



# NUUSLETTER

of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula

Theme: Justice and Equity

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

February 4

“Do You Hear the People Sing?”

Rev. Elaine Gehrman and Worship Associate  
Christina Zaro

*Les Misérables* is a classic tale of inequity and the quest for justice. This morning we will explore the themes of this musical, based on the novel by Victor Hugo -- a tale of love, betrayal, revolution, idealism, and redemption.

February 11

“Fair Play in the Game of Life”

Rev. Axel Gehrman and Worship Associate  
Lauren Keenan

It is self-evident that all people are created equal, some have said - as if equality were a given in this great nation. Our UU principles affirm “equity,” rather than “equality.” Equity and equality are two aspects of the justice we strive toward – both point to a world in which all people are treated fairly. But what is fair?



## 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.

February 18

“Be the Light”

Rev. Elaine Gehrman and Worship Associate  
Bjorn Nilson

This year our canvass theme is "Be the Light." How can we best be the beacon of religious liberalism on the hill-- how can our lights shine even more brightly- - to illumine our hearts and minds and those of our fellow spiritual seekers?

February 25

“The Religious Ground of Justice”

Ray Krise and Shannon Morrison

Unitarian Universalists are known for our love of justice, but what motivates us to act for justice? Is it the desire to live by the Golden Rule? Simple altruism? There may be many different grounds for championing fairness in personal matters and justice on the broader social scale. Are love and justice inseparable?

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



## Ministers' Message

Rev. Axel Gehrman

The other day when Elaine and I were taking a late-afternoon walk along the shore, a surprising sight caught my eye: a small burst of color poking out between the clouds near the horizon where the sun would soon set. It looked like a tiny slice of a rainbow, which was puzzling, because the day was dry - far and wide not a drop of rain.

Elaine knew what we were witnessing: an atmospheric optical phenomenon called a "sun dog." A quick bit of research revealed that sun dogs often appear in pairs, on both sides of the sun within a 22 degree halo. (Upon closer inspection I noticed there were two colorful spots in the sky.) Sun dogs are a kind of halo caused by the refraction of sunlight by ice crystals in the atmosphere. "They can be seen anywhere in the world during any season, but are not always obvious or bright." - Who knew?!

I had never noticed a sun dog before. Seeing this one seemed like a good omen - and like its relative, the rainbow - a beautiful celestial symbol of hope. This remarkable miracle of light was an unexpected and auspicious revelation.

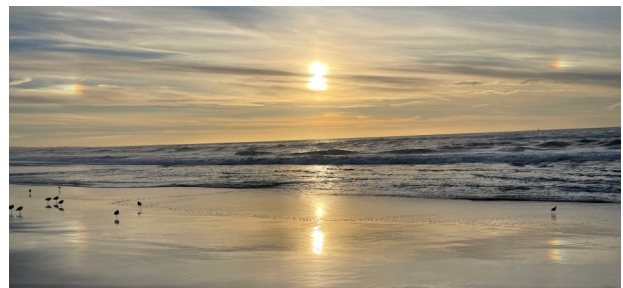
"Be the Light!" is the motto of this year's Stewardship Drive. Perhaps you have seen some of the articles and announcements from our Stewardship Team, or heard testimonials on Sunday mornings. Once again, our Stewardship Team is working hard to help us all think about our financial support of UUCMP, encouraging us to be more generous. (If you have been reading reports from our Finance Committee, or attended the Financial Forum in late January, you know that a significant increase in contributions is needed this year, if we want to maintain current programming and staffing levels. Additional information can be found [here.](#))

Our Stewardship logo this year is a lighthouse - a

beacon of light that keeps us safe and sustains us. It is a light of hope that can guide us and help us find our way in the world, especially in dark and troubling times. I think the lighthouse is a fitting symbol for our church - what we provide and stand for, and what we offer the larger community.

The light we provide, as we put our UU faith into practice, is profound and precious! Every one of us contributes to the light of our caring community - when we gather for worship or study or service; when we join in song and celebration; when we open our hearts and tenderly share the joys and sorrows of our lives; when we extend helping hands; when we work for justice. Together, we can generate an amazing amount of illumination, and be much brighter than any single light alone.

I do believe UUCMP makes a real difference in the world. Our light may be small, and it is not always obvious or bright - but it is beautiful, and it is precious. UUCMP is a beacon of love and justice, an ally of countless similar efforts that can be seen anywhere and at any season - if only we open our eyes. May we each do our part, to ensure that our light continues to burn brightly.



See you in church,

*Axel*

## Men's Breakfast

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

The men's monthly breakfast is continuing as hybrid. Our next meeting is Saturday, February 10, 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, February 21, at 5:45 p.m.

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

**Environmental Justice** meets Sunday, February 11, at noon in the Sanctuary and via Zoom.

**First Friday Game Night** is Friday, February 2, 6:30 p.m. in the Fireplace Room.

**I-HELP for Men** is Sunday, February 11, 5 p.m. Sign up on the Meal Train (page 9) or contact Steve Smaby if you can help.

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

**Membership Committee** meets Wednesday, February 28, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom,

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

**Music Committee** meets Tuesday, February 27, 6 p.m. via Zoom.

**NUU'sletter deadline** for the March issue is Friday, February 16.

**Program Council** meets Tuesday, February 6, 12:30 p.m. via Zoom. Contact Mibs McCarthy  
[programcouncil@uucmp.org](mailto:programcouncil@uucmp.org)

**Social Justice** meets Sunday, February 4, at noon in the Sanctuary and via Zoom.

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

**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)

**Work Party** will be Saturday, February 10, 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. with inside and outdoor projects.

## President's Corner



This “BE THE LOVE” sign is in Rose’s and my living room as an aspirational goal. It was made for us free of charge at a Saguaro Man (a regional Burning Man) event as part of their “gifting economy.” The artist felt that the Moose Drool beer and some cupcakes I returned with was a fair trade. What can I say?

My last name is Lovell, and as we raised our three children, we affirmed that “Love is in our name and Love is in our hearts.” Our hope is that we will always own that acclamation.

February is the month that many people focus on Love, with Valentine’s Day on the 14th. Rose and I can certainly relate to that sentiment since we will celebrate 43 years of marriage on the 14th.

I was already thinking about writing something about love for February, then the January worship services themes on love nudged me forward. “Love Will Set Us Free,” “Of Dreams and Dreamers,” and “A Small Act of Love Can Liberate a Life,” all illustrate the power of Love and the difference Love makes in our lives and in the world.

I am writing this on January 21st, so today’s service is freshest on my mind, and several thoughts resonate with me now:

- Max Cajar’s excellent reflection suggested that for loneliness, successful treatment could include Vitamin “H” for HUGS. Vitamin “H” for all of us.
- Reverend Elaine’s message reminds us that we can choose to be the friend, be the love, or be the change we want to see. Let us strive to “BE” all of that.
- Tammy Hall’s soulful song, “There is Only Love,” reminds us that Love matters, that Love is real, and that Love heals. Love one another.

Let Love be visible in all that we say and do, in February and throughout the year!

## 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!

# RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION



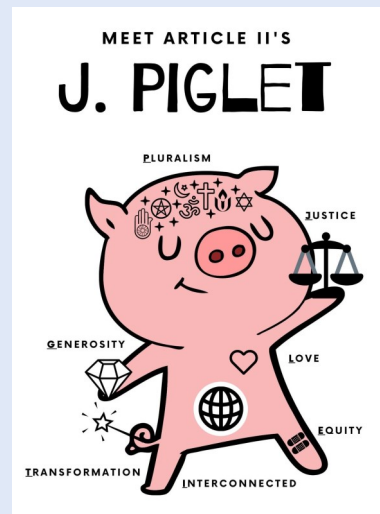
Hello Everyone,

It's hard to believe it, but it's already time to start looking ahead to summer for RE programming and plans! As someone who still hasn't taken down their Christmas tree (though that's hopefully coming soon!) I'm not quite ready to consider summer yet! Nevertheless, at our last Committee on Family Ministry meeting, we discussed the possibility of hosting an environmental justice summer camp at church. While we still have many of the constraints we did last year (namely, the adult human resources needed to manage a week-long day camp), I am excited that there is still interest and momentum in serving our kids and our larger community with a child-focused program.

The strategic planning breakout sessions in January also inspired me, as I listened to others' ideas for how to further build and grow our RE program. From field trips to the UUA in Boston, to involving kids in activities with the social justice, environmental justice, and art committees, and so much more, it was encouraging to hear the interest and energy to engage our children, youth, and families! I believe it's the relationships that lead our kids and youth on their faith formation journeys, and I'm optimistic about the increased opportunities for our children to grow their relationships within our spiritual community.

As we head into February and our monthly theme of justice and equity, I'm looking forward to working with our RE community of kids and adults to learn more about how our faith calls us to be radically inclusive and justice-focused. This past fall, when the kids were asked to consider how the 8 UU principles match up with the Article II proposed values, "Justice" was the value that our kids linked to the most principles. I'm encouraged that the kids so readily identified our faith's grounding in the value of justice and hope to explore how we can live out this value in our daily lives.

In case you haven't seen it, here is a picture of a mnemonic device of the Article II proposed values that we have in our RE classroom to help the kids remember what the values are: Justice, Pluralism, Interconnectedness, Generosity, Love, Equity, Transformation, aka J PIGLET.



Please be sure to watch the UUCMP weekly newsletters and the monthly RE newsletter for upcoming RE events!

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



California State University  
**MONTEREY BAY**  
Library

**Second Annual Tanimura & Antle Family Memorial Library Speaker Series**

**Lecture Hall, Room 1188**

**Friday, February 23, 2024**

**5:30 pm – 7:00 pm**

Please join us at 5:30 pm on Friday, February 23 for a reception followed by a panel discussion of the history of Japanese American Citizens in Monterey County featuring:

**Larry Oda**, Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) National President,  
and longtime Monterey resident

**Fran Schwamm**, a member of the Tanimura family who was born in the camps,  
and currently resides in Salinas

Moderated by **Dr. Chris Hasegawa**, CSUMB founding faculty member,  
and former CSUMB Dean

***Co-Sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula***

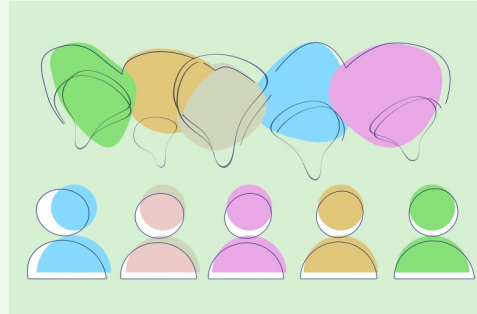
To RSVP, please scan the QR code below:



CSUMB works to make events accessible to all. To request special accommodations or for further information, please contact Diane Wilson at [diwilson@csumb.edu](mailto:diwilson@csumb.edu) or call 831-582-3157.

## 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 Kat Morgan at [katmorgan13@gmail.com](mailto:katmorgan13@gmail.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 Sisseem at [kerrysisseem@earthlink.net](mailto:kerrysisseem@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)

## Rainbow Families at UUCMP

Several years ago, at UUCMP, there was Interweave— a social group for LGBTQ2 folks and allies of all ages. Amy Blondell would like to start a new version of Interweave. She, her wife, Andrea, and 7-year-old Jamie want to expand their LGBTQ2-friendly community here, having moved from San Francisco during the pandemic. She was drawn to UUCMP when she received LGBT affirmative UU publications at Monterey Pride. She is hoping for something inter-generational with a potluck and socializing. Is this something you would like also? Contact Amy at [amy.donovan.blondell@wellesley.com](mailto:amy.donovan.blondell@wellesley.com) to get started.





## February Shared Plate Recipient *The Village Project*

The Village Project, Inc. (TVPI) is a non-profit organization located in Seaside, whose mission is, “To help our communities reach a greater state of well-being by strengthening families through the delivery of community-based culturally specific services.”

The Village Project, Inc. was founded to help meet the needs of the under-served African American Community. Their services are based on community-defined practices. Prior to TVPI becoming a reality, focus groups were held with a myriad of community members, such as grandparents, social workers, therapists, relative caregivers, civic organizations, pastors and grassroots individuals. As a result of input from individuals in these focus groups, it was clear that the community wanted a place where Black people could go to work through the challenges they faced and do so with the help of trusted practitioners in the community who looked like them and understood their

cultural dynamics.

While the agency was founded to help meet the needs of the under-served African American community, they provide services to any individual or family in need. Additionally, providing services from one’s cultural identity is paramount to the philosophy of the agency’s board of directors, staff, founders and clinicians.



The Village Project, Inc., partners with community organizations, schools, faith-based institutions, and other agencies in order to collectively support children and families of all cultures in the work they do.

A number of UUCMP members are already supporters of TVPI both financially and as volunteers. Please join us in supporting this worthy organization.

## 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.

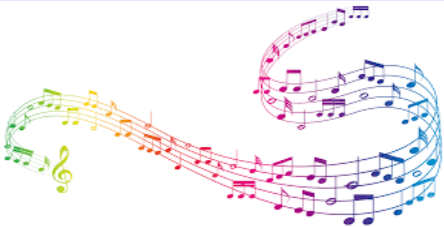
**CHOIR POTLUCKS:** We are having monthly choir potlucks on the **FIRST** Thursday of each month from 6 p.m. - 7 p.m. followed by rehearsal. Bring some-

thing 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.

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. [music@uucmp.org](mailto:music@uucmp.org)

-- Jorge Torrez





## Donation Request for Men's I-HELP for February 11<sup>th</sup>

On Sunday, February 11th, UUCMP will host and provide the meal for Men's I-HELP (Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Program.) We are planning for about 17 guests.

We need your help to provide donations of food for the meal. We can also use help with setting up, preparing food and greeting the men. Please sign up on this link [Men's I-HELP February 11 Meal Train](#)



Food donations may be left in the church kitchen after the morning worship service on Sunday. Please label all food with Men's I-HELP. Food may also be brought to the church after 3:00 pm, but no later than 4:00 p.m. on that Sunday. Please use this Meal Train link to sign up by the Saturday before February 11 at 5 p.m. so we know where we stand for donations, since our goal is to have all items donated.

If you just want to tell us what you are bringing, contact Rose Lovell and she will sign you up.

If you would rather contribute monetarily to support this important mission of our church, please mark your check donation in the memo line for Men's I-Help Meals.

### [Donate financially](#)

If you have difficulty using the Meal Train program, please let Rose Lovell know: [lovellfamily5@gmail.com](mailto:lovellfamily5@gmail.com)

Please let Steve Smaby know if you have suggestions or questions: [pilot.smaby@gmail.com](mailto:pilot.smaby@gmail.com)

Thank you for supporting this important mission of our church!  
Rose Lovell 214-228-6665

## New Member Profile -- Welcome to Christi Brekke

Christi Brekke moved to California and became a Unitarian in 2023. She is originally from the Pacific Northwest and also spent many years in South Texas. She holds a MA in English/Creative Writing and has self-published five books, two memoirs and a novel trilogy. (Her books are available on Amazon/Kindle) She works as a voice coach, teaching voice feminization to transgender women and non-binary folks. She also gives guitar lessons. Music is Christi's biggest passion and joy. She sings, plays several instruments (guitars, mostly), composes and produces. (You can hear her music on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@christibrekke>) She is excited to bring her talents to UUCMP and delighted to be a member of this wonderful church family!



## Art News



### Paintings by Elizabeth Wrightman

Feb. 2, 2024 – March 29, 2024

Artist Walk and Talk

Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup> at 12:15 and

Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 12:15

“*Painting is stronger than I am*”, said Pablo Picasso. “*It makes me do what it likes.*” Although that sounds a little dramatic for me, if not downright self-important, I regularly experience what Picasso is saying. Of course one cannot look directly at such a phrase, but might glimpse the feeling many times, out of the corner of one’s eye, and smile and nod one’s head knowingly. ~Elizabeth Wrightman

Elizabeth will show in the Welcome Hall gallery February and March. She lives in Carmel with her husband Paul, pastor of the Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula, and they are both ordained in the United Church of Christ.

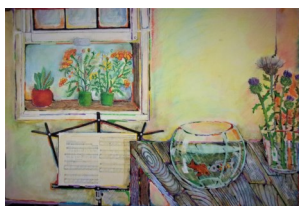


Donkey

She would be described as an expressionist, with acrylics, house paint, pastels, often collage and often *drawing a lot*. She majored in fine arts at the College of Wooster in Wooster, Ohio, spending her senior year however at UCSB, still with a painting emphasis.

Working for the Dept. of Aging in Pittsburgh, PA then attending Pittsburgh Theological Seminary as they raised teenagers, she would paint and show maybe once year. She then became a pastor, and also a hospital chaplain.

Upon moving to the Monterey Peninsula 14 years ago Elizabeth experienced a call to full time work in the studio. She paints largely from Irish literature. (This led to an independent study of James Joyce, involving several presentations, beginning with Trinity College in Dublin, on Bloomsday.) Joining Joyce scholars from worldwide settings, Elizabeth was accepted to show her paintings from *Ulysses*, as the literary world celebrated 100 years since its highly controversial publication.



Marigold Window

Her work . . . similar to dreams perhaps . . . alternates between the playful and the mysterious. A Celt by family origins, her family were Highlander Scots, but spent generations in Ireland. Elizabeth identifies more with the Irish imagination. At first puzzled to find poems and legends showing up center stage, as a source of subject matter, she eventually accepted it; it gave her complete peace, and a sense of homecoming. If you look up the haunting poem, the *Song of Amergin*, you will know *everything that she knows* about what she paints. The Why, When, Where and Who can be explored in more depth, with a cup of coffee at a ‘walk and talk’ in the Welcome Hall.

## 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 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 February. 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

## BE THE LIGHT!

*Be the Light* is the theme for this year's operating fund drive which begins at February 18's worship service. (Stay after worship for a celebratory piece of cake.) We've already let you know the process will be different this time. Most of you will be contacted by email and will be asked to pledge ONLINE! Steve Johnson will be posting how to do this on the UUCMP website. He'll provide straightforward written directions, no doubt with pictures, to help you through the process. A steward may contact you to help you complete your pledge. Plus, after worship during the campaign, someone will be at the stewardship table every Sunday to help.

The UUCMP Board has challenged us to pledge **\$476,500** for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. That is a *25% increase* over what we all pledged last year. The amount will allow us to preserve our current level of church staffing and operations. So, it is up to all of us, if that is what we would like to happen for UUCMP. It supports our ability to fulfill our strategic plan of

increasing the number of families with children, broadening our outreach to share our values in the community and expand membership, and increase the participation of all of us in the congregation. We will display a thermometer tracking our progress this year!

A group of Stewardship Committee and Board members have put up a challenge match of **\$15,000**. The match is for individual pledge increase over last year's level which:

A – Increases the pledge by 25% or more over their 2023-2024 pledged, or

B – Moves into the five percent of annual household income pledge group.

Let's work at "winning" the entire challenge by stretching to increase our pledges.

The important thing to remember is that every single pledge adds to our total. Some of us are very capable of increasing our pledge and/or getting to the 5% level. Others, not so much. The key is to pledge what makes you feel like you are doing all you can to help us reach our goals.

**We ALL are the ones who will make a difference for UUCMP.**

## BE THE LIGHT WITH YOUR PLEDGE!

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 Gehrman and financial guidance from treasurer Robert Brunson



## Artist Interview

On Thursday, February 1, at 12:30 p.m. the day before her exhibit is hung at UUCMP, Monterey County Weekly arts writer, Aga Popeda will interview artist Elizabeth Wrightman live for MIC'D Up, at the Press Club, 1123 Fremont Blvd, Seaside, and the public is most welcome! There will be Q&A by you, the visiting audience, to follow. Elizabeth will be interviewed and show paintings, re: Irish folklore and James Joyce, and answer your questions.



Join the UUCMP Environmental Justice Group for

# GENISTA PULLING

*Come and learn about the native and invasive plants on church grounds. Together, we will pull up young genista plants by hand or dig them up. Please bring gloves and tools (shovels, hand clippers) if possible.*

**SATURDAY, MARCH 16**  
**9:30AM-12PM**

**REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED**

Genista is invasive and highly flammable, so it's a double threat to our local ecology.

Help us get the plants out before they set seed and spread even more widely.

UU Principle 7:  
We believe in caring for our planet Earth, the home we share with all living things.



Other opportunities to help with church grounds upkeep will be available at the same time.

For more information, contact Lauren Keenan (bill.lauren.keenan@gmail.com)

## Environmental Justice

Reducing your consumption of beef, lamb, pork and chicken - even just a little - can significantly lower your climate impact and help preserve other precious natural resources.

Fruits, vegetables, grains and other plant-based foods have a much lower impact, almost 20 to 1. Enjoy the climate and health benefits of eating green by trying out our monthly vegetarian recipes.

### (SLOW-COOKER) CAULIFLOWER, POTATO, WHITE BEAN SOUP

#### INGREDIENTS

Yield: 6 servings

1 pound Yukon gold potatoes, scrubbed, peeled and cut into 1- to 2-inch chunks

1 pound cauliflower, chopped into large bite-sized florets and stems

2(15-ounce) cans cannellini beans, drained

½ yellow onion, minced

3 garlic cloves, smashed and minced

3½ cups vegetable stock

3 tablespoons unsalted butter

2 tablespoons dry white wine

1 sprig fresh thyme or ½ teaspoon dried thyme

½ teaspoon garlic powder

Coarse kosher salt and black pepper

1 teaspoon lemon juice (about ¼ lemon)

8 ounces sour cream (1 cup), at room temperature

½ cup chopped chives (about 1 small bunch))



Optional: Potato chips, preferably sour cream and onion, for topping  
Shredded cheddar, for serving

#### PREPARATION

##### Step 1

In a 6- to 8-quart slow cooker, combine the potatoes, cauliflower, beans, onion, garlic, vegetable stock, butter, wine, thyme, garlic powder and 1½ teaspoons kosher salt. Cover and cook until the vegetables are very tender, about 8 hours on low. Alternately, in a Dutch oven, sauté onion and garlic in butter. Add the rest of the ingredients. Bring to low boil then cover and lower the temperature to simmer. Cook for 2-3 hours, until potatoes are soft.

##### Step 2

Remove and discard the thyme sprig, and turn off the slow cooker. Add the lemon juice. To make a completely smooth and creamy soup, purée the ingredients using an immersion blender. (Or, purée the soup in a blender in two batches, transferring the puréed soup to a different pot.) To make a textured, chunky soup, smash the ingredients using a potato masher in the slow cooker. Stir in the sour cream and chives. Taste and add additional salt if necessary. Serve in bowls topped with black pepper, crushed potato chips and shredded Cheddar. For leftovers, gently reheat the soup on the stovetop or in the microwave until it just barely bubbles around the edges; don't let it boil or the sour cream will break.

-- Submitted by Lauren Keenan

# 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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February 2024

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