



NUUSLETTER

of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula

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

July 6

"What is Our Story of America Now?"
Worship Leader Rev. Charlotte Bear and
Worship Associate Allyson McDonald

Our story is changing, unfolding as we speak. Your story matters.

July 13

"On Forgiveness"

Worship Associates Robin Jensen and Ray Krise

Unitarian Universalism approaches forgiveness as a spiritual practice – a path toward healing, reconciliation, and personal growth. It is an ongoing process which does not erase accountability but shows a way to move forward with compassion. Self-forgiveness can liberate us from spiritually burdensome feelings of guilt and resentment and can thus even help our physical wellbeing. How is forgiveness understood throughout world religious traditions? How do we achieve success in the spiritual practice of forgiveness?



Religious Exploration

Children (pre K - 11) and teens (12-18) attend our worship service on Sundays and go to their respective Religious Exploration classes following the Story for All Ages.

July 20

"How Is Summer Special?"
Worship Associates Lauren Keenan and
Celia Barberena

Are there summer traditions that you look forward to, or would like to revive? Ways to celebrate the longer and (sometimes) warmer weather? Activities that promote re-creation, rest-oration and that may elude you the rest of the year? How important is it that we make room for recharging in our lives?

Join us as we explore why summer holds such a special place throughout our lives.

July 27

"Reorienting the World"
Rev. Dennis Hamilton and Worship Associate
Corey Brunson

Because we are humans, we live in a human-sized scale model of the universe. Because we encounter the world through our minds, we try to fit it all into our model, into our minds. It doesn't fit. Let's try another perspective. Let's get oriented.

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See the calendar at
www.uucmp.org



Ministers' Message Rev. Elaine Gehrman

On Sunday June 8, we dedicated our new pulpit with these words:

We know that our weekly Sunday worship service is the time when the most of us are gathered together, to sing, to listen, to meditate, to reflect, to commune with one another and the larger spirit of life. In Unitarian Universalist congregations, as in most other Protestant congregations, the pulpit is one of the most important pieces of furniture in the church.

In Unitarian Universalism in particular we celebrate our free pulpit and our shared pulpit. Our free pulpit-- a centerpiece and symbol of our free faith, and our shared pulpit-- available to all. Ministers and members for generations have spoken from this spot, speaking from their heads and hearts, sharing stories, joys and sorrows, wisdom, visions, hopes and dreams.

This congregation was served very well for almost 40 years, by a large wooden pulpit created in 1986 by Richard Gamble, and dedicated to the memory Fred F. Keip Sr., the father of Rev. Fred F. Keip, former co-minister of this congregation.



We are grateful to Bob Sadler and Lauren Keenan, who together came up with the idea for our new sanctuary backdrop and pulpit and matching tech table. We were very fortunate to be able to enlist the wonderful wood-working skills of local wood artist Michael O'Neill, who designed and created the beautiful new pulpit and tech table and hung the wooden backdrop.

None of this would have been possible without the generous donations of many of you. We are grateful to the many donors to our beautiful Sanctuary Enhancements—

- ◇ Sharon Miller
- ◇ Carol Collin
- ◇ Rosalie Lombardo
- ◇ Meredith Harrill
- ◇ Steve and Ann Johnson
- ◇ Katharina Harlow

- ◇ Elaine & Axel Gehrman
- ◇ Martin Goldman in memory of Rebecca Goldman
- ◇ Dennis & Mary Kay Hamilton in honor of Rev. Marge Keip
- ◇ Christine Bailey and Bill Becker in memory of Walt, Edna, and Geraldine (Toni) Bailey
- ◇ Lauren & Bill Keenan in memory of their moms Dorothy & Beth.
- ◇ Carol LeVa in memory of Gary LeVa
- ◇ Allysson McDonald in memory of Rev. Don McDonald
- ◇ Konny Murray in memory of Bob Sadler
- ◇ Wanda Sue Parrott, in memory of Bob Sadler
- ◇ Mike and Rose Lovell, in memory of Bob Sadler
- ◇ Carol Greenstreet in memory of Bob Sadler

And in addition to all these wonderful donors, 5 households generously donated \$1000 or more, and as promised, we have created a plaque to be installed in the pulpit, which reads—

- ◇ Gretchen Hausmann & JT Mason in memory of Margaret R. Fuller
- ◇ Fred & Katie Hamilton in memory of Lorita Fisher
- ◇ Ted Raabe & Family in memory of Clare and Erwin Raabe
- ◇ Bjorn Nilson in memory of Bob Sadler
- ◇ Jon Czarnecki in memory of Melissa W. Czarnecki

Today, with these rose petals, we hereby officially dedicate this pulpit, with gratitude to all who contributed to its

creation, and with the sincere hope that it will continue to embody the cherished memory of those who have gone before, and to inspire all those still to come to worship within these walls.



Thank you!

See you in church,

Elaine

Men's Breakfast

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

The men's monthly breakfast is continuing as hybrid. Our next meeting is Saturday, July 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 does not meet in July.

Board of Trustees does not meet in July.

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

Committee on Family Ministry does not meet in July.

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

Environmental Justice will not meet until September.

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

I-HELP for Men is Sunday, July 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, July 27. For more information contact Mibs McCarthy.

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

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

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

NUUSletter deadline for the August issue is Wednesday, July 16.

Program Council does not meet in July. Contact Mibs McCarthy programcouncil@uucmp.org

Social Justice meets Sunday, July 6, 12 noon, in the Sanctuary and via Zoom.

Stewardship does not meet in July.

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

Youth Music will not meet in July. If you are interested in the future meetings, please send Jorge an email: music@uucmp.org

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION



Wonder & Discovery



**CHILDREN'S
RELIGIOUS
EXPLORATION**

Dear UUCMP Families,

Happy July! Summer is in full swing, and with it comes exciting opportunities for connection, creativity, and exploration in our Religious Exploration program. This month we will have opportunities for many of our members to volunteer and connect with our families.

We're thrilled to launch our **UU Values LEGO Curriculum** this month! Through guided LEGO-based building challenges, children will explore the core values of Unitarian Universalism in a fun and meaningful way. Each week, we'll reflect on one of our UU principles and bring it to life through hands-on projects, imaginative storytelling, and collaborative play. This curriculum encourages both critical thinking and joyful expression—perfect for summer learning!

Nature Camp – A Week of Wonder July 7–11, 2025

Our much-anticipated **Nature Camp** is just around the corner! Join us for **A Week of Wonder**—five days of outdoor discovery, creative exploration, and community building.

Full Day Program (Ages 6–12): 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Half Day Program (Ages 4–6): 10:00 a.m.–1:00p.m. (Sibling rate of \$150 available for half-day campers)

Campers will enjoy nature walks, science experiments, art with natural materials, storytelling, games, and more—designed to inspire curiosity and deepen connections with nature and each other.

There are still a few spots available—please register soon to reserve your child's place!

Summer Sundays & Carmel's Changing Weather

Sunday mornings in Carmel can be a bit unpredictable—foggy and cool one moment, sunny the next! We love to take advantage of our beautiful outdoor space when possible, so we encourage children to dress in **layers** and bring a **sweater or light jacket**. As always, we'll adapt activities to suit the day's weather and ensure everyone is comfortable, whether we're inside crafting or outside exploring.

We continue with our **one-room-schoolhouse model** during the summer months, where children of all ages gather together for a blend of Spirit Play, art, games, and movement-based fun.

✂️🏠 If your family will be **traveling this summer**, please let us know—it helps us plan and prepare for a smooth and joyful Sunday experience. 🚗

Wishing you and your family a month filled with sunshine, wonder, and discovery!

Warmly,

Shannon Morrison
Director of Religious Exploration

Welcome New Member Pete Schatz

Pete was raised in Charlottesville, Virginia, by parents who were both Ph.D. chemists. His dad (professor at University of Virginia (UVA), secular Jew of Eastern European descent), and mom (homemaker, lab scientist, heavily involved in local politics, Northern European Christian heritage) left him to himself in developing religious beliefs, but communicated/modeled values remarkably consistent with those of the UU church. Pete followed them into science, studying biochemistry at Brown University and earning a Ph.D. in genetics / molecular biology from MIT. After doing postdoctoral research at Harvard Medical School, he joined a biotechnology company in Palo Alto, where he worked for 28 years developing technology for drug discovery and inventing medicines, two of which received FDA approval to treat patients with low blood cell counts. Pete has two sons, Daniel (Navy veteran living in Seattle) and Andrew (environmental science major at Santa Clara University). He is legally separated from their mom, who is a professor at SCU. Hobbies include refereeing youth soccer games, reading sci-fi/fantasy, and playing low-stakes poker. He closely follows the news and is an active member of the Citizens' Climate Lobby. Welcome him when you see him!



Musical Offerings



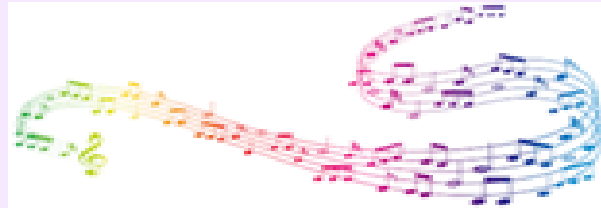
UUCMP COMMUNITY CHOIR TAKES A SUMMER BREAK!

The choir will not be rehearsing (or singing during services) for the month of July. We will be taking a summer break, and we will resume with rehearsals on Thursday, August 7, at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

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

(music@uucmp.org)! We are currently preparing for two services per month, and we are always looking to expand our choir size!

The UUCMP Community Choir will be preparing to sing 2 services a month (every 2nd and



4th Sunday - unless otherwise stated).

The **Music Committee** meets every 4th Tuesday of the month. Please let our Music Director know if you would like to be part of the Zoom meetings to be added to our email list!

-- Jorge Torrez

Two Worship Services on Sunday Mornings Begin in the Fall

We have arrived at a wonderful challenge at UUCMP. Our 10:30 a.m. worship service has become crowded. Increased membership and attendance by friends and visitors are filling the Sanctuary area and requiring extra seating in the Welcome Hall.

In order to accommodate current worship attendees, alleviate crowding, and allow for continued growth, the Board of Trustees has decided to return to a two-Sunday service format, to begin on September 7, 2025.

The new format will be very similar to how the church services were presented before the pandemic, namely:

- ◆ Two services at 9:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m., between Labor Day and Memorial Day,
- ◆ One service at 10:30 during the summer months of June, July and August.

We plan to balance our programmatic offerings by scheduling the adult choir at the 9:30 a.m. service and our children's and youth RE classes at the 11:15 a.m. service.

Additional programs and logistics will include:

At the 9:30 a.m. service -- choir, Zoom, and closed captions, and childcare.

At the 11:15 a.m. service -- RE classes & childcare.

Coffee hours will be provided after both services.

The single 10:30 a.m. service format will continue until September 7th.

Additional information about the new fall format will be available later in the summer.

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. 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."

Join the fun and participate in UUCMP's 2025 Super Flea!

All are welcome!



Start your “summer cleaning” by gathering up those unused housewares, no longer worn clothes, jewelry, tools, puzzles, books, games and art.

Set up is on Wednesday and Thursday, August 27th and 28th, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

If you need a different time to bring in your collection, arrangements can be made.

The **sale** is Friday and Saturday, August 29th and August 30th
Doors open at 9 a.m. and close at 2 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

You set up and price items for your own table – please nothing under \$1 or prices ending in cents. If you cannot be present to oversee your table for the entire sale, you can arrange to have someone else manage the table for you.

Remember that whatever you bring that isn't sold you must take away at the end of the sale!

There are plenty of racks for hanging clothes and we have loads of hangers. We also have some display cases for jewelry and a few baskets for scarves or fabric or other soft items.

Volunteer Opportunities:

We need:

- ♦ Cashiers – 8 per day with 2 ½ hour shifts. 9-11:30, 11:30-2:00
- ♦ Bakers – cookies, cakes, pies – *packaged to sell*
- ♦ Helpers to set up tables and racks
- ♦ Helpers to take down tables, racks, etc. at the end of the sale.



We will have sign-up sheets available as the event gets closer.



All proceeds from this important fund raiser go to UUCMP.

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

Life Enrichment at UUCMP

Are you interested in:

- Sharing a hobby with friends?
- Learning more about UU history?
- Clarifying your own spiritual beliefs?
- Developing a spiritual practice?



These are all potential topics within “Life Enrichment” (sort of like religious exploration for adults, but broader) at UUCMP. Among the ongoing activities that are under the L.E. umbrella currently are:

- ♦ A weekly Buddhist Sangha gathers every Wednesday evening in the Sanctuary
- ♦ Second-Friday Game Nights for all ages
- ♦ The monthly Men’s Breakfast gathers on 2nd Saturdays in person and via Zoom
- ♦ UU Hikers explore local wonders one Saturday per month
- ♦ The Anti-Racism Film and Book Group meets on Tuesdays via Zoom
- ♦ T’ai Chi Chih meets every Tuesday in the sanctuary
- ♦ Multiple Chalice Circles meet monthly at different times and locations

In the hopper for the coming months are:

- ♦ A new monthly “Stitches” group for anyone who wants to socialize while working on whatever crafts keep their hands busy and their brains creative! Schedule and location to be determined.
- ♦ A book discussion on *Robert E. Lee and Me: A Southerner's Reckoning with the Myth of the Lost Cause*, by retired West Point history professor Ty Seidule.
- ♦ A three-session workshop to create your very own “UU elevator speech.” We’ve all been there...someone wants to know what a Unitarian Universalist is, or what kind of church that is, and you stumble over how to describe it briefly and accurately. This workshop will prepare you to answer that question and will help you clarify your own thinking about what Unitarian Universalism means to you.

There are so many other things we can learn together!

If you have ideas for classes, groups, or events you would like to see added to our Life Enrichment menu, go to [Enrichment Ideas](#) to share them.

If you would like to help organize our Life Enrichment offerings, brainstorm ideas, and recruit volunteer facilitators, consider joining the Life Enrichment Team. Send inquiries to lifenrichment@uucmp.org or talk to either of the ministers.

-- Corey Brunson



July Shared Plate Recipient *Breast Cancer Assistance Group*

Our mission is to help women with breast cancer as we would want to be helped ourselves. The Breast Cancer Assistance Group (BCAG) is supported by breast cancer survivors who raise funds and awareness to improve the lives of local breast cancer patients and their families. The BCAG is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization.

As an all-volunteer nonprofit organization of breast cancer survivors, the Breast Cancer Assistance Group (BCAG) provides financial support to breast cancer patients who struggle with paying for basic living expenses such as housing, utilities, food, gas while going through treatment and recovery. Navigating the tumultuous journey of a breast cancer diagnosis is an emotionally, physically and financially draining ordeal. From the out-of-pocket costs not covered by medical insurance to the indirect expenses and loss of income due to unpaid time off from work and increased expenses such as transportation, childcare and special nutritional needs, the economic burden can be staggering. For many women, the strain of managing finances becomes an additional source of stress and anxiety. The goal of BCAG is to alleviate some of the financial burden for women undergoing cancer treatment at this difficult time in their lives.

When I was in treatment for breast cancer, I became too sick and weak to work. I was going to a breast cancer support group at Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula, and the leader of the group, Joy Smith, told me about the Breast Cancer Assistance Group. I was very shy to ask for money, and doubted that anyone would help me, but Joy helped me fill out the very simple form requesting enough money to pay off my car.

I was contacted by a kind woman who told me my request for \$1,200 had been granted! I was shocked and grateful that this wonderful group was able to help me.



I have participated in their fundraisers since then and very much hope my church family will offer this worthy group of breast cancer survivors our generous support.

They offer cash grants to women with breast cancer for their needs for food, rent, car payments, or other non-medical needs. This group takes care of the needs of breast cancer survivors that are otherwise unmet.

I will always be grateful.

Laurie Bulgier

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 July.

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 July 13, 2025 and Request for Food Contributions and Volunteers

On July 13, UUCMP will host and provide meals for Men's I-HELP (Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Program.) We are supporting food and space for up to 25 men to stay with us for the night. Helping with I-HELP is very rewarding. At recent meals the men have expressed their appreciation for how welcome they feel at our church, enjoy the quality and variety of food we prepare, and how much the program is helping them.

We need your help to provide donations of food for meals. Besides food donations, we are requesting help from the congregation for the kitchen and setup volunteers.



Please sign up at this link:

<https://mealtrain.com/13rek5>

We are also seeking core volunteers to become part of the UUCMP I-HELP Team to help plan and organize the meals.

The details:

Drop off food Sunday morning or between 3:00-4:00 p.m..

Please label all food with men's I-HELP.

Setup and kitchen Volunteers can arrive after 3:00 p.m.

If you prefer to donate money, funds are used to purchase staples and some meal items.

To Donate: put Men's I-HELP in the memo line of your check or use this link: <https://uucmp.org/connection-overview/donate/> & specify Men's I-HELP Meals.

Please sign up by Meal Train by Saturday before 5 p.m.

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.

If you have difficulty using the Meal Train program or want us to enter your items, please contact Kathleen Craig at: kathleen@craigdesignassociates.com.

If you are interested in learning more about volunteering to help with Men's I HELP; email, text or call Kathleen at 650- 279-8639.

UUCMP Grief and Growth Group

The UU Grief and Growth Group continues as a source of comfort and understanding for those experiencing loss by meeting at the church (Fireplace Room) on the fourth Wednesday of every month. We are now meeting earlier than we have in the past, from **10-11:30 a.m.** **This month it will be July 23.**

To deepen our friendships, we take a "field trip" on the second Thursday, which this month will be **July 10.**

For more information, leave a message by calling or texting 831-601-0403 and Sharon Miller will get back to you.



Art News

Dual Debuts

Alberto Vasquez and Axel Duarte

June and July 2025



Alberto Vasquez is a 25-year-old self-taught photographer, videographer, and video editor based in Salinas, California. Working under the name 2driot, his work blends moody, cinematic tones with emotional depth—capturing the overlooked, the quiet, and the in-between.

Alberto's photography is grounded in personal experience and intuition rather than formal training. Whether he's documenting raw city textures, soft light across landscapes, or gritty glimpses of everyday life, his work evokes emotion first and explanation second.

Outside of his personal projects, he has worked professionally across automotive photography, event coverage, and visual storytelling, creating content that's as intentional as it is impactful. His passion lies in giving stillness a voice—using photography not just as an art form, but as a form of connection.

All works on display are available for purchase—feel free to reach out if something speaks to you.

Axel Duarte is a twenty-four-year-old Mexican-American artist born and raised in Salinas, California. Rooted in abstraction, his work channels a distinct visual language shaped by personal intuition, instinct, and a process guided by material and method. While primarily working with oil paints on canvas, he approaches his practice fluidly, embracing multiple mediums and modes of expression.



With a background in the Humanities from San José State University, Duarte brings a thoughtful, interdisciplinary lens to his creative process — one shaped by six years of academic exploration into the human condition, identity, culture and aesthetics. His education informs not only the content of his work but the way he navigates critique, insight, and expression.

Duarte sees art as a space for radical expression, where personal vision takes shape without constraint. His current body of work, to be featured in *#DualDebuts* at UUCMP, explores the symbolic, and sometimes surreal edges of self-expression through richly layered, abstract compositions.

President's Corner



Much gratitude to Warren Finch, who on July 1st concluded his tenure as president of the Board of Trustees but continues his membership on the Board. Warren led the Board and the congregation through an excellent past year with a firm and steady and graceful hand.

As we enter the sunlit month of July (well, maybe a bit foggy at the coast) I find myself reflecting on the journey we shared as a congregation this past year and the path that lies ahead. This mid-summer period brings light and the opportunity to pause, renew, and envision the ways we can deepen our connections and expand our reach as a community rooted in love, justice, and spiritual growth.



Over the past months, we have celebrated milestones that remind us of our strength and resilience as a community. From the success of our social justice initiatives to the joyful celebration of weekly worship, the many new congressional members and the strong religious exploration and music departments, all these efforts have brought us closer and reflect the dedication and passion of our members. We know how to work hard like our building and grounds committee and have fun like a karaoke night or a potluck supper.

At the heart of our mission is a commitment to fostering inclusivity and nurturing spiritual exploration. As we have communicated in our public outreach recently, we are a shelter from the storms of ugly politics and the stressors of those who would make us feel small and ineffectual. We believe in community. We say yes to joy, to love, to courage and to hope. We believe it will take all of us to thrive.

I invite each of you to consider how you can contribute to the vibrancy of our congregation. Whether through volunteering, attending services, or sharing your ideas, your involvement is the cornerstone of our success. Together we can continue to build a community that not only grows but also transforms lives.



This July, may the summer sun fill your days with warmth, inspiration, and hope. I look forward to continuing this journey with you as we live out our shared values and move toward a future filled with possibility.

--Ray Krise

Social Justice

Know Your Rights from the ACLU of Northern California

I'm attending a protest -- Your rights

Your rights are strongest in what are known as "traditional public forums," such as streets, sidewalks, and parks. You also likely have the right to speak out on other public property, like plazas in front of government buildings, as long as you are not blocking access to the government building or interfering with other purposes the property was designed for.

Private property owners can set rules for speech on their property. The government may not restrict your speech if it is taking place on your own property or with the consent of the property owner.

Counter-protesters also have free speech rights. Police must treat protesters and counter-protesters equally. Police are permitted to keep antagonistic groups separated but should allow them to be within sight and sound of one another.

When you are lawfully present in any public space, you have the right to photograph anything in plain view, including federal buildings and the police. On private property, the owner may set rules related to photography or video.

You don't need a permit to march in the streets or on sidewalks, as long as marchers don't obstruct car or pedestrian traffic. If you don't have a permit, police officers can ask you to move to the side of a street or sidewalk to let others pass or for safety reasons.

What to do if you believe your rights have been violated

- When you can, write down everything you remember, including the officers' badge and

patrol car numbers and the agency they work for.

- Get contact information for witnesses.
- Take photographs of any injuries.
- Once you have all of this information, you can file a written complaint with the agency's internal affairs division or civilian complaint board.

What happens if the police issue an order to disperse the protest?

Shutting down a protest through a dispersal order must be enforcement's last resort. Police may not break up a gathering unless there is a clear and present danger of riot, disorder, interference with traffic, or other immediate threat to public safety.

If officers issue a dispersal order, they must provide a reasonable opportunity to comply, including sufficient time and a clear, unobstructed exit path.

Both the California Constitution and the First Amendment to the United States Constitution protect your right to free expression. However, police and other government officials are allowed to place certain narrow restrictions on the exercise of speech rights.

Limits on Speech Protections

Is all speech protected?

The First Amendment protects your right to express your opinion, even if it's unpopular. You may criticize the President, Congress, or the chief of police without fear of retaliation. But this right doesn't extend to libel, slander, obscenity, "true threats," or speech that incites imminent violence or law-breaking. If you grab a megaphone during a riot and yell "shoot the cop" or "loot the shop," you may reasonably expect trouble.

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Social Justice

Can I talk about government overthrow or taking over the streets?

Yes, for the most part. In the 1940s and '50s, suspected subversives or Communists were often charged with 'incitement to illegal activity' and convicted. Subsequent courts have interpreted the government's ability to prohibit speech as incitement more narrowly. The government can't stop you from talking generally about ideas or future events. But it may ban speech that's "directed to inciting or producing imminent lawless action and is likely to incite or produce such action."

What if others react violently to what I say?

If you are the organizer of a lawful protest, you can't be held responsible should people in attendance commit unlawful acts, as long as your words don't directly incite violence or law-breaking. You also are not liable for the way that counter-demonstrators react to your message. While counter-demonstrators do have a right to be present, it's the responsibility of the police to control the crowd.

We Need Your Smile



This September, UUCMP will transition back to two worship services, at 9:30 a.m. & 11:15 a.m. We will need more Greeters and Ushers so that visitors and members are warmly welcomed to our church. Many people have shared that a genuine warm smile is one thing that helps them feel welcomed, so if you enjoy meeting and greeting people, "We Need Your Smile." Greeters and Ushers play a very important role in making our space a welcoming one. 😊

You may have a preference for a particular Sunday (we have 4 or 5 per month) or a preference for the early service or the later one. We will try to accommodate your preferences and you only need to serve once per month (or less as an alternate). We will train you! If you want to consider joining our Welcoming Team as a Greeter or an Usher, please contact Mike Lovell at lovellmike50@hotmail.com to be a Greeter, or Martin Skeritt at mskeritt3@gmail.com to be an Usher. Thank you. 😊

**Unitarian Universalist Church
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July 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