



NUUSLETTER

of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula

Theme: Awakening Curiosity

Sunday Services at 10:30 a.m. in person and via Zoom

May 3

“A Curious Crowd”

Rev. Axel Gehrman and Worship Associate Allysson Mc Donald

We are a congregation of curious folks: seekers and skeptics, religious wanderers and wonderers, “questioning, reflecting, learning, leading . . .,” we say. We strive to “welcome all,” which means meeting strangers, making friends, and in the process creating a caring community devoted to justice and love. How might we each participate in this ambitious and transformative endeavor?

This morning’s service will include a recognition of new members who have joined the church this past year. And following the service, we will gather for our Congregational Annual Meeting. We encourage all our members to participate in this brief, but important gathering.

May 10

“In Search of Awe and Wonder”

Rev. Elaine Gehrman and Worship Associate Be Astengo

When we think of awe-inspiring events or experiences, we often think of momentous, extraordinary occurrences, once-in-a-blue-moon happenings, that are infrequent and hard to come by. Whereas it just might be that awesome and wonderful things surround us all the time, if we know where and how to look.

May 17

“Our Journeys of Exploration”

Rev. Axel Gehrman, DRE, and Worship Associate Rebecca Irwin

Ours is a community of religious learning and exploration, all of us teachers and learners, each of us in search of greater truths and deeper meaning. This spirit of exploration and curiosity is most apparent in our activities that involve all ages. This morning’s multi-generational service will celebrate this year’s Religious Exploration program: the children, youth, and adults who have participated.

May 24

“Memorial Day”

Worship Associates Jon Czarnecki and Bjorn Nilsson

Why do we celebrate sadness? Memorial Day is the saddest national holiday we have. Most of us, however, recognize the day as the start of the summer season, a season of play and joy. Susan Cain reminds us that with the sweet, comes the bitter. We will explore curiosity thru the lens of bittersweetness that will help us achieve a deep and rich appreciation of what we have and what we have lost.

May 31

“A Questioning Faith”

Rev. Axel Gehrman and Worship Associate Annan Paterson

Unitarian Universalism is a creedless faith. Ours is a history of heretics, who have questioned doctrine and dogma, as well as traditional religious authorities. We are free thinkers, guided by our own conscience and lived experience, forever in search of truth and meaning. I wonder -- which religious questions matter most for you?

In This Issue . . .

Page	
2	Ministers’ Message
3	Men’s Breakfast
3	Publication Deadlines
3	Scheduled Events
4-5	Religious Exploration
6	Shared Plate May
6	Grief Group
7	Annual Meeting
7	Musical Offerings
8	Phil Hawthorne
8	A Space for Community
9	Stewardship
9	Book Discussion
10	Join Our Church
10	Mission Statement
10	Affinity Groups
10	Worship Associates Needed
11	Art News
12	Marsh Pitman
13	Men’s I-HELP
14	Sharon Sadler
15	President’s Column
16 - 17	Environmental Justice
18	May Day for Immigrants
19	Vegetarian Recipe
	See the calendar at
	www.uucmp.org

Religious Exploration

Children (pre K - 11) and teens (12-18) attend our worship service on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. and go to their respective Religious Exploration classes following the Story for All Ages.

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, May 9, at 8:30 a.m.

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

Annual Congregational Meeting is Sunday, May 3, 12 noon. in person and via Zoom. See page 7.

Board of Trustees meets Wednesday, May 20, 5:30 p.m.

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

Celebration of Life for Marsh Pitman is Saturday, May 9, at 2 p.m. at UUCMP.

Celebration of Life for Phil Hawthorne is Saturday, May 23, at 3:30 p.m. at Canterbury Woods. For details contact Julie Hawthorne at julieannhawthorne@gmail.com

Committee on Family Ministry meets Sunday, May 24, 12:45 - 1:45 p.m. via Zoom.

Communications Committee meets on Sunday, May 31, at 12:30 p.m., in the Conference Room.

Environmental Justice meets Sunday, May 10, 10:40 a.m. in the Fireplace Room.

Friday Game Night is canceled for May.

I-HELP for Men is Sunday, May 10, 5 p.m. Sign up on the Meal Train (page 13) or contact Greg Simmons.

I-HELP for Women is Sunday, May 24. For more information contact Mibs McCarthy.

Membership Committee meets Wednesday, May 27, at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

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

Music Committee meets on Tuesday, May 26. at 6 p.m. via Zoom. music@uucmp.org

NUUSletter deadline for June is Saturday, May 16.

Program Council meets on Tuesday, May 5, at 12:30 p.m. via Zoom. Contact Mibs McCarthy programcouncil@uucmp.org

Social Justice does not meet in May. Next meeting is Sunday, June 7 at 11:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary and via Zoom.

Stewardship meets Wednesday, May 6, 1 p.m. via Zoom.

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

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION



Awakening Curiosity



Dear UUCMP Families,

Greetings from Ohio! Spring is in full bloom here, with the warm, humid days alternating between thunderstorms and bursts of sunshine. As we approach the end of both the church and school year, we're all starting to look forward to the summer days ahead.

This shift in seasons feels like a natural invitation to embrace May's theme of *Awakening Curiosity*. Throughout the month, we'll explore what it means to open ourselves to new ways of asking questions and allowing space for curiosity—choosing to pause and explore instead of jumping to conclusions or accepting preconceived notions.

In our sessions, we'll reflect on how to awaken curiosity around the following topics:

- ◆ **Session One:** A Bridge to a More Just World
- ◆ **Session Two:** A Bridge to a More Diverse World
- ◆ **Session Three:** A Bridge to a More Exciting World
- ◆ **Session Four:** A Bridge to a World with Wiser People
- ◆ **Session Five:** A Bridge to the World of Our Future Selves

Additionally, we are excited to conclude *Our Whole Lives (OWL)* for Grades K-1 this month. This eight-session, age-appropriate program helps children and families explore topics such as bodies, relationships, identity, and safety. The program includes a re-

quired parent orientation and provides opportunities for continued conversations at home. Registration is required, with a suggested \$25 donation.

Lastly, please note that the Committee on Family Ministry will meet virtually on the fourth Sunday of the month. Be sure to check the weekly newsletter for further details.

With warmth and gratitude,

Shannon Morrison (she/her)
Director of Religious Exploration



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 indirectly offering your time, or directly with our kids in the classrooms - thanks for making our UUCMP campus a safe and fun place to be!

A THANK YOU to our April Volunteers!

Rebecca Irwin, Karen Brown, Corey Brunson and Warren Finch - Thank you for filling in for me as the DRE for the day each Sunday in April - and for continuing to do so in May. **Karen Brown** again worked hard to feature stories of Purim, Women, Ostara, Spring and books that fit the monthly theme of Paying Attention. Thank you Karen for your dedication to our RE Library. A big thanks to **Andrea Rivas** and **Warren Finch** for your time and dedication leading our K1 OWL class! Thank you also to **Ali Shappard** and **Rebecca Irwin** for your time volunteering with our youth and RE team. Thank you **An McDowell** for the beautiful blanket made to welcome Baby Miles! **Zeana, Lindsay** and **Aydan** thank you for your help with the potluck and connection. **Korah, Roxanne, Murtaza** and **Catherine** for your time in the nursery! Always, thank you to **Carol Collin** for collecting birthday wishes and sending them in the form of cards to our youth. The kids love getting their special UUCMP birthday cards.

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

-- continued

NOTE: We return to one service May 3 at 10:30 a.m.

May 10 is Mother's Day

May 17 is RE Sunday!

May 31 final session of K1 OWL (celebration June 7)

Other May Dates of importance:

Interfaith

Beltane (Pagan/Wiccan) - May 1 (more [here](#))

Vesak - Celebration of Buddha's Birthday (Buddhist) - May 1, 2026 (more [here](#), [here](#), & [here](#))

Pentecost (Christian) - May 24, 2026 (more [here](#))

Shavuot (Jewish) - May 21 - May 23, 2026 (more [here](#) and [here](#))

Eid ul-Adha (Muslim) - begins May 26-27, 2026 (more [here](#) and [here](#))

Unitarian Universalist

Anniversary of William Ellery Channing's Baltimore Sermon, "Unitarian Christianity" - May 5th (1819)

UUA Founding Day (1961) - May 12 (more [here](#))

Emerson's birthday - May 25 (1803)

American Unitarian Association founded May 25 (1825)

National & Cultural

Jewish American Heritage Month

Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month

Mental Health Awareness Month

May Day/International Workers Day - May 1 (more [here](#))

Cinco de Mayo - May 5 (more [here](#))

Day of Awareness for Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls/ People/ Relatives - May 5

Mother's Day (US & Canada) - May 10, 2026, second Sunday of May

First HIV/AIDS death in North America - May 15 (1969)

International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia - May 17

Brown v. Board of Education - May 17, 1954 (more [here](#))

Plessy v. Ferguson - May 18, 1896 (more [here](#))

Agender Pride Day - May 19

Birthday of Malcolm X - May 19, 1925 (more [here](#))

Victoria Day (Canada) May 18, 2026

Harvey Milk, gay rights activist, born - May 22, 1930

Pansexual and Panromantic Awareness and Visibility Day - May 24

Memorial Day (US) - May 25, 2026

For Fun and On the Fringe

World Press Freedom Day - May 3

Star Wars Day - May 4



May Shared Plate Recipient
UUs for Justice in the Middle East (UUJME)

Founded in 1971, UUJME is a UUA-related social justice organization of education and advocacy siding with love with the people of Palestine-Israel. We have chapters and advocates in more than 40 congregations in the United States.

The mission of UUJME is to work within the Unitarian Universalist community to educate and mobilize individuals, congregations and denominational leaders to recognize and counter inequality and injustice in Palestine-Israel and to support our allies in the global justice and anti-oppression movements.

This organization of UUs is very active in providing information, workshops, materials and support to people and groups concerned about Palestine-Israel issues.

Their vision statement is "A just peace in Palestine-Israel that reflects our UU values of respect for the inherent worth and dignity of every human being and justice, equity and compassion in human relations."

Their values — As Unitarian Universalists (UUs), we lift up the core value of love for every person and the sanctity of international law. We support the transformation of UUs toward greater action for justice for Palestinians, who have endured the violent impacts of Zionism. We are committed to work that is accountable to the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people including ending military occupation, settler colonialism, and apartheid, and supporting the right of return for Palestinian refugees, as affirmed by the United Nations.”

You can sign up for e-mails at <https://www.uujme.org/join>

And please check out their resources page <https://www.uujme.org/resources>

UUCMP Grief and Growth Circle

Our supportive Grief and Growth Group invites you to join us as we keep alive the stories of our dear ones and share strategies and resources that have proven helpful during our individual journeys through loss. This month we will meet on Wednesday, May 20, 10-11:30 a.m. in the Fireplace Room at the UU Church. We are also meeting earlier in the month for lunch at Julia’s Vegetarian Restaurant. Contact Sharon Miller at 831-601-0403 for more information.



Save the Date!

Make sure you have marked your calendar to attend the UUCMP Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 3, at 12 p.m. after the 10:30 a.m. service, in person and on Zoom. We will vote on the budget for fiscal year 2026-2027 and on new Board members and other elected positions.

Be there and attend the meeting to learn what's happening, participate in the discussions, and to cast your vote on these important issues.

The logo for the Annual Meeting, with the words "ANNUAL" and "MEETING" stacked vertically. Each letter is a different color, creating a vibrant, multi-colored effect.

Musical Offerings



know if you would like to be part of the zoom meetings to be added to our email list.
music@uucmp.org

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!

This month, the choir will be singing on May 10th (Mother's Day) and May 24th.

Music Sunday: The church choir will be providing six choral anthems during the service on Sunday June 14th. It will surely be the highlight of the season! Join us at 10:30am, Sunday, June 14th.

The **Music Committee** meets every 4th Tuesday of the month, please let our Music Director



Would you like to meet with other musicians for a jam session? No experience needed just the will and the want to create music with others! Looking for all musicians to play an egg shaker, tambourine, guitar, drums, ukulele, bass guitar, bongos, claves, and more! Email Jorge Torrez at music@uucmp.org for more information!

-- Jorge Torrez



Phil Hawthorne

Philip Eugene Hawthorne died February 28, 2026, in Pacific Grove, California, at the age of 91. He was born July 20, 1934, in Sidney, New York. He was the son of Philip Eugene Hawthorne Senior and Hilda (Peggy) Hawthorne. Peggy Hawthorne's maiden name was Hilda (Peggy) Pauline Justin.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Miriam Hawthorne; his son, Dwight (Aidan) Hawthorne; and his brother, Richard Hawthorne.

He is survived by his partner Katie Goff; his children William (Bill) Hawthorne, Julie Hawthorne, and Maia Stavney-Jones; and his grandchildren, Avery Roth-Hawthorne, Carl Stavney and Linnea Stavney.

Phil was known as “a man of many hats” (because he wore many hats) and because of the variety of jobs he held, including radio broadcaster, concrete tester, public administrator and emergency preparedness coordinator. He was proudest of his consulting work with non-profit organizations and city and county governments, using a systems approach to help them increase their effectiveness.

Phil was a talented craftsman whose skills included wood turning and wood carving. He and his late wife Miriam had a love of Japanese art and culture, and together they built Japanese gardens and tea houses. He was well-known for storytelling and readers theatre; he had a voice made for radio.

Phil spent his life in service of others, including volunteering for The Undersea Foundation in Santa Barbara, CA; storytelling for the Monterey Historical Society; pastoral care through the Unitarian Universalist church; and coordinating a group of volunteers to read to their bed-bound neighbors.

Phil was a lifelong learner and shared his knowledge of many topics with his kids and grandkids. He and his partner Katie enjoyed discussing the many books they read together. He especially enjoyed reading poetry to her. They also enjoyed watching sunsets at the beach.

You are invited to a celebration of Phil's life on Saturday, May 23, at 3:30 p.m., in the auditorium at Canterbury Woods: 651 Sinex Avenue, Pacific Grove. For questions, please contact Julie Hawthorne at julieannhawthorne@gmail.com

In lieu of flowers, please honor his memory by reading a poem or story to someone in need of company, comfort or a laugh.

OUR SANCTUARY OF HOPE: A SPACE FOR COMMUNITY, PURPOSE, AND ACTION

If you are feeling isolated, powerless, and angry amid the unceasing barrage of social repression at home, conflicts abroad, and political division everywhere, you are not alone. Many of us have felt the urge to withdraw from the world or a mounting need to fight back and change the story.

There is a place where you can turn. Unitarian Universalism provides a sanctuary for you, your family and loved ones—an open-minded, non-creedal religious community where everyone—theists, atheists, agnostics, religious refugees, and seekers of meaning—is truly welcome.

We offer more than just comfort: we believe in direct engagement. We say YES to joy, love, courage, and hope, grounding our values in active resistance to injustice and a commitment to a resilient, loving future. Our Sunday service focuses on doing good through peace, the environment, LGBTQ+ rights, and immigration advocacy. We strive to improve the world every day, knowing it takes all of us together to survive and thrive.

To learn more, come to a Sunday service at 10:30 a.m., follow us on Instagram or Facebook, check out our website at www.UUCMP.org, or call 831-624-7404.

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





Well done, UUCMP!

Including a couple of financial commitments which arrived after the March 31 end of our Spring 2026 Budget Drive (aka pledge campaign), 141 members and friends of UUCMP have stated their intent to donate a total of \$462,895 for the church's operating budget in the coming fiscal year.

This financial generosity reflects the generosity of spirit which we encourage as Unitarian Universalists. We also want to acknowledge the regular generosity of those who choose to donate to UUCMP more spontaneously, without having registered a pledge. While pledges help the church prepare an annual budget, all contributions allow us to pursue programs and worship services for our common benefit.

If you are still thinking about submitting a pledge to donate in the coming year, the online Financial Commitment form will remain available through spring 2027, at this URL:

<https://uucmp.breezechms.com/form/3d1e809431>



or by using this QR code with your smartphone camera:

Remember that members and friends of UUCMP can track their contributions of record and progress in fulfilling their pledge through the "Giving" page of their own Profile within the church's Breeze data system. How To information can be found here:

<https://uucmp.org/breeze-database/>

You can always reach your Stewardship team via email sent to stewardship@uucmp.org.

Thank you, UUCMP! Let's celebrate with some cake after Sunday services and the Annual Congregational Meeting on May 3.

Stewardship Committee

Steve Johnson, Carol Collin, Katie Hamilton, Gretchen Hausmann, Jo Ann Novoson, Rev. Axel

Environmental Book Discussion Group

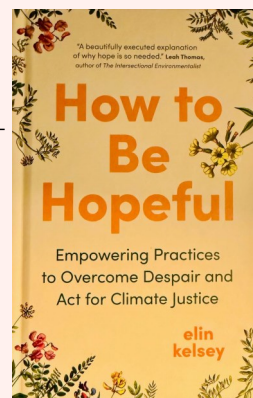
We are continuing to read and discuss Elin Kelsey's book How to be Hopeful: Empowering Practices to Overcome Despair and Act for Climate Justice—on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 7-8:30 p.m. on Zoom. This is the schedule:

May 12—Stance 3 – I Am Emotional, pp. 83 - 116

May 26 – Stance 4 -- I am on a Reparative Quest of Transformation,
pp. 117 - 171

June 9—Stance 5 – I Am Nature, pp. 173 - 241

For questions or more information contact Rev. Elaine.



Join Our Church!

In these challenging 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 in May both face-to-face and via Zoom.

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.

Art News



Becky Olvera Schultz

Indigenous Expressions

April 3 - May 31, 2026

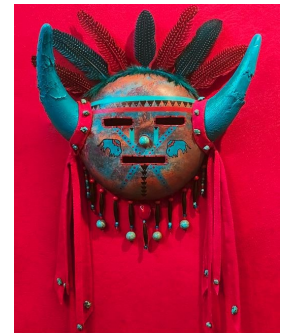
Artist Statement:

"I have directed my consuming interest in the native peoples of the Americas into my own personal art expression. I derive immense satisfaction from putting life into the materials I work with. My art is an extension of my spirit, a piece of my personal vision and a constant source of comfort and healing for me."

When I was young I always wanted to be an artist. After high school, I wanted to take art classes in college. My mother was a nurse and she felt I should go pre-medical as I'd have a better chance of earning a living. Taking pre-med classes didn't work for me and feeling not supported by family at the time, I dropped out of college. Several years went by, and I ended up in the publication industry where I interviewed businesses, took their photos and wrote editorials, and sold print advertising. I was good at it. and I eventually forgot about being an artist.

This changed when I lost my brother. While I was grieving, a friend suggested I take a Native American drum making class as a distraction. It was fun. I remembered again how good it felt to work with my hands! It was such a centering and calm experience. I realized that if I had not lost my brother I may have never gone back to art so I feel his death was a gift to me to rediscover myself.

Soon after that I took a clay class and discovered I was good at sculpting faces. My focus was indigenous faces. My work was inspired by images in books but most of my pieces were faces that just emerged from the clay from my own vision. I started painting the faces and adding horse hair and other adornments.



Bison Gourd Mask



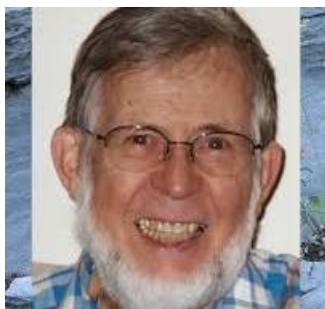
Powwow Dancer

When my masks were displayed publicly some people were intimidated or scared by how realistic they were. That's when I started making clay and gourd masks in a Southwestern style which were more whimsical and colorful. Eventually I started making rawhide shields as a compliment to both styles of masks.

Always one to crave variety, I began creating two-dimensional mixed media works which included photography, serigraphy, painting, photo transfer, collage, dolls and other works. I often use bold contrast in my images, and my Native masks are usually painted in the traditional Native American colors of the four directions, red, black, white and yellow. My Southwestern pieces, however, are in many different colors.

I believe my own indigenous bloodline, natural talent, research and travel experiences have all contributed to my specific style of art. Over the years my art has been featured in nine museum exhibitions, galleries in several states as well as included in countless national and local exhibitions and Santa Cruz Open Studios twelve times. My art has been featured in the national magazines Cowboys & Indians, Wild West and Native Peoples.

native-expressions.com native-art-gift-shop.com powwow-power.com



Marsh Pitman

Paul Marsh Pitman, Jr. was born November 14, 1927, in San Francisco; his sister Elizabeth was born in 1929. For health reasons, Marsh spent summers from 1936 to 1939 at his aunt and uncle's farm in Novato. His family moved in 1939 to San Jose when his father became Dean of Men at San Jose State College. Marsh attended schools in San Jose through his junior year of high school. During his senior year, the family lived in Los Angeles so Paul Sr. could take graduate classes at the University of Southern California.

Marsh attended San Jose State, joining the army in 1946 with the goal of getting funding for college through the GI bill, spending some time in Japan. He returned in January of 1948, and graduated from San Jose State in June of 1950, having studied biological and physical sciences. Marsh then attended Stanford, earning a Masters of Education and a teaching credential. Following summer work as a seasonal naturalist in Yosemite Valley in 1951, and study at Hopkins Marine Station in summer 1952, Marsh started teaching biology at Hayward High School. In 1951, he had met Paul and Mary Beard at the home of friend Bruce McNeil. In 1953, he met Carol Zumwalt, who worked as an occupational therapist. The couple soon hit it off. They were married on August 29, 1954. Back in Hayward, Carol got a provisional credential and taught special education. Their son, Paul Marsh Pitman III was born in 1955 and daughter Myra in 1957.

In the summer of 1960 the Pitmans, McNeils, and Beards were at Camp Unalayee, an interracial wilderness camp for 10 to 16 year olds. On sabbatical in 1960, Marsh worked at the University of Arizona in Tucson as a teaching assistant in botany. He returned to Hayward High School until he moved in 1966 to Merced, then taught botany and other life sciences at Merced College. Marsh joined the Sierra Club in Merced, participating on national High Light, Base Camp, and High Trip outings and has been involved in environmental activism.

On sabbatical in 1973 – 1974, Marsh traveled to London, Kenya, Nepal, and Switzerland, studying wild-life, conservation and agricultural practices. He was assistant instructor in 1974 on Swiss Alpine Botany and Ecology class for UC Extension. Marsh continued at Merced College until 1988, working spring semester only from 1983 to 1988 so that he could lead tours as a naturalist.

Sadly, his wife Carol's multiple myeloma stopped her traveling in August 2005; she died on January 2, 2006. They had visited the Peninsula many times, and Marsh made many trips to Monterey, visiting his friend Mary Beard. Marsh and Mary were married on May 19, 2007, and Marsh joined UUCMP. Since then, Marsh served many roles at UUCMP. He's been on the Membership Committee, Endowment, Finance Committee, and the Men's Breakfast. He has participated in Grounds Cleanup days, been a canvasser, worked on the Capital Campaign, and been a substitute usher. They continued their regular visits to Yosemite and camping trips with their families in the Trinity Alps, and enjoying visits with their children and grandchildren.

At age 91, Marsh impressed everyone by climbing with a group high above Tioga Pass to experience once again that rare and special alpine ecosystem. In his last years, Marsh tended their small garden in Monterey and made sure there were always flowers in their home. By his 98th birthday last fall, Marsh was becoming weaker and slower but still enjoying life immensely. Hospitalized for systemic failures, when asked how he was doing, he answered thoughtfully, "I'm still curious!" He chose to enter home hospice care in January and died peacefully on February 28, 2026.

There will be a Celebration of Life service on Saturday, May 9, at 2 p.m. at UUCMP. RSVP to the family <https://partey.io/wl5VAXLr4idD>

Keep on Cooking into the Spring! Men's I-HELP Program at UUCMP Next Meal May 10, 2026

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, text, email or phone call, all methods are welcome.

Our next meal is May 10, 2026, and we need your help to provide donations of food for meals. Even more than 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, 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 are thinking about contributing or have questions. Please, to ensure we can use all the food that is provided, and that we can serve the men a healthy meal, we request no unsolicited food items be provided.

Please contact Greg Simmons if you wish to volunteer to work with I-HELP, want to know what is needed for the next meal, and learn how to make food contributions.

For questions, ideas, or comments: gregs2001@gmail.com, 602-361-1015. Text, email or phone calls are all fine.

Thank you for supporting this important mission of our church!

The details:

May 10 Meal train Link: <https://mealtrain.com/zmkzre>

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 for Meal Train by Saturday before 5 p.m.



Sharon Sadler

Sharon Mansur Sadler, a longtime member of UUCMP, passed away peacefully at age 81, surrounded by family, on April 19, 2026, after a serious illness.

Born on February 8, 1945, in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, and raised in Springfield, Massachusetts, as the eldest of four children, Sharon grew up to become a woman of remarkable warmth, curiosity, and love — someone who had a gift for making people feel at home wherever she went. It was at Classical High School in Springfield that Sharon met the great love of her life, Robert (Bob) Sadler Jr. What began as a high school romance became one of those rare, enduring love stories — the two were devoted partners for 62 years, traveling the world, building a life together, and rarely straying far from each other's side.

Sharon earned her bachelor's degree in education from the University of Massachusetts in 1966, and she married Bob soon after. They began their life together in the Hartford, Connecticut area, where Sharon taught fourth grade. She and Bob were anti-racism activists during the civil rights era, with a particular focus on fair housing practices in Hartford, where their children were born. After moving to Middletown, Connecticut, Sharon earned a bachelor's degree in horticulture from the University of Connecticut and founded Sharon Sadler Interiorscapes, a thriving business that brought large-scale plant installations into commercial spaces. Her abiding love for plants and flowers was a thread woven through her entire life. Before moving from Middletown, Sharon also worked in the Alumni Office at Wesleyan University.

In the years that followed, Sharon and Bob embarked on one of the great adventures of their marriage — three years living in London, where Sharon took French lessons, volunteered at Kew Gardens, and the two explored Europe widely, from Paris to the far corners of the continent. It was a chapter that deepened her love of the world and her sense of adventure.

They next enjoyed life in sunny San Carlos, California, where Sharon taught adult ESL classes in nearby Palo Alto. The couple eventually settled in Pacific Grove, where they spent many years taking long walks and never tiring of the ocean views. Sharon volunteered generously at the Monterey Bay Aquarium and at UUCMP; she and Bob each served as president of the Board. A watercolor enthusiast and tireless explorer, she and Bob continued to travel — back to Europe, to Australia, Hawaii, and beyond.

In her final year of life, Sharon made her home in Chicago with her daughter's family, where she found her way into yet another community and made it her own. She joined the Unitarian Church of Evanston and became involved there. She worked on gardening and other projects that brought her joy. Wherever she landed, Sharon had a way of drawing people in — strangers became friends, and friends became family. She was quick to laugh, and her humor was part of what made her presence so easy to love. She was a person of joy and substance all of her life.

President's Corner



Dear Members and Friends of UUCMP,

A couple of weeks ago, I came home from church with a warm, glowing feeling that stayed with me all afternoon. It wasn't the sermon that Sunday, though that was, as always, thoughtful and moving. It wasn't really the music in the service either, though the music was topical and uplifting, reminding us all of the beauty we can create together. No, the warmth I felt came from something quieter and more human: the conversations I had with fellow church members after the service.

There is something sacred about those moments, standing in the Welcome Hall, lingering in the sanctuary, greeting one another with genuine interest, concern, compassion, and curiosity. In those simple exchanges, I felt the presence of our covenanted community more strongly than at any other moment that morning. A community with **love at the center** and swirling around that center our shared commitments: **justice, equity, transformation, pluralism, interdependence, and generosity**. These are not abstractions. They are lived, embodied, and practiced, often in the smallest gestures.

Love, in our Unitarian Universalist tradition, is not merely a feeling. It is a way of being. It shows up as compassion, empathy, and kindness. It shows up in the way we listen to one another, the way we hold each other's stories, the way we make room for difference and complexity. It shows up in the way we remind one another that we are not alone.

My warm feeling that Sunday was, at its heart, a feeling of **hope**, hope born from the mutual support of this community. It reminded me of the founder of Methodism John Wesley's famous line about his heart being "strangely warmed" after meeting with the pietistical devotional Moravians, whose emphasis on interpersonal connection moved him more deeply than any Anglican creed or dogma. Wesley discovered that religion is lived most powerfully not in rigid belief but in the quality of relationship. I felt something similar that recent Sunday morning: a reminder that faith is not an idea we hold but a way we hold one another.

And this matters because hope, based on love and lived faithfully, is not passive. Hope is active. Hope is the outcome of resistance and resilience in the face of the forces that diminish life: racism, selfishness, homophobia, patriarchy, and all the systems that tell us to shrink our hearts rather than expand them. Hope is the stubborn insistence that love still has work to do in this world.

Human beings have a natural attraction to awe, to the mystery of our existence, and to the importance of love and cooperation in life's experience. Whenever I feel overwhelmed or helpless amidst the whirlwind of negativity swirling around us, I think of this congregation, of your faces, your stories, your courage, and I am refreshed. I remember that we Unitarian Universalists are, in the best sense, **misfits for love**. Misfits with a mission. Misfits, who believe that compassion is stronger than cruelty, that community is stronger than isolation, that love is stronger than fear.

And I believe, truly, that we will win with love where all else fails. As the month of May unfolds, may we continue to warm one another's hearts. May we keep practicing hope. May we keep choosing love.

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

Environmental Justice

This article is from yaleclimateconnections.org
by [Karin Kirk](#) April 2, 2026

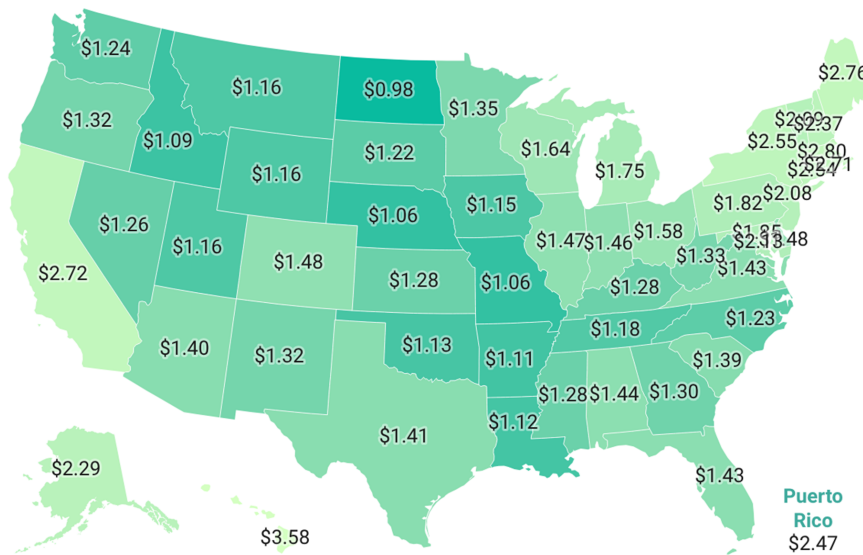
What's cheaper: Fueling your car with gas or electricity?

Here's the answer for every U.S. state.

The price of gasoline has spiked amid a U.S.-led war with Iran. It's not uncommon for the fossil fuel economy to be disrupted by geopolitical conflicts, but now consumers have more options than ever to protect themselves from price hikes. Electric Vehicles (EVs) are already putting a dent into oil consumption worldwide, and as gas prices climb higher, the simple efficiency of an EV could become all the more appealing. In all 50 states, the cost of home-charging an EV is considerably cheaper than fueling a car with gasoline.

Price of gas got you down? Here's how cheap it is to charge an EV right now.

This map shows the cost of charging an EV by an amount equivalent to one gallon of gasoline. Figures reflect electricity prices as of January 2026.



Vehicles used for the comparison are the 2025 gasoline-powered Hyundai Kona and the 2025 Hyundai Kona Electric.

This analysis is based on home charging.

Map: Karin Kirk for Yale Climate Connections • Source: Energy Information Administration and FuelEconomy.gov • Created with Datawrapper

This map shows the cost of charging an EV at home. The price is expressed in “eGallons”, which is the cost of charging an EV by an amount equivalent to one gallon of gasoline. I wrote about [the math behind the eGallon](#) and plotted a similar map of prices in early 2024, when gas was relatively cheap. And even then, EVs were much more economical to drive. But now, consumers have even more incentive to make the switch.

EVs are super-efficient

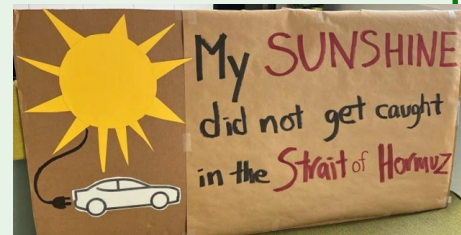
One reason EVs are a bargain to fuel is that electric drivetrains are vastly [more efficient](#) than internal combustion engines. Consider a gasoline price of \$4 per gallon. In an internal combustion vehicle, around three dollars' worth of that gasoline is lost as waste heat and friction, and only one dollar's worth of the fuel actually moves the car down the road. The rest of the energy is lost in the process.

EVs are much simpler machines: A battery produces an electrical current that spins a rotor, which, in turn, spins the drive axle. EVs also recapture the energy that would otherwise be lost during braking, feeding electricity back into the battery as the vehicle slows down. All told, around 90% of the original energy used to charge a car goes toward propelling the vehicle. Even in the worst-case scenario where an EV is charged on a coal-heavy grid, an EV is still more efficient than a gasoline-burning car. For a full explanation and illustrations, see “[Electric vehicles use half the energy of gas-powered vehicles](#),” which is likely the most cited and reused work I’ve ever written.

Learn more: [Find out which climate action best fits into your life.](#)

Electricity prices don’t spike like oil prices

The price of charging an EV at home is based on the residential price of electricity. Electricity rates don’t spike up and down like oil prices because electricity is regulated, and utilities must seek government approval to raise prices. Utilities are allowed to adjust their rates temporarily to account for variation in fuel prices, but even so, the effect is muted, resulting in a fairly stable price over time.



(Image credit: Karin Kirk)

People can’t make their own gasoline, but they can generate their own electricity

Drivers of gasoline or diesel-powered vehicles are dependent on a single energy type, which makes them vulnerable to supply disruptions. The situation can be even more painful because a commodity like oil commands a global price regardless of where it’s produced.

But electricity can come from multiple sources, and utilities can shift the proportions of different energy sources in their portfolio in order to keep the price down. Electricity is cheaper when demand is low, so some utilities offer discounted rates for off-peak EV charging. Some people charge their EVs with rooftop solar panels, which offers even more protection from rising prices. No matter how many wars are fought over fossil fuels, sunshine remains free.

New EVs cost more to purchase, but used EVs are a value

The price difference between EVs and gasoline-powered cars has been narrowing, but new EVs are still more expensive than their gasoline counterparts. The two types of vehicles are closer in price in the used car market. As of early 2026, buyers paid around \$1,400 more for a used EV than for a similar gasoline vehicle. According to analysts at Recurrent, which tracks the EV market, used EVs are selling more quickly than used gasoline cars, and around 40% of used EVs are selling for less than \$25,000. On average, used EVs have fewer miles and are newer than gasoline cars of the same price.

No, that data center next door won’t make EV charging cost as much as gasoline

Electricity prices are rising, but not by enough to change the basic economics of EV charging. To put things in perspective, residential electricity prices have risen by [27%](#) over the past five years (thanks, in part, to [data centers](#)), which is certainly a problem in its own right. But for EV charging to cost as much as today’s gasoline, electricity prices would have to rise an additional 250%.

MAY DAY FOR IMMIGRANTS!

3 FREE Workshops Friday, May 1

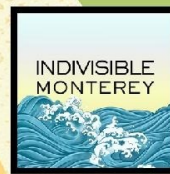
11am-12pm **WHISTLEMANIA** *create whistle kits for community members*

12:30pm-2:30pm **LEGAL OBSERVER TRAINING** *with Solidarity Network*

3pm-6pm **ART & POETRY MAKING** *create signs & poems with artists and poets celebrating immigrant rights. Plus live music with Palenke Arts!*

WHERE? THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF THE MONTEREY PENINSULA 490 Aguajito Rd, Carmel, just off HWY 1

FALL OF FREEDOM



Spicy Miso Lentil Soup

By Ali Slagle

Published April 24, 2025 *New York Times*

This soup is simultaneously comforting, fresh and nasal-clearing — as good for sick days as for those crisp days of spring. The key is a spicy bright-green slurry made by blending a bunch of raw spinach, miso, lime juice, fresh chiles and ginger. Because it's poured into the soup pot of tender lentils and rice right at the end, its color and flavor stays vibrant. For pops of savory nuttiness, top your bowls with slivers of shiitake mushrooms that have been browned in sesame oil. They make this soup especially satisfying, but you could also top bowls with stir-fried or roasted vegetables like asparagus and winter squash.



Ingredients

Yield: 4 servings

- 1 cup green or brown lentils
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup long-grain white rice
- Salt
- 1 (5-ounce) package fresh baby spinach (about 6 cups, not packed)
- $2\frac{1}{2}$ tablespoons white miso
- 1 inch fresh ginger, unpeeled and thinly sliced
- 1 or 2 serrano or jalapeño chiles, de-stemmed and halved
- 1 lime, halved
- 1 tablespoon toasted sesame oil, plus more for serving
- 4 ounces shiitake mushrooms, de-stemmed and thinly sliced

Preparation

Step 1 In a medium or large pot, bring 6 cups of water, the lentils, rice and a pinch of salt to a boil over high. Reduce heat, cover and simmer, stirring occasionally, until the lentils are tender but not mushy and the rice is falling apart, 15 to 20 minutes.

Step 2 While the soup is simmering, in a blender, combine $\frac{1}{4}$ cup water, the spinach, miso, ginger, one serrano and the juice from half the lime. Blend until smooth. Because the mixture will be thinned by the soup, it should be slightly too spicy; blend in more serrano until it is. Set aside.

Step 3 In a large skillet, stir together the oil, mushrooms and a pinch of salt over medium. Cook, stirring occasionally, until the mushrooms are browned, 7 to 9 minutes. Turn off the heat and let sit until the soup is ready.

Step 4 When the lentils are ready, turn off the heat. Stir in the blended greens. (Mixture will thicken as it sits). Season to taste with salt, then serve topped with the mushrooms, a squeeze of lime and a few drops of sesame oil.

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

Office Hours

The office is open for limited hours:
12 p.m. - 2 p.m. on Tuesdays and 10 a.m.
to 2 p.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays.
Email to office@uucmp.org

Co-Ministers

the Revs. Elaine and Axel Gehrman
minister@uucmp.org

Director of Religious Exploration

Shannon Morrison
dre@uucmp.org

Church Administrator

Christi Brekke
831-624-7404 x 2105
admin@uucmp.org

Office Assistant

Karina Briseno
831-624-7404 x 2104
office@uucmp.org

Music Director

Jorge Torrez
831-624-7404 x 2101
music@uucmp.org

Pianists

**Lucy Faridany
Kiefer Taylor
Teruyo Petrocelli**

Caring Network

caringnetwork@uucmp.org

NUUsletter Editor

Carol Collin
newsletter@uucmp.org

Board of Trustees

Ray Krise, *President*
Katie Hamilton, *President Elect*
Carol LeVa, *Secretary*
Robert Brunson, *Treasurer*
Mibs McCarthy,
Program Council Moderator
Warren Finch, Rick Hansen, Meredith
Harrill, Ted Raabe

Ministers Emeriti:

The Revs. Fred and Margaret Keip

Return Service Requested



May 2026

About UUCMP Publications

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