



NUUSLETTER

of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula

Theme: Inclusion

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

February 2, 2025

“Of Insiders and Outsiders”

**Rev. Axel Gehrman and Worship Associate
Björn Nilson**

Why is it that the world seems to be growing ever more divided? Why is it that people seem more polarized than ever – whether on social issues, on religious belief, or political persuasions? If our goal is to help build a peaceful world with justice for all, we will need to find ways to overcome the human habit of seeing everyone around us as either an ally or an opponent. How might we move from competition to cooperation?

February 9

“Our Pluralism Project”

**Rev. Elaine Gehrman and Worship Associate
Allysson McDonald**

Pluralism is one of our newly adopted UU values, but what does it really mean when we say it? And how do we put it into practice? And who is the "we"?

One definition states that pluralism is "active engagement with diversity"-- but is that really possible, or even desirable? This morning we will wrestle with this challenging topic.

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 16

“A Place of Welcome”

**Rev. Axel Gehrman and Worship Associate
Charlotte Bear**

UUCMP is a remarkable place: a caring community created and sustained by an amazing array of members and friends, guided by a spirit of love and justice, and seeking to welcome all. This Sunday marks the kickoff of our annual operating fund pledge drive - an auspicious opportunity to ponder the good reasons we each have to support this remarkable place.

February 23

“Our Disabilities, Ourselves”

Worship Associates Annan Paterson and Max Cajar

We have our own histories and stories living with disabilities. They shape us and inform our personal and spiritual experiences. How can our Unitarian Universalist principles guide us as we live with these challenges and help us grow as a congregation?

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See the calendar at
www.uucmp.org



Ministers' Message Axel Gehrmann

In recent weeks I have had the opportunity to meet with several folks who “officially” joined UUCMP and signed our membership book. In the course of these meetings, which include a few newcomers and a few active members, we share a bit about our respective religious journeys – where we come from, what brought us here, and why we choose to be a part of UUCMP. (To see who has joined in recent months, I encourage you to check out the new member bulletin board, so you can better put names to faces.) Without fail, these conversations leave me feeling enlivened and inspired!

In the course of our conversation, we also talk about UUCMP - our history, our programs, our mission and vision – and some of our organizational nuts and bolts. It’s at this point that I usually broach the sensitive subject of finances. I reveal the shocking truth that – despite the fact that UUCMP is a spiritual community – its existence, its operation, and its future involves that most worldly of things: money. (Fortunately, folks are not as shocked as I fear.)

Money is a sensitive subject that doesn’t seem spiritual – but it is! Much of what we do at UUCMP involves exploring and articulating our most deeply held beliefs and commitments, putting our principles and core values into practice. And our financial commitments are an explicit expression of our beliefs and values.

At last year’s UUA General Assembly, delegates from congregations across the country adopted a new statement of our shared UU values, centered in love. These values will hopefully help ground us and guide us in the years ahead. They are: justice, equity, transformation, pluralism, interdependence and generosity.

I was intrigued by our larger movement’s affirmation of generosity. It strikes me as a new and important addition to the values we affirm. Our UUA bylaws now say: “We cultivate a spirit of gratitude

and hope. We covenant to freely and compassionately share our faith, presence, and resources. Our generosity connects us to one another in relationships of interdependence and mutuality.” I agree! A spirit of generosity is and should be at the heart of our faith.

On a local level, here at UUCMP, our Stewardship Committee is working hard to help us put our principles into practice, by coordinating this year’s operating fund pledge drive. With a team of dedicated volunteers, they will be reaching out to you (via email, letter, phone or face-to-face), to hear what you value most about UUCMP, and what financial commitment you plan to make for the 2025-2026 church year. Please be on the lookout for their communications, and please share your thoughts with them. (see p. 6 for more information)

The motto for this year’s fund drive is “Strong Together – for Love and Justice.” I like it! It’s a pithy expression both of who we are as a congregation and what we strive to be. For me, it captures the spirit of our congregation’s mission, the spirit of the many activities and initiatives that animate UUCMP, as well as the spirit of care and compassion at the heart of this place.

In many ways, these past few years have been demanding. And the years to come will bring new challenges. In the midst of all the events and changes all around us, I remain enormously grateful for this religious community devoted to love and justice. In the days and months ahead, as we continue along our respective and collective religious journeys, may we find ever-new ways to share our lives and our gifts. May we continue to practice our principles, and strive to help build a better world.

See you in church,

Axel

Men's Breakfast

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

The men's monthly breakfast is continuing as hybrid. Our next meeting is Saturday, February 8, from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., in the Fireplace Room. People will bring 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 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 NUUSLETTER articles are due by the 16th of each month.

SCHEDULED EVENTS

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

Board of Trustees meets Wednesday, February 19, at 5:30 p.m.

Buddhist Sangha is every Wednesday at 7 p.m. in person in the Sanctuary. Zoom is available. See page 13.

Environmental Justice meets at noon, Sunday, February 9, in the Sanctuary and via Zoom.

Family Shabbat Service at the Temple Beth Israel is Friday, February 7, gathering at the temple at 6:10 p.m.

Friday Game Night is Friday, February 7, 6:30 p.m. in the Fireplace Room.

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

I-HELP for Women is Sunday, February 23. For more information contact Mibs McCarthy.

Imbolc gathering is Saturday, February 1, 4:30 p.m. at Moss Beach.

Membership Committee meets Wednesday, February 26, at 5:30 p.m.

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

Music Committee meets on Tuesday, February 25, at 6 p.m. via Zoom.

NUUSletter deadline for the March issue is Sunday, February 16.

Program Council meets Tuesday, February 4, 12:30 p.m., via Zoom. Contact Mibs McCarthy
programcouncil@uucmp.org

Social Justice meets Sunday, February 2, at noon in the Sanctuary and via Zoom.

Stewardship meets Wednesday, February 5, 1:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Take a Breather is Saturday, February 8, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

T'ai Chi Chih meets Tuesdays at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary. See page 13.

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

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION



Inclusion



CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

Dear UUCMP Families,

We are now in our sixth month of exploring this year's overarching frame: The Practices of Our Faith. The curriculum writers of Soul Matters chose to use this practice-oriented frame as a way of lifting up our long-loved UU commitment to "deeds, not creeds" while connecting to the core value of love. This allows us to help our kids explore each month's theme as a way to embody our faith and liberate love in our daily lives.

So, with all this in mind, this month's lesson plans offer four sessions full of building blocks to help teachers and children to explore how the practice of inclusion shows up in their living and loving. Here's what we have planned for our Sunday sessions:

- Feb 2: The Practice of Not Leaving People Out
- Feb 9: The Practice of Not Leaving Stories Out
- Feb 16: The Practice of Not Leaving Love for Ourselves Out
- Feb 23: The Practice of Not Leaving Religion Out

February is Black History Month. We will engage in this celebration in a particular and deliberate way. We will not restrict Black History Month to just one session since our faith calls us to lift up racial oppression all the time. Instead, we will weave engagement with Black

History throughout all four sessions.

You will also notice a language change, as "inclusion" can be a challenging concept for some children. Instead, the concept is made more kid-friendly and developmentally appropriate by talking about it as people and things that get "left out."

Our Teens and Tweens will continue Crossing Paths with Judaism this month. Ann Jacobson will join as a guest on February 2nd. We have a planned outing to attend the Family Shabbat Service at the Temple Beth Israel Friday February 7th.

We have several opportunities for connecting on Sunday mornings and for other activities - starting with Imbolc. Join UUCMP parents Catherine Ferguson, Jacob and Alina Bagley as they host a celebration of the beginning of spring.

Looking forward to connecting with you all this month ahead!

With warmth and gratitude,

Shannon Morrison (she/her)
Acting Director of Religious Exploration

Activities & Events in February

Mark your calendars - you won't want to miss out on the fun!

* **February 1** - Imbolc - A gathering on Saturday for UUCMP families is planned to celebrate Imbolc - 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. at Moss Beach. See more details in our Weekly Newsletter

* **February 7** - Interfaith Outing for Teens and Tweens - UU Visit Family Shabbat at Congregation Beth Israel - Carmel Meet at CBI at 6:10 p.m. - Family Shabbat service starts at 6:30 p.m.

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-- RE continued

* **February 7** - Friday Game Night! Hosted by Andrea Rivas 6:30pm-8:30pm, Fireplace Room.

* **February 23** - Committee on Family Ministry (CoFM) meeting 12:15-1:15 p.m. after the service - Fireplace Room

* **February 28** - Ramadan begins at sunset

* **March 29** - Parents Night Out! - 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. - Sanctuary, Fireplace Room

PROGRAM REGISTRATION

Please be sure to Register for RE Programming 2024-25. This will help us best prepare for your child, keep you in the loop for upcoming events and activities and build our community. If you are having trouble submitting your form please let Shannon know - a paper registration form will be available starting January 5th.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Church members without little ones are encouraged to lend a hand so caregivers can have a chance to connect with our wonderful community. We appreciate your help whether working directly with our kids or to make our UUCMP campus a safe and fun place to be!

THANK YOU OUR VOLUNTEERS! We have been so lucky to have helping hands in RE - thank you to our volunteers: Monique Romero, Lindsay Fondren, Andrea Papanastassiou, Amy Blondell, and Karen Brown for all your contributions in January. Whether bringing food to share, helping to set or clean up, keeping our library tip top, or filling in for our teachers - your help is greatly appreciated!

Whether bringing food to share, hosting an event, helping to set or clean up, keeping our library tip top, or filling in for our teachers - your help is greatly appreciated!

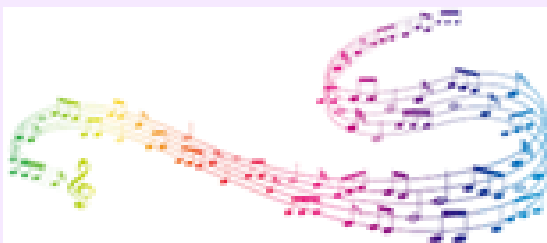
Musical Offerings



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.



The UUCMP Community Choir will be singing February 9th and February 23rd. We will have guest musicians on February 16th, Jacob Bagley (accordion and piano), Alina Bagley (fiddle and cello)!

Do you **play an instrument**, sing, and would like to find a group where you can practice your skills in a safe environment? We would like to start Jam Sessions up again!! If you have any interest, please reach out to music@uucmp.org

The **Music Committee** meets every 4th Tuesday of the month, please let the Music Director know if you would like to be part of the zoom meetings.

RESONATE! Meets the first Saturday of each month 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. in the Fireplace Room at UUCMP.

Come join the sacred art of community chanting, raising our collective voices for peace, for our sacred Earth, for hope, for love and resilience... If you have Earth drums, please bring them. Great for teens and up. No experience is necessary, just a playful spirit and a commitment to playing well with others. Led by Charlotte Bear.

-- Jorge Torrez



Strong Together for Love and Justice

As Reverend Axel notes elsewhere in this newsletter (see page 2), we are approaching the start of UUCMP's annual budget drive. Our formal kickoff will be announced during Sunday services on February 16, and the Stewardship Committee is sending out informational materials in conjunction with that. To reduce both cost and environmental impact, we are again relying on email and online services whenever possible. If you prefer non-electronic interaction, that's OK - we will also make paper documents and forms available.

Here is something to think about. In their 2014 book, *The Paradox of Generosity*, authors Christian Smith and Hilary Davidson discuss the results of their five-year study about the impact of giving among over 2,000 surveyed Americans. They reveal that regular acts of generosity, whether financial or otherwise, provide benefits to donors as well as to receivers of gifts. As described in the Amazon.com synopsis, the "wealth of evidence reveals a consistent link between demonstrating generosity and living a better life: more generous people are happier, suffer fewer illnesses and injuries, live with a greater sense of purpose, and experience less depression."

We want the UUCMP congregation to continue our positive, life-affirming influence on each other and the world. That success depends largely on our shared commitments of time and money. Please respond generously when you receive budget drive materials or a contact by one of our volunteer stewards.

Watch for further information soon in your mailbox or email, on the church website, and at the Stewardship table in the Welcome Hall after Sunday services.

Your Stewardship Committee,
Carol Collin, Gretchen Hausmann, Steve Johnson, Björn Nilson, Jo Ann Novoson, Katie Hamilton, and with spiritual encouragement and support from the Rev. Axel Gehrmann.



KAZU Underwriting

We are continuing to advertise UUCMP on KAZU Public Radio, FM 90.3. A number of us who already regularly contribute to this local public radio station, instead pool our money, by giving it to the church, which then gives it to KAZU, and then UUCMP gets under-writing spots, one for each \$30 contributed. KAZU gets our money, and UUCMP gets our message out to the community.

Please consider contributing to this effort. Make sure your check is clearly labeled "KAZUGift" in the memo line. These donations will not earn any of the thank you gifts that KAZU sometimes gives. However, they will give UUCMP greater visibility in the community and help us implement our mission of "Changing ourselves as we change the world."

Solo Journeys: A UU Chalice Circle for Single Souls

Are you single and seeking a space to explore the deeper questions of life?

Join us in a welcoming and intentional community designed for those navigating life outside of partnered relationships. This is not a social or dating group but a space for reflective conversations on the unique experiences, challenges, and opportunities faced by individuals on their own paths.



Why Join?

- Engage in thoughtful discussions about purpose, freedom, belonging, and spiritual growth.
- Build meaningful connections with like-minded individuals.
- Explore life's deeper questions in a supportive, UU-centered environment.

What to Expect:

- Monthly small group gatherings (up to 8 participants).
- Guided discussions on themes such as:
 - *Living Fully as a Solo Traveler in Life*
 - *Creating Community Without a Partnered Role*
 - *Balancing Freedom, Responsibility, and Connection*
- A confidential and nonjudgmental space for deep sharing and listening.

First Gathering Details:

- **Date:** February 17, 2025
- **Time:** 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.
- **Location:** Zoom
- **RSVP:** dlmartinetto@gmail.com

How to Join:

This group is open to anyone who identifies as single and resonates with the UU principles. Space is limited to ensure intimacy and depth.

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 may consist of 6-10 people who meet at least once a month for about 1 1/2-2 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.



AN AFTERNOON WITH CHRISTIANA

LIVE, ACOUSTIC (MOSTLY) POP/ROCK MUSIC

with Christiana Brekke, vocals, guitar & piano



Saturday, Feb 15th
2pm @ UUCMP

General Admission \$20
Seniors & Students \$15
Children under 12 free with adult
Tickets at Bookmark Music in
Pacific Grove, at the door, or
online at uucmp.org
(click "donate" to pay with PayPal)

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula
490 Aguajito Road, Carmel, CA 93923 831-624-7404

UU Connections – UUCMP Connections pairs established members and newer members to share their UU experiences and build friendships across our congregation.

The suggested structure is to meet once a month either in-person or by phone for 3 months. After 3 months, participants who want to continue can rotate to a new connection.

If you're interested in being paired with a new connection, send the following information via email to alicia.shapard@gmail.com

- Name, contact information (email, phone)
- How long have you been attending UUCMP?
- Brief "about you" introduction
- List a few spiritual or intellectual interests to help pair you with someone



UU Skill-Sharing

Are there skills you would like to learn?

Do you have a special skill that you could teach to others?

Visit the Skill-Sharing bulletin board and fill out an index card with the following information:

- Name, contact information (email, phone)
- Briefly describe the skill you would like to learn

Or,

- Briefly describe a skill you would like to teach someone



Examples:

I would like to teach someone how to change a tire.

I'm looking for someone to teach me small soldering or metalwork.

I would like to share how to make a pastry crust.

If you see a skill request you can answer, contact the requester directly.

Contact alicia.shapard@gmail.com with any questions.

Photo directory coming -- Please update your Breeze info

Last year we began using Breeze to manage our church member data -- if you have not yet logged into Breeze, please do so soon, and please upload a photo, so that we can create an updated photo directory soon! All the information you need to access Breeze you should be able to find on our website here <https://uucmp.org/breeze-database/>

Or you can e-mail a photo to be included to office@uucmp.org

Questions, contact office@uucmp.org



Action Alert

Let's Remind Congress, We Still Need the Environmental Justice for All Act



We still want Congress to act on "the moral principle that all people have the right to pure air, clean water, and an environment that enriches life." We still agree "Federal policy can and should seek to achieve environmental justice, health equity, and climate justice for all underserved communities," let's urge them to do so.

Last year's passage of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) was a significant step toward greater investment in clean energy. Unfortunately, some provisions of the IRA are expected to stimulate fossil fuel production and worsen pollution in areas already saturated by heavy industry. Now, in the new Congressional Session, the House is proposing legislation intended to loosen procedural protections around energy projects. This includes efforts to undermine cornerstone environmental protections like the National Environmental Policy Act, and measures that will increase the risk to public health.

Scan QR Code or go to link below



https://bit.ly/bit.ly/UUSJ_EJ4All2023

Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice

202-600-9132 • info@uusj.org • 7750 16th Street NW, Washington, DC 20012

MLK Jr. Parade -- January 20, 2025



Take a Little Breather with Allysson and Mary Kay - February 8, 2025

Shortly after the election Allysson was in a Zoom meeting where folks were focused on the disappointment, worry, and even anger they were experiencing. "As I listened," she says, "I was feeling all that anxiety enter my own body, and I knew I needed to take a deep breath and let it out with a sigh. The rest followed suit. It was such a relief."



There are plenty of reasons to feel out of sorts right now. Is there an antidote - a way to balance all of that? What are the stress relievers in your life? Allysson and Mary Kay are offering an afternoon of listening to the wisdom of your own body for answers, doing some playful activities to move all that around, and breathing. We will draw from our training as InterPlay leaders and share some of the life practices that have helped us.

When: Saturday, February 8, from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Where: UUCMP Sanctuary

Who: anyone who wants to feel a little lighter, a little looser, a little easier

Wear: comfortable clothing and bring your whole self



Rainbow Railroad is a global not-for-profit organization that helps at-risk LGBTQI+ people get to safety worldwide. Based in the United States and Canada, we're an organization that helps LGBTQI+ people facing persecution based on their sexual orientation, gender identity and sex characteristics. In a time when there are more displaced people than ever, LGBTQI+ people are uniquely vulnerable due to systemic, state-enabled homophobia and transphobia. These factors either displace them in their own country or prevent them from escaping harm.

As a result of Rainbow Railroad, more LGBTQI+ individuals can access lives free from persecution, and ultimately, we envision a world where LGBTQI+ people can live lives of their choosing, free from persecution.



Since our founding, we've helped over 19,000 LGBTQI+ individuals find safety through emer-

February Shared Plate Recipient *Rainbow Railroad*

gency relocation, crisis response, cash assistance, and other forms of assistance. Our story has received international media attention, including a feature on CBS [60 Minutes](#).

Rainbow Railroad was founded in 2006 as a volunteer-run organization by a diverse group of LGBTQI+ activists and human rights defenders who wanted to do more to address the levels of violence LGBTQI+ people face worldwide. Our name harkens back to the Underground Railroad – a network of activists in the 19th century, who assisted Black folks escape enslavement in the American South. Rainbow Railroad helps at-risk LGBTQI+ individuals and families nationally and worldwide relocate to safe places with supportive communities.

Since the 2024 election, Rainbow Railroad has made a pledge to relocate transgender individuals and families from states where they are in danger of persecution to safer states and communities.

As a transgender woman who has found a safe community in the Monterey area and at UUCMP, I want to help others like me relocate, like I did, to places where they can be safe and happy in living their authentic selves.

-- Rachael Holder

New Environmental Justice Book Discussion beginning in February

We will be reading and discussing *What If We Get It Right?* by Ayana Elizabeth Johnson, <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/645855/what-if-we-get-it-right-by-ayana-elizabeth-johnson/>

We will meet via Zoom on first and third Tuesdays (February 4 & 18, March 4 & 18, and April 1 & 15) at 7 p.m. For the first session please read to page 31. Any questions, please speak with Rev. Elaine.



Join Our Church!

Even in these post pandemic times - *especially* in these times - our church seeks to be a caring community and a welcoming place. We strive to deepen our religious lives and support the spiritual growth of all who join together here, working to build a better world beginning with ourselves.



If you find you resonate with our principles and you are at least 16 years of age, then we invite you to sign our membership book.

Joining the church entitles you to vote at congregational meetings, at which we adopt budgets, elect officers, and direct the course of church programming. Above and beyond that, membership is a personal and public expression of your support of this religious community, the ideals it stands for, and the work it does.

If you are interested in becoming an “official” member of UUCMP, contact the ministers. (minister@uucmp.org)

Please join us!

Life Enrichment Programs Affinity Groups

Some groups meet both face-to-face and via Zoom in February.

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 February 9, 2025

On February 9th 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 this link:



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

You can sign into Meal Train with your google account or 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 Greg (gregs2001@gmail.com) and he 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 contact Greg Simmons at gregs2001@gmail.com

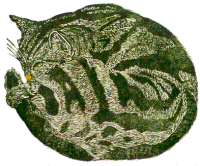
Thank you for supporting this important mission of our church!
Greg Simmons 602-361-1015

UUCMP Grief Support Circle

The UU Grief Support Circle continues to be a warm and safe place where those suffering grief or loss can gather to share stories and resources. We meet the first and third Wednesday of every month in the **Fireplace Room** at the church from **11-12:30**. That means we will meet **February 5** and **February 19** this month. Some of us stay afterward to share snacks, lunch, and fellowship. For more information, contact Rev. Axel or Sharon Miller (831-601-0403)



Art News



SLEEPING CAT GALLERY

www.sleepingcatgallery.com

February 7 - March 30



Tim Robinson has shown his work through art galleries, cooperatives, museums and cafes. Since his arrival in California in 1979, he has presented his art in over 26 solo shows including two for the **Monterey State Historical Park**. He has been in over thirty group shows, including a show featuring garden painters past and present of Monterey, at the Monterey Conference Center. He participated in the 1989 and the 1998 Cannery Row Mural Projects, and the Monterey Peninsula Museum of Art's 1996 Biennial Exhibition. In June of 1997 he received a sculpture commission from Monterey County and the Monterey County Travel and Tourism Alliance to create an assemblage titled Monterey County. It was used for six years as a display representing Monterey County at the Capitol Building in Sacramento. From 1998 to 2020 Robinson taught art for the Salinas Union High School District, working with over 6500 students during that time. Tim regularly exhibits his sculpture and jewelry with the Monterey Bay Metal Arts Guild and will be showing in a joint exhibition, Ancient Traditions Modern Arts, with the Santa Cruz Textile Arts Guild from April 9 to May 11 at the Radius Gallery in Santa Cruz. He has shown his paintings, woodcuts, sculpture and jewelry through Pajaro Valley Arts in Watsonville and is currently participating in the PVA's 2025 Members Exhibition, January 15 – February 23 at their Sudden Street Gallery.

For the past 3 years his work has shown at the
Webster Street Art Gallery
188 Webster St. Monterey, CA
(831)210-1908 Open Tuesday - Friday 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Tim lives in Santa Cruz. His work can be seen online at sleepingcatgallery.com

Statement:

It is a privilege for me to exhibit at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula. I thank everyone involved in this exhibition including you, the viewer.

I have always worked in many different media. I enjoy them all. Much of my art reflects my interest in the natural world, while other works express my appreciation for abstraction and myth.

I hope, with all my art, to evoke an emotional response from the viewer.

–Tim Robinson

Tim Robinson's work will be on display in the Welcome Hall beginning February 7th and going through the month of March. Stop in and give it a visit.

President's Corner



For many of us, the world in 2025 feels more dangerous. One of the sad truths about life is that the more people we love and the more things we care about, the more our lives are filled with risks – bad things might happen to those we love and bad things might happen to the things we care about. But a life well lived is a life filled with love, and with people and things that give us joy and meaning. So what are we to do? First, remember that being surrounded by people we care about, and who care about us, is also a source of strength and resilience if bad things do happen. It bears repeating that healthy, strong communities help us all to deal with the vicissitudes of life. UUCMP is such a community, and we are also part of a larger, nationwide community of Unitarian Universalists. You might know that during a recent winter, when storms knocked a couple of trees onto the roof of our building, the Unitarian-Universalist Association Disaster Relief Fund helped to pay for repairs. The UUA Disaster Relief Fund is now raising money to help UU communities that were stricken by the LA fires and, if you are so moved, now would be a great time to help out by giving back to the UUA fund.

By working to keep our UUCMP community healthy and strong, your Board of Trustees helps provide us all with the backstop, as it were, of a strong community. A second way the Board deals with risk is to try to manage it. The UUCMP Board of Trustees reactivated the Risk Management Task Force this year and the Task Force has been meeting since the Fall, looking at all conceivable kinds of risk to the UUCMP campus and community and working to formulate responses. We will meet soon with our insurance broker to discuss our current insurance against the risks of fires, winds, and floods. Risk is a part of life and yet, as Tennyson wrote, “’tis better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all.” And so it is.

-- Warren

SAVE THE DATE
Celtic Celebration
Saturday, March 22nd, 2 p.m.
UUCMP



This lively concert weaves tales of St. Patrick with Irish poetry, song, harp and flute!

Featuring:

Taelen Thomas, renowned bard and storyteller of Carmel Bay

Amelia Krupski, virtuoso Celtic harper

Shannon Warty, red-headed, Irish-blooded, natural-born songbird

Camellia Latta, ethereal and enchanting flutist

“When Irish eyes are smiling, they’re probably up to something.”

Environmental Justice



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Don King and David Prina presented this new opportunity for taking action. They say:

We are putting out a call for volunteers to get the word out on home electrification! We are going to be embarking on a public education campaign to make sure that the public is aware of the benefits of going all electric in their lives. We will hold workshops with civic groups, non-profits, businesses etc., to discuss electrifying one's life and to showcase financial incentives that exist to make the switch from fossil fuels to clean electricity.

How you can contribute:

- 1) Train with us to learn how to hold your own presentations! This would entail 1-2 training sessions with the leadership team to learn the ins and out of home electrification.
- 2) Be a workshop facilitator! We would like to have one presenter and one helper at each presentation, which would entail handing out materials, and helping with tasks during a workshop.
- 3) Help find venues and coordinate workshops! We need someone to help finding groups to present to, and we could use help doing outreach and setting up workshops.
- 4) Spanish-language volunteers! We need people who speak Spanish who could translate for presenters, conduct presentations themselves, or help with outreach to Spanish-speaking communities.

If you have any questions, are interested in volunteering, or have suggestions for audiences please reach out to David Prina at rangerdprina@yahoo.com

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JANUARY 2025 FOLLOW UP Climate Café

Thank you to all of our participants at our January Climate Café Monterey about dealing with climate avoidance! It was great to see more new faces as well as returning faces who are keeping the conversation going about climate, sustainability, resilience and hope! Here are recommended resources shared at this month's café as well as an important call to action that was presented. At the bottom of this message we list the upcoming climate café themes coming up this year so far.

Climate Reality Leader and local author, James Leach, just published a book called *The Renewable Way*, 2024. Previously, James wrote the book, *The Sustainable Way*, 2016. He has also produced several YouTube videos, including *This Old Electric House*, *Let's Do Something About Climate Change*, *Taking Action to Prevent the Climate Crisis*, *Electrifying Transportation*, among others. For information about the book and how to obtain a copy, either print or digital, go to:



[The Renewable Way on Amazon](#)
[Renewable Way First Review on Amazon](#)
[The Renewable Way PDF on Google Drive](#)

If you want to contribute to a gofundme that helps families displaced by the L.A. fires, here is a link provided by Rebecca Irwin to do that

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1pK5omSsD4KGhjEHCVgcVw-rd4FZP9haoijEx1mSAm5c/edit>

Environmental Justice

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Andrew Bear offers **these two resources about direct action**. One is an article and the other is a scientific study:

1) Article by Dana R. Fisher and Hajar Yazdiha, "Why Climate Activists are Becoming More Radicalized (and why that's not a bad thing), *The Hill*, January 6, 2025 Link: <https://thehill.com/opinion/energy-environment/5066177-climate-activists-civil-rights-radicalism/>

2) Also by Dana Fisher, "How Effective Are Climate Protests at Effecting Policy—and What Could Make a Difference?" *Nature*, Nov. 28, 2023. Link: <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-023-03721-z>

Ashley Edge is leading a **new community walking group**, called WALK every street PG, with the goal to walk every public street in Pacific Grove. The group welcomes all friendly people who can walk 3-4 miles at a pace of 20 min/mile. Strollers and friendly leashed pets



are also welcome. The meet up location changes every week, so you can follow on Instagram at @WalkEveryStreetPG to find the weekly meet up location and route. The walks happen weekly on Wednesdays at 4 p.m. Ashley can be reached at 831-717-7815 for questions and information. She says, "Beyond cultivating community and

good health, my hope is that the group sees the value in advocating for the need for complete streets where all safely can recreate and commute."

CLIMATE CAFÉ MONTEREY LINE-UP 2025 (so far)*:

January 11, 2025 Dealing with Climate Avoidance

February 8, 2025 Climate Communication in a "post truth" World

March 8, 2025 Climate Crisis is a Mental Health Crisis

April 12, 2025 Supporting Local Youth Climate Concerns/Activism

May 10, 2025 Plastic Pollution in the Bay

June 14, 2025 Bay Tourism and Emissions

July 12, 2025 Public Transportation

*Please note themes may be subject to change.

We look forward to seeing you at a future Climate Café Monterey. They occur on the 2nd Saturday of every month at UUCMP in the Fireplace Room. To visit our Climate Cafe Monterey webspace on the global Climate Cafe hub, go to: [Climate Cafe@ Monterey – Climate Café@](#)

Vegetarian Recipe

From New York Times Cooking — Pozole Verde
By Lisa Donovan

Total Time 1.5 hour

Prep Time 45 minutes Cook Time 45 minutes

Yield: 6 to 8 servings

FOR THE SOUP

1 bunch cilantro

1 white onion

6 garlic cloves

2 pounds tomatillos

3 large poblano chiles

1 jalapeño

1 lime, plus wedges for serving, if you like

4 to 6 tablespoons olive oil

Salt

2 teaspoons ground cumin

2 teaspoons dried oregano

1 bunch lacinato kale, stemmed and chopped into bite-size pieces (or 4 tightly packed cups, about 8 ounces, chopped hardy greens)

2 (15-ounce) cans hominy, drained

4 cups store-bought or homemade vegetable broth



FOR THE TOPPINGS

2 to 3 cups shredded green cabbage

2 to 4 radishes, thinly sliced

1 jalapeño, thinly sliced

Queso fresco (about 3 tablespoons per bowl)

Crema or sour cream (about 2 tablespoons per bowl)

Flaky salt

Sliced avocado (optional)

PREPARATION

Step 1 Heat oven to 475 degrees.

Step 2 Prepare the soup: Separate the cilantro leaves and tender stems from the thicker stems. Place the thicker stems on a large sheet pan and refrigerate the remaining until ready to serve the soup.

Step 3 Halve and peel the onion. Cut half into rough wedges and place on the sheet pan; finely dice the second half and set aside. Peel the garlic cloves; place 3 whole cloves on the sheet pan, then mince the remaining 3 cloves and set aside. Peel and quarter the tomatillos; halve, seed and stem the poblanos and jalapeño; and halve the lime; add all to the pan.

Step 4 Drizzle the contents of the pan with a hearty amount of olive oil and a very generous tablespoon of salt. Toss together until well coated. Roast until the vegetables are well-browned yet there is still plenty of liquid in the pan, 25 to 30 minutes.

Step 5 While vegetables are roasting, heat a large pot over medium. Add 3 tablespoons of olive oil, the diced onion and a generous pinch of salt. Turn down to medium-low and cook, stirring occasionally, until soft and fragrant, 7 to 9 minutes. Stir in the minced garlic, cumin and oregano, and cook for 2 to 3 minutes to open up the flavors, then stir in the chopped kale. Cover and adjust the heat to low, stirring occasionally to cook down a bit; continue cooking while you tend to the roasted vegetables.

Step 6 Take the roasted vegetables out of the oven and immediately transfer the poblano chiles to a bowl, cover with a plate and set aside to steam.

Step 7 Let the remaining roasted vegetables cool for 5 minutes. Remove the lime halves and squeeze the juices and pulp onto the roasted vegetables; discard the peels. Using tongs, transfer the vegetables to a food processor.

Step 8 Carefully pour and scrape the juices and any roasty bits from the sheet pan into the pot and stir into the kale mixture.

Step 9 With the vent on the food processor lid open to allow the steam to escape, pulse the vegetables until combined yet still chunky, then scrape into the pot. Turn the heat to medium-high. Add the hominy and broth, and salt to taste. Stir well to combine and bring to a gentle simmer over medium heat.

Step 10 While the pozole comes to a simmer, peel off the clear outer skins of the poblanos and discard. Roughly chop the poblanos and add to the soup. Let simmer for 20 to 30 minutes, until the flavors have melded. Taste and adjust salt; don't be shy here — salt will help pull all the flavors out and balance the acidity from all the tomatillos.

Step 11 To serve, ladle a hearty portion into each bowl, top with cabbage, radishes, jalapeño slices, queso fresco, crema and the reserved cilantro. Add a generous pinch of flaky sea salt to finish and serve with avocado and more lime, if you like.

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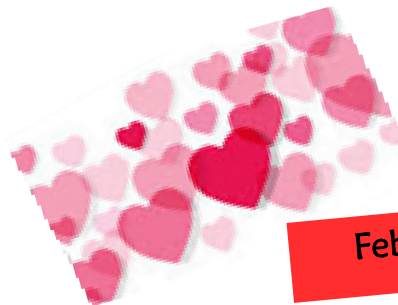
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February 2025

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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