



# NUUSLETTER

of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula

Theme: Nurturing Gratitude

Sunday Service at 9:30 a.m. in person and via Zoom and 11:15 a.m. in person

**November 2**

**“For All That Is Our Life”**

**Rev. Elaine Gehrmann and Worship Associate  
Allysson MacDonald**

We have been given everything we have,  
everything we need. What is our responsibility to  
use our unearned gifts wisely?

**November 9**

**“Thank God?”**

**Rev. Axel Gehrmann and Worship Associate  
Annan Paterson**

Medical professionals, psychologists and scholars  
agree that cultivating gratitude is good for both  
body and soul. For a congregation with a fair share  
of atheist and agnostic members, however, this  
raises the question: To whom or what should we  
be grateful?

**November 16**

**“What Have I Got to Be Thankful For?”**

**Rev. Elaine Gehrmann and Worship Associate  
Char Bear**

Even when it doesn't feel like there is much to be  
thankful for, an attitude of gratitude can work  
wonders for our spirit and psyche. This morning  
we will remind ourselves of the therapeutic value  
of thanks.

## Religious Exploration

Children (pre K - 11) and teens (12-18) attend our  
worship service on Sundays at 11:15 a.m. and go to  
their respective Religious Exploration classes follow-  
ing the Story for All Ages.

**November 23**

**“Gratitude Is a Muscle”**

**Rev. Axel Gehrmann and Worship Associate  
Ray Krise**

Is gratitude an attitude, or an orientation of the  
spirit? Is it a world view that comes naturally to  
some of us, but not others? Or is gratitude a life skill  
that can be learned and practiced? If gratitude were  
a muscle, how could we put it to best use? And how  
might we make it stronger?

**November 30**

**“Grateful to Be Old”**

**Worship Associates Jon Czarnecki and Bjorn Nilson**

What is so great about being old? Grating, yes;  
grateful, not so much. But much better than *not*  
being . . . at least for some. This service is a  
reminder that we are all entropic beings – life is not  
a cycle, but a spiral. But is the spiral downwards or  
upwards, or even possibly sideways? Will you still  
need me, will you still want me, when I'm 64?

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See the calendar at  
[www.uucmp.org](http://www.uucmp.org)



## Men's Breakfast

**Saturday, November 8, at 8:30 a.m.**

The men's monthly breakfast is continuing as hybrid. Our next meeting is Saturday, November 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](mailto: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 every Thursday, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

**Board of Trustees** meets on Wednesday, November 19, 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, November 16, 12:45 p.m.

**Communications Committee** meets on Sunday, November 30, at 12:30 p.m., in the Conference Room.

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

**I-HELP for Men** is Sunday, November 9, 5 p.m. Sign up on the Meal Train (page 11) or contact Greg Simmons if you can help.

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

**Membership Committee** meets Wednesday, December 3, at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

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

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

**NUUSletter deadline** for the December issue is Sunday, November 16.

**Program Council** meets on Tuesday, November 4, at 12:30 p.m. via Zoom. Contact Mibs McCarthy [programcouncil@uucmp.org](mailto:programcouncil@uucmp.org)

**Social Justice** meets Sunday, November 2, 12:45 p.m. in the Sanctuary and via Zoom.

**Stewardship** meets Wednesday, November 5, 1 p.m. via Zoom.

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

**Watsonville Law Center Fundraiser** is Sunday, November 9, 1 p.m.- 3 p.m. in the Sanctuary. See page 7.

**Youth Music** will be on the 1st and 3rd Sundays between the services in the Conference Room. If you are interested, please send Jorge an email: [music@uucmp.org](mailto:music@uucmp.org)



# RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION



**NOVEMBER!**



Dear UUCMP Families,

We are well on our way into the Fall season now that November is here. Perhaps you too enjoy the scent of smoke in your neighborhood, the crunch of fallen leaves underfoot and the crisp cool air peppered with drops of rain. This month I hope you are able to slow down and enjoy what was harvested this year. It has been a tumultuous time - but when we can stay rooted and connected here in our community, we can weather the storms together. Remember to keep your flame protected - share your light and hold on to hope.

Watch the Weekly Newsletter for more information about events happening this month.

You are also invited to attend our monthly **Committee on Family Ministry (CoFM) in-person meeting** on the third Sunday this month after the service. Please join to learn more about upcoming opportunities and to share your ideas for our RE programming.

With warmth and gratitude,  
Shannon

Shannon Morrison (she/her)  
Director of Religious Exploration

## Activities & Events in November

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

\* November 1 - Samhain Celebration - All Ages Activities to celebrate the thinning of the veil

\* November 2 - Daylight Savings Ends (Clocks *fall back* 1 hour)

\* November 14 - Second Friday GAME NIGHT! 6:30-8:30, Fireplace Room

\* **November 16** - Committee on Family Ministry (CoFM) meeting 12:45pm - 2:00pm after the second service, Fireplace Room - Potluck Lunch - Sign Up [HERE](#)

**Young Adult Group** Last Sunday of the Month - Outing to Pop & Hiss Trivia @ 3p.m.



## 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 to October Volunteers and Helpers: THANK YOU!** We have been so lucky to have helping hands in RE - **thank you to our October volunteers Karen Brown, Rebecca Irwin, Suzanne Schmidt, Ali Shappard, Angela Skeritt and Jorge Torrez** for all your contributions this month.

Join Our UUCMP Community for a

# Friendsgiving Potluck

November 27, 2025

Thanksgiving Day

**Gather at 1 p.m.**

**Feast at 2 p.m.**

Come as you are.

Bring something to share.



Friendsgiving 2024

You can RSVP by  
scanning this code



(<https://gqr.sh/mk6t>)

or by putting your name on  
the list on the bulletin board  
at UUCMP

## It's Time to Nominate Shared Plate Recipients for 2026

In order to expand the awareness of and resources for our social justice outreach ministry, and to increase the transparency and democratic process for selecting the organizations to be supported, we nominate organizations for Shared Plate.

The Social Justice Committee is soliciting nominations of non-profit organizations from members of the congregation. The nomination must include: 1) the name of the organization; 2) a short description of its work and mission; 3) how it fits with our UU principles; 4) name of person nominating and other information indicated on the form. It can be submitted on paper, available in the Welcome Hall, or online. This is the online link:

<https://forms.gle/56vZfoYQrnUFQ73S7>

The due date for submissions will be November 30, and the Social Justice Committee meeting during which the nominations will be discussed and voted upon will be December 7. Those who have nominated organizations are encouraged to attend this SJC meeting to advocate for their nominees and to vote.

A different organization will be selected to be the Shared Offering recipient each month. Those organizations chosen for a Shared Offering will receive half of the cash collection from each Sunday service for that month, as well as any designated donations. A representative of the organization and/or a church member very familiar with the organization will speak about the organization for three minutes at the beginning of both services on the first Sunday each month. The organization will also be encouraged to provide informational material, and opportunities for involvement that can be shared with the congregation.

Generally, organizations that are recipients one year will not be eligible the following year, although exceptions may be made for organizations more directly affiliated with the church.

## Book Discussion: *See No Stranger*

First and Third Tuesdays, November 4 and 18, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireplace Room.

Rev. Axel is continuing to lead a five-session discussion of *See No Stranger: A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love*, by the Sikh author and activist Valarie Kaur.

In these challenging times marked by deep social and political divisions, UUs strive to promote justice and a moral message with love at the center. In her book, Kaur makes the case "that revolutionary love is the call of our time." Drawing on the wisdom of sages, scientists, and activists - and her own riveting journey as a brown girl growing up on California farmland . . . Kaur discovers practices of revolutionary love to bring us longevity, resilience, and joy.



Please consider joining us! We will be meeting on the first and third Tuesdays, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireplace Room. Please contact Rev. Axel ([minister@uucmp.org](mailto:minister@uucmp.org)) to register, or if you have questions.



## Watsonville Law Center Fundraiser at UUCMP November 9

UUCMP's Social Justice Committee cosponsoring with Indivisible Monterey will host a fun fundraiser for the Watsonville Law Center on Sunday, November 9, 1 – 3 p.m. in our sanctuary with a taco bar with words from the center's chief programs officer, Adriana Melgoza and musical guests. [PLEASE RSVP to indivisiblemonterey@gmail.com](mailto:indivisiblemonterey@gmail.com)

The Watsonville Law Center provides free legal services to low-income individuals on California's Central Coast.



**WLC**  
Watsonville Law Center

Newcomers and citizens are being kidnapped, disappeared, and deported with no respect for their legal rights. This is happening with ICE raids across California.

Legal Services for the Central Coast

But we are not helpless to stop or slow this injustice! The Watsonville Law Center has stepped up to resist.

With inadequate funding, hard work, and very little time, this group has done dozens of trainings and produced 750 Monterey County community members trained and waiting to respond to active ICE raids.

They believe that everyone benefits when the most vulnerable among us thrive, and that a holistic collaborative approach is most effective. They focus on legal problems with long-term impacts and solutions, such as workers' rights, consumer rights, and access to employment.

## Musical Offerings

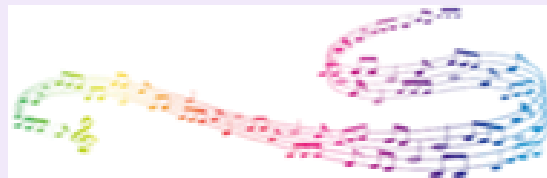


The Adult Community Choir continues to grow and meet **every Thursday from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. in the Sanctuary.**

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 ([music@uucmp.org](mailto: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). This month, we will sing on November 9 and 23.

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! [music@uucmp.org](mailto:music@uucmp.org)



Youth Music has begun again, and we are preparing music for our pageant service in December! Join us on 1st and 3rd Sundays in the RE room at 10:45 a.m.!

-- Jorge Torrez

## November Shared Plate Recipient Ohlone Costanoan Esselen Nation

Ohlone/Costanoan-Esselen Nation (OCEN) is an historically documented previously recognized tribe. OCEN is the legal tribal government representative for over 600 enrolled members of Esselen, Carmeleno, Monterey Band, Rumsen, Chalon, Soledad Mission, San Carlos Mission and/or Costanoan Mission Indian descent.

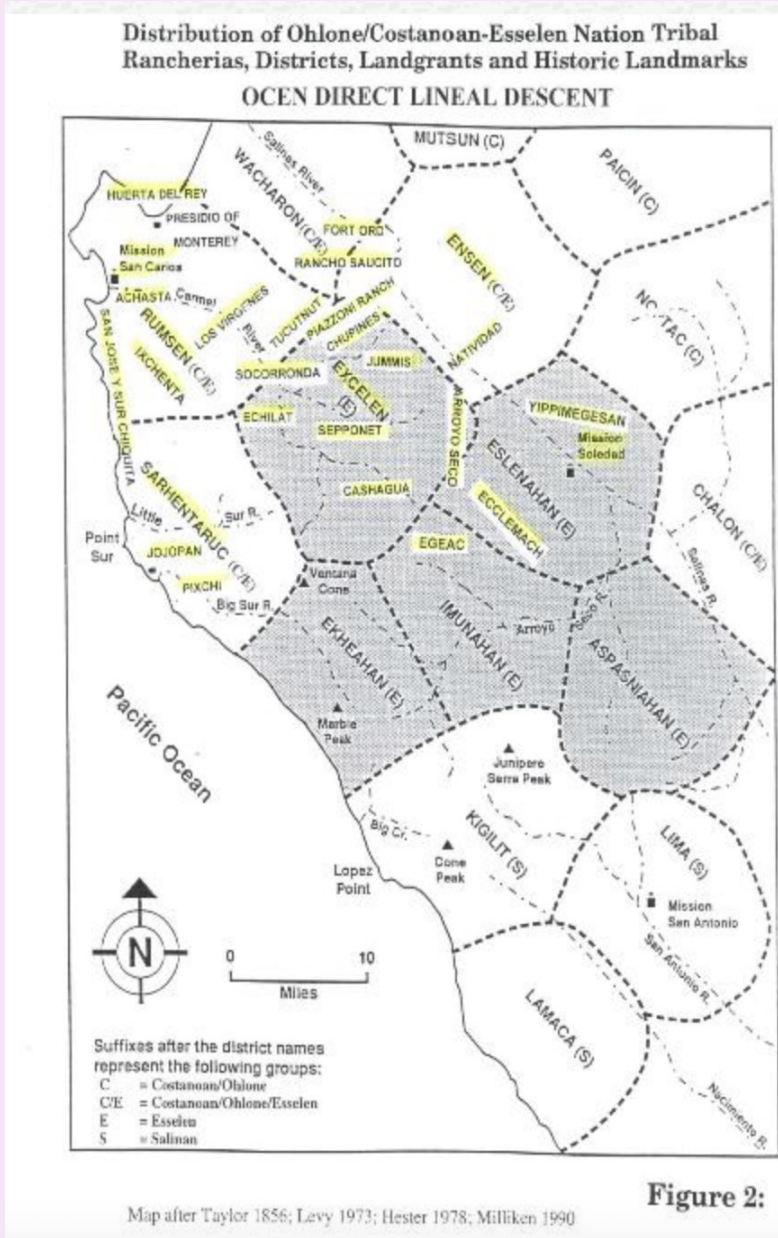
Despite missionization, government changes, broken treaties, devastation to our culture and loss of homeland, we have survived. We are waking our language, teaching our children and grandchildren their culture. Though other indigenous people may have lived in the area, the area is the indigenous homeland of our people.

Today all of our Tribal members have genealogy proven links to our thirteen core families. We work with a Tribal Government, Tribal Constitution and Bylaws. We have a Non-Profit organization, #77-0378095 whose sole purpose is to support the OCEN people.

Please consider helping us by contacting elected officials in support of OCEN's Federal Reaffirmation. There is more information at

[www.ohlonecostanoanesselenation.org](http://www.ohlonecostanoanesselenation.org)

Please give generously to this organization.





# CELTIC CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 pm

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](http://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



Come and celebrate the holidays with this rousing and spirited performance of seasonal songs, music, and tales featuring:

**Taelen Thomas**, renowned bard and storyteller of Carmel Bay

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

\*\*\*\*\*

Taelen will perform selections from Dylan Thomas' masterpiece, A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS IN WALES, along with stirring tellings of the stories behind other Holiday classics and Shannon will delight audiences with beautiful Celtic music and songs of the season!

Contact: [shannon.e.warty@gmail.com](mailto:shannon.e.warty@gmail.com)

## 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](mailto: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 November.

**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.

## Cooking for a Cause! the Men's I-HELP Program at UUCMP Next Meal November 9, 2025

Each second Sunday, UUCMP hosts Men's I-HELP (Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Program) welcoming up to twenty-five men with dinner & a safe night's rest. I-HELP is the only emergency shelter open every night in the Monterey area for men & women: a hot meal, a safe place, & a caring community. There are many ways you can help: You can help by donating cooked food, joining us in the kitchen & sharing the meal, or even taking on sponsoring a meal as a group.



### Volunteering Options

- Join the kitchen team to cook nourishing meals for the men.
- Cook something at home or purchase prepared food & drop off on the Sunday of the meal.
- Help set up tables & stay with the men to share the meal.
- Join the organizing team & lead a meal night or organize a group to sponsor a meal.
- Great opportunity for a volunteering or service-learning project through school programs.

Your generosity makes a real difference. If you'd like to get involved, please contact Greg Simmons. 602-361-1015, [Gregs2001@gmail.com](mailto:Gregs2001@gmail.com), text, email or phone call; all communication methods are welcome.

Our next meal is November 9; 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. We also really need more help to keep this program going, so we are also seeking volunteers to become more involved with UUCMP I-HELP team to help plan and organize the meals.

Food contributions can include a main course, rotisserie chickens, roast vegetables, potatoes and other sides, bread, drinks and desserts. We are using the Meal Train website to help organize, or you can communicate with me directly to let me know what you wish to contribute or if you have questions.

Please contact Greg Simmons if you wish to volunteer to work with I-HELP, want to make food contributions or for any questions, ideas, or comments: [gregs2001@gmail.com](mailto:gregs2001@gmail.com), 602-361-1015. Text, email or phone calls are all fine. The details:

November 9 Meal train Link: <https://mealtrain.com/r02qn2>

- Drop off food Sunday morning or by 3:30 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.



## Art News



Tami B. Sojka

Kachou Fuugetsu

November 8th until January 9th.

Artist's reception will be November 14th from 2 - 4pm.

Tami B. Sojka, a Minnesota native, began exploring photography in her early twenties after receiving her first SLR camera. Over the years, her passion has grown through ongoing learning and creativity. Her connection to nature began early, spending time outdoors with friends and walking forest trails in Northern Minnesota with her father.

Having lived in California for over 20 years, Tami draws inspiration from the state's diverse natural beauty. An avid hiker, she loves exploring and photographing California's wild coasts, mountains, deserts, and seasonal blooms.

Her love of travel also extends into her photography, where she strives to capture the distinct character and beauty of each place she visits. Her work has appeared in exhibitions across the U.S. and abroad.



To see more of Tami's work, visit: [tbsojkaphotography.com](http://tbsojkaphotography.com)

Kachou Fuugetsu — “Flower, Bird, Wind, Moon” — is a Japanese phrase that reminds us to find beauty and wisdom in nature's quiet moments.

Through vibrant flowers, ocean tides, and the quiet presence of wildlife, the images included in this exhibit seek to reflect the interconnectedness of all life — inviting us to pause, reflect, and remember our bond with nature and each other.

In a time when so much of the natural world stands at risk, this work is both a meditation and a call to care. It offers hope and a reminder that beauty endures only through our willingness to protect it.

A portion of the proceeds from this exhibit will go to the Big Sur Land Trust, helping preserve California's wild and sacred landscapes — places that remind us of who we are, and what we share.

## President's Corner



### November Reflections: Gratitude, Connections, and Times to Meet

Dear Beloved Community,

Gratitude, as Anglo-Irish poet, and philosopher David Whyte reminds us, “is not a passive response to something we have been . . . it is being awake in the presence of everything that lives within and without us.” In that spirit, in this Thanksgiving month, I invite you to reflect on how we, as UUCMP, are meeting the moment—both in our relationships within our church community and in our shared mission to the broader community in which we live.



As we prepare for our Thanksgiving potluck—our “Friendsgiving” (see page 5) —I’m struck by how deeply gratitude and community intertwine. This congregation thrives not only because of shared values, but because of the ways we show up for one another: with casseroles, conversation, and care. As we gather for Friendsgiving, let’s remember that “gratitude turns what we have into enough” (Aesop). Bring a dish, bring a story, bring your heart. Together, we’ll give thanks not just for what we have, but for who we are becoming.

As to reaching beyond our local church com-

munity, have you engaged with the Unitarian Universalist Association’s “Meet the Moment” program? It’s a call to deepen our spiritual practices, expand our justice work, and reimagine what congregational life can be. If you’ve participated or are curious, I’d love to hear your thoughts.

You may have seen our recent ads in local papers (Monterey Weekly and Pine Cone), describing UUCMP a “shelter from the storms” of life and as a community that says yes to joy, love, courage, and hope. These aren’t just poetic phrases—they’re promises for action. We are here for one another and for the world around us, in joy and in struggle, and we welcome all who seek connection, meaning, and hope.

This monthly Nuusletter, our weekly newsletters and website offer dozens of updated ways to help in reaching out to our broader community regarding vital social justice concerns, especially in these times of stress.

As an example, before our Thanksgiving feasting begins, mark your calendar for November 9<sup>th</sup> after church, when we will host a Watsonville Law Center fundraiser right here at UUCMP. The Watsonville Law Center provides free legal services to low-income individuals on California's Central Coast, a vital service right now. It’s a powerful opportunity to support justice and equity in our wider community. See page 9.

In gratitude, faith, and fellowship,

Ray Krise  
President, Board of Trustees  
Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula

## Vegetarian Recipe

### Easy Black Bean Soup

From [twopeasandtheirpod.com](http://twopeasandtheirpod.com)

#### Ingredients

Yield: 6 servings

1 tablespoon olive oil  
1 large yellow onion, *chopped*  
1 large carrot, *chopped*  
1 celery rib, *chopped*  
1 red bell pepper, *stemmed, seeded, and chopped*  
4 cloves garlic, *minced*  
60 oz (4 cans) black beans, *rinsed and drained*  
32 oz vegetable broth  
1 tablespoon ground cumin  
½ teaspoon dried oregano  
1 bay leaf  
Kosher salt and black pepper, *to taste*  
1 tablespoon fresh lime juice  
¼ cup chopped cilantro  
Garnish options: avocado, cilantro, shredded cheese, plain Greek yogurt or sour cream, sliced green onion



#### Instructions

1. In a large pot, heat the olive oil over medium high heat. Add the onion, carrot, celery, and red pepper. Cook until vegetables are tender, stirring occasionally, about 5 minutes. Add the garlic and cook for 2 minutes.
2. Stir in the black beans, vegetable broth, cumin, oregano, bay leaf, salt, and pepper. Turn the soup to low and let simmer for 25 minutes.
3. Remove the bay leaf. If you want to thicken the soup, use an immersion blender to purée some of the soup for a thicker consistency but don't blend it completely, just a little to thicken it up. If you don't have an immersion blender, you can carefully transfer 2 to 3 cups of the soup to a blender and blend until smooth. Stir the pureed soup back into the pot.
4. Stir in the cilantro and fresh lime juice. Ladle the soup into bowls and serve warm with desired toppings.

#### Nutrition

Calories: 428 cal. Carbs: 75g, Protein: 26g, Fat: 4g, Sat Fat: 1g, Fiber: 26g, Sugar: 3g



## Environmental Justice

In the October Environmental Justice meeting, we focused on the need for support for Indivisible Monterey's Climate Justice Working Group. Indivisible is a nation-wide organization working for progressive change; there are many local Indivisible groups, including Indivisible Monterey. Within Indivisible Monterey, there are several working groups focusing on specific areas, including Immigrant Rights, Healthcare, and the newly started Climate Justice Working Group, of which I'm a member.

Given all the immediate crises, it's easy to put something intangible like climate change off to work on later. Unfortunately, later is too late. Scientific evidence indicates that the world is rapidly approaching a tipping point after which the impacts of climate change will get much, much worse. If that happens, all the immediate issues will also get much worse as natural disasters and spreading diseases lead to more refugees, more homelessness, and more healthcare crises, all of which will hit marginalized communities the hardest. So for future generations, and

justice for all, it's imperative that we address climate issues now.

Since the Indivisible Climate Justice Working Group is just getting started, now is a great time to join and give your input. So far, we're planning to work for Climate Justice at all levels. We hope to work with other local groups to help make information available so people can electrify their homes. We plan to work to improve public transit in our area. We hope to develop and promote climate-related state level legislation while at the same time opposing federal attacks on climate justice. We're gathering information on how to follow the lead of indigenous people in some Latin American countries to work for actual legal rights for aspects of nature.

We're also very open to suggestions, and we'd love to have more people working with us. We're working on finding a regular meeting time; you can contact me (Rebecca Irwin) at church for updates or more information.

-- Rebecca Irwin

## Join the Conversation-- with the UUA's Meet the Moment Program!

Imagining the future of Unitarian Universalism together, *Meet the Moment* is a framework for collective conversation, discernment, and strategizing about how our faith can be its most impactful in the context of new realities for Unitarian Universalism.

A new wave of shared conversations (called "Wave Cohorts") via Zoom has become available, and you can join one of these conversations. Topics include: "What Keeps You Up at Night?" "Now What: An Organizing Response to 'What Shall We do?'" "Queer and Trans Communities in Crisis," "The Practice of Covenantal Living," "The UU Racial Justice Ecosystem," and more.

To learn more about the *Meet the Moment* program and to find additional information about how to sign up to participate in one of the UUA conducted conversations click here:

<https://www.uua.org/congregations/meet-the-moment/wave-cohorts/fall-2025>

Unitarian Universalist Church  
of the Monterey Peninsula  
490 Aguajito Road  
Carmel, CA 93923

**Office Hours**

The office is open for limited hours:  
10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Wednesdays and  
Fridays.  
Email to [office@uucmp.org](mailto:office@uucmp.org)

**Co-Ministers**

the Revs. Elaine and Axel Gehrman  
[minister@uucmp.org](mailto:minister@uucmp.org)

**Director of Religious Exploration**  
Shannon Morrison  
[dre@uucmp.org](mailto:dre@uucmp.org)

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**Caring Network**  
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