Justice meets Monday, October 9, 5:00 p.m. via Zoom.

First Friday Game Night meets Friday, October 6, 6:30 p.m.

I-HELP for Men is Sundays, October 8 and 29, 5 p.m. Sign up on the bulletin board if you can help.

I-HELP for Women is Sunday, October 22, Contact Lee Hulquist if you can help.

Jam Session is on pause until further notice.

Membership Committee meets Wednesday, October 25, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom,

Men's Breakfast Group meets Saturday, October 14, 8:30 a.m. in person and 9 a.m. via Zoom. See article at left.

Music Committee meets Wednesday, October 11, 2 p.m. via Zoom.

NUU's letter deadline for the November issue is Monday, October 16.

People of Color (POC) group will meet Monday, October 16, 7 p.m. via Zoom and in person Sunday, October 15. after the service in the Conference Room.

Program Council meets Tuesday, October 3, 12:30 p.m. via Zoom. Contact Mibs McCarthy programcouncil@uucmp.org

Social Justice will not meet in October.

Stewardship will meet Wednesday, October 18, 1:30 p.m. via Zoom.

T'ai Chi Chih meets Tuesdays at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary. See page 9.

Youth Music will be starting again If you are interested, please send Jorge an email: music@uucmp.org

President's Corner



Imagine That!

That is exactly what we were asked to do Saturday, September 16th, at UUCMP. Annie Scott from the UUA Pacific West Region facilitated an Imagination Gathering to help stimulate ideas from our congregation. The ideas generated are meant to help guide a new Strategic Planning process. We voiced our strengths and passions, and we were asked to imagine what our church might look like in several years. It was exciting to visit with fellow congregants about the future at UUCMP.

Some of the visions mentioned included: better outreach into the community, be ready to welcome all, opportunities to connect, affordable housing initiatives (maybe on our property), a larger sanctuary, a sustainable presence, spiritual nourishment, small group opportunities, active religious exploration program (more children), more training for volunteers and leaders, climate change initiatives, and more.

Included in our ideas were dreams, opportunities, aspirations, and challenges. The Strategic Planning process will begin soon to sift through the ideas to gauge level of volunteer support, viability, short term vs. long term, financial and staffing needs, priorities, and more. Our hope is that the congregation will continue to imagine and share your ideas during the planning process over the coming weeks.



Imagine that several new members are signing the membership book in the conference room, and at the same time the rest of the church is filled with young people and their parents and our church leaders discussing important topics on a Sunday afternoon. I do not have to imagine that; I experienced it on Sunday, September 10th. I was privileged to be present as 4 new members signed our book, and I witnessed people gathered in the sanctuary and hallways to participate in our OWL program. The positive energy I felt was inspiring. And, we have five more people scheduled to join UUCMP before the end of September.

Thank you to those of you who participated in the Imagination Gathering. For those not able to make it, please find a way to share your visions for our future.

-- Mike Lovell

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION



Welcome to October and the start of Fall! Every season has its own charm and attractions, but Fall always seems particularly packed. There's something for everyone - Halloween, trick or treating, pumpkin carving, apple cider, fall break trips, and, for those of us partial to coffee, pumpkin spice lattes! For me, fall brings happy memories of my childhood, from bonfires and hot chocolate to hayrides at my neighbors' annual fall party in Indiana. With the Committee on Family Ministry, I hope that we too can help your kids and teens create happy autumn memories with our UUCMP family. Be sure to read the RE monthly newsletter for more details on fun fall festivities!



RE Registration for 2022-2023

We're continuing to develop our RE activities with the goal of growing our children's community, offering fun activities that give parents a break, and give our children the opportunity to make connections with others who share UU values. If you haven't registered your children yet for religious exploration, I will start tracking you down at church to ensure we have the most up-to-date info on your family. 😊 If you would rather be left alone, please take a few minutes to register online. We've switched our registration to the new Breeze system, which is very user

friendly! Register here: <https://uucmp.breezechms.com/form/cc61da> If you'd prefer a paper registration, please email me or talk with me at church.

OWL Classes

Our OWL classes on Sundays are up and running, with 25 kids enrolled! Thank you to all of our amazing instructors who volunteer their time to help educate our teens and tweens. A big shout out to Corey Brunson, Warren Finch, Edmund Pendleton, Andrea Rivas, Rebecca Irwin, JT Mason, and Don Reynolds for helping teach our classes this fall. It truly takes a team to pull this off, and I'm so appreciative of our dedicated volunteers.



Upcoming Events

Please watch the UUCMP weekly newsletters and the monthly RE newsletter for upcoming RE events, including:

- ◆ **First Friday Game Night** on October 6th at 6:30 p.m. – come and join the ministers and Acting DRE Sharyn and her family for some family-friendly fun for all ages! Bring snacks, bring friends, or just bring yourself!
- ◆ **October Family Activities** – pumpkins, pumpkins, and more pumpkins! More details coming soon!

Thanks for catching up with RE!

Sharyn Routh
Acting Director of Religious Exploration
dre.sharyn@uucmp.org

IT'S UUCMP SERVICE AUCTION TIME AGAIN!



We are journeying under the sea for our annual Service Auction! Each year UUCMP members offer a wide variety of goods and services from jewelry to excursions to delicious treats, to dinners delivered or in their homes. By joining in the fun, you are also contributing to a major church fund-raising event. It is almost time for the festivities to begin.

Our on-line SILENT AUCTION will begin on Saturday, October 28, and will run for the entire week, with a LIVE AUCTION on the evening of Saturday, November 4. You can bid in the Live Auction in person in the church sanctuary, or via Zoom. Did we mention costumes? SURE! Get creative with your best under-the-sea garb!

The auction's success starts with your generous donation of items or services. Please complete the donation form online by October 15, or, if you prefer, send an email request by October 8 to serviceauction@uucmp.org for a paper donation form.

This year's auction website is auctria.events/uucmp2023, where you can submit your donation and register as a bidder. (If you registered as a bidder in either the 2021 or 2022 Service Auctions, you do not need to do so again, but please log in with your email address and confirm that your information is current. Follow the "forgot my password" procedure, if needed.)

Our goal this year is to raise \$16,000 for the church. We hope to see you on November 4 to join in this **fun** fundraising event!

If you have questions, or want to help with the Live Auction party planning, please contact Lauren Keenan or Steve Johnson at serviceauction@uucmp.org



*All are
welcomed.*

Plan to join your UUCMP
family for a community

“FRIENDSGIVING”

POTLUCK WITH ALL THE TRIMMINGS!

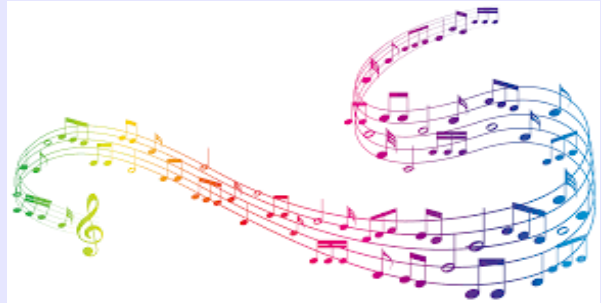
THANKSGIVING DAY
NOVEMBER 23

GATHER AT 1 PM
FEAST AT 2 PM

Watch for more details in the weeks ahead!



Musical Offerings



The Adult Community Choir continues to meet **every Thursday from 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. in the Sanctuary**. This choir is open to everyone, members and nonmembers alike, to explore singing together. No prior experience is needed. Send me an email or just stop by! We are currently preparing for two services per month.



Jam Sessions with Rodney Smith have been put on pause until further notice.

I would like to continue our Youth Music Pro-

gram! Students are encouraged to come out and explore music by learning how to read music through the use of hand chimes! Please ask me if you have any questions about this fun opportunity for our youth! **If you are interested, please send me an email: music@uucmp.org** Youth Music will begin again once there is more interest.

If you have any other ways you wish to contribute to the music department, please feel free to contact me! We would love your involvement in this fun program.

--Jorge Torrez

SHARE THE LOVE BRING-A-FRIEND SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22nd



On Sunday, October 22nd, we are asking you to bring a friend to church and share the lovely experience of attending our worship services! There are many people out there just waiting to be asked to join you! You know what a difference our community makes in your life, so please consider bringing someone who you think would like to experience our loving community and inclusiveness. Rev. Axel will be preaching and our wonderful UUCMP choir will be singing!

Please bring a snack to share after church as we visit and get to know each other. Let's SHARE THE LOVE!



Join Our Church!

Even in these post 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 October. Some will meet 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 in person 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 October. Contact: John Freeman for any questions.

POC (People of Color) Group meets via Zoom at 7 p.m. on the 3rd Monday of every month and in person at UUCMP on the 3rd Sunday of each month after the service. 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.

Art News



Maria Poroy *“Time, Love, and Other Mysteries”* September 28 – December 1, 2023

I create art by observing the world through the lens of my experiences and travels. Sometimes that lens is a fun house mirror and sometimes it changes reality with color. Color is the direct road to emotion, and I am often told it was the color and texture that draws a collector to my painting.

I like unusual color combinations and I turn to mixed media when paint alone isn't doing enough. I prepare uneven surfaces to paint on because I like the uncertainty and the looseness you get in your brushwork. Paintings evolve through many layers and often take unexpected turns. That keeps my work fresh and interesting. There are certain favorite compositions, and I like simplified buildings that fit together like a puzzle.

I believe that the art you choose says a lot about you when people visit your home. It gives your room personality; the opposite of the effect you see in the vanilla décor of a hotel. But more importantly, does it make you happy? Does it make you feel you are at home? Is it complex enough that you discover new things when you enjoy it over the years? I think most of us are creative in some way. I am creative with paint while others are also creative in making an environment that is a form of self-expression and source of comfort. It makes me happy when my art helps to complete the room.

One collector asked to see a green painting, but when I showed her an abstract called “Lifeline” she burst into tears. I would not let her take it because I knew the right match for her would come along, work with her room, and cause no tears. This painting went to a collector who thought it felt uplifting and made her think of gratitude. That is what I consider good matchmaking. Another good match was a painting called “Grey’s Elegy” purchased by a literature major who understood it and even recognized my father’s favorite poem.



Trees Share Their Stories

My work is largely intuitive with each stroke suggesting the next until we see balance and harmony. The painting tells me when something is needed and when it is done. Then I sleep on it and wake up knowing its name. Starting with the name is too restrictive.

My studio has music to enhance my mood and cats who are likely to leave blue footprints across the floor before I can stop them. The studio dog sleeps through everything except a delivery of art supplies, which gets the artist pretty excited too.

I am honored to be represented by Venture Gallery in Monterey, The American Art Gallery in Carmel and ArtPic Gallery in LA.



Summer Camp



Keep the Lights On

These are a few more people who nominated COVID Angels, along with their nominees.



Rose and Mike Lovell

Carol Collin -- Carol's coordination of meeting the needs of our congregation continued during the pandemic and her impact was critical to the well-being of our church.

Lauren and Bill Keenan -- Lauren and Bill worked incredible hours to help make our church, inside and outside, safe and welcoming all during the pandemic - before and after too!

Steve Smaby -- Steve's dedication to our I-HELP men's welfare was exemplified during the pandemic and continues today.

Brian Jacobson -- Brian's knowledge and donation of services for our campus is so appreciated!

UUCMP Administrative Staff -- Our staff adapted to the needed changes to keep our church operating efficiently and safely. Thank you for your flexibility and commitment

Fred Hamilton -- Fred used his knowledge and spent countless hours helping our church with Zoom services and then hybrid services. Thanks, Fred.

Camille Hatton -- Camille was very creative organizing zoom choir, guest performers, and adapting to Zoom and hybrid technologies. Your time and energy are appreciated.

Steve Johnson -- Steve spent many hours on the Reopening Task Force and then many more hours supervising the ventilation system needed for our safety. Thank you.

Team Gehrman -- Axel and Elaine approached the uncharted territories associated with the pandemic with steady, creative, and thoughtful hands. We are thankful for your leadership

Konny Murray

Steve Johnson -- Affirmation for all the things you helped with - reopening committee, board member, stewardship, etc.!

Mibs McCarthy -- Thank you for reaching out to us shut-ins! And all else you do - so very caring!

Carol Collin -- Thank you for keeping in touch with so many of us while we were locked down!

Bud Smith

Steve Johnson -- For so ably leading the Reopening Task Force and the Financial Solutions Working Group

Fred Hamilton -- For providing the technical expertise to allow us to undertake hybrid worship.

Camille Hatton -- For her Herculean efforts to provide a "Zoom Choir" during the pandemic.

Celia Barberena

Carol Collin -- Thank you for the beautiful cards sent to me when I had Covid signed by 27 congregants.

Carol Greenstreet

Kerry Sissem -- She is an incredibly dedicated person, and instrumental to the success of the annual Big Sur Campout. It is an amazing amount of planning and work, and she manages it like a maestro.

More nominators and their Angels



Ann Jacobson

Camille Hatton -- Much appreciation for Camille, who went WAY above and beyond to offer Zoom choir rehearsals and to create high quality choir videos and other music for our recorded services.

Axel and Elaine -- As a Worship Associate during Covid, I greatly appreciated Axel & Elaine's extra effort to enable our congregation to experience consistently high-quality services on Zoom.

Susan Panttaja -- Susan embraced the challenges of being our Intern Minister and Sabbatical Minister during Covid with such commitment and grace. I loved collaborating with her as a Worship Associate!

Maren Martin

Fred Hamilton -- Your expertise and generosity was key to services during COVID.

UUCMP Choir -- Your music was so connecting and encouraging. Many thanks!

Peggy Hansen

To all who helped keep us going!

Meredith Harrill

Brian Jacobson -- Brian is an angel for always being there for the many forest needs we have, even during a pandemic!

Carol Collin -- Carol is an angel for the important task of keeping us aware of each other's needs and tending to the myriad of other details she so skillfully manages.

Fred Hamilton -- Fred is an angel for all the expert technical skill he has generously shared, so among other things, we were able to provide Zoom and remain connected and spiritually nourished.

Wanda Sue Parrott

Steve Smaby -- Homeless men in I-HELP survived on his crazy chili and warm heart throughout the whole pandemic.

Revs. Axel and Elaine -- They gave more to many than was necessary and never said one word about it.

Lauren Keenan, Mibs McCarthy and Carol Collin -- They ran the church, because it's what they do!

Carl Christensen and Jo Ann Novoson

Revs. Axel and Elaine -- For keeping us more than afloat during this difficult time. We are so very grateful.



-- more next month



October Shared Plate Recipient *MEarth*

MEarth (pronounced Me-Earth) has as its mission, to educate and inspire through environmental stewardship. MEarth seeks to inspire by example and empower others to make choices that embrace the principles of sustainability. They are committed to advocating for positive change in the lives of individuals, in our local community, in our country, and around the globe.

Sustainability practices and principles are the foundation of MEarth's programming and curriculum. They teach students that all of their actions – from the clothes they wear, the food they eat, the cars they drive, and the homes they live in – have a direct impact, not only on their own lives, but also on our planet's health. MEarth provides innovative hands-on instruction to students of all ages. They run most of our programs at the Hilton Bialek Habitat and in our state-of-the-art "Green Building" and kitchen.

MEarth began by providing instruction to students in the Carmel Unified School District (CUSD) and they continue to serve CUSD students throughout the year through a six-week "Ecoliteracy" curriculum for all sixth-grade students of Carmel Middle School, and customized culinary and science-based programming for the school's World Language, Science, History, and English-Language Arts classes. Each year, approximately 1,500 CUSD students come to The Habitat for sustainability education.

MEarth offers an ever-expanding array of place-based hands-on environmental learning opportunities to the broader Monterey Peninsula community. They work in partnership with schools and organizations throughout the county, including the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District, the Boys and Girls Clubs of

Monterey County, Stanford University's Hopkins Marine Station, and the Recruitment in Science Education program of California State University at Monterey Bay.

MEarth's school day, after school programs, and summer camps introduce sustainability and healthy lifestyle choices to the community students who attend their programs each year. Program content focuses students on the pressing environmental issues that face our planet, such as: habitat destruction, invasive species, pollution (specifically plastic pollution), overpopulation and overconsumption.



By working side-by-side with community partners, they are preparing the next generation of environmental leaders through collaborative community-based programs that build the knowledge, skills and inspiration needed to tackle current and future environmental challenges.

More information can be found at meearthcarmel.org

Please give generously to this organization.



Shared Offering Nomination 2024

The Social Justice Committee (SJC) is now soliciting nominations for the Shared Offering recipients of 2024. **Submissions are due by November 26**, and all nominees will be discussed and voted upon at the **December 3** meeting of SJC. Please attend the meeting to put in a good word for your organization and to vote!

By nominating an organization, if it is selected, you are also committing to help arrange for a representative to speak briefly on the first Sunday of their month, and to provide information about their group which we can publicize to our congregation.

Please place your nomination in the labeled box on the table in the Welcome Hall, or in the collection plate, or email the information to sj@uucmp.org.

Use this form or this link: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfUTpAtNAfG1osnz5oQ\\$dp\\$4v\\$433FzcyTcfOgHcnF5_jBbUw/viewform?usp=sf_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfUTpAtNAfG1osnz5oQdp4v$433FzcyTcfOgHcnF5_jBbUw/viewform?usp=sf_link)

Name of Non-Profit (501c3) Organization and Tax ID#:

Short description of its work and mission:

Why this organization is important to you:

How this organization's work aligns with our UU Principles:

What is this organization's budget?

Kinds of support (in addition to financial) that UUCMP could offer this organization (supplies, volunteers, other?):

Is there a particular month or time of year that would be best to schedule this organization to receive our support?:

Your Name:

Email:

Phone:

Questions, Comments, Suggestions:

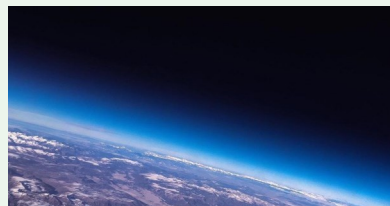
Contact Lee Hulquist (she), Social Justice Committee, lmhulquist@gmail.com or 831-917-3179

Environmental Justice

Climate Change Resources for Learning and Action

In my event about climate change on Saturday, September 23, I shared several resources that we can use to learn about this topic and to take action. Also, keep an eye out for more meetings about this topic coming soon to our congregation.

Here are some of the resources: First, the Climate Reality Project. This is the group with whom I trained. You can learn a lot on this website and even sign up to be informed about future training opportunities. And if you look for "join a local chapter," you can find the Monterey Bay chapter and join us!



climaterealityproject.org



Project Drawdown
drawdown.org

Project Drawdown is like an encyclopedia of the most effective methods to stop and reverse the proliferation of greenhouse gases and halt and reverse climate change. Scientific and deeply researched.



Climate Action Now is a smartphone app which prompts you to take effective action to address climate change, in just minutes. Try it! It's amazing.

Climate Action Now app
climateactionnow.com



Central Coast
Community
Energy

3CPrime -- Central Coast Community Energy
3cenergy.org

You can switch your electrical consumption to 100% renewable sources by opting in to Central Coast Community Energy's 3CPrime plan! Typically it increases an electrical bill by about \$5.00 a month.

-- continued on page 16

Environmental Justice

Learn about what other churches across the US are doing about climate change with Interfaith Power and Light.

Faith in Action for a Safe Climate
interfaithpowerandlight.org



And learn about our own UU Association's program to support UU congregations with focus and action on climate change:

Green Sanctuary uua.org

-- Nan Foster

Vegetable Lasagna

- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1-2 cloves of garlic, minced
- 4 Tbs. olive oil or vegetable oil
- ½ lb. mushrooms sliced
- 1-15 oz. can tomato sauce
- 1-6 oz. can tomato paste
- ½ tsp. each salt and sugar
- ¼ tsp. pepper
- ½ tsp. each crumbled basil and oregano
- 2 -10 oz. packages frozen chopped spinach, thawed and drained
- 9 lasagna noodles
- 2 lbs. ricotta cheese
- ¾ cup freshly ground Parmesan or Romano cheese



Sauté onion and garlic in 2 T. oil until limp. Add mushrooms and sauté until tender. Add more oil as needed. Stir in tomato sauce, tomato paste, and seasonings. Cover and simmer 5 minutes. Stir in spinach.

Cook lasagna noodles as directed on package. Rinse with cold water and drain. Arrange 1/3 of noodles in greased 9 x 13 in baking pan. Spoon 1/3 of tomato mixture on noodles and top with 1/3 of ricotta and parmesan cheeses mixed. Sprinkle with a little salt and pepper. Repeat with two more layers, ending with cheese.

Bake uncovered in pre-heated 350 -degree oven for 40 minutes or until bubbling hot. Let stand 10 minutes before cutting.

-- Mibs McCarthy

Ordination of Susan Panttaja



Our wonderful intern/sabbatical minister Susan Panttaja is being ordained at the

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Santa Rosa

at 2 p.m. on Saturday, October 28, 2023

Her ordination is being sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Santa Rosa, Napa Valley Universalists (the congregation she serves as minister), and UUCMP. There are three ways to join the celebration!

1. In Person! If you would like to go to Santa Rosa to be there in person for the event, please contact Ann Johnson (annjhnsn@att.net) so we can RSVP to the organizers. There is a reception following the ceremony. In-person guests are asked to reply by October 14, 2023. Nearby parking is available and the sanctuary is wheelchair accessible and has listening devices. If you are interested in carpooling, please let us know.
2. You can watch from home on Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85714999405>
3. You can join us at UUCMP for a watch party in our sanctuary. If you are interested in this option, please let us know so we can set up the chairs (and maybe snacks!) Contact Ann Johnson (annjhnsn@att.net).

UUCMP Hiking Group



There are currently 27 enthusiastic hikers in the UUCMP hiking group. Fifteen of us took our first hike on July 1st at Palo Corona Regional Park. It was a great beginning!

We agreed on the structure of shared leadership, with someone new choosing and leading the hike each month. On August 12th, Ali Smith led us on our second hike at Garland Park and it was another good time and a beautiful trail. Max Cajar led our hike on September 23rd.

Although the idea is to have our hikes on the 3rd Saturday of the month, there has been flexibility based on peoples' schedules as well as church events. If you aren't already part of the group, we would love to have you join us!

If you're interested, please contact Maren Martin at marenmartin@gmail.com



Why Churches Could Become California's Most Important Affordable Housing Developers

Two churches in Santa Cruz that are COPA members have developed affordable housing on their campuses, one completed and the other under construction. And this past week in mid-September the California legislature passed legislation, a bill expected to be signed by Governor Newsom, to allow churches to build affordable housing as a matter of right on larger campuses.

Faith-Based Organizations Are Estimated to Own Sufficient Land to Solve California's Affordable Housing Crisis. "Throughout California, faith-based organizations of all stripes are considering similar developments as they look to help solve what is perhaps the most pressing social justice issue of our time, the mounting affordable housing and homelessness crisis." The Turner Center for Housing Innovation at UC Berkeley estimated that potentially 47,000 acres, one and a half times the size of San Francisco, are owned by faith-based organizations in California that would be eligible under the new incentives passed by SB4. The bill also known as the Affordable Housing on Faith Lands Act (but more commonly known as YIGBY, which stands for Yes, In God's Backyard) applies to churches, synagogues, mosques, and other faith organizations and would allow the development of affordable housing on their land by right. This would permit faith-based entities to bypass local zoning restrictions, discretionary approval processes, and litigious neighbors that otherwise might stall a project. It would do so in part by setting minimum development standards.

COPA's Housing Task Force for Monterey County has been working to evaluate local and county-wide housing plans. For example, the City of Monterey has identified 12 churches within the city that have enough land for housing development. As an inducement to them, the city is offering to waive fees, expedite procedures, and provide contact information for developers.

Faith-based land parcels are often large enough to comfortably accommodate new housing. Recent research by the San Francisco Chronicle concluded that over half of the land in their sample was in "resource-rich neighborhoods—often single-family home communities with little existing affordable housing—that offer jobs, high-quality schools, and cleaner air."

St. Stephens Lutheran Church in Santa Cruz through its work with COPA, of which it is a founding member, identified the need for affordable housing in their community. The development designed for low-income seniors including veterans and frail elderly opened in 2017. It contains 40 units with a site area of 1.79 acres. Construction was begun in 2016 after the church gave a ground lease for this portion of their property. St. Stephens is near community services, and services are provided on-site, all of which are designed to help seniors age in place.





Calvary Episcopal Church in Santa Cruz is in the process of constructing 65 units and is expected to finish by January 2024. All the units are expected to be affordable. The project will include studio, and one- and two-bedroom units as well as ground-floor retail.



Southwest Industrial Areas Foundation, of which COPA is an affiliate, had a second meeting with Pope Francis on Sep 14th in preparation for October 4, when he will be issuing a new encyclical that will serve as an “examination of conscience” of our stewardship for the environment. He applauded efforts to reign in destructive corporate behavior and to promote efforts that protect our communities from the effects of climate change.

As the meeting ended, while holding hands, he reminded us about the real essence of our work. “What you’re doing is creating a culture. You’re not looking to resolve things from one day to the next. Your resolve is to the idea of creating a culture. That’s what I would emphasize. You’re creating a culture of solidarity.”

Ben Cristopher, “Clear the Way for More Housing,” CalMatters, 15 Sep 2023. <https://calmatters.org/explainers/new-california-laws/#7f8678c4-922d-4b15-b7f8-28ced20aca7f>

David Garcia, Quinn Underriner, Muhammad Alameldin, “Why Churches Could Become California’s Most Important Affordable Housing Developers,” San Francisco Chronicle, 15 Sep 2023. Garcia, et al.

St. Stephens Senior Housing, Santa Cruz, MidPen Housing. <https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:2e71971c-cca3-3a3a-8eda-9e47f0c918fa>

“‘Red Church’ Calvary Episcopal Housing Project,” Santa Cruz Local <https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:2e71971c-cca3-3a3a-8eda-9e47f0c918fa>

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October 2023

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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