



NUUSLETTER

of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula

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

July 7

“Tomorrow Will Come”

Worship Associates Celia Barberena and Lauren Keenan

The twists and turns of our lives sometimes take us to unfamiliar territory. We appreciate happiness more when we have experienced unhappiness. We feel healthy and strong today but there was a time when we were not. We recognize the calm that courage brings because we have lived through fear and worry. Without expectations, with strength and wisdom, we face tomorrow, come as it may.

July 14

"What is Family?"

Worship Associates Corey Brunson and Ann Johnson

What is a family? Do similar chemical attributes in our DNA actually create family? If so, where do we draw the line? Do second cousins or third cousins still qualify? How do friends fill the gaps left by our families?

If families are created by love, then anyone close to us with whom we share a mutual love and respect could be considered family. With love at the core of our relationships and with hearts connected, a happy family will endure, whether biological or not.

Today we will explore the concept of “family” and discuss the kinds of friends who have gotten us through.

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.

July 21

“Mythology in Spiritual Living”

Worship Associates Jon Czarnecki and Ray Krise

Eminent 20th century scholar of mythological studies, Joseph Campbell, once joked that when asked for a definition of mythology many people would opine that "mythology is other people's religion." But through the course of human evolution, mythology has served in roles mystical, cosmological, sociological and ethical, forming the backbone of cultures, the arts, and religions. Are myths of the past helpful in our everyday spiritual lives today? How can we find mythology's usefulness despite its limitations of antiquity, and geographical and ethnic origins?

July 28

"Shedding Layers"

Worship Associates Ann Johnson and Shannon Morrison

Summer is a time we slow things down and shed our woolly sweaters. Taking off our winter layers may not only expose our bodies, but it can also expose our more vulnerable selves. Peeling back the layers may seem like a big risk for some of us, but perhaps one with great rewards.

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See the calendar at
www.uucmp.org



Ministers' Message


Rev. Elaine Gehrman

After a very full, productive, energizing and inspiring church year, July is a good time to slow down and reflect on the past, and recharge for the future. Many of our committees and groups take a break, your co-ministers take their vacation, and the church in general takes on a slower pace. There will still be excellent Sunday worship services, and staff and volunteers to make sure the church wheels keep turning, but there is a noticeable shift in activity.

Your co-ministers finished up the church year with attendance at the annual UU Ministers Association Ministry Days, followed by the all-virtual UUA General Assembly. After several years of input, discussion, amendments, and more discussion, the revision of Article II of the UUA By-laws was adopted by 80.2%, significantly more than the 2/3 required to pass. We understand that not everyone was in favor of this decision, however it seems that a supermajority of delegates were ready to implement the new wording to better represent our current times. A number of participants who spoke during the General Sessions remarked on the importance of our faith to be able to grow and change, to reflect our new awarenesses and to address our contemporary challenges. Before the final discussion on the vote, the Rev. Victoria Safford said, "We can neither be brought down nor saved by any bylaw change. It's the way we move that matters, the way we move forward together, the weight of the trust and respect and compassion we bear for each other, the strength of our great covenant. However we vote, we put love at the center, unflinching, insistent."

You can watch recordings of all the UUA General Sessions at this link-- <https://www.uua.org/ga/off-site/2024>, as well as the terrific Sunday worship service if you missed it on Sunday, June 23rd.

In a world that seems to be regressing in many

ways, I found it incredibly inspiring to have our General Assembly lift up and affirm trans rights, disability justice, fat liberation, concern for Palestinians, and overwhelming support for those on the margins. Our newly adopted Article II values, of Justice, Equity, Transformation, Pluralism, Interdependence, and Generosity, with Love at the center (JET  PIG) speak to the need to actively embody these values as we engage with the world.

You can read the UU World article about the vote at this link-- <https://www.uuworld.org/articles/uua-article-ii-passes-general-assembly-result-unitarian-universalism-bylaws-vote-values-statement>

We look forward to the coming church year, as we not only start to figure out ways to embrace our newly stated values, but also as we embark in earnest upon our UUCMP Strategic Plan, with a focus on RE and families, outreach to the wider community, and deepening our internal connections. There will be lots of opportunities for you to be involved, so rest up! We look forward to getting to work next month, anticipating a great year to come!



See you in August!

Elaine

Men's Breakfast

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

The men's monthly breakfast is continuing, as hybrid. Our next meeting is Saturday, July 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 so that we will have an idea of how much food to bring. If you have any dietary restrictions, please bring your own food.



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

Adult Community Choir will not meet in July.

Board of Trustees meets Wednesday, July 17, at 5:45 p.m.

Buddhist Sangha is every Wednesday at 7 p.m. in person in the Sanctuary. Zoom is available. See page 8.

Environmental Justice meets at noon, Sunday, July 14, in the Sanctuary and via Zoom.

First Friday Game Night is on break.

I-HELP for Men is Sunday, July 14, 5 p.m. Sign up on the Meal Train (page 9) or contact Rose Lovell if you can help.

I-HELP for Women is Sunday, July 28.

Membership Committee will not meet in July.

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

Music Committee meets Tuesday, July 23 at 6 p.m. via Zoom.

NUU'sletter deadline for the August issue is Tuesday, July 16.

Program Council will not meet in July.

Social Justice will not meet in July.

Stewardship will not meet in July.

T'ai Chi Chih meets Tuesdays at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary. See page 8.

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

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION



Summer Thoughts

🌿 Nature Camp! 🌿 GRATITUDE!

From June 10th -14th, Nature Camp took place at UUCMP. We had 7 campers, 3 Counselors-In-Training, and an AMAZING staff of teachers and volunteers. Ms. Rebecca Irwin, Case Brunson and Shannon Morrison led an action-packed series of educational and fun activities throughout the week. Our opening camp song was *My Roots Go Down*, and the kids loved closing each day with *Blue Boat Home*. THANK YOU!!! Huge thanks to all of our volunteers - especially Corey Brunson, Kristin Sells, Brian Jacobson, Lauren Keenan, Elaine Gehrman, Amanda Preece, Karen Brown and Mibs McCarthy for all your support and for the activities facilitated. Also big thanks to the many volunteers who helped Brian and Lauren to clear and provide a safe place for our children to play and much needed trail maintenance, especially Bill Keenan, Carol LeVa and Carolyn Wills.

31 Upcoming Summer Activities & Events - July & August

* Saturday, July 20th -- Berry Picking at Gizdich Ranch in Watsonville- 9:30-11:30 a.m. - Come join us to go berry picking - picnic lunches are available at Gizdich!



* August 23-25 -- UUCMP Big Sur Campout at the Santa Lucia campground! More information can be found on page 5.

🕯️ Would your child like to light the chalice? 🕯️

Every Sunday we try to find a child or youth volunteer to light the chalice. It's a fun way for kids to participate in the service. DRE Shannon can show kids how to do it before the service if it's their first time or they need a reminder. See Shannon on Sunday morning if interested.



👐 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED 👐

We will need an extra set (or two sets!) of hands for July 14th and July 28th, as our staff will be enjoying a Sunday off for summer travel.

-- Acting DRE Shannon Morrison

* **BIG SUR CAMPOUT 2024** *

Friday, August 23th – Sunday, August 25th

ALL REGISTRATION FORMS DUE
BY AUGUST 4th

Registration forms, directions, pertinent information, and a list of volunteer/helper positions can be found on our church website **UUCMP.ORG**



This is a very popular church event, and is well-attended every year. It's wonderful community building and a great way to get to know your UUCMP family. Come join us under the redwoods along the Big Sur river. Day visitors are welcome and need to sign-up and pay online.

Questions? Contact Kerry Sissem at
kerrysissem@earthlink.net



President's Corner



Not Yet

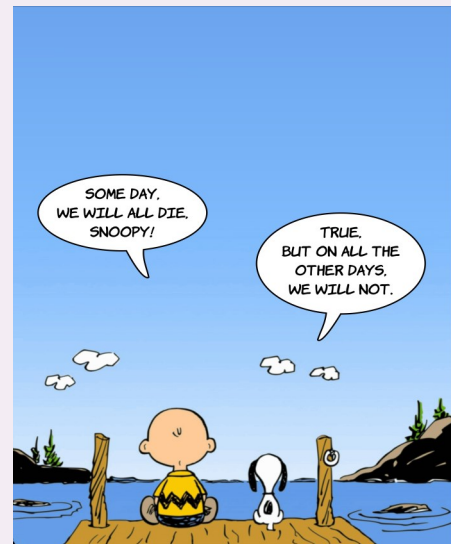
A deep bow of gratitude to Mike Lovell, who on July 1st concluded his tenure as president of the Board of Trustees, as well as his tenure as a member of the Board. Mike led the Board and the congregation through an excellent year with a confident and steady hand.

At UUCMP, July is a time of transition between the year that has ended and a new one that has not yet begun. For many of us, it's also a time to step out of some of our daily routines. School is out, people are enjoying trips, or staycations. Maybe we are able to take a break from our ordinary lives.

I don't know about you, but I always find it hard to escape ordinariness for very long. Pick a fantasy, something extraordinary. Moving to a tropical isle? Within a few months I'm sure my life would return to the ordinary. Doing the shopping, cleaning the house, the daily tasks that consume so much of my time. Or take a wider view: We're all going to die, and on top of that, we don't know *when* we're going to die. Under the circumstances, you would think we would relish each and every moment we are so lucky to be alive. But no! It seems to be our fate to experience most of our waking hours as ordinary. I don't know a way to escape the ordinary for any appreciable length of time, except through a spiritual practice. Have I learned to do that? Not yet.

During this time of transition – this in-between time – I hope we all find opportunities to step out of our ordinary lives, as well as opportunities to learn to live deeply within them. And may each of us return to life at UUCMP refreshed and ready for the challenges and adventures that lie ahead. And for the ordinariness, too.

--Warren Finch



Mark Your Calendar!

The annual UUCMP Service Auction is coming up. Each year, UUCMP members offer delicious meals, experiences in nature, musical opportunities, garden advice, cooking lessons, original craft items and so much more as a different way to connect with our church community. This year's theme is Fabulous Fiction. How will you write your (true?) story for the auction this year? The Silent Auction dates are Sunday, October 20, to Sunday, October 27, with a fabulous Live Auction on Saturday, October 26. Don't miss it!





July Shared Plate Recipient *Habitat Stewardship Project Monterey Bay*

The Habitat Stewardship Project Monterey Bay (HSP) may be known to many UUCMP congregants by our former name, *Return of the Natives Restoration Education Project*. Changing our name in January 2023 was the only part of our work that is different since our founding in 1994. Our mission is to “bring people closer to nature and nature closer to people through hands-on experiences in habitat restoration and environmental education.” HSP is a community- and school-based environmental educational component of CSUMB’s Environmental Studies program involving students (Kindergarten through University) in stewardship and habitat restoration projects on public lands, in the schoolyard and in the community.

HSP has been part of CSUMB since 1995, and HSP staff have taught CSUMB classes and mentored CSUMB students since the founding of the University. CSUMB’s diverse student assistants and service learners are at the heart of each of HSP’s programs and partnerships. HSP’s activities include enriching field trips to the ocean and local rivers, school-based native plant gardens, greenhouses, as well as large-scale habitat restoration and native plant landscaping projects creating wildlife habitat, parks and open spaces in the Monterey Bay area. Restoring damaged ecosystems through planting native plants

is the context of the HSP’s work. These native plants feed native animals including thousands of pollinator species, protect streamside habitats from erosion, remove toxins from soils and water, and sequester carbon underground.

Paramount to HSP’s conservation program is a commitment to serve marginalized, low-income populations in the region, especially children, who have limited access to nature, parks and open spaces. Annually, HSP involves 75-80 CSUMB student leaders as service learners or HSP student assistants; approximately 5,000 K-12 students in multiple field stewardship events; and 800+ adult and community volunteers in weekend activities. Every year HSP children, students, and members of the public plant native plants on public lands sites; grow 20,000+ native plants in our campus greenhouses; and lead a differently-abled adult volunteer program and other volunteer groups.

HSP staff is comprised of three permanent staff members, an AmeriCorps VIP, and 8-12 student assistants. UUCMP financial donations would be used specifically to support the living allowance of our 11 month AmeriCorps VIP member.

Please donate generously to this worthy organization.

Musical Offerings

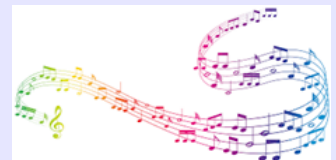


The Adult Community Choir continues to grow and meet **every Thursday from 7 p.m.- 9 p.m. in the Sanctuary**. This choir is open to everyone, members and nonmembers alike, to explore singing together. No prior experience is needed. Send me an email or just stop by! We are currently preparing for two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

In July the choir will be taking the month off, and rehearsals will begin on August 1st with a WELCOME

BACK potluck at 6 p.m. followed by rehearsal at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. Join us!!

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. Also, if you would like to be added to the choir email blast (you will receive information on all rehearsals and upcoming singing events), please email our Music Director, Jorge Torrez music@uucmp.org



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)

Life Enrichment Programs Affinity Groups

Some groups will not meet face-to-face in July. Some will meet via Zoom.

Men’s Breakfast Group meets second Saturdays 8:30 a.m. in person at church and at 9 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

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.

Men's I-HELP for July 14th

On July 14th UUCMP will host and provide meals for Men's I-HELP (Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Program.) We are planning for about 25 guests.

We need your help to provide the donations of food for the meals. We can also use your help with setting up, preparing food and greeting the men. Please sign up on the link below.

[Men's I-HELP MEAL TRAIN](#)

You can sign into Meal Train with your Google account or on Facebook; you do not have to create a new account unless you want to do so.



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 p.m., but no later than 4:00 p.m. on that Sunday. Please use this Meal Train link to sign up by the Saturday before 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.

[Men's I-HELP MEAL TRAIN](#)

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 know:

lovellfamily5@gmail.com

Thank you for supporting this important mission of our church!

Rose Lovell 214-228-6665

Are You Interested in Joining a Grief Group?

Throughout our lives we each are confronted with a variety of losses, and along with them our experiences of grief. A few of us are in the process of launching a new Grief Group at UUCMP, to share our respective stories, our thoughts and feelings, in a small, supportive group of members and friends, who are coping with similar challenges, moving towards healing.



We are tentatively planning to meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month, either in the late morning or early afternoon, beginning in July. If you are interested in being a part of this group, or if you have questions, please contact Lynda Sayre (lyndasayre@gmail.com) or 831 601-8823.

Save the Date! Super Flea is Coming!

Set up August 28, 29

Sale August 30, 31

Start cleaning out your closets and cabinets, compile those items you hope someone else will love as much as you once did but that you no longer use.

Nothing to sell? You can still contribute by volunteering to be a cashier or by contributing to the bake sale.

More details and sign-up sheets as the date gets closer.

Questions? Contact Suzanne Schmidt at suzschmidt@yahoo.com or Lauren Keenan at bill.lauren.keenan@gmail.com



The Caring Network

The mission of the Caring Network Steering Committee is to care for members and friends of the church in times of crisis and to acknowledge celebrations or sorrows. We enlist the aid of others in the congregation to offer a caring presence, an immediate response, a friendly hand, personal contact, emotional support, and guidance to other sources of support when needed. It is chaired by Carol Collin and Mibs McCarthy, with spiritual assistance by Rev. Axel Gehrman.

The committee sets out cards on Sundays for those who are eighty years old or older or who are eighteen or younger, and get well or sympathy cards as needed. But we also coordinate assistance for a variety of needs, using the help of different people in the congregation. We also have some medical equipment at the church, such as walkers, wheel chairs, etc. available for short term loan.

If you need (or can provide) any of the following, please let us know.

- ◇ a ride to and/or from church
- ◇ a few errands – to the pharmacy, the grocery store, the post office
- ◇ prepare and/or deliver a meal or meals, treats and/or sweets
- ◇ short-term child or pet care
- ◇ assistance with household chores
- ◇ computer assistance
- ◇ transportation to and from appointments
- ◇ help with memorial service receptions
- ◇ short term medical equipment loan

Please let us know if you can be of help if you need assistance. We are all here for each other!
caringnetwork@uucmp.org



Environmental Justice



In June, the Climate Reality Project Monterey Bay and the Environmental Justice Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Monterey Peninsula convened a community organizing meeting, inviting community stakeholders across organizational lines to brainstorm how we can keep sustained pressure on Monterey County leadership to implement our Community Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CCAAP). Here is a link to access the CCAAP through the Monterey County website for your own interests:

[Community Climate Action Plan & Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan \(REF120045\), LRPWP Task No. 14 | County of Monterey, CA](#)

Our first meeting was focused on updating shared knowledge about the CCAAP's status, identifying shared goals, and deciding how we will work together on this grass roots campaign. At that meeting, participants were energized to launch a

MCCAAP campaign and to continue growing our coalition. The coalition already includes representatives from Sustainability Monterey (1100 members), Citizens Climate Lobby Monterey (250 members), the Climate Reality Project Monterey Chapter (150 members) and the UUCMP Eco-Justice team. There were many other groups with interested parties, but they were not able to attend this first meeting.

We decided to make sure we have our MCCAAP coalition members present at important county meetings, in person and virtual, to at the very least use the community comment time to push the "asks" noted below. We want to develop a unified strategic approach for these meetings, so as to make our presence as effective as possible.

David Prina and Kat Morgan stepped forward to serve as organizers who will help to streamline communications for all the various members of this growing coalition working on this MCCAAP campaign. If you want to be added to the MCCAAP campaign distribution list, please contact David Prina directly at email: rangerdprina@yahoo.com or text: 714-403-2270.

Our next MCCAAP Coalition organizing meeting will be Saturday, August 17, 2024, from 2 - 4 p.m., at UUCMP.

-- Charlotte Bear

Tofu Chocolate Pudding

Summer is a time for chilled desserts, and this silky-smooth tofu pudding will fool even your most skeptical family members.



16 oz of smooth organic tofu, usually called "silken." Just soft may not be soft enough. You don't want grainy tofu.
1/3 cup cacao powder
1/3 cup maple syrup
1 tablespoon instant coffee/espresso (not liquid, you want the powder or granules)
2 teaspoons vanilla extract

for stevia sweetened baking ingredients.

Put all ingredients in your blender and puree on high. Pulse first to dampen down the powdered ingredients. When it is really smooth, transfer to pudding cups or other serving containers. I find 2-4 ounce containers work best.

Keep in fridge for 12 hours before serving. When served, you can add a non-dairy whipped "cream" or drizzle chocolate syrup.

Yum. I've served this dessert to mixed groups, and people gobble it. They never guess it's vegan or tofu. Bonus!

-- Charlotte Bear

If you don't use sugar, check out Lakanto and Lilly's

Unitarian Universalist Church
of the Monterey Peninsula
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Office Hours

The office is open for limited hours:
10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Wednesdays and
Fridays.
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Return Service Requested



July 2024

About UUCMP Publications

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

Please send submissions for WEEKLY NEWS, the weekly announcements, to office@uucmp.org by Tuesday noon.

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

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