



UU of SCV

The Flame

www.UUofSCV.org

www.facebook.com/UUofSCV

Donations Page: www.uuofscv.org/about-us/donate
PO Box 800028, Santa Clarita, CA 91380. 661-254-7866

Zoom: <https://tinyurl.com/ZoomUUSCV>

Santa Clarita's Unitarian Universalist Congregation

November, 2024

Sunday Services

November 3rd, 10:30 am

The Spirit of Democracy

Rev. Maddie Sifantus

As we gather this Sunday, we have no idea how our elections will turn out. With some reflection on her recent road trip across our country, Rev. Maddie Sifantus, Minister Emerita of the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula, will consider how it is with our spirits as we head into the end into the holidays after the most important election of our lifetimes, knowing that Democracy is one of our long-held Principles as UUs: "the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large."



(cont.)

(cont.)

Rev. Maddie Sifantus retired as the full time ten year settled minister of the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula, California where she is now Minister Emerita. Before that she served two small formerly Universalist congregations in Massachusetts. She was originally ordained as a community minister, founding a senior citizen chorus she directed for 20 years, the Golden Tones. She is also a professional singer.

November 10th, 10:30 am

To Repair and Renew

Rev. Dr. Jason Cook

UU of SCV Minister



Rev. Jason and Worship Chair Louise Klatt lead the congregation in an important worship service focused on visioning the near future at UU of SCV. What does it mean to nurture what we already have in place? What might need to be repaired, renewed, and re-created as a congregation going forward? What's most important to us at this moment in time? This interactive service will give *you* a chance to have your say! Your participation on this day is very important as congregational goals for the year will generate from this time together.

November 17th, 10:30 am

From Fragmentation into Wholeness

Rev. Jo Green



To repair something in our lives must mean that something is first broken. In our world today we see much that is broken and sometimes feel powerless to repair it. However, what in our lives do we personally see broken that we have the ability to repair? Let us explore this Sunday how we can repair those parts of our lives that we can make whole again.



Vibe Performing Arts Studio,
Valencia Plaza Shopping Center,
24460 1/4 Lyons Ave

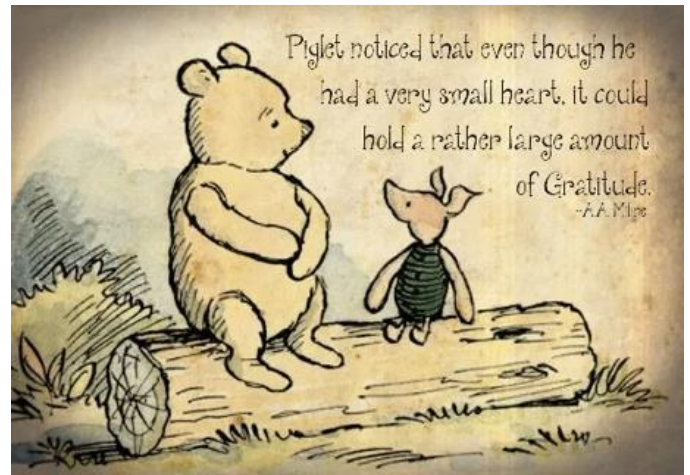
<https://tinyurl.com/ZoomUUSCV>

Or via phone at: (669) 900-9128
Meeting ID: 3098843973 (use for password also)
"#" for personal ID

November 24th, 10:30 am

Repairing, Re-thinking, Remembering Thanksgiving

Rev. Dr. Jason Cook
UU of SCV Minister



Rev. Jason leads this service rooted in the gratitude of the upcoming holiday -- but also not shying away from some of the more problematic myths that surround it. What does it mean for us -- as people of conscience and justice -- to acknowledge Thanksgiving? What does real gratitude look like both individually and played out in the larger world?



Activities

Election Night Zoom Gathering

Join us on **November 5th from 6:30 to 7:30 PM** for an Election Night Zoom gathering led by Rev. Jason Cook.

This space will allow us to come together in community as we navigate the emotions of the evening. Through shared readings, meditative silence, and brief check-ins, we will focus on centering ourselves rather than engaging in political discussions.

Let's create a supportive environment to honor our feelings and connect with one another during this significant time. All are welcome as we find peace amidst the activity of election night.

On the regular UU of SCV Zoom.

Introducing the "Grief & Caregivers" Check-In Group

Dear UU of SCV members and friends,

I'm pleased to announce a new group designed for those navigating the complex terrain of grief and caregiving. Starting on **November 21st**, we will gather on the **third Thursday of each month at noon on Zoom** for our "Grief & Caregivers" check-in group. This initiative aims to create a safe, nurturing space for individuals who are processing loss or supporting loved ones through challenging times.

Grief is a journey that can feel overwhelming and isolating, and it is important to acknowledge that it

often remains a part of our lives long after the initial loss. Whether you're grappling with the loss of a loved one (maybe a month ago—maybe ten years) or experiencing grief from other life changes (decline in health, job loss, divorce, etc.), this group is here to provide support and understanding. We recognize that everyone's experience of grief is unique and managing it can often feel like a lifelong process.

Who Is This Group For?

This group is designed for anyone wishing to discuss their relationship with grief in a supportive and caring environment. It's important to note that if you are currently facing the most recent or devastating grief, please reach out to me, Rev. Jason, before attending, as there may be other resources better suited to your immediate needs before being engaged in a group setting. However, for those who are ready to explore their feelings and share their experiences, this group will serve as a meaningful opportunity to connect with others who understand.

Additionally, caregivers—those who provide support for loved ones facing serious health challenges or life transitions—are warmly invited. Caregiving can often lead to its own set of emotions, including grief for the relationship as it once was. This group will offer a compassionate space where caregivers can share their feelings and experiences without judgment.

What to Expect

Each gathering will foster an atmosphere of empathy and openness. Sessions will involve shared stories and reflections; be prepared for moments of laughter, tears, and everything in between. This group is a drop-in format, so feel free to attend as your schedule allows. There is no pressure to come every month; simply join us when you need support.

Supported by the Pastoral Care Team

The "Grief & Caregivers" check-in group is supported by our dedicated Pastoral Care team at UU of SCV. Together, we believe in the power of

community and shared experience as essential components of healing. Our goal is to help you feel less alone in your journey and to provide a network of support that aligns with our Unitarian Universalist values of compassion, understanding, and acceptance.

How to Join

To participate in the "Grief & Caregivers" check-in group, simply log in to our Zoom meeting on the third Thursday of each month at noon. No prior registration is needed—just come as you are, ready to share or simply listen. **On the regular UU of SCV Zoom.** The session begins promptly at 12:00 noon and is finished at 1:00 pm. Those who are working are welcome to join (maybe during your lunch hour). You can just listen in if that's all you are able to do.

A Final Note

As we embark on this new initiative, I want to emphasize that this group is a sanctuary for healing. In our Unitarian Universalist community, we value each individual's journey and the myriad ways grief can manifest. Together, we will cultivate a space that honors our feelings and fosters resilience.

I look forward to connecting with you all and sharing in this journey of compassion, understanding, and support. Remember, you are not alone—let's navigate this path together. With warmth and care,
Rev. Dr. Jason Cook

Questions? Email Rev. Jason at minister@uuofscv.org

Drum Circle

Hosted at the home of Beth Jenkins

Drum Circle will be held on **Friday, November 1st**, hosted at the home of Beth Jenkins.

Our monthly Drum Circle is always the first Friday of the month, **7:00 pm**, at the following address: 27335 Weathersfield Dr, Valencia, CA 91354. No experience is needed, and you can bring your own drum (or other percussion instrument) or use one of the many supplied by our expert Drum Circle leader Burl Bolerjack. Bring a friend or family member(s) ages 8 and up (must be able to sit for 1.5 hours and focus on the leader's and others' drumbeats, to fit their own unique beat into the group sound).

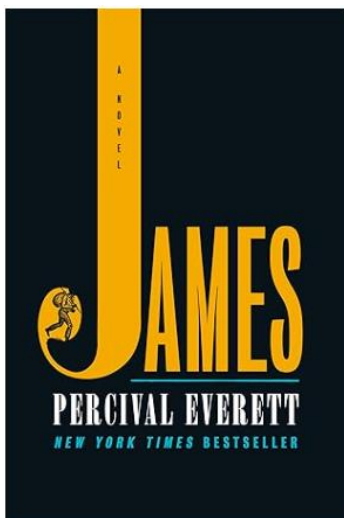
Donations are much appreciated to pay for Burl's travel and other expenses (usual amount is \$10, but if you bring children, please do not feel obligated to donate for them). Burl generously shares half the donation amount to UU of SCV, and it has accumulated to be several hundred dollars per year!

For any questions, concerns, or directions, as well as to RSVP (that is MUCH appreciated, so Beth knows how many chairs to put out), please email Beth Jenkins at: newbethj@gmail.com.

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 (vegan and vegetarian preferred) and a beverage of your choice, as well as your thoughts and your critique.

UUSCV's Covid Policy is followed.

On **November 13th** we will be discussing "James" by Perceval Everett. This provocative novel is through the eyes of James, Huckleberry Finn's Black traveling companion as they moved down the Mississippi River. James is the runaway slave who has a point of view that needs expressing.

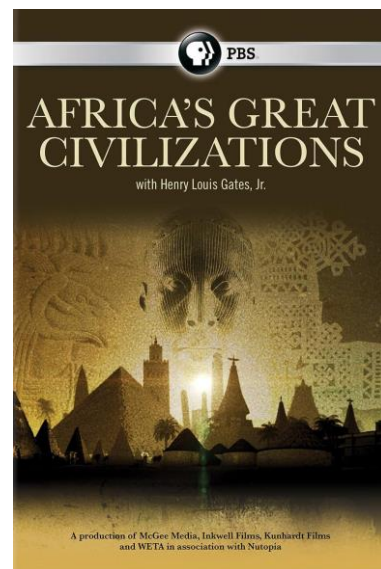
Wednesday, December 11th we will be discussing "Major Pettigrew's Last Stand." This book is by Helen Siminson.

Contact Ingrid Van Dorn (armo591@aol.com) or Marianne Bakic (mariannebakic@icloud.com) if you have any questions.

Movie Night

Suzie Rizzo

SEJ is having movie night. Documentaries, biographies, novels, and more will be shown at the home of Suzie Rizzo on the second Friday of each month. Please join us at **6:00 pm for conversation and food. The film will start at 7:00 pm.** Please bring finger foods to share, vegan and vegetarian preferred. You may contact Suzie at baroness1@sbcglobal.net if you have any questions.



The documentary movie for **November 8th** is an additional part of "Africa's Great Civilization." This movie is narrated by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. Professor Gates travels the length and breadth of Africa to chronicle the continent's history from a firmly African perspective. His journey takes him from the city of Great Zimbabwe, to the pyramids of Meroe, and the spectacular rock-hewn churches of Lalibela in Ethiopia.*

**excerpts from the film jacket.*

The movie for December 13th is another part of "Africa's Great Civilization."

Game Nights

hosted by Beth Jenkins

ZOOM Game Night -- Our monthly ZOOM Game night usually is the first Saturday of each month, which for this month is **November 2nd**. Join us for a wild Pictionary type game and possible Scattegories and/or Boggle -- ALL on your computer/laptop! The fun begins at **7:00 pm**, and it is easy to join: just use the same UU of SCV ZOOM room link that is listed in our weekly announcements and our monthly newsletter to join. This is a great evening, enjoyed from the comfort of your home. No need to stay for the whole evening (we usually go until 8:30-9:00 PM)-- give this fun way to get to know your fellow congregation members or visitors a try! No drawing skills needed; just a good sense of humor.

IN-PERSON Game Night -- Come join us for our monthly IN-PERSON Game Night at the home of Beth Jenkins, usually the 4th Friday of each month. This month the date will be **Friday, November 22nd, 6:30 pm**. Please RSVP to Beth Jenkins at: newbethj@yahoo.com (*note: this is a different email address than for Drum Circle at Beth's home*). And please include what potluck item you will be bringing, so we don't all bring desserts! (BYOB for drinks). This is a very fun and lively evening of good food, great conversation, lots of laughs, and (not very competitive) table games (mostly word games).

Note: as with all of our affinity groups, you do not need to be a member or even a visitor to UU of SCV to attend any of our regular monthly activities, and you are encouraged to invite friends, including to the ZOOM game night (we have one regular attendee who lives in Northern California!).

Bend the Arc Discussion Group

Suzie Rizzo



Bend the Arc, a political discussion group under the auspices of the Social and Environmental Justice Team will meet again on the third Wednesday of November, **November 20th** at our usual time, **6:00 pm for pot luck and chatting, and 6:30 pm for serious discussion.**

If you have any questions or want additional information, please contact Suzie Rizzo at baroness1@sbcglobal.net.

Open Topics Discussion Group

Barbara McCoy & Lois Linnert



We sit in a room with other people and discuss various topics, the topic being different each

month. That is our Discussion Group and we would love for you to join us. Each month we meet on the 4th Monday (**November 25th**), at the home of Lois Linnert at **6:00 pm**. We bring food to share, so we can socialize before the discussion begins.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please call Lois Linnert at 661-299-5393.

Friday Meditations on Zoom

Barbara Wampole



"It is indeed a radical act of love just to sit down and be quiet for a time by yourself" – Jon Kabat Zinn

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 the UU of SCV Zoom](#)

Social & Environmental Justice

News from our Social & Environmental Justice (SEJ) Team

Louise Klatt & Glenda Nowakowski

PFLAG – PFLAG meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7 pm at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church.

UUSCV had a table at the Pride Picnic on October 5th. Glenda Nowakowski, Louise Klatt, Eric Klatt, Chris Hankla, and Diane Tamburello worked at the table. We made some new connections, renewed some older connections, and several people expressed interest in our church. It was not as well attended as last year, and many of the people were from the participating organizations.



**Diane, Chris, Eric, Glenda, and Louise at
Pride Picnic**

Assemblymember Pilar Schiavo visited our table, and there were other candidates for local offices were there as well.

Purple Walk – The Purple Walk to benefit the Domestic Violence Project was held on October 5th in the morning. Louise Klatt, Eric Klatt, and Emily Larbaoui. participated. It was very well attended.



Emily, Louise, and Eric at Purple Walk

NAACP – NAACP meets on the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm at the Northpark HOA clubhouse.

The NAACP held a masked gala fundraiser on October 4th. Lynne Plambeck, Ingrid Van Dorn, and Suzie Rizzo attended. The event benefits the local NAACP and their scholarship fund. There were performances, spoken word, a band, and dancing. Snacks and drinks were provided.

SCV Food Pantry – Ingrid Van Dorn reports that the Food Pantry needs nonperishable food, pet food, and personal care items.

Clean Air Teach-In – The Clean Air Teach-In was held on October 4th at Pico Canyon Park, under the Old Glory oak tree. Mike Singletary from UU of SCV

played and sang songs by Pete Seeger and other artists. One speaker talked about the importance of the arts in activist work, and two candidates for the Water Board spoke about how conserving water helps decrease air pollution. There were also educational posters about the importance of trees. Lynne Plambeck, Glenda Nowakowski, Barbara Wampole, and Suzie Rizzo attended.

Postcard Writing – Postcard writing was not held in October, as Suzie Rizzo was out of town, but will resume in November. It will be on the second Sunday of the month after the service in the annex of Vibe Performing Arts.

Climate Justice Revival – Glenda Nowakowski attended the first day of the Climate Justice Revival on September 28th via Zoom. The event was geared toward encouraging participants to reimagine a world with love at the center through drawing and other exercises. Speakers made it clear that climate justice intersects with other kinds of justice, and that a transformative approach was needed. Participants were encouraged to consider what the community needs, what they have to offer, and what brings them joy, and to concentrate their efforts in those areas.

SCOPE/Chiquita Canyon Landfill – Lynne said that Assemblymember Pilar Schiavo had a Zoom meeting with the Castaic Advisory Board. She expressed frustration that the county was supposed to make a declaration on the situation at Chiquita Canyon landfill, but hasn't done so. Asm. Schiavo stayed overnight at a house near the landfill and experienced symptoms similar to the ones that residents have. Resolution of the situation could take as long as two years, but the residents need relief much sooner than that.

Citizen's Climate Lobby - CCL meets on the second Saturday of the month at 10 am via Zoom. Contact Suzie Rizzo to get on the mailing list.

Build Trans Justice & Safety: A Webinar for Unitarian Universalists – This webinar is from the Transforming Hearts Collective. To view it, go to [Build Trans Justice & Safety: A Webinar for Unitarian Universalists — Transforming Hearts Collective](#)

The webinar is very direct about the difficulties transgender people face in many states, and the effect on their health and safety. The more positive content starts at about 33 minutes. They also provide a list of resources and actions that some UU congregations have taken to support transgender people.

Third Sunday – The Third Sunday recipient is Single Mothers Outreach. SMO has served over 4,000 single parents and their children by providing crucial support and resources that help them achieve self-sufficiency, with over 80% of participants reporting significant improvements in parenting skills, financial literacy, and personal development through educational programs, and distributing more than \$500,000 in financial aid and emergency assistance to help stabilize living situations and access essential resources during times of crisis.

Bend the Arc – Bend the Arc will meet on the third Wednesday of the month (November 20th) at 6 PM. Please bring food to share and ideas for discussion.

Grandmothers (and Others) for Peace – GFP try to meet on the first Sunday of the month at the corner of Valencia and McBean (weather permitting). The time is not yet set. Contact Glenda Nowakowski for more information or to be put on the mailing list.

Movie Night – Movie Night will be held on Friday, November 8th at 6 pm. Please see Suzie Rizzo's article elsewhere in this newsletter.

The next SEJ Team meeting will be on **November 10th at noon** at Vibe Performing Arts and via Zoom. Postcard writing will resume on that day.

Camp

Camp Re-Opens!

Louise Klatt



Our beautiful mountain retreat, Camp de Benneville pines was evacuated on September 9th due to the Line Fire. On October 8, 2024, Janet James, Executive Director of our camp received a call from the USFS Permit Officer stating that all camps on the south side of highway 38 are free to resume hosting retreat groups!

After the Line Fire raced through the mountain communities, she was happy to report that Barton Flats is intact. Our Camp is intact. Jenks Lake is intact, although the water level is much lower than a month ago because the fire fighters used the lake water to help fight the fire. This was a close one, folks. The firefighters managed to stop the fire's rampage 3 miles from Barton Flats. You will return to a camp that is thriving and beautiful.



Jenks Lake

Janet is very grateful to our congregation for having a special Sunday collection for the camp's Line Fire Relief Fund. Donations are important to keep our camp running even in good times, and especially during emergencies like having to close due to a wildfire.

There are some wonderful camps you can attend this month, such as "Music in the Mountains", and the annual Thanksgiving camp.

It's not too late to make plans to come up. [Click here to view the calendar of events](#) and select a retreat and join us for a nurturing meal and meaningful time with others. Come fill your soul and rejoice in this sacred place, *your home on the mountain top.*



Church Workings

UUSCV Provides Support for Camp de Benneville Pines

Chris Hankla, Co-Treasurer

The recent Line Fire in the San Bernardino Mountains significantly threatened our beloved UU Camp de Benneville. Twice, it prompted the evacuation of staff, volunteers and campers. The fire contributed to the loss of significant revenue and created the need for smoke mitigation before reopening.

Friends and congregants of UU of SCV answered the call to provide monetary support to maintain the camp's viability. The Board offered to match contributions up to \$150 from the Board's discretionary fund.

It is with appreciation that our congregation was able to donate \$338 to Camp de Benneville.

Gratefully, the camp was spared. It has reopened and camp programs have resumed as previously scheduled. Perhaps you would consider spending Thanksgiving with UU friends at our beautiful camp in the mountains. Look for more information about camp elsewhere in this newsletter.

Rev. Dr. Jason Cook as Executive Director of UU Wellspring

No, we are NOT losing our new minister. 😊 Rather, our minister, Rev. Jason, has taken on an additional part-time position as Executive Director for UU Wellspring, an organization affiliated with the UUA.

UU Wellspring offers a variety of programs for congregations to deepen their spiritual lives and

UU identity. Currently, the most popular one is "Love at the Center," focusing on the shift from the seven principles to the six values with love at the center.

It is possible that this program may be offered at UU of SCV in the future, which would be great! In addition, our congregation may serve to pilot developing programs. In his new role, there is an opportunity to bring the UU of SCV congregation national attention. To learn more about UU Wellspring, go to <https://uuwellspring.org/>.

Board of Trustees

Glenda Nowakowski, Secretary

Key topics from the October 20th Meeting of the UU of SCV Board of Trustees:

- The Board is having on-going conversations about various methods of outreach.
- Rev. Jason will be starting an online grief/caregiving support group in the near future.
- The board has allocated \$100 for the congregation to join the Unitarian Universalist Animal Ministry, with the goal of restarting the congregation's animal ministry group.

Rev. Jason Contact Information

Rev. Dr. Jason Cook

Email: minister@uuofscv.org

Phone: 661-237-8873

To Schedule a Zoom Appointment:

<https://calendly.com/rev-jasoncook/1-on-1-with-rev-jason-cook>

Please note: Rev. Jason primarily answers emails/texts Tuesday-Friday in the mornings and early afternoon.

Board Officers

President – Rick Kamlet

Vice President - Rev. Dr. Ken Brown

Co-Treasurer - Eric Klatt

Co-Treasurer – Chris Hankla

Secretary - Glenda Nowakowski

Member-at-Large - Gordon Uppman

Member-at-Large – Diane Lin

Member-at-Large – Carmela Camp

Pastoral Care

Your UU of SCV Pastoral Care Team

The Pastoral Care Team serves those in our congregation needing support. Team members are Lucy Bates, Diane Lin, Barbara McCoy, and Ingrid Van Dorn (email addresses and phone numbers for each of them is in the Directory). If you are

interested in joining us, we can always use the help. Or maybe you could be one of our “helping hands people” for those occasions when we need extra help.

Mission Statement:

Pastoral care is offered with strict confidentiality. It is available to those experiencing illness, injury, grief, loneliness, or an emergency.

Team members may provide help with meals, transportation, phone calls, visits, and errands.

Remember we are here to help should you need it. And if needed we can connect you with our minister.

Membership

Membership Team

Birthdays

Sammi Sumampong	11/03
Diane Lin	11/14
Ingrid Van Dorn	11/22

Membership Anniversaries

Rev. Dr. Ken Brown	11/17/2019
Tommie O’Sullivan	11/17/2019
Paula Hock	11/17/2019
Russle Benson	11/15/2020
Sammi Sumampong	11/15/2020

Gratitude to All!

Everyone in our congregation helps in some way. There are SO many things that people do, and we appreciate them all! When you become aware of someone contributing to the life of the congregation, whether it's a one-time thing or something they do all the time, be sure to acknowledge them and express your personal gratitude.

Love in the Center

UU's 6 Core Values, with Love in the Center



CALENDAR

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

Meditation – Every Friday 11 am to noon, Zoom

- 1 **Drum Circle**, 7 pm, Beth Jenkin's home
- 2 **ZOOM Game Night**, 7 pm

Sunday

- 3 **Reminder to Turn Your Clocks Back at 2 am**
Sunday morning

Sunday Service, 10:30 am

The Spirit of Democracy

Rev. Maddie Sifantus

- 5 **Election Night Zoom Gathering (with Rev. Jason)**, 6:30 – 7:30 pm, Regular UU of SCV Zoom site
- 8 **Movie Night**, Suzie Rizzo's home, 6:00 pm for food and conversation, 7:00 pm for movie

Sunday

- 10 Sunday Service, 10:30 am
To Repair and Renew
Rev. Dr. Jason Cook

Postcard Writing, after the service

Social & Environmental Justice Team,
12:00 noon, at Vibe and via Zoom

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

Sunday

- 17 Sunday Service, 10:30 am
From Fragmentation into Wellness
Rev. Jo Green

Board Meeting, 12 noon at Vibe & Zoom

- 20 **Bend the Arc**, Suzie Rizzo's home, 6:00 pm for snacks 6:30 – 7:30 pm for discussion
- 21 **(Introducing) Grief and Caregivers Check-In**, 12:00 noon – 1 pm, Regular UU of SCV Zoom site
- 22 **IN-PERSON Game Night**, 6:30 pm, Beth Jenkin's home (rsvp)

Sunday

- 24 Sunday Service, 10:30 am
Repairing, Rethinking, Remembering Thanksgiving
Rev. Dr. Jason Cook

- 25 **Open Topics Discussion Group**, 6:00 pm, Lois Linnert's home
- 28 **Have a GREAT Thanksgiving Holiday, Everyone!!!**

