



NUUSLETTER

of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula

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

November 5
“Radical Tzedakah”

**Rev. Elaine Gehrmann and Worship Associate
Micah Forstein**

'Tzedakah' is a Jewish concept meaning 'giving to those in need' and in the Bible it meant 'righteous behavior' and was often paired with justice. What might radical tzedekah mean in this age of extreme gaps between rich and poor, the haves and the have-nots? What are our obligations to be generous in the 21st century?

November 12
“Our Challenging Charitable Choices”

**Rev. Axel Gehrmann and Worship Associate Bjorn
Nilson**

This month our Social Justice Committee is soliciting nominations for our 2024 Shared Offering recipients – local or national non-profits whose important work aligns with our UU values. Our Shared Offering program is one tangible way we, as a congregation, support community partners who are also working to build a better world. But it is also a reminder for each of us to reflect upon our own personal charitable choices. There are so many worthy causes. How can we practice generosity wisely?

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.

November 19

“Mindfully Sharing Our Planet”

**Rev. Elaine Gehrmann and Worship Associate Lauren
Keenan**

As we contemplate our earthly home, we are aware of its abundance, and the repercussions of our human choices, and their effects on our fellow species. How might the concepts of gratitude and generosity inform our thinking about our interconnectedness and obligations?

November 26

“It Is More Blessed to Give Than to Receive - Really?”

Worship Associates Christina Zaro and Ray Krise

We may think immediately in monetary terms when we hear this now cliched phrase with its New Testament origins. Generosity is far more than that. It is not transactional and not a zero-sum game. The spiritual basis of both giving and receiving is gratitude, the perfect subject for this Thanksgiving Weekend. Generosity connects us to one another in relationships of interdependence and love. How can we live a life based on a spiritual practice of generosity?

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Ministers' Message

Rev. Elaine Gehrman

With the many troubling and scary events in the world—acts of violence, environmental crises, and more-- I know that many of us find ourselves with short fuses, easily moved to anger or tears, distracted and unmoored. We often respond to others with knee-jerk emotions rather than thoughtful principled positions. It can be hard to give or to get the type of responses we are craving, and hard to know how to help those close to us with their struggles.

A recent reprint in the New York Times really struck a chord for me this week — an April, 2023 article by Jancee Dunn, entitled, “When Someone You Love is Upset, Ask This One Question.” Ms. Dunn recounts the advice of her sister, who is a special education teacher in upstate New York. Her sister said that when a student gets emotionally overwhelmed, she and her colleagues have discovered that it is really helpful to ask, “Do you want to be helped, heard, or hugged?”

I love this, a variation on the ‘love languages’ approach by Dr. Gary Chapman (<https://uucmp.org/services/love-languages/>), but simplified for easy access (and alliteration)—“Do you want to be helped, heard, or hugged?” Ms. Dunn said this advice has been useful in her own personal relationships as well.

Asking this important question helps us avoid assuming that we know what the other wants or needs in that moment. It gives them a sense of control and agency, and makes clear that we are more concerned with meeting their needs than asserting our own. We’re asking for their permission, and offering to meet them where they are, a clear sign of our empathy and compassion.

We might also consider offering our own response, when someone is approaching us about

our upset. They may not know to ask the question, but we could volunteer the answer nonetheless, “I just need to be heard/helped/or hugged right now.” This can help with our own frustration or sadness, by increasing the odds that the person offering help can direct it in our desired direction.



In the coming weeks, I invite us all to try to keep this invaluable question in mind, when interacting with our friends and loved ones, when we or they are upset and troubled. “Do you want to be helped, heard, or hugged right now?” And then let us do our best to act accordingly.

See you in church,

Elaine

Men's Breakfast

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

The men's monthly breakfast is continuing as hybrid. Our next meeting is Saturday, November 11, 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, November 15, at 5:45 p.m. in the Fireplace Room with a Zoom option.

Book Discussion meets first and third Tuesdays, November 7 and 21, 7 p.m. in the Fireplace Room and via Zoom.

Buddhist Sangha is every Wednesday at 7 p.m. in person in the Sanctuary. Zoom is available. See page 11.

Environmental Justice meets Tuesday, November 14, 7:30 p.m. via Zoom. The Action Committee meets Sunday, November 12, at noon in the sanctuary and via Zoom.

First Friday Game Night will not meet in November.

I-HELP for Men is Sunday, November 12, 5 p.m. Sign up on the bulletin board if you can help.

I-HELP for Women is Sunday, November 26, Contact Lee Hulquist if you can help.

Membership Committee meets Wednesday, November 22, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom,

Men's Breakfast Group meets Saturday, November 11, 8:30 a.m. in person and 9 a.m. via Zoom. See article at left.

Music Committee meets Tuesday, November 28, 6 p.m. via Zoom.

NUU'sletter deadline for the December issue is Thursday, November 16.

Program Council meets Tuesday, November 7, 12:30 p.m. via Zoom. Contact Mibs McCarthy programcouncil@uucmp.org

Social Justice will meet on Sunday, November 5, at noon in the Sanctuary and via Zoom.

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

T'ai Chi Chih meets Tuesdays at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary. See page 11.

President's Corner

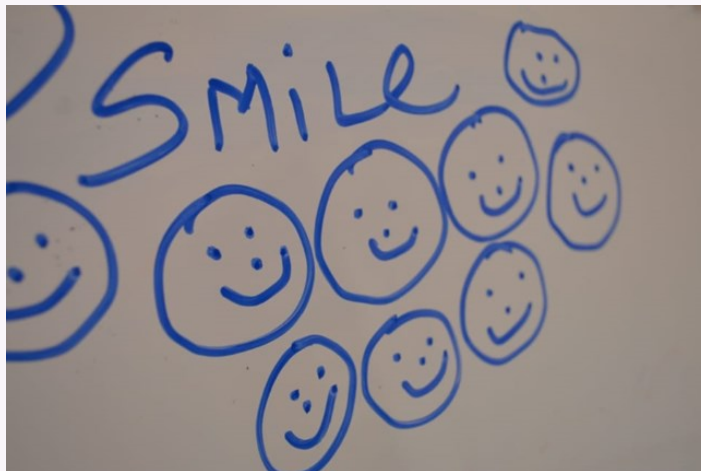


Welcome

“Whoever you are, wherever you are on your life’s journey, you are welcome here.”

We state the above words every Sunday at the beginning of our worship service, and “Welcome” was our main worship theme in September. We heard messages of hospitality, building bridges, and other challenges to achieving our aspiration of being “welcoming to all.”

Over the last many months, I have met and visited with dozens of visitors. I have always felt energized by sharing a few words with someone interested in our church. Many returned, and some brought friends or relatives to visit also. We’ve had nine new members join in September, and several have mentioned having felt welcomed when they first visited. We have mentioned that everyone can be welcoming, not just ministers, or the membership committee, or other church leaders. We can introduce ourselves, learn a little about the visitor, introduce them to others, and invite them back.



Smiling might be the very best welcome sign we can offer. Not only does it increase your own “face value,” it also indicates that “we are glad you are here.” I know that Rose and I felt welcomed when we first visited UUCMP, and I encourage all of us to continue our aspirations to “be welcoming to all.”

-- Mike Lovell

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION



Generosity

November is a time when we reflect on the power of generosity and the blessings we've received. In RE, we strive to create an environment where open and honest conversations about our history are encouraged - in developmentally appropriate ways, of course. This includes discussing more difficult topics such as the darker elements of American history, so we can learn from them moving forward. As part of November's theme of "Generosity," RE classes will engage in conversations and activities that promote awareness, understanding, and empathy. We will also feature stories and perspectives from Native American voices, as their experiences and wisdom are an invaluable part of our community.

In November, there will be family-friendly activities at both the Live Service Auction on November 4th and at the Friendsgiving Potluck Feast on Thanksgiving Day. We hope that families of all ages will join in on these fun multi-generational events! We are also gearing up for our winter pageant in December, so stay tuned for more details on this exciting UUCMP tradition, as well as some other fun activities we're planning for next month.

SUPPORT AND INVOLVEMENT:

Religious Exploration is not just about the young members of our church; it's about the entire UUCMP family coming together to sup-

port, encourage, and guide our youth on their spiritual journey. We welcome your presence at all of our RE events and activities – they're not just for kids!

RELIGIOUS LIBRARY UPDATE:

Have you noticed the recent updates to the Religious Exploration library? We recently updated our OWL-related books and now have more inclusive books for preschoolers up through high schoolers. These are great books to check out and share with your kids or grandkids. New titles include: *This is My Body - I Get To Choose: An Introduction to Consent* (for ages 2 years and up), *You-ology: A Puberty Guide for EVERY Body* (for upper elementary and up), *A Quick & Easy Guide to Consent* (for high schoolers and up), and many more! The RE library catalog is online here: <https://www.librarycat.org/lib/uucmp>



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES:

Please note that there will NOT be a First Friday Game Night in November.

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES:

Saturday, November 4 at 6:30 p.m., *Live Service Auction Activities for Kids:* Drop off your kid(s) for a movie and fun in the Fireplace Room while you enjoy some adult time at the Live Service Auction.



Thursday, November 23 at 1 p.m., *Friendsgiving Potluck Feast Activities for Kids:* Don't worry—kids aren't expected to sit at a table and be quiet while adults talk for hours! We'll have some games, crafts, and more that kids can have fun with at the Friendsgiving Feast.



Adults are more than welcome to join in on the fun too.

STAY CONNECTED:

Stay updated with our events and activities by following UUCMP's social media channels (Facebook and Instagram) and reading the monthly RE Newsletter. Everyone is also welcome to join the UUCMP Parent Group on Facebook. Please send me an email if you need help accessing any of these and I'll be happy to help.

Thank you for your continued support and encouragement! I truly feel blessed by this community's generosity of time, resources, and energy for the RE program.

Sharyn

Acting Director of Religious Exploration
Dre.sharyn@uucmp.org



Ohlone/Costanoan-Esselen Nation (OCEN) is an historically documented previously recognized tribe. OCEN is the legal tribal government representative for over 600 enrolled members of Esselen, Carmeleno, Monterey Band, Rumsen, Chalon, Soledad Mission, San Carlos Mission and/or Costanoan Mission Indian descent.

Despite missionization, government changes, broken treaties, devastation to our culture and loss of homeland, we have survived. We are waking our language, teaching our children and grandchildren their culture. Though other indigenous people may have lived in the area, the area is the indigenous homeland of our people.

November Shared Plate Recipient OCEN

Today all of our Tribal members have genealogy proven links to our thirteen core families. We work with a Tribal Government, Tribal Constitution and Bylaws. We have a Non-Profit organization, #77-0378095 whose sole purpose is to support the OCEN people.



Please consider helping us by contacting elected officials in support of OCEN's Federal Reaffirmation. There is more information at www.ohlonecostanoanesselenation.org

-- Tribal Chairwoman Louise Miranda Ramirez

Please give generously to this organization.

UNDER THE SEA!



Don't Miss our Amazing Service Auction!! Come with us "Under the Sea."

We are journeying under the sea for our annual Service Auction! Each year UUCMP members offer a wide variety of goods and services from beautiful paintings to exciting outings to delicious baked goods, and don't forget those wonderful home-cooked meals. 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 until Sunday, November 5. Our LIVE AUCTION PARTY will be 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! And feel free to bring an under-the-sea-themed dessert to share!

Our Social Hour will begin at 6:30 pm, with the Auction starting at 7 p.m. You won't want to miss our incredible video talent show! There will be activities for children also! Everyone is welcome to come and join the fun!

This year's auction website is auctria.events/uucmp2023. Go to that site to register and to access the catalog of wonderful donations, and bid, bid, bid!

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, please contact Lauren Keenan or Steve Johnson at serviceauction@uucmp.org



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

Visit uucmp.org to
sign up or scan
this QR code.



Musical Offerings



The Adult Community Choir continues to grow and meets **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.



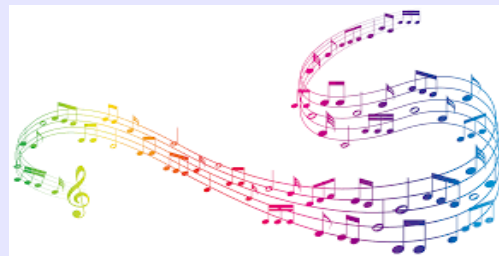
CHOIR POTLUCKS: We are having monthly choir potlucks on the **FIRST** Thursday of each month from 6 p.m. - 7 p.m. followed by the regular rehearsal. Bring something to share and join us in for a bite followed by harmonious



songs!

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

I would like to continue our Youth Music Program! 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.



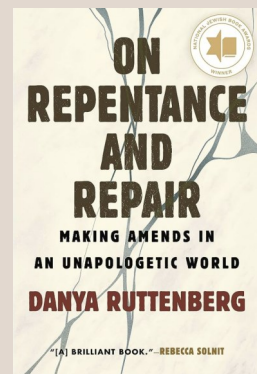
If you have any other ways you wish to contribute to the music department, please feel free to contact me via email! We would love your involvement in this fun program.

--Jorge Torrez

New Book Discussion - Beginning November 7th

Rev. Axel will be leading an 8-session discussion of the book *On Repentance and Repair: Making Amends in an Unapologetic World*, by Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg. In this timely book, drawing on the teaching of the 12th century Jewish physician and scholar, Maimonides, Ruttenberg invites readers “to explore practices for accountability that can bring us into wholeness and really make a difference in our personal, community, and national relationships.” The book is also this year’s UUA “Common Read,” recommended for UU congregations across the country. Please consider joining this worthwhile conversation and exploration.

We will be meeting on first and third Tuesdays, beginning Nov. 7th at 7:00 in the Fireplace Room. We will also have a hybrid option. Please contact Rev. Axel (minister@uucmp.org) to register, or if you have questions.



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

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

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.

More COVID Angels.

Lauren Keenan and Bill Keenan

Revs. Axel and Elaine Gehrmann -- Elaine and Axel were diligent in their efforts to transition our Sunday services to the Zoom format and then later to improve our hybrid services. They encouraged and supported committees and coached Worship Associates and others through the recording process.

Camille Hatton -- Camille kept the UUCMP choir and music going during the pandemic through her creativity, innovation, flexibility and sheer force of will! **Lucy Faridany** -- Lucy worked alongside Camille to maintain the high quality of music provided at every Sunday service as she recorded herself playing the pre and postludes and accompanied the choir.

Fred Hamilton -- He worked tirelessly figuring out how UUCMP could improve our Zoom services, and then move us into the hybrid system we continue to use today. He also has been part of the team who have made it possible to have several successful virtual Service Auctions.

Susan Panttaja -- She maintained a steady course through her good-humored, insightful and creative presence during COVID as our Interim Minister while Elaine and Axel were on sabbatical. She also worked to facilitate the transition to our hybrid services.

Carol Collin, Mibs McCarthy and the Caring Network -- They made sure that church members were contacted, and that church volunteers were available to do errands like grocery shopping or driving to appointments, and facilitated church-provided financial assistance to those in need.

Our Membership Committee, led by **Rose Lovell** and **Maren Martin**, maintained a vigorous presence through Zoom and online interactions with the many visitors we had to our virtual Sunday services, leading to new members joining us even through COVID limitations. Their continuing efforts of friendly, encouraging outreach are paying off even more so today.

Steve Johnson played important roles in several projects during covid: installation of our ventilation systems, developing the covid protocols for usage of the building and especially in figuring out the technical side of our highly successful virtual Services Auction over the past two years.

Board of Trustees, plus our Financial Friends, remained steadfast in their support and encouragement of investing in the technology and equipment necessary to conduct high quality Zoom Sunday services; aiding committees in their work to keep the mission of the church moving forward; forming working groups to develop policies regarding the use of our facilities during "lockdown" and figuring out how to modify those policies as we progressed into hybrid services. The Board also supported the housing of I-HELP for Men at UUCMP for many months during the lockdown,

Art Committee -- Karen Hunting and her group kept our walls alive and welcoming!

Program Council -- They informed committees of the latest developments at church.

Ray Krise -- He kept the office running smoothly and communicated effectively with the Program Council, the Board, and the ministers.

Congregants -- They kept pledging, attending via Zoom, and inviting others to join us via Zoom, and were enthusiastic in their praise of those organizing and putting on the Sunday services.

Erin Forstein -- As DRE. she kept our UUCMP families informed and involved even though she and her family had moved back to Kansas! I always enjoyed it when she read the Story for All Ages.

Ray Krise

During the dark days of the pandemic there certainly were many individuals who made a special difference (archangels, if you will). However, I salute our entire UUCMP beloved community of angelic friends and members for their spiritual tenacity, which has brought us through as a group to a renewed sense of devotion to our aspirations of love, hope and justice. A pandemic may deter us, but it certainly can't defeat us.



Stewardship Report



IT'S COMING SOON -- our annual Stewardship Drive. Next year's event, starting the middle of February, will be new and different from previous canvasses. Most of you will be contacted by email and asked to pledge online (with follow-up reminders from volunteer stewards, as needed). Once the campaign begins, we'll have volunteers available

after worship services every Sunday with either a laptop or an I-Pad to help you pledge online.

IF YOU DON'T WANT TO PARTICIPATE ONLINE, please let us know! (call or text Konny Murray 831-595-7853)

We have a new recordkeeping system, Breeze, that will allow us to do the campaign easily online, and reduce mailing costs. Those of you who receive the newsletter by U.S. mail will continue to get the pledging packet by mail. But people are encouraged to pledge online.

The Stewardship Committee met in mid-October to discuss what our theme will be for the upcoming campaign, but we are still working on it. We want to emphasize how UUCMP continues as a beacon of love, justice, and equity and need a cogent brief tagline or slogan that does that. Suggestions are most welcome.

We are looking forward to a successful campaign, with larger pledges (larger than last fiscal year) from as many of us as can manage so that we are able to continue to fund all the activities and employees of the church. We did raise \$8,500 with our COVID Angels fundraiser! Thank you to all of you who donated. So many Angels in our midst. Thankfully, we're all angels in fact! We hope you enjoyed the cake to celebrate Angels on October. 22.

Even with the extra \$8,500 from the Angels campaign, we have not yet raised enough money to make up the difference between our budgeted needs and our income (as explained at our Annual Meeting). We sure don't want to face having to cut something out of our activities or cut hours for employees.

At our Stewardship meeting in October, we learned from Church Treasurer, Robert Brunson, that pledges for the current pledge year (July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024) are coming in slower than usual. If you need to CHANGE your pledge, please let us know. EVERY PLEDGE MATTERS. We count on every penny of every pledge to make our budget. The Finance Committee expects our pledges this coming campaign will completely fill our coffers without having to dig into our decreasing savings. It's our beloved church. It's up to all of us to keep it thriving.

With love and blessings, Your Stewardship Committee

Konny Murray, Chair; Carol Collin, Gretchen Hausmann, Steve Johnson, Bjorn Nilson, Jo Ann Novoson, and Wanda Sue Parrott; with spiritual guidance from Rev. Axel Gehrmann.

Environmental Justice

Environmental Justice Committee Report

by Nan Foster

After our Climate Conversation event in September, we discussed the next steps we want to take to keep learning and taking action about climate change. We decided to meet after church on the second Sunday of each month at noon to learn more and to take actions from the *Climate Action Now* app. climateaction-now.com



At our first gathering, Sunday, November 12, we plan to watch a recording from the coordinators of the UU Green Sanctuary 2030 Program. We will watch a video called “Surprise Lessons in Congregational Transformation” in which members of the Ann Arbor, Michigan UU church share numerous ways their churches are engaged with climate change. We hope to learn more about the Green Sanctuary 2030 program and get ideas about how we might engage in this process at our church.

We also are looking forward to taking action together with the Climate Action Now smartphone app. With this app, an individual can take five meaningful actions in five minutes. Think about what we could do if say, 20 of us used the app together for 30 minutes! In one short session, working together, we could send perhaps 500 emails to legislators and decision-makers about important climate change legislation and other actions!

Please join us on November 12 at noon in the sanctuary for our first environmental justice action meeting.

Zucchini, Corn and Egg Casserole

From *EatingWell Magazine*

Servings: 8



Ingredients:

- 5 cups shredded zucchini
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 cup finely chopped onion
- Pinch of salt, plus ¼ teaspoon, divided
- 1 ½ cups corn kernels, fresh or frozen (thawed)
- 1 ¼ cups cottage cheese
- 1 cup crumbled feta cheese
- ½ cup chopped red bell pepper
- ¼ cup chopped fresh dill
- 1 tablespoon all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- ¼ teaspoon ground pepper
- 10 large eggs, lightly beaten

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Coat a 9 x 13-inch baking dish with cooking spray. Place squash on a clean kitchen towel; gather up the edges and squeeze out excess moisture. Heat butter in a large skillet over medium heat. Add onion and cook, stirring occasionally, until golden brown, 5 to 8 minutes. Add the squash and a pinch of salt, cook until very soft and dry, about 4 minutes more.

Transfer the squash mixture to a large bowl. Add corn, cottage cheese, feta, bell pepper, dill, flour, baking powder, pepper, and the remaining ¼ teaspoon salt and stir until well combined. Stir in eggs. Pour the mixture into the prepared baking dish.

Bake the casserole until the center is set and the edges are lightly browned, about 40 minutes. Let stand 10 minutes before serving.



Affordable Housing at UUCMP

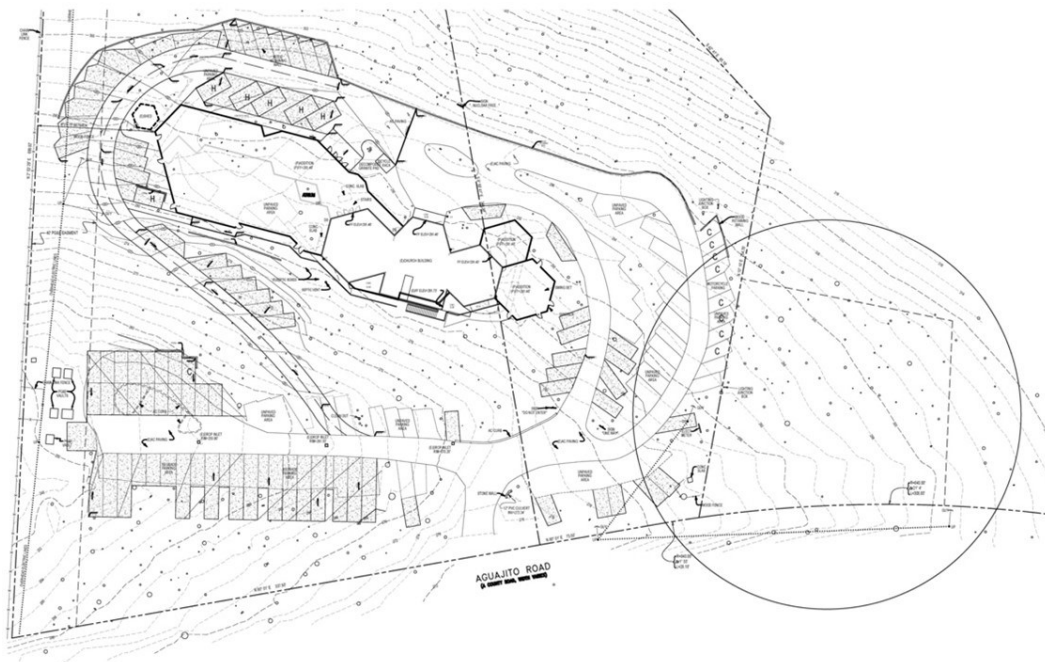
There have been changes in California, recently signed into law, that allow housing as a matter of right on church property. Studies by the Turner Center for Housing Innovation at Cal Berkeley have estimated that there is enough land owned by California churches to accommodate all the state's affordable housing needs. Further it's land generally situated in areas where you would want affordable housing with clean air, access to services, low crime, ease of transportation.

At the Strategic Planning Session held recently at our church, there was a high degree of interest in exploring the possibility of building affordable housing on our church property.

A small informal group has begun to meet to explore the feasibility of such development. We are still at the initial phases. There will be plenty of opportunities ahead for thorough discussion by the congregation and church leadership as to whether this is a path that would help fulfill the church's mission.

Below is a diagram of the church property and its development. If you are interested in learning more, this topic is on the agenda of the Social Justice Committee which meets November 5th at 12 noon in the Sanctuary and via Zoom. We will have a nonprofit housing developer present and a representative of COPA to talk about affordable housing development at other churches in the Central Coast area.

-- Laura Nagel



**Unitarian Universalist Church
of the Monterey Peninsula
490 Aguajito Road
Carmel, CA 93923**

Office Hours

The office is open for limited hours: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays.
Email to office@uucmp.org

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If you have any questions, call the office, 624-7404, or e-mail us at office@uucmp.org