



NUUSLETTER

of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula

Theme: Trust

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

March 2

“You Can Count On Me”

Rev. Elaine Gehrmann and Worship Associate Celia Barberena

One concise definition of trust is to be "consistent, available and reliable." And yet in this quickly changing uncertain world, who can we trust? Where can we find people who are consistent, available and reliable, and how can we strive to be more that way ourselves?

March 9

“Accompaniment, and Leaning into Trust in Uncertain Times”

Rev. Axel Gehrmann with Heather Vickery preaching and Worship Associate Christina Zaro

Accompaniment is the radical act of being with someone even when it is hard, and you don't know how things will turn out. With the increase in fascism across our country, our society often tells us to isolate, take care of our own first, and fear the other. However, our faith calls us to hold love at the center, to trust in each other and our ability to care for each other, and to follow the lead of those most impacted by systems of oppression. Join us to learn of the ways UUs are leaning into trust by accompanying 2-spirit, trans and gender expansive folks during these scary times.

Our guest preacher, Heather Vickery, is Coordinator for Congregational Activism with the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. Please see page 17 for more information on the workshop she will be leading this weekend.

March 16

“Building and Rebuilding Trust”

Rev Elaine Gehrmann and Worship Associate Ann Johnson

Most of us come into the world trusting that what we need will be there for us -- food, comfort, love. We tend to trust that the world is a benevolent place until we discover otherwise. The more we learn and grow, the more we realize that trusting in others, is an experience that must be risked, tested, explored, and learned again and again. This morning we will explore ways that we can build, and rebuild, trust.

March 23

“Worthy of Trust”

Rev. Axel Gehrmann and Worship Associate Max Cajal

To trust and be trusted is a warm and wonderful feeling. However the sense of safety and support trust offers us is more than a feel-good experience. Trust is also an essential ingredient in all healthy relationships, societies, and civilizations. Given the social significance of trust, and troubling implications of its absence -- do we have a moral obligation to be trustworthy?

March 30

“The Many Dimensions of Trust”

Worship Associates Jon Czarnecki and Lauren Keenan

Can I trust you? This is one of the most intimate questions a person can ask of another person. This morning we will explore what trust means. Sociologists have identified at least three dimensions of trust. Often one kind of trust leads us to unexpected (and unwanted) consequences when the person we are offering trust to perceives a different kind of trust. How many relationships have suffered from miscommunication of trust? What can we do to improve the odds of being on the same relational wavelength as the person we are asking to trust us?

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.

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Ministers' Message Rev. Elaine Gehrman

In times like these it is easy to feel helpless. The challenges and issues seem larger than we can address, and many of us can barely watch the news or keep up with the cascading crises. I am so glad that we are part of a religious community whose shared values are so clear, and so clearly in opposition to much of the destruction and dehumanization that is happening in the larger world. With the power of our community, we can support not only one another, but can also provide support to others in our larger community who are feeling most threatened, most at risk, most afraid.

One small thing we can do is to show up. I have attended several protests and marches recently-- in downtown Monterey, on the CSUMB campus, and when we hosted a group of local clergy to discuss more actions we might take together.



There are many ways to show up-- to protests, to webinars, to educational forums. There are “know your rights” trainings, solidarity walks, and multiple rallies, as well as important boycotts. We can put our bodies and our attention and resources to work, showing up against oppression and for collective liberation. Our presence can send a message of support to our allies, and a message of concern to our political leaders, both local and national.

We can also be visible to our allies, and others, in simple ways, like putting signs and flags in our yards, or in our windows. I have felt much better since I put several items in our front window at home right next to our front door—it started with the UUA’s printed sign—“We love our neighbors—immigrant—LGBTQ—of color—with disabilities—of all faiths,” and then I hung up a Palestinian flag,

and a Mexican flag and an inclusive pride flag, and a 'resist' sticker from alt-national park service! (and next I’m adding a Ukrainian flag.)

And I have to tell you it helped—I felt a lot better... not that it is a substitute for action, but it is a visible sign, a clear message, showing anyone who walks by or comes to our door that we care, that we do not want to be silent, or afraid, or keep our heads in the sand.



We are trying to share opportunities to be engaged as we hear about them -- please keep an eye on the weekly e-news, join the Social Justice Committee e-mail list, and come to church! There is so much at stake right now, we need to each find the ways that work for us, to do what we can. (and I have extra UUA 'we love our neighbors' signs, and Mexican and Palestinian and Ukrainian flags to hang in your window if you too want to be more visible!)

As Unitarian Universalists, we strive to live out our values, in our own lives and in the wider world. There are so many ways, large and small, that we can each make a difference. Our neighbors need us, and we need them, let's commit to doing all we can to work toward a world of more equity, more democracy, more peace, and more love--for all people.

See you in church, and out in the community!

Elaine



Men's Breakfast

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

The men's monthly breakfast is continuing as hybrid. Our next meeting is Saturday, March 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 NEWS-LETTER 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, March 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.

Celtic Celebration is Saturday, March 22, at 2 p.m.

Committee on Family Ministry meets Sunday, March 16, 12:15 - 1:15 p.m. in the Fireplace Room.

Communication Committee meets on Sunday, March 30, at noon in the Conference Room.

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

Friday Game Night is Friday, March 14, 6:30 p.m. in the Fireplace Room.

I-HELP for Men is looking for more volunteers. See the article on page 14.

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

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

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

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

Monterey Bay Parent Summer Camp Event is Saturday, March 29, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Del Monte Center

NUUSletter deadline for April issue is Sunday, March 16.

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

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

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

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

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

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION



Trust



**CHILDREN'S
RELIGIOUS
EXPLORATION**

Dear UUCMP Families,

Our theme this March is Trust. Trust is a tricky theme during turbulent times and transitions - but one of the bravest acts of resistance and growth. We need to be able to trust others - for our own well-being as well as the good of our families and greater communities. When we mindfully choose trust over fear, we can relax some - we can be less vigilant. Trust does



mean being more vulnerable - we want to prevent being wounded. But if our guard is constantly up expecting the worst in others we are focusing our energy on defense instead of seeking joy, connection and belonging. Find the courage to trust in your community, trust in hope, trust in nature.

This month our elementary class will explore lessons on this theme through stories, games and creative outlets.

- March 02 - Trusting Yourself
- March 09 - Trusting Others
- March 16 - Trusting Life
- March 23 - Fixing Broken Trust
- March 30 - Trusting Our Inherent Worth

Our **Teens and Tweens** will continue **Crossing**

Paths with Islam this month. This March is highly significant for those of Muslim faith as Ramadan begins on the first day.

Ramadan is considered one of the holiest months of the year for Muslims. During Ramadan, Muslims commemorate the revelation of the Qur'an, and fast from food and drink during the sunlit hours as a means of drawing closer to God and cultivating self-control, gratitude, and compassion for those less fortunate. Ramadan is a month of intense spiritual rejuvenation with a heightened focus on devotion, during which Muslims spend extra time reading the Qur'an and performing special prayers. Those unable to fast, such as pregnant or nursing women, the sick, or elderly people & children, are exempt from fasting. Source: ING.org

Other important info this month:

Our Committee on Family Ministry will meet on Sunday March 16th.

More information about Nature Camp will be out soon! Watch for more information to follow shortly for enrollment in our summer camp!

We will host a Parents' Night Out at the end of the month - watch for sign up information to come in the first Weekly Newsletter.

Looking forward to connecting with you all this month ahead!

With warmth and gratitude,

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

-- RE continued

Activities & Events in March

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

- * **February 28 - Ramadan** - Begins at sunset
- * **March 14 - Second Friday Game Night!** Hosted by Andrea Rivas 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., Fireplace Room.
- * **March 16 - Committee on Family Ministry (CoFM) meeting** 12:15-1:15 p.m. after the service, Fireplace Room
- * **March 29 - Monterey Bay Parent Summer Camp Event** 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Del Monte Center
- * **March 29 - Parents Night Out!** 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., Check in at the 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 FEBRUARY VOLUNTEERS! We have been so lucky to have helping hands in RE - thank you to our volunteers: [Jake and Alina Bagley](#), [Andrea Papanastassiou](#), [Catherine Ferguson](#), [Alex Morrison](#), [Monique Romero](#), [Lindsay Fondren](#), [Amy Blondell](#), and [Karen Brown](#) for all your contributions in February.

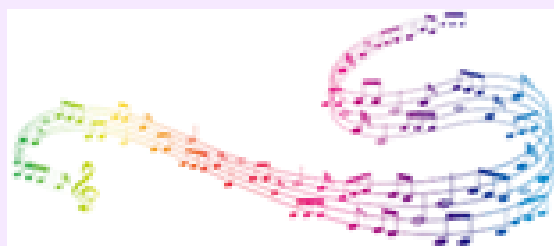
Whether bringing food to share, helping to set or clean up, keeping our library tip top, or filling in for our teachers - your help is greatly appreciated!

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 March 9 and March 30.

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

This year's campaign of UUCMP Steward outreach and the church's Budget Drive is off to a great start. Many thanks to the members and friends of UUCMP who have already submitted financial commitments for the upcoming church year!

If you missed the February 16 campaign kickoff and Rev. Axel's *Sermon on the Amount*, you can see the recording by clicking the "Service Archive" link on the church website, <https://uucmp.org>

Every contribution to UUCMP supports the church in serving as our common voice, to elevate the values which Unitarian Universalists present to the world. Every commitment (pledge) to fulfill your intended contribution helps UUCMP plan for our collective actions. And every act of generosity gives right back to you, in both personal satisfaction and your recognition of co-ownership of this marvelous congregation.

During the weekend of February 8, the Stewardship Committee sent out information packets about the Budget Drive. In addition to thoughts about UUCMP, the packet provided "How To" instructions for submitting your financial commitment, and eight different ways among which you can choose to fulfill your commitment, or to make any other monetary donation to the church.

If you would like a fresh copy of the packet, are anxious to chat with your assigned Steward, or have other questions, please email stewardship@uucmp.org, or see us at Stewardship table, near the tasty treats, in the Welcome Hall after each Sunday service.

Meanwhile, here is the link that anyone may use to activate the online Financial Commitment form - you do *not* need to have an active Breeze login to use the form:

<https://uucmp.breezechms.com/form/3d1e8094>

You will receive an emailed acknowledgement right after you click **Submit** at the bottom of the form. If you do not, please let a Stewardship team member know, so we can assist.

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 Gehrman.

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.

Gathering Details:

- **Date:** March 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.

CELTIC CELEBRATION

Saturday, March 22nd, 2:00 p.m.

to benefit the

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula

490 Aguajito Road, Carmel – 831.624.7404

Tickets are available online through PayPal at uucmp.org,

at Bookmark Music, or at the door

\$20, \$15 for seniors, military, and students, kids under 12 are free with a paying adult



Amy Krupski, virtuoso Celtic harpist

Camellia Latta, ethereal and enchanting flautist

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

Taelen Thomas, renowned bard and storyteller of Carmel Bay

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

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

Contact: shannon.e.warto@gmail.com

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



Myth vs. Facts

Debunking Common Misconceptions about Immigrants & Refugees in the U.S.

Disinformation and hateful rhetoric about immigrants and refugees are everywhere. Learn the facts about immigrants and refugees and work to counter harmful narratives. For more information, <https://www.globalrefuge.org/get-involved/advocate-with-us/disinformation/>



Myth: Most immigrants are coming to the United States illegally.

Fact: Regardless of someone’s manner of entry, seeking asylum is a legal right – and more than that, it’s a cornerstone of U.S. and international law. Each year, tens of thousands of people migrate to the U.S. via the refugee resettlement program, through work visas, to reunite with family, and more. Of those who come through the southern border, approximately [92% were apprehended or turned themselves in to Border Control](#) to begin their asylum cases.

Myth: Refugees and immigrants take American jobs.

Fact: With nearly 7.7 million unfilled jobs nationwide and at a time of record-low unemployment, immigrants are essential to filling in the gaps in the American workforce. Immigrants are also more likely to contribute to job creation than displacement, with more than [55% of the country’s billion-dollar startups](#) founded by immigrants.

Myth: Refugees and immigrants don’t pay taxes and are a drain on our nation’s resources.

Fact: Refugees and asylees contribute significantly to U.S. communities at the federal, state, and local level—both economically and culturally. Refugees and asylees contributed an estimated [\\$581 billion](#) in revenue to the U.S. economy from 2005 to 2019, and, in some cases, they [pay into Social Security without reaping its benefits](#). Most importantly, they are our doctors and nurses, our well-known chefs, our favorite musicians, our overnight construction workers, our local shop owners, our neighbors, and so much more.

Myth: When the U.S. welcomes refugees and immigrants, we neglect other underserved groups.

Fact: While refugees and immigrants face unique challenges, their needs are often quite similar to those of other underserved communities who face discrimination, poverty, and lack of adequate health care, among other challenges. Welcoming and addressing the shared needs of immigrants and refugees can help create policy changes that benefit all underserved groups. Studies have shown, for example, that rather than lowering wages due to competition, the immigrant workforce has instead [supported higher wages for all populations](#). States like Colorado and Washington have [expanded affordable health coverage](#) initiatives that not only aim to include undocumented immigrants but also enhance access for all residents. These policies contribute to stronger public health systems and improved outcomes for every community member. When we work toward equity, we work toward a better society for all.

Myth: Refugees and immigrants commit more crimes and make the country more dangerous.

Fact: Research has proven time and again that there is [no link between immigration and increased crime rates](#) and that immigrants are [60% less likely to be incarcerated](#) than their native-born peers. In fact, some studies show that increased immigration results in lower crime rates—meaning immigrants make the United States safer for all.

Communications Committee



The UUCMP Communications Committee is seeking new members! The mission of the Communications Committee is to inform and engage our congregation and the wider community in a way that reflects and shares our principles, values and mission. We provide, design and/or oversee consistent and coordinated messaging for the church, its events, and its communication media, both internal and external communications.

As an example, we recently placed an advertisement in the Monterey County Weekly inviting readers to come to church and join us. If you like to write and proofread, would like to keep our newsletters, website and bulletin boards up to date, have skills with social media, or just want to work to improve our church's communications, this is the committee for you. The committee will meet on the last Sunday of each month in the Conference Room after the service. If you are interested, contact Ray Krise at communications@uucmp.org

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."



Heather Vickery Coordinator for Congregational Activism

Heather Vickery is responsible for developing and maintaining relationships with UU congregations, State Action Networks, past College of Social Justice program participants and regional staff in order to expand engagement in UUSC and CSJ's work.

As the UUSC Coordinator for Congregational Activism, she manages workshop offerings, leads the CAPAS (Congregational Accompaniment Project for Asylum-Seekers) team and serves as a bridge between the UUSC Development and Programs departments.

Heather is an aspirant to UU Ministry and student at Starr King School for the Ministry as well as an active member of the First Parish in Malden, Universalist and a core team member of the Boston Immigration Justice Accompaniment Network.



March Shared Plate Recipient *Legal Services for Seniors*

Legal Services for Seniors (LSS) is a nonprofit organization providing legal assistance and representation at no charge to Monterey County seniors (60 and over).

LSS is a local agency, founded in 1985, that is supported by local organizations, including: the Hospice Giving Foundation, Yellow Brick Road and Monterey Peninsula Volunteers Services Benefit Shops, The Monterey County Bar Association, and the Community Foundation for Monterey County, among others.

Examples of their areas of assistance include: Elder, Financial, and Physical Abuse, Landlord and Tenant issues, Medi-Cal and Medicare, and estate planning (wills).

On their website <https://www.lssmc.org/> success-stories they have inspiring success stories of the work they have done.

A client's home burned down in 2023. The client and her deceased mother owned the house. The insurance claim was paid out to both parties and the financial Institution would not release the funds for reconstruction. Legal Services for Seniors intervened with the financial institution and the funds were released within a week. The client is now able to pro-

ceed with the reconstruction of her home.

The client worked all her life as a farm worker. She had a 401K and asked the investment group that housed the account to transfer the funds from that account to her checking account at another financial institution. The client needed the money to pay her mortgage and fix her home. The 401K institution made an error and sent the money to another bank account that did not belong to the client. The financial institution ignored the client's claims and told her they couldn't help her. With assistance from Legal Services for Seniors, after several months the financial institution finally agreed to give our client her money.

A client went to a beauty salon to get a facial. During her visit, she was tricked into buying some products for over \$5,000. The employee at the salon filled out an application for a line of credit without the client's consent, charging debit and credit cards. Legal Services for Seniors contacted the bank and loan company. The charges were removed from the client's account.

Please donate generously to this worthy organization.

Environmental Justice Book Discussion

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 (March 4 & 18, and April 1 & 15) at 7 p.m. 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.

I-HELP Program Request for Volunteers

UUCMP provides food and shelter to unhoused men and women as part of I-HELP (Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Program.) I-HELP is a nonprofit serving the Monterey Bay area which works with over 60 local faith communities and organizations to provide support to individuals experiencing homelessness. <https://www.ihelpmontereybay.org/>

UUCMP has been an important partner with I-HELP since the program started back in 1992. In the last year we have been providing dinner and shelter for up to 25 men (2nd and 5th Sundays) and 12 women (4th Sundays). Helping with I-HELP is very rewarding; at recent meals our guests have expressed their appreciation for the sense of peace they feel at our church, how welcome they feel, how much they enjoy the quality and variety of food we prepare, and how much the program is helping them.



UUers can help in various ways by donating food to the meals (watch for I-HELP dinner announcements in the monthly newsletter and the weekly eblast) and by helping as kitchen and setup volunteers. We are also seeking core volunteers to become part of the UUCMP I-HELP team to help plan and organize the meals.

If you wish to become a men's program I-HELP volunteer or have questions about the meals, contact Greg Simmons 602-361-1015, Gregs2001@gmail.com or Steve Smaby 831-233-1014 pilot.smaby@gmail.com

Thank you for supporting this important mission of our church!

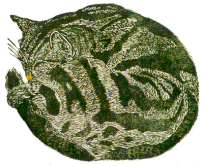


UUCMP Grief Support Circle

The UU Grief Support Circle continues to be a warm and safe harbor where those navigating grief or loss can gather to share stories and resources. We meet on the first and third Wednesday of every month in the **Fireplace Room** at the church from **11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.** That means we will meet **March 5** and **March 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 - April 4



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

Our Welcome Hall walls are filled with Tim Robinson's beautiful works in oil, wood block prints and sculpture. On March 1st, Saturday, from 1-3 pm, there will be a reception of his current works on the walls plus smaller sculptural works and jewelry. You'll want to see it all! No reservations needed.

On April 4th, we will be taking down Tim's work and installing another local artist - Noelle Correia. Stay tuned.

President's Corner



We easily forget how thoroughly each of us is tied to the various communities of which we are a part. Consider our economic community. I sit in an apartment I could never construct, typing on a laptop I couldn't possibly build myself, wearing clothes I don't know how to sew. The breakfast I ate this morning consisted of a combination of foods I couldn't grow myself, even if I tried. In short, every day I am completely dependent on the know-how and labor of countless others. A complex economic system sustains all of us and perhaps the most amazing thing about our relationship with this economic system is that all we seem to need is money. It is tempting to think of money as the most real of things – the brutal reality of cold, hard cash – or lack thereof – but money is in reality the most unreal – magical, even – part of the whole system.

There is a story about money that is told in some economics classes: At one time in Vietnam during the war, cartons of cigarettes were used as a form of currency. For example, a bag of rice could be traded for, say, a carton of cigarettes. One day, someone decided to open one of the cartons, only to find it was filled with sand. Outraged, he returned to the person who had paid him with the cigarette carton and was told, "Fool, you're not supposed to open it!" All the cigarette cartons, long emptied of cigarette packs, could be used as currency so long as everyone involved pretended they still contained cigarettes and were therefore something of value. And that is all money is, really. Coins, or bills, or numbers on a screen only have value if the community treats them as having value. Money is an invention of the community – certainly one of humanity's most ingenious inventions – and, amazingly, we can use this entirely fictitious thing called money to acquire very real, concrete things like food, shelter, and the conveniences of modern life.

The power of community not only extends outward, into the world that surrounds each of us, but also inward, into what makes each of us who we are. For example, as I type these words on a laptop others invented, I type in a language that is also not my own invention. The language I learned growing up is a gift of the community and it's the language in which I think. Language allows us to participate in community, and at the same time it enables us to think and articulate our deepest and most personal thoughts. We all swim in language like fish swim in the sea – breathing it in and breathing it out. Except it is a communal sea of our own making.

The philosopher Immanuel Kant once imagined a dove flying through the air. As the dove flew faster and faster, it felt the wind on its body and wings and thought to itself, "If only there were no air, how much faster I could go!" The American philosophy of individualism sometimes makes the mistake of seeing the community as something that holds an individual back, that prevents us from being completely free. But we are all of us creatures of community – utterly dependent on the communities that sustain us, and our very lives may depend on us doing all we can to keep the communities of which we are a part live-giving, healthy, and strong.

-- Warren

Environmental Justice

Social and Environmental Justice Activities at UUCMP for March

Saturday, March 8, 12 noon - 2 p.m. UUCMP Sanctuary (light lunch provided)

Workshop by Heather Vickery, UU College of Social Justice Coordinator for Congregational Activism: Info and Organizing Session for Trans Liberation

Do you want to start organizing for trans liberation but don't quite know where to start? This workshop will ground us in the realities for 2 spirit, trans and gender expansive individuals and families during this increase of fascism in our country and start the process of organizing ourselves to support them as they flee legislatively unsafe states and relocate to California. You'll learn more about the Pink Haven Coalition and how local groups plug into this national effort. UUCMP members and the public are welcome. See more about Heather Vickery on page 11.

Saturday, March 8, 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. Fireplace Room

Climate Café - Our theme this month: The Climate Crisis and Mental Health

Join us to share conviviality and gently guided conversation about climate, sustainability, solidarity and resilience. You are welcome to bring friends and a planet-friendly snack to share. Climate Café Monterey Coordinators: Charlotte Bear, Nan Foster and Mibs McCarthy. See about us at Climate Cafe® Monterey – Climate Café®

Sunday, March 23, Noon – 2 p.m. UUCMP Sanctuary (light lunch provided)

3 C's of Sustainability (caring, catalysts, and collaboration) and Your Climate Action Plan

Workshop facilitated by Jon Biemer, author of *Our Journey to Sustainability: How Everyday Heroes Make a Difference*. Jon is registered as a professional Mechanical Engineer in the state of California and is a member of the Society of Environmental Journalists.

Saturday, March 29, 1 – 4 p.m. UUCMP Sanctuary

Green Sanctuary 2030

To avoid the worst impacts of climate change, we must cut greenhouse gas emissions significantly by 2030 if we're going to reach net zero by 2050; at the same time, we must prioritize those most impacted by climate disruption and least resourced to adapt and respond to a changing climate. The UUA's Green Sanctuary 2030: Mobilizing for Climate Justice provides structure, leadership and support, in broad collaboration, for the UU faith community to engage in an ambitious environmental and climate justice movement that seeks to live fully our principles and achieve our vision of a sustainable and just world for all.

Resonate!

March 1, 2025, 7-9 p.m., Fireplace Room

Come join the sacred art of community chanting, raising our collective voices for peace, for our sacred Earth, for hope, for love and resilience. No experience is necessary, just a playful spirit and a commitment to playing well with others. We meet the first Saturday of every month. Led by Charlotte Bear.



Annan Paterson and Christina Brekke singing “Bein’ Green” with Kermit the Frog at the service on Sunday, February 23.



Keeping the conversation going.

Saturday, March 8, 2025, 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. Fireplace Room.

Topic: The Climate Crisis and Mental Health

What: A Climate Café® is an in-person, informal space to get together. Join us to share conviviality and gently guided conversation about climate, sustainability, solidarity and resilience. You are welcome to bring friends and a planet-friendly snack to share. Climate Café Monterey Coordinators: Charlotte Bear, Nan Foster and Mibs McCarthy. See about us at [Climate Café® Monterey – Climate Café®](#)

Vegetarian Recipe

White Bean, Rice and Dill Soup

-- New York Times cooking



Ingredients

Yield: 6 servings

- ¼ cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 6 garlic cloves, roughly chopped
- 2 large carrots, scrubbed and finely chopped
- 2 celery stalks, finely chopped
- 1 large yellow onion, finely chopped
- Kosher salt (such as Diamond Crystal) and black pepper
- ½ teaspoon ground turmeric
- Red-pepper flakes (optional), to taste
- ⅓ cup white (jasmine) rice, rinsed
- 2 (15-ounce) cans navy beans or cannellini beans, rinsed
- 1 tablespoon dried dill or ¼ cup chopped fresh dill
- Lemon (optional), for serving

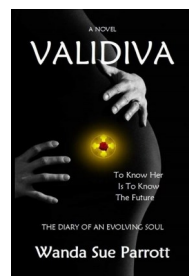
Preparation

1. In a large pot, heat the oil over medium. Add the garlic, carrots, celery and onion; season with a good pinch of salt and cook, stirring occasionally, until the vegetables have softened, about 10 minutes.
2. Add the turmeric and red-pepper flakes (if using) and cook until fragrant, about 1 minute. Add the rice, stir and cook for 1 minute. Add the beans and dill; season everything well with salt (about 1½ tablespoons) and black pepper to taste. Stir and cook for 1 minute.
3. Add 6 cups of water, stir, partially cover, raise the heat to high and bring to a boil. Cover completely, reduce heat to low and simmer, stirring occasionally, until the rice is completely soft and has released its starchy goodness, and the beans are creamy on the inside, for about 30 minutes. Taste for seasoning as the soup simmers. Serve with lemon, if you like.

-- Lauren Keenan

Thanks from Wanda Sue Parrott

I want to thank UUCMP members and friends for the generous donations during my recent fundraising book sale events to raise \$1000 for UUCMP's 2024 I-HELP Fund for homeless men and women. Final tally for cash and checks was \$1,005, so the extra \$5 is seed money toward the New Pulpit Fund. I have six copies of my novel "VALIDIVA—The Diary of An Evolving Soul" left (\$20 each) and proceeds from their sale will go toward the new pulpit. Contact me if you are interested. 831-899-5887 or amykitchenerfdn@hotmail.com



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Return Service Requested



March 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