



NUUSLETTER

of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula

Theme: Joy

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

April 6

“Old Movies, New Books, and Faraway Places”
Rev. Elaine Gehrman and Worship Associate
Celia Barberena

In times of stress and strife, it is even more important to find joy in simple things that give us pleasure, like old movies, new books and faraway places. This morning we will share some of our favorites, and perhaps some of yours! (If you'd like to share a recommendation for a new book, old movie or travel destination, please send to Rev. Elaine by April 1.)

April 13

“Grace-full Joy”
Rev. Elaine Gehrman and Worship Associate
Allysson McDonald

Joy can be found in small simple things, and can be experienced not only through our mind and heart, but also in our bodies. This morning we will explore a concept called "the physicality of grace" which will help us discern more ways to embody joy.

April 20

“When Joy is Reborn”
Rev. Axel Gehrman and Worship Associate
Ray Krise

Easter is a holiday with roots in many religious traditions, all of them touching on themes of renewal, rebirth or resurrection – all of them auspiciously aligned with the return of spring. Timeless symbols and stories touch into human experiences that are both universal and unique – our moments of despair and hope, dormancy and action, death and new life. This year, what might Easter mean for you?

April 27

“Joy of Creating”
Worship Associates Ann Johnson and
Jon Czarnecki

There is a basic tendency toward creation in the vast fabric of the human experience. Realizing a vision has always been a fundamental part of human civilization, as evidenced by the earliest cave paintings and the tall skyscrapers of contemporary cities. But why do people find such deep joy in creating, and what motivates this intrinsic desire to create?

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See the calendar at
www.uucmp.org

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.



Ministers' Message Rev. Axel Gehrman

UUCMP is a great place, bustling with an abundance of activities, initiatives, and opportunities for involvement. Especially on Sunday mornings it is a popular place, packed with people. This is a wonderful thing – clearly our congregation is successfully serving important needs in our lives and in our larger community. But – paradoxically – this is also a problem, because our church is full!

The problem is we can no longer comfortably fit everyone in our sanctuary and welcome hall on Sunday mornings. We strive to be a welcoming and accessible place, but crowding makes this increasingly difficult.

Congregational consultants have long observed that when 80% of seats are occupied, a sanctuary feels full, especially to newcomers. Many are uncomfortable sitting should-to-shoulder with strangers, and couples and families are unable to find room to sit together.

Our sanctuary can fit 100 chairs and comfortably seat 80 people, but on most Sundays over 100 folks attend our services (and over 30 more via Zoom). Often 20-30 people sit in the welcome hall on folding chairs. It's difficult to see and hear and participate in the "way back." Other challenges include parking and the noise level in our welcome hall.

Back in the 1990s, our membership envisioned expanding our facility to accommodate our growing numbers. The first two phases of a long-term building plan were successfully completed in 2005 and 2015. A future campaign may involve building a larger sanctuary on the large hexagonal foundation on the west side of our facilities that was built in 2005. In the meantime, however, the easiest way to accommodate more people on Sunday mornings, is to provide two worship services.

As some of you recall, in pre-pandemic days we

did offer two Sunday services. (From Labor Day through Memorial Day, services were at 9:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.) It was five years ago last month, that the COVID shutdown upended our lives and familiar routines. For the next two years, Sunday services and most church activities took place online and remotely. In the spring of 2022, we cautiously returned to in-person gatherings, and UUCMP has been steadily growing in attendance and activities ever since.

A lot has changed in the past five years. A lot has changed in the world, and in each of our lives. We can't turn back the clock or replicate 2020. But we can acknowledge current realities, and – in fact – we must!

We strive to be a supportive community for all those who share our values, and we have been growing. But our current one-service format essentially puts a cap on attendance, and limits further growth. Thus our Board of Trustees has now created a task force (Ray Krise, Mibs McCarthy, Meredith Harrill, Warren Finch, Ted Raabe, and Rev. Elaine) that will be making recommendations for how we might return to a two-service format that will best meet our collective needs and goals.

UUCMP is a remarkable and precious place - a caring community dedicated to love and justice - a place of inspiration and engagement – a place of service and solidarity and support. Our shared values are centered in love, and provide grounding and guidance that is desperately needed in this day and age.

May we each find ever new ways to join in the work of our beloved community: promoting peace, equality, and respect for the earth . . . and changing ourselves as we change the world.

See you in church,

Axel

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, April 12, at 8:30 a.m.

The men's monthly breakfast is continuing as hybrid. Our next meeting is Saturday, April 12, 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, April 16, 5:30 p.m.

Buddhist Sangha is every Wednesday at 7 p.m. in person in the Sanctuary. Zoom is available. See page 10.

Committee on Family Ministry meets Sunday, April 6, 12:15 - 1:15 p.m. in the Conference Room.

Communications Committee meets on Sunday, April 27, at noon in the Conference Room.

Environmental Justice meets at noon, Sunday, April 13, in the Sanctuary and via Zoom.

Friday Game Night is Friday, April 11, 6:30 p.m. in the Fireplace Room.

I-HELP for Men is Sunday, April 13, 5 p.m. Sign up on the Meal Train (page 11) or contact Kathleen Craig if you can help.

I-HELP for Women is Sunday, April 27. For more information contact Mibs McCarthy.

Membership Committee meets Wednesday, April 23, at 5:30 p.m.

Men's Breakfast Group meets Saturday, April 12, 8:30 a.m. in person and 9 a.m. via Zoom. See article at left.

Music Committee meets on Tuesday, April 22, at 6 p.m. via Zoom.

NUUSletter deadline for the May issue is Wednesday, April 16.

Program Council meets Tuesday, April 8, 12:30 p.m., via Zoom. Contact Mibs McCarthy programcouncil@uucmp.org

Social Justice meets Sunday, April 6, at noon, in the Sanctuary and via Zoom.

Stewardship meets Wednesday, April 2, 1:00 p.m. via Zoom.

T'ai Chi Chih meets Tuesdays at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary. See page 10.

Youth Music meets 2nd and 4th Sundays at 10 a.m. If you are interested, please send Jorge an email: music@uucmp.org

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION



Joy!



**CHILDREN'S
RELIGIOUS
EXPLORATION**



Dear UUCMP Families,

Our theme for April is *Joy*—a word that can sometimes feel elusive, especially when we search for it on a grand scale. It's easy to get caught up in the idea of finding *big* moments of joy, but in reality, true happiness often comes in smaller, everyday doses. Sometimes, we forget that joy can be found in the most unexpected places—right in the wild, everyday moments that surround us.

Perhaps, with enough of these small, fleeting joys, we can begin to fill the canyons within our hearts. Take a moment to notice your surroundings—who and what are in your environment? Maybe it's complimenting someone's favorite band t-shirt or marveling at the quirky way a banana slug slowly inches along the path. The antics of animals, the laughter of babies, or even noticing the first signs of sprouting in the seeds you've planted—these are all tiny moments that can spark great joy. And let's not forget the simple pleasure of slipping on a pair of your favorite warm socks and curling up with a good book.

What brings joy to you and your family? What simple moments fill your hearts with happiness? Keep filling your joy buckets, one small moment at a time—we all need it, especially in these times! And don't hesitate to share that joy freely and generously with others, spreading it like wildfire.

We will explore what joy means to your kiddos on the Sundays ahead. Here are the themes we have planned:

April 06 - Joy Found in Playfulness “For the fun of it!”

April 13 - Joy Found in Music “Make a joyful noise!”

April 20 - Joy Found in Hard Times “Rise from the ashes!” - **EASTER SUNDAY**

April 27 - Joy Found in Nature “Nature is the best medicine!”

Other important info this month:

- ◇ Our **Committee on Family Ministry** will meet Sunday, April 6th.
- ◇ Time to enroll in **Nature Camp!** It will be **July 7 - 11**

Looking forward to connecting with you all this month ahead!

With warmth and joy,

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

-- RE continued

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

* **April 6 - Committee on Family Ministry (CoFM) meeting** 12:15-1:15 p.m. after the service, Conference Room

* **April 11 - Second Friday Game Night!**
Hosted by Andrea Rivas 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., Fireplace Room.

* **April 20 - Easter at UUCMP!**



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 MARCH 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, Murtaza Mogri, Lindsay Fondren, Amy Blondell, and Karen Brown for all your contributions in March.

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 April 13 and April 20.

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.

Youth Music has begun! We are currently playing percussion instruments and singing. Please join us every 2nd and 4th Sunday at 10 a.m. in the Conference Room at UUCMP.

-- Jorge Torrez



Strong Together for Love and Justice

Wow, we have some GENEROUS Members and Friends at UUCMP! See the “Climbing Flame” gauge in the church foyer for the most recent tally, but know that the financial commitments submitted to date are both essential to the church and most appreciated!

The formal campaign in the Annual Budget Drive is winding down. Nevertheless, if you would like to be emailed or hand-delivered a copy of this year’s information packet, or have questions about the church’s budget process, please email stewardship@uucmp.org.

Now, if you have been undecided about committing to a donation practice in the coming year, there is still time to submit a form to document your intentions. Your financial commitment to UUCMP will help the Board of Trustees approve a healthy church budget, during their April 16 meeting.

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 this:

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

Right after you click **Submit** at the bottom of the form, you will receive an emailed acknowledgement. If you do not, please let the Stewardship team know at the email address above, or snag one of us on a Sunday morning, so we can assist.

Your 2025-2026 Stewardship Committee: Robert Brunson, Carol Collin, Gretchen Hausmann, Steve Johnson, Bjorn Nilson, Jo Ann Novoson, and Rev. Axel Gehrman



Keeping the conversation going.

Saturday, April 12, 2025, 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. Fireplace Room

Topic: Supporting Local Youth Climate Concerns/Activism

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 more about us at [Climate Cafe® Monterey – Climate Café®](#)



Save the date!

UUCMP Soup Sunday

May 18, 2025 @ 12PM

in our Sanctuary

***Homemade soup, warm bread, and
lively conversation!***

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





April Shared Plate Recipient Nancy's Project

Nancy's Project is a volunteer-run non-profit organization that has been delivering food and other necessities to the farm worker community in Monterey County since 1971. Donated clothing, household items, and groceries are delivered 5 days a week to three locations in Salinas and two locations in Greenfield.

In January they served 4,379 people of whom 50% were children. Every year Nancy's Project gives away 1,200 pairs of children's school shoes, 500 stuffed backpacks, Halloween candy, Easter baskets, and at Christmas wrapped gifts and Safeway gift cards. The organization currently depends almost exclusively on volunteers, including from at least three churches, who

drive the delivery van to grocery stores and the distribution locations.

The total yearly budget has grown from about \$26,000 to nearly \$300,000 in the last few years through expanded programs and increased fundraising. When there is little work in the fields, the needs facing farm worker families increase and these important everyday basic goods are a real lifesaver.



Please donate generously to this worthy organization.
-- An McDowell

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.



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

Environmental Justice Book Discussion

We are still 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 (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!

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.

Life Enrichment Programs Affinity Groups

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

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.



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 April 13, 2025

On April 13, 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:

<https://mealtrain.com/v29kkw>



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 5 p.m. the Saturday before the meal so we know where we stand for donations, since our goal is to have all items donated.

<https://mealtrain.com/v29kkw>

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

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

[Donate financially](#)

If you have difficulty using the Meal Train program, please let Kathleen Craig know:
Kathleen@craigdesignassociates.com

Kathleen Craig 1 650 279 8639

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 the first and third Wednesday of every month in the **Fireplace Room** at the church from **11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**, **April 2** and **April 16** this month. April 2 will include a report on a recent grief seminar led by Tara Brach, and April 16 will feature an art therapy project. Please look at the books we have donated to the church's lending library in support of those who are grieving. But please remember to return them so others can benefit. For more information, contact Rev. Axel or Sharon Miller (831-601-0403).



Art News

Mikoazule

www.mikoazule.com

Noelle Correia

April 4 - May 2



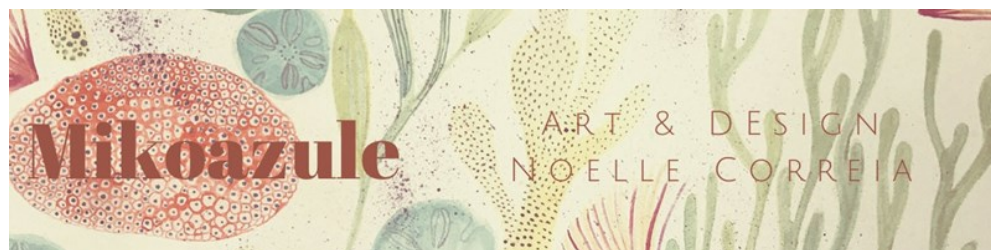
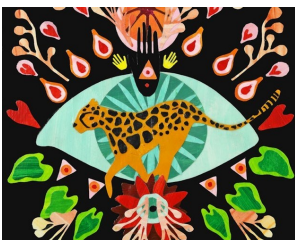
Noelle Correia is a mixed media artist and educator based in Fresno, California, with a background in Cultural Anthropology and the Visual Arts. She integrates cross-cultural experiences into her teaching, using art to explore history, mathematics, and emotional expression.



Noelle has taught at institutions such as Pajaro Valley Unified and Santa Cruz Montessori and currently leads workshops at Scarab Creative Arts in Fresno. As a working artist, her process begins with found imagery, evolving into layered compositions that explore human migration, cultural crossings, and collective memory.



She has exhibited at Art Cave, Radius Gallery, Arts Americas, R. Blitzer Gallery, Scarab Gallery, and the Santa Cruz Art League, participating in community arts initiatives and showcasing work that reflects the impact of mass media on the subconscious. She holds an MFA from CIIS, the California Institute of Integral Studies.



President's Corner



It is a tenet of martial arts that we stay balanced, grounded, and centered as we fight. These are chaotic and scary times for many of us. I don't know about you, but I've been feeling a swirling soup of negative emotions for weeks now. It's exhausting, and not particularly helpful. What is to be done? All of us who wish to be a force for good in this world need a community to help us organize, figure out the best course of action, and then act in concert with others. UUCMP is such a community. It is also a *spiritual* community – meaning it can be a source of spiritual strength.

Within its walls, each of us should be able to both take strength and cultivate a spiritual practice that will help us to stay balanced, grounded, and centered as we struggle for a better world. If you feel UUCMP is not meeting your spiritual needs, please let me know. More broadly, please let your Board of Trustees or other UUCMP leaders know if there is anything our community can do to help you in these difficult, stressful times. United in community, we are always more than the sum of our individual strengths.



-- Warren

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."

New Member and Visitor Orientation and Light Lunch April 6, 2025, 12 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Are you interested in learning more about Unitarian Universalism in general and in hearing more about UUCMP? Then please join us for an orientation on Sunday, April 6, from 12:00 to 2 p.m., after the worship service. A light lunch will be available, followed by an interactive session led by Rev. Axel. Please RSVP to Rose Lovell at membership@uucmp.org and please let us know by April 2nd if you need childcare.



Questions? Ask Rev. Axel or Rev. Elaine.

Environmental Justice

The Environmental Justice book group has been reading *What If We Get It Right?: Visions of Climate Futures* by Ayana Elizabeth Johnson, published in 2024. In the section we discussed recently, “Follow the Money,” Johnson lists ten problems and ten possibilities related to the economics of climate change.

Here are the problems:

1. Climate change could cost \$38 trillion in global economic damages every year by 2050
2. The climate impacts of burning fossil fuels cause around \$500 billion in losses every year—from property damage to government spending on recovery, construction-surge inflation, and power outages.
3. The gap in the GDP per capita between the richest and poorest countries is 25% larger than it would be without climate change.
4. The richest 10% of the world population owns 76% of the income, and accounts for 48% of global carbon emissions. The poorest 50% of the world get only 8.5% of the income and accounts for 12% of carbon emissions.
5. Since the Paris Agreement was signed in 2015, 60 banks have provided \$6.9 trillion in financing to fossil fuel companies, with the top four U.S. banks alone—JPMorgan Chase, Citibank, Wells Fargo, and Bank of America—providing more than 1.46 trillion.
6. To reach the Paris Agreement goals, financing for climate solutions must increase by at least 590% — to \$4.35 trillion annually—by 2030.
7. Pension funds, which hold more than \$46 trillion in assets worldwide, are among the largest institutional investors in fossil fuels. Just 14 public pension funds in the U.S. have a combined \$81.6 billion invested in fossil fuels.
8. Globally, only 1.6% of philanthropy funding goes to climate — in the U.S., only 0.5%. Approximately 70% of the U.S. foundation and nonprofit leaders state that they have no plan to divest from fossil fuels.
9. Nearly 50% of corporations do not have a net-zero pledge, and 58% of global business executives agree that their companies have overstated their sustainability commitments.
10. Trade associations for fossil-fuel related companies spend hundreds of millions of dollars a

year to obstruct climate policy via advertisements, lobbying, and political donations.

Here are Johnson’s ten climate possibilities related to economics:

1. Every \$1 invested in resilient infrastructure can yield \$4 in benefits.
2. Getting to net zero is a more than \$12 trillion business opportunity. In 2023, \$1.8 trillion was invested in the clean energy transition, a new record.
3. Due to the favorable economics of renewables, decarbonizing the energy system by 2050 could save up to \$15 trillion.
4. In 2023, for the second year in a row, banks generated more revenue from environmentally friendly investing (about \$3 billion) than from fossil fuel investing (\$2.7 billion).
5. In 2023, renewable energy sources accounted for 22% of electricity generation in the U.S., surpassing both nuclear and coal. And, globally, for new energy production capacity added in 2023, 86% was from renewables, mostly solar.
6. Globally, the clean-energy sector employed 36.2 million people in 2023, up 6 million from 2019. In the U.S., over 3.3 million people were employed in the clean-energy sector as of 2022, over 3 times more than in fossil fuels.
7. Reforming fossil fuel subsidies and putting a price on carbon could generate \$2.8 trillion globally in government revenues in 2030.
8. More than 1,600 institutions have divested from more than \$40 trillion from fossil fuel stocks.
9. Foundation funding for mitigating climate change has quadrupled, from \$900 million in 2015 to more than \$3.7 billion in 2022.
10. In 2023, more than 23,000 companies, collectively worth at least \$67 trillion, disclosed their environmental data on greenhouse gas emissions, deforestation, and/or water use—a 300% increase since the Paris Agreement.

We will continue the book group on Tuesday evenings, April 1 and 15. Come join us!

-- Rebecca Irwin

Vegetarian Recipe

Caramelized Brussels Sprouts Pasta With Toasted Chickpeas

By Kay Chun, New York Times

Yield: 4 servings

INGREDIENTS

Kosher salt and black pepper
6 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
1 (15-ounce) can chickpeas, rinsed and patted dry
2 tablespoons unsalted butter
3 garlic cloves, thinly sliced
1 pound brussels sprouts, trimmed and very thinly sliced (about 5 tightly packed cups)
8 ounces dried tagliatelle pasta
½ cup freshly grated Parmesan (about 1½ ounces), plus more for serving
2 tablespoons drained capers
2 tablespoons lemon juice
½ teaspoon red-pepper flakes
¼ cup chopped fresh chives



PREPARATION

Step 1 Bring a pot of salted water to a boil.

Step 2 Meanwhile, in a Dutch oven or a large, deep skillet, heat 2 tablespoons of the oil over medium. Add chickpeas, season with salt and pepper and cook, stirring occasionally, until deep golden and well toasted, about 5 minutes. Transfer the chickpeas to a paper towel-lined plate.

Step 3 Add the butter, garlic and 2 tablespoons of the oil to the Dutch oven and cook, stirring, until fragrant, about 1 minute. Add brussels sprouts, season with salt and pepper, and cook, stirring occasionally, until tender and lightly caramelized, about 10 minutes.

Step 4 Meanwhile, cook pasta according to package directions in the boiling water until al dente. Drain, reserving 2 cups of the pasta water.

Step 5 Add the pasta, 1 cup reserved pasta water, about ¾ of the toasted chickpeas and the remaining 2 tablespoons oil to the Dutch oven. Stir in the Parmesan, capers, lemon juice, red-pepper flakes and half the chives until well incorporated and saucy, 1 to 2 minutes. Season with salt and pepper. Add more pasta water if a thinner sauce is desired.

-- Lauren Keenan

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