



**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**

**July, 2023**

## **Theme for this Month is: Faith in Belonging**

You hardly knew  
how hungry you were  
to be gathered in,  
to receive the welcome  
that invited you to enter  
entirely...  
You began to breathe again...  
You learned to sing.

But the deal with this blessing  
is that it will not leave you alone,  
will not let you linger...  
this blessing  
will ask you to leave,  
not because it has tired of you  
but because it desires for you  
to become the sanctuary  
that you have found...

*- Jan Richardson*



Richardson begins with hunger. And so do we. Just saying the word "belonging" conjures it up: The primal hunger to be included; the longing to be let in. No one likes standing outside the circle. No one likes leaning against the locked door listening while everyone is laughing inside. From the time we are little, belonging is the thing we seek. It's the hoped for Holy Grail. The promised resting place.

But Richardson will have none of that. Our *own* belonging is only the beginning. That's what she wants us to know. One minute she's wrapping us in comforting words about settling in and allowing ourselves to finally breathe. The next she's shaking us awake and telling us to get up and go.

That shaking should tell us something.

It's all one big reminder that the true blessing of belonging is not that you get to come inside the circle; it's that you get to participate in expanding it. Again, as the circle grows so do we.

## 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

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

### **“So?!”**

Rev. Anne Hines



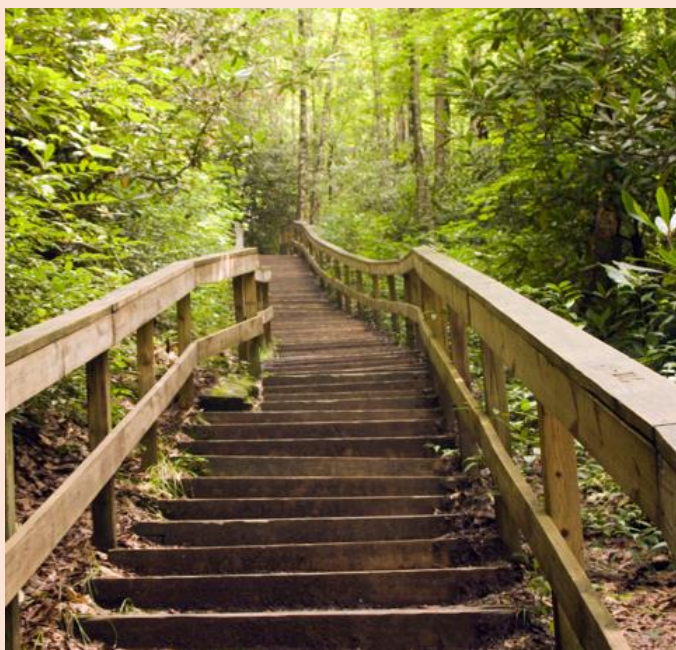
Someone once told me that the title of today's sermon is “the greatest affirmation of all.” It may also be the greatest example of this month's theme, “Faith.” Come and find out why!

*Rev. Hines is Minister Emerita of Emerson UU Church in Canoga Park. She retired after over 30 years of UU parish ministry, all within our Pacific Southwest District. Since retiring in 2014 she has served several other congregations as Interim, Sabbatical, or Contract minister. She also serves on the Board of the San Fernando Chapter of the ACLU, is active with Brady United to End Gun Violence, and volunteers with Ten Thousand Villages — a Fair Trade store in Pasadena.*

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

## **“A First Step Faith”**

Rev. Dr. Megan Visser



Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote that “Faith is taking the first step even when you can’t see the whole staircase.” This metaphorical staircase may be the journey ahead in our own spiritual development, the road of change winding into mystery, and the path toward liberation. Unitarian Universalism is a first step faith in which we remind one another that we do not stride alone. Join us on New Member Sunday. We will welcome several new members in an in-person membership ceremony.

July 16<sup>th</sup>

**10:00 am**

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**NOTE: DIFFERENT START TIME: 10:00 AM  
DIFFERENT ZOOM LINK FOR ON-LINE ATTENDEES**

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## **“Our Interconnected Web and the Solar Challenger”**

UU Fellowship of Kern County

Join your UU of SCV community in attending the worship service led by UU Fellowship of Kern County (UUFKC) in Bakersfield, California. Janice Brown Sullivan, the first woman test pilot for the Solar Challenger, will share her experiences. Our interconnected web includes the air above us and our work to protect it.



UU of SCV and UUFKC have been engaged in a partnership this past year to bring a new minister to serve both of our congregations. This Sunday will be the third time that we have gathered for worship with the UUFKC congregation, thanks to the power of Zoom. As the service begins at 10 am this Sunday, **please arrive by 10 am** at Vibe Performing Arts to participate in-person.

Or, connect by Zoom: A link will be in the Friday announcements.

July 23rd, 10:30 am

## **“UUism and Family”**

Rev. Dr. Ken Brown



I agreed to preach this summer and was told I could do this one. I had to chuckle a bit. You see, July 23 is our daughter's birthdate. So, this is a special day for our whole family. On this Sunday, I will share about family, Unitarian Universalism, and the future.

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

## **“Face the Music and Dance”**

Michael Eselun



Popular guest speaker, and UCLA oncology chaplain, Michael Eselun will explore the dance we do between acceptance and self-compassion. If we reach for acceptance of our circumstances as a pathway to inner peace, what part does self-compassion play?



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 Still Needed for Setup and Cleanup

Each Sunday volunteers set up for the worship service and then return items to storage at Vibe afterwards. Crew members for set-up and clean-up have dropped off, so more volunteers are needed. The crew arrives at 9:30 am to set up and stays after the service to clean up. Be part of the team (even if only one Sunday a month)! It gives you a good feeling. Please contact Sammi, Crew Chief, to learn about weekly assignments posted on Google Drive.

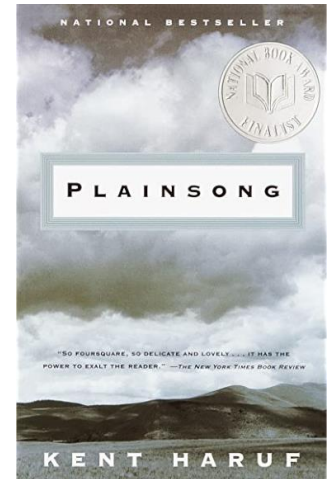
[samanthajeansumampong@gmail.com](mailto:samanthajeansumampong@gmail.com)

## This Month's Activities

### 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.

Since the June Book Club was canceled, at our **July 12<sup>th</sup>** meeting we will discuss "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 August 9<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Game Nights

Beth Jenkins



There will be one remote and one in person Game night each month, on either a Friday or Saturday evening. If interested, please contact Beth Jenkins at [newbethj@yahoo.com](mailto:newbethj@yahoo.com) so she can coordinate the dates.

## Bend the Arc

Lou Paparozzi

Our next Bend The Arc meeting will be on **July 19<sup>th</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 & Barbara McCoy



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 July 24<sup>th</sup>** is: What impact does the news media have on society? Please refer to the weekly announcements for information about the meeting.

Questions: Contact Barbara McCoy ([bmccoy1@socal.rr.com](mailto:bmccoy1@socal.rr.com)) or Lois Linnert (661 299=5393)

# Poets & Writers Group

Glenda Nowakowski



The Poets and Writers group has decided to offer a sample of some of our writers' work. This month features 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.

## Little Ones

Little ones So new to the world.  
A world you can't yet see or hear  
But that will come soon enough.  
Mama isn't quite sure about this  
But for now, you're all warm and dry  
And there's plenty of food.  
She doesn't know if it is safe  
But you're safer than you were before.

Little ones  
We hear your woe  
And smile. It's not your job to know  
How very, very lucky you are  
That people care so much  
About the least of these  
In the feline hierarchy.  
They tune in from near and far  
To see compassion in action  
And whappy paws at the milkbar.

Little ones  
You've grown so fast  
You've pounced and leapt your way  
Into hearts by the thousands.  
But today they pack your Tiny Suitcases.  
Time for you to move on  
To your forever home  
Where you'll be loved beyond measure.  
You won't be forgotten,  
Though the cycle starts again

*"Some always going, some always coming."\**

\*This last line of the poem is from the book *In the Castle of Cats* by Betty Boegehold.

The next meeting of the Poets and Writers group is **Monday, July 3rd at 11:00 am via Zoom**. All interested in poetry and writing are welcome.

## 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.

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

## Announcements

### Small Group Ministry Registration Open for 2023- 2024!

Rev. Dr. Megan Visser,



Interested in Joining  
Small Group Ministry?

RSVP by August 10<sup>th</sup>: Interest Form:  
<https://forms.gle/6NYuhDYG5xMQHkeR6>

You are invited to join a small circle of people at UUSCV for 2 hours every month, in a small group ministry program based on the Soul Matters sharing circle. In this group, you will have the opportunity to deepen your spirituality and cultivate connection one conversation at a time. Theologian, Rebecca Parker, puts it this way: "There is a quality of listening that is possible among a circle of human beings, who by their attentiveness to one another create a space in which each person is able to give voice to the truth of his or her life. There is the miracle of authentic narrative, made possible by listening that holds still long enough to let our truth be told."

**Small Group Ministry lead volunteer** also needed to match people with groups, send out the Soul Matters packets to group facilitators. If you are interested, please contact Rev. Megan (revmegan@uuofscv.org).

### **Why Join the Soul Matters Small Group?** *(abridged from Soul Matters intro packet)*

**Simply put, Soul Matters groups mend the threads of spiritual connection.** Around us swirls a shallow, frantic, and materialistic culture that leaves us cut off from our deepest self, life's gifts and needs greater than our own. Many of us come to church hungry to mend these sacred connections that get frayed and torn. We do this work of reconnection by listening. Fundamentally, that's what Soul Matters is: an invitation to listen more deeply and intentionally, in three distinct ways:

1. **We listen to each other.** It's a gift not often offered in our culture. Most of the time, we are talked at rather than listened to. We are bombarded with information and demands that drown out our own voice. Being listened to by trusted companions helps us hear our own voice again. And more than that: It gives us our story back.
2. **We listen to our lives.** This is not easy to do. Directly or indirectly, we are taught to see life as a challenge not a companion. Soul Matters invites us to take another look and dance with life in a new way. Through spiritual practices and questions focused on our daily living, we engage the world not as an obstacle course to get

through, but as a host of holy moments and voices calling us to greater loving and living.

3. **We listen to our deepest self.** Introspection is often understood as solitary work, but Soul Matters views it as largely a gift given to us by others. Ironically, we hear that "still, small voice inside" best when the voices of friends speak and offer their presence in a disciplined way.

Together, these three sacred practices of listening – to each other, the world and our deepest self – add up to a more intentional and authentic life. It's a journey back to connection, and ultimately a journey back home.

## **Rev. Megan Visser welcomes our Affiliate Minister, Rev. Jo Green to our congregation.**



### ***What is an "Affiliate Minister"?***

Since 1991 the Unitarian Universalist Association has formally recognized community ministers as eligible for fellowship with the Association and has required those ministers to be in relationship with a local congregation. Over the years congregations and community ministers have greatly benefited from these relationships, enriching both the broader ministry and social commitment of the local congregation, helping ministerial colleagues connect and collaborate, and satisfying the UUA's requirements for maintaining fellowship and right relationship with the Association.



Community ministers perform creative and inspirational ministries beyond the walls of an individual UU congregation. Affiliating with a local congregation allows community ministers to ground their work in our faith tradition and provides a UU context for their ministries.

Recognizing that many people first become aware of Unitarian Universalism through contact with a community minister, supporting one of these special ministers provides an excellent opportunity for a congregation to help share our faith perspective with the wider world in a focused and inspirational way.

## Social & Environmental Justice

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

Louise Klatt & Glenda Nowakowski

Our Social & Environmental Justice team (SEJ) wants to let you know what's been happening around our local community. Members of our team are actively participating in the community attending meetings, events and volunteering. Here are some things they would like to share with you:

***The Citizen's Climate Lobby*** is working on banning single use plastic bags in unincorporated areas. These bags are bad for our environment and unnecessary. Don't forget to bring your reusable bags to the store!

**The Santa Clarita City Council officially recognized June as Pride Month.** Pride events were happening in the SCV during June, including the "Pride at the Park" on Friday June 30<sup>th</sup> at the Castaic Regional Sports Complex. The LGBTQ+ community is being encouraged

to walk with PFLAG at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade. More info [pflagscv.org](http://pflagscv.org)

**NAACP Santa Clarita held its inaugural Juneteenth fundraiser** at the Hyatt Regency Valencia. But event organizers didn't just want to raise funds — they also highlighted achievements made in the community. The following people from our congregation attended: Suzie Rizzo, Louise Klatt, Lou Paparozzi and Rev. Jo Green.



#### Grandmothers (and Others) For Peace

Grandmothers and Others for Peace meet on the first Sunday of the month (July 2<sup>nd</sup>) at 3 PM on the corner of Valencia Blvd. and McBean (on the Facey side). Bring a sign promoting peace, or you can borrow one.

#### Postcard Writing after Services

The SEJ team will have a table set up after the service on July 9<sup>th</sup> for writing postcards to our elected officials. Materials will be provided, as well as addresses of elected officials and a list of possible issues. The table will be set-up in the annex (by the refreshments) immediately after the service until 12pm when the SEJ team meeting begins. The meeting is open to anyone who wishes to learn more about what

members of the team are doing to make a difference in our local community and beyond.

**Our 3rd Sunday** dedicated offering (July 16th) will be collected for The Domestic Violence Project, Santa Clarita

**Bend the Arc** will meet on Wednesday, July 19<sup>th</sup> at 6pm, join them for an informed, respectful and lively examination of some topics of the day for discussion of local, national and world events. Contact Suzie Rizzo for more info. [baroness1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:baroness1@sbcglobal.net)

**Save the date! The next fifth Sunday presentation will be on July 30<sup>th</sup>**

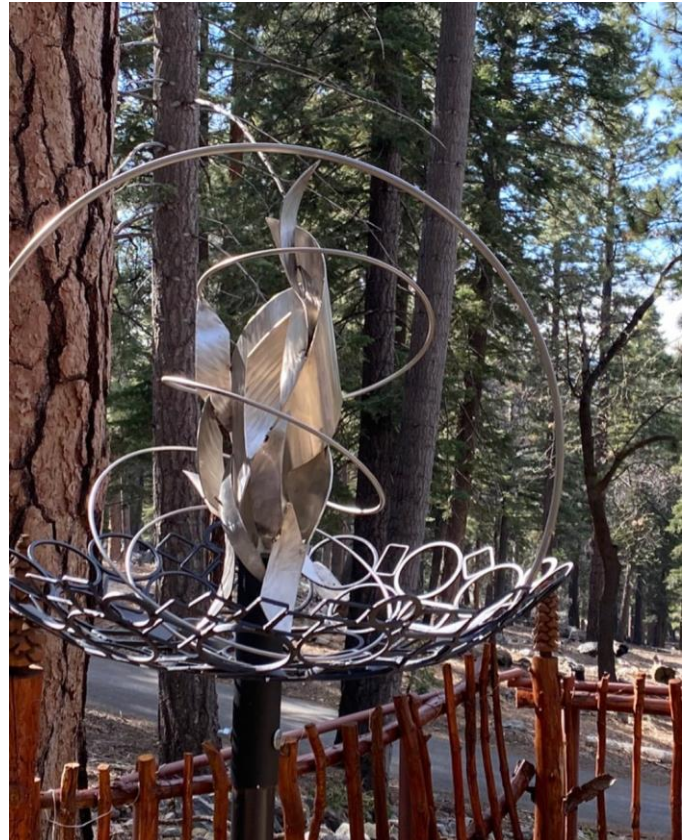
Barbara Wilson of Mental Health Hook-up will be our speaker. Finding support and services for adult family members who have a serious & chronic form of mental illness can be difficult. At Mental Health Hook-up, they work with families to identify needs, deliver or recommend mental health services, and offer support for family members. Barbara Wilson, LCSW and lifetime advocate for and provider of mental health services.

If you are interested in social justice, our environment and learning more, please join us at our next meeting on **July 9th, at noon**. This meeting is open to all and will be in person at Vibe and also streamed via Zoom.

## Camp

Louise Klatt

Summer at Camp de Benneville Pines isn't just for kids! We've got several camps planned just for grown-ups. Want to escape the heat and ho-hum days of summer? Come on up to camp and rejuvenate!



“Uplifting Our Voices, Uplifting Our World: Upcycle!”  
Summer Break Camp for Adults & Singing in the Pines  
Thursday, Aug. 10th to Monday, August  
14th <https://www.uucamp.org/.../2023-uu-summer-break-camp>

Young Adults (18-35yrs) Come up to camp over Labor Day weekend "YA Camp 2023: Songs of the Spirit"  
Meet new friends and connect with old ones. [2023 UU Young Adult Camp - \(uucamp.org\)](https://www.uucamp.org)

There are also camps where adults can participate as part of an inter-generational group [Calendar - \(uucamp.org\)](https://www.uucamp.org)





And last but definitely not least, a big thank you for all the generous donations! The donations received from congregations and individuals have been essential in keeping our camp open & affordable for all.



Singing in the Pines

## Church Workings

### Board of Trustees

#### Highlights

##### Carmela Camp

- New members will be welcomed into our congregation during the July 9<sup>th</sup> service.
- Rev. Megan reported that at General Assembly she spoke with a number of people about our congregation's search for a minister and what a wonderful opportunity our yoking project presents.
- A policy was adopted to notify people if we find out that there has been an exposure to Covid at a Sunday service (no names mentioned, of course).
- The July Board meeting will be on **Sunday, July 16 at 5:00 pm**. The August Board meeting will be on **Sunday, August 6 at 5:30 pm**.

#### Board Officers

President - *unfilled*

Vice President - Rev. Dr. Ken Brown

Co-Treasurer - Eric Klatt

Co-Treasurer – Chris Hankla (**welcome!**)

Secretary - Carmela Camp

Member-at-Large - Rick Kamlet

Member-at-Large - Gordon Uppman

Member-at-Large – Diane Lin (**welcome!**)

# Membership

Membership Team

## Birthdays

Kevin Corcoran	07/10
Glenda Nowakowski	07/14
Bob Maitino	07/15
Sara McDaniels	07/23

## Membership Anniversaries

Chris Hankla	07/14/2002
Diane Tamburello	07/14/2002
Barbara Wilson	07/29/2014

## 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 **Lucy, Barbara McC., Diane T., Eric, and Chris** ... for serving on the Finance Committee and constructing a proposed budget for FY 2023-24 to present to the Board.

To **Karen and Emily** ... for serving on this year's Nominating Committee.

To **Rick, Beth, and Sara** ... for continuing to serve on the Ministerial Search Committee.

To **Beth, Ingrid, and Bob** ... for serving as pulpit hosts during June services.



# 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)

Game Night, dates, times, and locations (Zoom vs in-person) to be announced. Contact Beth Jenkins

## Sunday

**2** Sunday Service, 10:30 am  
**So?!**  
Rev. Anne Hines

**3** **Poets & Writers**, 11 am, Zoom

## Sunday

**9** Sunday Service, 10:30 am  
**A First Step Faith**  
Rev. Dr. Megan Visser

**Social & Environmental Justice Team**  
12 noon, at Vibe and on Zoom

**10** Sign Up Date for Small Group Ministry for 2023/2024

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

## Sunday

**16** **NOTE: \*\* DIFFERENT START TIME: 10:00 am**

**\*\* DIFFERENT ZOOM LINK FOR ON-LINE ATTENDEES (to be provided in Announcements)**

Sunday Service, 10:00 am

**Our Interconnected Web and Solar Challenger**  
Janice Brown Sullivan

**Board Meeting**, 5 pm, Zoom

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

## Sunday

**23** Sunday Service, 10:30 am  
**UUism & Family**  
Rev. Dr. Ken Brown

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

## Sunday

**30** Sunday Service, 10:30 am  
**Face the Music & Dance**  
Michael Eselun

Followed by Fifth Sunday Forum by the Social & Environmental Justice Team (details TBA)

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

**August 12** – Farewell Party for Rev. Megan. Time to be announced.