



**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**

**June, 2023**

## Theme for this Month is: Delight



What paths must we lean into and relearn as we travel together into our complex, challenging and hoped-for future? This was the overarching question our 2022-2023 Soul Matters themes invited us to explore! Each theme lifted up a particular spiritual path crucial to helping us birth a new normal worthy of our hopes. In worship and small group ministry, we've moved along these paths together.

September: **Belonging**, October: **Courage**,  
November: **Change**, December: **Wonder**,  
January: **Finding Our Center**, February: **Love**,  
March: **Vulnerability**, April: **Resistance**  
May: **Creativity**, June: **Delight**

This final month, we explore the paths of Delight as summer begins. What summer activity delighted you most as a child? Has delight ever helped you survive something difficult? Do you have a story you delight in telling to others over and over again? Who taught you the most about cultivating delight? As UU of SCV brings this congregational year to a close, we want to thank you for moving along these paths with us, journeying with us in worship, justice-making, and caring for one another.

Beginning in September, we begin a new Soul Matters journey together on Sundays and in small groups. This year's overarching frame is The Gifts of Our Faith. We focus on ten beloved UU values and explore their potential to shape us and in turn shape the world. How do these values offer us both challenge and comfort? What might it mean to place them at the center of our living and loving? What promise do they hold for us individually as well as collectively? These are some of questions that will guide and bless our UU journey in the year ahead.

September: **Welcome**, October: **Heritage**,  
November: **Generosity**, December: **Mystery**,  
January: **Liberating Love**, February: **Justice & Equity**,  
March: **Transformation**, April: **Interdependence**,  
May: **Pluralism**, June: **Renewal**

[Credit: Soul Matters]

## Curious about the Path to Membership?

Rev. Megan Visser



Are you interested in learning more about becoming a member of our congregation?

Are you ready to deepen your connection to your spirituality and to community?

E-mail or call Rev. Dr. Megan to talk about joining UU of SCV as a member.

## Sunday Services

June 4<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 am

### “Classism in UU Intersections”

Rose Riedel – Guest Speaker  
Beth Jenkins – Worship Host



Unitarian Universalism has long been committed to the values of justice, equity, and compassion. We pride ourselves on being a faith tradition that embraces diversity and welcomes all people, regardless of their background or identity. Yet, when it comes to classism, we sometimes fall short of living up to these principles. How does classism intersect with other marginalizations? And how do we, as Unitarian Universalists, address it?

*Rose Littler-Riedel is a seminarian at Starr King School for the Ministry, the Membership Development and Communications Coordinator at First UU San Diego, and the Working-Class Caucus Coordinator for UU Class Conversations. Rose has three children, ages 17, 18 and 19, and a wonderfully supportive spouse. Rose is very excited to be joining us and is looking forward to meeting the wonderful people of UUofSCV and making new connections. Pronouns: She/Her/Ella. Name: Rose (like the flower) Lit-ler Rye-del.*

June 11<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 am

## **“Flower Power: 100 Years of UU Ceremony”**

Rev. Dr. Megan Visser



Originally created in 1923 by Unitarian minister Norbert Čapek of Prague, Czechoslovakia, the Flower Ceremony was introduced to the United States by Rev. Mája Čapek, Norbert’s widow. During Pride month, we offer this ritual to celebrate beauty, affirm diversity and delight in community.

In this ceremony, **everyone in the congregation brings a flower.** Those on Zoom are invited to have a flower nearby them at home and something that glitters.

On this Sunday, we also welcome and affirm Rev. Jo Green as our Affiliated Community Minister.

June 18<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 am

## **“Delighting in the Dots: Connection and Possibilities in UU Community”**

Dr. Melissa James



Sometimes life is like a giant, unfinished dot-to-dot puzzle. We move from dot to dot unsure what picture we are creating. How do we find delight in those dots? Delighting in creating something new. In exploring and trying. In believing and imagining. How does Unitarian Universalism help us connect the dots of moments of delight until a more full picture emerges for us as individuals and communities?

*Dr. Melissa James has served on the PWR Congregational Life staff since 2020. She earned her Masters of Arts from the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago (LSTC) with a focus on faith and justice. Melissa holds a Ph.D. in Ethics and Social Theory from the Graduate theological Union in Berkeley, CA. Melissa is the PWR specialist for stewardship, LGBTQIA+ inclusion and gender justice, and non-congregational covenanting communities. She lives in La Mesa, CA with her wife and 5 year-old daughter.*

June 25<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 am

## **“Ecotones”**

Michael Eselun



Michael Eselun, UCLA oncology chaplain and popular guest speaker, will explore those liminal spaces in which we sometimes find ourselves on life’s mysterious journey--- thresholds that are neither one reality or another, and yet may open a path to our deepest truths. Possibly even the sacred.

*Michael Eselun, serves as the chaplain for the Simms/Mann-UCLA Center for Integrative Oncology. Two-time TED-X speaker, Michael speaks extensively to healthcare professionals, patient populations and faith communities across the country. He’s also worked as an activist/educator addressing anti-LGBTQ bias in the larger community for over 30 years. Michael was recently inducted into the UCLA-Semel Institute Eudaimonia Society, in recognition of having lived a meaning-driven life. He has 4 volumes of CD’s available for purchase—contact Michael through his website-- <http://www.michaeleselun.com>*

**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*

## **More Help is Needed for Setup and Cleanup!**

**Chris Hankla**

Given that UU of SCV does not have its own building, each Sunday volunteers set up for the worship service and, then, clean up and return items to storage at Vibe. Crew members for set-up and clean-up have dwindled. More volunteers are needed. People cannot be expected to commit to doing this job every week. Crew volunteers arrive at 9:30 am to set up and stay after the service to clean up. Consider being part of the crew, even one Sunday a month. Please contact Sammi, Crew Chief, to sign up and learn about weekly assignments posted on Google Drive.

[samanthajeansumampong@gmail.com](mailto:samanthajeansumampong@gmail.com)



## This Month's Activities

### Annual Business Meeting of the Congregation

Diane Tamburello



The Annual Business Meeting of the Congregation is scheduled for **Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup> on the regular UUSCV Zoom at 7:00 pm.** All Members are urged to attend since there is much to discuss and decide.

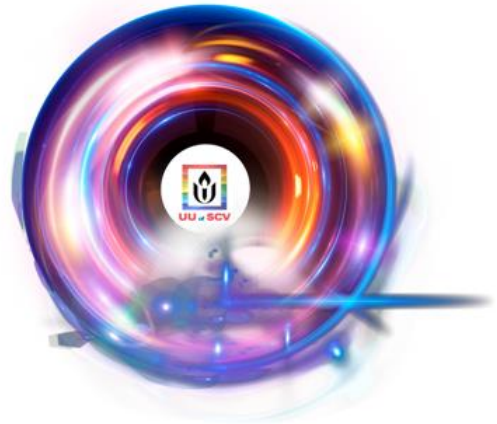
The following topics will be part of the agenda:

- 1) Vote to approve a slate of new Board officers for 2023-25 and a new Nominating Committee for FY 2023-24.
- 2) Vote to approve a budget for FY 2023-24.
- 3) Report of the Ministerial Search Committee.

We are rebuilding after the pandemic. Over the next year we are looking ahead to becoming stronger and more visible using our resources and skills, relying on what we do best. Everyone is needed. Think of what we can accomplish together. Help us launch to the next level!

## A Spot Has Opened for You! (Small Group Ministry)

Rev. Dr. Megan Visser



### Interested in Joining Small Group Ministry?

One of our small groups in the UUSCV Small Group Ministry Program is open to new members for the Summer! Are you intrigued by all the wonderful things you've heard about this welcoming and faith-deepening program? The group's next meeting is June 9 from 7pm-9pm. Please contact Rick Kamlet to express interest. [rkamlet@ca.rr.com](mailto:rkamlet@ca.rr.com).

[Here is the packet](#) of activities and questions for the June session - pick one activity, one question (or more!) to engage. Here is info about the [Soul Matters Approach to Small Groups](#).

## Book Club

Suzie Rizzo

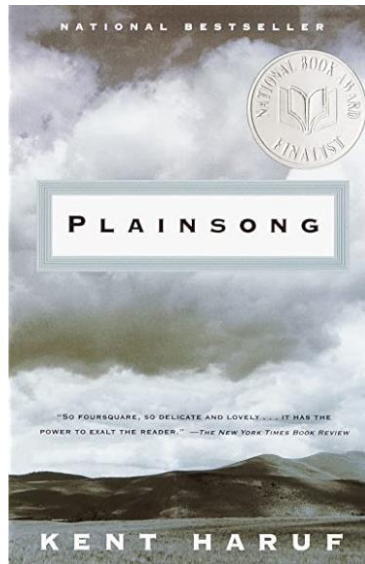
This is a welcoming and joyful group of readers who love to share their thoughts on the selections chosen. Everyone's presence is encouraged. This group meets the second Wednesday of each month. We will meet at **6:00 pm** at the home of Lois Linnert. Please bring a dish to share and a beverage of your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

UUSCV's Covid Policy is followed.

The book for **June 14<sup>th</sup>** is, "Plainsong." The author is Kent Haruf.

Holt, Colorado, a tiny prairie community near Denver, is both the setting for and the psychological matrix of Haruf's beautifully executed novel.

Alternating chapters focus on eight compassionately imagined characters whose lives undergo radical change during the course of one year. (*Excerpted from review by Washington Post.*)



Please join us for a lively discussion.

The book for July 12 will be "Sycamore Row," by John Grisham.

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.

## One Zoom and One IN-PERSON Game Night

Beth Jenkins



The first Game Night this month is via Zoom: We will be holding Zoom Game Night on **Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>** at **7:00 pm**. [www.tinyurl.com/zoomuuscv](http://www.tinyurl.com/zoomuuscv)

The second Game Night this month is **IN PERSON: Friday June 23<sup>rd</sup>** (note the different day of the week) will be an **in-person Game Night** starting with a potluck at 6:30 pm, and then games at 7:00 pm.

## Bend the Arc

Lou Paparozzi

Our next Bend The Arc meeting will be on **June 21<sup>st</sup>** at Suzie Rizzo's home. **Socializing 6:00 to 6:30 pm; Discussion 6:30 to 7:30 pm**. Join us for an informed, respectful, and lively examination of some of the topics of the day for discussion of local, national and world events.

Please bring: Finger Food and Topics for Discussion

Contact Lou Paparozzi for the location and any additional information.

## 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 p.m.** 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, June 26<sup>th</sup>** will be, *"What would you do if you won \$1 Billion Dollars?"*

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](#)

## Social & Environmental Justice

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

Louise Klatt & Glenda Nowakowski

#### SCV Food Pantry

In May, the United States Postal Service conducted a food drive, and currently the Food Pantry's shelves are well-stocked. While you are free to bring what you wish to our congregation's weekly food drives, the Food Pantry can really use personal care items. Items include soap, toilet paper, toothpaste, feminine hygiene products, deodorant, facial tissues, etc. Where applicable, travel sizes are especially appreciated, as they are more convenient for unhoused people.

#### 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. Nine postcards were written in May. Let's see if we can top that!

The table will be up between the end of the service and noon, when the SEJ team 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 (June 4 ) at 3 PM on the corner of Valencia and McBean (on the Facey side). Bring a sign promoting peace, or you can borrow one.

### Stop the Stigma!

Stop the Stigma, an event in support of mental health resources, was held on May 20<sup>th</sup>. The aim is to help relieve the stigma surrounding seeking help for mental health. The event was well attended. Congregation members Suzie Rizzo, Ingrid Van Dorn, and Louise Klatt attended.

Barbara Wilson, another member of our congregation, was one of the main organizers of the event. Member Beth Jenkins was also at the event (in her professional capacity for Henry Mayo Hospital.)



*SEJ team members Suzie Rizzo, Barbara Wilson, Ingrid Van Dorn at the "Stop the Stigma SCV 2023" Mental Health Event*



*Barbara Wilson, one of the organizers of the event*

### NAACP 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Juneteenth Fundraising Celebration

UUSCV is invited to NAACP Santa Clarita's 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Juneteenth Fundraising Celebration. This year NAACP will be honoring dynamic leaders in the community, celebrating FREEDOM while raising donations for their Scholarship Fund. Come enjoy a VIP experience with light Hors D'oeuvres, entertainment, guest speakers and much more! June 16<sup>th</sup>, 3:30 to 9:00 pm at the Hyatt Regency, in Valencia.

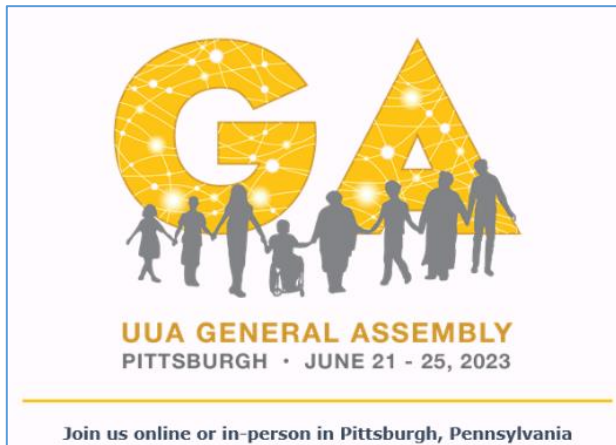


The next meeting of the SEJ team will be on **June 11<sup>th</sup> at noon**, in person at Vibe and also streamed via Zoom. Come join us!



# Come to General Assembly 2023!

Rev. Megan Visser



General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we conduct business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles. Join General Assembly (or GA) from **June 21 to 25 online or in-person** in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Attendance can be either in-person or virtual. Feel free to contact Rev. Megan with any questions.

Our congregation has appointed our 2 delegates to vote in the regular business meetings of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) to vote for us in electing a new UUA President and discussing changes to Article 2, the principles, purposes and sources of our tradition.

Check it out - [www.uua.org/ga](http://www.uua.org/ga)

## Church Workings

### Board of Trustees

#### Highlights

Carmela Camp

- A budget was approved for presentation at the annual congregational business meeting in June.
- An agreement with Reverend Jo Green to be an affiliated Community Minister with our congregation will soon be signed.
- Rev. Megan will attend General Assembly virtually; and Rev. Ken Brown and Eric Klatt will be our delegates (virtually) for business purposes. There is no attendance charge for virtual delegates for business purposes and such delegates have voting powers.
- The June Board meeting will be on **Sunday, June 25 at 5:00p.m.**

#### Board Officers

President - *unfilled*

Vice President - Rev. Dr. Ken Brown

Co-Treasurer - Eric Klatt

Co-Treasurer - Diane Tamburello

Secretary - Carmela Camp

Member-at-Large - Rick Kamlet

Member-at-Large - Gordon Uppman

Member-at-Large - Dru Hiller

# Membership

Membership Team

## Birthdays

Emily Larbaoui	06/01
Barbara Wampole	06/06
Karla Edwards	06/12
Eric Klatt	06/15
Gordon Uppman	06/22

## Membership Anniversaries

Dru Hiller	06/29/2014
Adam Sawyer	06/16/2019
Mirna Sawyer	06/16/2019

## Need to Speak to the Minister?

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

## Gratitudes

Membership Team



To **Suzie** ... for hosting the Spring Fling event at her clubhouse.

To **Ken, Tommie, Ingrid, Glenda, Diane T., Chris, Louise, Lucy,** and **Rick** ... for handling set-up for the Spring Fling.

To **All** who attended the Spring Fling ... for supporting the congregation by bidding and purchasing silent auction items.

To **Eric** ...for being a delegate representing UU of SCV at the Pacific Southwest Service Area Assembly in San Louis Obispo.

To **Ingrid, Glenda, Louise, Chris,** and **Diane** ... for staying to clean up after the Spring Fling event. It was a huge job after an evening of fun and fellowship!

To **Scott** ... for his marvelous musical improvisations!

To **Ingrid** ... for being pulpit host during the month of May.

To **Mary** and **Pete** ... for singing a delightful duet during a service.

To **Scott, Monica,** and **the choir** ... for a wonderful worship service filled with music!

To **Bob, Louise, Barbara C.** and **Beth** ... for the Memorial Day service.

## 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.

## 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.

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)

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

## Sunday

**4 Sunday Service, 10:30 am**  
**Classism in UU Intersections**  
 Rose Riedel

## Sunday

**11 Sunday Service, 10:30 am**  
**Flower Power: 100 Year of UU Ceremony**  
 Rev. Dr. Megan Visser  
**Social & Environmental Justice Team**  
 12 noon, at Vibe and on Zoom

**14 Book Club**, 6:00 pm, Lois Linnert's home

**15 Annual Congregational Business Meeting**, 7 pm, regular UUSCV Zoom  
[www.tinyurl.com/ZoomUUSCV](http://www.tinyurl.com/ZoomUUSCV)

**16 Invited to NAACP Juneteenth Fundraiser**, 3:30 – 9:00 pm, Hyatt Valencia

## Sunday

**18 Sunday Service, 10:30 am**  
**Delighting in the Dots: Connections & Possibilities in UU Community**  
 Dr. Melissa James

**21 Bend the Arc**, Socializing 6:00 pm & Discussion 6:30 to 7:30 pm, Suzie Rizzo's home

**21 – 25 General Assembly, Pittsburgh** (also on Zoom, see article)

**23 Game Night IN PERSON**, 6:30 pm potluck, at Beth Jenkins house, **FRIDAY** (see article)

## Sunday

**25 Sunday Service, 10:30 am**  
**Ecotones**  
 Michael Eselun  
**Board Meeting**, 5 pm, Zoom

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



# SNAPSHOTS

## Services



*Mary and Pete Tassone*



*Natalie Mendoza, Guest Vocalist*



*Lynne Plambeck*





## Spring Fling





## Women's Retreat



*Louise & Ingrid at Camp*



*Louise & Ingrid with Anna from UUFGC (Kern County  
Congregation)*



*Group shot of women who hike to Jenks Lake*