



NUUSLETTER

of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula

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

July 5

"This I Believe"

**Worship Associates Max Cajar, Jon Czarnecki
and Lauren Keenan**

Max, Jon & Lauren will share thoughts on the topic "This I Believe." Simply stated: What are the core principles that guide your life -- a personal credo? As we celebrate our country's 250th birthday, we will focus on the hopes, newly gained insights, anger, recommitments to democracy, and more, of the congregation. And we will add our own perspectives on "This I Believe" in 2026.

July 12

"Summer Music, Summer Reading"

**Worship Associates Annan Paterson and
Jon Czarnecki**

Summer is the rest and recuperation period of ourselves and our spirits. We engage in all sorts of activities to resuscitate our bodies. We engage in music and reading to do the same for our minds and spirits. We will explore the songs and books we especially treasure for our "summer spiritual stimulation." Please join us in this exploration and stimulation of our soul.

July 19

"What Can We Learn From the Fog?"

**Worship Associates Christina Zaro and
Be Astengo**

Fog is a steady summer visitor to our community. It can be thought of as a dreary heaviness to endure, portend a bad hair day, or be a delicate cool moisture bringing hydration to the parched. We explore our different perspectives on fog, and its metaphor for life.

July 26

"Creeds, No; Values Aplenty"

**Worship Associates Allysson McDonald and
Ray Krise**

Though we Unitarian Universalists claim no creed, our living tradition is rich in history, shared values, and a covenantal way of life. This service reflects on our Transcendentalist heritage, our eight principles, and the love-centered commitments that shape who we are becoming together. A service exploring how a creedless faith still forms a deep, durable spiritual home. We are rooted without being bound.

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 Explo-
ration classes following the Story for All
Ages.

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Ministers' Message Rev. Elaine Gehrman

As Axel and I take some time off to rest and rejuvenate, I offer you this poem by the great Rosemerry Whatola Trommer, who reminds us of the wisdom of another species to help us tackle challenges, great and small.

Lumbricus terrestris

On a day when the world is weighty,
dark and dense with need,
I want to be the earthworm
that gives itself over to tunneling,
its every movement an act
of bringing spaciousness.
And when minutes feel crushed by urgency,
I want to meet the world wormlike,
which is to say grounded,
consistent, even slow.
No matter how desperate the situation,
the worm does not tunnel faster
nor burrow more.
It knows it can take decades
to build fine soil.
To whatever is compacted,
the worm offers its good worm work,
quietly bringing porosity
to what is trodden, compressed.
So often, in my rush to repair,
I end up exhausted.
Let my gift to the world be
my constancy, a devotion to openness,
my willingness to be with what is.
Let my gift to myself be patience
as I tend what is dense and dark.



Whatever your summer holds, I wish you some spaciousness, some groundedness, some porosity and openness.

See you in August,
Elaine

Super Flea!

Super Flea 2026 will be Friday and Saturday, September 4 and 5. Set-up will be Wednesday and Thursday, September 2 and 3. Please start saving all your best stuff!



Join a UUCMP Shared Table!

Come make new friends at an intimate, in-home potluck! We are blending established folks with newer attendees to create warm, welcoming, one-time dinner groups.

Sign-up for Shared Tables

When: To be decided by your group during September or October

What: A casual one-time potluck meal (no agenda!)

Sign up: [Sign-up for Shared Tables](#)

Please sign up by August 31st with the online link or at the Caring Network table

Questions? Reach out to membership@uucmp.org



KINDNESS CIRCLE

Please join us for our Kindness Circle on Sunday mornings throughout July and August, starting promptly at 9:30 a.m. and ending at 10:00 a.m. in the Fireplace Room. Come any or all Sundays.

Our time together will focus on building community and living kindly. We will light our chalice and have a short weekly reading about living kindly. We will have a moment of silence, check in and share a brief thought about the reading if you would like, then close at 10:00 a.m. We will then have time for fellowship until the church service begins.

We look forward to getting to know one another better as we focus on kindness. Questions? Please contact Rose or Mike Lovell, lovellfamily5@gmail.com

Musical Offerings



The UUCMP Community Choir will take July off from rehearsals and from singing in services and they will return in August. The

first choir rehearsal will be on August 6th at 7 p.m.; hope to see you there!

The UUCMP Community Choir will continue 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 music@uucmp.org or just stop by. (We are currently preparing for two services per month and we are always looking to expand our choir size!

On July 5, we will have baritone, Tim Krol, from the Carmel Bach Festival providing music for our service. Flautist Dawn Walker will be soloist on July 19. Not to be missed!

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



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

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, July 11, at 8:30 a.m.

The men's monthly breakfast is continuing as hybrid. Our next meeting is Saturday, July 11, 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 NEWSLETTER 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 7.

Committee on Family Ministry meets Sunday, July 26, 12:45 - 1:45 p.m. via Zoom.

Communications Committee does not meet in July.

Environmental Justice meets Sunday, July 12, after the service. in the Fireplace Room.

Friday Game Night is Friday, July 3, at 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Membership Committee meets Wednesday, July 22, at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Men's Breakfast Group meets Saturday, July 11, 8:30 a.m. in person and 9 a.m. via Zoom. See article at left.

Music Committee meets on Tuesday, July 28. at 6 p.m. via Zoom.

NUUSletter deadline for August is Thursday, July 16.

Program Council does not meet in July.

Social Justice meets Sunday, July 5, at 11:45 a.m. 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 7.



RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION



July Joys



**CHILDREN'S
RELIGIOUS
EXPLORATION**

Dear UUCMP Families and Friends,

July is a magical month, with long days, children on summer break, and time for family travel and summer camps. So for July, we'll be using lessons from a curriculum called "Magic Summer." Each lesson has activities related to three "magic S's":

Service to Others: an engaging hands-on activity

Silence and Mindfulness: a brief meditative time

Sunshine and Movement: a fun outdoor game

Depending on the interests of the children and youth, we'll do lessons from a whole range of topics, from making seed balls or dog treats to learning about water justice and fair trade chocolate to sending loving messages.

July is a great month to get outside, and I'm hoping to schedule some outdoor activities that kids and adults can enjoy together to celebrate our UU value of interdependence by seeing how we're connected with nature, and how the creatures of the natural world depend on each other. For those who don't know me—I'm a biologist with a background in ecology, evolution, and birds, and I love sharing my understanding of the interconnectedness of living things. Want to go tide pooling? Or go on a bird walk? Get together for a picnic in a nature area and explore the surrounding life? Let me know!

July 4th, of course, is Independence Day, and I hope you all have a wonderful day with parades and/or picnics and however else you celebrate. We'll also take some time to consider the vision of the founding fathers and how "all men are created equal" has been made more inclusive through time,

and we'll provide a safe space for children and teens to voice their opinions and concerns about the current state of our country.

We'll hold our monthly Committee on Family Ministry meeting after the service on July 26th. All are welcome! Anyone interested in volunteering, or with ideas for multigenerational activities, is especially encouraged to attend.

With warmth and gratitude,

Rebecca Irwin (she/her)
Director of Religious Exploration

Calendar Connections

July 4 - Independence Day

July 26th—Committee of Family Ministry meeting



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!

THANK YOU to our June Volunteers!

Shannon Morrison - Thank you for filling in for me as the DRE for the day in June, and for all the amazing help and support you've provided as I began my journey as DRE. **Karen Brown**, thank you for your continued help in the library. A big thanks to **Andrea Rivas** and **Warren Finch** for making the final K1 OWL class final celebration such a success. Thanks to **Murtaza** and **Catherine** for your time in the nursery! As always many thanks 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!



July Shared Plate Recipient
United Nations Relief and Works Agency

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) is the largest primary healthcare provider operating in the Gaza Strip. Despite the Netanyahu government's efforts to prevent the UNRWA from continuing its humanitarian work in Gaza, some 12,000 UNRWA staff are on the job, providing services to tens of thousands of families in this devastated area. Their work emphasizes healthcare, nutrition, education and humanitarian aid. The UNRWA staff are also still on the job, providing life-saving services and assistance to tens of thousands of families through an average



of 11,000 medical consultations daily. In Gaza City, nearly 1 in 3 children is now malnourished. UNRWA provides nutritional support for many of these children and for nursing mothers. It provides shelter for about 80,000 forcibly displaced people daily, and provides water and solid waste collection services for 1.7 million people, about 60% of the Gaza population. And UNRWA remains one of the largest providers of emergency learning and psychosocial services across Gaza; it provides learning and recreational activities to more than 59,000 children in Gaza, over half of them girls. And against this background, certain members of the US Congress are actively working to block continuing American funding for UNRWA. So, please join us with the shared plate in sending support to UNRWA and provide continuing help and comfort to the survivors in this ongoing conflict.



Please donate generously to this worthy cause.

-- Submitted by Gregg McKee

July Grief and Growth Circle

Perhaps you are remembering summer vacations and activities with a loved one who is no longer with us. Please consider joining a supportive group of individuals who also know about love and loss. We will be meeting on Wednesday, July 15, from 10-11:30 a.m., in the Fireplace Room. We will also host a social gathering on another date. Contact Sharon Miller at 831-601-0403 for more information. Know that we will welcome you with open arms.



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 July 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 4.

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

Tim Hill

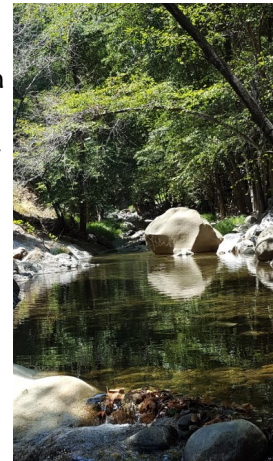
A Focus on Form

June 6 - July 31, 2026



Tim Hill found artistic expression in watercolor, sculpture and photography, having been inspired by his childhood explorations into the forests surrounding his lakeside home in Michigan. He was tutored in drawing, printing, and sculpture by his accomplished artist father, Dale Logan Hill, a painter, portrait artist and commercial illustrator.

Tim moved to Southern California with his family in the 1960s. He attended UC Santa Barbara, later moving to the Monterey Peninsula. He lived in Carmel, Del Rey Oaks, and, for a time, in Marysville, where he was a chef and landscaper for an estate there. He painted plein aire watercolors of the California landscape, and enjoyed sculpting and making ceramic ware.



While photographing his garden creations for his landscaping company, he developed a passion for photography, capturing the moods of the natural landscape. He focused on coastal images, streams and oak woodlands, and delighted in the images found in tide pools along the coast. In 2016 he became part of the efforts to highlight conservation efforts to preserve the oak woodlands of western Fort Ord, photographing this very unique landscape, and exhibiting his work in group shows. Tim was also an accomplished landscaped designer and contractor, and won many awards for his outstanding gardens.



President's Corner



As I think about this year ahead (for our congregation as well as for me in this new role) I keep coming back to words from a poem that has lingered in my mind the past few weeks by the Spanish poet Antonio Machado. "*Caminante, no hay camino.*" As I think about our church, one line in particular has really stayed with me:

"Traveler, there is no path; the path is made by walking."

I've found myself returning to that thought again and again.

There is something comforting in the poet's reminder that we don't need to see the entire road ahead before taking the next step. Communities are not built because someone has a perfect plan. They are built through countless small acts of participation and care. We greet each other on Sunday mornings. We volunteer. We sing together. We support one another through difficult times. We celebrate life's joys. Little by little, we create the path.

As I think about the year ahead at UUCMP, I feel grateful for all those whose steps have brought our congregation to where it is today. None of us walks alone. We inherit a path shaped by those who came before us, and we continue shaping it for those who will come after. I look forward to continuing this journey together.

Katie Hamilton
President, Board of Trustees

A Medicare Moment



For those of us on Original Medicare (versus Medicare Advantage), savings opportunities exist but you've got to act to get them. Your birthday is important! Most folks have a Medigap Plan to pay the 20% of hospital and doctor charges not paid by Medicare. Folks can change their Medigap plan for 60 days after their birthday each year, but normally, only then.

People with the older Plan F can frequently change to a Plan G. Coverages are essentially the same and the savings can be substantial. If your birthday is near, check it out with Alliance on Aging's Hicap Program. They offer free counseling in Monterey, Pacific Grove, Carmel and Salinas by California trained and registered volunteer counselors. For appointments, call Hicap at 831-655-1334. Annual savings of \$1,000 are not uncommon!

-- Submitted Gregg McKee

Environmental Justice

Two major documents are open for public comment that impact our lives and our communities in many ways including environmental and social justice.

The first is a proposed [Federal Regulation](#) that will greatly change the way agencies of the Federal government are funded and how they can disperse grant funding to individuals and organizations. The new rules politicize the process rather than using the well-established norms of peer review of proposals by experts, as well as evaluation by teams of experts in each field. This proposed rule will impact nearly all aspects of our lives and communities (including all types of scientific research, the Peace Corps, NASA, the Arts and Humanities, Veterans Affairs, Departments of Education, Defense, and Transportation, and many more). Making public comment is critical to show that many Americans are very concerned and it is will be used in a future lawsuit to demonstrate the public's concern if this proposed rule is not withdrawn. You do not need to leave any personally-identifiable information, indeed every comment will be available to the public (so you may want to be anonymous). Here is [more information about why it is a problem](#) and here are [detailed instructions of how to give public comment](#) (both are from health/science-related Substack authors so those interested in the arts, humanities, Veterans affairs, etc. may find other entities posting similar specific ways to respond, if you prefer). Note, if you go to the second link, you can skip the first paragraph if it is too full of jargon (or skip almost to the end for a sample "public comment"). The whole post is long but full of useful information and instructions. ***Public comment is open through 9 p.m. Pacific Standard Time July 13.***

The second is Monterey County has finally released its draft [Community Climate Action and Adaptation Plan \(CCAAP\)](#)! Public comments can be submitted until Aug. 9. Given the scale and importance of acting on slowing climate change and adapting to climate impacts on our communities, it is important that many people provide feedback that encourages adoption of a climate plan while also providing guidance about how it can be improved to better meet our local needs.

Because the document is over 500 pages long, we are going to make it easier for you to give public comment by providing talking points over the next month. If you'd like to read/explore the plan, you can either use an AI query they provide to find the topics you are most interested in (a very useful feature!) or you can open the full document and you'll find the table of contents is filled with hyperlinks to go to each section). You can type comments directly on the electronic document or submit written comments via email to: climate@countyofmonterey.gov. Find the draft plan by searching online for "Monterey County Climate Action Plan" or use this [link](#).

For some context, all counties and cities in California are expected to create climate action and adaptation plans to meet California's goals to slow/reverse climate change and adapt to the impacts that are increasing over time (in our current political environment). This Monterey County CCAAP is written explicitly for the unincorporated parts of the county which are all lands not within city limits including East Garrison, Carmel Valley, and even where UUCMP is located (see map In the next page to get a sense of how much this plan will cover).

Environmental Justice



Map of Monterey County unincorporated areas (everything in white) with the cities outlined and filled in gray (except the City of Salinas is in red). From Wikimedia Commons.

Join us for our Annual Big Sur UU Campout at the Santa Lucia Campground

Come join the fun, camaraderie, and relaxation next to the river, under the redwoods. This is a wonderful way to spend time with our UUCMP family!

Friday, August 28th to Sunday, August 30th

\$25 per person per night, age 12 and under are free

Scholarships are available, just ask.

Find all the information on our **UUCMP.org** church website:

<https://uucmp.org/connection-overview/campout/>



Complete this registration form and submit your payment by **August 3, 2026**: [Registration Form](#)

Campout includes the following communal meals:

- Saturday Breakfast [pancakes & fruit]
- Sunday Breakfast [oatmeal breakfast with all the fixings]
- Saturday Supper [Stone Soup]

Day Visitors: Complete this form: [Day Visitors](#)

Volunteers needed! Please complete this form: [Volunteers](#)

Questions? Ask:

Andrea Rivas at andrea.t.rivas@gmail.com

Ali Shapard at alicia.shapard@gmail.com

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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.
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Return Service Requested



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