



**UU of SCV**

# The Flame

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PO Box 800028, Santa Clarita, CA 91380. 661-254-7866

**Santa Clarita's Unitarian Universalist Congregation**

**April, 2023**

**Theme for this Month is:**

## Resistance



*...it starts when you say We  
and know who you mean, and each  
day you mean one more.*

*--Marge Piercy, from The Low Road*

Out of all our themes this year, resistance is among the most complex. But it also may be the most simple.

Let's start with the complexity.

Sometimes resistance involves bravely picking up a picket sign; other times it asks us to courageously put down our masks and expose who we really are. Sometimes it involves defeating the enemy; other times it's a matter of noticing that treating them as the enemy defeats us all.

Often the path of resistance asks us to stay in it for the long haul, but just as often it's about taking that first tiny step. Most of the time it requires us to fight to the bitter end, and yet there are many moments when we need to stop resisting and let go.

Resistance certainly takes the form of speaking the truth to power, but often what the world needs even more is for us to speak the truth in love.

Bottom line: the path of resistance is tricky business and takes multiple, even contradictory, forms.

But beyond this complexity lies the simplicity of Marge Piercy's words. In all cases, she reminds us, the path of resistance starts when we say "We!" For instance, the power of our picket sign resides in the fact that it hangs alongside those of others. Being who we are usually begins with another loving us for who we are. Both the long haul and our first courageous step are made possible by reaching out to receive a helping hand.

It's all one big reminder that none of us resist alone.

Or maybe what really needs to be said this month is that none of us have to resist alone. Each and every path of resistance is daunting. But they are made even more daunting when we tell ourselves that we must travel those paths by ourselves.

So, yes, we certainly need to be pushed and prodded this month. But maybe what we need most is to be reassured. Reassured that - when the road gets too treacherous, when the forces against us grow too big, others will be by our side. Maybe it's not more courage that is required, but more connection. Maybe what we really need to hear is not simply "Resist!" but "I will resist with you!" and "Let's start with 'WE'!"

Maybe it is as simple as that.

*[Credit: Soul Matters]*

# Sunday Services

April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 10:30 am

## “Beloved Community of Resistance”

A Rev. Gretchen Haley Sermon,  
Read by Chris Hankla



Chris Hankla will read a sermon written by the Reverend Gretchen Haley. Rev. Haley is Senior Minister at Foothills Unitarian in Fort Collins, CO. The message focuses on the power of saying “No” and the importance of choosing to say “Yes” as a Beloved Community of Resistance. “..., if we are clear about our “no,” our work must then become articulating the positive vision and positive theology at the heart of our community, and our faith.”

April 9<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 am

## “Bad Easter Candy and Good Theology”

Rev. Dr. Megan Visser



What does Unitarian Universalism consider good Easter theology? How does the invitation to observe Easter as a religious holiday also reflect our theological diversity? Come try out some bad Easter candy and try on some good theology.

Join us, live at our Sunday services at 10:30 am ...

**Vibe Performing Arts Studio,**  
Valencia Plaza Shopping Center,  
24460 ¼ Lyons Ave  
(Near Vincenzo's Pizza)



... and streaming on Zoom

<https://tinyurl.com/ZoomUUSCV>

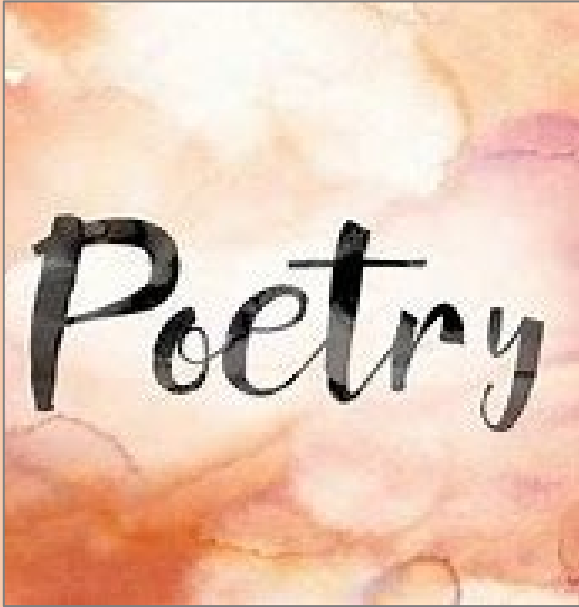
Or via phone at:  
(669) 900-9128

Meeting ID: 3098843973 (use for password also)  
“#” for personal ID

April 16<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 am

## **“Celebrating Poetry!”**

Hosted by Beth Jenkins



Join us for the annual celebration of our congregation members' poetry talents! You will be treated to the diverse work of our very own UU poets, several of whom have received awards for their creative writing skills. Come to relax, enjoy and be inspired!

*The recipient of our Third Sunday collection (selected by the Social & Environmental Justice Team) will be Santa Clarita's Gibbon Conservation Center, a non-profit center to promote the conservation, study, and care of gibbons through public education and habitat preservation.*

April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 10:30 am

## **“Deepening in Faith with One Another”**

Rev. Dr. Megan Visser



What forms of resistance have you met as you try to go deeper in faith as a Unitarian Universalism? At different times in our lives, we may meet roadblocks on our spiritual journey -- a struggle with the faith of our families of origin, divergent belief systems from those around us, or an internal voice leading us toward a new belief. What if the only way around these roadblocks is each other?

*Please stay after the worship service for a workshop that follows up on the sermon today called “**Sprucing Up Our Spiritual Hospitality**” (see ad in this newsletter).*



April 30<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 am

## **“The Possibility of Angels”**

Lynne Plambeck



Spirit helpers, guides or angels” is an idea deeply embedded in human consciousness. Such spirit helpers are found in pagan, shamanistic and native American cultures and in all faith religions. They come in many shapes and forms from tree nymphs to fairies and devas, to the beautiful winged creatures found in religious art.

Though they may not all have wings as the Abrahamic faiths tend to visualize them in modern history, the concept of a disembodied spirit helper is ubiquitous. Why was this concept helpful to us? Is it still helpful today?

We will be holding a 5th Sunday SEJ presentation after the service about Backyard Habitat.

## **HELP NEEDED**

People are needed to decorate the altar this month, and in the months ahead. Please sign up for a date on the clipboard at the Membership Table in the foyer. Altar cloths are available. A simple vase of flowers would add a decorative touch to the altar. Consider decorating the altar as your once-a-month ministry or choose a date that has special meaning to you.

## **Consider Joining the Choir!**



*Rev. Megan selfie at rehearsal for the Mar 26<sup>th</sup> Service in the room next to our sanctuary before the service. Let Scott Roewe know if you're interested in being part of the choir.*

## **This Month's Activities**

### **Spring Fling Dinner & Silent Auction**

Rev. Ken Brown



Now you have a chance to have a fun evening *and* help us raise money for the congregation. For many years we held a fall event and helped raise money for the congregation. With the pandemic preventing us from moving forward we decided to try a similar event this Spring.

So, on **April 29<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm**, we will have a Spring Fling, a wonderful party to celebrate our congregation. Like the Fall event we will have dinner and hold a silent auction.

Each family is asked to bring some food to share. You are asked to contact Louise and Eric Klatt at [louisepell@yahoo.com](mailto:louisepell@yahoo.com) or [ericsk01@yahoo.com](mailto:ericsk01@yahoo.com) to let them know what you would like to bring. My wife, Tommie and I will collect whatever you have for the Silent Auction, you can reach us at [tommieup@aol.com](mailto:tommieup@aol.com) or [uurev@aol.com](mailto:uurev@aol.com). We will also have a team to decorate and get things ready for a happy evening. You can contact Ingrid Van Dorn at [armo591@aol.com](mailto:armo591@aol.com) and Glenda Nowakowski at [Glenda.nowakowski@gmail.com](mailto:Glenda.nowakowski@gmail.com). We also want to give a great thanks to Suzie Rizzo for hosting the event at her community's club house.

The Clubhouse is at 25051 Avenida Rotella in Valencia.

This is a good time to bring friends or family for a great social evening. If you have questions give me (Ken) a call or email ([uurev@aol.com](mailto:uurev@aol.com)).



**PICK A SERMON TOPIC FOR REV. MEGAN'S LAST WORDS**

**Silent Auction Item Spring Fling 4/29**

The fine print:  
(1) Winner will pick the sermon topic for one of Rev. Megan's final sermons at UU of SCV this Spring.  
(2) Up to 2 topic ideas **must** be sent to Rev. Megan by the winner **within 72 hours of winning this item (by May 2)**  
(3) Topic must be of some general interest to a Unitarian Universalist congregation.

The fine print (a bit larger):

- (1) Winner will pick the sermon topic for one of Rev. Megan's final sermons at UU of SCV this Spring.
- (2) Up to 2 topic ideas **must** be sent to Rev. Megan by the winner **within 72 hours of winning this item.**
- (3) Topic must be of some general interest to a Unitarian Universalist congregation.

## Book Club

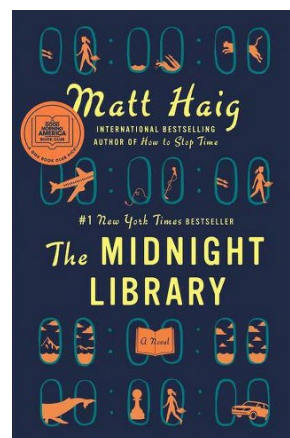
Suzie Rizzo

This is a welcoming and joyful group of readers who love to share their thoughts on the selections chosen. Everyone's presence is encouraged. This group meets the second Wednesday of each month. We will meet at **6:00 pm** at the home of Lois Linnert. Please bring a dish to share and a beverage of your choice, as well as your thoughts and your critique.

UUSCV's Covid Policy is followed.

The book for **April 12<sup>th</sup>** is "The Midnight Library," by Matt Haig.

Somewhere out beyond the edge of the universe there is a library that contains an infinite number of books, each one the story of another reality. One tells the story of your life as it is, along with other books for the various other lives you could have lived if you had made a different choice at any point in your life. While we all wonder how our lives might have been, what if you had the chance to go to the library and see for yourself? Would any of these other lives truly be better?



In *The Midnight Library*, Matt Haig's enchanting blockbuster novel, Nora Seed finds herself faced with this decision. Faced with the possibility of changing her life for a new one, following a different career, undoing old breakups, realizing her dreams of becoming a glaciologist, she must search within herself as she travels through the Midnight Library to decide what is truly fulfilling in life, and what makes it worth living in the first place.

Please join us for a lively discussion. Contact Suzie Rizzo ([baroness1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:baroness1@sbcglobal.net)) or Marianne Bakic ([mariannebakic@icloud.com](mailto:mariannebakic@icloud.com)) if you have any questions.

## Game Nights

Beth Jenkins



This month, we will be holding Zoom game nights on **April 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm**. If you have any questions, contact Beth Jenkins, at: [newbethj@yahoo.com](mailto:newbethj@yahoo.com).

[www.tinyurl.com/zoomuuscv](http://www.tinyurl.com/zoomuuscv)

## Open Topics Discussion Group

Suzie Rizzo



Open Topics is a friendly, fun group of sincere people who like to learn from each other. Please feel free to gather with us and get to know other Unitarians and guests.

Open Topics meets on the fourth Monday of each month at **6:00 pm**. We meet at the home of Lois Linnert. Please bring finger foods to share and the beverage of your choice.

UUSCV'S Covid Policy will be followed.

The Topic for Monday, April 24th is, "*What are the important things we need to teach our children?*".

Please contact Suzie Rizzo ([baroness1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:baroness1@sbcglobal.net)) if you have any questions.

## Friday Meditations on Zoom

Barbara Wampole

Please feel free to just drop in. No experience is necessary. It's simple. If you'd like to join us to share simple sitting meditation and mindfulness practices, we continue to have a unique opportunity to use Zoom since we began sheltering at home.

*"So, when we take our seat in meditation and remind ourselves to sit with dignity, we are coming back to our original worthiness. That in itself is quite a statement."*

*Jon Kabat-Zinn,  
American professor emeritus of medicine & creator  
of the Stress Reduction Clinic and the Center for  
Mindfulness in Medicine at the University of  
Massachusetts Medical School.*

**Every Friday from 11 am to Noon.** If you'd like to join us, please contact Barbara Wampole. [Connect with Zoom](#)



## Memorial Service



Beloved member Elinor McGrew died peacefully in March in the assisted living center where she lived for the past few years. We share our grief and deepest condolences with her family including her daughters Rebecca and Kaite.

Elinor was a member of UU of SCV since 2009. She had been ill and away from our regular activities for some time but our connection to her was never far from our hearts.

A memorial service for Elinor is planned for **April 22 at 4:00 p.m.** at the home of Suzie Rizzo. Please bring an appetizer to share, preferably vegetarian or vegan. You may contact Suzie at [baroness1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:baroness1@sbcglobal.net) for additional information.

## Pledge Drive

### ***BE*COUNTED**

Lucy Bates

The UU of SCV 2023/24 pledge drive, Be Counted, will be beginning soon. We look to the coming year with hope and new resolve.

When you receive your pledge materials in the mail, please be ready and respond by the deadline.

The new fiscal year will be a time of transition. If we trust each other, and each do our part, we can meet the challenges that change brings.

## Social & Environmental Justice

### **Social & Environmental Justice (SEJ) Team News**

Louise Klatt & Glenda Nowakowski

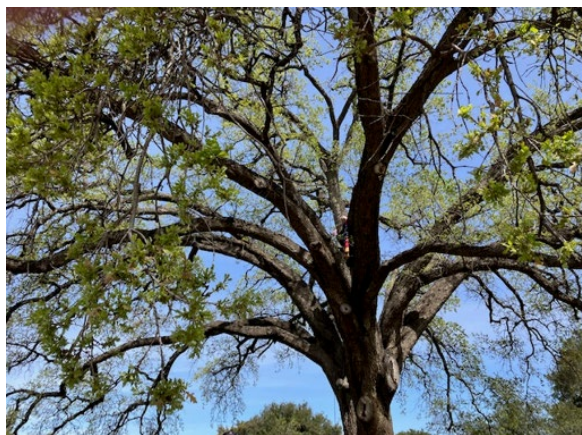


### **Transgender Inclusion in Congregations**

On March 12, the SEJ team co-sponsored a discussion on the fourth session of the online course Transgender Inclusion in Congregations, dealing with Transgender Spirituality. Many transgender people have a strong

sense of spirituality, and have a great deal to offer a congregation that is open-hearted and welcoming to them. If you wish to view the videos in the online course, contact Glenda Nowakowski for information on how to enroll. The fee has already been paid by the congregation! There will be more sessions in the coming months, and the SEJ team will keep you posted.

## Old Glory Celebration



On March 18, a celebration of the oak tree Old Glory was held at Pico Canyon Park, the tree's home for the past 20 years. The celebration marked the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the tree's rescue from being chopped down. Lynne Plambeck and Cynthia Harris asked John Quigley to assist in saving the tree. Quigley and nine other volunteers sat in the tree for 71 days, supported by a team of dedicated activists, including Tom Barron, Barbara Wampole, and Lynne Plambeck. The tree was then moved to its current location in Pico Canyon Park.

Glenda Nowakowski, Suzie Rizzo, Ingrid Van Dorn, Lynne Plambeck, Tom Barron, and Barbara Wampole were in attendance.

## Postcard Writing After Services

The SEJ team is setting up a table after the service on the second Sunday of the month for writing postcards to our elected officials. The table will be up between the end of the service and noon, when the SEJT meeting begins. Materials will be provided, as well as addresses of elected officials and a list of possible issues. You are

free to choose an issue that concerns you. Be a part of democracy in action!

## Grandmothers (and Others) For Peace

Grandmothers (and Others) for Peace meets on the first Sunday of the month (April 2) at 3 PM on the corner of Valencia and McBean (on the Facey side). Bring a sign promoting peace, or you can borrow one.

The next meeting of the SEJ team will be on **April 9<sup>th</sup> at noon, in person at Vibe and also streamed via Zoom.** Come join us!

## "Create a Holiday" Taskforce

Rick Kamlet

Holidays play an important role in strengthening religions. They help bind followers together. They attract others. They reinforce the tenants of a faith. Depending on the holiday, they can bring fun, or deep meaning, or both.

This congregation has already created the beautiful candle-based holiday of Luminescence, which we've celebrated and enjoyed for 16 years!

Last month during a service, I announced an initiative to form a working group to create yet another UU holiday. Based on suggestions I made and that I've already heard from others, it could focus on our UU ancestors, or it could be an annual memorial service honoring those who have passed away, or it could be focused on helping to make our congregation a place that allows members to feel a greater spiritual comfort and belonging, or it could focus on giving us a progressive identity. Or, we could create multiple holidays. It's up to the group to come up with ideas and decide on a focus and then turn that into a service, complete with unique rituals, poetry, and writings – a holiday that is meaningful that can be held annually.



I hope to get started on it this summer. If you're interested, [please let me \(Rick\) know and](mailto:rkamlet@ca.rr.com) I will call together the group to start the process of ... creating a new UU holiday! [rkamlet@ca.rr.com](mailto:rkamlet@ca.rr.com)

## Poets & Writers Group



The Poets and Writers group has decided to offer a sample of some of our writers' work. This month we offer a poem from Glenda Nowakowski.

Glenda has been writing since college, with some decade-long gaps. She started writing in earnest upon joining UU of SCV's Poets in Person. She writes about nature, social justice, and anything that catches her interest.

Our next meeting will be on **Monday, April 3 at 6 pm** via Zoom. Beginners and non-writers are welcome, too. If you've always wondered what it would be like to share your own work, THIS is the place to start.

### "Hold On"

What do you do when the water runs out?  
What do you do when the hills are ablaze?  
What do you do when the rent comes due  
And living in your car is all you can afford?

What do you do when life's out of control?  
What do you do when your vote doesn't count?  
What do you do when the brownshirts come  
And your body is no longer your own?

You hold on.

Hold on to hope, hold on to each other  
Hold on to the toolbox of love for one another  
Hold on to the earth, hold on to the sky  
Repair what you can, to the rest say goodbye.

Hold on to the truth, discard the lies  
Hold on to life, whatever may arise  
Hold on to the future, though it may seem bleak  
And don't be silent – it's time now to speak!

## Hospitality

Rev. Megan Visser

SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 12pm

### Sprucing Up Our Spiritual Hospitality

A red door is slightly ajar, and numerous red hearts of various sizes are floating out of the doorway onto a blue background.

How do we welcome  
people to UUSCV?  
Let's take a fresh look at  
the impact of our  
hospitality and learn  
some new skills.

To RSVP, e-mail Rev. Megan ([RevMegan@uuofscv.org](mailto:RevMegan@uuofscv.org))  
or just stay after the service! All are welcome.

## Love BIUUms in Santa Clarita! A Chance to Help with a UU Wedding Here

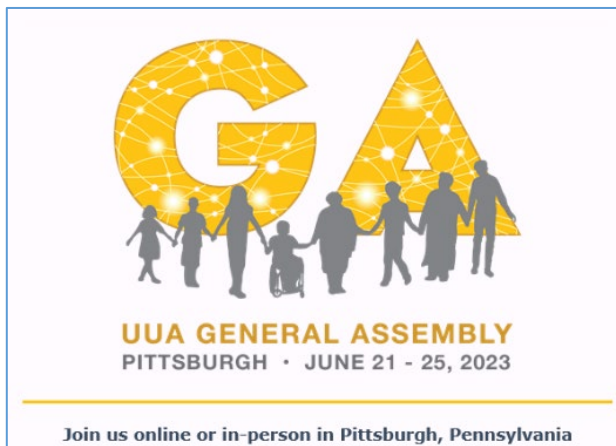
We don't often have weddings connected to our congregation, but an opportunity to help two UUs get married has arisen!

Hanna and Sean, two Unitarian Universalists from the East Coast are getting married next October and reached out to us for some support. Below is their request? Are you able to help them out in the Fall? E-mail them directly at [hanna.plus.sean@gmail.com](mailto:hanna.plus.sean@gmail.com)

*"We're getting married on Sunday, October 8 at Hart & Main in Newhall. We're looking for somewhere to store and arrange the flowers from Friday, October 6 - Sunday, October 8. We'd likely drop the flowers off Friday early afternoon and do a bit of prep then, Saturday morning a few of our family members would help us to trim and arrange the flowers in vases, and then Sunday morning we'd pick them up for the wedding. We also need the location to have air conditioning so the flowers don't die before Sunday, but otherwise we can bring tables, water, and anything else we might need."*

## Regional & National

### Mark Your Calendars for UUA General Assembly 2023



The theme for General Assembly 2023 is "Faithfully Becoming." We continue to live in times of transition and change; so much is in flux. The COVID-19 pandemic upended our lives, our communities, and the world. It made clear the devastating and deadly impacts of

longstanding racial and economic disparities. The ongoing losses and threats from climate change (of which the pandemic is not unrelated), growing authoritarian movements and the rolling back of fundamental human rights – these all-present tremendous challenges for our lives, our children, and our future.

Many feel worn out and overwhelmed. But times of significant change can also be moments of opportunity and possibility. Major shifts are happening. Our theology and our values as Unitarian Universalists are needed.

This General Assembly will be an exciting moment demonstrating the ways we are called into Faithfully Becoming.

### Pacific Southwest Service Area Assembly Living in Harmony with Each Other and Our Earth

Louise Klatt

Join together at UU San Luis Obispo on **April 21<sup>st</sup> through 23<sup>rd</sup>** for the Pacific Southwest Service Area Assembly, proudly sponsored by Camp deBonneville Pines.

Come share in the assortment of workshops, two keynote speakers, meals, wine tasting, nature preserve walk, worship and song.

See the following flyer for more information.



# ***Living in Harmony with Each Other and Our Earth***



***Join together at Unitarian Universalists San Luis Obispo  
April 21-23, 2023  
for the Pacific Southwest Service Area Assembly***

Proudly sponsored by Camp de Benneville Pines

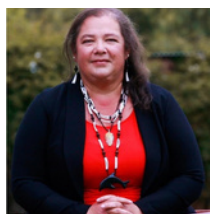
[Click this link for complete information](#)

uucamp.org click on calendar

Come share in the assortment of workshops, two keynote speakers, meals, wine tasting, nature preserve walk, worship and song. Find places to stay and dine, delegate information, financial assistance, vendor information and other needed details on the link above.

Price per adult is \$75/\$100

## **Two Esteemed Keynote Speakers**



Speaker Chairwoman, Violet Sage Walker of the Northern Chumash tribal Council (NCTC) will speak on the formation of a Chumash Heritage Natural Marine Sanctuary.



Mona Olivas Tucker, Tribal Chair of the ytt Tribe will speak on tribal history and the fight to recover tribal lands.

**JR. & SR. HIGH YOUTH:  
JOIN THE YOUTH CON**

**REGISTRATION OPENS AT 7am SATURDAY MARCH 4, 2023**

**Please help sponsor a youth to come to the assembly!**

Click here —> [Contact Laura Chamberlin](#) registrar@uucamp.org  
for registration questions

Click here —> [Contact Marianne Swift-Gifford](#) cm@uucamp.org  
for youth related questions



***In the tradition of our beloved  
PSWD annual assembly,  
the 2023 PSWSA assembly is  
hosted by UU's of SLO***





## Church Workings

### Board of Trustees

#### Highlights

Carmela Camp

- The Board will try to arrange a joint Zoom meeting of our Board and the Board of the Kern County Fellowship. This will be a good way to promote communication and cooperation between our congregations, apart from whether or not a new minister has yet been chosen to serve both congregations.
- We are now in a position to renew our designation as a Welcoming Congregation.
- Pledge drive will soon be getting underway.
- The Nominating Committee will soon begin its work in seeking candidates for the next election cycle.
- The April Board meeting will be on Sunday, April 9 at 5:00 pm.

## Membership

Membership Team

### Membership Anniversaries

Ingrid Van Dorn	04/20/2003
Sally Thompson	04/01/2012

### Birthdays

Suzie Rizzo	04/04
Louise Klatt	04/14
Natalie Larbaoui	04/19

## Gratitudes

To **Louise** and **Beth** ... for serving as Worship Hosts in March.

To **Kevin** ...for facilitating the Transforming Hearts discussion in March.

To **Rick** ... for his illuminating March faith message and suggesting that we seek to create a new UU holiday focused on honoring our ancestors, especially our UU ancestors!

To **Ken** and **Tommie** ... for volunteering to collect auction items for the Spring Fling.

To **Louise** ... for volunteering to coordinate food items for the Spring Fling.

To **Diane, Lucy, Dru, Chris, Emily, and Sammi** of the Membership Team ... for volunteering to help with setup for the Spring Fling.



## Pastoral Care

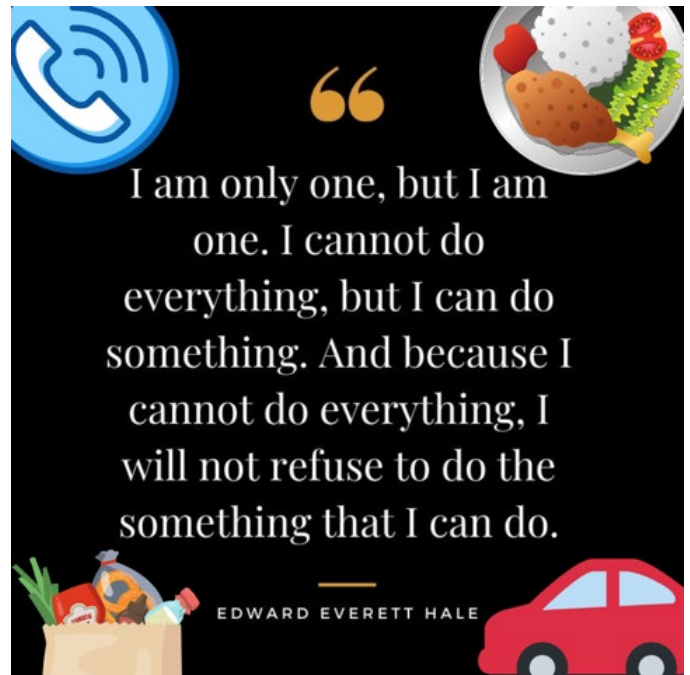
### In Times of Crisis or Need

The Pastoral Care Team and volunteers from the congregation are here to help you in times of crisis or need. We can provide meals, rides, do errands, and/or offer one-to-one support. Please contact Barbara McCoy at (818) 438-8351.

### Need to Speak to the Minister?

For Rev. Megan, please make an appointment during Rev. Megan's office hours:  
<https://calendly.com/revmeganvisser>

## Practical Support is Pastoral Care: Can You Offer a Hand?



There are times when our congregational community members need a little practical support. Whether it's a ride home from a doctor's office, a ride to Sunday Services, a meal when we're sick, or a phone call if our spirits are low, our Pastoral Care team is here to offer practical and friendly support. Are you available to serve others in one of these ways? Please go to this form and send us your contact information, along with how you are available to offer a hand to members of your community. We're hoping to have a full list by May 1. LINK: [www.tinyurl.com/UUSCVCares](http://www.tinyurl.com/UUSCVCares)

# CALENDAR

(Events and activities may change. Check the Friday weekly announcement emails for updates.)

**Every Friday**, Meditation at 11 am (to noon), Zoom (see article)

## Sunday

**2** Sunday Service, 10:30 am  
**Beloved Community of Resistance**  
A Rev. Gretchen Haley Sermon,  
Read by Chris Hankla

**3 Poets & Writer's Group**  
6:00 pm, Zoom (see article)

**8 Game Night**, 7:00 pm, Zoom (see article)

## Sunday

**9** Sunday Service, 10:30 am  
**Bad Easter Candy and Good Theology**  
Rev. Dr. Megan Visser  
**Social & Environmental Justice Team** 🍆  
12 noon, at Vibe and on Zoom  
**Board Meeting, 5 pm**, Zoom  
(first half hour jointly with Worship Team)

**12 Book Club**, 6 pm, Lois Linnert's home

## Sunday

**16** Sunday Service, 10:30 am  
**Celebrating Poetry**  
Hosted by Beth Jenkins

**21 – 23 Pacific Southwest Service Assembly**, San Luis Obispo.

**22 Memorial Service for Elinor McGrew**,  
4 pm, at the home of Suzie Rizzo.

**22 Game Night**, 7:00 pm, Zoom (see article)

## Sunday

**23** Sunday Service, 10:30 am  
**Deepening in Faith with One Another**  
Rev. Dr. Megan Visser  
**Sprucing Up Our Hospitality**, 12 noon

**24 Open Topics Discussion Group**,  
6:00 – 8:00 pm at Lois Linnert's home  
(see article)

**29 Spring Fling Dinner & Silent Auction**  
5 pm, 25051 Avenida Rotella

## Sunday

**30** Sunday Service, 10:30 am  
**The Possibility of Angels**  
Lynne Plambeck

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

June 21 – 25: General Assembly, Pittsburgh