



# NUUSLETTER

of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula

Theme: Liberating Love

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

**January 7**

**“Love Will Set Us Free”**

**Rev. Elaine Gehrman and Worship Associate Ray Krise**

The great Erma Bombeck wrote a book called *Family - The Ties that Bind...and Gag!* Love is often thought of as a connecting, binding force, but can it also be a freeing, liberating power as well? We will explore ways that we might be freer in our loving in the new year.

**January 14**

**“Of Dreams and Dreamers”**

**Rev. Axel Gehrman and Worship Associate Celia Barberena**

In the summer of 1963, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered a speech in Washington, D.C., which called for civil and economic rights. It is considered one of the most iconic speeches in American history. Best remembered and most quoted today are his words, “I have a dream.” Much in the world has changed in the past sixty years, and yet much has stayed the same. How might our dreams make a difference?



## 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.

**January 21**

**“A Small Act of Love Can Liberate a Life”**

**Rev. Elaine Gehrman and Worship Associate Max Cajar**

When we think of liberation, we often think of monumental social movements, heroic leaders, and large-scale actions, and yet, it is often small, quiet gestures of love that can make an enormous difference in a life. We certainly admire and appreciate the huge coordinated acts for liberation, AND the small and personal contacts are under-rated and should be celebrated.

**January 28**

**“We Live in Hope”**

**Fletcher Brunson, Jillian Marshall, and Worship Associate Corey Brunson**

Many people today are expressing discouragement with the world, citing problems such as climate change, political unrest, and cruelty towards others. Yet this is a situation that has faced each generation for millennia. Love liberates hope. We can have hope for a better and more just world, and we can achieve it. We are all in this together, all generations.

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See the calendar at  
[www.uucmp.org](http://www.uucmp.org)



## Ministers' Message

Rev. Elaine Gehrman

One common question that we ask frequently in our house: “Is it hot, or cold?” “Yes.” So often in our wonderful central coastal climate, it’s both—sometimes in the same room, at the same time! It’s both, which doesn’t make much logical sense, but that’s certainly what it feels like.

I have to say I have similar feelings about the new year and the state of the world—“Is it improving, or disintegrating?” “Is there hope, or despair?” “Should I laugh, or cry?” “Yes.” It’s both.

In so many ways, life is improving for many—with new medical technology, improvements in agriculture, awareness of climate change, concern for the poor . . . and yet, we also know there is much trouble in the world, war and hunger, greed and indifference. “Is it good, or bad?” “Yes.”

I don’t want to be naïve, or Pollyannish, or turn away from the heartbreak of the world . . . and I don’t want to stay stuck there either. I don’t want to only worry about my small universe of family and friends and congregation, and yet I want to appreciate the good in my life also.

It has been said that every preacher really only has one sermon—mine has always been some variation of “we have a choice.” We can choose what to focus on, what to work towards, where to put our energies, and it will make a difference. What we water will grow. What we love will blossom. What we support will thrive.

In the coming months, we will be making a number of decisions at UUCMP, about the future of our congregation—our strategic plans, our visions for connection and outreach, our budget, our staffing, and more. We all will have choices, about how to be involved, how we want to shape our religious institution, how to give our input, how to offer support. “Is it exciting, or nerve-wracking?” “Yes.”

We hope you will choose to participate in our vision-casting—in our hoping and dreaming, and our realistic assessments, in our action plans and our spiritual quests. “Is the future bright, or uncertain?” “Yes.” And our choices will make a difference.



See you in church,

*Elaine*

### Strategic Planning Task Force Update

Mark your calendars and plan for an important discussion on Sunday, January 7, after church. We will hold small group facilitated discussions about each of our three major visions (Welcoming/Outreach, Religious Exploration for Children & Families, and Connection/Involvement). This will be another chance for you to see what others have suggested and to suggest your own ideas for action steps. There will be snacks, and the entire event will be an hour or less. Please plan to attend.

## Multigenerational Fourth Friday Potluck

Join us on January 26<sup>th</sup> for a night of fun, food, and fellowship! A potluck dinner will start at 6 p.m. and be followed by several group activities at 7 p.m. Activity options planned include a “pop-up” chalice circle, a fun all-ages creative project, and several others that are still in the works.



Sign up details for the potluck will be in the UUCMP weekly newsletter in early January. We hope that you'll save the date and join us!

**Families with children are welcome and are encouraged to attend! If you would like childcare while you attend an adult-only activity option please contact Sharyn Routh no later than January 19<sup>th</sup>.** (dre.sharyn@uucmp.org)

For any questions, contact Maren Martin ([marenmartin@gmail.com](mailto:marenmartin@gmail.com)) or Doris Beckman ([goldenconnections1@gmail.com](mailto:goldenconnections1@gmail.com)).

## Karaoke Celebration

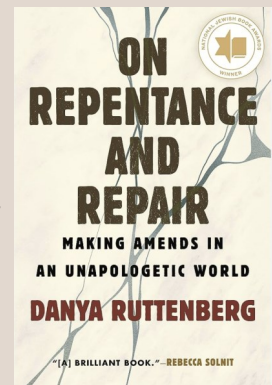
Save the Date! On Saturday, February 17, at 4 p.m., join us for a rollicking multi generational Karaoke celebration with professional Karaoke deejay Dana Morrigan! You can enjoy refreshments and try your hand—and voice!—at performing musical pieces. Everyone who attended last year found it to be great fun.



Admission is \$10 for adults and \$15 per family. Don't miss this enjoyable event with fun for the entire family!

## Book Discussion

Rev. Axel will continue to lead 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 continue to meet on first and third Tuesdays at 7:00 in the Fireplace Room. We will also have a hybrid option. Please contact Rev. Axel ([minister@uucmp.org](mailto:minister@uucmp.org)) to register, or if you have questions.

## Men's Breakfast

Saturday, January 13, at 8:30 a.m.

The men's monthly breakfast is continuing as hybrid. Our next meeting is Saturday, January 13, 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 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, January 17, at 5:45 p.m.

**Book Discussion** meets first and third Tuesdays, January 2 and 16, 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 Sunday, January 14, at 9 a.m. in the sanctuary and via Zoom.

**First Friday Game Night** is Friday, January 5, 6:30 p.m. in the Fireplace Room.

**I-HELP for Men** is Sunday, January 14, 5 p.m. Contact Steve Smaby if you can help.

**I-HELP for Women** is Sunday, January 28, Contact Lee Hulquist if you can help.

**Membership Committee** meets Wednesday, January 24, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom,

**Men's Breakfast Group** meets Saturday, January 13, 8:30 a.m. in person and 9 a.m. via Zoom. See article at left.

**Mid-Year Financial Review** is Sunday, January 28, after the service.

**Music Committee** meets Tuesday, January 23, 6 p.m. via Zoom.

**NUU'sletter deadline** for the February issue is Tuesday, January 16.

**Program Council** meets Tuesday, January 2, 12:30 p.m. via Zoom. Contact Mibs McCarthy [programcouncil@uucmp.org](mailto:programcouncil@uucmp.org)

**Social Justice** will not be meeting in January.

**Stewardship** will meet Wednesday, January 3, 1:30 p.m. via Zoom.

**Strategic Planning Task Force** is Sunday, January 7, after the service.

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

**Youth Music** will be starting again. If you are interested, please send Jorge an email: [music@uucmp.org](mailto:music@uucmp.org)

## President's Corner



# Living Kindly

My wife Rose and I share a reading or two every morning to start the day on a positive note and to remind ourselves of our intentions. This year we have also shared a weekly reading from **A YEAR of LIVING KINDLY, Choices That Will Change Your Life and the World Around You**, by Donna Cameron. The book has a section for every month and a reading for every week that examines the benefits and the challenges of living kindly. Below you can see examples of the sections and one reading topic within each section.

1. *Understanding Kindness*  
If I Were Always Kind, I Wouldn't Be Doing This
2. *Why Kindness Matters: Its Benefits and Power*  
Perform Two Acts of Kindness and Call Me in the Morning
3. *Opening Strategies for a Kind Life*  
Kindness and Keeping Score
4. *Barriers to Kindness*  
When Fear Gets in the Way of Kindness
5. *Resistance to Kindness*  
It All Starts with Kindness to Self
6. *Opening Our Lives to Kindness*  
Gratitude Is a Companion to Kindness
7. *The Tools of Kindness*  
Kindness and Vulnerability
8. *Choosing Kindness*  
What Do You Want Your Legacy to Be?
9. *Dealing With Unkindness*  
Bystanding...or Standing Up for Kindness?
10. *Challenges to Kindness*  
I'm Just Sayin'...Honesty Isn't Always Kind
11. *Creating a Kinder World*  
Kindness to the Earth and All Its Creatures
12. *Living Kindness Every Day: Your Kindness Legacy*  
The Never-Ending Dance: A Kindness Manifesto  
**Pay attention, withhold judgment, pause, receive graciously, take care of you, be grateful, every kindness matters (even the smallest), choose peace, if kindness isn't evident, look harder, and always choose kindness.**

We plan to read this book again in 2024, because we think living kindly can change our lives for the better and maybe change the world. (and because we need to be reminded)

# RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION



Happy New Year!

I am excited about the adventures and experiences we'll share together this coming year in RE. I'm hopeful that 2024 will be a year of continued growth and connection for our RE families and UUCMP community. May January bring you moments of inspiration, growth, and the warmth of shared fellowship.

## OWL Updates



Congratulations to our OWL teachers and UUCMP kids Abby, Julian, and Finn for completing the 5th/6th grade OWL classes at the end of December! Our 7th/8th grade OWL teachers and youth will be continuing their classes through this spring.

## Upcoming Events

Please watch the UUCMP weekly newsletters and the

monthly RE newsletter for upcoming family-friendly events, including:

- **First Friday Game Night** on January 5th at 6:30 p.m. in the Fireplace Room – 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!



- **UUCMP Strategic Planning Discussion** on January 7th after church – small group facilitated discussions about the major visions for UUCMP's Strategic Plan (Welcoming/Outreach, Religious Exploration for Children & Families, and Connection/Involvement). There will be snacks, childcare, and the entire event will be an hour or less.

- **MLK Day Family Activity** – See article below.

- **Artist Walk and Talk** is on January 21 after church – kids are welcome to attend the walk and talk with artist Erin Hunter and learn more about her nature-inspired art.

Thanks for catching up with RE!

Sharyn Routh  
Acting Director of Religious Exploration  
[dre.sharyn@uucmp.org](mailto:dre.sharyn@uucmp.org)

Please join UUCMP members and friends for the Martin Luther King Jr. Day March and Program in Seaside.  
Monday, January 15, 2024

**10:00 a.m.:** Set up table and chairs from UUCMP at Oldemeyer Center, 986 Hilby Avenue, Seaside.

**11:00 a.m.:** Gather at the Department of Social Services parking lot, Noche Buena and Obama Way (Broadway)

**12:00 p.m.:** March begins - down Obama Way, left on Fremont Boulevard, left on Hilby Avenue, to Oldemeyer Center.

**1:00 - 1:30 p.m.:** Program begins at Oldemeyer Center



The program usually ends by 3:00 p.m. or earlier. Please join the march or meet us at the Oldemeyer Center for the program. For more information, contact Lee Hulquist, 831-917-3179, [lmhulquist@gmail.com](mailto:lmhulquist@gmail.com)

"The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice," said Dr. King, echoing the words of 19th century abolitionist and Unitarian minister Theodore Parker.

# Musical Offerings



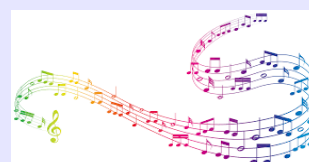
The Adult Community Choir continues to grow and meet **every Thursday from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. in the Sanctuary**. This choir is open to everyone, members and nonmembers alike, to explore singing together. No prior experience is needed. Send me an email or just stop by! We are currently preparing for two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

CHOIR POTLUCKS: We are having monthly

choir potlucks on the **FIRST** Thursday of each month from 6 p.m. - 7 p.m. followed by rehearsal. Bring something to share and join us for a bite followed by harmonious songs!

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

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



The Blind and Visually Impaired Center, established in 1971 in Pacific Grove, serves to empower those with blindness or low vision to live independently through educational services, client support services and independent skills training. Today the Center has expanded its services to Salinas and South County where there is a growing need for those affected by blindness because of diabetes among other causes.

It is the only low-vision clinic in Monterey County that provides a wide array of services by training the clients through a hands-on approach to live independently. The Center provides eye exams at little or no cost, offering diagnosis on ways to protect their remaining

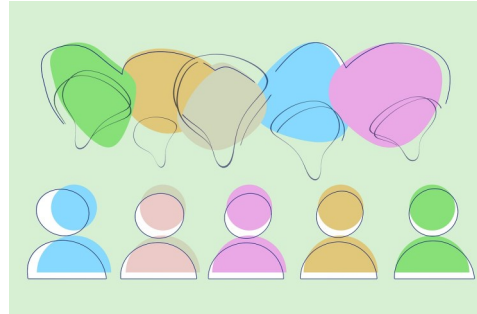
## January Shared Plate Recipient *Blind and Visually Impaired Center*

eye health, as well as corrective treatment. A support group, Braille and ceramics classes are provided bi-weekly. Among its staff, the Center employs two receptionists who are legally blind. Currently the BVIC serves almost 400 individuals yearly with over 3,000 client interactions throughout Monterey County. Many members of UUCMP have been served by the BVIC over the years.

Please give generously to this organization.

## Would You Like to Join a Chalice Circle?

Chalice Circles provide an opportunity for members and friends of the church to develop deeper connections and wider service within our community through small-group conversation. Chalice Circles consist of 6-10 people who meet at least once a month for about two hours to explore meaningful topics together. Some Chalice Circles meet via Zoom, others meet in person, and others meet in person with the option to also attend via Zoom.



If you would like to learn more about Chalice Circles, contact the ministers at [minister@uucmp.org](mailto:minister@uucmp.org).

Currently, there are openings in these ongoing groups:

### Second Monday Afternoon

This group meets at church in the Fireplace Room on second Mondays from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.. If you are interested in joining, please contact Kathleen Craig at [kathleen@craigdesignassociates.com](mailto:kathleen@craigdesignassociates.com)

### Second Monday Evening

This group meets at church in the Fireplace Room and via Zoom on second Mondays from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.. If you are interested in joining, please contact Carol Greenstreet at [csgreenstreet@yahoo.com](mailto:csgreenstreet@yahoo.com)

### Fourth Monday Evening - OMNIA Group

This group meets via Zoom on fourth Mondays from 6:45 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.. If you are interested in joining, please contact Sharon Miller at [bmcclane@redshift.com](mailto:bmcclane@redshift.com) or Kerry Sissem at [kerrysissem@earthlink.net](mailto:kerrysissem@earthlink.net)

### Third Thursday Afternoon

This group meets via Zoom on third Thursdays from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.. If you are interested in joining, please contact Rose and Mike Lovell at [lovellfamily5@gmail.com](mailto:lovellfamily5@gmail.com)

## Artist Walk and Talk

Put Sunday, January 21, noon, after the service, on your calendar, There will be a not-to-be-missed opportunity to see and hear Erin Hunter, painter extraordinaire of wildflowers, bees, and butterflies, chat in humorous detail about how she came to find her love of plants and their pollinators and excel at painting them.

She's a fascinating storyteller and answers all your questions from the perspective of a professional science illustrator managing the day-to-day of two children, a husband and a spirited dog. Good grins.



Erin's Walk and Talk in December mesmerized her audience. This one promises to be as enthralling.



# SOUP-

## -er bowl Sunday

Join us for a bowl of homemade soup (veggie and chicken options), salad, bread, and good company!

February 11, 2024 from 12:30-2:30



**RSVP BY FEB 5  
\$15 PER PERSON**

Location: The Unitarian  
Universalist Church of the  
Monterey Peninsula, 490  
Aguajito Rd., Carmel

Contact JT Mason at  
jtigerm@comcast.net or (831)  
594-4235

OR

Ann Johnson at  
annjhnsn@att.net

## Art News

### The Reason for a Flower: Paintings by Erin E. Hunter

December 2, 2023–February 1, 2024

Artist Walk and Talk  
Sunday, January 21, noon  
Private showings available: please contact Erin at  
[erin@eehunter.com](mailto:erin@eehunter.com)



Monterey-based painter and science illustrator Erin E. Hunter will share several original pollinator-themed paintings in this exhibit, inspired by Ruth Heller's beloved picture book *The Reason for a Flower*. Hunter's detailed portraits of wildflowers and floral visitors bring attention to the importance of native bees, hummingbirds, butterflies, and other pollinators in our ecosystems.



Upper Bidwell Wildflowers



Wheeler's Thistle

Hunter deeply researches her subjects as she sketches and composes a painting, then layers thin washes of acrylic on watercolor paper or gesso board. With an increasing focus on California native flora, viewers will recognize many of the flowers in her artwork—and hopefully walk away with a new awareness of the floral visitors that pollinate these plants.

Hunter is a trained science illustrator with a background in graphic design. She splits her work between fine art paintings depicting the natural world, and technical illustrations for an academic science journal (*Annual Reviews*). Her personal work focuses on the interactions between plants and animals, with a special interest in plant-pollinator relationships. View more of Erin's work at [www.eehunter.com](http://www.eehunter.com).



California Wildflowers in  
Yellow

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

## Life Enrichment Programs Affinity Groups

**Some groups will not meet face-to-face in January. 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 4.

**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 January. 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.



UUCMP General Fund Drive 2024

## Stewardship Report

**BE THE LIGHT** Operating Fund Canvass Online begins on February 18!

The kickoff for our upcoming operating fund canvass will be on Sunday, February 18, 2024, and we'll have cake after worship to celebrate what we expect to be a very successful fund-raising effort to fund our 2024-2025 operating budget. As explained in last month's newsletter, we have a challenge this year of increasing our pledges to cover fully our normal expenses without spending reserve funds. Our Finance Committee will put the upcoming budget together based on our pledging results. Finance will also be issuing a fact sheet soon to help us all understand better what funds we need.

It is up to each of us to show in a significant and sustained way how strongly we feel about supporting UUCMP. **Pledging will be done online for everyone** (except those folks who do not have computers or cell phones). Stewardship Committee member Steve Johnson will hold sessions via Zoom and at church on how each of us can access our information online for pledging, for what we've pledged in the past, and for completing an online pledge card.

We are using a new church management system called Breeze, which is a favorite of many UU churches for keeping membership records and tracking pledging. The statement you may have received about the status of your 2023-2024 pledge was created using the new Breeze system. Steve has been populating historical

data and putting Breeze through its paces for the past several months, and we are very excited about it. It will help us be very sure of the accuracy of our donor records.

After most worship services until the end of canvass in March, someone will be available at the Stewardship table in the Welcome Hall with a laptop or iPad to walk you through the process of finding your personal records and pledging. There will also be a step-by-step guide on the [uucmp.org](http://uucmp.org) website. Let's celebrate that we are becoming more modern!

Please start thinking now about how much you can increase your pledge. Every penny matters! Members of the Stewardship Committee are joining with members of the Board of Trustees to create a challenge fund to encourage significant and sustained pledge increases; more details about this special program will be forthcoming during the canvass. We encourage you all to be a lighthouse of generosity, brightening the lights of the programs of the church.

The current vitality of the church in attendance, committee involvement, and other activities has been impressive! We have had 29 people join the church in the last two years; many of these people are taking a very active role in congregational life, and we feel that the congregation can match this energy with pledge increases. Our strategic plan, once approved by the congregation, will likely suggest we need to all step up our support as committee members and donors in order to maintain the level of activity and service we offer for everyone. We can do this to support the community we love!

Your Stewardship Committee: Konny Murray, chair; Carol Collin, Gretchen Hausmann, Steve Johnson, Bjorn Nilson, Jo Ann Novoson, Judy Lind (emeritus), with spiritual guidance from Rev. Axel Gehrmann and financial advice from treasurer Robert Brunson

## Environmental Justice

### 100% Renewable Electricity for about \$5 More Per Month!

Scientists tell us that we urgently need to slow and stop the production of greenhouse gases to prevent worse impacts of climate change.

Approximately 25% of our country's greenhouse gas emissions come from electricity production. One way you can help that is to convert your home to 100% renewable electricity. And you can get 100% renewable electricity for only about \$5 extra per month!

Most of us in the Central Coast region have our electricity sourced by Central Coast Community Energy (3CE), and are billed for it through PG&E. We pay two charges for electricity: one for the source of electricity, from 3CE, and another charge for the distribution of the electricity, from PG&E.

The default choice already in place with 3CE called #CChoice comes from about 30% renewable sources. But you can opt in to receive 100% renewable energy from 3CE! You just fill out a simple form online, or give them a call, and all your electricity will come from wind and solar generation. For the typical customer, the cost increase is about \$5 per month. And you are helping to save our environment.

Here is a link to the forms to enroll: <https://3cenergy.org/billing/energy-choices/3cprime/>

-- Nan Foster



### Opt-up to 100% Renewable Energy with 3Cprime



As the primary default service for all enrolled customers, with carbon-free electricity with 31% generated from eligible renewables.

3Cchoice rates are kept on par with PG&E's base rates so there is no cost increase to participating in 3C service.



Supports 100% carbon-free **renewable** energy from wind and solar.

3Cprime is available to all customers at an added cost of less than one penny per kilowatt hour (.8c/kWh) or approximately \$3 – \$7 extra per month for residential customers who fall within the average monthly consumption of 300 – 500 kilowatt-hours of electricity per month.

To change your subscription, call **1-888-909-6227**

or go online <https://3cenergy.org/billing/energy-choices/3cprime/>

*You will need your PG&E Account Number, last name & zip code as it appears on your PG&E bill.*



## Environmental Justice

### Golden Pear Soup

Adapted from Still Life with Menu

Preparation time: 50 minutes

Yield: 6 servings



Fresh pears and sweet potatoes are puréed together and finished off with touches of cinnamon, white wine, and cream. This unusual soup is slightly sweet, slightly tart, and deeply soothing. It is easy to make, and it's hard to believe something that tastes this good can be so easy.

Steps 1 through 4 can be done ahead of time, and the purée can be refrigerated for a day or two before the finishing touches are added.

1 1/2 pounds sweet potatoes. (Acorn or butternut squash may be substituted.)

4 cups water

1 3-inch stick cinnamon

1 1/2 teaspoons salt

3 large ripe pears (any kind but Bosc)

1 to 2 tablespoons butter

1/4 cup plus 2 tablespoons dry white wine

1/3 cup half-and-half, light cream, or milk (low fat or soy okay)

A few dashes of ground white pepper

1. Peel sweet potatoes (or squash), and cut into small pieces. Place in a large saucepan with water, cinnamon stick, and salt. Bring to a boil, cover, and simmer until tender (about 15 minutes). Remove the cover and let it simmer an additional 5 minutes over medium heat. Remove and discard the cinnamon stick. Set aside.

3. Peel and core the pears, and cut them into thin slices.

4. In a heavy skillet, sauté pears in butter for about 5 minutes over medium heat, stirring frequently. Add 1/4 cup wine, cover, and simmer about 10 minutes longer over medium heat.

5. Using a food processor with the steel blade or a blender, purée the sweet potatoes (squash) in the cooking water together with the pears-au-jus until smooth. (You may have to do this in several batches.) Transfer to a heavy soup pot or Dutch oven.

6. Add the cream or milk and the remaining 2 tablespoons of wine. Sprinkle in the white pepper. Heat very gently just before serving. (Don't let it boil.)

-- Nan Foster

### Mid-Year Financial Review Session Offered

Please plan to join the members of the UUCMP finance team in the sanctuary for a review of the church's budget performance and finances at the halfway point in our fiscal year, following the service on Sunday, January 28, 2024.

This will be an opportunity for members and friends of the congregation to hear and see how the church's financial performance through the first six months of the 2023-2024 fiscal year that has unfolded. We will get information about the current state of our operating reserve funds, glean insights into how the rest of the year might proceed, and ways our recent performance and related projections might affect the goals for next month's "Be The Light" pledge canvass and next fiscal year's operating budget. *(Calculators and slide-rules are optional.)*

Note: This session will also be available via Zoom. Please watch the Weekly News in January for the link and login credentials.



# KARAOKE WITH DANA

Karaoke Party with Bay Area karaoke jockey Dana Morigan

**Saturday, February 17, 2024, 4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula  
490 Aguajito Road, Carmel – (831) 624-7404

**A family-friendly event for all ages. Invite your friends to join us!**

Suggested Donation: \$10 for adults, \$15 per family.



Try your hand (and voice) at performing musical pieces.  
Refreshments and beverages provided.

**Come out and join the fun!**

**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.  
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January 2024

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

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

Check the WEEKLY NEWS and website for news throughout the month.

If you have any questions, call the office, 624-7404, or e-mail us at [office@uucmp.org](mailto:office@uucmp.org)